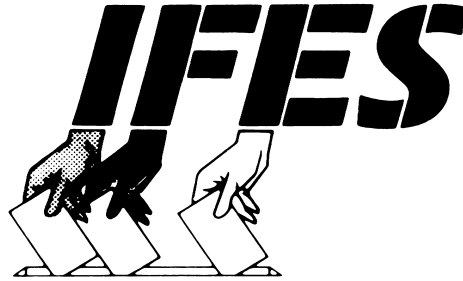


# Europe and Eurasia (E&E)



APRIL - MAY 2000

## *Eduard Shevardnadze Wins Second Term in Georgia*

On 9 April, Eduard Shevardnadze won re-election to a second term as President of Georgia. As expected, the incumbent President received an overwhelming majority of the votes cast. Shevardnadze polled 78.82% of the vote, while second-place finisher Jumber Patiashvili garnered just 16.66%. Four other candidates received less than one percent combined. According to turnout figures released by the Central Election Commission (CEC), 76% of Georgia's estimated 3.1 million voters took part in the election.

Allegations of fraud and a high incidence of technical irregularities in the vote count marred the election outcome. Assessments by both international and domestic observer organizations were consistently critical of the election process. For example, the OSCE/ODIHR preliminary statement maintained that, "considerable progress is still necessary



*A district summarization protocol from the Mtatsminda (#1) district in Tbilisi.*

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for Georgia to fully meet its commitments as a participating State of the OSCE.”

A copy of the final certified results summarization protocol can be seen on the CEC website ([www.cec.gov.ge](http://www.cec.gov.ge)). IFES/Georgia worked with the CEC to ensure that final district and precinct results are posted on the CEC web site. In addition, IFES/Georgia has created its own website that can be found at: [www.georgia.net/ifes](http://www.georgia.net/ifes). We welcome all new visitors!

### *IFES Provides Technical Assistance to CEC*

In collaboration with the CEC Legal Department, IFES/Georgia Project Manager Antonio Spinelli prepared a Precinct Election Day Guide that provided step-by-step instructions to polling station officials charged with administering the elections. (continued on page 17)

## EUROPE

### ALBANIA

#### *Progress and Passage of the Electoral Code*

The drafting of the electoral code has been the first priority of the IFES office. On 7 April 2000, six weeks of daily negotiations with the political parties ended and a draft code was presented to the Prime Minister. Though the code does not yet have the consensus support of all parties, the only remaining area of major controversy is the composition and method of appointment to the Central Election Commission. IFES/Albania Program Director Dickson Bailey provided technical advice at each session of the all-party negotiations. Following its presentation to the Prime Minister, the code was further reviewed by the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Local Government. Bailey and OSCE legal staff met with each ministry to answer questions and provide explanations on the law which resulted in small drafting and technical amendments to the draft code.

On 21 April, the Parliamentary Commission on Laws began a formal review of the draft code. The Commission met daily from 25-28 April, making small amendments to the code. A final meeting was held on 2 May and the code was formally presented to Parliament on 3 May. The Code was passed by Parliament on Monday, 8 May with some minor amendments and one larger controversial amendment (153).

#### *A Possible New Election Date*

Local elections were initially expected to be held in late October. However, in recognition of possible elections in Macedonia and Serbia and the scheduled elections for Bosnia and Kosovo, the international community has requested that the government hold elections on 1 October or 24 September 2000.

#### *Challenges for the Central Election Commission*

In April, a second member of the CEC resigned, bringing total vacancies to three of seven members. Replacements will be made according to the new electoral code guidelines for the appointment of CEC members once the new law is in place. The code does not provide for a delay in this process, requiring the first meeting of the CEC to be held, for the purpose of electing a chair, within 15 days of the promulgation of the law. The CEC will have to work quickly and effectively to be prepared for the

Fall 2000 local elections. Incorporating new features of the electoral code - such as revision of voter lists, issuance of ID cards, tight deadlines for counting votes, declaring results and recount of ballots before the second round of elections - will be additional challenges. IFES will work closely with the CEC as new members are appointed to ensure the necessary administrative procedures in place are in compliance with the new code.

IFES has made arrangements for two of the existing CEC members to attend the meeting of the Association of Central and East European Election Officials (ACEEEO) in Warsaw, 14-16 June. IFES is also sponsoring two members of the Constitutional Court of Albania to attend an IFES conference on election dispute resolution in Ukraine, 10-11 June. Through continued consultations with their peers from around the region as well as international experts, Albanian officials involved in the administration and adjudication of elections will be able to incorporate comparative examples, as appropriate, into their system as well as learn from other experiences. IFES will continue to promote their participation in such international meetings.

#### *Delays in the Election Assistance Project (EAP)*

Delays in the Electoral Assistance Project have occurred as a result of several unforeseen circumstances. Both training and voter education fell behind schedule, resulting in the need for project partners to work together to overcome obstacles in order to keep the project on track. The door to door enumeration has been delayed because of the inability of local partners to deliver the data input forms on time, unwillingness of many municipalities to participate in the process, among other reasons. The door-to-door enumeration is now scheduled to begin on 5 June. The Social Insurance Institute (SII) data input forms were finalized by civil registry offices around the country (except for Durres and Tirana) by late May.

Compounding the problems above, funding for the project is not yet solidified. Due to delays in deciding on the type of voter identification card to be developed, it has been difficult to undertake a concerted effort to secure the final financial commitments for the card. The Albanian government only decided on the type of card to be used in late May. On a more positive note, the European Union indicated its willingness to fund part of the cost of the ID card which combined with previous commitments would cover the cost of the cards. In addi-

tion, the Ministry of Local Government announced in late May that it would be contributing \$700,000 to the project.

### ***Impact Summary***

The completion of the electoral code activity has been a major focus for IFES. IFES has been able to work in close and effective collaboration with OSCE and US Embassy staff to get political parties together to 'hammer out' the draft code. As a result of this close working relationship and the work of political parties, Albania will have a strong, modern electoral code that should provide the necessary legal framework for a good administration of elections. With the passage of the code, the composition of the CEC should be finalized so that it can begin to prepare for the administration of Fall local elections.

## **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)**

### ***Municipal Elections: Observation & Investigation***

Municipal elections were held across Bosnia and Herzegovina on 8 April. One new aspect for these elections was the change from a two-day polling weekend to one day polling. Another major innovation was the switch to open list ballots. Neither of these novelties caused the greatest confusion to the voters, as it was the accuracy of the voter lists that created the largest number of problems on polling day. OSCE is currently working together with Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) to resolve these errors to improve the voter lists, however OSCE has stated that the responsibility for correct voter information for general elections lies with the voter and his/her MEC. This will pose quite a challenge to the MECs, as voters have shown in the past to be apathetic in actively updating their registration information and locating their correct polling station.

A well-run voter information campaign was cited by many MEC members as having contributed to a low level of invalid ballots on polling day. Voters adapted to the complexity of the ballot, and preliminary analyses show that they actually took advantage of the opportunity to vote for individual candidates within the party lists. Unfortunately, the question of where to vote was not addressed as successfully as how to vote.

Over the course of the day, polling station presidents reported to our 19 observation teams that between 10% to upwards of 60% of the voters arriving were being turned away and sent to the one Ab-

sentee site per municipality. Many voters became so enraged at not finding their name on the list in their local community that they simply refused to make the often-arduous trek to the Absentee station. Others faced hours-long lines at stations neither designed nor staffed to handle the volume of voters showing up.

Despite these problems, it is important to note that not one team reported an incident of frightening or intimidating events occurring inside or outside the polling stations they visited. This, despite the fact, that the mix of urban, rural, and absentee locations we visited both in the Federation and Republika Srpska had many locations specifically chosen because of the likelihood of these kinds of problems occurring.

One success of Election Day appears to be the number of political party observers who were present to watch the voting process. Our teams reported at least one party representative at 109 of the 121 Polling Stations visited. The level of NGO observation fell far short of the parties', fielding a presence at just 49 Polling Stations, or 43%.

OSCE Head-of-Mission Ambassador Robert Barry expressed his thanks for the hard work put forth by these and all IFES staff and suggested that OSCE, the Municipal Election Commissions, and the voters of BiH would benefit from IFES conducting additional investigations specifically to gather incidents relating to the Voter's Register.

IFES staff reviewed a significant number of case studies to report to Ambassador Barry on previous voters who were not on the final voter register for the 8 April municipal elections and met with Barry and OSCE election staff to look for solutions. A full report on the 124 cases submitted to the OSCE earlier in May was provided. IFES later provided an additional 36 cases, specifically involving individuals who claimed they had voted in the previous election yet were not found on this year's final voter register. OSCE responded quickly regarding these cases, but investigations are likely to continue.

IFES was also asked how to assist in resolving the registration necessary for more than 70,000 voters who cast tendered ballots. OSCE is sending to each of the IFES offices lists of tendered ballot voters. IFES teams will alert voters to the fact that just because they cast tendered ballots does not mean that they will be entered on the voter register.

### ***AEOBiH Elections Conference***

IFES' second major conference in Bosnia gathered the Association of Election Officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina (AEOBiH) where IFES staff, in cooperation with the OSCE, examined problems the April municipal elections, most notably inaccuracies in the voter registers; attended the inaugurations of several new municipal councils; and reviewed recent programs.

From 25-28 May, the Elections Conference of the Association of Election Officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina (AEOBiH) was held at Hotel Zenit in Neum. More than 100 AEOBiH members from all over Bosnia-Herzegovina – all members of the municipal election commissions - gathered to exchange experiences from past municipal elections and discuss activities that are awaiting them for the upcoming general elections in November 2000. Under the leadership of guest experts, the following topics were discussed in 6 professional development workshops:

- Analysis of the municipal elections;
- Updating and verifying of voter lists;
- Voter information for general elections;
- Nomination and education of polling station committee members;
- Preferential voting system; and
- Allocation of mandates.

This was the first time for many of the election officials to learn about the system of preferential voting and calculation of compensatory mandates to be used in November's general election. Special emphasis was placed on education and information of voters about the possibilities of the system and proper marking of the preferential ballot paper. It was also stressed that additional efforts should be made in order to train polling station committees on how to perform the first count of the preferential ballots properly.

Another interesting topic at the conference was the updating of voter registers. AEOBiH members recognized the problems experienced at the municipal elections in April, such as the issue of inaccurate voter lists. In their discussions, participants worked toward developing solutions that would help them avoid similar problems in the next elections. The joint message of election officials was to give more trust and freedom to municipal election commissions in the process of decision-making regarding the technical side of elections, e.g. deciding about the number of the polling stations in each municipi-

pality. Municipal Election Commissions also called for a more substantial financial support, as well as for more cooperation from their municipal government officials.

### ***Inter-Entity Civic Leadership Conference***

IFES held a major conference titled the Inter-Entity Civic Leadership Conference where members of IFES' civic initiatives programs met to share their knowledge and experience as new civic leaders. IFES convened the Conference at the Dom Penzionera in Zenica. Thirty-four leaders from the Civic Initiatives program (GAINS) attended this session, as well as the OSCE's Ambassador Robert Barry. The Conference included presentations on practical applications of law affecting local government and group sessions on working with municipal and cantonal officials, international organizations, and IFES, activating local citizens, and other subjects. Attendees were very happy to have had the opportunity to exchange experiences in working for local community issues and learning about community advocacy.

### ***Consultations with AEOBiH and MEC Members***

The presidency and committees of the AEOBiH met the week after elections to give their input on the final work-plan of activities for the next 12 months. Many of the members would like to see the AEOBiH play a more active role in polling station committee training, which is currently under discussion with the OSCE.

The IFES Sarajevo/AEOBiH Secretariat staff then embarked upon a 3-week tour of the entire territory of BiH to visit as many of the AEOBiH and MEC members as possible in order to get their feedback on the municipal elections, suggestions on how to improve elections processes for the general elections, and ideas on how the AEOBiH could play a role in these activities.

One of the issues common among most of the members was their concern with the continuing technical problems with the voter lists. Many MEC members expected that after a long period devoted to updating this information, that the lists would be more accurate. There were many cases of voters not found on the correct lists that they could only explain as possibly being caused by a technical glitch in the voter registration system.

Financial support from entity, cantonal, and municipal governments was also described as highly prob-

lematic. In the best circumstances, partial funding was received a day before the elections and not in sufficient amounts to cover the required costs. In many cases, no funding was received at all. Aside from financial support, the MECs complained that the municipal authorities in general showed no interest in elections and were unsympathetic toward the MECs' position; trying to implement elections with less resources from OSCE, but still without the remaining support forthcoming from the governmental authorities. It is unlikely this situation will change until OSCE withdraws completely from the elections scene in BiH. Otherwise, it is too easy for the local governments to deny support to the MECs, claiming that the OSCE will pay for it in the end and therefore they have no sense of responsibility for the implementation of the elections in their jurisdiction.

## MACEDONIA

### *USAID Approves Technical Assessment of Election Process*

In April, IFES received approval from USAID to conduct a 2-week technical assessment of the Macedonian electoral process after Fall 1999 presidential elections and as the country prepares for Fall 2000 local elections. IFES' mission was to target its analysis on the capacity of the State Election Commission (SEC) to administer elections, including training and educational activities as well as the role of other government and non-governmental bodies in the election system.

### *Technical Assessment Conducted*

In May, IFES deployed three international representatives to Skopje, Macedonia in order to conduct the technical election assessment. IFES Program Officer Alexandra Levaditis served as the Team Leader while Election Administration Specialist Victor Butler and Election Law Specialist Dan Blessington brought their election expertise to the assessment team. The IFES team was in Macedonia 12–25 May and met with representatives from the State Election Commission, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, the Bureau of Statistics, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), USAID, NDI, the US Embassy, all major political parties, the media, and non-governmental organizations in Kopje and Tetovo.

As a result of its meetings, IFES will be producing an assessment report that outlines the structure of

the election system in Macedonia and provides a series of recommendations for its improvements. IFES anticipates that the report will be publicly available in July 2000.

## MOLDOVA

### *CDPD Awarded Grant from Council of Europe*

IFES/Moldova's successor organization, the Center for the Development of Participatory Democracy (CDPD) won a grant from the Council of Europe. Their proposal was selected from a national pool of candidates, and approved to receive a \$22,000 award. The project for which the grant was awarded is entitled *Improving Legislation and Electoral Technologies in the Republic of Moldova*. It aims to provide a series of proposals to accomplish the following:

- Improve the electoral system and process in Moldova;
- Promote electoral contestants' free and equal access to the mass media; develop and improve transparent campaign finance procedures;
- Develop principles for election adjudication;
- Establish clear-cut criteria for electoral sanctions;
- Study and comment on resolutions of the Constitutional Court of Moldova;
- Apply signature verification practices;
- Promote an active partnership between electoral bodies, candidates, observers, and voters; and
- Familiarize citizens with the electoral process and electoral law.

### *IFES, CEC Prepare Local Officials for Presidential Elections*

Throughout April and May, IFES, in conjunction with the Central Election Commission (CEC), conducted seminars for local public administration officials, judges, and representatives of the mass media, political parties, and NGOs in Edinet, Soroca, and Orhei counties in April, and Lapusna, Tighina, and Ungheni counties in May. During the seminars, which were entitled "Election Bodies: Implementing Citizens' Constitutional Right to Elect and Be Elected," participants considered a variety of issues including:

- The poor implementation of administrative-territorial reform and its subsequent impact on election administration;
- Recent amendments to the Electoral Code that increased the threshold of representation from

four to six percent for political parties while reducing it to two percent for independent candidates;

- Procedures in place for removing a mayor from office;
- Problems surrounding the resignation of an elected official (When an elected official resigns prematurely, it often creates an economic strain on the election commission that then must fund a new round of elections. Some participants suggested requiring these officials to return a portion of the costs of the new election.);
- Electoral operations that are not regulated by electoral code (The creation of precinct electoral bureaus, the collection of signatures in support of independent candidates, and the financing of electoral campaigns are some unregulated procedures; and
- The dismissal of local councils (According to the Law on Local Public Administration, in the event that the composition of the council is reduced by half, the local council is dismissed. However, according to the Electoral Code, such a dismissal occurs when the number of councilors is reduced by one third.

#### ***IFES, LADOM Observe Local Elections***

At the request of the CEC, IFES and the League for the Defense of Human Rights of Moldova (LADOM) sent three independent observers to monitor local elections in the commune Salcuta of Orhei County. Repeat elections were being held for the 17<sup>th</sup> time, and, according to the observers, the elections were generally conducted in compliance with the Electoral Code.

Elections monitored on 21 May in the Varnita commune of Chisinau County were also generally conducted in compliance with the Electoral Code, with the following exceptions:

- Electoral contestants present at the polling station tried to influence voter's opinions;
- The present contestants interfered with the activity of the precinct bureau;
- The contestants intimidated the observers;
- The electoral officers appeared to be poorly trained and openly favored one of the contestants, the incumbent mayor of Varnita commune; and
- The electoral officers failed to handle the intrusive behavior of the contestants.

The monitoring group suggested amending the

Electoral Code to prohibit contestants from assisting during voting, developing outreach programs to train poll workers, and developing voter education programs for citizens.

#### ***IFES and Ministry of Justice Collaborate on New Law on Political Parties***

This month IFES and the Ministry of Justice set up a working group to draft a new law on political parties. The discussions focused in particular on:

- Monitoring the activity of political parties during electoral campaigns, including their financing;
- Verifying signatures when registering political parties;
- Regulating the contact between political parties and public institutions, the media, and electoral contestants;
- Regulating party branches in territories;
- Requiring transparency of political parties' activities; and
- Ensuring parties' access to information.

#### ***IFES Cooperates with Certification Commission to Strengthen Domestic NGOs***

In April, IFES held a series of meetings with Natalia Izdebschi, Chair of the NGO Public Service Certification Commission. IFES and the Commission agreed to host two training seminars for local public administration bodies responsible for registering regional NGOs. Although charged with this responsibility, local government bodies in some localities are not familiar with the concept of non-governmental organizations or how to proceed with registration. As a result, local NGOs are frequently directed to Chisinau, and the process remains centralized. IFES proposed to alleviate this problem by training these officials and fostering better cooperation between public administration bodies and NGOs.

On 29 May, representatives from county councils, local public administration bodies, and regional NGOs attended the first seminar, which was held in Balti County. A brochure including regulations on the registration of NGOs, excerpts from the Law on Public Administration, and other relevant information was distributed. The participants discussed the legal framework regulating the activity of the third sector in Moldova, registration procedure, registry upkeep, fiscal treatment of NGOs, intra-sector cooperation, and certification procedure, among other things. The second seminar will be held in Cahul County on 27 June.

IFES and the Certification Commission also agreed to form a working group for the purpose of drafting criteria that will form the basis of the Regulation of the NGO Public Service Certification Commission. The first roundtable meeting of the group is scheduled for 15 June. The criteria will be proposed for inclusion in the Law on Public Associations under the section governing the activities of the Commission. Findings of the working group will be published in a brochure to be distributed among NGOs to encourage them to apply for certification.

### ***Supporting Domestic NGOs***

In April, the Committee for the Freedom of the Press, IFES, and LADOM initiated preparations for an international conference on the role of mass media in elections. The conference, although originally scheduled for 31 May, has been postponed until June. A guidebook with information on fifty-one of the most important Moldovan journalists has been printed and is in the process of being distributed. More copies will be distributed at the conference.

Iosif Modovanu of the European Youth Exchange approached IFES to request assistance in the implementation of "Children's Local Councils," a civic education initiative targeted at Moldovan school children. IFES agreed to support the program by providing information, expertise, and assistance in a training-of-trainers program.

### ***IFES Informs Youth of Political Process***

On 5 April, Cornel Gurin, CDPD, delivered a lecture at the weekly meeting of the Electoral School, which is organized by the Stars of Europe, IFES/Moldova, and CDPD. In his lecture, Gurin addressed the stages of the electoral process. The weekly meeting of the Administrative School focused on oversight of public administration bodies.

On 27 April, Cornel Gurin delivered a lecture entitled "Contentious Matters Falling within the Competence of Administrative Courts" at the weekly session of the Administrative School. Recently, the first law on contentious matters was passed in Moldova. Participants of the session indicated their support for this law; however, they noted it would be difficult to implement.

On 11 May, the Electoral School was dedicated to "Adjudication of Electoral Disputes in the Republic of Moldova." Adjudication of electoral disputes in

the Republic of Moldova is regulated in two areas: control exercised by electoral bodies and control exercised by courts. Participants expressed opinions and suggestions regarding the need to improve legal framework regulating adjudication, to help assure the legality of elections and the legitimacy of the bodies formed after elections. In addition, it was pointed out that other institutions (mass media, public opinion, NGOs active in this domain, domestic and foreign observers monitoring electoral processes) should exercise control over electoral processes as well.

On 18 May, the Electoral School featured "Administrative Liability", and dealt with issues concerning the administration such as: legal liability; offenses and corresponding accountability; dispute resolution bodies; procedure in the cases of offenses; and administrative liability as defined in the Code of Offenses. Participants were issued two brochures produced by IFES and CDPD: "Overseeing public administration bodies' activity," and "Adjudication of electoral disputes."

The Administrative School of 1 June, "President of the Republic of Moldova," explored the relationship of the Presidency and public authorities. Participants were informed on the President's election, inauguration, rights, and responsibilities (related to Government appointment, foreign policy, defense, mediation between Parliament and Government). Participants were issued two brochures published by IFES and CDDP: "Administrative liability", and "Contentious matters falling within the competence of administrative courts."

### ***IFES Initiates New Radio Series***

On 14 April, IFES and LADOM launched a new radio series, *Voice of the Voter*, which will include 22 shows focused specifically on electoral issues. The program provides the most up-to-date information on amendments to the Electoral Code and informs citizens of their rights as voters. Each program includes a moderated discussion among guest experts and features a segment when listeners are invited to call in to comment or ask questions.

In April, one of the programs featured Natalia Izdebschi, Chair of the NGO Public Service Certification Commission. She discussed the role of local government and NGOs in the administration of elections and the legal framework guiding their participation. In May, a program featuring Mrs. Anas-

tasia Pascari, Judge in the Constitutional Court, focused on the role of mass media, local public administration bodies, and electoral judicial procedures in elections. She also addressed the needs to implement court rulings with regard to electoral complaints and fraud, and to found special electoral courts during elections. On the 26 May broadcast, Mr. Dumitru Nidelcu, Chairperson of CEC, and Valeriu Saharneanu, of the Moldovan Journalist Union, discussed campaign finance and how it affects the reflection of elections in the media.

#### ***IFES Continues Regular Radio Broadcasts***

IFES and LADOM continued to produce the weekly radio program *Civic Voice*. On 3 May, IFES and LADOM organized a “Know Your Rights” radio marathon. For eight hours ANTENNA C Radio Station outlined human rights, how they should be observed, and who guarantees their observance. Representatives from all Ministries and governmental departments, NGO leaders, and journalists took part in the marathon.

#### ***Civic Voice in Print***

Issue #29 of the print version of *Civic Voice* was distributed in early May. It included interviews with Ion Creanga from the Legal Department of Parliament, and Victor Popa, an expert on local public administration. Popa discussed legislation regulating the activity of public administration bodies and the strain caused by elected officials that resign before their term expires. Repeat elections seriously tax the coffers of election commissions and local public administration bodies.

#### ***Impact Summary***

The training seminars IFES is hosting in conjunction with the Certification Commission assist in decentralizing the registration and organization of NGOs by ensuring that local government officials are prepared to carry out their duties in regard to registering nongovernmental organizations. Through the activities of the planned NGO working group, IFES will also assist in improving the legal framework for NGO activity and in disseminating the necessary information to domestic NGOs to ensure their viability and legality.

In preparation for the 2000 presidential elections, the joint IFES and CEC seminars help ensure that participants in the process clearly understand their role and that they are aware of recent amendments to relevant legislation. By informing local government officials, media, and NGO representatives about the rights of voters and candidates, IFES and

the CEC assist in guaranteeing the protection of those rights. The seminars also provide an opportunity to review the implementation of legislation concerning local public administration and its impact on election administration. Finally, the seminars allow IFES and the CEC to assess potential training needs.

IFES continues to provide independent information on civil society as well political developments through its weekly radio programming. *Voice of the Voter* provides up-to-date information to voters on the Electoral Code and voting procedures in addition to covering broader topics such as citizens' rights and responsibilities within the electoral process. This program, in conjunction with the *Civic Voice* broadcasts, assists in developing a more informed electorate and encourages more active participation in the process.

## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

#### ***Zyuganov Spends Twice as Much as Putin on Campaign***

The Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Russian Federation has publicized the final financial reports of all presidential candidates. The largest amount was spent by Gennady Zyuganov – 24.57 million rubles (U.S. \$870,000). The second largest amount was spent by Samara Governor, Konstantin Titov, - 24.48 million rubles. Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinsky spent the third largest with 23.76 million rubles; fourth – Kemerovo Governor Aman Tuleyev with 20.31 million. Newly elected President Vladimir Putin spent only half as much as Zyuganov – 12.75 million rubles, and below him was LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy with 6.65 million rubles. “Spiritual Heritage” leader Alexey Podberyozkin spent 4.3 million rubles. Former Prosecutor General Yuri Skuratov spent 2.45 million, and entrepreneur Umar Dzhabrailov – 2.18 million rubles. Less than a million was spent by State Duma deputy Stanislav Govorukhin. Ella Pafmilova, the “For Civil Dignity” movement leader, turned out to be the most parsimonious, limiting her election campaign expenditures to a meager 400,000 rubles (U.S. \$14,000).

#### ***CEC to Sue Duma Candidate***

The Russian CEC financial report for April 2000 indicated that 12 election associations and blocs that lost parliamentary elections in December 1999 still have not returned funds that they received for their



election campaigns. The report indicates that their cumulative debt to the CEC equals 2.1 million rubles (U.S. \$75,000). According to the law, associations and blocs that received less than 2% of the votes must each return the 220,000 rubles that they had received to form their election funds and cover other expenses.

For example, the Conservative Movement of Russia has transferred a purely symbolic amount of 50 rubles to the CEC. Debts varying from 150 to 215 thousand rubles are still owed by the Social Democrats, the “Peace, Labor, May” and “For Civil Dignity” associations, the Congress of the Russian Communities, and the Movement of Yuri Boldyrev, General Nikolayev and Academician Stanislav Fyodorov Bloc.

“Stalin’s Bloc for the USSR”, the “Movement of Patriotic Forces – Russian Cause”, the All-Russian Political Party of People, and the Socialist Party of Russia still have not returned a single kopeck to the CEC.

“Given that eight election associations and blocs did not even submit declarations of intent to pay back the budget funds, the CEC RF will be undertaking measures prescribed by the law to have the money returned through the court”, states the report’s commentary.

#### ***Karachayevo-Cherkessiya may Recall Berezovsky***

In mid April several reports appeared claiming that collection of signatures were well underway on petitions to recall entrepreneur Boris Berezovsky from the State Duma. This was supported by the declaration signed by the Karachayevo-Cherkessiya Council of Doyens that, according to its authors, was specifically addressed to State Duma Chairman Genady Seleznyov.

The authors of the declaration are of the opinion that, as a deputy, Berezovsky should help the republic solve economic problems and attract investments rather than being preoccupied with the “peacemaking” mission which, as the document says, the doyens “deny as it has not justified itself.”

Meanwhile, one of the leaders of Karachayevo-Cherkessiya, Stanislav Derev, labeled this declaration of the republic’s Council of Doyens as “political provocation.” He said he did not know anything of an organization called Council of

Doyens of Karachayevo-Cherkessiya altogether.

Karachayevo-Cherkessiya’s president, Vladimir Semyonov, admits that it is possible that Berezovsky will be deprived of his deputy mandate. His activity causes the local community “an ultimately negative reaction.”

#### ***Vladimir Yakovlev Inaugurated as St. Petersburg Governor***

Incumbent Governor Vladimir Yakovlev, who won the 14 May elections in St. Petersburg, re-entered his office on 24 May. According to CEC Chairman Alexander Veshniakov, elections were conducted in compliance with existing laws, their results unquestionable. “Not a single complaint has been filed either with the CEC, the St. Petersburg city election commission, or the courts,” Veshniakov emphasized.

Vladimir Yakovlev received over 70% of the votes. His main opponent – Igor Artemyev – received under 15%. Another potentially strong candidate, Yuliy Rybakov, quit the race in early May and threw his support to Artemyev after Yabloko and the Union of Rightist Forces (SPS) decided to field Artemyev as joint candidate.

#### ***Artemyev Claims St. Petersburg Administration Used “Black PR” in Governor’s Race***

Igor Artemyev, the candidate for Governor of St. Petersburg from Yabloko and SPS, accused the city administration in using “black PR” methods against him. He told the press that the measures undertaken by the city administration indicate that Yakovlev was no longer convinced that he could win the elections by adhering to a fair and honest election campaign.

According to Artemyev’s testimony, on the night of 10 May all his election campaign posters in the city were marred and spoiled. Meanwhile, a group of unknown people distributed fliers near the “Zvyozdnaya” subway station which claimed that Artemyev had been convicted three times of various crimes. In addition, after the defeat of the Russian hockey team at the world hockey championship held in St. Petersburg, many citizens discovered fliers in their mail boxes allegedly written on behalf of Mr. Artemyev saying that he approved of the defeat.

#### ***Cherepkov’s Election to Duma Ruled Lawful***

The CEC canceled the decision by the Vladivostok

district election commission that sought to block the city's ever-embattled former mayor Viktor Cherepkov from taking his seat in the State Duma.

IFES/Russia has already reported that on 30 March the district election commission of Vladivostok ruled invalid the region's election to the State Duma. But despite the CEC's new ruling, Cherepkov's opponents will still have grounds to appeal the decision of the CEC with the Supreme Court to demand that the elections be rendered invalid once again. Cherepkov has been in perpetual conflict with Primorskii Krai Governor Yevgeny Nazdratenko.

#### ***Four Candidates to Run for Vladivostok Mayor***

Four candidates for the position of Mayor of the city of Vladivostok have been officially registered. Among them is Viktor Cherepkov, former Mayor of the city and current State Duma deputy. It has been reported that only nine out of twelve persons who had earlier declared about their intention to run for the mayor's office eventually submitted their election petitions. On 22 May the city election commission denied registration to one of the candidates – the well-known Director General of the joint stock venture “Beer Industry of Primorye” and deputy to the regional Duma's Valentin Lognenko. In the commission's opinion, the candidate conducted illegal campaigning on 17 May in favor of Lognenko under the façade of signature collection. The candidate's representative disagreed with the city election commission's decision and declared he would appeal it in the courts. The election for mayor of Vladivostok is on 18 June.

#### ***Vladivostok Voters to Enjoy Free Lottery at Polling Sites***

Radio station “Echo of Moscow” reports that voters who show up at the polling sites in Vladivostok on 18 June to vote for the city Mayor and State Duma deputy will receive free lottery tickets. The prize fund of this lottery will be formed by donations. The winners will be announced on 2 July, on the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vladivostok. The organizers assure that the voters can count on winning cars, home refrigerators, TV sets, VCRs, and other valuable items. The city election commission approved of the idea.

#### ***State Duma Deputy from Chechnya to be Elected 20 August***

Election of a State Duma deputy from the 31<sup>st</sup> Chechen single-mandate election district will take place on 20 August. Nikolay Koshman, the Presidential Envoy in Chechnya, reported that this decision had been taken in Gudermes at a meeting attended by heads of district administrations, the military command, and heads of temporary departments of internal affairs. Mr. Koshman and CEC Member Sergey Danilenko attended the meeting also. It was decided that 18 territorial and 450 precinct election commissions will be formed on the territory of Chechnya to organize and conduct the election. It is expected that at least 10 people will be nominated as candidates. Meeting attendees asserted that “elections will be conducted on the entire territory of Chechnya without any exceptions.”

Mr. Koshman initiated a working group to assist the Chechen Election Commission in the organization and conduct of the repeat State Duma elections. It has been reported that the group, consisting of 12 people, includes presidential representative office officials, temporary administration representatives, law enforcement officers, and other authorities of Chechnya. The group is lead by German Khasanov, head of the administration of the Russian government representative in Chechnya.

#### ***Gorbachev Registers New Party***

The Russian Ministry of Justice has registered the Russian United Social-Democratic Party (RUSDP). On 25 May, Mikhail Gorbachev, the former USSR President and current RUSDP Chairman, received the party registration certificate. Social democrats announced their intention to form their own party before the December 1999 parliamentary elections when they initially formed an election association and Gorbachev consented to lead the movement.

The formative congress of the party took place on 11 March in the Moscow region. 220 people from 70 regions of the country participated in the meeting. The party will nominate candidates at the next parliamentary elections, scheduled for 2003. At the meeting Mr. Gorbachev emphasized the importance of unifying all social-democratic forces. Among the party's priorities, Mr. Gorbachev named the following: the population's incomes must be raised; the role of trade unions must be increased; free medical care and education must be retained; private entrepreneurship must be supported; and small and medium-sized business must be legally protected. The

party's program will be discussed and adopted at the next congress at the end of this year.

## UKRAINE

### *Teachers Learn the Ropes of Civil Society*

On 14–15 April, IFES hosted a training conference entitled “Civic Education in Ukraine: Learning the Ropes of Civil Society and Methodological Problems.” Among the forty-two participants were teachers currently involved in the IFES/Ukraine pilot civic education program as well as teachers from throughout Ukraine that had demonstrated an interest in civic education and the development of more participatory programs. The conference, facilitated by IFES Civic Education Consultant Christina Houlihan, of the Close Up Foundation, and Professor Sergei Riabov, of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, introduced teachers to a variety of interactive teaching techniques and considered the importance of active citizenship to the democratic process.

In addition to providing training to teachers, the conference also enabled teachers to share their experiences and provide feedback on the success and challenges of the pilot program. The conference provided useful information on how to modify the program to better meet the needs of both the teachers and students, and several teachers expressed interest in initiating the program in their respective schools.

The CEC reviewed the IFES materials from “Learning the Ropes” and indicated a desire to use the materials (in cooperation with the Ministry of Education) in schools in the second semester of 2001. The program would target students in grades 10 and 11. IFES scheduled a meeting with the CEC and the Ministry of Education to discuss details.

In the fall of 1999, IFES initiated the three-phase pilot civic education program that aims to provide high school students with the background and skills required for active citizenship. The pilot program introduces students to the fundamentals of the Ukrainian political system and develops their ability to think critically through a series of civics lessons, mock elections, and finally elections to student government bodies. The student governments will then interact with the local community to identify and solve problems facing their community. To date the program has reached over four hundred and fifty students in Kyiv.

### *Students Selected for IFES Civic Education Summer Camp*

Throughout the reporting period, IFES, working in conjunction with Dr. Sergei Riabov and Mr. Sergei Kisselyov of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, conducted a selection process in Lyceum Universum, School 41 and School 82 for students to participate in a Civic Education Summer Camp. The pool of candidates was eventually reduced to twenty students per school. Positions that open due to cancellations will be filled from a list of ten alternates per school.

IFES selected a site approximately 140km from Kyiv at the Children's Recreation Complex “Anniversary of WWII Victory” Chernigivs'ka Oblast, in the city of Octep. This site, a common location for student camps, is situated on the outskirts of the city and is surrounded by forest and the river Desna.

Students will participate in leadership and team-building sessions, prepare and/or improve a school constitution for use in school government, learn conflict resolution strategies, and devise ways to work within their communities and institutions to encourage trust and understanding between students and those in leadership positions.

International experts from the United States will work closely with four Ukrainian trainers and nine teachers to develop the program of events. A three-day planning session will be carried out prior to the arrival of students, who will be in camp for a period of ten days. Following the students' return to Kyiv, the international experts, teachers and trainers will spend three days analyzing, debriefing, and preparing reports on the achievements of the camp.

### *USIS, IFES Discuss Future Cooperation*

In April, Christina Houlihan, IFES Civic Education Consultant, and David Earl, IFES/Ukraine Project Director, met with representatives of the United States Information Service (USIS) to discuss their respective civic education programs and determine possible areas of cooperation. It was proposed to create a link between the IFES and USIS websites so that visitors to each site would have access to a greater amount of information. In addition to election legislation and results, the civic education manuals and survey results are available on the IFES/Ukraine website at [www.ifes.kiev.ua](http://www.ifes.kiev.ua) and the mirror site [www.ifes-ukraine.org](http://www.ifes-ukraine.org).

### ***CEC Prepares Post-Conference Publication***

Following their March 2000 conference “Elections of the President of Ukraine-’99: Problems of Theory and Practice,” the Central Election Commission (CEC), with IFES sponsorship, began compiling materials for a post-conference publication. Among the topics the publication will cover are the results and outcome of the election, election legislation of Ukraine and other CIS countries, and challenges faced by election commissions. The publication is scheduled to be released this summer.

### ***IFES Continues Work with CEC***

IFES agreed to translate and provide recommendations on the proposed Draft Law on Parliamentary Elections prepared independently by the Commission. This draft should be submitted to the Verkhovna Rada for consideration early in June 2000.

CEC Chairman Ryabets met with IFES Project Director Mr. Earl to discuss the preparation of a new Memorandum of Understanding between IFES and the CEC. To do so, they reviewed completed and anticipated cooperation between IFES and CEC in the year 2000. (Planned cooperation beyond September 30, 2000 is tentative, pending the extension of the IFES/USAID Cooperative Agreement.) The following cooperative activities were reviewed:

- IFES has assisted and will continue to assist the CEC in carrying out the “Concept for Improving Legal Culture of Participants in the Electoral Process and Referenda in Ukraine” resolution (which was approved by the CEC in October 1999);
- IFES organized the conference “Civic education in Ukraine: Learning the Ropes of Civil Society, and Methodological Problems” in April;
- The CEC, in conjunction with the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science and other organizations, is preparing a manual outlining the issues of election law for the students of Ukrainian general secondary schools;
- IFES is organizing and conducting events aimed at improving legal culture of students from the Kyiv general secondary schools;
- The CEC is sharing information, reference materials, election-related documents, and analytical resources with IFES;
- IFES assisted the CEC in March with the international conference “Ukrainian Presidential Elections-99: problems of theory and practice”;
- IFES and the CEC prepared and published the book of materials from the international conference “Ukrainian Presidential Elections-99: problems of

theory and practice”;

- In June, IFES is organizing the conference “Election Dispute Resolution: Global Perspectives”, in which the CEC will participate;
- The CEC and IFES will publish “Election legislation of Ukraine (law and other normative and legal acts regulating the procedure of preparing for and conducting elections and referenda in Ukraine)” in November;
- IFES will assist the CEC in organizing a delegation from the Commission to come to the U.S. and observe the Presidential and Congressional elections of November; and
- The CEC will assist IFES in organizing a sociological survey designed to determine how well Ukrainian citizens are informed about political and economic developments in the country, and what their attitudes towards economic and political reforms are.

### ***IFES Continues Work with Parliament***

Throughout April, IFES participated in meetings of the Parliamentary Assistance Coordination Group to discuss possible cooperation with the Verkhovna Rada. These meetings allow IFES to monitor the political situation and identify opportunities to provide assistance to the Rada. Most recently, IFES supplied the members of a working group within the Rada focused on revising election legislation with universal electoral codes from various countries.

### ***International Adjudication Conference in Ukraine***

IFES continues to prepare for an International Adjudication Conference to be conducted 10 and 11 June 2000 at the Karpaty Resort Complex, Yaremcha, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, in Western Ukraine.

Invitations have been forwarded to the following countries seeking their participation:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kyrgystan, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and the United States of America.

For more information regarding the adjudication conference, see “Election Dispute Resolution: Global Perspectives.”

### ***Impact Summary***

The teachers’ training conference conducted in April helped to ensure that teachers participating in IFES’ pilot civic education program were prepared to conduct civics lessons in a more interactive manner. A participatory approach is especially important in facilitating the development of active citizens

who possess the ability to think critically and the skills necessary to mobilize others within their community. The conference also provided a forum for discussion and feedback about the current civic education program, improvements to the curricula and methodology, and best practices. The materials generated by the conference will aid civic education in secondary schools throughout Ukraine.

IFES continued to cooperate with international and domestic organizations to provide specialists and the general public with independent information regarding the democratic process in Ukraine. By assisting the CEC to publish a post-conference publication, IFES helps ensure that election officials, legislators, and other interested parties have access to both theoretical and practical information on the electoral process in general and the 1999 presidential election cycle in particular. Such information increases the transparency of the process and the activity of election officials.

Through continued cooperation with the CEC, IFES facilitates the dissemination of information about elections throughout Ukraine. The conferences and publications to which IFES contributes aid the CEC in realizing goals such as greater civic education, improved legal culture, and clearly regulated elections.

## **YUGOSLAVIA (KOSOVO)**

### ***Registration Program***

The launch of the registration program was slightly delayed at the end of April, but by the beginning of May, 39 registration centers were in operation to register Kosovar voters. By 19 May, 192 centers were open, including registration sites in Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro. Applications for registration now total more than 185,000, but few Serbs have chosen to register. Outreach efforts geared specifically toward Kosovar Serbs are now in development, and meetings have been held to explain the international presence. Information regarding registration is already being made available in Albanian, Bosnian, and Turkish publications. Though security problems have been relatively rare, as a precaution, registration centers are not being permitted to open until they have established communications each morning. Problems with staffing have been less rare, with local staff quitting or stopping work regularly due to working conditions and pay or to protest other OSCE/UNMIK policies.

### ***Information Technology***

One major issue has been the UN's awarding of the scanning and data entry contracts, which created a need to revise plans for ID production and distribution. After the testing and approval of the newest version of registration software late last month, a CD was put together to update the 40 remote workstations already deployed. The Central Database Processing Site was staffed, and after training in ID production applications, is now operational. The Technical Response Unit (TRU), formed to address registration centers' technical problems, also became operational. Troubleshooting manuals were provided to each registration team, and repairs have been speedy.

### ***Legal Assistance***

IFES' Dan Blessington worked with UNMIK administrators and lawyers to ensure that administrative directions would be created to allow for strong data protection and that eligibility for registration could be established solely upon witness testimony in exceptional circumstances. Once the administrative direction was finalized, Blessington assessed how the Joint Registration Taskforce (JRT) should implement data protection procedures; developing duties for the data protection officer, and consider methods such as confidentiality agreements to restrict access to data and guarantee the destruction of data once they are no longer needed.

### ***Public Information***

Posters entitled "Registration Process," "Vote Where You Register," "Registration Locations," and "Application Form" were developed, translated, and completed. Flyers were developed to advertise and explain the registration process to the Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian, and Turkish communities. These were distributed in the vicinities of registration centers and in newspapers, however, inserting flyers in newspapers being delivered by OSCE to Kosovar Serb communities was discontinued after it became clear that such inserts would jeopardize OSCE Kosovo's agreements with the newspapers and potentially cause security problems. The flyers are now being distributed by KFOR. Radio spots on the kickoff of the registration process and reminders regarding registration were broadcast on Galaxia Radio and other KFOR outlets. Other options for broadcast, including VOA, are being pursued.

### ***Training***

UNV training concluded in April were well received; though there were concerns that time al-

lowed to develop training materials and prepare for training was less than sufficient. Registration demonstrations were also given to the delegation of the OSCE Chairman in Office and the UN Security Council in Gnjilane. In addition to some technical problems with the SAGEM equipment, procedural questions were addressed. Clarifications regarding the documentation required for registration, photograph quality, notifications for review of applications, and the roles of international supervisors were only a few of the topics discussed in biweekly messages to the field.

### ***Elections***

IFES' Rafael Lopez Pintor met with Liz Hume, Acting Head of the Elections Development Department, while in Kosovo and recommended the Saint-Lange distribution of seats for the electoral formula, as it would guarantee minorities that present a party list or an independent candidate some representation. Pintor also met with the Acting Head of Capacity Building about training for the municipal election commissions. Pintor believes that confidence building is the key issue for the MECs, as the MECs will have to work closely with international supervisors and party advisory councils. The Domestic Capacity Building Division is working with Election Officers to identify a pool of potential MEC nominees who could begin training soon.

### ***The Election Commission***

The Election Commission has now met a total of 5 times, and adopted rules for party certification, MECs, voter registration appeals, and voter information. The rule on voter registration appeals allows people denied entry to the voter's lists to appeal to the on Election Complaints and Appeals sub-Commission (ECAC). The electoral rule on voter information will require media outlets to broadcast OSCE/UNMIK information related to the Civil Registry and the electoral process, or face sanctions by licensing bodies. The Electoral Rule on MECs set the composition, qualifications and duties of the MECs. MEC members must be eligible voters in the municipality to whose MEC they wish to be appointed, and neither in public or party office. MEC appointees will be seated for two-year terms to boards varying in size from 3 to 7 seats and reflective of the size, population, ethnicity, and number of polling stations in their municipalities. Political parties will have to apply for certification in all municipalities in which they wish to compete after submitting required documents to the UNMIK

Registration Office by 1 June and 11 June was set for completion of the certification process. UNMIK and the OSCE have made every effort to prevent duplication in the registration and certification processes, which will both be occurring over this time period.

### ***Political Parties***

Political parties are currently collecting signatures required for registration. Representatives of some parties are unhappy with the tight timeline for elections and the lack of discussion on important election rules, and the representatives of the Mitrovica-based Albanian Republican Party even stormed out of discussions in Pristina. In a meeting in Klina, representatives of the parties said they were not happy with registration staff of the local registration center; some of whom they felt had sympathized with the Serbs. The functions of the registration centers were also explained. A political party consultative forum in Zubin Potok showed that the inhabitants of this Serb enclave are not interested in the registration process. Representatives of the Turkish Democratic Union (TDB) complained that Turkish was not being recognized as an official language by UNMIK, which helped explain the hesitancy of some members of that community to cooperate with the registration process. Representatives of Democratization, Political Party Services, and Election Development will meet to discuss the need to allow more time for discussion and changes in policy while still adhering to the strict timelines for the October election.

## **CAUCASUS/CENTRAL ASIA**

### ***ARMENIA***

#### ***IFES Voter List Seminars Completed***

IFES Armenia held four seminars on the problems surrounding the issue of forming, maintaining and amending voter lists, one of the biggest problems in recent Armenian elections. Each seminar was held for one of the four communities holding by-elections for parliamentary seats on 21 May. The first three were held for the Yerevan neighborhoods of Melatia-Sebastia, Arabkir, and Erebuni/Nork Marash. A fourth seminar was held in a large rural district of the Lori region. The purpose of the seminars was to gather information, insight and recommendations from all interested parties in the voter list process, in order for the CEC to assist commu-

nity leaders in compiling lists.

Participants were asked to fill out evaluation forms to identify problems with the current voter list system and to make recommendations of solutions that could be implemented both before and after the 21 May elections. Most participants agreed that major difficulty lay in the passivity of voters in checking the voter lists. Of equal importance to the participants was the insufficient funding supplied by the state budget to the communities for updating the voter lists. Another issue, raised primarily by community employees and passport officials, was the fact that voters in privatized condominiums and especially private houses were often not registered with the passport office, and therefore not on the draft lists given to community leaders. Also noted, several deceased and absent voters remain on the voters lists.

The participants made several positive recommendations including:

- A voter education program to remind individuals to check the voter's lists;
- Establish a system of door-to-door voter list checking to check for non-registered voters living in private houses and condominiums;
- Community Leaders and Passport offices should exchange updated information of changes in the voter lists every 15 days regarding registered and unregistered citizens. Currently this information is required only twice a year yet often does not arrive within the required timeframe;
- Meetings including mayors, condominium chairmen, candidate representative and public block captains should be held regularly to update the lists. Some participants proposed the creation of a special committee in all communities with the purpose of registering citizens; and
- Old Soviet-era names of streets should be listed in parenthesis next to the current names of the streets, which are unfamiliar to many citizens.

#### ***Parliamentary By-Elections Indicate Improvement in the Voter Lists***

Armenia held by-elections for open parliamentary seats under the majoritarian system. For IFES/Armenia, the elections provided a useful, small-scale, test case for an intensive effort to improve the voter lists. On the whole, the results from the four elections indicate that the quality of the voter lists had improved from the experience in the same dis-

tricts during the May 30, 1999 parliamentary elections.

In all 16 precincts visited, PEC Chairmen indicated that there were less appeals reported. In District 51 in the Lori region, the improvement was most impressive. There were 4 appeals to the court on May 21, 2000 out of 16,016 voters, or .02 percent. This can be compared to May 31, 1999 when there were 65 appeals for 17,244 voters, or .4 percent – a twenty-fold decrease in appeals over a single year. In the other four districts, all in the city of Yerevan, there was a significant drop in the total number of appeals since 1999, although the much lower turnout in 2000 indicates that the percentage drop was less remarkable. In sum, based on the number of appeals filed by the electorate, there was an improvement in the voter lists in all four of the districts holding elections in 2000 over one year before.

The voter list survey indicates problems were small in number. On 21 May, IFES commissioned a survey of 375 voters leaving polling stations in 3 districts in Yerevan on their experience with the voter lists. The results were encouraging. 98% of those interviewed had their names entered correctly on the voter lists. However, only 44% actually checked the lists prior to election day. Of those 56% that did not check the lists, 83% were aware that they could have done so. While there was no similar survey taken in the past to which these results can be compared, the study indicated that voter lists did not seem to be a problem for the vast number of voters in Yerevan during the by-elections.

#### ***IFES/Armenia Holds Voter Education Forums***

On 12-13 May, IFES-Armenia held two outdoor voter education forums in the Yerevan neighborhoods of Arabkir and Erebuni, respectively. Both events were coordinated with the community leaders' offices and had almost 2000 attendees combined. Voters checked the lists after being encouraged to attend the forums, which were structured as family fun events. IFES provided copies of CEC-approved forms to amend the lists if voters did not find their names. Community leader staff were present to take applications for amendments.

The objective of the forums was two-fold. First, people were reminded to vote for the by-election on 21 May. They received the updated version of the IFES voter procedure brochure. Second, voters were advised that they needed to check the lists before 16 May (5 days before the election). Voters



*Voter and Arabkir Community Staff checking voter lists at IFES sponsored Voter Education Forum.*

had the opportunity to check the list at one big festive site rather than having to visit their precinct. By involving the community leader staff instead of the election committees, IFES reinforced the message that amendments to the voter lists have to be filed with the community leaders. By distributing amendment forms at the site itself, IFES assisted in this process.

#### ***President Signs Bill Allowing Refugee Voting***

President Robert Kocharian has signed the bill allowing refugees the right to vote in local elections. State and Legal Issues Committee Chairman Victor Dallakian sponsored the amendment. It reads: *“During the elections to the local self-government bodies all the rights and responsibilities defined to the citizens of Armenia according to the present document, are also extended to the persons, having the right to vote, who possess refugee status or are registered in the prescribed manner in the refugee family’s certificate.”*

#### ***Impact Summary***

The 21 May By-Election was the first test of the Armenian voter list system since the 1999 elections indicated voter registration was a major problem. The small number of districts contested in the by-election gave IFES an opportunity to concentrate intensively on improving the quality of the lists in four communities. Through the voter education forums and a series of seminars on voter lists in April, IFES played a significant role in improving one of most-criticized aspects of the Armenian electoral system.

## **AZERBAIJAN**

### ***IFES/Azerbaijan Welcomes New Project Manager***

At the end of April, Trefor Owen took over as the new Project Manager for IFES/Azerbaijan. Tony Reissig, IFES Elections Consultant, had served as the interim Project Manager and advised the government on the draft parliamentary election law. Owen will continue to assist the Milli Mejlis and the CEC and continue to work with local democracy non-governmental organizations in preparation for Parliamentary elections anticipated to take place in November 2000.

### ***IFES Consults on CEC Law***

Amendments to the CEC law were passed and signed at a third reading. The amendments reflect the recent discussions between the President’s Office, members of Parliament, Nikolai Vulchanov from ODIHR and the opposition parties. Trefor Owen has been extensively consulted about these changes and suggested a number of positive amendments that assisted in obtaining final agreement. The final version met with positive responses from the international community.

The version of the 18 person CEC that the government currently supports has 1/3<sup>rd</sup> government appointees, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> opposition appointees with the last 1/3<sup>rd</sup> being independent lawyers. The composition of the last third is still not fixed. Decisions will be by 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority. The most likely version is for a list of independent lawyers to be put up by the independent deputies. From this list one lawyer would be selected by the government side, one from the opposition side and the last 4 would be selected by the so-called independents with no scrutiny from either side. Most of the opposition parties do not like this model (and have said so in the Press) but it does have the advantage of getting them over the third they need to block election procedures drafted by the CEC. It leaves them far short of the numbers needed to get their own majority. However, with the support of 1/3 of the members, they would be able to block election procedures drafted by the CEC. The CEC law is expected to be passed in early June.

### ***IFES Prepares for Parliamentary Elections Law***

Shahla Mamedova, Office Manager, completed the translation of the draft Parliamentary Election Law at the end of April which, translated, was 105 pages. In April, Tony Reissig prepared comments on the law. There were significant areas where shortcom-



ings in the law were identified; however the law addresses many of the fundamental concerns raised by previous observers.

The President's Office has signaled its intention to make amendments to the draft parliamentary elections legislation. Once the reformed legislation is passed, IFES will work with the new CEC to develop and implement new election regulations to promote public confidence in the integrity of the elections. The draft law is expected to be finalized in July.

Reissig identified the following areas of the law which need modification:

- Nomination forms for the multi mandate positions require 80,000 signatures;
- A threshold of 8% (possibly to be revised to 6%) must be obtained by a party before any candidates elected;
- Restrictions made on the release of public opinion surveys;
- Low limit on the amount of money a candidate can spend on their campaign; and
- Time limits on the registration of political parties.

Tony Reissig has had lengthy experience as an elections administrator and made a number of practical suggestions for improvements in record keeping, calendars and administrative arrangements. He also made some suggestions for simplifying the law.

#### ***Azerbaijan Results Center (ARC)***

Development of plans, including a feasibility study, continued for the parallel vote count center during April and May. Further work on this is expected in June.

#### ***Impact Summary***

In May the Council of Europe decided to defer the consideration of admission of Azerbaijan until after the November Parliamentary elections. More now than ever, it is important that Azerbaijan continues its progress toward establishing a more open and accountable system of government. IFES continues to provide expert consultation on the CEC amendments and the Parliamentary Election legislation in preparation for the November Parliamentary elections. Technical assistance provides the legislative change necessary to strengthen the capacity of the CEC to administer fair, transparent elections.

Positive amendments already accepted in the CEC law and draft electoral law by the Department of Legislation and Legal Expertise, are concrete evidence of the value of using internationally experienced consultants to advise on electoral legislation. It is very difficult for any election authority to run fair and consistent elections using flawed legislation. Equally, moves to set up a parallel vote counting center are already causing initial indications by the Department of Legislation and Legal expertise (in the draft law) that they will fund their own counting center to release election results using government computer networks.

Feedback from other International Observer Groups shows that the roll of providing translated copies of electoral material to others saves valuable resources and provides a valuable focus that allows a fair degree of consistency between groups.

With the deferring of consideration of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe, it continues to be of great importance that Azerbaijan continue addressing a more open and accountable system of government. IFES continues to provide expert consultation on the CEC amendments and the parliamentary election legislation in preparation for the November parliamentary elections. Technical assistance provides the legislative change necessary to strengthen the capacity of the CEC to administer fair, transparent elections.

## **GEORGIA**

*(continued from p. 1)*

To supplement the guidebook, IFES also cooperated with the CEC on a 25-minute video on election procedures that was broadcast on television nationwide in the days before the elections.

To better prepare voters for changes in the election code, IFES worked with the CEC to design a voting procedures poster that was distributed to all 2600 polling stations across the country. In addition, at the request of the CEC, the voter information effort also included the production of a poster-sized precinct tally sheet for each polling station. The poster served as a publicly viewable copy of precinct results and was intended to lend increased transparency to the election process. These posters were part of a national, comprehensive voter campaign conducted by IFES Consultant Catherine Barnes in coordination with the CEC. The campaign included

print and non-print materials and extended to all regions of Georgia.

**2000 Presidential Elections of Georgia  
FINAL RESULTS**

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Votes Received</i>	<i>% of Votes Cast</i>
Eduard Shevardnadze	1,870,311	78.82%
Jumber Patiashvili	390,486	16.66%
Kartlos Ghiariabashvili	7,86	00.34%
Avtandil Joglidze	5,942	00.25%
Vahza Zhgenti	3,363	00.14%
Tengiz Asanidze	2,793	00.12%

***IFES Assessment of Presidential Elections***

During the elections, IFES conducted a Technical Election Observation mission to assess the effectiveness of its technical assistance to the CEC and to assessing the impact of the voter education campaign specifically carried out in support of the 2000 Presidential elections.

In the Technical Assessment, IFES urges the CEC to:

- Provide regular and consistent training to Precinct Election Commission (PEC) chairpersons to improve the consistency of the election administration process;
- Institute crowd-control procedures limiting the number of voters inside the polling station at any one time in order to more effectively manage the voting process;
- Develop and maintain accurate voters' lists, update them regularly, and eliminate the use of supplemental voters' lists;
- Simplify identification requirements for voters to vote, and convey these to the PECs and the electorate;
- Adopt a uniform system of marking ballot papers for all elections;
- Establish conduct standards through a Code of Conduct for all those authorized to be in the voting stations (officials and observers) on Election Day and train specifically on Election Day responsibilities and behavior;
- Establish specific and clear ballot sorting and counting procedures;
- Direct PEC chairpersons to compile an additional copy of the election result form to be delivered directly to the CEC and deter and deflect manipulation during transport;
- Convey election procedures clearly to PECs

with little room for individual interpretation at least one month in advance of the elections;

- Adopt, distribute and use a standard form for lodging election complaints on Election Day; and
- Set clear mechanisms for review of election violations at the local level with immediate, effective and impartial disciplinary action for those determined committing election fraud.

The IFES Technical Assessment of the 2000 Presidential Elections in Georgia is available on the IFES/Georgia web site in mid-June ([www.cec.gov.ge](http://www.cec.gov.ge)) and on the IFES/Georgia site now available at: [www.georgia.net/ifes](http://www.georgia.net/ifes).

The Technical assessment has been presented to the CEC. Spinelli suggested that the CEC use the Assessment to continue the open dialogue with IFES on how the administration of the Georgian elections could be strengthened. The Assessment was distributed to the full membership of the commission and to the staff of the CEC Legal Department.

***Adjudication of Election Complaints***

In collaboration with the CEC Legal Department, IFES has created a database on adjudicated election complaints arising from the 9 April elections. IFES/Georgia Project Assistant Maya Gogoladze worked closely with the CEC Legal Department, to insure that all information on the 16 complaints adjudicated by the CEC is accurate and complete. This database will be posted on the CEC Presidential elections website and will also be included in a report on IFES activities in support of strengthening election complaint adjudication during the Presidential elections.

***Impact Summary***

Following the April 2000 Presidential elections, IFES reinforced the technical assistance provided prior to Election Day with follow up activities that underscore the importance of professional and transparent election administration. The IFES Technical Assessment of the 2000 Presidential Elections provides the CEC with recommendations for improving the conduct of future elections. In addition, IFES continues to work with the CEC to enhance the transparency of the commission's activities. Full utilization of the 2000 Presidential Elections website will allow the commission to abide by the freedom of information provisions of the General Administrative Code by making elec-

tion results and materials available for public inspection.

## **KAZAKHSTAN**

### ***Civic Education Textbook***

IFES Vice-President for Programs Juliana Pilon, Project Manager Eilis Ward and Translator Baghlan Yerzhan met with Hasan Shinva, Lydia Rybokova, Gulmira Bilyalova (Almaty State University) and Svetlana Zhanabayeva (principal of the Kazakh Experimental Secondary School – Maksat) to discuss deadlines and adaptations for the textbook. After a very fruitful discussion, all agreed to contribute to the necessary additions and adaptations. Hasan Shinva and the other teachers identified specific topics that were absent on the curriculum and could be easily added to the textbook. They were particularly concerned to collect more comparative literature; to include a section on international law and human rights; to develop the section on the constitution; to include a section on the development of civil society in Kazakhstan and to specify the issues of multi-ethnic families and multi-ethnic society in the section on the family. It was agreed that in the section on civil society, 'case studies' of local NGO or civil society activism would be included, such as 'Project Citizen' and other youth activities.

The original schedule of a final deadline for receipt of all materials for the textbook, including materials to come from a team of local experts in Kazakhstan, had to be adjusted to allow for additional editing work. However, by the end of May, 90% of the material had been received and the editing process on the chapters began. This involved copy editing, standardizing, integrating glossaries and local materials, and engendering a text suitable for a secondary school classroom. Certain pedagogical factors were therefore taken into consideration in the editing process.

In addition, the editing process was mindful of the purpose of this text book in the longer term context of developing and encouraging the evolution of civil society in Kazakhstan, in the context of IFES' broader mandate for the country. Thus, the emphasis continued to be on providing information and ideas that can be of practical utility in the process and, particularly, of utility for the next generation of (potential) activists and young citizens.

The civic education course should be introduced

into the social sciences curriculum during the 2000-2001 school year.

### ***Student Olympiad and Teachers Conference***

With the review materials collected at the conference (the questionnaires, the feedback from the workshops and the notes taken by the students from the Kazakh State University), Ms. Yerzhan produced a qualitative report summarizing the comments. The reports were then forward to Dr. Pilon and will be used as a point of reference in continuing adaptation of the textbook.

IFES has also completed the draft newsletter arising from the Olympiad and conference. The four-page newsletter will be produced by IFES and distributed by IAS to inform the Olympiad and conference participants about on-going civic education issues and projects.

### ***Publications***

Additional and final work on the Olympiad and Teacher's Review seminar was completed during this stage – a newsletter of the event was prepared and distributed to all participating students and schools. In addition, final editing work on the ACE project was completed and the document was prepared for publication. Assistance for publication was provided by Eurasia.

### ***Impact Summary***

IFES has been able to continue adapting and improving its civic education curriculum with the cooperation from education, pilot schools, and local and international NGOs. With continued advice students, teachers and education policy makers, IFES anticipates the expansion of its curriculum during the 2000/2001 school year. The IFES civic education initiative will increase youth participation in social and political life, promote understanding of democracy and contribute to the long-term democratic reform of Kazakhstan.

## **KYRGYZSTAN**

### ***IFES Election Dispute Adjudication Activities***

IFES continues to gather records of election dispute court decisions made by judges who participated in the adjudication training. These decisions will provide case studies for inclusion in an on-going update of the adjudication manual, as well as provide precedents for rulings in similar cases. IFES staff in Bishkek drafted, printed and distrib-

uted the initial version of the Election Dispute Adjudication Manual in February, and anticipates continuing training activities and updating the manual during the next several months.

#### ***Summer Camp Project Expands into Kyrgyzstan***

Preparations for a student summer camp in Kyrgyzstan are now well under way, based on the summer camp project that was completed by IFES in Uzbekistan last summer. Mr. Edyl Moldoev, the head of Kyrgyz State National University (KSNU) has been selected to work with IFES on the student, summer camp project. Potential student participants in the Democracy and Civic Education Summer Camp project sponsored by IFES and Kyrgyz State National University (KSNU) have applied for consideration and will take exams as part of the final selection process. From 150-200 university-level first- or second-year students, representing mainly pedagogical faculties, have been sought as participants. In addition to providing hands-on experience in conducting elections and election processes, the Camp will provide a forum to discuss their ongoing work and studies in civic education. Summer Camp participants will formally present their experience and "lessons learned" to classmates at their respective Universities and discuss ways to introduce civic education (based on what they learned at the summer camp) into middle schools and communities back in their local regions.

#### ***Election Reform in Kyrgyzstan***

Following the visit of the U.S. State Secretary to Kyrgyzstan, President Akayev appointed a Working Group (WG) of 15 members, mostly parliamentarians but working under the direction of the Central Elections Commission (CEC). The WG is to review the Election Code and make changes addressing the problems that marred the 2000 Kyrgyz parliamentary elections. The CEC has been overseeing a roundtable discussion of election problems with the Territorial Elections Commissions (TEC) and IFES has participated in assisting these discussions with suggestions and proposals for changes, which would introduce international standards in the election procedures. Participants in the CEC/TEC meetings have worked effectively through the election code and will report their recommendations to the WG. IFES will continue to support the election reform process through revision of election administrative manuals and conducting seminars on professional development. Suggestions will be accepted to 2 June and the

WG's subcommittee will prepare a report by 23 June. The WG will then prepare a report of recommendations by mid-July that will be considered for adoption.

#### ***Focus Group Project in Kyrgyzstan***

INFOREX survey research group Director Dr. Vladislav Pototskii conducted a series of civic education focus groups for students and teachers as part of an IFES pilot project. Twelve focus groups were conducted in Bishkek, Osh, and rural locations in Chu, Osh, and Naryn Oblasts, and represent a prelude to possible introduction of a curriculum development pilot project in Kyrgyzstan. Results and a final report will be presented in the month of June. IFES will then review the results and prepare a project description for the Ministry of Education. It is hoped the Ministry will support a curriculum reform project for the tenth and eleventh classes, which are the levels IFES will target with its Civics and Democracy text.

#### ***Central Election Commission in Kyrgyzstan***

The CEC has requested IFES assistance with their training program for Territorial Elections Commission staff. The CEC proposed training of all TEC staff, which is an improvement on the training made available at the recent parliamentary elections of only the Chairman and Secretary. This step is the first practical measure in the lead up to the presidential elections. IFES proposes to support and assist the CEC in the training program. The TEC's will then take responsibility for the training and support of the Precinct Election Commissions. It is anticipated this program will result in a more effective control of PEC's by sharing the responsibility amongst all PEC staff. Presidential elections are tentatively set for 29 October.

#### ***Impact Summary***

IFES strategies have been aimed at increasing both the professionalization of the CEC administration and the transparency of the election process. IFES is focusing on the professional assistance to the CEC including the provision of election manuals, posters, training and advertising. In the post parliamentary election period IFES has supported the WG/CEC review of the election code with suggested changes complying with international standards. IFES will be supporting the CEC with their proposal to train TEC staff in June. Through activities such as the proposed Summer Camp and the civic education curriculum development proposals which will be aimed at those who will be first time

voters at the next round of elections, and who represent the leaders and citizens of tomorrow. IFES efforts also assist and strengthen local NGOs working on elections and civic education issues, as well as increasing the commitment to democracy amongst a younger generation of voters and citizens.

## **TAJIKISTAN**

### ***First Session of Majlisi Milli Convened***

IFES staff members attended the first session of the upper chamber of Tajikistan parliament - Majlisi Milli on 17 April. The Majlisi Milli consists of 34 deputies, and 32 of them were present at the session. The deputies adopted the provisional schedule of work and elected the Chairman. Mahmadsaid Ubaidulloev, the Mayor of Dushanbe, was the only candidate nominated for this post. Elected to the post of deputies to the Chairman of Majlisi Milli were Nazarbegim Muborakshoyeva, Chairman of *Hukumat* of Rushon district, and Askar Hakimov, Chairman of Union of Writers of the Republic of Tajikistan. Additional members elected as committee chairpersons include: Chairman of *Hukumat* of Leninabad Viloyat Kosim Kosimov elected Chairman of Committee for Economy and Communications); General Prosecutor Mr. Salomiddin Sharopov (Chairman of Committee for the Provision of Constitutional Rights and Freedoms); Chairman of *Hukumat* of Khatlon Viloyat Mr. Davlatali Sharipov (Chairman of Committee on Agrarian Issues, Employment and Ecology); President of Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Ulmas Mirsaidov (Chairman of the Committee for Social Issues, Health Care, Science, Education, Youth Policy and Protection of Women); Chairman of *Hukumat* of Badakhshan Alimamad Niyozmamadov (Chairman of the Committee for the Coordination of Relations between *Majlisi Milli* and *Majlisi Namoyandagon*); Karim Abduvohidov (Chairman of the Committee for Ethics of Members of *Majlisi Milli*); and Mr. Muzaffar Ashurov (Head of Apparatus of *Majlisi Milli*).

### ***First Joint Session of Majlisi Milli and Majlisi Namoyandagon***

The first Joint Session took place on 27 April. Muhammadsaid Ubaidulloev, Chairman of *Majlisi Milli*, opened the session. Fifty-nine deputies from *Majlisi Namoyandagon* and 33 deputies from *Majlisi Milli* participated in the session. The Manual of *Majlisi Milli* and *Majlisi Namoyandagon* was circulated. Representatives from public unions, diplomatic and international missions, domestic and foreign mass media, the National Bank and other government structures

were present. The president of Republic of Tajikistan addressed the assembly, and introduced the deputies to all problems and perspectives of each individual sector of the society. In particular, President Rahkmonov expressed his gratitude to the Committee on National Reconciliation (CNR), international organizations and the countries that had assisted and supported the electoral process in Tajikistan.

### ***IFES-Marshall Center Political Party Conference***

IFES, together with the George C. Marshall Center and the OSCE sponsored a 2-day conference entitled "Political Parties in a Post-Election Environment" from 22-23 May in Dushanbe. The event brought together representatives of eleven political parties and movements to discuss how political parties, both those with representatives in the new *Majlisi Oli* and those without, can better function in the post-election environment. The conference addressed such topics as constitutionalism, party coalitions, how to influence the legislative process, and the roles of women and youth in the evolution of party platforms and party-related support activities. Following the formal presentations, the participants divided into two groups and discussed ways to build coalitions, influence other to support their point of view, and rally public opinion. IFES Program Officer Anthony Bowyer made a presentation on the role of youth in the building of democracy, and led the group discussions on the first day focusing on security issues and how to come to a consensus in first defining the problem, and then how to come up with joint solutions. Professor Roger Kangas of the Marshall Center joined Mr. Bowyer in a group exercise. IFES/Dushanbe Political Party Consultant Philip Griffin and IFES Guest Speaker Oleksandr Lavrynovych, a Deputy in the Ukrainian Supreme Rada, made separate presentations on coalition building and led the other group exercise on the first day, which focused on the theme of human rights.

Group work on the 2nd day of the conference focused on what political parties have to do to remain active or otherwise consolidate their holdings in the post-election period. Following formal presentations, participants were divided into three groups according to their current political status. Group 1 consisted of parties currently represented in the *Majlisi Namoyandagon* (lower house of parliament), and discussions for this group were led by Deputy Oleksandr Lavrynovych. Group 2 consisted of parties that contested the recent parliamentary elections but were unable to win seats in the *Majlisi Namoyandagon*, either in single-mandate constituencies or via party

list. The groups were divided as such to better focus on strategizing how to proceed with their party activities based on their current status in the country.

The event produced an agreement in concept for the parties to meet on a regular basis, and for those three parties that achieved success in the recent elections to the Majlisi Namoyandagon (People's Democratic Party, Communist Party, and Islamic Renaissance Party) there was an implied agreement that they would be willing to listen to the interest of the "outside" parties and continue working with them on issues of mutual importance. In addition, the parties that did not compete in the February parliamentary election concluded an action plan to work together in a pseudo-coalition to form a bloc of special interests. A structure for the entity was developed, though a timeline could not be specified until issues regarding legality of certain parties and movements are resolved.

#### ***Election Dispute Adjudication***

As a result of an on-going project in the area of election dispute adjudication, IFES presented Election Adjudication Manuals in three languages (Tajik, Uzbek and Russian) to Chairman of the Supreme Court Davlatov. The manual was prepared by IFES Legal Consultant Lamar Cravens and was based on a similar project conducted by IFES in Tajikistan. Mr. Davlatov indicated that this manual would serve as a topical and useful reference for judges.

In a related project, invitations have been distributed to four Tajik nominees to an Election Dispute Adjudication Conference that is being sponsored and organized by IFES/Ukraine. All four nominees accepted the invitations and expressed their gratitude to IFES for assistance. The conference will be held on 10–11 June in Yaremcha, Ukraine.

#### ***Focus Groups***

IFES local partner "Sharq" commenced work on a series of focus groups for students and teachers in the tenth and eleventh grades. The focus groups sought to measure satisfaction with the current coursework and textbook materials on civics and democracy. This data will assist IFES in assessing the possibilities for introducing course material for students in these grades as part of a new education initiative. Final results of the focus groups, conducted in Dushanbe and Leninabad and Khatlon Oblasts, are expected in June.

#### ***Curriculum Development***

IFES Dushanbe staff held meetings in May with several



*The Honorable Oleksandr Lavrynovych (left), a Deputy in the Ukrainian Supreme Rada invited by IFES as a guest speaker, leads discussions on strategy development with Tajik political party representatives during a group exercise on the second day of the "Political Parties in a Post-election Environment" conference held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan..*

local NGOs and representatives of government to discuss the potential for conducting a curriculum development project for middle schools. Local counterparts' reactions were favourable, and based on the recommendations of the deputy Minister of Education IFES will render an official proposal to the Ministry of Education following completion of the focus groups.

#### ***Impact Summary***

The conference on political party development in the post-election environment, co-organized by IFES, the Marshall Center and the OSCE, represented an important step in the ongoing process of national reconciliation and consolidation of multi-partyism in Tajikistan in light of the recent elections to the Majlisi Namoyandagon. One of the goals of the event was the recognition of outside interests not represented in the parliament, and that for multi-party democracy to be sustainable there should be an ongoing forum of discussion including all parties in order to assure that the interests of the population are addressed more broadly than by only the three parties who placed representatives in the Majlisi Namoyandagon. Specific recommendations were concluded by all participating sides on improvement of legislation and communications that offered hope of positive change and development in the status and relations of political parties in Tajikistan.

IFES/Tajikistan continued the post-election phase of its program by making preparations for working with the new parliament and by continuing its judicial training work with the Supreme Court. Though determined to remain actively engaged in technical election issues, IFES will seek to broaden its pro-

gram including both civic education and information exchange in its mandate. Through activities focusing on the adjudication of election disputes, IFES demonstrated their on-going commitment to strengthening the independence of the judiciary in Tajikistan and support of judicial reforms.

## **UZBEKISTAN**

### ***Democracy Summer Camp***

IFES staff began preparations for the summer camp for Karakalpak secondary school students this July, whereby students from 11 regions of Karakalpakstan would be invited to the camp. Minister Sultanov, of the Ministry of Education of Karakalpakstan, contacted IFES staff regarding the summer camp and assured again of his full support of it. Minister Sultanov promised to assist IFES in selecting an appropriate place for the camp. Students from 11 regions of Karakalpakstan would be invited to the camp. IFES is currently in discussion with several NGOs to identify the most suitable local partner. IFES/Almaty received a detailed proposal from Renaissance NGO (Dusumova) for funding to run the summer camp. IFES Project Coordinator Lola Maksudova contacted enlisted assistance from partners in Bukhara, Samarkand and Kokand to discuss sending a small number of students from schools there to the summer camp and to work with IFES to organize Student Action Committees (SACs) in the senior levels of those schools.

IFES personnel took two business trips to Karakalpakstan in May to discuss the proposal for the Democracy Summer Camp. The trip emphasized two points:

First, that the Summer Camp would provide a sustainable model not just in terms of costs but also in terms of solidifying local resources and skills, and second, IFES was concerned to build on existing relationships in the region – primarily teachers who have received IFES training on the piloting of the textbook in the schools in Nukus during the past winter. Regarding the first point, it was agreed to draw in the skills and expertise of existing NGOs who are actually working or have the potential to work on the themes of the summer camp: environmental issues, human rights and conflict resolution. (The themes were suggested by students in one of the schools in Nukus that participated in the textbook pilot process). This process will encourage capacity building among the local NGOs and also, in the process of preparing for and delivering the summer camp, encourage collaboration between them. In addition, local

(funding) support was sought in an attempt to provide a sustainable funding base for the operation. In relation to the second emphasis, IFES has drawn upon the contact list of teachers who received training to provide both local coordinating personnel and to provide assistants/facilitators/counselors for the summer camp. Both of these decisions received the support of the Ministry of Education in Karakalpakstan with whom IFES has maintained close communication throughout the Summer Camp planning process. The Summer Camp will take place in July, with the textbook revisions scheduled for completion by August.

### ***Civic Education Curriculum***

Ms. Ward met with several individuals to discuss the introduction of the civic education curriculum in Karakalpakstan, including Mr. Sultanov of the Ministry of Education and Mr. Kossymbetov of the Pedagogical. Mr. Kossymbetov agreed to contribute lessons on the pre-modern and early-modern organization of Uzbekistani society. More specifically, Mr. Kossymbetov will discuss comparative political development, the development of Uzbek and Karakalpak identity and nation and environmental issues arising from the Aral Sea. Throughout next month, IFES staff will continue to identify local contributors to prepare the text for introduction in Karakalpak secondary schools during the upcoming school year.

### ***Impact Summary***

IFES/Uzbekistan continues to focus its efforts on civic education. IFES and its local NGO partners will monitor progress of the project throughout the rest of the school year and make preparations for revision, editing and translation of all materials. These continued civic education activities, along with NGO development, contribute to the creation of a civil society in Uzbekistan. In Karakalpak secondary schools during the upcoming school year.

## **ELECTION DISPUTE RESOLUTION: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**

### ***IFES to Host an International Election Dispute Resolution Conference***

In response to a perceived need to establish more transparent, efficient, and consistent procedures for resolving election disputes in the countries of the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe IFES is hosting a regional conference entitled “Election Dispute Resolution: Global Perspectives” in Yaremcha, Ukraine from 10-11 June. Two representatives from each NIS country have been invited in addition to several international experts.

Through panel discussions, speakers will examine the election legislation, jurisdictional issues, governmental structures and adjudication procedures involved in election dispute resolution.

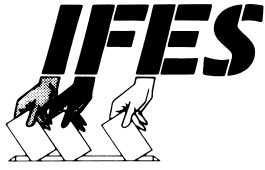
Throughout the region, IFES has hosted a series of national conferences and workshops on the adjudication of election disputes. These conferences have demonstrated that through this type of forum, judges gain a better understanding of their role and responsibilities in the adjudication process and thus become more confident and competent in considering cases. During national conferences conducted in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, and Georgia, judges continue to indicate a desire to learn more about alternative methods of resolving election disputes, such as the creation of specialized courts or temporary collegia. This conference will provide an opportunity for judges facing similar difficulties in resolving election grievances to

share their experiences and evaluate which procedures are most appropriate for their respective countries.

*Impact Summary*

Through this conference, IFES will assist in strengthening the electoral process and the development of democratic societies in the region by providing an opportunity for judges in the region to exchange ideas about various methods of resolving election disputes. By familiarizing judges with their roles and responsibilities in the process, the conference will help to ensure that judges are better prepared to fulfill those roles and more able to act independently. Finally, the conference will allow judges to identify common flaws perceived in legislation and procedure so they can return to their respective countries with recommendations on how to revise existing laws and practices.





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