

Europe and Eurasia (E & E)



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

JUNE 2000

IFES ELECTION ADJUDICATION CONFERENCE

On 10-11 June in Yaremcha, Ukraine, IFES hosted an international conference entitled "Election Dispute Resolution: Global Perspectives." Among the 42 participants were Supreme Court judges, Constitutional Court judges, judges from oblast courts, county courts, and courts of first instance, and lawyers from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Moldova, Tajikistan, United States, and Ukraine. Participants considered the role of the judiciary in the electoral process and its obligation to protect the right to elect and be elected.

To add an international perspective to the conference, Judge Bohdan Futey, of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, delivered a presentation on maintaining judicial independence, and Magistrate J. Jesus Orozco Henriquez, Federal Election Tribunal of



Nana Klargeoshvili, Justice of the Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Court of Georgia, delivers a presentation at the international adjudication conference. Also pictured are J. Jesus Orozco Henriquez, Federal Election Tribunal of Mexico; Vasyl Humeniuk, Supreme Court of Ukraine, and Dr. Juliana Geran Pilon, IFES Vice President for Programs.

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Mexico, spoke on the establishment of specialized judicial or administrative structures to address election disputes. Participants also examined areas of jurisdiction, burdens of proof, the right to free elections, and judicial ethics.

The primary goal of the conference was to facilitate discussion on proper procedures and improvements to legislation and practice. The format of the conference provided ample time for discussion and debate. Dr. Juliana Geran Pilon, IFES Vice President for Programs, and Judge Vasyl Humeniuk, Supreme Court of Ukraine moderated the discussion.

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EUROPE

ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN OFFICIALS

Summary

The 2000 Conference of the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO) was held in Warsaw, Poland from 14-16 June. This year's theme was "Information Technology in Elections" and was attended by more than 100 delegates from over 20 countries, as well as numerous observers and election equipment and supplies vendors. Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski addressed to the conference on day one and IFES was pleased that Richard Soudriette, Juliana Pilon, Matt Curtis, Denise Wales, and Jeffrey Carlson, as well as IFES field staff from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania were able to participate in various capacities.

This year's highlight was the addition of two new members of the Association - Turkey and Macedonia - bringing the total to 18. Several additional countries have expressed an interest in joining, and should officially join in the next year. In addition to small revisions in the ACEEEO's Charter, a new seven-member Executive Board was elected with representatives from Poland, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine and Croatia. In addition, next year's conference was announced with a focus on campaign and election finance to be hosted by the CEC of Croatia in Zagreb.

The ACEEEO Secretariat and this year's host the National Electoral Office (NEO) of Poland demonstrated their capacity to take on the great majority of conference organizing. Two key workshops were arranged by NEO and ACEEEO. The first was led by the head of NEO's technical department and two people from Poland's largest election supplies company, Prokom Software. A second workshop, led by ACEEEO Secretariat Head Istvan Zsuffa, effectively drew in a good discussion from participants, several of whom mentioned to IFES that it was one of the most valuable parts of the conference.

Exhibition

IFES led the preparation for the vendor exhibition including the recruitment of Western companies. ACEEEO was asked to recruit European companies. IFES contracted BSC to locate the exhibition space and to provide booths, signage, electricity, and extra equipment. The space layout was quite good and allowed frequent and easy access by conference par-

ticipants during breaks, lunches, and official exhibition hours. Participants expressed genuine interest in the exhibition, and the exhibitors seemed pleased with the design and the amount of attention received.



IFES President Richard Soudriette and ACEEEO Executive Director Zolton Toth at the ACEEEO Conference in Warsaw.

Joint Projects

In a collaborative effort between IFES, the ACEEEO and the University of Essex, a web-based compendium of election results and legislation was announced at the Conference. www.essex.ac.uk/elections provides a new, user-friendly website that provides hard-to-find information on election laws and election results dating back to 1990 in more than 20 Central and East European countries. It is a valuable source of information for lawmakers, election officials, journalists and researchers interested in the region. With parliamentary and/or presidential elections scheduled throughout Central and Eastern Europe this year, the site will be of great value.

ALBANIA

Revised Initiatives with the Government

A year ago, IFES undertook three initiatives with the Government of Albania: drafting a new electoral code, establishing a new Central Election Commission, and the Electoral Assistance Project. With the passage of the electoral code and the establishment of the new CEC in May, the initiatives were revised. IFES' re-designed program will continue to focus on preparations for upcoming local elections in the following way: advising the new CEC on regulatory and administrative procedures for the upcoming elections; developing and implementing with the CEC an election official training program, voter information, and candidate information programs; and the completion of the Electoral Assistance Project.

New Central Election Commission Personnel

In June, the CEC was expanded with the addition of two new members. One vacancy still exists. On 10 June, Fotaq Nano was elected as the new Chair and later in the week the Commission moved into temporary office space in the Palace of Congresses.

Administrative and Regulatory Procedures

During the month of May, IFES/Albania Program Director Dickson Bailey met a number of times with CEC members and the new Chair to discuss areas of assistance that IFES could provide. Verbal agreement was reached for the following IFES assistance:

- Develop administrative and staffing procedures;
- Budget development, identification of supply requirements, sources of supply and identification of potential donors;
- Communication and supply distribution logistics;
- Draft regulations required by the new electoral code;
- Prepare training manuals for Local Government Election Commissions, election day officials and information booklets for parties and candidates;
- Prepare Civic education campaign including the use of up to four hours of free time on public television and radio as provided by the new code;
- Development of and work with the new independent Electoral Zone Boundary Commission;
- Data base management for the new computerized national voter list and management of the data center to be transferred to the CEC from the Electoral Assistance Project later this year.

New Training and Voter/Civic Education Staff

In June, Christopher Shields joined the IFES staff in Tirana as a Voter/Civic Education Specialist. Christopher has been primarily concerned with the ongoing civic education program of the Election Assistance Project. However, he is currently focusing more directly on the needs of the CEC in preparation for the fall elections. In addition, Chris has been instrumental in the establishment of a domestic NGO Clearinghouse (40 domestic NGOs have shown an initial interest) to co-ordinate funding and programming they may pursue prior to and during the local government elections. IFES will continue to be an important resource and will partly serve as a link between the NGOs and the CEC.

In early July, Constance Kaplan will join the IFES staff for two months to develop election official handbooks and training modules for the CEC. Kaplan will also train a core group of domestic trainers who will then work with the CEC to train election officials and party representatives, the latter will be responsible for appointing pollworkers.

Complications in the Election Assistance Program

In June, the Election Assistance Program moved into a critical phase with the beginning of the door-to-door enumeration. By the end of June a majority of communities had completed the enumeration. However, this only represents 50% of the population. Political and administrative difficulties in Tirana, Durres, Elbasan, Shkoder, Kukës and Lushjë have delayed the enumeration in those localities. Enumeration is expected to be completed by 10 July in all centers except Lushjë, which may be delayed longer due to political conflict. Delays in the enumeration have put considerable pressure on the new data center. It may be difficult, for example, to produce a comprehensive national list prior to the end of August as required by law, and the voter list revision period during the first two weeks of the election campaign will be critical.

The EAP is producing a first-time voter identification card for each person on the national voter list. Because of delays in ordering supplies and current time restrictions, cards will have to be distributed during the election campaign, which will be very difficult because of the limited number of distribution centers.

In July, IFES will be involved in the development of revision procedures in co-operation with the EAP national and international staff and the new CEC. The new electoral code assigns this responsibility to the CEC along with the distribution of the ID cards. According to the new election law, the EAP must provide the CEC with a preliminary list of voters by 25 August. Although this technically signifies the end of the EAP, a transition program for transferring responsibility from the Ministry of Local Government to the CEC has not been developed. In June, IFES Program Director Dickson Bailey raised this issue with other international partners and the CEC. This matter needs to be resolved in early July and will likely focus on four areas: process for revision, ID card distribution program, timing for the transfer of the data center from the project to the CEC, and the internal capabilities of the CEC over the next few months.

Impact Summary

Over the past year IFES has had a major, constructive impact on the drafting and passage of the new electoral code and the implementation of the Electoral Assistance Project. While the EAP is ongoing and has had considerable implementation difficulties, it should continue to have a positive impact on the electoral system in Albania and provide the CEC with a strong base for the improvement of a first time national registry of voters. Based on the proposed areas of agreement between IFES and the new CEC, IFES will have a strong, meaningful role in the administration of the upcoming elections and in assisting the CEC in becoming a truly independent body, which will be a first for Albania.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)

IFES Develops Election Management Training

IFES is currently in the process of developing programs aimed at increasing the levels of professionalism in Bosnian election management and preparation for future elections. The first, an election fundamentals course, is being created so that the election administrators who are members of the Association of Election Officials of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AEOBiH) as well as local election officials will have the skills they need to manage elections confidently and interact with elected officials effectively. The training program is now scheduled to begin in February 2001.

In order to develop the program, IFES' curriculum coordinator delved into materials from the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution, OSCE audits and IFES reports on the April municipal elections, reviewed the basic Statute of the AEOBiH and a host of other IFES and AEOBiH educational and training materials.

After researching what skills and knowledge areas were most important to include in an election administrators' educational program and discussion with IFES/AEOBiH staff, the curriculum coordinator developed a preliminary outline for a certificate program in elections.

IFES' curriculum coordinator drafted a letter of invitation for instructors and applications for both potential instructors and participants in the AEOBiH Election Fundamentals Course. In reviewing the course outline, AEOBiH members have generally commented positively. Members from various parts of Bosnia have stated similar preferences that

a Bosnian national knowledgeable about election management issues should teach the course and that the course should consist of practical exercises rather than lectures.

AEOBiH member Ahmed Hamidovic of Gracinica thought the idea of incorporating computer skill development in the final project was desirable. IFES staff are looking for opportunities for long-distance/computer learning for election professionals though infrastructure for such a program is rather limited in Bosnia. Possible arrangements with the Soroš Center, the University of Mostar – East, and the University of Sarajevo have been investigated, and while all have expressed interest, there is a significant disparity in capacity. While there are less than 5 computers available for students to use at the entire University of Mostar-East, there is a cooperative distance-learning program for an English-language business class involving the University of Chicago and the Ekonomski Fakultet of the University of Sarajevo.

A second program being developed in coordination with the OSCE Election department would train polling station committee members so that they will have the preparation necessary to successfully run the November general elections. The focus of the training will be on filling out forms and packaging materials properly. Extra attention will be paid to the chairpersons and their deputies. 30 AEOBiH members have already contacted the IFES Sarajevo/AEOBiH Secretariat in order to apply for the trainer positions. IFES staff are working to coordinate timelines and activities related to the polling station committee training.

Newly Elected Municipal Governments

IFES voter education staff spent a significant amount of time in June attending inaugural sessions of municipal councils around Bosnia. In many locations, things are going well and mayors and assembly speakers have already been chosen, however in Dobož, council meetings continue to be postponed due to party differences although the council has succeeded in selecting a mayor and assembly speaker.

The municipality of Vukosavlje in the Republika Srpska has a large number of Bosniak returnees and the new assembly election results reflect this with 18 from the SD and 17 from the KCD BiH political parties. The return of Bosniaks and some Croats is well on the way. Realizing that they will have to live together again, the residents decided that there

is a need for a multi-ethnic committee to promote reconciliation and activities of interest to all three sides. The civil society building civic initiatives (GAIN) was only an idea when IFES trainers arrived in the town, but with some guidance and counseling the residents formed a 5-member multi-ethnic committee, wrote a statute and plan, and program preparations are under way. They also lobbied the municipality for meeting space. As a result, the municipality provided premises in downtown Vukosavlje.

Each of the new IFES teams in Bihac, Western Herzegovina, and Bijeljina had been assigned the task of attempting to establish 2 GAINs. This was done after the election and after they had the opportunity to visit more senior teams in the field. Each new team succeeded in establishing 2 new GAINs, adding 16 to the GAINs inventory of approximately 350. Post-election civic/voter education sessions known as GOGs were also held and the final count of this category is 917 GOGs with attendance of 10,953 between April 9 – June 21.

Problems in the Voters' Register

IFES voter education staff in Bosnia also worked to encourage citizens to make sure that their information recorded in the voters' register was accurate. This was especially important after the April municipal elections exposed major problems in the voters' register and frustrated many voters. Voters were often forced to vote by tendered ballot at polling stations unprepared for such numbers and some potential voters disgusted with these problems even decided not to cast ballots.

In Bihac, for example, teams distributed a total of 7,250 flyers in cooperation with schools that gave flyers to students to bring home to their parents, market stand operators who gave flyers to customers in their bags of fresh produce, and others throughout the municipality. Temporary voter registration checking centers were jointly staffed by IFES staff members and representatives of the Municipal Election Committee (MEC), and depending on the location, the stations were open from 8:00am to 12:00pm or 2:00pm. Hundreds of checks yielded many small changes (such as polling stations assignments) made on site and a further some referrals to the voter registration center (VRC) for more substantive changes.

The reactions of the public have been quite positive with most saying that this effort "was about time."

Some citizens, especially those who encountered difficulties on Election Day, were at first somewhat hostile until they saw that we were genuinely there to help. At least 3 came equipped with their original registration receipts which were copied and forwarded to the OSCE field office for further review. This exercise is proving that this approach is worth pursuing.

The initial success of the voter register checking stations pilot project greatly exceeded the expectations of the MEC and the OSCE field office. Some of the sites, such as the Post Telephone Telegraph (PTT) locations, have been quite busy all day long. Others, like the university and the police station/registry office, have been more intermittent. As a result of our positive experiences with the project, we have extended our participation for two additional days. Both of our partners were pleased with the news and are looking forward to our continued assistance.

The Bihac Voter Contact Pilot Project has proven to be very successful as indicated by the chart below:

Data	No. of contacts	Name was in FVR	Voted by TB	Small changes
Jun 7	308	148	16	69
Jun 8	284	260	13	98
Jun 9	293	215	2	78
Jun 12	315	245	6	53
Jun 13	304	259	3	56
Total	1504	1127	40	354
%	100	74.93	2.66	23.54

Data	Sent to VRC	Visited VRC		Total visited VRC
		New reg.	re-reg.	
Jun 7	62	6	4	10
Jun 8	55	18	6	24
Jun 9	74	9	4	13
Jun 12	69	12	8	20
Jun 13	44	15	7	22
Total	304	60	29	89
%	20.21	19.70	9.54	29.30

This project was a test of an idea regarding contacting voters at the places where they pay their electric bills - PTT offices or the electric utility office. At his urging, OSCE and the chairman of the Bihac MEC met with IFES to explore this idea. After thinking about it for a day, the MEC chairman agreed to have a representative from the MEC, along with an IFES trainer, or OSCE person, or another volunteer, be stationed at 5 locations in Bihac; two PTT offices, the university, the police station, and the ZPP (payment bureau). These individuals had copies of the Final Voter Register (FVR) and approached people as they stood in line to pay their bills or take care of other business. In 5 days over 1,500 voters were contacted and 354 of these (23%) required changes to be made on their entries. This information was passed on to the OSCE, and a message was put out urging OSCE field offices to contact MECs to undertake similar approaches before the 10 July registration deadline. This is the easiest, least resource intensive method to address a serious difficulty with the voter register that became apparent in the 8 April election here.

MACEDONIA

Technical Assessment Conducted, Preliminary Recommendations

In order to provide USAID with recommendations that may help alleviate some of the technical problems present during 1999 presidential elections, IFES conducted a two-week assessment of the election process in Macedonia, focusing on technical issues from 1999 as detailed in the OSCE's final election report and any changes planned for upcoming local elections. Through extensive discussions with all major political parties, relevant government bodies, the State Election Commission, the Supreme Court, international and national NGOs, and the media, IFES developed preliminary recommendations for assistance, which were shared with USAID prior to the team's departure.

During the course of the assessment, IFES focused on four major issues:

- The legal framework for elections to determine whether there are ambiguities in the law that allow for confusion and lack of transparency in the process as well as any initiatives to amend the local election law prior to upcoming elections. This includes provisions related to the duties and function of the SEC.
- The effectiveness of election administration

bodies, in particular the SEC, in order to determine ways in which the process can function more effectively and transparently in undertaking a wide range of electoral activities. Particular emphasis was placed on the adjudication of complaints and communication and training for lower commissions.

- The quality and transparency of the voter registration process to determine if there are flaws in the process as well as ascertain the role of each of the four different bodies involved in creating the voter registry.
- The knowledge of voters and polling boards in exercising their duties and rights on election day. This was especially important given that irregularities during presidential elections occurred primarily at the polling station both by voters as well as members of the polling commission.

IFES Proposes Technical Assistance to the State Election Commission

As a result of the assessment and the preliminary recommendations developed by the IFES team, a proposal to USAID was developed to provide short-term assistance for local elections in Macedonia – currently scheduled for September 2000 – in order to support the State Election Commission (SEC) as it administers all aspects of the process. Likewise, IFES has proposed to conduct a technical observation of the registration process in order to ascertain any flaws in its operation and develop a detailed plan for reform of the system, as necessary, as well as the transfer of the registry from the Bureau of Statistics to another body by March 2001 (as currently planned by the government). Based on the results of the assessment, IFES has proposed to: support the organizational capacity of the SEC through advising on procedural development, media outreach, and comparative election practices; through the SEC, conduct a pollworker training program through a training of trainers structure for municipal election officials, pollworkers and party representatives that may train their appointees to polling boards; develop and implement a concise voter education campaign in coordination with the SEC; and conduct a technical observation of the registration process through coordination with the four government bodies involved in registration.

Upon the approval of the proposal, IFES would be prepared to send four international consultants to Macedonia in July to work with the SEC and other electoral actors on these projects. The team is cur-

rently being compiled and will be led by an election administration specialist who will also serve as the chief of party.

Technical Assessment Report Being Drafted

The IFES team is currently drafting its assessment report, which outlines the structure of the election system in Macedonia and provides a series of recommendations for its improvements. IFES anticipates that the report will be publicly available in July 2000.

Impact Summary

The short-term assistance project that IFES has proposed would seek to accomplish several objectives as listed below in the run-up to election day. All program objectives are aimed at reducing technical irregularities at polling stations while increasing public confidence in the electoral process after the issues that surrounded presidential elections.

- Enhance the efficacy of election administration structures and personnel;
- Encourage the growth of a more informed citizenry; and
- Increase confidence in the election process through training, advising, and education.

MOLDOVA

IFES, CEC Continue to Collaborate On Civic Education Initiatives

The seminar series "Election Bodies: Implementing Citizens' Constitutional Right to Elect and Be Elected", was extended to Cahul and Taraclia counties, as well as Gagauz Yeri autonomous region and Chisinau municipality. Among the broad array of issues discussed at the seminars were:

- A new law establishing the foundations for dual citizenship in Moldova and its implications for the rights of those citizens to participate in the electoral process;
- An amendment to the Electoral Code establishing the method of stamping ballots as the official voting procedure;
- A proposal to reduce absenteeism by making voting compulsory and increasing the voter turnout threshold for valid presidential elections from 50 percent to 75 percent;
- Altering the composition of electoral bureaus such that they can effectively balance the interests of multiple parties with differing interests;
- The creation of a new category of expenses that

will cover rent for space in the polling stations' budget;

- Voting procedures for students, military personnel and hospitalized patients as voters in these categories often fail to vote for administrative reasons or vote several times in the same election; and
- An amendment to the Electoral Code that increases the number of signatures to be collected by presidential candidates on subscription lists from 20,000 to 60,000 (This issue was of particular interest to voters in Taraclia County, as it is the smallest of Moldova's counties, with a voting population of only 30,000).

IFES/Moldova partially covered the expenses for Dumitru Nidelcu's participation in the ACEEEO conference, "Information Technologies in Elections". Mr. Nidelcu's participation will prove valuable as the Central Election Commission comes closer to introducing an electronic vote tabulation system in Moldova. Finally, an IFES/Moldova staff member met with Mr. Nicolae Televco, Vice-chairman of the CEC, to discuss an amendment to the Electoral Code increasing the number of signatures required for the registration of presidential candidates from 20,000 to 60,000. Mr. Televco expressed concern that this measure will not result in fewer registered candidates, rather it will only contribute to the technical and financial problems that the CEC is currently experiencing.

Working Group Develops Law on Political Parties

IFES, its indigenous successor the Center of the Development of Participatory Democracy (CDPD), and the Ministry of Justice Certification Commission continue to sponsor a Working Group on Political Parties. The Group is nearing a final version of the draft law on political parties. On 14 June a roundtable with representatives of political parties, NGOs, mass media and academia was hosted in order to consider the proposals set forth in the draft. The Group received praise for soliciting the opinions of such a diverse assemblage. Participants showed support to a series of new provisions regarding party statutes, state support of political parties and expansion of party rights.

Certification Commission Launches Working Group on NGOs

The joint IFES/Certification Commission Working Group (WG) on NGOs began its activity this month. The Group includes representatives of NGOs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance and the

Office of the Prosecutor General. They are charged with establishing criteria for the certification of public associations; defining activities considered to be in the public interest; and reviewing the activities of currently certified organizations. The final study is to be published and distributed to domestic NGOs. It is expected that the WG will make recommendations to incorporate the certification criteria, and the list of public service activities in the current legislation regulating the activity of the third sector.

Certification Commission Hosts Regional Seminars to Bring Together Members of the Public and Non-Profit Communities

On 27 June IFES, in cooperation with the Certification Commission, hosted "The Legal Status of Public Associations in Moldova and Cooperation with Public Administration" in Cahul County. More than 40 participants from public administration and NGOs from Cahul, Tighina, Lapusna, Taraclia, and Gagauz-Yeri counties attended the seminar. Experts invited to the seminar discussed the legal framework that regulates the activity of NGOs; the role of NGOs in democratization; registration procedures and registry maintenance; the fiscal treatment of NGOs; and the certification process for public associations.

An IFES/Moldova staff member delivered a speech touching upon the concept of partnership, forms of cooperation between public administration and NGOs, as well as examples of successful partnership in Moldova and worldwide. During the question and answer session, participants sought further clarification on a number of procedural and administrative issues that emerging associations face on a daily basis.

The Public Associations series was first hosted in Balti county and has received praise from members of the NGO community. Since hosting that seminar, youth NGOs and the Balti County Council have decided to collaborate on establishing a council for youth problems that will draw from representatives of both the NGO community and public administration.

IFES Instructs Youth about the Political Process

In June IFES/Moldova, CDPD and European Stars hosted four training sessions for the youth wings of Moldova's political parties. The first session, "President of the Republic of Moldova," was attended by 35 party representatives. The participants were briefed on the rights and responsibilities asso-

ciated with the office of the President. During the course of the discussion, concerns were expressed regarding tensions between the Parliament and President over proposed alterations to the Constitution. Despite the assignment of the role of mediator in such conflicts to the President, there have been few signs that compromise will be achieved. The participants were issued two brochures published by IFES and CDPD: *Administrative Liability*, and *Contentious Business Falling Within the Competence of Administrative Courts*. Other issues addressed this month included: the powers of the executive branch, recent amendments to the Electoral Code and the role of the ministries.

Local NGOs to Co-sponsor Mass Media Conference

On 14 June, IFES/Moldova together with the Committee for Freedom of the Press and LADOM hosted an international conference "Electoral Campaign Coverage in Mass Media." Guest speakers included Oleg Panfilov, Director of the Center for Extreme Journalism (Moscow), and Dindinel Mitu, Chairman of the League for the Human Rights (Iasi, Romania). Both highlighted the experiences of their own countries in defining the relationship between the media and the electoral process. Participants debated numerous aspects of electoral campaign coverage, from the financial to the professional. There were also complaints of manipulation of journalists during the electoral campaign. Each participant was issued a copy of the recently published guide: *Republic of Moldova: 50+1 journalists. Top of mass media - 2000*, which was printed with the financial support of IFES/Moldova. The conference was written up in Issue no. 23 of Dialog newspaper.

IFES Continues Regular Radio Broadcasts

IFES/Moldova and LADOM continued to produce the *Voice of the Voter* and *Civic Voice* radio series' on Chisinau's ANTENA C Municipal Radio Station. On 1 June, the *Civic Voice* broadcast was dedicated to International Children's Day, focusing on children's rights in general and the plight of children today in Moldova. On 2 June, the program featured an interview with Justice Anastasia Pascari of the Constitutional Court, discussing the legal foundations of electoral rights in Moldova. On 5 June, the *Voter's Guide* edition was broadcast. The show featured Vice-Chairman Nicolae Televco of the CEC, who spoke about the CEC's program of training electoral officials at the local level and the importance of the IFES/CEC seminars in that process. On 12 June and 16 June, IFES and LADOM

broadcast two editions of the *Voice of the Voter* series on the ANTENA C Municipal Radio Station. The 19 June program featured Justice Gheorghe Susarenco of the Constitutional Court, who spoke about the results of the international conference on electoral courts recently organized by IFES in Ukraine. Justice Susarenco described the role of electoral courts in Moldova as inadequately defined by current laws and made several suggestions for improvements.

Impact Summary

In the spirit of fostering transparency and consensus in the process of building political institutions, IFES/Moldova continued its work with the CEC. The seminar series "Election Bodies: Implementing Citizens' Constitutional Right to Elect and Be Elected" seeks to extend the debate over institutional development to local and regional officials, representatives of the media, political parties, and NGOs. Soliciting the opinions of all participants in the electoral process at this stage of development ensures a greater degree of understanding and confidence, and establishes an environment of participation at the local level.

This spirit of partnership is reaffirmed in parallel activities with the Ministry of Justice and the Certification Commission. The seminar series entitled "The Legal Status of Public Associations in Moldova and Cooperation with Public Administration" seeks to establish the framework for cooperation between public administration and associations. The regional seminars are informative in nature and provide a platform for the exchange of ideas between local officials and representatives of the NGO community.

While IFES wants to make available all of the resources at its disposal, it also hopes to instill a sense of ownership among the numerous organizations and institutions that contribute to the formation of new legal and political structures. To this end, IFES is sponsoring two working groups in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Certification Commission. These groups have been established with the explicit purpose of further codifying the laws regulating political parties and NGOs. Both groups endeavor to draw upon the resources of the political, non-profit and academic communities in crafting a fluid and transparent regulatory structure.

The joint conference on "Electoral Campaign Cov-

erage in Mass Media" encouraged further national debate over the role played by the media in elections. Through conferences like this, IFES and its partners hope to foster a better-informed and self-reflective media apparatus. The intent is ultimately to improve the quality and content of political information available and promote an increase in public demand for such information. In addition, IFES continues to broadcast non-partisan civic and political content through the *Voice of the Voter* and *Civic Voice* radio programs. These programs contribute to the development of an informed electorate and seek to engender an atmosphere of civic participation.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

IFES/Russia to Release a Training Video on Investigative Journalism

Work has been continuing at IFES/Russia on the production of the training video "Elections and Investigative Journalism". This work is implemented within the framework of the IFES Media and Elections Program. The production team spent five days filming in Samara the last week of the Gubernatorial elections. This was a good opportunity to record the electoral process, including interviews with the public relation companies, campaigners, and voters. IFES consultant Mariela Lopez spent three days in Samara with the film crew.

The production company is currently reviewing the tapes and will start filming sequences, involving actors next week - as the video will "enact" those sections connected with violations. At present arrangements are being made for an interview with the Chairman of the CEC, Alexander Veshnyakov. A rough cut will be ready by 25 July.

IFES/Russia Final Seminar

Prior to the official closure of IFES Moscow Representative Office, scheduled for 31 July, the IFES/Russia team has undertaken a large-scale regional seminar entitled "Improving Election Legislation and Election System of the Russian Federation." The seminar will be held in the Baikal Business Center of the city of Irkutsk on 20-23 July, 2000. So far 56 individuals have confirmed their participation, including Chairman of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Russian Federation, Alexander Veshniakov. Representatives of election commissions of 30 subjects of the Russian Federation have also demonstrated their interest in the

event and confirmed their participation. The seminar is a joint effort between IFES/Russia, the CEC of the Russian Federation, Institute for Election Systems Development, and the election commission of the Irkutsk Region. IFES will be 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" Project Manager, Paul De Gregorio, IFES election administration expert, and Igor Ivanov, IFES "Media and Elections" project advisor and former TV Center Legal Department Head.

Vladivostok City Duma Elections Failed Again

Both Vladivostok city Mayoral elections and run-off elections to the city Duma were held on 18 June. It was reported that two hours prior to the polls closure 33.3% of eligible voters took part in the Mayoral elections, automatically rendering them valid from the viewpoint of participation as the local law sets the voter turnout threshold at 25%. About 7% percent of voters had cast their ballots earlier for various reasons.

Vladivostok has not had an elected Mayor since the late 1998 when Viktor Cherepkov was removed from this position by the first President of Russia decree. Yevgeny Nazdratenko, governor of the region, appointed then Yuri Kopylov as Acting Mayor.

Among the five candidates who competed for the mayor's post were State Duma deputy and former Vladivostok mayor Viktor Cherepkov, Valentin Lognenko, "Primorye Beer Industry" General Director, Sergey Grats, leader of the "Consent" regional public organized movement, and the current mayor, Yuri Kopylov, who is openly supported by the local governor, Yevgeny Nazdratenko. The incumbent Yuri Kopylov won the election.

The run-off elections to the city Duma were conducted in eight districts and failed in all of them. According to the press service of the local election commission, the 25% threshold was not reached in at least six of the eight districts. Only in one of the districts the turnout was 37.4%.

This attempt to form the city Duma is eighteenth in a row. City of Vladivostok is the only center of the subject of the Russian Federation with no representative body of local self-government. The candidate

elected to the city Duma on 18 June will be the 14th Duma deputy whereas it must have 22 deputies. For the city Duma to be legitimate and able to begin working it must consist of at least 15 deputies. According to the press reports, elections in Vladivostok were accompanied by a number of small violations.

The representative body of power in the capital of Primorye has not been functioning since October of 1993 once the first President of Russia abolished the Soviets in the country by one of his decrees.

Six Former Presidential Candidates Owe Funds to the State Budget

Six out of 12 former presidential candidates have so far not returned the funds they had received from the state budget to conduct their election campaigns. This follows from the financial report of the CEC of the Russian Federation on expenditure of federal budget funds on the preparation and conduct of the presidential elections.

According to the law, each candidate running for presidency received 400,000 rubles from the state budget. So far, only half of the former candidates have paid that amount back: Vladimir Putin, Genady Zyuganov, Grigory Yavlinsky, Aman Tuleyev, Alexey Podberyozkin, and Umar Dzhabrailov. The total amount owed by former presidential candidates to the state equals today 1,786,081 rubles.

UKRAINE

IFES President Visits Kyiv

IFES President Richard Soudriette visited the IFES office in Kyiv 18-21 June. While in Ukraine, Mr. Soudriette attended several meetings with government officials, including Mykhailo Riabets (Chairman of the Central Election Commission), Deputy Alexandr Lavrynovych, Deputy Vladimir Shishkin, and judges of the Supreme Court. He also met with the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer and USAID representatives. Discussions focused on the current political situation in Ukraine, the future of IFES activity, and cooperation with partner organizations.

After participating in the international conference, "Election Dispute Resolution: Global Perspectives," Dr. Juliana Geran Pilon also visited the Ukraine field office. Dr. Pilon discussed civic education initiatives in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with the CEC Chairman, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S.

Embassy (formerly known as the United States Information Service), and Professors Sergei Riabov and Sergei Kiselyov of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. While in Ukraine, Dr. Pilon also met with members of Parliament and representatives of USAID to consider future programmatic activities in Ukraine.

Democracy Camp Preparations Underway

As an extension of the pilot civic education program initiated in the fall of 1999, IFES, in cooperation with the pilot schools and Sergei Kisselyov of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, has organized a democracy training camp for student government representatives to encourage participation and prepare the students for their role as community liaisons. During the camp, which is to be conducted in Ostior 1-16 July, students will receive training in fundraising, organizing committees, determining the needs of the student body, contacting and cooperating with local businesses and government officials, and setting realistic and achievable goals. In addition to the NGO training, students will participate in a series of activities designed to encourage trust, cooperation, and confidence among the members of the student government.

In June, IFES Civic Education Consultants Christina Houlihan and Kimberly Warren arrived in Kyiv to assist with preparations. Houlihan and Warren, along with four local trainers and nine teachers from the pilot schools, will facilitate the training workshops. Trainers will utilize role-playing and group discussions, as well as other participatory teaching methods, as a means to increase interest in and retention of information presented during sessions.

The CEC Conducts Organizational Meeting for Civic Education Working Group

On 5 June, the CEC gathered representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Department of Education for Kyiv City, the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, and IFES to discuss the formation of a civic education working group. The CEC plans to develop a civic education curriculum for students in the upper grade levels to familiarize them with the Constitution, election legislation, and the electoral process. Through this working group, the CEC hopes to develop the curriculum and teacher and student manuals by the end of the calendar year so that the material can be introduced in schools throughout the country during the third and fourth quarters of the 2000-2001 academic year. Chairman Riabets referred to the IFES pilot program and expressed his desire to incorporate the project into

the CEC's program.

International Adjudication Conference in Ukraine

IFES hosted an international conference on election dispute resolution 10-11 June. Judges and lawyers from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Moldova, Tajikistan, United States of America, and Ukraine traveled to Yaremcha for the two-day conference. Topics of discussion included maintaining judicial independence in election dispute cases, burdens of proof, areas of jurisdiction, the development of alternative bodies to consider election disputes, the right to free elections, and judicial ethics. The IFES/Ukraine office is currently compiling transcripts and presentations for a post-conference publication that will be distributed to all participants. For more detailed information on the conference, please refer to the section entitled "Election Dispute Resolution: Global Perspectives."

Impact Summary

The democracy training camp for students helps to ensure that students are equipped with the skills necessary to interact with other students and community members in a profession and productive manner. The pilot civic education program as a whole aims to encourage active and informed participation of youth in the electoral process and community affairs. 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 regional and national issues. Additionally, the student governments will demonstrate to members of the community that a unified effort can effect change. The success stories of the schools will encourage participation of others, including parents and teachers, as it is IFES' hope that communities will rally around the schools and youth desire to improve their collective situation.

YUGOSLAVIA (KOSOVO)

Registration

Earlier this year, the Joint Registration Task Force (JRT)'s Turnout Committee estimated that 1.2 million Kosovars were eligible to apply for civil and voter registration. In the short period since the beginning of registration at the end of April, more than 800,000 Kosovo residents and over 20,000 Kosovars currently outside the province have applied to register. According to a recently conducted Gallup poll, approximately 67% of the people surveyed reported that they had already registered.

Roughly 80% of those polled declared themselves well informed about the registration process, and 93% stated that they believed registration was an important process.

Reviews and Inquiries

Though less than 10% of all applications necessitate review, this still requires a significant amount of time and resources from municipal record officers working in municipal record centers. In order to stem the growing backlog of review cases (more than 20,000 cases), municipal record officers have been mobilized from locations with less review cases to those requiring more assistance, but with current international staffing numbers, the size of this backlog is likely to continue to escalate. The Documentation Project has asked for additional UN volunteers to address the backlog problem and has also considered asking KFOR soldiers with administrative skills to assist in the processing of backlogs.

Though collecting and sorting all of the review and inquiry cases will continue to require a great amount of time and effort, case officers' inquiries into applications have shown that the most common cases involve female applicants between the ages of 16-25. Approximately 90% of the cases collected so far involve applicants for whom it has been difficult to prove their identities.

Documentation

Two major concerns have highlighted the need for document security. First, a comparison of the current inventory of birth, marriage, and death registers in the town of Leposavic's municipal inventories with inventory lists from last December lends credence to the suspicion that certain municipal records have been sent to Serbian authorities. Second, there have been several cases of suspicious documents presented at registration sites in different areas. In response, a report has been submitted to the Director of the UN Civil Administration's Civil Document Section, and a profiling system is being developed to identify villages and municipalities where it is more likely for registration irregularities to occur. The system will be tested in Srbica/Skenderaj before being implemented in other regions. The Documentation Project is still waiting for security-related equipment such as file cabinets, smoke detectors, and fire extinguishers.

Minority Participation

While the number of Kosovar Serbs registering re-

mains low, there have been some indications that an increase is possible. In mid-May OSCE Head-of-Mission and senior members of the JRT met with Serb political leaders in Leposavic who indicated they might be willing to participate in the registration and elections process. They were to meet with their supporters and other Serb political leaders before making their decision. The JRT Legal Advisor has prepared a legal analysis on how such participation could be accomplished and JRT Field Operations is working on ways to accommodate these potential registrants as Phase I of civil and voter registration comes to an end.

Meanwhile the JRT Minority Outreach Officer has been meeting with various groups of Serbs, primarily in the Zvecan, Lipjan, and Mitrovica municipalities. Most of those with whom she met are not interested in registration despite their knowledge of the process. Serbs in larger towns are well aware of the process and have chosen not to participate. Serbs in smaller villages have less information but were nonetheless uninterested.

OSCE Ambassador Daan Everts went to Prizren to meet with representatives of the Turkish community on 21 June to discuss the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the Turkish community to take part in the registration process. They requested Turkish to be recognized as a working language by UNMIK/OSCE, particularly in the registration and election process. Ambassador Everts explained OSCE policy towards the issue was that duplicate Turkish language application forms could be submitted by Turkish applicants, but these duplicate forms are to be used jointly with an official, bar-coded registration application form. Indications have been mixed as to whether this concession will be sufficient to allow mass Turkish participation in the Registration process. The JRT has also designed and translated the Turkish-language registration application form, and is working to make it available as quickly as possible. Additionally, Turkish-speaking registration staff will be available in the relevant registration centers to facilitate the timely completion of these forms.

In the Gnjilane region, the participation of Ashkali and Roma residents in Urosevac/Ferizaj is still relatively low. The main reasons are poverty, illiteracy, and a lack of information and security. JRT staff met community leaders to increase information about the registration process within their population. They agreed to register on Monday, 29 May

in the presence of journalists. They also agreed to look for five volunteers from each community to be briefed by JRT members and to spread relevant information within the different groups. Participation from the Gorani (Muslim Slav) communities has been encouraging so far.

Legal Assistance

IFES and the JRT are working to ensure that the large amount of biometric data being made available by applicants during the registration process is kept safe and confidential. IFES continues to provide legal counsel to the JRT Data Protection Officer to address the legal and rights-related ramifications of different aspects of the registration process, such as notifications, reconsiderations, inquiries and appeals. This is an important component especially in light of the continued time constraints on and changing nature of the registration process. IFES has also provided legal commentary on the draft municipal election regulations and public scrutiny of the voter registry, especially in regard to its adherence to international law. IFES recommended changes including amendments to the legal framework of the elections and changing the scope of voter registry inspection.

Election Operations

The Central Election Commission

The Central Election Commission (CEC) met for the 10th time to consider the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG)'s recommendations on an appropriate electoral system for the municipal elections. The CEC decided to recommend the Ste.-Lague formula for proportional representation for both practical purposes and to guarantee minority representation. Other recommendations included placing women high on party candidate lists to ensure representation in elected bodies and the use of open-list ballots for in-Kosovo voting but closed-list ballots for absentee voting.

The CEC also adopted the Electoral Rule on Domestic Observers in June. This Rule specifies that UNMIK-registered domestic NGOs may be accredited to observe the registration and election process and that other groups, such as political parties or citizens' initiatives, may nominate representatives to observe as well. All observers wishing to be accredited must be registered voters not currently standing for election. These observers, integral to ensuring the impartiality and credibility of the electoral process, will be trained by the Department of

Election Operations to fulfill their election-related duties.

The CEC is also considering proposals for civil and voter registration of homebound, disabled, hospitalized and imprisoned citizens as well as a proposed Electoral Rule on Media and nominations for Deputy Commissioner for the Election Complaints and Appeals sub-Commission (ECAC).

IFES has also been working with the ECAC to draft rules of procedure, as well as to develop an effective administrative system for the appeals process. Procedures have been drafted on appeals for those denied registration on the voters' and/or civil registry, complaints alleging violation of electoral laws, party codes of conduct, and objections to placing or retaining names on the voter registry. Some recommendations for improving the appeals procedure include the consolidation of the appeals process, increased transparency, and ensuring distinctions between party agents and observers.

Domestic Capacity Building (DCB)

The Domestic Capacity Building Division (DCBD) and IFES Information Technology specialists have designed a Municipal Election Commission (MEC) member candidate's database. The MEC database will allow the DCBD to track the application forms of potential MEC members. The CEC will draw from this pool of candidates to establish the MECs by the end of July.

IFES drafted a paper on capacity building concerning matters that need to be addressed to ensure that the MECs can fulfill their duties during the electoral process and become part of a permanent professional electoral administration. Topics addressed in the paper included the legal and institutional status of the MECs, their responsibilities, their relationship with the media, political parties and candidates, election officers and the CEC, as well as long-term capacity building and training.

The DCBD has also moved forward in the design of its training plan. DCBD will work with the Training and Media Department to create a MEC training program that will ensure that proper media guidelines are set, and that the MECs will be able to handle the anticipated significant press interest in a coordinated manner. IFES also proposed that a tie-in to OSCE Spokesman Roland Bless and the Media Center be created for the election period.

To further the professional development of an electoral administration, DCBD also arranged for the CEC Secretariat to attend the ACEEEO conference in Warsaw.

Political Party Services (PPS)

A total of 22 political parties, a coalition of 6 parties, 2 citizens' initiatives and 16 independent candidates submitted a total of 266 applications for certification in all 30 municipalities by the June 19 deadline. The number of parties applying to contest ranges from 19 in Pristina to 1 in both Zubin Potok and Zvecan, averaging slightly less than 9 parties per municipality. The parties contesting in the most municipalities are the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) and the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo coalition (AAK) both with 29, and the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) with 27. There are several middle-sized parties, as well as 6 minority parties: 2 Turkish parties, 2 Bosniak parties, one Ashkali party, and the Democratic Reform Movement of Muslims.

PPS has also laid some groundwork for the preparation of candidates' lists. A letter in Albanian, Serbian, and Turkish was sent to all political parties that have applied to take part in the elections alerting them to the need to immediately start looking for candidates for the elections. A draft 'candidate profile' was included in the letter; including advance notice on the need to submit women candidates.

Public Information

The public information section has been working to address the needs of the minority communities. Flyers with information about registration in Turkish and Bosniak are being distributed in the appropriate areas of Kosovo, and KFOR has been distributing JRT-produced posters and flyers to the Serb enclaves. Additional advertisements appear in the Turkish and Bosniak bi-weekly newspapers and Serbian dailies.

The Public Information Section of the Public Information and Training Division reorganized and expanded into 6 sub-sections including Design, Radio, Television, Print, Outreach/Events, and Translation. In the process, the staff complement rose from 8 to 19. This expansion was undertaken in concert with the design of an enhanced Public Information campaign in an effort to ensure all persons from Kosovo are informed and encouraged to register.

Radio spots have been produced weekly in conjunc-

tion with UNMIK Blue Sky Radio and Radio 21. The spots are produced in Albanian and Serbian and are sent to radio stations throughout Kosovo for broadcast.

Information Technology

ID Card Production

IFES is also working on the issue of production and distribution of ID Cards. Production of ID cards had been scheduled to commence on June 22, but was delayed due to a reconstruction in the SAGEM database. Approximately 600,000 of one million cards should be produced for distribution prior to Election Day.

In light of the difficulties to produce the ID cards, an alternative for checking identification has been created. Individuals would use the registration receipt or other documentation to prove their identity against their information on the provisional voter register. Procedures to deal with registrants who have a registration receipt but do not appear on the voter register need to be designed. Should this be the case, the applicant will have to fill out a new application form but no biometric data will be collected.

Impact Summary

Since the commencement of registration in late April, more than 800,000 Kosovars have applied for registration, with almost 730,000 applicants already being placed on the registry. Although nearly 70,000 cases are still under review, the JRT has increased its inquiry personnel and anticipates that the review process should be completed by the end of August. As a result of efforts to complete the civil registration by the July 15 date, IFES has worked with the JRT to ensure that Serb population and other minority groups are receiving updated and timely information on registration. There have also been continuing efforts to encourage the Turkish population to register. To help motivate the group, election officials have proposed that duplicate Turkish language application forms could be submitted by the Turkish applicant with an official bar-coded registration application form. The JRT anticipates that with the continual outreach efforts, 80% of eligible voters will be registered in time for the fall municipal elections.

YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA)

Pre-Election Assessment Conducted

In June, IFES conducted a two-week assessment in

the Republic of Serbia, FRY in order to analyze the opportunities for technical assistance in preparation for potential local and/or federal elections in the Fall. IFES met with most major opposition political parties, non-governmental organizations active in elections, local government officials, some local election commissioners, media representatives, representatives from the international community in Belgrade, among others. The assessment team traveled to several municipalities outside of Belgrade in order to determine whether there was room for assistance at the local level. Repeated attempts were made to meet with the Federal Election Commission, Republican Election Commission, and Supreme Court without success. Likewise, repeated attempts to schedule meetings with governing parties both in Belgrade and in local branches were not answered.

Political Uncertainties and Preparations

Many questions still remain as to what kind of (if any) elections will be held and who will participate in federal elections; whether Montenegro and Kosovo will take part. These questions have a definite and immediate impact on determining assistance. Assuming they are called, local and federal elections may be held separately or simultaneously. Simultaneous elections could impede attempts to work with current Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) since the Federal Election Commission can replace them.

Preparations for elections by opposition political parties appear to be well underway. Training and educational activities have been well planned and are commencing. Among Serbian NGOs, there is considerable interest in assistance and partnership and they have also begun planning and preparations for their work during the election period, such as election observation, training, and voter education. Some municipal election commissions have also begun planning for a proactive program to inform voters on the elections and provide training for their pollworkers in addition to other activities designed to encourage public participation and confidence in the election process.

Impact Summary

Based on the findings of this assessment, IFES will prepare a final report and a series of recommendations for technical assistance. Given the challenges with operating in Serbia due to political considerations, the possibilities of off-site assistance should be considered. Based on the meetings that the IFES assessment team conducted, it was able to get a

good sense of the level of preparation underway and the expectations of non-governmental organizations, some MECs, opposition political parties and the media on the conditions for future elections. Unfortunately, it was able to assess the level of technical preparations by the higher election commissions or government coalition parties.

CAUCASUS/CENTRAL ASIA

ARMENIA

IFES/Armenia Meets in Parliament on Election Code Amendments

Jeffrey Swedberg of IFES/Armenia met on June 19 with Victor Dallakian, Chairman of the National Assembly Committee on State and Local Issues. Dallakian indicated that parliament would take up amendments to the universal election code in September and complete them in November 2000. He asked for assistance from the international organizations, including IFES, for recommendations on four major issues which were points of contention when the Universal Electoral Code was being debated in 1999 and appear likely to be so again later this year.

IFES/Armenia and its counterparts UNDP and OSCE worked together to produce a response. The issues are:

I. The ratio of proportional versus majoritarian seats under current law, of the 131 seats in the parliament, 75 (57%) are elected in single mandate majoritarian districts, and 56 (43%) are elected on proportional lists. For a party to form a faction in parliament, it must receive at least 5% of the proportional ballots cast. In the 1999 election, 6 out of 21 registered parties cleared this barrier.

The greatest criticism against the current ratio comes from parties with relatively small factions in the parliament, the majority of whose members were elected on party lists. Supporters of proportional majority say the system fosters the development of political parties in Armenia and makes vote manipulation more difficult. But critics who usually come from the ruling establishment counter that Armenian parties are still too weak to be entrusted with governing the country.

II. The principle of the formation of electoral committees presently, the Armenian CEC is composed of 13 members. Three members are appointed by the government; five members are appointed by the

parties that have factions in the parliament; and five members are appointed by the first five parties not in the parliament that present at least 30,000 valid signatures. The 11 regional election committees are formed in the same manner. Each REC member can appoint one member of all the PECs in his or her region. A new CEC is formed at the same time as the commencement of the pre-election campaign for parliament.

International observers have noted a number of problems with this system:

- The current system of CEC formation with respect to party representation is vulnerable to manipulation. Small political parties can be represented on the CEC, while a party with a much broader support base may be left with no representation because it lost a race for signatures.
- It was widely acknowledged in 1999 that the CEC was unable to credibly check the required sample of the signatures presented.
- Parties have the ability to remove appointees to the electoral committees, even during the pre-election period. This allows the independence of committee members to be compromised when administrative and partisan interests collide.
- Committees at all levels need more time to organize and systematize the entire process. Reconstituting election committees too close to the election day invites confusion in the administration of the election process.
- There is a practice of bargaining amidst the parties over appointments to precinct commissions in strategic areas, creating the impression of political manipulation of PECs.

III. Voter lists under the current Code, voter lists are compiled and maintained by community leaders. The communities post the lists 40 days before the elections and make corrections based on citizen appeals for 35 days. The Code specifies that the CEC is to establish the procedure for the compilation of the voter lists in communities. In practice, however, the CEC has largely left the voter list compilation process up to the individual community leaders. This has proven to be one of the biggest continuing problems with election administration today.

- The procedures issued by the CEC have yet to establish a consistent process for the compilation of the initial voter list by the community leaders.

- The initial lists provided by the passport offices to the community leaders are often incomplete and not up to date.

IV. Military voting currently, members of the military and their families are included on the voter lists of the nearest precinct to where they are stationed. If a military unit is more than 50 km from the nearest settlement, they form their own precinct (there was only one such precinct in 1999). The military and Internal Affairs servicemen are to enter the precinct “not in marching line and unarmed.”

Given the age and circumstances of most military personnel, however, they are particularly vulnerable to instruction on voting by their commanding officers. While not marched into the polling station itself, units are generally marched up to the grounds of the precinct and moved through the voting process by military order. There is often no clear break between the military organization of the conscripts and the free exercise of the right and opportunity to vote.

Constitutional Court Nullifies Results of District 5 Parliamentary Elections

On 20 June, the Constitutional Court threw out the results of the 21 May by-election in District 5 and called for a new election – on 9 July. The decision was made on claims lodged against the Yerevan Regional Electoral Commission by two defeated candidates who highlighted a number of irregularities. An investigation to be conducted by the prosecutors’ office. The court took a week to consider an appeal filed by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnak) member Kim Balayan and Chairman of the United Progressive Communist Party of Armenia Vazgen Safarian who claimed widespread problems with the handling of ballots. The Court heard testimony from members of precinct election committees 55, 56, and 62 where the highest number of violations was registered. Under the election code, the judgement of the Constitutional Court is final and cannot be appealed.

The final results released by the REC indicated that independent candidate Yeghia Shamsyan had won by a 91 vote margin, with 43 registered protocol inaccuracies. However the Court noted that the REC failed to deliver 1,369 ballots to the PECs; that 50 signed ballots had been stolen off a PECs table prior to the election; and that two ballots from one precinct ended up in the ballot box of another. The

Court found that the number inaccuracies was significantly higher than the vote margin and that the election would have to be rerun.

On the whole, the process was gratifying in that the Court uncovered and publicized significant violations and took appropriate measures. While it is unclear whether the “authorities” had a clear favorite or a stake in the outcome of this election, Shamsyan had joined the presidentially-aligned Stability bloc in his brief time as a registered deputy, while Balayan was the consensus candidate of the political opposition. Balayan’s proxies did their job well in verifying violations and Balayan, a lawyer, put on a powerful courtroom appearance. By contrast, the election committees came off poorly. The Yerevan REC failed in its most fundamental of tasks, delivering the proper number of ballots to the PECs. At least three PECs filed incomplete protocols and one PEC actually allowed signed ballots to be stolen, opening the door widely to potential voter fraud. It appears that election committees were not adequately trained and prepared.

Impact Summary

IFES/Armenia continues to work closely with UNDP and OSCE, to provide legal advise and commentary to the Parliament as they modify the UEC. If accepted, the amended UEC will be keeping with international standards in preparation for future elections. In addition, IFES/Armenia observed the results of the parliamentary elections for the purpose of supporting the effectiveness of its programs in support of Armenia elections.

AZERBAIJAN

Parliamentary Election Legislation

In June, IFES continued to provide support in preparation to the parliamentary elections in November 2000. In support of legislative change, IFES provided ongoing consultation and revision support on the Parliamentary Election legislation, continued advisory work to the opposition and to local democracy NGOs. In addition, IFES began preparation for the implementation of a municipal governance civic education program.

IFES Consults on CEC Law

During June IFES/Azerbaijan continued to meet with the CEC staff on a regular basis as the staff began to prepare timelines and procedures ready for the commencement of the new CEC in July. In accordance with the agreement between OSCE and

the President’s Office the law was to be changed to delete reference to CEC members not being allowed to be members of, or join, political parties. Only one of four references seems to have been deleted.

IFES Civic Education Project Began

The municipal governance Civic Education activity began with the arrival of the CE specialist, Elsie Chang. The project will deliver civic education about municipal governance and fall parliamentary elections at the community level. One aspect of the project will be the assessment of local municipal officers and the design of training for elected officials. The activity will strengthen citizens' understanding of their role in municipal governance.

IFES/Washington Briefs World Bank

IFES Senior Advisor Phylis Greenfield meets with the World Bank team on the Caucasus to discuss Azerbaijan’s Fall Parliamentary elections, civil society development, election reform and local governance. During the discussion areas of mutual interested were examined, particularly civil society building as the World Bank will be establishing a project in Azerbaijan. The two organizations discussed country needs, cultural considerations in project methodology and training design to disseminate information and develop understanding in citizens outside Baku on democratic principles, citizen rights and responsibilities in addressing reform.

Azerbaijan Admitted into Council of Europe

On 28 June, Azerbaijan was admitted membership into the Council of Europe with the request that the Azerbaijan government continue to release political prisoners, to struggle against corruption, to progress toward establishing a transparent and accountable system of government in preparation for the November Parliamentary elections, and address greater transparency and democratic principles in the legislation development process and election administration. Membership is considered an important step forward towards the sustainability of democracy in Azerbaijan.

GEORGIA

Precinct Election Results Posted on Internet

On 12 June following weeks of intense pressure from IFES and USAID/Caucasus, the Central Election Commission (CEC) made public precinct level election results from the April 9th Presidential elections on its 2000 Presidential elections website. This move marked the first time that the CEC has

released complete results from each of the 2600 election precincts in a national election.

The results are available in English at <http://www.cec.gov.ge/index.htm>. (In order to view the results, from the main page click on "Protocols by Districts," and then use the inset window to choose a district. The precinct voting statistics are in the grid beneath the scanned image of the each respective district protocol.)

In support of the April 2000 Presidential elections, IFES provided technical and financial assistance to the CEC to create an elections website that would increase transparency in election administration. In addition to increasing public access to election results, the site also publicizes CEC resolutions and decisions, includes copies of laws governing elections and provides contact information of district and precinct election commissions. With this data, NGOs and parties will be able to compare the information amassed during their observation of election day voting with that provided by the CEC.

Assistance To CEC Internet Network

To reinforce the increasing transparency reflected by the CEC's posting of complete election results for public inspection, IFES plans to work with the CEC in coming months to further develop the CEC internet network. This joint activity will strengthen the sustainability and security of the existing network and enable the CEC to fully utilize its benefit, technologically and in terms of the added transparency it lends to the system of elections.

Based on joint IFES-CEC planning sessions held in June, IFES will assist the CEC over a three month period from July to September to train relevant CEC Computer Department staff involved in the maintenance of the CEC website and databases.

Parliament May Consider Election Legislation

Since passage of amendments to the election laws governing the April Presidential elections earlier this year, the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania has repeatedly stressed that a new election code to govern future elections is a priority. This movement gained further momentum in June with the release of the OSCE/ODHIR Final Report on the Presidential Elections on 9 June. The OSCE/ODHIR Report recommends that, "election legislation should be further reviewed with the aim of establishing a comprehensive election code in compliance with international standards and practices."

With local elections anticipated in November 2001, a growing number of Parliamentarians doubt that the political consensus necessary for crafting a new election code-- acceptable to a broad majority of election stakeholders-- is possible amid current tensions. Hence, the ambitious legislative effort to draft a universal or unified election code bringing together the three existing election laws under one law will likely include amendments to the existing Law on Local Elections as an interim step toward a new election code.

Legal Assistant Joins IFES/Georgia Staff

To bolster its ability to provide legal assistance in the area of elections, a Georgian lawyer, George Baratashvili, recently joined the IFES project team in Tbilisi. Baratashvili holds a degree in International Law and International Relations from Tbilisi State University and a Masters of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law from Lund University, Sweden. Baratashvili has previously held numerous positions at the Council of Justice, serving most recently as the State Representative of Georgia to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

As Legal Advisor, Baratashvili will work collaboratively with the CEC Legal Department Staff and with Members of Parliament and their staff on matters related to election law development over the coming months. In addition, given his strong background in human rights law and previous governmental experience.

Assessment of Civic Education Needs

In an effort to prepare for a regional civic education activity planned for later this year, IFES/Georgia Program Assistant Maya Gogoladze has undertaken an assessment of the civic education experience and capacities of NGOs and civic organizations in and around Tbilisi. Gogoladze has canvassed representatives of more than 20 organizations ranging from democracy and human rights NGOs to women's rights and IDP organizations. The objective of these meetings was threefold; to learn from organizations' previous experience in popular civic education activities, to determine what information is needed at the local level and lastly, to identify potential strategic partners.

Impact Summary

As a result of IFES' continued efforts to encourage more transparent administration of elections in Georgia, complete final election results were made available for public inspection via the internet. This

historic development sets a new standard for governmental institutions seeking to abide by the newly enacted General Administrative Code and importantly allows political parties and NGOs to fulfill their roles as the guarantors of free elections. The new IFES/Georgia Legal Advisor increases the effectiveness of legal assistance to the CEC and to the Parliament and furthers efforts to facilitate open dialogue and encourage an exchange of ideas on election law reform among political parties and NGOs.

KAZAKHSTAN

Civic Education and Curriculum Development

In June IFES/Kazakhstan cooperated with the Ministry of Education, Almaty City Department of Education, Altynsarin Institute, and local and international NGOs to develop a revised textbook course outline and civic education initiatives. Work continued on preparing the IFES civics textbook for use in pilot schools across the country in fall 2000. The text and course outline have been undergoing an adaptation to include more locally-produced, Kazakhstan-specific material, including graphics and illustrations. Additional text on the practice of democracy in other countries has also been prepared. Each theme of the revised textbook will include a hands-on practical exercise for students that will afford them a greater opportunity to grasp concepts of democracy and civil society in action. A Russian-language translation of the revised text was begun in June, and will be followed by a rendering in the Kazakh language.

In June it was established that the current size of the textbook would be approximately 300 pages long. In the coming month the revised text will be formally reviewed by the Altynsarin Institute, which is expected to provide final recommendations to the Ministry of Education on usage. Altynsarin was confident that it could complete the review within two weeks of receipt.

IFES contacted the Ministry of Education in Astana in relation to distribution of the book, identity of schools and other, key post-development, post-printing issues. The Ministry will provide IFES with a draft list of “profile schools”; of this number, IFES and the University will jointly determine which will be chosen for distribution.

Local Civic Education Organizations

IFES met in June with a number of local civic edu-

cation and youth organizations to develop joint projects targeting young persons.

IFES/Kazakhstan Project Manager Eilis Ward met with Elena Sadovskaya of the Center for Conflict Management (CCM) to discuss civic education, aspects of the IFES textbook project and the possibility of future collaboration. Sadovskaya stressed the importance of providing key information in the textbook that can be used by teachers to promote discussion in the classroom on the reality of contemporary political life in Kazakhstan. She also stressed the importance of comparative material and of raising critical questions directly and of providing training for teachers, factors all being addresses by IFES.

Eilis Ward met with Murat Auezov and Saule Kalikova of the Soros Foundation—Kazakhstan. Soros provided good information on teacher training in advance of textbook distribution, and offered assistance on issues of distribution and the review process. It was a very useful and co-operative meeting and one that could lay the basis for functional cooperation on the textbook and its wider distribution throughout Almaty. IFES/Kazakhstan Country Coordinator Marat Bigaliev met with representatives of Street Law to discuss their distribution network in relation to their textbook projects and gained valuable information on distribution strategies.

ACE Project

Distribution of the ACE vote-counting module has begun. Five copies have been distributed to each of the IFES/Central Asia offices for local distribution to NGOs involved in electoral work, with the remainders retained for the IFES/Almaty Resource Center. Funding for the translation and printing was provided by the Eurasia Foundation.

Impact Summary

IFES continues to cooperate with the Ministry of Education, Almaty City Department of Education, Altynsarin Institute, local and international NGOs to develop the textbook and civics course materials. Revisions to the text were finalized in English, with the addition of material provided by local authors as well as IFES Vice President for Programs Dr. Juliana Pilon. Translation into Russian began with the goal of forwarding all materials for review in July. Extensive efforts were made to consult with local experts and academics in the compilation of Kazakhstan-specific material for the text as well as

the development of student exercises. These hands-on activities, to be included along with each major textbook theme, and to be introduced and moderated by teachers, comprise the focal point of the IFES interactive approach.

During the month, IFES also focused efforts on developing new civic education initiatives and strategic partnerships with international and local NGOs in order to increase youth participation in social and political life. These partnerships will continue to be cultivated as IFES formulates its student-based civic education program for the summer and autumn.

KYRGYSTAN

Student Summer Camp Project in Kyrgyzstan

Arrangements were completed for the Student Democracy Summer Camp scheduled for 3-10 July at Issyk-kul. Kyrgyz State National University (KSNU), under the direction of Edyl Moldoev, was selected by IFES as a co-organizer of the event. The agenda was finalized and participants were selected via a competitive examining process. While most participants will come from the ranks of first-year college-level students, there will also be a small group of 11th graders in attendance (the last grade in the Kyrgyz high school system). The Summer Camp will host close to 200 students, selected to represent urban and rural areas in Kyrgyzstan, and will provide hands-on instructional experience in conducting elections and understanding electoral laws and practices. The Camp will encourage students to take an active interest in community involvement through exposure to the concepts of civil society and volunteerism. As many of the students from the university level represent educational faculties, the Camp will challenge them to evaluate and assess materials being used to teach civics and citizenship classes in high schools colleges. Summer Camp students will introduce what they learned at their respective universities in the Fall and talk further about introducing civic education (based on their experiences at the Camp) into secondary schools and communities back in their local villages.

As a follow-up project, select students will instruct high school students in pilot schools in how to conduct mock election campaigns, which are proposed to take place in parallel with the Kyrgyz Presidential elections.

Focus Group Project in Kyrgyzstan

Working in a contractual partnership with IFES, INFOREX Survey Research Group Director Dr.

Vladislav Pototskii concluded a series of twelve Focus Groups for students and teachers on the topic of civic education. Pototskii presented IFES with a final report detailing the research's findings. The Focus Groups showed that students are extremely free thinkers and very interested in the concept of democracy, though lacking a broad knowledge of democratic practices and human rights. Respondents acknowledged that, though several different civics courses currently exist, a new, uniform course of civic disciplines is lacking, and cited this as an area in need of improvement. Students appeared well informed about the education system, but less so about the role of civil society. Students and teachers expressed a desire to know more of the mechanisms of democracy and the need for hands-on learning techniques.

IFES collaborated with INFOREX in 1995, 1996 and 1998 on public opinion surveys. The final report on the Focus Groups represents an important prelude to proposing a curriculum development pilot project to introduce a new textbook and course outlines. Preliminary discussions with Education Department authorities have already commenced.

Election Reform in Kyrgyzstan

The Election Law Working Group (WG) was appointed by President Askar Akayev, and consists of 21 members, most of whom are parliamentarians, working under CEC Chair Suleyman Imanbayev. The WG is to review the Election Code and recommend changes addressing the problems which marred the 2000 Kyrgyz parliamentary elections. The CEC expects to conclude their review of suggestions and present their report by mid-July. The WG will then prepare a report of recommendations to parliament. IFES continues to meet with CEC and WG representatives to discuss changes to the code that would improve election administration.

Training for Oblast Election Officials

IFES Project Manager Ched Flego assisted the Central Election Commission with the training of selected Oblast and City of Bishkek election administrators as the first training project in the lead up to the presidential elections. These officials will become the trainers of the Rayon elections commissions, who will in turn train the Precinct officials. In conjunction with the UNDP and OSCE, IFES has proposed to continue support and assistance of the CEC in this training program. It is hoped a wider training program it is hoped will result in more effective control of the Precinct election committee's work on polling day.

Impact Summary

IFES' work in June has been aimed at increasing the professionalization of election administration, the transparency of the election process, and the civic education of students in the Republic. IFES has focused on providing professional assistance to the CEC including the updating of poll-worker manuals, voter education posters and training. In the post parliamentary election period IFES has supported the review of the election code with suggested changes complying with international standards, augmented by the training of staff. Through activities such as the Summer Camp, the focus groups, and the civic education curriculum development proposal, IFES efforts are increasingly being directed at assisting NGO development and introducing democratic practices to a younger generation of voters and citizens.

TAJIKISTAN

Focus Group Research Completed

IFES' local NGO partner, SHARQ, completed work on a series of 12 Focus Groups involving teachers and students of 11th grade civics classes. The Focus Groups were conducted as part of an IFES initiative to propose and develop a textbook on civics and democracy for possible inclusion in a pilot civic education course for 11th grade students in Tajikistan. Empirical data on the level of satisfaction with current courses and materials on civics, democracy, governance, elections and civil society was required to demonstrate the need for the proposed project. Results from the research, conducted in Leninabad Oblast, Dushanbe city, and Khatlon Oblast, revealed that, while students and teachers alike have a favorable view of democracy, there lacked sufficient information on "modern" democracy and the rights of citizens. Respondents also did not have a understanding of what non-governmental organizations are or what function they play in society. Inadequate knowledge of the election system was also demonstrated. The results clearly showed that a curriculum project involving introduction of a textbook and course outline would have high use value, and IFES worked in June to informally share the idea with key members of the Majlisi Namoyandagon, presidential apparat and others prior to making a formal proposal to the Ministry of Education. Reaction in preliminary discussions has been positive. SHARQ also provided IFES with photos, transcripts and audio/video materials from the conducting of the Focus Groups.

Political Party Round Table

IFES/Tajikistan Political Party Consultant Philip Griffin, cooperating with the OSCE field mission, led

a Round Table discussion with local representatives of political parties at the Lakhuti Theater in Kurghon-Teppa, Khatlon Oblast. Griffin traveled to Kurghon-Teppa and Dusti to evaluate the development of political parties in the post-election period. With academician Asherboi Imomov moderating the discussion, citizens were given an opportunity to ask questions of representatives of six parties, leaders of Viloyat and district hukumats (local government), deputies of the Majlisi Oli from this region, and representatives of societies and public organizations such as the "Women's Committee" were invited to this forum. Representatives of foreign, international, Tajik central and regional newspapers, radio and TV were also invited.

While the party representatives took time to discuss their overall platforms, the audience pressed for more information on concrete issues of local interest. Questions included the existence of factions within the Majlisi Oli and laws proposed to improve the economic situation in the country. Many participant presentations began with the outlining of problems in Khatlon Oblast such as: suspended enterprises, unemployment, decrease of cotton yield, poor living standards and education and medical issues. The event allowed for a candid exchange of viewpoints, and was hailed as a model to be emulated for future forums.

Philip Griffin traveled to Dusti, in southern Khatlon Oblast, to meet with local party representatives and assess the current political and local governmental situation. A round table discussion among party representatives was proposed for future consideration.

Women's Gender Inequality Conference

IFES partnered with the Dushanbe-based NGO *Traditions and Modernity* to conduct a conference titled "Gender Inequality in Politics: Lessons of the 2000 Elections and Strategies for the Future." The one-day event included 36 participants from the parliament, presidential apparat, international organizations, mass media and women's advocacy organizations. Three major issues were discussed at the event: the role of the state and civil society in increasing women's leadership; the participation of women in elections; and the role of political parties in granting opportunities for women's participation. A series of recommendations for increasing women's involvement and representation in the political process were established, as well as a series of suggestions on how to generate interest among women to be active in civil society. A draft of the final list of recommendations was sent to government representatives, mass media, and private

organizations. Further follow-up discussions were planned with those in attendance, which reflects the commitment of the government and private organizations to actively promote women in the political and social sphere.

IFES met with the Tajik NGO *Law and Democracy Center*, the First Press Club, and members of the Majlisi Namoyandagon to discuss producing a series of interviews with deputies in the parliament as informational sources for viewers. The viewers would have an opportunity to phone the television studio during a live broadcast and pose questions to the deputies, who would be selected each week.

In a separate project, IFES and SHARQ discussed plans to produce a “Who’s Who” manual for both the new Majlisi Oli and the Government of Tajikistan to serve as reference manuals for constituents, foreign organizations and ordinary citizens. The reference manuals would include contact information, personal profiles, and other pertinent information for easy access by the reader.

Election Adjudication Conference

Three representatives from Tajikistan participated in a Conference on the “Adjudication of Electoral Disputes” that took place in Yerimcha, Ukraine. Deputy Justice Israilov of the Supreme Court was joined by Judges Rakhmonov (Dushanbe) and Kalendarova (Khojand) at the event. They were joined by colleagues from other CIS and Eastern European countries to share experience and lessons learned in the resolution of electoral complaints and violations their respective countries. Deputy Justice Israilov brought samples of Tajikistani legislation to share, and presented the Adjudication Manual developed by IFES for use in the Majlisi Oli elections of February 2000. The three returned to Tajikistan with new ideas to be shared with other colleagues, and a sense of partnership with judges from other countries. IFES is in the process of following up with these and other judges, in partnership with the ABA, to determine how complaints stemming from the February elections were ultimately resolved in the legal system. IFES and ABA sponsored a series of regional discussions with judges on election issues prior to the elections.

Impact Summary

IFES worked in June to promote dialogue among political parties on a regional basis and encourage them to be responsive to constituents by providing greater one-on-one access in round table formats. With the understanding of the democratic process being such a pertinent theme, IFES and SHARQ completed Focus

Groups designed to provide information on the current state of civic education in 11th grade classes, with the goal of eventually introducing a hands-on pilot project for students at this level as part of a new focus on civic education. IFES continued in June to support women’s advocacy and generate an audience for women’s issues among members of parliament and the executive apparatus.

UZBEKISTAN

Democracy Summer Camp Scheduled for July

IFES/Uzbekistan staff, along with local NGO partners, finalized plans for a Students Democracy Summer Camp scheduled for 17-24 July, 2000 at the Oltin Dan Conference Center in Karakalpakstan. IFES representatives led a coordination team that focused on the development of a detailed action plan for the Summer Camp, including the selection of student, teacher and NGO participants, the organization of a training program, and creation of a mechanism to monitor student activity and development once the camp concludes.

During the week-long camp, the participants, including teachers and students from Karakalpakstan, Bukhara and Kokand, will be involved in a series of lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities concentrating on issues such as human, political and economic rights, the role of the citizen in a democratic society, civic responsibility and activism, and improving personal communication and leadership skills. The Nukus-based NGOs “Shagali” and “Wild Nature of the Aral Sea Region” will conduct workshops on the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and on ecological problems in Karakalpakstan, two topics of particular relevance. In addition to the lecture and discussion activities, students will conduct an abbreviated presidential election campaign, whereby participants will play the roles of political party candidates and leaders, media representatives and election commission officials. The election activities will culminate in a mock election, to be held on the fifth day of the camp. Representatives from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Embassy, and other international organizations operating in Uzbekistan have been invited to serve in the capacity of “election observers” on Election Day.

Civic Education Curriculum

IFES continued work on a textbook as part of the 11th grade civic education curriculum pilot project to be launched in September 2000. After identifying four pilot schools to participate in the curriculum project, IFES began preliminary organization of a teacher

training seminar that will be conducted in August. Local contributors have drafted sections of the textbook on the history, political system and voting practices of Karakalpakstan. In July, the textbook will be translated into Karakalpak and Russian, with an Uzbek edition coming out later. Printing is expected to commence in late July.

IFES anticipates that the curriculum will be considered for inclusion into the mainstream curriculum of Karakalpakstan after the pilot project has been completed. In addition to the curriculum, IFES has proposed to sponsor a network of Student Action Committees (SACs) during the Fall 2000 semester to allow students hands-on experience in addressing problems of local concern with elected officials. Preliminary discussions have been held outlining additional areas of potential cooperation between educators, local officials and NGOs on these civic education projects.

Impact Summary

In June IFES focused its efforts on civic education, yielding the potential for sustainable impact. The Democracy Summer Camp will help to increase the civic education of 11th grade students, encourage cooperation between local NGOs, educational institutions and governmental bodies, and promote the professionalism of participating teachers. Both the Summer Camp project and the civic education curriculum will assist in increasing the civic awareness activities and education of young persons, thereby instilling in them a sense of civic responsibility. Monitoring will allow further analysis of how effective such programs are, a necessary component for improving results and providing critical feedback.

ELECTION DISPUTE RESOLUTION: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

(continued from page 1)

Impact Summary

Through this conference, IFES assisted in the strengthening of the electoral process by providing a forum for discussion and exchange among high-level judges from Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States. Many of these countries are facing similar challenges in addressing the resolution of election disputes. Several of the participating countries have recently held elections, and the conference provided an opportunity for these judges to

share their experience and suggest general improvements to electoral legislation with the intent of establishing more consistent and clear procedures.

It is IFES' hope that the open discussions of the conference will help participants more clearly define their role and responsibilities in the electoral process, and upon return to their respective countries, they will initiate a dialogue with other actors in the process to reach a consensus on acceptable procedures and their implementation. By familiarizing judges with their role, IFES helps to ensure that judges are better prepared to meet their constitutional obligation and act independently. As the judiciary in many of the countries represented at the conference strives to establish its credibility as an independent body, standardized application of the law assists in increasing the public's confidence in the courts as an effective and impartial branch of the government.



Judge Bohdan Futey, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, is interviewed by the local television station in Ivano-Frankivsk before departing for the international conference "Election Dispute Resolution: Global Perspectives."

This international conference on resolving election disputes was a first step in developing a more efficient legal culture for elections. IFES hopes that subsequent training programs will increase the level of professionalism among judges at all levels and ensure that procedures are applied consistently throughout the country and at all jurisdictional levels. The recognition and application of standard procedures contributes to the development of a strong electoral system that protects the expression of the people's will while increasing public confidence in the process and the judiciary.



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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