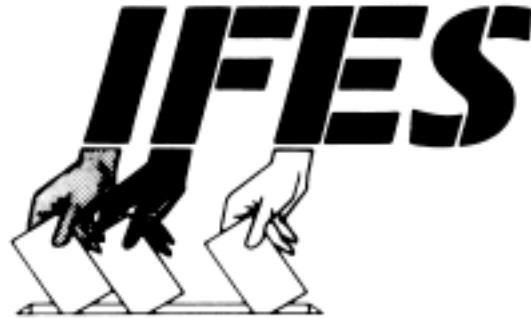


Europe and Asia Report

July 1999



Preparations for Annual ACEEEO Conference Underway



The Congress Center and former parliament building, in Bratislava, Slovakia site of the 1999 ACEEEO annual conference taking place 6-8 October.

EUROPE

Association of Central and Eastern European Election Authorities (ACEEEO)

The ACEEEO continues to prepare for its annual conference entitled "A Decade of Democracy: Increasing Voter Participation through Education" scheduled to take place 6-8 October 1999 in Bratislava, Slovakia. ACEEEO has been working closely with its co-hosts, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and IFES, to ensure high quality consistent with past events.

Professionals in the field of democracy and governance from across Europe, the Newly Independent States, and other democracies from around the world have been invited to participate in an event that will examine the last decade of democratic transition in the region and help to shape the direction of democracy for the 21st Century. With this in mind, the conference has been designed to have a high degree of interaction and information sharing among participants. Various ACEEEO members will present case studies from their own countries and/or act as facilitators for working group

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sessions in which participants will identify methods of increasing voter participation. The conference participants will also examine ways in which organizations working in the region may cooperate to address these issues and others.

The conference will feature two exhibitions - one of the history of elections and another of the latest in election technology. The election technology exhibition will not only allow vendors to showcase the latest in election technology but also provides conference participants with a survey of the latest equipment available to them to increase the level of efficiency, transparency and security of their respective election processes.

For more information about the conference or about other ACEEEO activities, please visit the Association's web page at www.aceeoo.com or contact the Secretariat directly by phone at +361-1-312-2416 or by fax at +361-312-2410.

Information is also available from IFES' Washington DC headquarters. Please contact Denise Wales for general conference information by email at dwales@ifes.org or Matthew Curtis for questions regarding the election technology exhibition by email at mcurtis@ifes.org, by phone at 202-828-8507 or by fax at 202-452-0804.

ALBANIA

Initiatives with the Albanian Government

During the past month, IFES staff in Albania continued to consult closely with the Government of Albania on matters related to a new electoral code, the formation of the Central Election Commission (CEC) and, in more recent meetings, the preparation of a new voters list. All or some of these issues have been the subject of meetings between the IFES Project Director and the Minister of Legislative Reform, newly appointed members of the CEC and senior government officials. In addition, IFES was invited by the Parliamentary Commission on Public Order to participate in a round table discussion on issues related to a new census, updating to the civil register and the preparation of a new voter list. A round table on voter lists will be held in September. IFES and the OSCE will be working closely on issues to be presented at that meeting in order to facilitate action on this very important issue.

Development of an Electoral Code

Officials from the Ministry of Legislative Reform and Relations with Parliament and IFES are continuing to prepare initial drafts of an electoral code and will conduct informal consultations with interested parties. It is hoped that a working group can be formed next month that will prepare a final draft of the electoral code prior to submission to Parliament.

Creation of the CEC

During July, 6 of the 7 members of the new CEC were confirmed. Through informal decisions of the government the seventh member is to be nominated by the Democratic Party (largest opposition party in Parliament). Until earlier this month the Democratic Party had boycotted Parliament and it may be some weeks before they make their recommendation. In the meantime, the CEC does not have a formal mechanism or direct input to begin drafting a new electoral code. Informal input will be affected through informal consultation with the IFES Project Director.

Impact Summary

The end of the NATO action in Kosovo has also brought a significant change in the country. The withdrawal of troops in particular is seen by some as withdrawal of international interest, concern and development aid. It is extremely important that this fear not become a reality. If it does, significant political and social instability will quickly develop. Parallel to economic aid there must be a continued focus on democratization, institution building and fostering civic trust and responsibility. Electoral systems are very important in this process and this is a good time to put more focused resources into this area of activity because it is a necessary pre-condition for Albania to achieve the one political and economic goal that all political parties and leaders agree on: integration into Europe through membership in the European Union and NATO.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)

Permanent Election Law Draft Nears Completion

A working group of international and Bosnian election experts including IFES Legal Specialist Jesse Pilgrim have spent nearly one year crafting a proposed permanent election law for BiH. The election law draft will be made public some time in mid to late September and introduced in Parliament later this fall.

IFES media campaign consultants Jean Lavoie and Charlotte Souibes, working with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), are playing a prominent role in the Permanent Election Law Information Campaign (PELIC). The campaign has four main objectives:

- Educate the public on a wide range of issues related to the electoral reform;
- Engage BiH citizens in the campaign in order to create a long-term sense of ownership in the political process (advocacy, media relations, etc.);
- Provide public input to the officials responsible for the drafting of a new law; and
- Aid in the passage of the law through the BiH Parliamentary Assembly.

Phase I of the campaign was designed to prompt a nation-wide dialogue seeking to determine what the people of BiH want in an electoral system. The discussion has been conducted with the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina by organizations and individuals in key roles in BiH -- NGOs, civic associations, election officials, journalists, media outlets, political parties, and BiH experts. There was a strategic decision that BiH citizens should be the ones leading the discussion- not the international community. Through approximately 500 educational sessions, discussion groups, roundtables or seminars and some 45 contact programs, about 10,000 citizens have had the opportunity to improve their understanding of the issues and to state whether or not they believe the current electoral system meets their country's needs. Findings of Phase I were turned over to the Permanent Election Law Working Group to aid drafting a law, which reflects opinions of BiH citizens.

Immediate PELIC Phase II plans call for educating the public about the law and building support for its passage in Parliament. This will include the following activities:

- Advocacy training of democracy and governance NGOs;
- Political and legal analysis of the draft election law; and
- Development of educational material, brochures, and legal summaries.

IFES to Assist with Election Administration Nationalization

Associate Director General of Elections Ana Jaksic will lead efforts to nationalize the administration of elections in BiH

with the assistance of IFES Election Administration Specialist Tom Parkins. Parkins is currently evaluating the capability of each election administration branch to operate without international supervisory and/or advisory personnel. While long-term international assistance may be necessary to support election administration security and infrastructure, it is the objective of the international community to turn day-to-day control of election administration over to BiH national professionals as soon as feasibly possible. At this point only one administrative branch is operated completely by Bosnians.

IFES Senior Technician Sets Pace for Nationalization

Throughout the two years Mike Yard worked in BiH he clearly demonstrated he understood his mission - to build a sustainable data processing operation that will support elections into the foreseeable future. Yard became the first election branch director to step aside several months ago declaring himself no longer the director but an advisor. At the end of July he completed his assignment and left the department managed and operated completely by Bosnian nationals. Of the nine election administration branches, Data Base Development is the first, and only at this point, to reach this level of nationalization. Yard set the nationalization standard for the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina's election organization.

IFES Civic Education Initiative to Continue into 2000

After ten months of successful activity IFES was asked by USAID to expand and extend its Civic Education Initiative through March 2000. IFES civic education trainers, under the leadership of IFES Project Director Ed Morgan, helped to initiate 203 Citizens Activist Groups (GAINS), 56 of which have successfully accomplished their goal, and many more of which are nearing their completion. IFES will continue its work encouraging citizens to participate in political life, increasing their knowledge and understanding of a democratic system and assisting them to exercise that knowledge through increasingly active engagement in local political life. Under this new effort, IFES plans to undertake the following: institute a summer internship program to increase Bosnian youth awareness of citizen participation in local government; gather representatives from GAINS from its current areas of operation (the Livno, Zenica and Doboј municipalities) together to share experiences, ideas and strategies as well as discuss ways to cooperate in the future; and initiate operations in Bijelina, Republika Srpska (RS) in January 2000. IFES will renew its successful voter education seminars (GOGs) for the April 2000 Municipal Elections in all four areas of operation as well as employ that methodology to increase awareness of key issues effecting Bosnians such as privatization and the March 1999 Brcko Arbitration Award.

IFES Recruits First Summer Student Interns

IFES civic education trainers recruited their first student interns for the summer. The summer interns worked with IFES teams for two weeks, visiting local communities and villages. The group was comprised of nine women and seven men, most of which are college students. The majority of these individuals had never visited a village before. This

opportunity proved to be an informative experience, enabling the interns to see and hear what rural people think and how they react to such issues as privatization, elections, and their public officials. The students helped to assemble people for GOGs, distribute the privatization literature, and facilitate participation in the GOG discussions. Some had the opportunity to attend municipal council meetings and privatization auctions with students.

A five-hour session was held in Bistrecak, north of Zenica, with the summer interns- the first in a series of such meetings. These students participated in an informal, interactive, wide-ranging discussion. The students discussed the forms of government in BiH at the various levels. In small groups they discussed one of the following topics: alcoholism, employment, stemming out-migration, and culture development. They then reported back to the group as a whole. The students learned much about privatization and civic initiatives and posed numerous and substantial questions on the subject during their time in the field with the IFES trainers. Judge Vlado Adamovic of the Zenica-Doboј Cantonal Court gave a twenty-minute lecture on democracy that was well received. At the conclusion, each student was awarded a certificate of appreciation.



IFES interns, representing all three BiH ethnicities, come together to exchange experiences and opinions after completing their two-week internship with IFES civic education trainers.

IFES Launches GOGs on Privatization

IFES launched a new round of voter education seminars (GOGs) in all three offices on the subject of privatization, a topic cited by staff as pertinent. IFES trainers conducted 289 privatization GOGs, talking with 3,956 citizens. In addition to personally handing out nearly 5,000 privatization brochures in the communities they visited, the trainers and student interns distributed another 12,000 copies of the information at stores in remote villages and enterprises they visited, to reach residents and employees unable to hear their message and answers to questions on this important topic. People were generally receptive to the information. While they expressed a great deal of mistrust due to previous bitter experiences and are uncertain about participating, many were willing to try and were eager for information.

Impact Summary

Phase One of PELIC has been very constructive and positive

for IFES partners as well as for citizens in general. For the first time, citizens had the opportunity to openly discuss concepts that will have a serious impact on their future. Non-governmental organizations, which until less than a year ago had never organized a joint and structured endeavor, accomplished a major step with this program. By coordinating their operations with IFES, OSCE and other partners significantly developed their internal administrative and logistical capacities and demonstrated the increasing sustainability of civic society in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Now that a foundation has been laid through the formation of strong, working relationships, IFES, OSCE and NGO partners can undertake a series of activities in which they can facilitate public discussion on the draft election law, analyze and summarize findings, and present recommendations to BiH parliamentarians.

The expansion of the successful IFES Civic Education Initiative will provide an even greater number of BiH citizens with the necessary skills and knowledge to constructively engage in the democratic political process and address specific needs in their individual communities. The use of IFES' successful voter education methodology will also help to educate the public on other issues they are facing in BiH's transition to a self-sustaining, economically viable and politically stable society.

IFES' summer internship program is increasing young BiH citizens' awareness of issues BiH is facing and how it effects the general population. The likelihood of creating a sustainable tradition of participation in democratic governance is increased as BiH youth's awareness of these practices increases.

MOLDOVA

IFES Meets with CEC to Discuss Repeat Elections

In July, IFES/Moldova staff met with Central Election Commission Chairman Dumitru Nidelcu to review the results of repeat local elections. The repeat elections were held in districts with inconclusive outcomes in the first round of local elections. The CEC also gave IFES a list of newly elected mayors and asked IFES to distribute the *Civic Voice* to new mayors and public administrators.

In mid-July, the CEC asked IFES to send observers to the districts that held repeat elections. District electoral councils also wanted IFES to send independent observers to avoid conflicts between partisan observers.

IFES Cooperates with Parliament

IFES/Moldova and the Juridic Direction of the Parliament of Moldova hosted a roundtable discussion on a new law enabling regional tribunals to decide suits between public administrations and citizens. Depending on the circumstances, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court may also rule on

these cases.

In addition, IFES staff met with MP Ilija Trombitki to discuss the new Law on Foundations, which was debated in Parliament throughout the month of July. The first draft of the law was not passed because of the Communist Party's opposition to the non-profit status of foundations. This debate will be covered extensively in the next issue of the *Civic Voice*.

IFES Reviews Proposed Constitutional Changes with Political Party Leaders

In July, Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi created a commission to draft a series of constitutional amendments. The amendments would create a presidential system in Moldova by directly subordinating the Cabinet to the President, decreasing the size of Parliament to 70 deputies, and making it easier for the President to dissolve Parliament. In addition, the President's term would increase from four years to five. Understandably, most Members of Parliament are strongly opposed to the President's initiative.

Party of Democratic Forces leader Ion Jigau, Social Democratic Party Chairman Oazu Nantoi, Party of Rebirth and Reconciliation Vice-Chairman Victor Josu, and Communist Party leader Victor Ciobanu all told IFES that their respective parties would vote against President Lucinschi's amendments. Furthermore, Ciobanu said that the Communist Party would draft a series of amendments to prevent the President from introducing referenda, as President Lucinschi did for local elections.

IFES also met with National Liberal Party (NLP) Vice-Chairman Vlad Darie to discuss NLP's initiative to increase the threshold for parliamentary representation from 4 percent to 5 percent; the threshold would increase to 8 percent for electoral blocs.

IFES and LADOM Monitor Repeat Elections

Upon request by the Central Election Commission, IFES and LADOM sent observers to seven localities that held repeat local elections. LADOM Chairman Paul Strudzescu subsequently briefed IFES on the results of the monitoring.

IFES Cooperates with Domestic NGOs

IFES continues to work closely with the NGO Registration Department of the Moldovan Ministry of Justice. The Department's Chairwoman, Natalia Izdebski, was interviewed for the *Civic Voice*. She discussed the difficulties NGOs have in registration as well as the new Law on the Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

In July, an IFES staff member met with Paul Strudzescu to discuss his organization's recent seminars on local public administration. In addition, Mr. Strudzescu thanked IFES for distributing the *Civic Voice* to rural areas where information and legislation are scarce.

Iurie Soltanovski, the Deputy Director of the Open Information Society, also met with IFES to discuss distributing an electronic version of the *Civic Voice*. Mr. Soltanovski requested that IFES provide materials on the development of civil society to distribute to Open Information Society members.

Publications

In July, IFES/Moldova finished distributing the Romanian and Russian-language versions of *Civic Voice*. It was distributed to the President's administration, Parliament, government agencies, foreign embassies, foreign organizations, public administrators, NGOs, libraries, and universities. Several Romanian NGOs and newspapers also requested copies of the *Civic Voice*.

At the suggestion of the CEC, IFES also distributed the newsletter to 650 newly elected mayors by the end of the month. In total, more than 2,000 copies of the *Civic Voice* were printed in July, surpassing the circulation of many Moldovan magazines and newsletters.

In other publications, the spring issue of the SEAL bulletin contains an interview with Natalia Izdebski that was reprinted from the *Civic Voice*. This month's *Public Administration* magazine also includes an article by IFES Senior Program Coordinator Igor Botan. The article is entitled "Elections in Moldova."

Impact Summary

IFES/Moldova's continued work with Parliament and the CEC strengthens the rule of law by refining Moldova's legal framework. The continued publication and distribution of *Civic Voice* keeps the public aware of important issues such as President Lucinschi's attempts to modify the Constitution, and other parties' attempts to block the amendments. The distribution of *Civic Voice* has been expanded to include recently elected local officials.

IFES along with LADOM, observed repeat elections in seven localities at the request of the CEC. The presence of the observers helped bolster the public's confidence in the electoral process, by providing impartial reports on the elections. IFES also trained observers and pollworkers for the Gagauz-Yeri Popular Assembly elections. The training was at the request of the Popular Assembly and endorsed by the CEC. Throughout the former Soviet Union, poorly trained pollworkers and administrative confusion have caused much of the problems associated with elections. The training of observers and workers helps eliminate this kind of systemic error.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

IFES Mass Media Support Program on Fast Track

The IFES Media and Elections Program is set to begin conducting seminars throughout the Russian Federation. The goal of the program is to educate regional journalists through a series of training seminars on how to cover the 1999

parliamentary campaign. Representatives of local mass media organizations will be trained how to better report on election activity from legal, ethical and technical viewpoints. IFES is collaborating with the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Russian Federation, the National Press Institute (NPI) and the Institute for Electoral Systems Development (IESD) to implement this program.

During the month of July, IFES' Curriculum Development Specialist, Hank Valentino worked with the IFES' Media Program Manager and the NPI to develop a comprehensive training program for these seminars. Locations for the seminars have been selected and a roster of speakers has been developed. Speakers include noted international journalists, members of the CEC and Subject Election Commissions, and noted legal and media scholars.

A Parliamentary Election Training Handbook is currently being finalized and will be used in these seminars. The Handbook contains educational articles by such noted experts as:

- A. Postnikov, Doctor of Law ("Mass Media Regulation in Time of Elections")
- Igor Yerechin, Deputy Chairman, Judicial Chamber for Information Disputes under the Russian President ("Conditions for Election Campaigning Through Print Media")
- S.V. Bolshakov, Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation ("Interaction between the Election Commissions and the Mass Media")
- V.N. Monakhov, Ph.D., Judicial Chamber for Information Disputes under the Russian President ("The Judicial Chamber's Role in Origination, Development and Implementation of the Right to Election Campaign Via Mass Media")
- I. Dzyloshinsky, General Director, Institute of Humanitarian Communications ("Transparent Coverage of Election Campaigns: Role and Influence of Mass Media")

The first scheduled seminar is to be held in Tver from 24-25 August and should be attended by as many as thirty-five journalists.

Election Preparations

The revised Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of the Electoral Rights of Citizens and the Rights of Citizens to Participate in Referenda (Voting Rights Act) was signed by President Yeltsin on 30 March and the State Duma Election Law was signed on 24 June. This election framework is fairly comprehensive and pays great attention to electoral procedures.

With the recent passage of core election laws and the estimated start of the Duma election season on 19 August, IFES expects its level of effort to significantly increase. IFES' relationship with the CEC is unique, as it is viewed as a trusted source of non-partisan guidance and support. In

addition, the community of domestic and international professionals interested in the electoral process in Russia is increasingly looking to IFES to take advantage of its high quality analytical capability, its expertise in the Russian milieu and the excellent sources of comparative and other scholarly and practical holdings in the field of election processes contained in IFES/Moscow's Elections Resource Center.

Since the Duma election season will soon be here and new legislative codes have been passed, IFES expects a great amount of demand for technical assistance in the coming months. IFES has identified a strong election administrator in Mr. George W. Russell, who served as Executive Director of the Kentucky State Board of Elections and the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance for the past decade and has served as President of the National Association of State Election Directors. Mr. Russell will travel to Russia in late August.

IFES Legal Specialist Bob Dahl is expected to conduct a Pre-Election Technical Assessment in Russia this September. Mr. Dahl has specialized in elections law, campaign finance, ethics and lobbying law, and voting procedures in emerging democracies for more than a decade. Mr. Dahl, on behalf of IFES, has worked closely with the CEC of the Russian Federation over the past five years and has held several seminars and roundtables in Russia in the area of election laws and procedures.

Institute for Electoral Systems Development (IESD)

The development of IESD as an indigenous NGO capable of providing non-partisan consulting, advocacy, oversight, and information dissemination within Russia's political and electoral spheres will result in the long-term sustainability of USAID's election-related assistance in Russia.

The IESD has undertaken concrete steps in preparation for its activities in support of the upcoming elections. IESD, in collaboration with IFES staff and a management consultant, completed its first draft manuals of internal procedures on ethics, procurement, personnel management, travel and finance. The manuals give the IESD a fixed structure for operations, help to maximize the transparency of its efforts, and prepare the organization for the start of its programs and financial activities.

IESD has been meeting with other Russian NGOs that receive funds from USAID and other donors who operate independently from Western-based technical assistance providers. The goals of these meetings were to identify what makes such organizations work, what challenges they faced in setting up the organization, and how they manage to develop clients and generate resources in Russia's challenging environment. In this respect, IFES met with the following NGOs: Golupka, Charities Aid Foundation, the Urban Institute, the Moscow School of Political Science, the Marshall Foundation, the National Press Institute, and the Fund for Parliamentarism. These discussions have proven very useful and IESD expects to meet with such NGOs on a regular basis.

In preparation for future program activities and diversifying funding sources, IESD has also held meetings with representatives of the Finnish, German and New Zealand embassies.

IESD, working with support from IFES, will focus on IESD institutional development and support for the election process. Under this program IESD will work to brief election observers on the Russian electoral process, initiate a Best Practices Series to publicize and distribute the most effective election-related material from regional election commissions throughout Russia and will develop a web site for wide access to this information. Specific program activities will include development of a Glossary of Election Terms, a Legal Guide for Election Campaigns, participation in IFES' media program seminars and conduct of a roundtable discussion on election fraud. The second IESD program is specifically designed as part of IFES' Russian Media Support Program. Within this project IESD is committed to develop a web site and publish a monthly newsletter. The web site will contain election-related materials of importance to the media and will be designed to educate the media on the latest news and regulatory developments that affect them. The newsletter will cover the development of the Media Program and the pre-election environment in Russia.

Impact Summary

The most significant impact that IFES can attest to involves our successful review of the 48 articles of the revised Federal Law on Basic Guarantees. IFES found that our recommendations were followed in at least 30% of the cases. The Voting Rights Act now provides for ballot access for candidates and electoral associations either by an electoral deposit or by minimum number of signatures. The Law also allows commissions to verify a random sampling of such signatures, thus eliminating an unrealistic and cumbersome feature of the previous law. CEC Chairman Veshniakov hailed the changes as "great advances."

SLOVAKIA

Slovak Parliament Takes Summer Recess

On 9 July, the Slovak Parliament began its summer recess thereby postponing the consideration of several laws, which were still under the National Council of the Slovak Republic's (Parliament) consideration. While many hoped the Public Access to Information law would have been passed, adoption of this law will not be addressed until parliamentary sessions resume in September. This law will define which administrative offices and state institutions will be required to provide public access to information and what information should be made available. The law will also include what information is considered sensitive to state security and therefore protected from public access.

Due to the summer recess, Parliament was also unable to adopt a solution to the problematic parliamentary election law on substitutes which governs the replacement of representatives who can no longer perform their duties. The

Slovak Constitutional Court recently found this law unconstitutional. This law directly affects the allotment of the vacated seat of former Member of Parliament (MP), Rudolf Schuster, who was required (by the Slovak Constitution) to vacate his seat when he was elected President of the Slovak Republic this May.

Minority Language Law Passes

On the eve of the Parliament's summer recess, the MPs passed the Minority Language Law, which puts the country one step closer to membership in the European Union (EU). In 1997, the EU requested that the Slovak Republic adopt a minority language law to remedy the discriminatory language law that took effect on 1 January 1996 under Prime Minister Meciar's government. This previous law required all official documents to be produced in Slovak only and was contrary to Slovakia's Constitutional Court decision in the fall of 1997 which found that Slovak citizens of Hungarian descent had the right to use their language in official state communications.

The law, which passed without the support of the *Hungarian Coalition Party* (SMK), will take effect on 1 September 1999. It will allow minority citizens to use their language in certain official state documents provided that the citizen lives in a municipality where at least 20 percent of the residents belong to that particular minority. The Slovak government will issue a list of those municipalities where the minority language law will apply.

IFES Assists Slovak Government with Preparations for Election Law Reform

As USAID assistance comes to an end in Slovakia, IFES will not be present to participate in Slovakia's election law reform efforts, which are scheduled to begin late in 1999. However, IFES has been able to make a positive contribution to the process by distributing sample laws from other countries to the Ad Hoc Constitutional Commission and to the Election Department within the Ministry of the Interior (MoI). Members within both offices stated that these laws would be very useful as points of comparison when seeking solutions to the many problematic provisions of the current parliamentary election law. In its final weeks in Slovakia, IFES distributed to the Ad Hoc Commission and to the Election Department sample parliamentary election laws from 16 countries using a proportional representation election system. The NGOs *Obcianske Oko* and the *Association for the Support of Local Democracy* (ASLD) also received copies of the laws.

IFES Completes Comprehensive Review of the 1998 Parliamentary Election Law of the Slovak Republic

IFES' comprehensive review entitled *1998 Parliamentary Election Law of the Slovak Republic: Amendments in Controversy* is the first of its kind to consolidate information regarding the 1998 parliamentary election law amendments. This document includes the history leading up to the controversial amendments, a review of the amendments themselves, including comments from the NGO community, Slovak political scholars, journalists, and the international community and concludes with IFES recommendations. This

document should prove useful not only to the MPs in their search for solutions, but also to officials in the Election Department, the NGO community, the international community, and to the citizens of Slovakia. This document will be released to the public in English and Slovak upon USAID final approval.

Impact Summary

In its final weeks of operation, the IFES office in Slovakia continued to make positive contributions to the election law reform process in the country. IFES continued to develop its positive working relationship with Slovakia's MPs and with members of the Election Department and also further developed its professional rapport with the NGO community, encouraging its participation in the election law reform efforts that will begin later this year. IFES' *1998 Parliamentary Election Law of the Slovak Republic: Amendments in Controversy* will serve as a valuable resource for all those who will participate in the reform process. This includes parliamentarians, government officials, civic leaders and election law scholars. The National Council and the Ministry of Interior's Election Department now have various examples of election laws, which meet international standards at their fingertips. These laws will serve as positive models for them as they revise their own electoral laws.

UKRAINE

1999 Survey Presented in Kyiv

IFES Consultant Gary Ferguson traveled to Kyiv to present the results of the 1999 Survey of the Electorate to representatives of the U.S. State Department, USAID, the Central Election Commission, and various Ukrainian political organizations. Attendance was high at Mr. Ferguson's briefings, and the survey has generated a great deal of interest in Kyiv because of its proximity to the presidential election.

The survey is the sixth in a series seeking to better understand the public perception of the transitions taking place in Ukraine. While the survey does examine issues directly related to the coming presidential elections, such as candidate preference, more importantly, it also charts trends in public opinion over the course of several years. This data is used by IFES, USAID, and other NGOs to gauge the efficacy of current programs and identify the need for future projects. The data can also be compared with similar survey data from other countries such as Belarus to help better understand the impact of social, economic, and political transitions within the former Soviet Union.

CEC and IFES Develop Poll Worker Guidebook and Training Program

Three IFES consultants, Tony Reissig, Paul Manfuso, and Bill Eaton are meeting with the CEC to develop a poll worker guidebook and training program in preparation for the October presidential elections. Mr. Manfuso has extensive experience with the San Francisco Board of Elections; Mr. Eaton is a retired regional election commissioner for the Australian

Election Commission; and Mr. Reissig is a member of the Hamilton County, Ohio Board of Elections.

The purpose of the consultants' work in Ukraine is to create a professional class of election officials who will be able to pass along their newly acquired knowledge to their staffs. The training will address a number of situations pollworkers might encounter on Election Day.

IFES Prepares for Adjudication Conference

A second election adjudication conference is being planned for September 2-3 at the Yaremche resort in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. David Earl and Liudmila Shovkoplyas traveled to Ivano-Frankivsk and spoke with local administrators and judges in preparation for the conference. David and Liudmila also toured the conference site.

Travel arrangements are being made for Judge Bodhan Futey to attend the conference; Judge Futey will also meet with the Association of Ukrainian Lawyers and judges in L'viv.

IFES has identified several topics which may be of interest to the participants, including judicial paradigms for adjudicating election disputes, establishing penalties for violations of election regulations, improving voters' legal knowledge, referendums in Ukraine, and Ukrainians' constitutional right to vote.

IFES Plans Public Service Announcements for Presidential Election

IFES/Ukraine has prepared a contract with Oleksandr Tkachenko (no relation to the presidential candidate) of NTM Ltd. for a series of public service announcements (PSAs) to educate voters about new voting procedures for the upcoming presidential election. The contract, which is currently being approved by IFES/Washington, calls for several television advertisements to explain a new ballot format to voters and to encourage their participation in the election.

The PSAs will stress the integrity of the election process, as well as inform voters on the registration and voting procedures. The announcements will also be adapted for radio and will air throughout the election cycle. IFES aired similar public service announcements during the 1998 parliamentary elections.

CEC Continues to Register Presidential Candidates

Fifteen presidential nominees submitted the requisite one million signatures to the CEC to become officially registered candidates. At the end of July, President Leonid Kuchma, Natalia Vitrenko, Petro Symonenko, Oleksandr Moroz, Oleksandr Tkachenko, Yevhen Marchuk, Yuri Kostenko, Hennady Udovenko and Volodymyr Oliynyk were registered by the CEC. The five nominees whose signatures were not accepted by the CEC have each appealed to the Ukrainian Supreme Court in the hope that the court would overturn the CEC's decisions.

Supreme Court Reconsiders Kyiv Mayor's Reelection

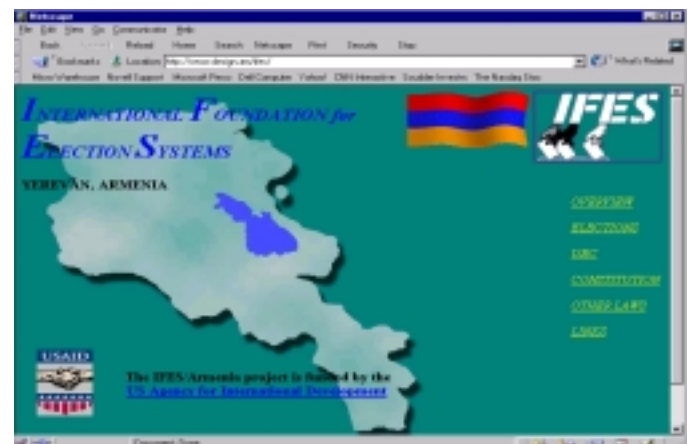
The validity of Kyiv Mayor Oleksandr Omelchenko's reelection was called into question by his main challenger, Hryhory Surkis. Surkis charged that Omelchenko had violated several election laws and appealed the election results to the Vyshgorod district court. The district court upheld Omelchenko's victory, and Surkis subsequently appealed the case to the Ukrainian Supreme Court. The Supreme Court suspended the lower court's ruling, but had not made a decision at the end of this reporting period. However, the Court did request additional evidence of voting and campaign finance irregularities, prompting speculation that it may call for a new mayoral election.

Impact Summary

By providing a better understanding of the effects of Ukraine's transitions on society, the survey conducted by IFES allows both the Ukrainian government and the NGO community to design better democratization programs. The training of election officials by IFES, in cooperation with the CEC, will help correct much of the administrative error that plagued the 1998 parliamentary elections. The IFES sponsored training, along with the IFES produced Pollworker Guide will draw upon the lessons learned from the 1998 elections to prepare Ukraine's pollworkers for the presidential elections. The Ivano-Frankivsk conference to be held in early September will build upon the work of the adjudication conference held earlier this year. Training judges, legislators and administrators in their various roles in the adjudication process, will eliminate much of the confusion of earlier contested election cases.

CAUCASUS/CENTRAL ASIA

ARMENIA



IFES/Armenia's updated website includes the most recent information on elections and election related events in the country

IFES/Armenia Updates Website

During the month of July, IFES/Armenia began to redesign and update the contents of its webpage. The new and improved site will allow for electronic access to copies of the

Armenian constitution and the UEC, adopted earlier this year. In addition, the final results of the May 1999 Parliamentary elections will also be included on the site. To preview the new edition of this information resource, please visit: <http://www.arminco.com/homepages/ifes/>.

IFES Monitors Compilation of Voters' Lists

During the month of July, IFES/Armenia began to monitor the voter registration process currently underway across all regions of the country. According to the Universal Electoral Code (UEC), local authorities are charged with updating and maintaining the voters' lists twice yearly. The current timetable of the registration process requires that local authorities conclude their work on the lists by early August and submit them to their respective Regional Election Commissions (REC). Following certification of the lists, the REC will then return the lists to the local election officials for posting in voting precincts 40 days prior to the scheduled election.

IFES plans to meet with local authorities involved in the voter registration process prior to the arrival of a voter registration expert in September who will conduct an in-depth analysis and feasibility study of the current voter registry. On 30 July, IFES/Armenia Project Manager, Andre Bouchard, met with Ashot Mkrtchyan, the Deputy Community Head of Shengavit District in Yerevan, to discuss voter registration. In the May Parliamentary elections, over 95,000 voters cast ballots in the Shengavit District and high numbers of errors and omissions in the voter lists were reported. Mkrtchyan is preparing the voters lists of Shengavit in accordance with the information provided by the passport office and the Ministry of Interior and intends to create a permanent database, the contents of which will be forwarded to the REC by mid-August.

Local Elections Scheduled for October

According to the Central Election Commission (CEC), local elections will be held in October. Voters will go to the polls to choose community heads and local council members whose current 3-year terms expire in November. Regional governors in consultation with REC and the CEC will decide the exact date of the election in August.

To support the conduct of Armenia's second nation-wide local elections, IFES plans to provide the technical assistance to the CEC and regional election officials. In the months prior to the elections, IFES will conduct an assessment and feasibility study of the voter registration aimed at providing both short and long-term recommendations to improve the accuracy and sustainability of the voter registration system. In addition, IFES will also wage a voter education/information campaign focused on encouraging voters to check the voters lists during the 40 day exhibition period of the voter rolls that precedes all polls under the UEC. The campaign will also provide voters with non-partisan information on the roles and responsibilities of their elected local officials.

IFES Meets with Young Leaders

On 28 July, at the invitation of the Republican Council of Women of Yerevan, Andre Bouchard, provided a presentation entitled "Democracy and Women" to a group of 80 young

women ranging in age from 15 to 16 years. These young leaders, recognized by the Council as "Leaders of 21st Century," are currently following a 1-year course on the participation of women in public life.

Bouchard's presentation covered such topics as notions of democracy, democratic development and the participation of women in elections and parliaments. Following the presentation, participants posed interesting and provocative questions regarding recent electoral events in Armenia. In concluding his meeting with these young leaders, Bouchard urged them to remain informed and become actively involved in public life.

Impact Summary

During the month of July, IFES closely followed the process of compiling the voters lists and began to collect data that will contribute to recommendations to improve the accuracy of these lists for the coming local elections. In addition, IFES continued to demonstrate its commitment to creating better-informed citizens and strengthening civil society by participating in local NGO activities involving women in public life. The update and redesign of the IFES/Armenia website also contributed to improving the transparency and accountability of the Armenian electoral system by providing non-partisan information on elections and election laws.

AZERBAIJAN

Milli Majlis Passes Municipal Status and Municipal Election Laws

On 2 July the Milli Majlis passed, on their third reading, the laws 'On Municipal Status' and 'On Rules for Municipal Elections.' According to the law 'On Rules for Municipal Elections,' more than 4000 municipal councils will be elected by a free and secret ballot of eligible voters 18 years of age or older. These municipal councils will range in size from 5 to 19 members, depending on population of the municipality and a 'multi mandate majoritarian' election system will be used, with each municipality forming a single constituency. Council members will be elected to five-year terms.

In accordance with the adopted legislation, administration of municipal elections will be decentralized to regionally based Territorial Election Commissions, and voting station Precinct Election Commissions. Territorial and Precinct (voting station) election commission membership will be largely determined by a lottery system, however there will also be some direct representation on these commissions for political parties who have nominated candidates.

The new law 'On Municipal Status' delineates the structure and responsibilities of the municipalities. The law established a large range of potential functions in the health, culture, education, property, sanitation, transport, information, recreation, economic, environmental and welfare fields that are available to municipalities. In addition, the law gives municipalities certain rights to local administrative bodies. These rights are: to have their own staff; to provide municipal

services; to have an independent budget; to acquire, maintain and privatize property; to establish credit institutions; to raise income through taxes or other means.

President Issues Decrees on Municipal Elections and Municipal Status

On 28 July presidential decrees on municipal elections and the status of municipalities were published. Apart from setting the election date as 12 December 1999, the decree on municipal election issues a number of directions to executive authorities related to election preparations. The decree provides information necessary for preparation of voter lists, voting facilities and preparation of requests for global election funding requirements. Relevant organizations were also directed to issue invitations to foreign and international organizations and governments to send observers to these elections.

The decree on municipal status directs executive authorities to examine and report on the relationship between the municipal status law and existing laws, and between municipal and executive authority powers. It also directs executive authorities to prepare proposals and regulations on issues such as municipal property and taxes, and directs the parliament to draft and adopt laws on issues such as municipal budgets, referendums, property and property privatization, and services.

IFES Discusses Election Preparations with CEC

Following passage of the municipal election legislation, IFES Project Manager Alan Wall and Project Assistant Farida Babayeva had discussions with Deputy Chair of the CEC Nizami Zafarov and CEC member Sayyat Kerimov on potential further areas of cooperation during the pre-election period. IFES made a number of suggestions for areas in which CEC instructions would be useful in providing more concrete administrative guidance than is provided in the municipal election law. The CEC members welcomed IFES offer of assistance in developing and/or reviewing the CEC's election instructions.

Major issues discussed at these meetings were voter education and election official training programs. Areas of greatest need that were identified during these discussions were technical assistance with the development and printing of manuals for Territorial and Precinct Election Commission members, the development of training for TECs, and programs for training TEC members as trainers of PECs. The CEC also indicated that it would welcome IFES assistance in development of voter education materials.

IFES Discusses Legislation with Opposition Political Parties

During July Alan Wall and Farida Babayeva met with senior members of the National Independence Party of Azerbaijan, the Popular Front Party and Musavat Party to discuss and explain the implications and the content of the final municipal legislation, and to discuss the parties' attitudes to participation in municipal elections and the amendments that the parties would want in the municipal legislative framework. While each party had a particular emphasis of concern, there were

some common key issues to which the opposition in general was demanding changes before they would consider participation in the elections. These related to: including a proportional representation element in the election system; reforming the composition and method of appointment of members of election commissions; ensuring the transparency of all election processes; and providing municipalities with strong, clear powers to be an effective means of local self government.

Coordination with Other International Bodies

IFES Project Manager Alan Wall held regular meetings during July with other international organizations with a presence and/or interest in municipal elections in Azerbaijan in coordination of complementary activities. Briefing sessions on the municipal framework and elections were also held for USAID staff in Baku and European Union Ambassadors. In addition, the IFES Baku office has been acting as a coordination, development, translation and distribution point for municipal legislation and other framework materials – such as timetables and legislative change analysis - to other international NGOs, governmental and inter-governmental organizations.

Impact Summary

IFES' role as dean of the international community for election-related activities and dynamic support to parliament and the CEC was strengthened through the provision of legislation analysis following the adoption of laws governing municipal elections. IFES strives to build cooperative working relations with the government, the opposition and international organizations through continued interaction, participation in forums and general election and municipal governance education and support.

GEORGIA

Parliament Amends Election Law

In late July, the Georgian Parliament reconvened to discuss constitutional amendments affecting the upcoming Parliamentary elections and to appoint members to the Central Election Commission (CEC) as well as to approve the chairperson on recommendation of the President. The extraordinary session began on 20 July and following three days of often-times heated debate, the Parliament passed constitutional amendments, named its appointees to the Commission, and approved the President's re-nomination of Jumbar Lominadze as Chairman. Gia Zezashvili will also continue as Deputy Chairman of the CEC.

One constitutional amendment, passed by more than two-thirds of the total parliamentary membership, raised the threshold of votes that must be gained by a party from 5% to 7%, in order to win proportional mandate seats in the parliament. The anticipated effect of this amendment is that only a small number of parties or coalitions, from among the 62 parties currently registered, will actually win proportional mandate seats. A second amendment mandates that the order of parties being listed on the ballot for the upcoming elections

shall be based on the relative success of parties in the previous election.

CEC Issues Report on Local Elections

Documenting the procedures and results of the first-ever local elections held on 15 November 1998, the CEC prepared a 545-page report on "Elections of Local Representative Bodies--Sakrebulo--in Georgia." Under the coordination of Hugh Stohler, IFES/Georgia Project Manager, the CEC and IFES, in a joint publishing venture produced 1000 Georgian-language copies of the report. It will be distributed to the Presidential Administration and the Parliament, Georgian embassies abroad, political parties, district and local governments, District Election Commissions, NGOs, and the media. The report and its publication are clear demonstrations of the CEC's commitment to increasing election transparency.

IFES Technical Assistance to Parliamentary Elections

IFES will undertake a vigorous voter education program focusing on two areas: motivating citizens to register to vote and to check voter registration lists, and; informing the voting public on parliamentary election considerations and procedures. The program will include extensive use of print and electronic media to motivate voters, and will target traditionally disenfranchised or apathetic voters including internally displaced persons, women, and new voters.

To supplement the voter registration thrust of the voter education campaign, IFES Voter Registration Specialist Antonio Spinelli will work with the CEC to develop procedures for voter list reform that will meet international election standards.

To prepare election officials more thoroughly on the reformed parliamentary election law, IFES, in cooperation with the CEC, will train election officials from Georgia's 2700 precincts in a large-scale election official training program. The training program will include the development of a polling station manual, training teams of local trainers, and implementing training throughout the regions of Georgia.

IFES Contributes Questions to USIS Survey

USIS/Georgia asked IFES/Washington, as it did last year, to develop election and democracy related questions to be included in the 1999 USIS Opinion Survey in Georgia. Suggested questions will help define public opinion on the conduct of elections, perceived citizen impact on the democratic process in voting, and public definition of what it means to live in a democracy.

Impact Summary

By supporting the publication of the CEC's report on "Elections of Local Representative Bodies-Sakrebulo- in Georgia; 15 November 1998," IFES is encouraging the CEC to provide greater transparency and accountability in the administration of elections, in accordance with international democratic standards. Moreover, IFES on-site technical assistance to the CEC reinforces the commitment to the further evolution of a sustainable democratic electoral system.

KAZAKHSTAN

Election News

According to the presidential Decree signed on 7 July, parliamentary elections to the upper chamber (Senate) will be held on 17 September and to the lower chamber (Majilis) on 10 October. The Central Election Commission (CEC) issued a decree stating that elections to the local Maslikhats will be held on 10 October.

Several opposition political parties and movements, including the Communist Party, the Republican National Party, headed by former Prime-Minister Akezan Kazhegeldin, the *Orley* movement, the Association of Russian, Slavic and Cossack nations, and some trade unions, announced the creation of a pre-election coordinating bloc that will target the electorate.

Curriculum Development Project

Throughout July, preparations were made for the civic education curriculum-training seminar. The sessions have been scheduled for 10-13 August in Kargalinsky Sanatorium in Almaty. In close cooperation with the Soros Foundation and the *Association of Initiative Schools*, IFES Project Coordinator Marat Bigaliev and Regional Program Coordinator, Saule Buldekbaeva compiled a list that included teachers from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, a representative from the Department of Education in Astana, and the lead civic education specialists from Almaty to attend the seminar. The focal point of the seminar will be a civic education textbook, authored by IFES Vice-President for Programs Juliana Pilon, to be introduced to Kazakh 11th-graders during the upcoming school year.

Election Observer Training Project

IFES is partnering with NDI, USIS, and local NGOs on the development of the Kazakhstan Domestic Election Observer Training Project. IFES Project Manager Tom Leckinger and Marat Bigaliev attended the USIS meeting in which they discussed with Internews and the NGO *Central Asia Consultants* the possibility of joint efforts without duplication of activities in the training of candidates prior to the forthcoming elections. Marat Bigaliev initiated electoral legislation research and responded to CEC recommendations on Kazakhstan. The English version of the Kazakh Election Law was scanned and updated.

Field Staff Attend Yale Central Asia Seminar

Marat Bigaliev, IFES Project Coordinator-Kazakhstan, and Lola Maksudova, IFES Project Coordinator-Uzbekistan, attended the *Yale Central Asia Seminar* in New Haven, Connecticut. Both IFES representatives successfully completed seminar discussions and final written papers.

Impact Summary

The curriculum development project is successfully furthering IFES' goals of expanding students' experience with and familiarity of democratic ideals, emphasizing the role of citizens in a democracy and increasing understanding of civil

society. The training seminars scheduled for August will impart strategies most effective in teaching such issues. The civic education curriculum marks significant progress towards generating greater awareness and motivation in young voters. Similarly, IFES programming concerning the training of domestic election observers will assist the democratic process by contributing to fair, free and transparent elections.

KYRGYZSTAN

Elections to Local Self Government Bodies

Following the successful completion of the training of core trainers and the production of the Training Manual, IFES has continued its work with the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Kyrgyz Republic on preparation for the elections to local self-government bodies to be held on 17 October. IFES is currently arranging the printing of 27,000 copies of the Training Manual. The Manual is to be printed in both Kyrgyz and Russian. These Manuals will then be used by the core trainers from each oblast during the training of the staff of the oblast-level commissions and then with the many thousands of poll workers at the local level.

IFES also produced a Local Elections Calendar that was later presented by the CEC. The CEC confirmed that the detailed document that will be most helpful to the CEC as it prepares for the election.

NGO Outreach

IFES, as a member of the Election Grants Committee, has the responsibility of recommending the disbursement of \$170,000 to NGOs for election assistance projects. Grants will be awarded through a formal proposal process and IFES participated with the group drafting documentation including the grant application documents. These grants will be of great assistance to the successful NGOs in the completion of their election activity. The election process including a better-informed electorate can only benefit from this activity.

IFES Welcomes a New Project Manager to Kyrgyzstan

Following the success of working closely with the CEC on election administration, IFES has appointed new Project Manager Kerry Heisner to oversee continuing activities in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Heisner arrived in Kyrgyzstan during the last week of July after serving for the past nine years on the Australian Electoral Commission.

Impact Summary

IFES' training manual will produce a better-trained election work force. The training, along with improved documentation of election procedures, will reflect the standards of the new electoral law approved earlier this year. The manual will also be used by observers during the election period and will increase the transparency and credibility of upcoming Kyrgyz elections. Finally, the arrival of the new Project Manager reflects IFES' continuing commitment to assist Kyrgyz development.

TAJIKISTAN

Voter Registration Project

Phase II preparations for the IFES-sponsored voter registration project is now underway. The project remains fully supported by the Government of Tajikistan and advance preparation for registering voters for the 26 September Constitutional Referendum continues with the CEC. It was agreed that the inclusion of an identification number column on the Voters' registration list was a necessary inclusion in order to avoid registration of the same person in several districts.

Voter Education Initiative

As part of IFES' voter education initiative, the office in Dushanbe received several proposals from NGO and governmental organizations including the State Committee on Youth Affairs, GBAO, Leninabad, Khatlon Hukumats, the Strategic Research Institute, the National Association of Political Research, and Women Voters. Because of IFES' respect among international organizations, Eurasia Foundation agreed to approve the NGO *Navras'* project with IFES' supervision.

Behzod Mingboev, IFES' Project Coordinator, participated in the UNMOT meeting for NGOs involved in voter education projects. During the meeting the issue of potential duplication of activities and issues of information distribution were discussed.

Margarita Khagai of the Dushanbe-based NGO *Traditions* is planning the proposed first seminar for the "School of Political Leadership for Women" project in Kurgan-Tyube in August. *Traditions* cited the need to prepare all voters to make a more informed decision during the Constitutional Referendum, tentatively scheduled for 26 September. IFES supports a citizen-based approach to voter education by working through local NGO partners, something it is prepared to do on advance of forthcoming elections and referenda.

Domestic Election Observers Training Project

IFES partners in Domestic Election Observers Training project, *Sharq* and *Traditions and Modernity* are currently compiling lists of participants for the first phase of the domestic observer training project, the Dushanbe seminar, which is tentatively scheduled to be held in September.

OSI/Soros Foundation agreed to fund the publication of the Domestic Observers manual. They recommended that Ashurboi Imomov, Head of the Law Faculty Constitutional Department develop the team to write the book. Imomov analyzed the draft created by *Sharq*.

IFES Supports Political Party Development

The Consultative Council of Political Parties of Tajikistan, created by a number of Tajikistani political parties to meet on a regular basis and develop strategies for promoting their activities to the electorate, presented its Position on Majili Oli decisions and Proposals to the Constitution. All work done

will be done on a non-partisan basis with all parties invited to participate.

The Consultative Council submitted an Appeal to the Supreme Court asking it to lift a ban on the Agrarian Party. IFES was asked by Afzali to sponsor a Democratic Party Unification Conference. According to him, all Democratic Party fractions will rejoin his party. This request was rejected due to the unilateral nature of the event. In order to prepare for the Political Party Development seminar scheduled for mid-August, OSCE requested information on Political Parties. The USAID Political Parties meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 4th.

Impact Summary

Despite difficult working conditions in Tajikistan, IFES has continued to make progress in the overall electoral development. Through the IFES-sponsored voter registration project, IFES aims to further support Tajik enfranchisement, thereby increasing public confidence in electoral system. Through domestic monitoring efforts, IFES continues to help ensure both the integrity of the electoral process and the sustainability of such projects in the future. Voter education projects that are underway will contribute to greater public participation in government.

UZBEKISTAN

Youth Summer Democracy Camp

IFES and its local NGO partner, the *Public Education Center* (PEC) successfully completed the 10-day Youth Summer Democracy Camp. About 110 students and 30 trainers participated in the Camp, which took place at the Chinaz Sanatorium in Syr-Darya. The Camp brought together talented “future leaders” from each oblast of Uzbekistan plus the Autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan to focus on democracy development activities designed to enhance their understanding and expectations for living in a democratic society.

The Camp schedule was busy with the participants starting their day early in the mornings and not finishing until late in the evenings. The Summer Democracy Camp commenced on 1 July. IFES Program Coordinator Saule Buldekbayeva and IFES/Tashkent Project Coordinator Lola Maksudova represented IFES at the opening ceremony and IFES Project Manager Tom Leckinger represented IFES at the closing ceremony and election-day ceremonies. To encourage positive interactions, the participants worked in mixed groups with others from different ethnicities, regions, languages, and educational backgrounds. Despite these differences, the group-work interactions were successful, with participants from different language groups enthusiastically communicating with each other. Every working session was interpreted in both Uzbek and Russian by the PEC trainers.

The majority of the sessions concentrated primarily on election staff and voter education material. The participants of

the project were involved in the following working sessions:

- “Why do we need elections?” Each group nominated its own candidate for presidency and prepared its own program for the election campaign.
- “The Role of Political Parties in Democratic Elections”
- “Creating the Draft Constitution”
- “Electing Members of the CEC”
- “Citizens’ Rights in Elections”
- “Creating the State Symbol”
- “Presidential Candidate Debates”

One of the most impressive parts of the project was Election Day, when camp participants elected their own Camp President. In the first round, there were three candidates and by the end of the first round, there were two candidates left: Akram Sakhbov from Termez and Leonid Geffond from Tashkent. The electorate of the third candidate transferred their support to Akram and he won despite the fact that Leonid had won the first. As a learning tool, IFES staff and PEC teachers posed mock dilemmas dealing with the election process to the students throughout the sessions, which they succeeded in resolving.

Representatives from Eurasia Foundation, OSCE, and National Center of Human Rights observed the mock elections event and USAID representatives (Alex Newton from USAID Almaty and Liana Ibragimova, USAID Tashkent) participated in the final camp session in which participants discussed their opinions on elections. At the conclusion of the camp, participating teachers from different regions throughout Uzbekistan pledged to organize similar projects in their regions, stressing that hands-on “democracy in action” activities is the most effective way for both children and teachers to learn about democracy and interact with new people from all regions and oblasts around the Republic.

Impact Summary

Through such interactive events as mock student elections, including candidate debates, campaigning, image-making, election monitoring, poll worker and election commission role-playing, and other activities, students at the summer camp had the unique opportunity to experience democracy in action first hand. Through first-hand experience of various election-related issues, by the end of the Camp, the students marveled at how much they had learned about democracy, elections and the political process. The practical skills they learned at the Camp will certainly impact these future voters of Uzbekistan and encourage them to hold their leaders accountable and demand transparency in the real process of choosing elected representatives in the future.

ASIA

INDONESIA

Post-Election Delays Raise Concerns

On 7 June 1999, Indonesia held its first free election since 1955. Some 117 million registered voters cast their ballots at Indonesia's 320,000 polling stations. The election was to distribute the 462 directly elected seats in the national Parliament (DPR) and to elect provincial and local assemblies. The Parliamentary Assembly (MPR) will also include 38 representatives of the military, the elected DPR members, and 200 appointed members chosen by provincial parliaments and by social and professional groups to be determined. This Parliamentary body will elect the next President.

However, Election Day proved not to be the culmination of the long and nerve-wracking process, but rather just one step in the process. Counting the ballots has taken an unexpectedly long time. This delay is primarily attributed to the fact that Indonesia has a highly administrative counting system in order to ensure the accuracy and fairness of the results. Thus, within each voting district, each of the political parties on the ballot has to agree to the fairness and accuracy of the results before these results can be declared official. This has led to many difficulties as some smaller parties have refused to sign off on the results, either out of a legitimate concern that the results were indeed fraudulent, or out of fear that, not having won a significant amount of votes, they would not be represented in the DPR.

As the days and weeks pass without official results being announced, public suspicion and unrest is growing. Peaceful demonstrations have been held in front of the KPU, protesting the delays and the alleged fraud. Members of the KPU have come under criticism, and some members have either resigned or threatened to do so.

At the end of July, the KPU announced that it would give the 27 parties that were still rejecting the results one week to reconsider their decision. At least 10 of the parties have said that they are willing to endorse the results in principle, if the KPU notes the violations rather than brushing them off. (*Jakarta Post*, 28/7/1999).

Currently both Megawati Sukarnoputri, the candidate of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), and Golkar's candidate, incumbent President B.J. Habibie, are seeking coalition partners to secure a majority in the MPR assembly, which will select the new head of state. Due to the delay in the counting and announcing of results, there is some speculation that the presidential elections will be delayed as well. The top four contenders for the presidency are B.J. Habibie, Amien Rais, Megawati Sukarnoputri, and Abdurrahman Wahid.

Ballot Counting Continues

The key dates that were agreed upon prior to the elections were as follows:

<i>June 7</i>	Casting of votes
<i>June 7-21</i>	Ballot counting
<i>June 28-July 8</i>	Official election results
<i>July 12-21</i>	Elected candidates announced
<i>July 26-October 1</i>	Swearing-in ceremonies for members of the MPR
<i>November</i>	Election of President by the assembly

PHILLIPINES

Curriculum Development Continues

In preparation for her return to Manila, Project Director Gwenn Hofmann finalized the second draft of the civic education curriculum and sent it to the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) and the Philippine Commission on Elections (COMELEC). Both partners were asked to review the draft and provide edits and comments, so that IFES could locate a local writer/editor and artist to develop the final curriculum book. The Notre Dame University Center for Policy Advocacy and Strategic Studies (NDU/CPASS), another IFES partner, was asked to add the cultural context for the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) so that the curriculum would reflect the needs and concerns of the Muslim population in the region.

DECS and COMELEC agreed that the content of the civic education curriculum is appropriate, but requested adjustment to the presentation to fit students and teachers in the non-formal education program. Based on other DECS non-formal education materials, IFES hired a writer/editor and cartoonist to work closely with DECS to develop the curriculum materials. These local specialists will be meeting on a regular basis with IFES and DECS to develop each lesson in a simplified format. After this is accomplished, IFES will develop a second format for in-school use.

It was determined that the curriculum as prepared is too long to produce in time for an October/November plebiscite, so the material has been reduced to three lessons to provide an overview of civil society, government, politics, and elections, and give information about the Philippine electoral process. Additional material on the plebiscite was incorporated to help students understand what it is, why it is occurring, and how to participate in it.

ARMM Election Postponed

During this period, IFES worked closely with COMELEC and the House Committee on Elections to track the pending legislation on the postponement of the September 13 ARMM election in favor of a plebiscite that is called for in the 1996 Peace Agreement. Philippine President Estrada called a special joint legislative session for July 12 – 16 to discuss the ARMM electoral situation and other issues. To prepare for the possibility of this plebiscite to expand the ARMM region to include an additional ten provinces, COMELEC and IFES discussed an alternative voter information program that could be implemented quickly should Congress pass the plebiscite legislation.

be a plebiscite, as many voters did not realize that they must be registered in order to participate.

During this special session of Congress, the House passed a version of the postponement bill and sent it to the Senate. The Senate promised to give the bill the highest priority and the President has ‘fast-tracked’ it, which indicates that he believes the bill to be essential to peace and order in the ARMM. COMELEC and IFES expect that the bill will be passed by the Senate and signed by the President in mid-August. Based on the House version of the bill, COMELEC must be prepared to hold the plebiscite in fourteen provinces within 60 to 90 days from the date that President Estrada signs the bill into law.

COMELEC faces additional problems for the impending plebiscite as it lacks sufficient funds for additional work in the potentially affected areas. In an effort to determine if the Senate would approve the House-version of the plebiscite bill, IFES discussed the matter with House and Senate staff members as well as NGO representatives. Most agreed that it was only a matter of time before the bill was passed; therefore, IFES recommended to COMELEC Chair Harriet Demetriou that she begin planning a comprehensive voter information campaign to promote voter registration and updating registration records in preparation for the October/November plebiscite. IFES and COMELEC began to review the voter registration program needs in the ARMM and the ten additional provinces affected by the plebiscite.

Voter Re-registration in the ARMM

Reports coming in from the ARMM region indicate that the problems observed during the May voter registration effort did indeed occur. Approximately one-third of completed registrations is invalid due to lost photographs, smudged fingerprints, and multiple registrants. Election Officers were delayed in their attempt to validate voter ID cards, so COMELEC decided to laminate the cards in Manila.

Although COMELEC had originally announced that voter ID cards would be available for pick-up by the end of August, the problems encountered have postponed the distribution of the voter ID cards indefinitely. Based on the current situation, all voters who participated in the May registration exercise will have to be contacted to either inform them when their personal voter ID card will be ready for pick-up or that they will have to re-register. COMELEC will also have to reinstate continuous registration in the ARMM provinces if there is to