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Official Development Assistance in Central Europe (ODACE)

Country:	Central and Eastern Europe
Source of Funding:	CIDA
Total Project Value:	N/A
Sector:	Project management, monitoring and evaluation
Start/End Dates:	April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2008
Description:	<p>The Official Development Assistance in Central Europe (ODACE) program is a 5-year, \$15-million program working with the governments of countries joining the European Union in 2004 to strengthen their Official Development Assistance (ODA) delivery agencies. During the first part of the project, the partner countries were the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic. Later, the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) were included in the project.</p>

For the decade following the fall of the Soviet Union, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided assistance to these countries in their transition to democratic, free market societies. As they prepared to join the European Union, the seven countries must meet the new obligation of becoming net aid donors.

Canada, through CIDA, has more than 30 years of experience in providing development assistance and a strong international reputation. Through the ODACE program, Canada will share its expertise with these countries. The goal over the long term is to increase the amount and quality of assistance given to poorer countries.

Saint Mary's was requested to provide training in project monitoring and evaluation to government officials in the appropriate departments of the partner countries. This training included both formal workshops and assistance in carrying out in-country monitoring missions. As well, Saint Mary's worked with faculty and staff members from universities in the partner countries to help them design and deliver international development studies programs within their institutions.

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