

Europe and Eurasia (E & E)



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

JULY 2000

ONE MILLION REGISTERED VOTERS IN KOSOVO

The civil and voter registration which began in April 2000 official ended on 19 July where almost 1 million of the 1.2 million eligible Kosovars turned-out to register. This accomplishment of registering over 90% of the eligible population is seen as significant. More than 180,000 people applied from outside Kosovo—more than half of these applications came in the last 10 days of the registration period. During July, many measures were taken to allow the maximum number of applicants to be accommodated: no more than four registration centers were ever closed at one time, hours of operation were shifted one hour later, and UN registration supervisors and staff were not allowed to take leave. In light of the difficult conditions, a large workload for a short period of time, and the often-fragile security situation, the international and local registration supervisors and staff did an impressive job during this phase of the registration process.



OSCE Ambassador Daan Everts congratulates the one millionth Kosovar to register during the provinces Civil and Voter Registration process in advance of the fall municipal elections.

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Unfortunately, the Kosovar Serb community boycotted the process. Even though a 3-day extension was granted in the hopes that some Serbs would go against the general trend, less than 1,000 of the approximately 105,000 so Serbs in the province actually registered. Participation by members of other ethnic groups was mixed: Gorani (Slavic Muslim) participation varied across the province, and despite the development of duplicate registration forms in Turkish, Turkish Kosovars continued to wait for official recognition of their language and few members of the Turkish community took part in civil/voter or political party registration.

Registration Application Reviews and Inquiries
 Even after the last applications were submitted, the registration process remains unfinished. Slightly more than 10% of all applications require further review to substantiate personal information.
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EUROPE

ALBANIA

New IFES Agreement with the CEC

A new agreement with the CEC was forwarded to the Commission for signature in July. This Agreement will formalize existing working arrangements between the Commission and IFES, replacing the former agreement with the Ministry of Legislative Reform, which focused primarily on the drafting of a new Electoral Code. In addition, IFES continued its partnership with the UNDP, OSCE and the Ministry of Local Government for the implementation of the Electoral Assistance Program (voter registration and voter ID cards). The CEC became a more active participant in this program in July.

Election Date Announced

On 23 July, the President of Albania announced that the date for local elections had been set for October 1 as had been widely expected.

Controversy Over the Election of CEC Secretary

During July, the Parliament of Albania elected the seventh and final member of the Commission. Early in the month the Commission hired a Secretary, however, found that it had followed improper procedures and has been required to replace the incumbent and redo the process.

Administrative and Regulatory Procedures

- During July, IFES prepared a plan for the implementation of the revision of the list of voters. The plan was modified by the CEC, but has not yet been formally accepted.
- IFES prepared an election budget for the CEC. With some modifications this budget of approx. \$3.3 million was submitted to the government of Albania for approval.
- IFES sponsored a trip from 20-24 July for the Chair of the CEC to Slovenia to meet with CEC members there and to visit CETIS printing plant to discuss the security printing of ballots and developing detailed cost estimates.

Training and Civic Education

A detailed Civic Education program for the revision period and ID card distribution was completed and accepted by the CEC and the EAP.

- During July, IFES solidified the formation of an NGO Clearinghouse to co-ordinate NGO civic education activities;

- The Voter Education Committee of IFES, OSCE, CEC, IREX, NDI, EAP and the Society for a Democratic Culture continues to review and co-ordinate themes and messages for the voter education program;
- Bids for production of media spots were reviewed and accepted;
- A training schedule for trainers was developed and an initial meeting of the trainers was held;
- A training manual for revision was drafted and;
- Bids for printing of manuals were requested.

Door-to-Door Enumeration Completed

Door-to-door enumeration was completed in all communities and data submitted to the EAP data center. In an effort to maintain time schedules the project added 15 computers and operators to the data center. In July, the Government of Luxemburg increased its contribution to the project \$500,000. This additional contribution satisfied the remaining financial needs of the project.

Impact Summary

IFES continues to have a strong and direct role in the development of the new electoral system in Albania. IFES is the principle advisor to the CEC on the implementation of the new electoral law and preparing for the upcoming election. On the other side, IFES also continues to provide direct assessment of election readiness and related issues to the US Embassy, OSCE and the Friends of Albania.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)

“Coalition Elections 2000” Conference

In early July, IFES Program Manager Emin Novalic attended a conference organized by the NGO “Coalition Elections 2000” in Trebinje. The goal of the conference was to identify ways to implement civic initiatives in order to build of civic society and conduct democratic and fair general elections in November. Novalic presented AEOBiH activities and proposed cooperation between the Association and the Coalition. They agreed to hold a meeting at the beginning of August. The goals of this meeting will be a discussion of increased coordination of activities, the coalition observation role and the AEOBiH role in voter education for General Elections, activities to improve the Voters’ Registers, the presence of NGOs at MEC meetings, and NGO presence at PSC training.

Presidency Meeting

The most recent Presidency meeting was held in Bihac 28 - 30 July. It was decided that the Secretariat would be in charge of ensuring and distributing the three books on humanitarian rights that are owned by the OSCE and OHR. The Information Committee will be developing an AEOBiH presentation module in the PSC training. The Presidency resolved to continue activities with the Coalition Elections 2000 and focus the activities mentioned above. It was also concluded that the Presidency would make decisions on all future applications for membership in the AEOBiH. Additionally, new AEOBiH branch offices will be established in Banja Luka, Mostar, and Tuzla to improve communication amongst the regional branch offices.

A significant decision was reached regarding round-tables organized to discuss election activities. NGOs and members of the AEOBiH should organize these round-tables to provide experts' explanations on a local level. These round-tables should focus on preferential voting system, open list systems, multi-member constituencies, compensatory mandates, and current changes in PEC rules and regulations.

A leadership exercise was conducted during the Presidency meeting in order to begin preparing the members for the Board Development training. The members found the exercise valuable because they realized the importance of leadership in organizations and how they, as the Presidency of the AEOBiH, could do more to provide leadership to the association and its members. The AEOBiH Presidency members were asked for their impressions of specific leadership roles. They listed organizational skills, precision in asking and following up, confidence, and tolerance as some characteristics of a good leader. Efficiency, ability to oversee and solve problems, honesty, and being goal-oriented were examples of responses to a question regarding what makes a good Board of Directors/Executive Board. They were also asked how the Presidency should show leadership and how each of the Presidency members could show good leadership in the context of the AEOBiH. Responses to these questions were quite similar: being independent and impartial, having a good knowledge of the context of AEOBiH program, and practicing teamwork and cooperation with the field.

Further Board Development training has been scheduled for the Presidency meeting in November.

This training will fulfill some of the identified organizational development needs of the AEOBiH. IFES/AEOBiH is endeavoring to use local trainers for these capacity-building trainings whenever possible.

AEOBiH Elections Course

IFES Curriculum Consultant Antonia Dolar met with Michael Haner of the Office of the High Representative (OHR), Francesca Binder of NDI, and Anna Morawiec of the OSCE Governance program to coordinate their efforts for the AEOBiH Elections Course. Dolar will be taking into consideration points brought up in this meeting and will continue working to finalize the curriculum and implementation plan for the AEOBiH Elections Course.

AEOBiH educational program curriculum

IFES' Field Representative/Training Coordinator Beverly Hagerdon Thakur and Curriculum Consultant Antonia Dolar met with officials of the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO) 19-20 July to develop a plan for cooperation on the AEOBiH Educational Program Curriculum. On 19 July, Thakur and Dolar met with several officials from the University of Gyor to discuss their programs and view their facilities. The following day, they met with ACEEEO representatives, including Dr. Zoltan Toth and Dr. Istvan Zsuffa, to discuss ideas for future cooperation. A more detailed description of the curriculum will be forwarded to the ACEEEO for their review and comment. There is a strong possibility that ACEEEO may want to contribute the materials for two modules. One module focuses on the "Evolution of the International Standards for Elections" while the other covers the characteristics of the various election systems. A 3rd and 4th module have been prepared by IFES and encompass the elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina and election administration. ACEEEO will send an outline for a basic computer course, as well as an outline for a computer course dealing with election-specific programs, i.e. voter registration software. This course would be an integral part of a 5th module, which requires course participants to develop an annual work plan on the computer. Dolar provided a copy of the planning methodology that will be used for this module to ACEEEO for their reference. Dr. Zsuffa sees the role of computerization in electoral administration as a main focus for this final module. IFES and ACEEEO must still determine the ultimate division of responsibility for this project.

Polling Station Committee Trainers

With cooperation from the OSCE, IFES has completed a search for Polling Station Committee (PSC) trainers. OSCE Election Officials assisted by providing initial suggestions for potential trainers as well as interpreters and interview rooms. IFES' Program Manager Emin Novalic, Institutional Development Advisor Jeppe Olsen, and the Curriculum Consultant Antonia Dolar conducted the first round of interviews in Tuzla, Banja Luka, Sarajevo, and Mostar. There were 79 applicants for the 50 PSC trainer positions. Novalic also evaluated candidates and conducted a second round of interviews in Tuzla, Mostar, and Banja Luka. IFES then consulted with the OSCE Professional Development Branch to evaluate the candidates and the interview process. Potential candidates were then contacted regarding their flexibility to train in locations outside their municipality of residence. Representatives of the OSCE Professional Development Branch and IFES' Field Representative/Training Coordinator (FR/TC) Beverly Hagerdon Thakur and Novalic evaluated the final list of trainers and determined that some minor adjustments were still necessary due to geographical distribution. IFES/AEOBiH will have the final selection of 50 trainers in early August. The OSCE will then recruit the final 22 trainers to supplement regions that are currently underrepresented.

The training of PSCs by IFES/AEOBiH is currently being planned. Proposals have been given for practical exercises during training of polling station committees. For example, representatives of the OSCE Professional Development Branch suggested the production of a video spot that will be used during training sessions. Novalic and three other AEO-BiH members have taken part in the production of this video.

Impact Summary

IFES/AEOBiH cooperation with the Coalition Elections 2000 contributes to at least two objectives in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It assists in the preparation for elections in November such as improving Voters Registers and improving voter education. At the same time, it opens the possibility of cooperation with local NGOs to develop civic education programs. Such cooperation will allow IFES to continue to pass the responsibilities associated with the execution of elections to Bosnians. All of the proposed training and courses are focused on this aim as well. By cooperating with local NGOs and providing training to locals, international organizations

will be able to ensure successful election implementation after their departure from BiH.

MACEDONIA

Project Overview

IFES' program in Macedonia, which began in mid-July, is directed at providing assistance for upcoming local elections for mayors and municipal councils. The elections are scheduled for 10 September with the second round to be held two weeks later on 24 September. Planned IFES activities, primarily designed to support the State Election Commission (SEC), are as follows:

- Assisting in the development and implementation of an SEC-approved voter education and information campaign;
- Supporting the SEC on media outreach;
- Assisting in the development and implementation of a training program for electoral board members, including the preparation and printing of a manual for their use; and
- Acting as a resource for the SEC in the areas of comparative election law, and election administration and practices.

In addition to the above, IFES plans to conduct a technical observation and analysis of the quality and accuracy of the voters' list, as well as the effectiveness of the distribution system for the issuance of voter identification cards. Issues involving both the voters' list, and the issuance of voter ID cards, were included in the final report of the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) on last year's presidential elections. The results of this observation and analysis will be presented to the Ministry of Justice, Bureau of Statistics and the State Commission on Voters Lists.

Initial Activities

The IFES Project Director for Macedonia Dan Blessington arrived in Skopje in mid-July. IFES specialists responsible for training and voter education activities arrived by the end of the month to begin planning and implementing the program. IFES' voter registration specialist arrived in August.

In this initial period of the program, a local IFES office was established, and local staff engaged. Meetings were held with the Chairman of the SEC, USAID and the American Embassy to discuss IFES programming plans. IFES also took part in a meet-

ing of the USAID Democracy Roundtable with representatives of the NDI and the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) in an effort to share information and coordinate activities with respect to the upcoming elections. NDI and IFES agreed to coordinate their training activities, while IFES and ISC will coordinate their respective voter education and information activities.

Strong Relationship Between IFES and the SEC

IFES and the SEC Chairman agreed on the parameters of the IFES assistance program, and discussed a draft Memorandum of Understanding to be presented to the full membership of the SEC when most members were expected to return to their work in early to mid-August. To date, the relationship between IFES and the SEC Chairman has been excellent.

Progress on Voter Information and Education

A preliminary timeline was prepared in anticipation of a launch date of 1 September for the campaign. A draft leaflet of "Frequently Asked Questions" concerning election procedures was begun. Finally, efforts were begun to establish a creative working group of television producers, graphic designers, election officials and others in order to assist in developing the messages, theme and tone of the voter education campaign.

Pollworker Training Model

IFES plans to use a "training the trainers" model to conduct a training program for pollworkers through Municipal Election Commissions and political parties. The basic training tool will be an SEC-approved training manual that IFES will produce covering polling place procedures according to election legislation. It is anticipated that designated members of the SEC would be assigned to work with IFES on the manual in early August.

Time Constraint

By far, the greatest challenge to IFES in accomplishing its goals in Macedonia is the very tight time frame. Many key individuals with whom IFES must interact were unavailable through the end of the month, and some are likely to remain unavailable in early August. This has increased the technical and logistical challenges of producing voter information and education materials in sufficient time. Likewise, the contours of the training program must remain flexible, since some slippage in the anticipated timelines is likely. IFES will make every effort to obtain required approvals from the SEC and

others on an expedited basis.

Impact Summary

In the next month, IFES anticipates the development and production of voter information posters, leaflets, television and radio spots emerging from the work of a creative working group. Likewise, the development and printing of an election guidebook will be completed in the next month and training will commence.

MOLDOVA

New IFES/Moldova Project Manager

IFES is proud to welcome Charles Lasham as its new Project Manager in Moldova. Mr. Lasham comes to IFES from Liverpool, England, where he acted as Chief Electoral and Returning Officer. His experience in election observation and administration spans the past 14 years and he was a founding member of the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) in 1987 (Chairman 1990–1992). His most recent work with IFES was in Albania, where he worked with the Central Election Commission to determine the country's capacity to organize local government elections.

Recently Adopted Legislation

The Government approved the draft law on political parties on 26 July. The law establishes an overall framework for party registration, party financing, party access to information, and party conduct during electoral campaigns. IFES/Moldova provided technical and financial assistance in the drafting of the law.

The Law on Access to Information was promulgated by the President on 28 July. The law defines the official procedures for gaining access to information in the public domain and the penalties associated with denial of legitimate access rights. The initial draft was developed by the Mass Media Working Group, a joint effort of IFES and the Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Outreach to Political Parties

This month, attention has turned toward amending the Constitution. To further explore the implications of changing laws, IFES/Moldova held a series of meetings with Moldovan party leaders. Amongst those consulted were Mr. Valeriu Matei, MP and leader of the Party for Democratic Forces; Mr. Iurie Rosca, MP and Chairman of the People's Christian

Democratic Party; and Mr. Mircea Snegur, Chairman of the Party of Rebirth and Reconciliation. Mr. Matei expressed the opinion that changes to Moldova's system of government will likely result in early parliamentary elections. Mr. Rosca discussed the ongoing constitutional reform and its likely effect on the Moldovan electoral system. And Mr. Snegur touched on the need for modifications to the Electoral Code in the face of a changing electoral system. As Moldova currently employs a single constituency electoral system, some hold that MPs are not always as accountable to their constituents as they might otherwise be. Mr. Snegur suggested the introduction of either a mixed electoral system or a system based on party lists in uninominal constituencies to coincide with second level administrative territorial units, i.e. counties.

During the meetings with Mr. Rosca and Mr. Snegur, the Electoral and Administrative School Project was also discussed. Both parties view the participation of their youth wings in this project as a high priority.

IFES & Parliament

On 6 July, a roundtable was hosted by the Juridic Direction of Parliament to discuss petitions submitted by the President and two members of Parliament to the Constitutional Court regarding changes to the Electoral Code. The petitioners claimed that the two-year party registration requirement, the ban on electoral advertisement in foreign and joint media, and the 3% electoral threshold for independent candidates are all unconstitutional. The petitions are an element of the ongoing power struggle between President Lucinschi and Parliament. The amendments being contested were adopted by Parliament on 23 March. The amendments were an attempt to limit Lucinschi's ability to consolidate his power through control of the media and the formation of political parties around his supporters. At this time, however, Parliament's success in obtaining the power to elect the President appears to have muted this aspect of electoral debate. To this end, the Juridic Direction has requested IFES/Moldova's assistance in developing a draft law on the election of the President by Parliament.

IFES/Moldova Senior Program Coordinator Igor Botan met with Andrei Funieru of the Juridic Direction of Parliament on 10 July. Mr. Funieru explained that there is currently a draft law on the election of the President by Parliament, but that it has yet to reach committee.

Consultation with USAID and Project Planning

Project Manager Charles Lasham and Senior Program Coordinator Igor Botan met with USAID on 17-21 July. The current conflict between Parliament and the President was discussed. Under the current circumstances, IFES' programs in Moldova could undergo changes pending early parliamentary elections, elections of the President by Parliament, or even a constitutional referendum. USAID representatives expressed a desire for IFES to continue its elections work, but noted that in the event that no presidential or early parliamentary elections occur, IFES should involve itself more heavily in the Local Government Reform Project (LGRP). Mr. Lasham pointed out that there are many electoral issues that require the attention of IFES and that any involvement in the LGRP would require additional resources. USAID expressed their understanding and discussions continue on this matter.

Working to Strengthen Domestic NGOs

Of particular interest to NGOs this month was the Law on the Registration of Organizations. According to this law, the Department of Registration (a subsidiary of the Ministry of Justice) is charged with registration of all organizations - state, commercial, non-governmental, religious, etc. Several NGOs, who oppose being regulated by the same body as commercial organizations, have started to collect signatures in opposition to Parliament's consideration of the law.

IFES/Moldova Project Manager Charles Lasham, Senior Program Coordinator Igor Botan, and NGO Program Coordinator Ina Gutium held meetings this month with Ilya Trombitchi, MP, and Natalia Izdebschi, Chair of the Certification Commission. The meetings explored the legal framework regulating public associations and elements of proposed legislation that need further improvement. Mr. Trombitchi praised IFES/Moldova as a model foreign organization, commending its unbiased attitude toward all its partners. Ms. Izdebschi focused on the joint work of IFES and the CEC, such as the Law on Political Parties, the training of public authorities on NGO registration, and the NGO Working Group. She also noted that the Ministry of Justice shares the sentiments of several NGOs regarding the Law on Registration of Organizations, and that Parliament has decided to postpone the second reading until it has time to consider the issue more carefully.

The IFES/Certification Commission NGO Working Group continued to develop clear criteria for public

service certification, clarify the scope of public service organizations (PSOs), and establish procedures for effective oversight. The passage of the chapter on Public Benefit consumed a majority of its time. Included in this chapter were provisions regarding: the scope of work of PSOs, certification criteria, formation and membership, mandate of the Certification Commission, contesting Certification Commission decisions, documentation required for certification, and grounds for refusal of certification. The group also considered a recommendation for further public funding of certified organizations. Under newly adopted amendments to the Tax Code, all non-profit organizations receive tax-exempt status, thus generalizing a benefit formerly reserved for certified associations and foundations and diminishing the attractiveness of certification. One way to encourage certification would be to adopt a law allowing individuals to donate 1% of their paid taxes (Hungarian practice) to public funding of NGOs. Such a law would have the added benefit of allowing greater citizen control of public funds distributed to NGOs.

NGO Project Coordinator Ina Gutium met with Nyegosh Dube, Editor in Chief of the SEAL (Social Economy and Law) bulletin, and a publication of the European Foundation Center. Mr. Dube inquired as to whether IFES/Moldova might be available to participate in the National Legal Website Project. The aim of the project is to provide a complete overview of the legal and fiscal framework for foundations and associations in member countries. It was agreed that IFES/Moldova will collect the relevant information and include it on the IFES/Moldova web site currently under construction.

2000 Focus Group Study

On 20 July, IFES/Moldova contracted The Center for Sociological, Political and Psychological Research (CIVIS) to conduct 12 focus group discussions on public sentiments toward the political situation in Moldova. On 26 July, a pilot group was formed to test the effectiveness of the fill-in questionnaire and the moderator's guide. The five topics discussed were: political information, democracy in general, political institutions, elections, and civic organizations. The pilot was observed by IFES' Project Director and IFES Applied Research Officer Rakesh Sharma. Based on their observations, appropriate changes were made to the questionnaire and the guide. The official study commenced on 31 July.

Impact Summary

Since Lasham's arrival at mid-month, activities have fully resumed and the office has worked hard to keep pace with a rapidly evolving conflict between Parliament and the President. While Parliament appears to have gained the upper hand in forcing through a law granting itself the power to elect the President, Lucinschi continues to pursue a national plebiscite to resolve the dispute. The presidential camp has also made a call for early parliamentary elections.

Moldova's political parties continue to show an interest in IFES' activities and the expertise that it has to offer. Party representatives have called on IFES to work on reconciling constitutional reforms with the Electoral Code. Changes of this sort will undoubtedly be necessary to ensure the legality and transparency of future elections. IFES' past activities with the Working Group on Political Parties have come to fruition. The recently approved draft law on political parties lends strength to the political party as an institution in Moldova. With clear registration procedures, sensible campaign finance regulations, and an improved infrastructure for the dissemination of information, the democratic process gains a degree of intelligibility that it is currently lacking.

The promulgation of the Law on Access to Information was the crowning achievement of IFES' work with the Committee for Freedom of the Press. The law promises to ensure that citizens have adequate access to matters of public record. By defining the procedures for retrieving information and the penalties for withholding it, the law enhances the transparency of the democratic process.

Revising the legal framework that binds Moldovan NGOs remained at the top of the agenda this month. With the passage of the Law on Registration of Organizations, pressure has been mounting on the NGO Working Group to offer its recommendations. IFES' NGO activities seek to establish stronger ties between the people, the issues, and lawmakers. A solid and manageable legal framework will ensure that organizations operate with a semblance of legitimacy and thus contribute more effectively to the democratic process.

Finally, the 2000 Focus Group Study of political sentiments in Moldova got underway this month. IFES Applied Research Officer Rakesh Sharma has been on-hand to assist with the design and conduct

of the discussions. The CIVIS report will allow IFES to measure the impact of its programs and will help to ensure that future programming is responsive to the changing needs of Moldovan society.

RUSSIA

Training Video on Investigative Journalism Near Completion

IFES Media Program Director Daphne Skillen wrapped up production of the training video "Elections and Investigative Journalism". This work is implemented within the framework of the IFES Media and Elections Program. Footage of five days in Samara during the June Gubernatorial elections was combined with enactments depicting common ethical issues and electoral violations for the instruction of Russian journalists. USAID and IFES staff reviewed the first cut of the training film. Final editing is underway to finish the integration of training and standards covered in the film.

The quality and content of the film met with high marks from USAID. Two hundred and fifty copies of the film will be distributed throughout Russia. Included with the cassette will be a small brochure outlining the contents of the film, a summary of the ethical norms, legal rights and obligations of journalists, as well as a list of useful electronic and hardcopy sources of information catering to the needs and rights of journalists.

IFES/Russia Final Seminar

"Improving Election Legislation and Election System of the Russian Federation" was held in the Baikal Business Center of the city of Irkutsk from 20 - 23 July, 2000. IFES, the Institute for Election Systems Development (IESD - www.democracy.ru), the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, and the election commission of the Irkutsk Region were host to more than 60 participants. The Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, Alexander Veshniakov initiated discussions and activities involving representatives of election commissions of 30 subjects of the Russian Federation (SEC). IFES was represented by Christian Nadeau, IFES/Russia Project Director, Viktor Sheinis, a former State Duma deputy and a long-standing partner of IFES/Russia, Viktor Ragozin, Legal Assistant to the State Duma Deputy Head, Daphne Skillen, IFES/Russia "Media and Elections" Specialist, Paul DeGregorio, IFES election administration expert, and Igor Ivanov, IFES "Media and Elections" project advisor

and former TV Center Legal Department Head.

One of the main topics and resources of the seminar was the recently published IFES report "Parliamentary and Presidential Elections in Russia 1999-2000: Technical Assessment". The Report was well received. All participants were very open in the discussion sessions. They understood that this would represent IFES' last technical seminar for the foreseeable future and sought the maximum input and guidance that could be obtained from the forum. Mr. DeGregorio made a presentation on registration of candidates, as well as the general conduct of the elections. SEC commissioners were especially interested in Mr. DeGregorio's comments on the recent electoral cycle.

Conclusions on the electoral cycle were nearly unanimous. The main problems noted include: the media and the control of the media in times of elections, the advantages of incumbency, and how to track campaign finance expenditures (format, policy). There was a general sense that the elections had made substantive progress during the past 7 years. All agreed there was no need to make major adjustments to electoral legislation, only minor details remain to be worked through.

At the end of the seminar, all SEC representatives joined Chairman Veshniakov in thanking and congratulating IFES on its palpable impact on the improvement of Russia's system of elections.

IESD Receives USAID Grant

The Institute for Election Systems Development (IESD), IFES' Russian successor organization, recently received a sizable grant to continue work on elections for several years. The event marks the successful conclusion of IFES' work in Russia by leaving behind a locally managed organization to carry on the mission of fostering the continued development of an efficient, transparent and democratic system of elections in Russia.

UKRAINE

IFES Hosts Democracy Camp for Youth

From 1-16 July IFES, in cooperation with the domestic NGO Democracy Awareness Rising Foundation, conducted a democracy training camp as an extension of the pilot civic education program. A total of sixty students and eight teachers from the Lyceum Universum, School No. 41, and School No.

82 jointed 12 trainers and staff for a sixteen-day democracy camp in Ostior. During the camp, Ukrainian trainers and IFES consultants Kim Warren and Christina Houlihan engaged students in workshops and activities that focused on issues of leadership, teambuilding, and democratic processes.

The camp itself was a democratic environment as students participated in self-government activities, such as writing norms (standards of behavior and attitude) and a camp constitution. The norms included: discipline, active participation, mutual trust, freedom of actions, responsibility for one's behavior, and freedom of self-expression. The camp constitution stated:

We, leaders of the Democracy Camp, have gathered together to:

Gain experience in self-government,

Gain skills in teamwork and leadership,

Create a model democratic society,

Learn a new, more democratic way of thinking,

Establish specific rules and obligations for every member of the camp,

Establish norms of communication and behavior in the camp,

Enrich our world outlook,

Learn new ideas.

And we pass this document, in which we undertake to protect the interests of each member of our group, and name it the "Democracy Camp Constitution."

Participants also formed a Disciplinary Committee, made up of student leaders and teachers, to enforce the rules and principles of the Constitution of the camp.

During the camp, students often worked in teams consisting of students from different schools. In their teams, they elected student leaders, named their teams, and created a team flag. For five days of the camp, the student teams rotated through day-long trainings that focused on the psychology of teamwork, learning to work together, building trust, communicating clearly, problem solving, and approaching challenges in a ropes course. The students had opportunities to learn both on an individual level and as a team.

Students enjoyed learning about time management, group dynamics, service learning, communication, styles and qualities of leadership, and much more. By the end of the camp, students reported that all of

their expectations had been met: to gain leadership skills, to gain teamwork skills, and to get acquainted with democracy camp.

Draft Law Amending Constitution Passes First Reading

With the support of 251 deputies, the draft law submitted by the President to amend the Constitution passed the first reading on 13 July. The draft law addresses 3 of the 4 questions presented to the electorate during the April 16 referendum. The draft law attempts to limit deputies' immunity, reduce the number of people's deputies from 450 to 300, and grant the President the right to dissolve Parliament should they fail to form a permanent majority within one month or adopt the state budget within three months. The draft law does not address the fourth question presented during the referendum—the formation of a bicameral legislature. In order for the law to become effective, 300 deputies must vote in favor of the amendments during the second reading and then the public must approve the amendments via another nationwide referendum.

Impact Summary

The democracy training camp prepared students to take an active role in their community by providing young people with the skills necessary to identify problems and design realistic plans for addressing such issues. The camp also generated a sense among students and teachers that they can effect change through teamwork. Participants will return to their schools in the fall and share the knowledge and enthusiasm acquired during the camp with their classmates. Engaging students at the local level where they are more likely to see the impact of their efforts will persuade young people to take a more active role in the political process. It is IFES' hope that the success stories of the schools will encourage other members of the community, namely teachers and parents, to become more involved in community matters.

YUGOSLAVIA (KOSOVO)

(continued from page 1)

At the end of the first phase of registration, a backlog of more than 40,000 cases still required review within Kosovo. Most are from the Pec/Peja region in northwestern Kosovo and Pristina/Prishtine. However, there are also more than 100,00 review cases from out-of-Kosovo registration. In order to

properly investigate all the cases that needed to be reviewed and individuals after whom inquiries had to be made, the inquiry division staff was increased to 62 case officers in July. Efforts to catalog and confirm documentation have also shifted toward Pec and Pristina. Younger women have required more investigation than other groups because many had never obtained travel and identity documents. This can be attributed to many sources such as the Kosovar Albanian boycott of Serbian institutions and the tendency that women do not travel. Despite the challenge of a large number of cases, current plans call for the review/inquiry process to end by 31 August.

Results of Registration

Although it was previously planned to begin earlier, ID card production is now scheduled to begin in mid-August after the conclusion of the Confirmation, Additions, and Challenges (CAC) period. A database is currently being compiled that will serve as the foundation of both ID card production and the Provisional Voters' List (PVL). The PVL will be distributed for viewing at registration centers during the 10-day CAC period, which is set to begin in mid-August.

During the CAC period, registrants will receive confirmation or updated information regarding their status. They will be able to apply for inclusion on the registry if they were erroneously omitted, challenge the addition of a name that they believe should not be on the voters' list, and request changes in voting municipality or other details regarding their voting status. Registrants who have applied successfully will begin to receive UNMIK (United Nations Mission in Kosovo) ID cards and those not allowed inclusion on the voters' list will receive notification of their denial. Though the provisional voters' list will be open for scrutiny, only registered voters, OSCE/UNMIK staff, and accredited observers will be allowed to examine the details of other people's registration. No copying of the PVL by any method will be allowed. All challenges will be considered by the Electoral Complaints and Appeals Sub-Commission (ECAC). During July, procedures for the CAC period were finalized, and a training manual was produced. Training for international and local supervisors and staff is to occur in stages between late July and mid-August.

Public Information

During July, efforts were focused on motivating Kosovars to register in the last weeks of the regis-

tration process. Plans were also made for the voter education campaign associated with the election period. Thousands of posters, flyers, stickers, and even promotional paper hats were distributed throughout Kosovo to promote the benefits of registration and encourage people to register. Major newspapers carried entire back page advertisements promoting registration, and radio spots targeted people with disabilities and played countdowns to the end of registration throughout the province. Weekly programs on registration were broadcast on RTK (Radio/Television Kosovo), and leaders of all the political parties filmed short messages encouraging registration to be broadcast on RTK during the last week of registration. The JRT Women's Outreach Officer conducted informational meetings on registration with women's organizations in several locations across Kosovo, and the JRT and the Youth Department of UNMIK held an open-air concert in Prizren, in southwestern Kosovo, explaining to attendees why registration was so important. Surveys indicated that more than 80% of the populace felt informed about registration and approximately 70% registered as a result of these broad efforts.

The next major public information campaign will be for voter education. In preparing for this, three 'strands' of information will be created relating to the "why," "what," and "how" of the elections process. The various messages under each heading will be distilled into sound bite form and laid out in a single reference document. This will be the basis of all information products and will also be distributed to all who will have contact with the electorate.

Election Preparations

Polling and counting centers were also identified during July. An estimated two-thirds of the registration centers will also be used as polling centers, with the remaining third using alternative locations that could not be used long-term for registration such as schools. Two possible counting centers were identified: Pristina and Zvecan in northern Kosovo, where ballots for Serb majority areas could be counted. KFOR (the NATO Kosovo Force) and the UN Civilian Police (CIVPOL) are now in the process of conducting security assessments of the polling centers. A review of the polling centers is also underway to determine the number of polling stations necessary at each location.

Various ballot formats were developed in July, including open-list ballots listing all municipal candi-

dates, generic ballots on which voters would have to choose both parties and candidates from displayed posters, ballots on which parties would be listed and then voters would have to select candidates from poster listing their names, and absentee ballots for use both inside and outside Kosovo. These formats were tested and the testing results were analyzed over the course of the month. This information, along with other detailed information on ballot requirements, estimates of how many people will vote in each municipality, and polling center requirements are necessary in order to make contracts for ballot and election supplies in early August.

Political Parties

Parties applied for certification in June, and by the end of that month, 22 parties, 1 coalition, 2 citizens' initiatives, and 16 independent candidates were certified to present 267 slates of candidates to contest municipal elections throughout Kosovo. In July, forms for candidate nominations were created and distributed to the parties. The deadline for submitting these forms was the end of the month.

After discussions between Serb representatives, the OSCE head-of-mission, the head of registration, and JRT staff, a special process for party registration and certification was set up for a coalition of local party branches in Leposavic, a majority-Serb area of northern Kosovo. It was agreed that an application to create a citizen's initiative would be submitted by the end of July with a signature list to follow 1 week later. Those involved in the process in Leposavic reported growing intimidation.

Preparations are also being made for political parties and other groups supporting candidates for the municipal elections to participate in election observation. The staff of the domestic capacity-building division is also cooperating with local and international NGOs to coordinate an observation effort. Accreditation forms were developed; translated into Albanian, Serbian, and Turkish; and distributed to international administrative offices throughout Kosovo. A training manual for parties has also been produced to explain how the electoral process works, what observers have the right to see or ask, and how to become an accredited observer. As accreditation proceeds, trainers will begin conducting training sessions for observers in early August.

The Central Election Commission

In July, the Central Election Commission (CEC) met several times. They reviewed party certifica-

tions and appointments to Municipal Election Commissions and adopted several Electoral Rules. The Electoral Rule on the Registration of Candidates established that a certified political party must submit candidate lists for all municipalities in which they plan to participate in elections and may submit up to 10% more candidates than seats in the municipal assembly. Additionally, members of the Kosovo Police Force, Kosovo Protection Force, and indicted or convicted war criminals are barred from standing for election. Every third candidate on a party's list must also be a woman.

The Electoral Rule on the Media during the Election Campaign provides guidelines for fair media coverage and requires journalists to adhere to the Codes of Conduct established by the Temporary Media Commissioner. Paid political advertisements are allowed in the print media but prohibited in broadcast media. However, all parties will be given free air time during the 45 day period leading up to elections. Any newspaper that gives free print space to one political organization must give equal space to all political organizations, and news distributors are responsible for providing a diverse selection of publications.

Impact Summary

With the completion of the registration period ending, the JRT will be dissolved and its remaining responsibilities will be passed on to the UN Civil Administration. The JRT and its staff have applied a sustained effort in difficult circumstances and achieved a great deal. Despite unfortunate boycotts, more than 90% of the Kosovar population was able to register and will soon receive documentation—a significant success after the refusal of Kosovo's Albanian population to participate in Serbian administrative structures and the 'identity cleansing' associated with the Serbian military campaign in Kosovo that took place only last year. By combining civil registration with voter registration, Kosovars were able to take their first steps toward democracy. The high registration rate was clearly a result of an effective public information campaign. It succeeded by reaching out to young and old Kosovars of every ethnicity in every part of the province by television, radio, print media, and special events. As the first major step toward democracy in Kosovo, the registration process was definitely a learning experience for all involved; its success bodes well for the rest of the election process.

CAUCASUS/CENTRAL ASIA

ARMENIA

IFES Observes Two Elections

On 9 July, IFES/Armenia observed a revote in a Yerevan election district made necessary after the results of an earlier election were invalidated by the Constitutional Court. On 16 July, IFES observed a politically charged mayoral election in Goris precipitated by the removal of an elected mayor by an unelected governor. Both races indicate that voter lists continue to be a major problem in Armenian elections.

District 5 Revote

On 9 July, voters of district 5 once again went to the polls to elect a new parliamentary deputy after the Constitutional Court threw out the results of the original 21 May by-election. According to preliminary results, Kim Balayan, the candidate who appealed his defeat on 21 May in the Constitutional Court, won the new election by a margin of 378 votes over Yeghia Shamshian, the original victor. The 9 July campaign was hard-fought and serious. Turnout increased by 5% - from 18% to 23%.

Shortly thereafter, the Yerevan Regional Election Commission (REC) nullified the election due to the fact that 600 unused ballot-papers were missing from the election materials it received from polling station No. 0061 following the poll. As a result, the REC claimed, the number of inaccuracies exceeded the difference between the votes received by the two candidates. This contention, that missing ballots constituted inaccuracies that were larger in number than the margin of victory, was essentially the same argument successfully used by Balayan to contest the original results of the election on 21 May, which was won by Shamshian. In this case, however, the REC, which had refuted this argument after the first election, made it the basis of its attempt to overturn Balayan's election. The Central Election Commission (CEC) then scheduled a third election.

However, on 26 July, the Constitutional Court overruled the CEC and confirmed the victory of Kim Balayan. Balayan successfully argued that used ballot-papers disappeared after the voting and summarizing of the results. According to information from the Prosecutor's office, experts found that the used ballot-papers were stolen after the voting and

summarizing of the results. Criminal proceedings were initiated. The Constitutional Court concluded that the disappearance of the ballot-papers after the voting was not a basis for annulling the by-elections. It also concluded that the CEC failed to properly administer the by-elections. Therefore, the Court invalidated the CEC's decision to call for a third election in District 5 and verified Kim Balayan's victor.

The Court's decision is final and draws to a conclusion one of the most confusing elections in recent Armenian history. The District 5 elections highlighted the ongoing problems with ballot security and the inability of Precinct Election Commissions to protect and account for both used and unused ballots. Likewise, these disputed elections seem to indicate an increasingly decisive role-played by the Constitutional Court in determining election results. In close elections, it seems increasingly likely that losing candidates will turn to the Constitutional Court regardless of the ruling of the CEC.

Another disappointment with the 9 July election was the quality of the voter lists. The Arabkir First Instance Court issued 165 certificates to voters whose names were not on the lists. On May 21 there had only been 60. While there were an additional 1,258 voters compared to the first election, this is no excuse for the serious and inexplicable rise in list problems.

Goris Mayoral Vote

On 15-17 July IFES/Armenia and UNDP teamed up to observe the mayoral election in Goris and investigate the unusual circumstances behind the contest. In this hard-fought race Nelson Voskanian, defeated former mayor Hamlet Mkrtchian. The controversial election highlighted some of the most contentious issues of the current political structure.

The ousted Hamlet Mkrtchian had been elected Mayor of Goris, a city of 30,000 in the southern Armenian region of Syunik, in August 1999. The race was to replace former Mayor Suren Khachatryan, who was elected to Parliament in May 1999. Mkrtchian ran against a candidate handpicked by the powerful Khachatryan and won despite all expectations. After winning, Mkrtchian proceeded to fire the heads of six kindergardens and music schools. Whether or not Mkrtchian's action was justified, he did it without consulting the elected Goris community council. With the firings as justification, the Governor of Syunik, Roman Nava-

sardian, issued a decision removing Mkrtchian from office. Under the Law of Self-Governing Bodies, the appointed governor can recommend the removal of the elected mayor, although the community council is to take an advisory vote and the final decision is made by the Government through the Minister of Territorial Administration. In Mkrtchian's case, he was actually supported by a vote of the same community council he had ignored in firing the principals. Nonetheless, the Government backed the Governor and removed Mkrtchian.

Four candidates filed for the new election, Nelson Voskanian – the head of a road construction firm and the favorite of Governor Navasardian and former-Mayor Khachatryan; local teacher Samvel Haroutyunian; bread factory owner Massis Vaherian; and Hamlet Mkrtchian. Mkrtchian's entry into the race was a bold challenge to the establishment. It was expected that Governor Navasardian would resign if Mkrtchian won again.

The IFES/UNDP delegation visited 5 of the 6 precincts in Goris. Voting itself seemed to go fairly smoothly. There were few complaints from proxies of the four candidates, which were represented at all visited precincts. There was a high turnout that seemed to be well over 50 percent, but the flow of voters was controlled.

At 1800 hours, two hours before the closing of the polls, the court had made 86 rulings in favor of people left off the voter lists. The total for the previous year had been 130 appeals in the community of roughly 15,000 voters. According to both the Governor and the community secretary, the biggest problem with the lists came from people who had married and moved from one house to another. The average time to go the court and come back to vote seemed to be about one hour. PEC secretaries differed when asked how many voters not on the lists actually bothered to make the trip to the court. One frustrated woman estimated it was only "about 20%," but others indicated that almost everyone who needed to go to the court did so.

The Syunik REC declared Voskanian the winner the next day. However, Mkrtchian appealed to the first instance court of Syunik demanding that it invalidate the results. Mkrtchian cited the problems with the voter lists. He successfully demanded that all the documents received from the 6 electoral precincts be opened, claiming that "names of dead people were placed in the electoral lists and their signatures

added". A new court date was scheduled for 21 August.

IFES Submits Comments on Electoral Code

In late July, IFES, together with OSCE and UNDP, submitted comments on a number of issues that may be addressed in amendments to the electoral code to Victor Dalakian, Chairman of the parliamentary State and Legal Issues Committee. According to Dalakian, parliamentary factions will begin working actively on the electoral code amendments after 20 August. Political discussions would be finished in September and final passage would take place by the end of the year.

Pressure to amend the election code has intensified this year due to Armenia's pending membership in the Council of Europe. A recent report of the Council's Political Affairs Committee "proposes to the Assembly to recommend to the Committee of Ministers to invite Armenia to become a member of the Council of Europe, *on the understanding that the country will fulfill the commitments set out in the draft opinion within the stipulated time limits.*" Among these commitments are:

- Section iii-i "*to remedy the deficiencies of the new electoral law before the next elections, in particular as regards the procedural aspects of the work of the electoral committees and the authorities responsible for drawing up electoral registers.*"
- Section iii-h "*to amend before, the next local elections, the current legislation governing the powers of local authorities so as to give them greater responsibilities and independence.*"

The recently passed law to allow refugees to vote in local elections had also been suggested by the Council of Europe.

Impact Summary

Despite IFES' work with Community Leaders and the Election Committees prior to the May by-elections, the voter lists in Armenia are not showing improvement. Voter registration can now be identified as the largest outstanding electoral problem. IFES observations are indicating also that the court system is playing a larger and more independent role as an arbiter of election disputes. Through its renewed work with the State and Legal Issues Committee, IFES continues to identify deficiencies in the election code and suggest means of working toward legislative and programmatic solutions.

AZERBAIJAN

Milli Majlis Adopts Parliamentary Election Law

On 5 July, following weeks of intense negotiation between the government of Azerbaijan and representatives of opposition political parties, the Milli Majlis adopted a new Law on Parliamentary Elections in its third and final reading. With opposition deputies boycotting the vote, the Law was adopted by a vote of 95 “for” and 5 “against”. Several deputies representing opposition parties boycotted the final vote amid a heated final debate on key provisions of particular concern to both opposition parties and international organizations.

During the months preceding the adoption of the Law on Parliamentary Elections, IFES, in cooperation with OSCE/ODIHR, provided targeted technical assistance to the President’s office and the Milli Majlis as the law was drafted. IFES commentary on early drafts of the Law included clear recommendations for bringing the Law into line with international democratic election standards in terms of administrative transparency, equal access for election participants, and ballot integrity.

Opposition parties have threatened to boycott the Parliamentary elections if the Milli Majlis does not adopt amendments that would bring the Law into line with European standards. In late July, opposition political parties held numerous news conferences to call the government’s attention to the criteria for Azerbaijan’s acceptance into the Council of Europe, which requires legal frameworks that facilitate democratic election processes.

President Announces Election Date

Following adoption of the Law on Parliamentary elections, President Heydar Aliyev announced on 5 July that elections to the Milli Majlis are to be held this autumn on 5 November 2000. Under the newly adopted law governing the conduct of these elections, Azerbaijani voters will select deputies to the Milli Majlis under a mixed system of elections. In 100 election constituencies, voters will choose parliamentary representatives under a majoritarian system, while another 25 representatives will be chosen on a nation-wide party list ballot on a proportional basis. Under the law, political parties or blocks receiving at least 6% of the party list vote will gain representation in the Milli Majlis.

IFES Disseminates Translation of Parliamentary Election Law

Following adoption of the new Law on Parliamentary Elections, IFES/Azerbaijan translated the document into English. This unofficial translation was disseminated to all relevant government interlocutors, embassies and international counterparts. In the final stages of this effort, IFES was assisted by OSCE/ODIHR to insure that the translation, the only English translation available to the international community, was technically and linguistically accurate.

Soon the unofficial IFES translation of the Law on Parliamentary elections and the IFES translation of the CEC election calendar will be accessible electronically at the Central Election Commission of Azerbaijan’s official website. The CEC’s website is <http://cec.gov.az>.

Newly Appointed CEC Begins Work

On 18 July, the first session of the newly seated CEC commissioners was held. Mazahir Panahov, the newly appointed Chairman of the CEC, chaired the session. IFES, along with representatives of the US Embassy, the mass media, and OSCE/ODIHR attended this initial session to observe the work of the commission, which under the newly adopted Law on the CEC is comprised of representatives of the Government and opposition parties, and independent members.

Due to an opposition boycott, this first seating of the newly appointed CEC failed to achieve a quorum. Out of the seventeen members comprising the CEC, only eleven were in attendance. Members of the opposition (National Independence Party, Musavat, Popular Front) refused to attend the preliminary session to protest shortcomings in the recently adopted Parliamentary Election Law.

From 19-20 July, additional sessions of the CEC were scheduled, but did not take place due to the lack of a quorum. On 21 July, the impasse was broken when the Parliament adopted changes to the Law on the CEC, which permit the Commission to achieve a quorum in future, meetings without opposition participation. According to the amended law, which thus removes the provision requiring a super majority for all CEC decisions, the Government will no longer be obligated to work with opposition representatives on CEC and lower-level commission decisions. This move clearly strengthens government control over election commission at all levels

and met with disapproval among the international community. In the coming months, IFES/Azerbaijan will continue to monitor CEC sessions and the work of the Commission as it administers the elections according to the new election law.

IFES Prepares Civic Education Activity

During July, IFES Civic Education Specialist Elsie Chang began preliminary development of a regional municipal governance civic education activity. In the first phase of the activity, expected to be delivered from mid-August to early September, civic education sessions will organize with groups of citizens in municipalities in Azerbaijan. The activity will focus on the importance of the role of the citizen in local government and participation of citizens in their communities.

IFES selected six trainers who will deliver this grassroots, participatory civic education activity. To equip these trainers with appropriate training techniques and improve their knowledge of the training subject area, an intensive Training of the Trainers (TOT) program was organized on 25 July, 31 July and 1-4 August. The TOT program included information about the legal framework concerning municipalities, sessions on the state of the freedom of the media in Azerbaijan, the development of civil society in Azerbaijan, information on human rights conventions signed by the Republic of Azerbaijan, public speaking exercises, and basic information on adult education techniques. Several guest speakers contributed to the TOT program, including Prof. Zahid Garalov, Chairman of the Committee on Local Administration at the Milli Majlis. In addition, IFES/Georgia Deputy Project Manager Michael Svetlik and Velko Miloev of IFES/Bosnia and Hercegovina provided presentations about the current IFES civic education activities in their program countries.

In the delivery of the municipal civic education activity, trainers will distribute copies of a brochure describing the role of municipalities, rights of citizens in local democracy and how taking action in the civic process empowers citizens. The brochure reflects Azerbaijan legislation impacting on municipal governance and will fill an information void that has existed in Azeri society since the country's first election of municipal councils in December 2000.

Impact Summary

IFES continues to provide consultation on Parliamentary Election legislation and amendments to the

Law on the CEC in order to affect further reform of these two important pieces of legislation. IFES legislative consulting will increase the transparency of legislation development and expose the Azerbaijan government and others involved to legislative creation to international standards of transparency and integrity in democratic elections. In addition, IFES development of a civic education will strengthen citizens' understanding of their rights and responsibilities in the democratic process.

GEORGIA

IFES Assists CEC with Computer Network

IFES is currently providing assistance to the CEC aimed at improving the sustainability and security of the Commission's computer network and website. This joint effort will continue during the months of August and September and will enable the CEC to fully utilize the network and increase transparency in the administration of future elections.

On 15 July, IFES met with CEC Computer Department Head Avtandil Tsikaridze and network administrator Irakli Kuokuiashvili to review current network security and to finalize a concrete, step-by-step approach to improve the security of the CEC computer system and improve data base management related to the CEC website. In a series of consultation sessions two weeks, IFES Consultant Giorgi Katsia delivered training sessions to CEC Computer Department staff on DNS security configuration, CISCO firewall installation and Windows NT server management.

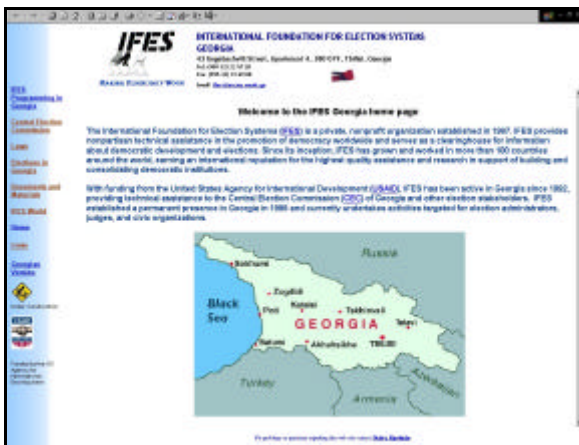


IFES IT consultant, Giorgi Katsia, demonstrates network security techniques for CEC Computer department staff.

Based on a jointly conceived training plan, IFES training of CEC Computer Department staff will continue for the next two months. These training sessions will concentrate on database maintenance and backup systems. In addition, IFES intends to train a CEC webmaster to further develop the CEC website and thus increase the amount of election information available on the site for public inspection.

IFES/Georgia Website Launched

In July, IFES/Georgia announced the launch of the IFES/Georgia homepage. The page can be found at www.ifes.ge. The IFES/Georgia site contains information about IFES activities in Georgia since 1992, including detailed descriptions of our on-going work in the areas of elections technical assistance, election administration training, voter education and election complaint adjudication. The IFES/Georgia site contains electronic versions of election laws (Sakrebulo Election Law, Organic Law on Parliamentary Elections, Organic Law on Presidential Elections), the Constitution of Georgia, the General Administrative Code of Georgia, the Criminal Code of Georgia and the legislative basis of political parties. The "Elections in Georgia" section provides general information about elections in Georgia over the past 10 years, and includes more detailed information about elections in 1998, 1999, and 2000. Links to and/or copies of observation reports and statements related to the elections of the past three years are also found here. Visitors to the site may also find copies of IFES reports, election administration manuals, and IFES legal commentary. More materials will be added to the site as they become available.



IFES/Georgia announced the launch of the IFES/Georgia homepage that can be found at www.ifes.ge.

Basic information about the Central Election Commission (CEC) is also available on the site and the IFES/Georgia site is linked to the CEC's site (www.cec.gov.ge), which contains detailed information about the Commission and contact information for all members of the CEC.

Parliamentary Election Code Working Group

The Parliament of Georgia is currently in the process of creating an election code working group composed of representatives of all political factions represented in Parliament. The working group will be tasked with addressing the need for a new universal election code that will bring Georgia's three separate election laws together under one unified code. The Chairman of Parliament Zurab Zhvania has publicly stated numerous times that he views the creation of a new election code as one of the objectives of the Parliament in the coming year. With local election anticipated for autumn 2001, opposition parties and international organizations as OSCE/ODHIR are calling upon Georgia's lawmakers to address the shortcomings of the country's current election legislation through the creation of a universal election code that will govern all future elections.

Political factions to be represented in the working group include: the Socialist Party, the Traditionalist Party, the Revival Party, Industry Will Save Georgia, Citizens' Union of Georgia, Regions of Georgia faction, the independent faction, the Abkhazeti faction, Adjara Supreme Council, and the 21st Century faction. IFES/Georgia learned from meetings with Parliamentary staff members, following the extraordinary Parliamentary session that concluded in mid-July, that representatives of domestic democracy NGOs and representatives of international organizations active in democracy promotion in Georgia will also be invited to participate in the working group's activities.

Specific members of the working group and the team of legal experts that will assist the group will be named in late August once the Parliamentary leadership meets to officially approve the formation of the working group and name the participants. The working group is expected to begin work in September following the start of the autumn Parliamentary session.

In support of the sustainability of the system of elections in Georgia, IFES will participate fully in

the activities of the working group, rendering technical legal assistance to the Parliament as it has done since 1997.

By Elections Scheduled for October

On 10 July, the CEC announced that by-elections in the Kheda and Martvili election districts will be conducted on 8 October. The announcement follows a ruling by the Constitutional Court earlier this summer upholding the CEC's decision to invalidate majoritarian Parliamentary elections in these districts originally conducted on 31 August.

Respectively, voters in each of the two western Georgia districts will vote to elect single mandate Parliamentary representatives in First Past the Post contests. The elections will be governed by the Law on Elections to the Parliament of Georgia most recently amended in March of this year. (To view the law, go to www.ifes.ge).

Impact Statement

IFES continues to promote a more sustainable system of elections in Georgia through the further development of the CEC's technical capacity to manage information in a secure and transparent manner. Working in collaboration with the CEC, IFES is ensuring the security of the election information currently available for public inspection on the internet, and increasing the Commission's capacity to make more information available. In addition, the launch of the IFES/Georgia website promotes understanding of election system development and increases appreciation for the technical support made possible by USAID funding to further the development of Georgian democracy.

KAZAKHSTAN

Civic Education Textbook Update

The completed Russian-language IFES civic education textbook (edited and re-written) was delivered to the *Complex* printing house on 18 July, and layout and design began. All illustrations and tables were included, and an ISBN number was secured. Printing of the 300-page completed Kazakh-language text followed several days later. It is anticipated that the first 5,000 copies of the Russian edition will be available by the second week of August. The total print run will be 15,000 and the remainder of the books will be available by the end of August in time for distribution to the pilot schools for the beginning of the expanded pilot phase of the IFES project. IFES received a favorable review of

the text from the Altinsaryn Institute; the review, including a letter of recommendation, were forwarded to the Ministry of Education in Astana and Ministry staff began the process of preparing the formal letter of approval for the text.

Civics Course Pilot Schools

With the assistance of the Ministry of Education and the Almaty City Department of Education, 104 schools have been identified that will participate in the civic education program and use the textbook beginning in September 2000. These schools are clustered around five centers: Astana, (including Karaganda) Almaty (5 schools), Semey, Shymkent, and Aktobe. It was agreed to concentrate on schools outside Almaty and to secure a mix of rural and city schools and a mix of languages. Of the 104 schools, 34 are pilot schools from the initial pilot phase of the project, 37 are new pilot schools specializing in social science studies, and the remainder are schools who have been recommended as profile schools. The clustering of the schools facilitates teacher-training, programmatic follow up and the provision of supports between teachers (via informal networks). It is estimated that just over 5,000 books will be required to service the teachers and students of these 104 schools. Classes typically number approximately 25 students, with some significantly higher. It is projected that the Russian:Kazakh-language ratio of printing is about 66:33 percent, reflecting the ratio of students to use the text in each language.

Teacher's Manual for Textbook

A new teacher's manual was written to reflect the revised textbook. A Russian-language translation has already been completed, with a Kazakh-language translation commenced in July. This manual will be copied and distributed during the forthcoming teachers' training sessions. The manual and the textbook will provide a complete course – no additional materials will be required either for the student or for the teacher to successfully teach and study the text.

Teacher Training Sessions

A preliminary teacher-training program was drawn up and a Training of Trainers course was organized for IFES staff who will be carrying out the training. Training is to take place over the last two weeks of August and will concentrate on methodological and pedagogical issues rather than on the content. The intent is to support the teachers in their skills and enhance their existing capacities to tackle a new

subject and, in some cases, a new teaching style. Teacher training will also be supported by the local Departments of Education and/or existing Pilot Schools. It is expected that the first training will take place in Almaty Oblast for the five schools in that region.

Impact Summary

The main activity for IFES during in July was completing the textbook and teacher's manuals in both Russian and Kazakh languages. Printing in both languages commenced, and will be completed in time for use in teacher training seminars in August, and for distribution to the pilot schools in time for the beginning of the new school year in September. Liaison with state agencies such as the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Astana and the Altinsaryn Institute in Almaty continued in pursuit of the review and the letters of recommendation and final approval from the MoE. The MoE and local Departments of Education also assisted in identifying the schools with whom IFES will work on the textbook next year. A total of 104 schools have been identified for inclusion in the IFES program of civic education. The new Teacher's Manual was also written, edited and translated for inclusion with the textbook. A teacher-training program for the schools was drawn up for implementation in August. IFES will also work with local Departments of Education on this scheme and the teachers from the Pilot schools of 1999 – 2000. IFES met all of its targets for the month in terms of textbook and related issues and has made some significant contacts with the view to future development of the civic education program.

KYRGYSTAN

Student Summer Camp Project

IFES conducted a Summer Camp in Issyk-Kul for university students from 3-10 July with Kyrgyz State National University (KSNU). The event was labeled a success by its participants and organizers, which included KSNU head Edyl Moldoev, who managed the project with IFES. At the Camp students learned about the election process in Kyrgyzstan and the rights and responsibilities of voters in a democratic system. Following sessions on the election law, electoral observation, and formation of political parties and platforms, students divided into parties and elected leaders for a mock student government. After the summer camp the elected student president and parliament met with IFES staff and proposed a number of follow-up projects, including consideration of education materials proposed for

the civic education program to be introduced in secondary schools. As a follow-up activity, students will introduce what they learned at their university to secondary school students and participate and replicate exercises based on their hands-on experience at the Summer Camp in secondary schools and communities back in their local towns/villages.

Civic Education Initiative

Following the successful implementation of the IFES democracy textbook in secondary schools in Kazakhstan, IFES Kyrgyzstan has preliminarily taken steps to create a textbook for use in Kyrgyz secondary schools. IFES has received conditional approval from the Minister of Education to proceed with an adaptation of the text developed by IFES in Kazakhstan. An IFES education committee has been tentatively set up to undertake the task of seeking appropriate Kyrgyz authors to contribute to the textbook. The committee will prepare the teacher's manual and ensure appropriate democracy and civics interactive education activities are included. They will also assist IFES in the editing and implementation phase of the project.

Election Reform in Kyrgyzstan

The Working Group (WG) appointed by President Akayev and consisting of 21 members, mostly parliamentarians, working under the chairmanship of Sulayman Imanbayev, the head of the Central Election Commission (CEC) has been put on hold for the duration of the presidential election. IFES, UNDP and other international assistance providers have conducted a review of the current law on presidential elections, which offer recommendations for improving the law prior to the October presidential poll as well as a long-term strategy after the elections are over.

CEC in Kyrgyzstan

IFES is making preparations to assist the CEC with the training of Precinct staff. IFES will select and train core trainers to partner CEC trainers as they travel around the country training the PECs. IFES has interviewed prospective candidates from teachers and educators but no CEC staff has been considered. The core trainers will be trained in August and the PEC training program will be undertaken in September and October as necessary. IFES remains the only international agency working with the CEC in training programs of this sort. IFES plans that use of the pollworker handbook it developed and revised for the elections will augment the training program, resulting in more effective control of PEC's work on polling day.

Impact Summary

IFES strategies have been aimed at increasing both the professionalization of the CEC administration and the transparency of the election process. IFES has focused 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 review of the election code with suggested changes complying with international standards. In July IFES became engaged in the writing of a code of conduct for observers and CEC staff and will submit proposals to the CEC. IFES is continued work on new Training and Procedures Manuals for the CEC. Through activities such as the summer camp and the civic education curriculum development proposals, IFES efforts are increasingly being directed at assisting NGO development and a stronger commitment to introducing democratic practices to a younger generation of voters and citizens.

IFES has approval from the Minister of Education to proceed with the development of a civic education project, slated tentatively to commence in selected schools starting January 2001. The project includes a civic and democracy textbook, a Teacher Manual, activity resources, and a Teacher training program

TAJIKISTAN

Summer Camp in Khojand

IFES/Tajikistan formalized plans to cooperate with OSCE's regional office in Khojand on conducting a civic Education Summer Camp for university students in Leninabad Oblast. The aim of the project is to motivate university students to become proactive by providing them with information and active instruction in the principles of civil society, democracy and elections and civic responsibility. The goal of the event will be to foster dialogue and debate on subjects presented to ensure active participation of the students during the Camp and beyond. It is expected that such an active, grassroots approach will stimulate the students interest in civil society. It is hoped that this interest and enthusiasm will be shared with other students once they return to their home schools in the fall.

The Summer Camp is designed to bring together university students of different backgrounds for a period of six days in late August. The week's schedule will be divided between civic education and lei-

sure activities. The OSCE office will supervise the program, which will be held at a summer resort in Kara-Kum. The event represents the second in a series of three Summer Camps organized and conducted by OSCE. This will be the first co-sponsored by IFES, which is contributing project resources and methodological approaches in support, based on its recent experience with conducting Summer Camps in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Birth of a New Political Movement

IFES/Tajikistan Political Party Consultant Philip Griffin met with Shukurjon Hakimov, member of the Tajik Congress of Unity, to discuss the latest developments within his party. Hakimov had attended the May joint IFES-Marshall Center-OSCE event "Political Parties in a Post-Election Environment" Conference held in Dushanbe, at which time informal talks took place between representatives of the Jumbish movement, Party of Justice and other "outside" parties to form a working coalition of interests. Hakimov told Griffin that the group had decided to formalize the arrangement, and have created a political movement called *Harakat*. Hakimov said that *Harakat's* objective was to serve as an umbrella organization bringing together young activists from across the political spectrum, and who may find their interests not represented by the parties in power. Eventually Hakimov plans to register *Harakat* as a fully-fledged political party. Currently Hakimov and his associates are working on completing a draft of the new organizations' by-laws. IFES accepted a draft of the by-laws and is preparing a translation for analysis.

Meetings with Political Party Representatives

Philip Griffin met with Mouhiddin Kabiri, assistant to Chairman of the Islamic Renaissance Party (IRP) Said Abdullo Nuri. Kabiri is also associated with the new *Harakat* movement, and provided an overview of his views and objectives for the organization. Kabiri provided Griffin with a copy of the IRP's legislative priorities for the upcoming session of the Majlisi Namoyandagon.

Griffin also met with Tohir Abdujabbor, head of the *Rastokhez* movement. *Rastokhez* was one of the first movements formed in Soviet Tajikistan prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the onset of civil war. Abdujabbor, who recently returned from a lengthy exile, discussed the status of *Rastokhez* and the likelihood of the movement resuming political activities.

Meetings with NGO Partners

Political Party Consultant Philip Griffin and Gulchekhra Mirzoeva, Director of the women's NGO *Modar* met to discuss a proposal submitted to IFES for publication of "women's rights" information. *Modar* wants to undertake a comprehensive publication and distribution of pamphlets for women which outline their human rights as guaranteed under the constitution with contact information for social services and public officials. The material is targeted primarily to women in rural locations, though city distribution would also take place. IFES/Washington is currently considering the proposal.

Griffin and Professor Rajab Hakim, Director of the Kulyab-based NGO *Sudman*, discussed the latter's proposal to conduct political party work in Kulyab. Hakim, who also works as Chairman of the Political Science Department at Kulyab State University, is interested in IFES organizing a political party round table discussion, including members of the local *Majlisi*, modeled after a similar event organized and sponsored by IFES in Kurghan-Teppa in May.

Phil Griffin and Nuriniso Roustamova of the Association of Business Women of Tajikistan discussed possible cooperation on the IFES civic education project. Roustamova expressed interest in the possibility of contributing to the planned civics and democracy textbook. Further discussions are planned pending the arrival of IFES civic education consultant Lori Handrahan in August.

Repeat Election to Majlisi Namoyandagon

On 9 July a repeat election to the *Majlisi Namoyandagon* was held in district #41 in Khorog. According to the District Election Commission, 93% of eligible voters participated in the election. Preliminary results indicate People's Democratic Party representative Atobek Amirbekov polled 44.4% of the vote, with Communist Party candidate Aqdodkhon Murodaliyev receiving 20.6% of the vote. A second round of the election was held on 25 July, with Amirbekov winning the election with 97% of the vote, according to an official statement released by the Central Committee on Elections and Referenda.

Impact Summary

IFES has expanded its ever-growing list of political party contacts in the wake of its June 2000 round table discussion in Kurghan-Teppa. Interest among party leaders from other regions has been expressed in holding similar events in their regions, and IFES is drawing up plans to expand its round table series. Representatives of local government will be invited

to attend, as will members of the NGO community. Civic education projects gained momentum in July, as discussions on the textbook and civic rights publications took place. IFES will send a civic education consultant in August to conduct an assessment mission as a next step in its developing civic education project.

UZBEKISTAN

Summer Democracy Camp in Nukus

The IFES Democracy Summer Camp was held at the 'Altyn-Dan' Sanatorium, near Nukus, the regional capital of Karakalpakstan. Almost forty students from Karakalpakstan, Kokand, and Bukhara participated in the camp activities, which were intended to introduce to participating students the virtues and rules of democratic governance, as well as the values of political rights and civil liberties. IFES, represented by Project Consultant Christoph Stephe, and its local NGO partner/organizers stressed the learning-by-doing aspect during the Camp. For example, students were challenged to build their own political society, by agreeing on a name, flag, and constitution for their 'country.' Students named the representatives of a temporary governmental body, which appointed a Central Election Commission (CEC) and passed a law on elections. The students also founded four political parties and appointed presidential candidates. At the end of the Camp, the preparatory work culminated into a hotly contested presidential mock election. Students also participated in two workshops, dealing with environmental and children's rights issues, organized by two local NGOs, 'Wild Nature of the Aral Sea Region' and 'Shagala.' An exit exam that tested the learning experience of the students was given; results were expected to be tabulated later. Students participated in all activities with a high degree of motivation and excitement. The mock election segment of the camp clearly showed that the students had learned a great deal about the rules of free and fair elections.

Camp activities were administered by two coordinators, representing two Nukus-based NGOs, six teachers and eight student facilitators, while Project Consultant Christoph Stephe and IFES staff supervised overall implementation of the Camp. The professionalism demonstrated by local colleagues gives IFES ample reason to believe that the camp might become self-sufficient in the near future.

Jennifer Brick from USAID/Uzbekistan and several NGO representatives (e.g., from Peace Corps and Eurasia Foundation) attended various segments of the

camp.

Civic Education Project

IFES' other major project involves the introduction of a civic education textbook in Uzbekistan. The textbook is partially based on a similar textbook that will soon be introduced in Kazakhstan. Karakalpak and Uzbek translators worked on translating the generic chapters taken from the Kazakhstan version. Local contributions that deal with the specific issues and problems in Uzbekistan—and specifically in Karakalpakstan—worked on completing the Uzbekistan-specific version of the textbook. The textbook will be tested in four pilot high schools in Karakalpakstan, where it becomes the nucleus of the civic education classes, taught in Russian and Karakalpak. A teacher's manual and a one-day seminar, tentatively scheduled to take place in early August, will prepare the teachers for using the textbook in the classroom.

Impact Summary

The IFES 2000 Summer Democracy Camp in Nukus employed lessons learned from IFES' 1999 Summer

Camp in Syr-Darya to produce a successful, inclusive event. The Camp will serve as a model for future, similar events and employed a winning formula of combining expertise of local NGO experts with a framework that generated a positive, hands-on learning experience for students. There are many practical issues of daily life in Karakalpakstan that often go neglected by international assistance providers, and IFES attempted to induce a open discussion among students on how to address societal concerns in their everyday lives. IFES remains committed to focusing on Karakalpakstan as part of its civic education initiative, and the enthusiasm of students gave hope that future activities will be well-received and supported. Students and teacher-mentors from Bukhara and Kokand also encouraged the introduction of IFES civic education materials in their regions. A strategy of post-summer civic education work in those regions is currently being discussed. After conclusion of the Camp, a strategy was discussed with local NGO partners on how to conduct similar camps in the future, with the eventual goal of making them self-sufficient events.



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

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IFES provides technical assistance in the promotion of democracy worldwide and serves as a clearinghouse for information about democratic development and elections. Since its inception in 1987, the Foundation has pursued democratic initiatives in more than 120 countries worldwide. IFES activities are made possible, in part, by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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