



Membership Survey

Summary of results

Spring 2001

www.ceualumni.org/usa

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Introduction

The CEU Alumni and Friends Association in Washington, DC conducted a survey in March of this year to get a sense of members' ideas, opinions, and needs. This report provides a synthesis of the responses that were received.

The organizing committee of the CEU Alumni and Friends Association requests to be notified if the results are to be used or published in any way. Individual responses to the questionnaire are kept confidential to maintain the integrity of the report.

About the Survey

This survey was sent to our members in the month of March 2001. Out of a possible 75 (80 members minus five of us who serve on the coordinating committee) 26 filled out the survey, but not every question. The survey was sent out to our members via email; we received the responses in the same way.

About the Survey Participants

26 members of our Association filled out our survey. All of them belong to our electronic listserv and receive our announcements. 18 of them presently reside in the Washington DC area. The other 8 live in 5 states and 1 European country. However, many of these have attended one or more of our events when they lived in our area or visited it.

22 of our survey participants are alumni, 2 are former staff, 1 is a friend of the Association, and 1 is both alumnus and former staff member.

The Association's membership also includes friends of CEU, those who do not have affiliation with CEU but have an interest in the region and our activities. None of the members falling into this category responded to the survey.

Questions about the CEU Alumni & Friends Association

Most of our survey participants (22 out of 26) have attended one or more of our events. Those who have not been to any of our events (4 survey participants) said that they have not attended because of time constraints or because they do not live close enough to Washington DC.

Survey participants indicated that they have been very happy with our Association. For nearly all of them, happy hours and social events are the preferred activity for our alumni group. Many would also like to see academic lectures about regional issues. Services that some of them would like us to take up include help with professional networking and assistance on relocating to Washington, DC. Their suggestion for improvement included requests for more transparency from the organizing committee and more events surrounding around lectures and discussions on topical issues.

- *“The happy hours are a good system. Maybe a topical discussion over dinner in a rented restaurant room might involve people too. There's a lot of talent in the group - I'm always surprised to hear how much experience there is among the alumni.”*

About the alumni website (DC Association)

Survey participants visit our website approximately once per month to look for event information and for photos from previous events. The participants saw the Web page as a useful tool to keep informed on the activities of the group, to see photos of past events, and try out new recipes. They asked the Association to update the site more frequently and have a bulletin board where members can share information.

About CEU (The University itself, all campuses)

Survey participants visit the official CEU website occasionally. They visit to check for events and latest updates in their former academic departments. They are very critical of the state of the CEU Web site, and note that it is in a desperate need of an update. They would also like more information on alumni and alumni activities around the world.

Most survey participants recommend CEU to prospective students, especially to those interested in the region. They note that the University provides a good mix of cross-cultural experiences and a well-respected academic environment in Eastern Europe. They value the CEU family feeling after they leave Budapest. Some Western students have said that they might hesitate to recommend the University to other Western students because they said the administration and its services are biased towards Eastern European students.

When asked what they most *liked* about CEU, survey participants answered that it was the other students and the multicultural environment, and the chance to have a more Western curriculum in Eastern Europe.

Of all those that indicated what they most *disliked* about CEU, all but one said it was the bureaucracy, which they described as “unprofessional” and “disorganized.” Some also noted that one year was not enough for an MA program.

- *“Yes, [I’d recommend CEU] because it’s a unique international/ intercultural experience. And afterwards you become a part of a region-wide, or even world-wide network.”*
- *“The strength for me was more the atmosphere and environment, from which I learned a great deal, than the structure, which was loose.”*

Over half of our survey participants do not keep in touch with the CEU Alumni Affairs Office. Many that do keep in touch say that the Office does a fair job at providing alumni services.

Additional Comments

Many survey participants expressed thanks to the *CEU Alumni & Friends Association* in Washington, DC for the social and cultural activities that it provides.