



Center for Economic and Social Development, CESD

Better Research, Better Policy, Better Reform

www.CESD.az



Special Thanks to OSI Think Tank Fund

This Annual Conference is supported by the
OSI Think Tank Fund within the “Core and
Institutional Support” Project



Nominations of the Year

**CESD nominated as Best Think Tank in
Central and Eastern Europe in 2010**

and

**Top Domestic Economic Policy
Think Tank in the World**

James G. McGann, Ph.D. / Director

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

University of Pennsylvania, USA



About the Center

The Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD)

- established in 2005 to promote research on domestic economic and social issues to positively influence public policy decision-making process.
- Staffed by experienced economists and social work specialists (graduates of western universities)
- regular seminars, conferences and workshops on social and economic topics
- exchanges research and papers with research institutions and local experts

Member of

PASOS

Global Development Network

International Studies Association

Parliamentary Network on the World Bank

Task Force on Financial Integrity and Economic Development

CIVICUS World Citizen's Alliance

NISPAcee

Global Integrity

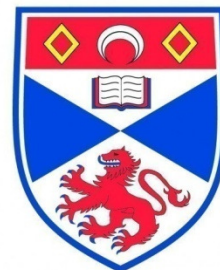
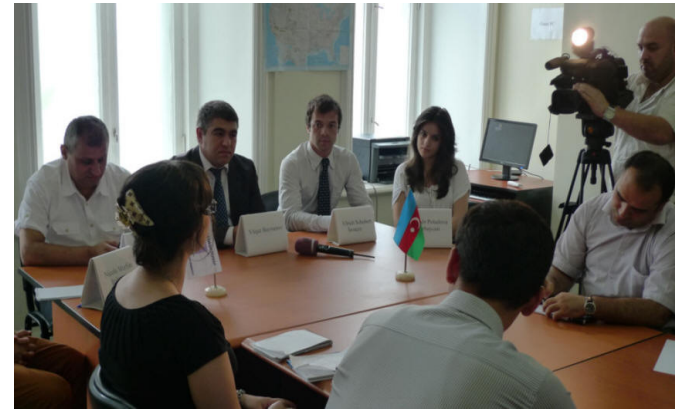
Mission and goals

To provide research and programs to address the current economic and social problems by promoting:

- Policy advice to government of Azerbaijan
- Public awareness of socioeconomic issues
- Government and civil society capacity development
- Cooperation between educational institutions and public, private and NGO sectors in addressing the economic and social issues
- Sustainable development, gender development, and poverty reduction
- Anticorruption reforms, mechanisms, programs and tools at the policy and grassroots levels

CESD Staff

- Board Members 5
- Full time staff 14
- Part time staff 6
- Volunteers 58+

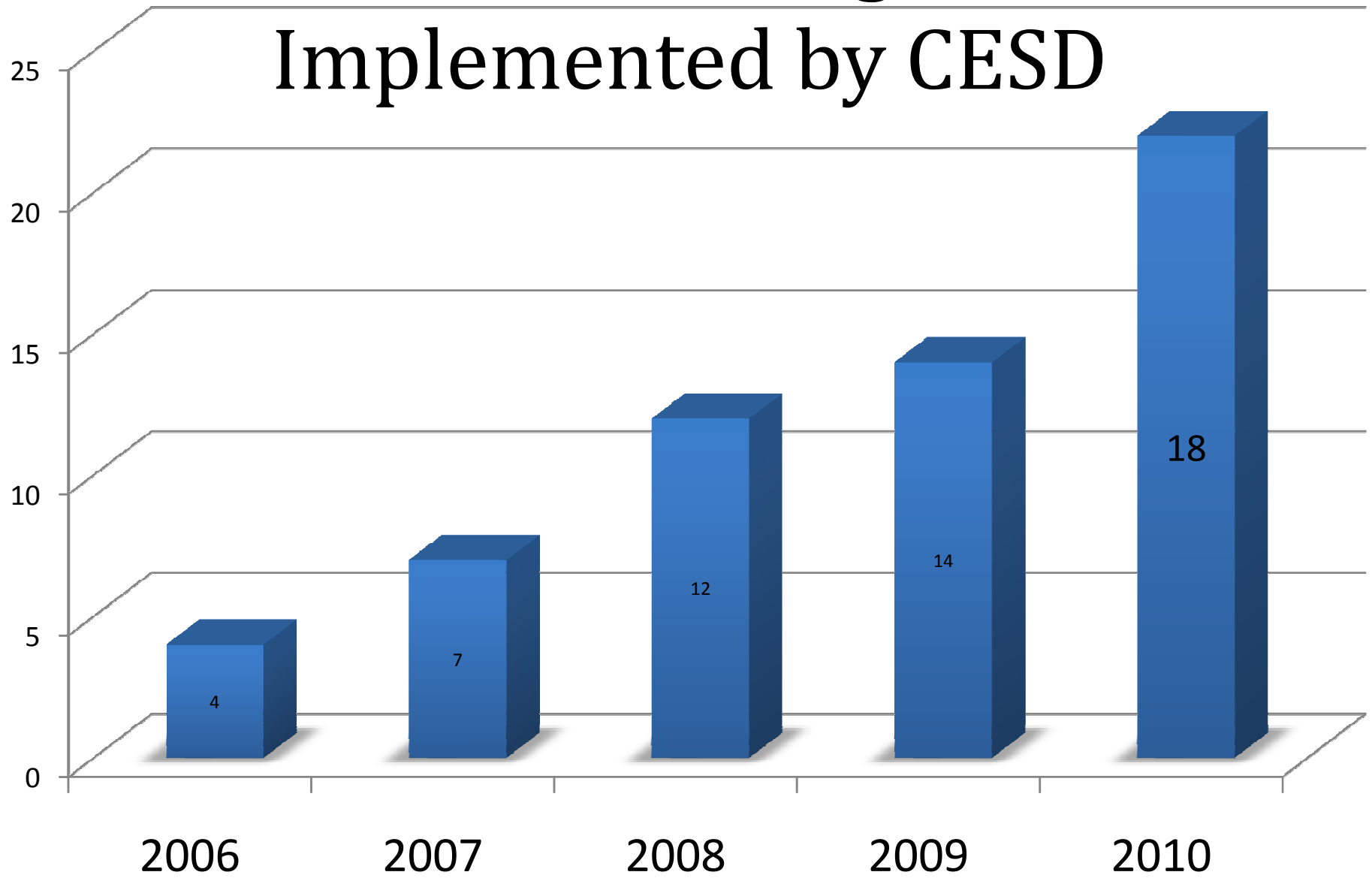


University
of
St Andrews

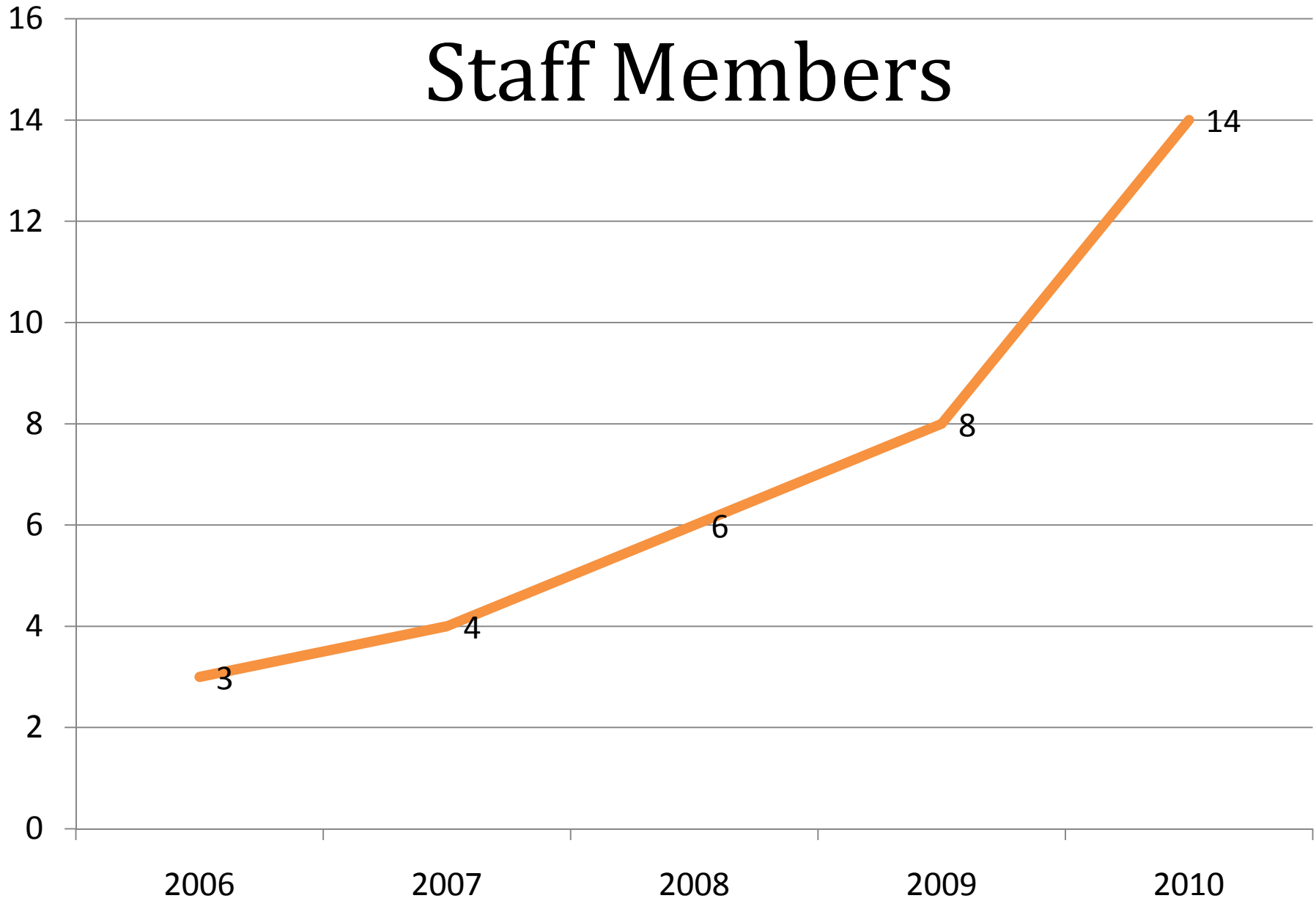


MIAMI

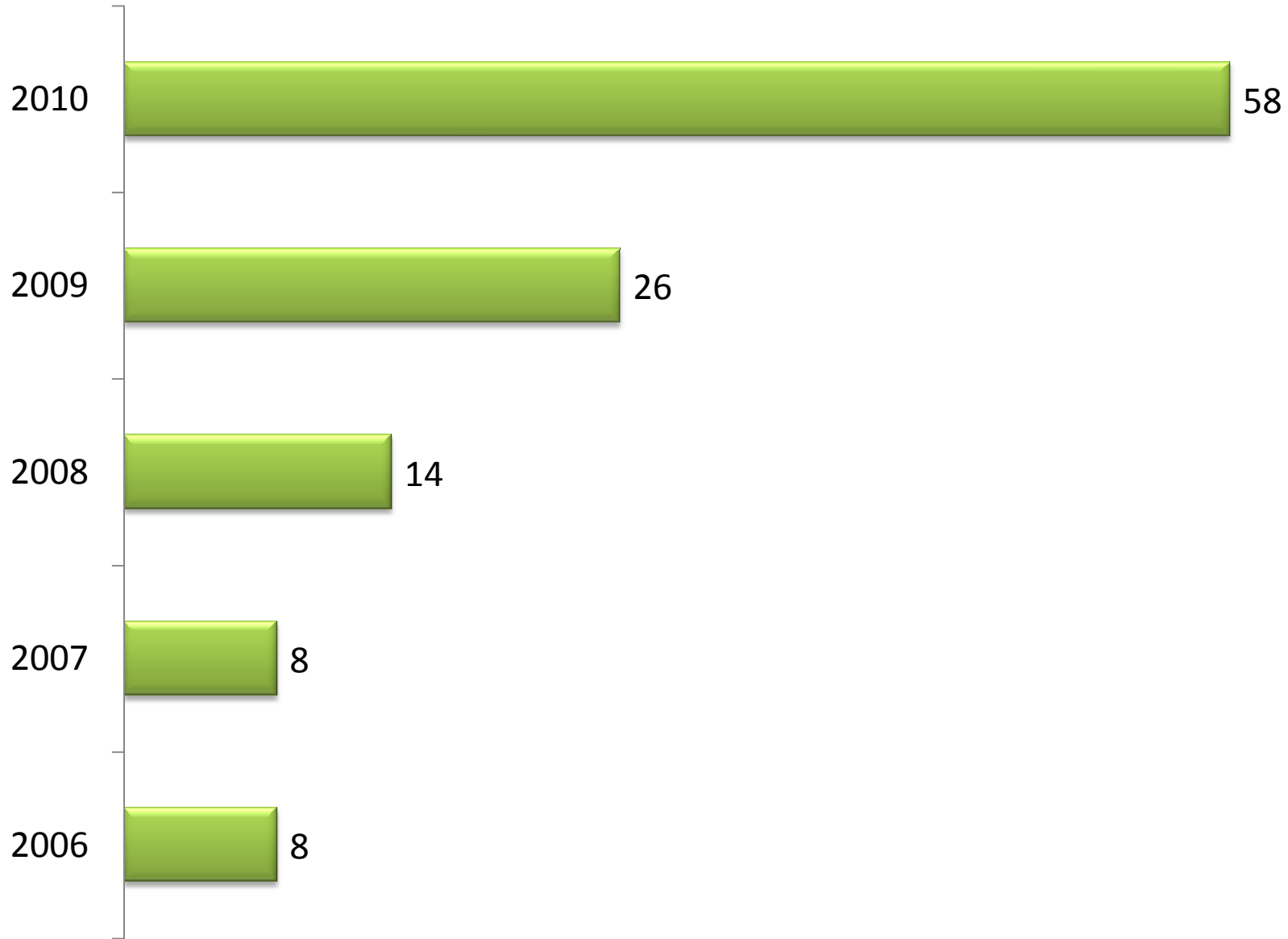
Number of Programs Implemented by CESD



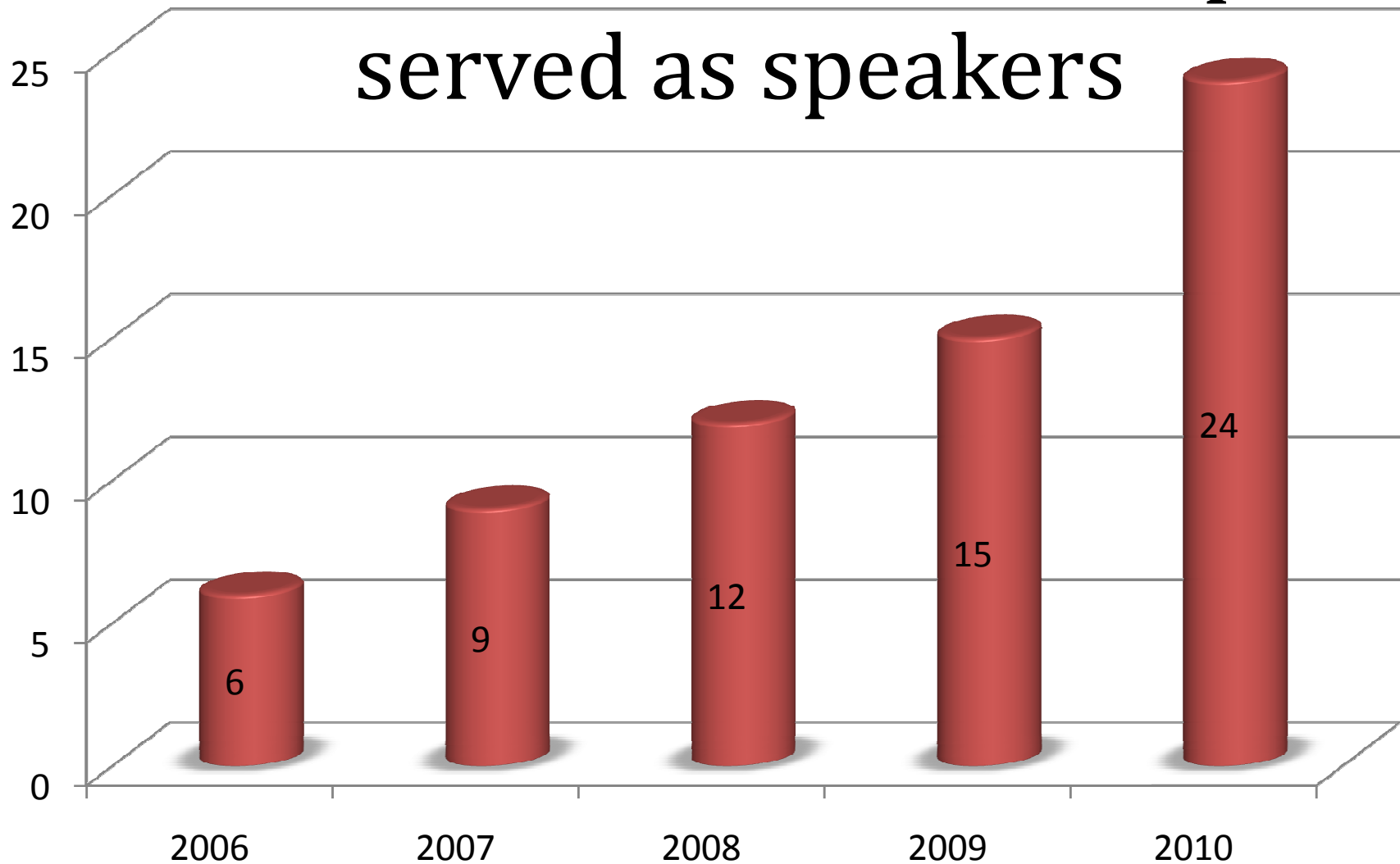
Number of Full-Time Staff Members



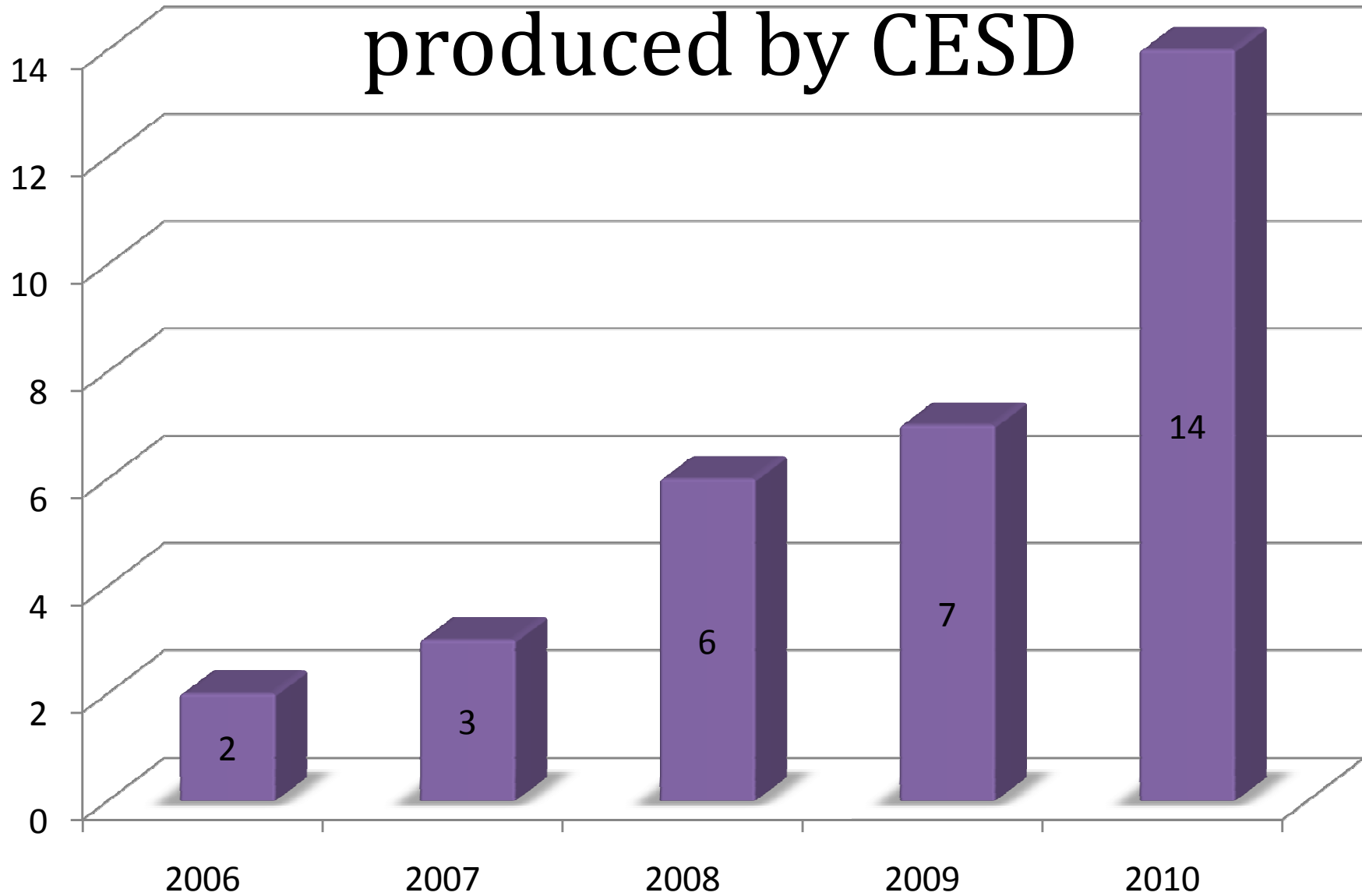
Number of Volunteers



Number of International Conferences where CESD experts served as speakers

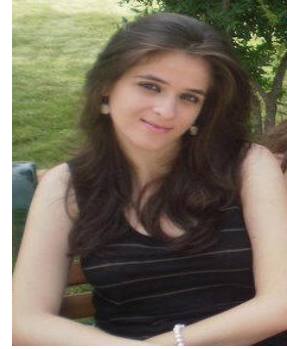


Number of policy papers produced by CESD





CESD 2010 Summer Internship Program



- Over 300 applications were received
- Two foreign graduate students from European universities
- Two local Azerbaijanis were also selected
- Intern work focused on EU Integration and Civil Development Departments
- First time researchers from Europe have done internship at Azerbaijani civil society institute.

Programs

- “Transparent Budget” Program; working on State Budget expenditures to enhance transparency.
- “Transparency in Oil Revenues” Program; Monitoring of SOFAZ revenues
- “Community Development” Program; Working with 24 communities in Azerbaijan
- “Media Campaign” Program; Working with different media institutes
- “Economic Education” Program; Working with different communities and groups
- “Anti-Corruption” Program; Cooperating with different international organizations including Global Integrity
- “Auditing in Local Government” Program; Holding of auditing in different local government institutions including municipalities

Trainings for CSO leaders in Azerbaijan

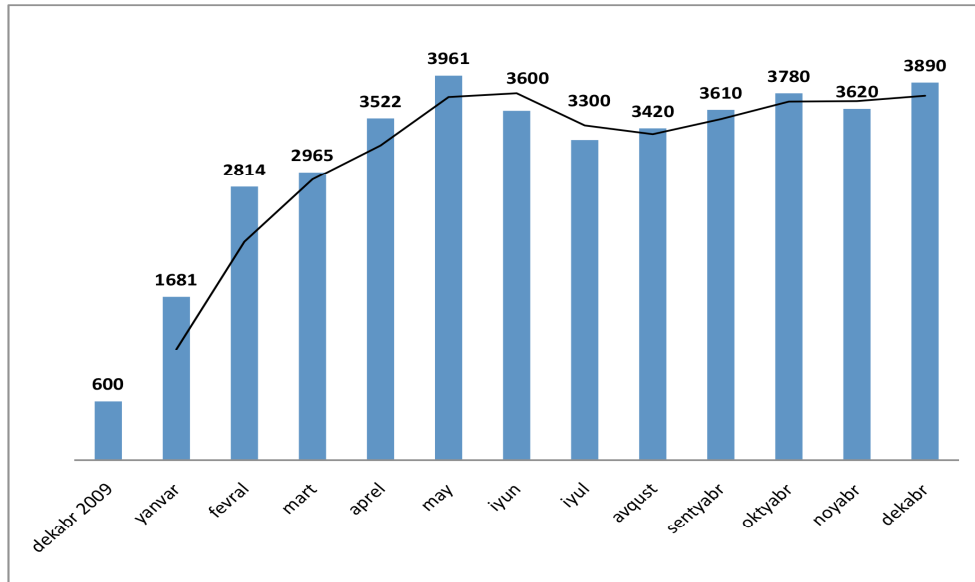


Media coverage

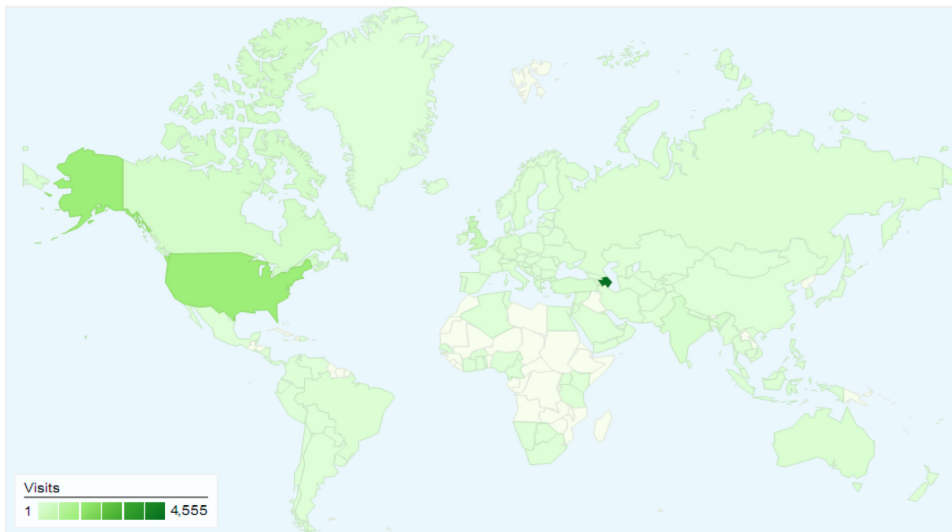


- Only within last 6 months, national mass-media cited CESD reports more than 400 times
- CESD experts' comments daily in newspapers, on TV and Radio
- “the most active think tank in Azerbaijan” according to the study by Parlag Sociological Organization

CESD Website



- CESD has the most visited think tank website in Azerbaijan
- More than 10,000 visitors every month
- Website provides up-to-date information on socioeconomic activities within and beyond CESD
- Access to CESD policy papers
- News published in English, Russian, and Azeri



Partners

- EC
- World Bank
- ADB
- IMF
- IFC
- CAREC Institute
- Government (Azerbaijan)
- President's Office (Azerbaijan)
- LGI
- OSI Azerbaijan
- PASOS
- CIVICUS
- Confederation of Entrepreneurship of Azerbaijan Republic
- NISPAcee



- USAID
- Counterpart Project
- PTF
- Global Integrity
- International Budget Project
- Peace Corps
- International Center for Black Sea Studies
- BST
- Eurasia Foundation
- EITI NGO Coalition
- Constitution Fund
- NGO Alliance under Presidential Office
- GDNet

Partners, cont'd

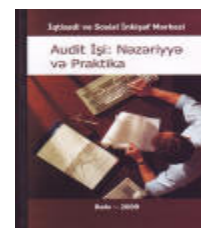
- TIRI
- JICA
- American Embassy in Baku
- Romanian Embassy in Baku
- British Embassy in Baku
- Dutch Embassy in Baku
- Japanese Embassy in Baku
- Norway Embassy in Baku
- Cyprus Management Center
- Harvard University
- Oxford University
- Duke University
- Cambridge University
- Free University
- Hertie School of Governance
- Tbilisi City Hall
- Galati Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Romania)
- Tekirdag SME Development Agency (Turkey)
- Corlu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Turkey)
- Drama Chamber of Commerce (Greece)
- Agribusiness center/ Business Incubator Shumen (Bulgaria)
- Burgas Business Center (Bulgaria)
- Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies, Poland
- Krynica Economic Forum
- International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)
- Institute for Humane Studies

Donors

- President's Office of Azerbaijan Republic
- Government of Azerbaijan
- Government of Japan
- EC
- German Marshall Fund
- USAID
- OSI Azerbaijan
- LGI
- Partnership for Transparency
- Global Integrity
- ProCon International
- Norwegian Royal Embassy
- US Embassy
- World Bank
- ADB
- BST
- Budget Transparency Project
- Eurasia Foundation
- NISPAcee
- BI International
- GDNet
- TIRI
- JICA
- International Budget Project

Most important Publications in the last two years

- Oil Management
- Visa Liberalization; Roads to Europe
- Sectoral Policy Convergence
- How Effectively Using of Oil Revenues in Azerbaijan
- Audit in Local Government
- Reforms in Public Administration; Policy Recommendations
- Health Economics
- Strategy of State Oil Fund (Policy Paper)
- Azerbaijan's Accession to the WTO (Policy Paper)
- Gender Economics; “Brain Lost” Problem in Azerbaijan (Policy Paper)
- Why 90 % of investments go to oil sector? (Policy Paper)
- Social insurance in Azerbaijan: diagnostics and recommendations on policy and implementation ***and others***



Recent Successes...

Anti-crisis strategy (<http://www.cesd.az/crisisproposal.doc>)

- first in the country in April, 2010
- real and financial sectors, including the fiscal and monetary strategies
- addressing multiple subsectors
- Large reflection in the media and among stakeholders
- adopted by the Government of Azerbaijan



Amendments on Tax Code (<http://www.cesd.az/app.htm>)

- recommendations to decrease profit tax from 22 % to 20 %
- to decrease maximum tax rate for income tax
- Reforms towards unified tax code
- reforms for tax system simplification
- Parliament approved CESD recommendations on June, 19, 2010



More Recent Successes...

Increasing transparency in oil tenders

- State Procurement Agency of Azerbaijan Republic applied new registration system based on CESD recommendations
- New system allows companies to register on State Procurement Agency website and apply online to on-going tenders
- New system will also allow companies to monitor tender results.

Modernizing inspection standards

- Government of Azerbaijan accepted CESD policy recommendations on minimizing illegal interference on business activities in Azerbaijan.
- President Ilham Aliyev signed new measures aimed to adjust checks in business sector and ensure protection of consumer rights.
- The decree was prepared based on the CESD policy recommendations submitted to the government in March, 2010. The CESD recommendations have been published in all leading mass-media institutes last month and the center submitted them to the government as well.
- According to a new presidential decree, the Cabinet of Ministries will develop a new program to adjust inspections in business sector and ensure protection of consumer rights.

And More Recent Successes...

Upper limit percentage rate of insured deposits reduced in Azerbaijan

- According to the decision of the Board of Trustees of the Azerbaijan Deposit Insurance Fund (ADIF), the maximal interest rates on deposits that provide insurance coverage, will be reduced to 12% from June 1.
- The fund insures bank deposits at a rate of up to 15 percent now. It should be said that Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD) announced that percent rate would be decreased at the beginning of May 2010
- (more information about CESD recommendations in Azeri can be found at; <http://www.cesd.az/m43.htm>) and listed policy recommendations on this issue.

E-Mortgage System

- Central Bank announced that an E-Mortgage System will be applied in Azerbaijan in 2011.
- These recommendations were prepared and submitted by CESD.

The success continues....

New CESD Programs

- 1. Capacity Building and Training CSO Leaders in Azerbaijan*
- 2. Modeling of managing of resource revenues in oil-rich CAREC countries*
- 3. Study of electricity export capacity of Azerbaijan within the region countries; strategy and policy recommendations*
- 4. Monitoring of tenders in oil sector and improve government accountability*
- 5. ADB Loan Program's Impact and Banks' SPM Assessment*
- 6. EU Convergence to support Eastern Partnership Initiative*
- 7. Visa Liberalization*

and more...



THANK YOU

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Baku, Azerbaijan