

# The Europe and Eurasia Report



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

January 2001

## MOLDOVA PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Moldova's second parliamentary elections since the adoption of its constitution in July of 1994 are set to occur on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. Originally set for the Spring of 2002, these early elections represent the culmination of a tumultuous year in Moldovan politics and a hopeful end to an ongoing conflict between the legislative and executive branches. Alongside the traditional issues of economy, public health, foreign policy, education and social welfare, Moldova's electorate will have to consider the potential impact of their votes on the fundamentals of their constitution.

### *A Conflict Unbecoming*

The catalyst for early parliamentary elections traces its origins back to a conflict that appeared to reach its height in July of 2000. After nearly a year of debate, which saw President Lucinschi on one side calling for a national plebiscite to affirm his drive for the consolidation of executive power, and several parliamentarians on the other calling for his resignation, Parliament passed its 7 July series of landmark constitutional amendments. The legislation was widely viewed as a decisive victory for its backers in Parliament, significantly expanding Parliament's mandate, granting the legislature the authority to choose the President and generally reducing the Presidency to a largely ceremonial position. Legally, the President had been outmaneuvered.

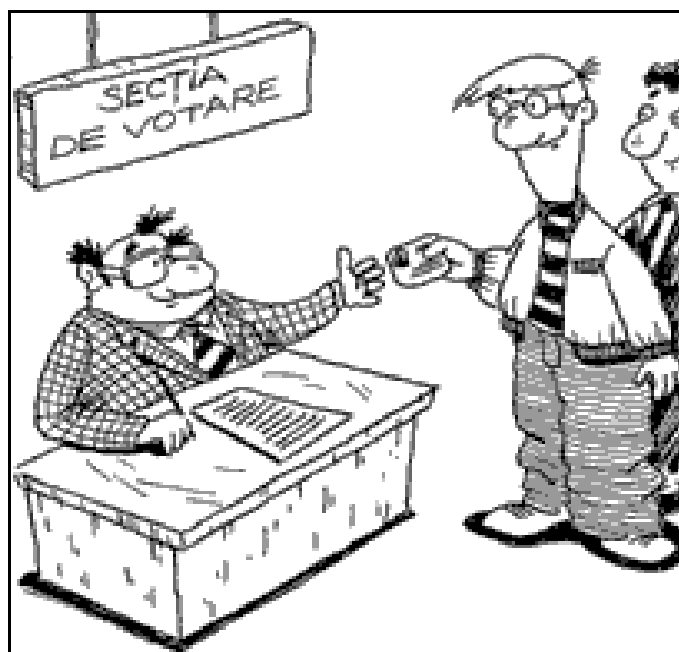
The apparent root of the conflict between Parliament and the executive lay in Lucinschi's desire to push forward with an aggressive series of pro-European and pro-market reforms. Particularly in regards to budgetary and privatization issues, Parliament had difficulty achieving consensus and rejected Lucinschi's proposals on several occasions. Inability to reach agreement on these and other issues led to a cooling of relations with the IMF and undermined the President's overtures to European partners. Frustrated with an uncooperative legislature, Lucinschi called for expanded executive power and a nationwide referendum to confirm the public's confidence in his methods. Without the backing of Parliament, however, even the calling of a referendum was outside of the President's mandate. More than a rejection of President Lucinschi's agenda, Parliament's 7 July amendments were an attempt to limit any attempts by the executive to expand the breadth of its mandate.

## *Presidential Elections 2000*

After a brief standoff between the two branches, President Lucinschi promulgated the law establishing Parliament's supremacy, and new procedures for electing the President were adopted in late-October. For the first time, Moldova's Parliament prepares to elect a president out of the legislature. As Lucinschi continues his calls for either a nationwide referendum or early parliamentary elections, the special session of Parliament on electing the President is set for 1 December. The Communist Party submits Vladimir Voronin as its candidate and the liberals nominate Constitutional Court Chief Justice Pavel Barbatat. No one has been able to predict what is about to happen.

Vladimir Voronin emerges as the clear favorite in the 1 December elections, garnering 48 votes to Barbatat's 35, but the results are thrown out by the Constitutional Court on the basis of violations of the "secret ballot" rule. Several parliamentarians had refused to cast their votes outside of the view of

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IFES/Moldova voter-education cartoon (Artist: Alex Dimitrov)

*Elections*

*Governance*

*Civil Society*

*Rule of Law*

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### EUROPE

#### **ALBANIA**

##### *New Voter Registration Project (VRP)*

IFES' current primary initiative with the Central Election Commission is the Voter Registry Project (VRP). This project is designed to update and verify the list of voters prepared for the Local Government elections held in October 2000. At the request of the international community, IFES prepared a project proposal for consideration by USAID, OSCE and the CEC, which was accepted in December 2000.

##### *Development of the VRP Work Plan*

During January, IFES/Albania staff focused on the development of a detailed work plan for the VRP. Senior IT consultant Enrique Saltos spearheaded negotiations with the project partners. As part of the needs assessment, the Government of Sweden sponsored an 'audit' of the existing voter registry data base to further identify deficiencies in the data base and make recommendations. IFES, OSCE and USAID also began holding weekly meetings to co-ordinate the development of the work plan and final project proposal. In addition, IFES staff met daily with CEC officials.

##### *Changes in CEC Membership*

Changes in the membership of the CEC in January delayed the finalization of the project proposal. The chairman of the CEC resigned his position, along with the vice chair and one other member. Replacements had not been named by the end of the month. USAID and OSCE officials undertook further discussions with UNDP regarding its role in the project, specifically about their ability to distribute voter identification cards in time for the June 2001 national elections. Voter card distribution could become complicated by delays in implementing the verification of the voter list, due to changes in the CEC and the national census that is to be undertaken in the month of April.

##### *New Staff and Office Space*

Due to the increased workload of the IFES/Albania office, additional international staff have been hired. In addition to the senior IT consultant, IFES has contracted a training specialist and hired a Deputy Project Director. The training specialist and Deputy Project Director will begin work in February. To accommodate the needs of additional staff, the IFES office was moved to a larger premises in January.

##### *Impact Summary*

IFES/Albania has agreed to take technical responsibility for the verification of the voters list. This task will constitute a central focus of IFES for the coming months. The list will be a major political issue as well as a significant technical challenge for Albania. Consequently, IFES will be working closely with the CEC and the international community to

ensure the smoothest possible implementation of the project. An accurate voters list accepted by the political parties and the international community will be a major factor in determining the acceptance of the national elections results as fair and equitable.

## MACEDONIA

### *Working Group on Electoral Reform Established*

On January 11th, the Minister of Justice, Xjevdet Nasufi, established a working group on electoral reform. The creation of such a group was discussed at the post-election seminar conducted by IFES in November of last year. It is composed of government officials, academics, and experts in the field of elections.

The Working Group will review the current legislative framework for elections. On the basis of its review, it is expected to prepare texts of proposed revisions to current laws, and/or prepare texts of new laws. In the course of its review, the Working Group will test the current voters list for accuracy.

IFES has agreed to support the Working Group by providing written materials and consultants in the areas of voter registration, database analysis and testing, electoral systems, election law, and electoral administration. IFES will also provide meeting and work space. By the end of January, the broad outline of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Justice and IFES had been agreed upon. It was anticipated that the first meeting of the group would be called in early February.

## MOLDOVA

### *IFES & the CEC*

With parliamentary elections to be held on 25 February, January was largely devoted to making preparations for the campaign. Specifically, the CEC and IFES agreed on the following joint activities:

- Publishing a revised and updated version of the Electoral Code;
- Organizing a seminar in conjunction with the Supreme Court of Justice on electoral disputes;
- Organizing a training seminar for poll workers nationwide;
- Organizing 12 training seminars for poll workers in each of the Moldovan counties;
- Publishing a brochure to include all the relevant CEC resolutions; and
- Publishing a complete list of contestants running in the 25 February parliamentary elections.

In addition, IFES plans to produce technical and motivational posters, as well as TV and radio spots. IFES had a series of meetings with the CEC in January to gain their approval on

design and content. IFES/Moldova Project Director Charles Lasham and Senior Program Coordinator Igor Botan attended all CEC sessions in January.

### *IFES Observer Training*

IFES/Moldova has received several requests for assistance in training domestic and international observers. IFES' primary partner for the training and deployment of domestic observers will be LADOM. IFES and LADOM will cooperate to ensure that there are adequate resources for domestic groups interested in observation activities.

Additional requests for briefings and training have come from the international community and political parties. Project Director Charles Lasham spoke at a briefing of the OSCE Long Term Observers regarding the election system and the electoral code in Moldova. The Deputy Head of Mission at the US Embassy, Norm Olsen, and Administrative Officer Jim Kessinger also contacted IFES regarding training for Embassy staff in the week prior to the elections. Finally, on 25 January, Senior Program Igor Botan participated as a trainer in a session for the observers of the Party of Rebirth and Conciliation. More than 80 people participated in the training and IFES gave out copies of the Observer Guide to each attendee.

### *Supporting NGOs*

This month, IFES/Moldova continued to provide training to various domestic NGOs on registration and certification procedures. On 16 January, IFES/Moldova in conjunction with the Certification Commission of the Ministry of Justice, held a training seminar entitled "Public Benefit Certification." More than 30 organizations seeking public benefit status attended the seminar. Experts provided guidance on procedures for acquiring the status, principles of transparency, partnership building between public administration bodies and public benefit organizations, and taxation of NGOs. Participants were asked to fill out questionnaires evaluating the quality of the training and the majority praised the event, asking organizers to continue to arrange seminars of this sort.

The NGO Working Group continued this month to elaborate a draft chapter of the Civil Code focusing on non-commercial organizations. The draft is intended to synchronize provisions in the Civil Code with those in the draft law on non-commercial organizations (a joint project of Contact Center, IFES/Moldova and Ministry of Justice). Public associations membership was reviewed during the January session.

### *IFES Media Activities*

This month, IFES/Moldova and LADOM agreed on the production of Civic Voice radio broadcasts during the electoral campaign. It was agreed that the shows must be both informative and unbiased. Members of the CEC will be invited to each broadcast.

Also in January, the Electronic Press Association "APEL"



*IFES/Moldova and Certification Commission experts at the NGO Certification Seminar*

invited IFES to jointly organize a seminar "Mass Media in 2001 parliamentary elections: regulations, best practices, political bias." In addition to providing financial assistance, Project Director Charles Lasham, Senior Program Coordinator Igor Botan and Mass Media Program Coordinator Gabriel Mumjiev participated in the 26 January seminar. Mr. Lasham and Mr. Botan both gave speeches at the event. The conference was attended by over 70 participants.

Project Director Charles Lasham granted two interviews to Moldovan television and one to a commercial radio station about the role of the media in elections. In addition, Senior Program Coordinator Igor Botan gave an interview to 2 local radio stations in which he discussed the aims of the media seminar. Finally, Resource Center Coordinator Tamara Chitoroaga was interviewed by NIT television about the IFES/Moldova website. Launched in October, the site had received 3,000 visitors by January. The interview was broadcast in Romanian and Russian on the evening of 31 January.

#### *Electoral School*

IFES/Moldova conducted two sessions of the Electoral School this month. The classes were open to youth members of Moldova's political parties. One session focused on "Electoral Campaign for Parliamentary Elections" and the other on "The Manipulation of the Public Opinion in Elections".

#### *Impact Summary*

IFES' focus this month shifted to providing technical assistance in preparation for the 25 February elections. Assistance to the CEC in training its polling station officials, printing laws and guides, and advising on international standards is aimed at establishing a more professional and transparent elections administration body. Ensuring better compliance with international standards also helps to improve voter confidence in the electoral process. IFES observer training activities yield similar results. Through the establishment of a permanent and professional observer presence, increased pressure is placed on candidates and administrative bodies to abide by Moldovan legislation and international standards.

Through its website and resource center, IFES/Moldova has increasingly become recognized as a valuable source for information on the electoral process. By providing information to political parties, election administrators, the media and citizens, IFES improves recognition of domestic and international norms.

Finally, IFES and the Certification Commission continued this month to conduct training seminars for NGOs. The seminars will prove useful for NGOs as they move through the certification process, which will serve to legitimize the activities of the non-governmental sector.

## **ROMANIA**

#### *IFES Supports Local NGO Initiative*

As IFES election activities came to an end in December 2000, IFES began concentrating on the creation of a permanent Central Election Bureau (BEC) through its support of an NGO advocacy campaign. With the support of its Romanian partner, CENTRAS, IFES' aim is to assist the Pro Democracy Association (PDA) in coordinating with government efforts to pass a bill on a permanent election administration.

During the month of January, PDA, with technical assistance from CENTRAS, worked on conceiving a bill for a permanent BEC. IFES and CENTRAS are also providing logistical and technical assistance for the upcoming roundtable on the "Importance of Establishing Permanent Electoral Institutions in Romania." The roundtable is scheduled for 26 February in Bucharest and will include government representatives, former BEC members, local and international NGO representatives, and members of the media.

*Impact Summary*

IFES and its local partners anticipate that the NGO lobbying effort and sponsorship of the February 2001 workshop will encourage the adoption of legislation for a permanent election bureau by the newly formed government.

**UKRAINE***IFES Completes Survey Report*

In January, IFES, working with Survey Analyst Thomas Carson, Ph.D., completed its seventh nationwide survey report. The report, entitled *Attitudes Toward Change, the Current Situation, and Civic Action in Ukraine*, gauges public understanding and opinion of the transition process and the government's rating on moving Ukraine toward political, social, and economic stability. Differing slightly from past reports, this survey more thoroughly examines citizens' relationships with elected and appointed officials, while studying the level of public participation in civil society.

Dr. Carson will travel to Kyiv in mid-February to present the survey findings to representatives of USAID, the U.S. Embassy, and international and domestic NGOs. The release of the English language text is scheduled for February, with the Ukrainian translation following shortly thereafter.

*Impact Summary*

The administration of a nationwide survey allows IFES, as well as other US and international organizations, to assess public opinion regarding the political process and measure Ukrainians' knowledge of and access to information concerning their rights and the law. As similar surveys have been conducted since 1994, the report examines trends that have become apparent over the past several years. In addition to serving as a useful source of unbiased information, the data helps organizations evaluate the impact of their programming and identify areas of future assistance.

**YUGOSLAVIA (KOSOVO)***IFES Opens New Office*

IFES opened an office independent of the OSCE in Pristina in early January. The new office will enable IFES to implement its post-election assistance program targeted at the professional development of the thirty Municipal Election Commissions (MECs). The new office is located at Skenderbeu 22, Prishtina 38000; Email: IFES@ifes.ipko.org. Denise Wales, Project Coordinator, Pauline Dion, Capacity Building Advisor, and Refki Morina, local Program Assistant, serve on-site.

*IFES Finishes Survey on Electoral Administration*

IFES Consultant Hermann Thiel finished the draft report on an IFES post-election survey for Kosovo entitled "Electoral Administration and Performance: Findings from a Survey on the October 2000 Municipal Elections in Kosovo." Initial

report findings conclude that, despite technical problems on Election Day, those closely involved in the process were reasonably satisfied with the administration of the October 2000 elections.

The survey was administered during the first two weeks of December 2000 to all Municipal Election Commission (MEC) members; representatives of all political entities, including candidates representing parties, independent candidates and citizen's initiatives; as well as all 106 NGOs that fielded observers in the October elections. The purpose of the survey was to assess the performance of electoral administrators in Kosovo's first election and to determine lessons that can be learned to improve future electoral administration.

The survey touched upon a wide spectrum of issues related to election administration; from the clarity and ease of the voters lists to fairness of the election campaign. The survey further analyzed the relationship between the Central Election Commission and Municipal Election Commissions, training and preparations of MEC members, cooperation with international election personnel, as well as the relationship between MEC members and the community.

Findings further confirmed that although international assistance is still necessary for future elections in Kosovo, local electoral administrators should have increased responsibilities and functions, and that greater transparency within election administration is required. More specifically, all representatives participating in the survey conclude that more specialized training for MEC members, including outreach to community members, is essential before general elections take place later this year. The survey report will be made available in English, Albanian, Serbian and Turkish and will be released to the public in early March.

*Conference Preparations*

IFES/Pristina, in coordination with USAID, finalized the conference agenda and proceedings for the upcoming Electoral Administration conference to be held at the Grand Hotel, Pristina February 8-10, 2001. The three-day conference entitled "The Electoral Process in Kosovo: Next Steps," will bring together MEC members, political party representative and independent candidates, as well as NGO representatives from around the Province. The conference is intended to provide an open-forum on the electoral process in Kosovo and its advancement.

*Impact Summary*

IFES anticipates that the findings from the survey, together with lessons-learned from the upcoming IFES sponsored Post-Election Administration conference in Pristina will be used to develop professional training seminars for MEC members and overall improvement in election administration. The series of seminars will be organized by IFES/Pristina and conducted in all five regions over the next two months.

## CAUCASUS/CENTRAL ASIA

### **ARMENIA**

#### *IFES Negotiates Sub Grant with Civic Partner*

IFES and the Women's Republican Council (WRC), an Armenian non-governmental organization, have signed a sub-grant agreement for Fiscal 2001. The agreement provides funds for the WRC through October 2001 to implement activities in keeping with the IFES citizen participation project. This cooperation will target the women's demographic, empower women to engage in public life through such mechanisms as public advocacy, and fortify the leading role of an indigenous women's organization as a respected source of public policy information and as a mechanism for public advocacy.

The Women's Republican Council, with roots dating back 13 years to the Perestroika era, is one of Armenia's most prestigious women's and civil society organizations. Throughout its existence, the WRC has emphasized the role of women in a democratic society. The WRC has also been at the forefront of efforts to bring together citizens and public officials through a variety of forums conducive to the growth of a civil society. Its methods have included: town hall forums, NGO coalition-building, strategic partnerships with international organizations, publications, debates, and monitoring activities.

The WRC has maintained a solid reputation of nonpartisanship and independence. Its network of regional volunteers can be found in every corner of Armenia and gives the WRC a level of visibility and recognition that few other civil society organizations can match. Through this partnership, IFES will gain the cooperation of an established, well-regarded organization represented in over 80 communities, including 12 in Yerevan and in every Marz in Armenia, with a volunteer corps numbering 2,650 and an estimated membership that exceeds 20,000.

#### *IFES/Armenia Makes Regional Visits*

Throughout January representatives of IFES/Armenia visited several communities throughout the country. The visits had a two-fold purpose; to interview WRC candidates as possible IFES trainers while analyzing the WRC/IFES office needs; and to introduce the civic education project to local officials.

Among others, IFES briefed the Governors of Armavir, Gegharkunik, Shirak and Lori, as well as the Mayors of Echmiadzin, Abovian, Gyumri, Vanadzor and Sevan. Each official was given a copy of the IFES project summary statement and a small gift. Officials were asked to submit a short letter acknowledging the meeting with the IFES delegation. The letters will serve as "door openers" as IFES trainers begin their work.

#### *Trainer Slots Tentatively Filled*

After conducting over 52 interviews, IFES-Armenia has finalized a tentative list of 16 trainers capable of conducting direct citizen outreach. Trainers will be hired in late February to start their initial training scheduled to take place in early March.

#### *IFES Prepares Guidebook to the National Assembly*

IFES, in cooperation with the Armenian National Assembly, is preparing a guidebook to the Parliament. The book will contain profiles and constituency information on all 131 members of the body and will contain additional information for readers on how to lobby their elected representatives. The book will be available for IFES trainers to distribute among advocacy groups in the Spring. Work also continues in regards to the development of guidebooks to national and local governments.

#### *IFES Moves To New Office*

IFES/Armenia moved to its new office in the American University of Armenia (AUA) Center at the beginning of 2001. The building is well suited for the new IFES mission. The main office will provide close to 50 square meters for training seminars. A 21 square meter room at the rear of the office will serve as both a conference room and a briefing area for trainers. A spacious parking lot in the back should accommodate all of the cars of the expanding staff, who will now be driving into the regions on a daily basis. Project Director Jeff Swedberg can be reached at jeff@ifes.am and at 374 1 51-20-18.

The new address:

IFES/Armenia  
American University of Armenia Center  
9 Alek Manukian Street  
Yerevan 375070

#### *Impact Summary*

IFES has now reached a formalized sub grant agreement with the Women's Republican Council (WRC) that offers a mutually beneficial relationship. The WRC will receive an important source of financial stability as it continues its advocacy on women and democracy issues. With the integration of several of its members into the IFES training teams, the WRC may be in a position after the conclusion of the 4-year civil society program to provide it with a level of long-term and independent sustainability. In addition, IFES will help improve the WRC's accounting and administrative capacity. For its part, IFES is gaining the cooperation of an organization with over 80 branches across the country and a national reputation as a non-partisan advocate for democratic change. Lastly, IFES continues to establish working relationships with regional Governors, which will be vital to the success of the citizen's participation project.

## AZERBAIJAN

### *IFES Monitors January Re-Voting for Milli Majlis (Parliamentary) Elections*

On 7 January, re-voting for single mandate majoritarian contests for the Milli Majlis elections were conducted in 11 constituencies in the Republic of Azerbaijan due to irregularities during the November polling. The verified results are listed in the table.

IFES staff monitored the CEC State Automated Information Centre (SAIC) and eight polling stations in three districts comprising Yasamal, Khatai 1 and Khatai 2 constituencies. Of particular interest was the pilot use of prototype electronic ballot boxes (EBB) used to aggregate preliminary voting results in polling stations: one EBB was present in each of the 11 constituencies. The IFES team observed firsthand the use of the devices throughout Election Day and compared the end-of-balloting aggregated results posted at the SAIC at the close of voting. No major discrepancies or abuses were noted. IFES was invited to attend the trial demonstration of the EBB system at the SAIC.

Training materials for the re-voting were supplied by IFES through the Central Election Commission distribution centre. Election Day Guides in English and Azeri language were provided to the CEC and ODIHR election observers as during the 5 November Milli Majlis elections.

### *IFES/Internews Voter Education Campaign for Repeat Elections*

Internews provided technical assistance to update scripts for three of the IFES/CEC/Internews public service announcements produced earlier during the Milli Majlis elections to inform the electorate about the re-voting process in January. The PSAs were aired on the largest independent television station, ABA Television, for the two weeks prior to the 7 January balloting.

### *US Embassy, British Embassy, ODIHR Election Observation Mission and IFES Azerbaijan Joint Meeting with Central Election Commission*

On 12 January 2001, Ambassadors Wilson, Tucker and Magee accompanied IFES Project Manager Elsie Chang to meet Central Election Commission Chairman, Mazahir Panahov, to follow through on the CEC's avowed commitment to receive IFES technical assistance and training for election commissions in future elections. During the meeting assurances were given by the CEC that they had appreciated the positive collaboration between the CEC and IFES and looked forward to that continuing relationship. Preliminary ideas were shared about professional development of the core CEC staff and the possibility of advanced training for a cadre of election commissioners who could stand ready to be appointed to subordinate election commissions when elections are called. IFES also suggested professional development for

the Heads of the Legal and International departments at the CEC to broaden their knowledge base and experience. Regional linkages and exchanges with other executive-level election commissions in emerging democracies were also viewed as potential areas in which IFES could support the CEC.

### *The Central Election Commission and IFES Hold Preliminary Discussions to Sign Protocol or Memorandum of Understanding*

After a two-year presence in Azerbaijan providing ongoing technical assistance on electoral reform, IFES held initial discussions with the CEC about formalizing their collaboration by signing a joint protocol or Memorandum of Understanding. Although the November Milli Majlis elections fell short of meeting international standards, particularly in the counting procedures and aggregation of voting results, incremental improvements were achieved in the relationship between IFES and the CEC.

### *US Embassy Baku Requests IFES Azerbaijan Assistance on Azerbaijani Municipal Leaders Program Visit to America*

The US Embassy Political Section and Public Diplomacy Office contacted IFES Azerbaijan to design a municipal leaders program to send eight participants as guests of the US Government for a three-week American tour to learn about local self-government in late February through early March.

In the summer of 2000, IFES conducted the pilot phase of a municipal governance civic education program and assessed 65 municipalities in the country. As a result of those surveys IFES was able to advise the US Embassy on suggested par-

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<i>January Repeat Elections to the Milli Majlis</i>		
<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Elected Candidate</b>	<b>Party Affiliation</b>
#7 Yasamal second	Nuriyev Alimammad	PFFA
#9 Khatai first	Safarly Mais	Yurddash
#10 Khatai second	Agazade Igbal	Non-partisan
#38 Sumgayit	Sadigov Fikret	NAP
#51 Agsu-Kurdamir	Gulamov Hidayet	ANIP
#53 Astara	Guliyev Iskandar	NAP
#56 Barda	Orujov Zahid	Motherland Party
#65 Gusal	Pirmatov Gulmat	NAP
#68 Imishly	Mammadov Famil	NAP
#94 Hajigabul-Salyan	Samadov Ogtay	NAP
#99 Shamkir City	Samadov Abutalib	Alliance for the Sake of Azerbaijan

*"Moldova Elections" from page 1*

other MPs. Either way, Voronin's 48 votes would have been well shy of the 61 needed to secure the Presidency. With subsequent rounds failing to produce a victor and despite the desire of Parliament to extend the process into January of 2001, the Constitutional Court confirms President Lucinschi's authority to dissolve Parliament, which he exercises on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

*The Race*

A total of 12 parties, 5 electoral blocs and 10 independent candidates have been registered for the 25 February elections. The only party or bloc that has thus far sustained a stable and significant show of support in the polls is the Communist Party. They are expected to win somewhere in the range of 25 to 45 percent of the votes. Other competitors that have exhibited strong bases of support include the Christian Democratic People's Party (CDPP), the Braghis Alliance, and the Party for Rebirth and Conciliation (PRC). Depending on the source, each of these parties stands to win anywhere from 5 to 15 percent of the votes.

Moldova is divided into 12 administrative units, but seats are tied to a single national constituency. Ballots in each of the regions are identical and candidates vote for party, bloc, or independent candidate, not the individual of their preference. In light of a recent amendment to the Electoral Code, parties and blocs will need to acquire a minimum of 6 percent, and independents will need to acquire a minimum of 3 percent, of the popular vote in order to gain seats. It is unlikely that more than 4 or 5 parties or electoral blocs will control the next Parliament, and even less likely that any independent candidates will be elected. An estimated 60 percent of registered voters are expected to turn out on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

*At Stake*

As Moldova approaches its tenth year of independence in August of this year, it is still grappling with the many of the same issues commonly faced by nations straddling the East-West divide. There is a distinct gap between the constituencies of the Communist Party on the one hand, who tend to be older, less affluent and look to the East for socio-economic models, and the constituencies of the other major parties, who tend to be younger and more Western in their views on privatization and European integration. As reforms take root, these simultaneous reactionary and progressive forces present uniquely profound choices to the electorate of a country in transition.

With the IMF releasing the second tranche under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) loan this Spring and the completion of negotiations with the WTO, Moldova's

westward movement seems to be gaining pace in 2001. Much of this movement, however, was dependent upon a series of reforms, particularly the privatization of wine and tobacco industries, that were pushed through Parliament last year and remain in contention. Along with common themes of anti-corruption and alleviation of poverty, candidate platforms have prominently featured (or prominently neglected) their stances on privatization and European integration. As such, the 25 February elections will be telling as to the level of public confidence in this apparent westward movement. A new Parliament (and possibly a new President in the near future) could very easily redefine the geographic character of the current agenda.

Other less prominent, but equally important issues include legal and electoral reform. Both of these issues were taken up by the previous Parliament, each yielding different results. Separation of legal and judicial institutions from the body politic has come a long way, and while the judiciary cannot yet be considered fully independent of the legislative and executive branches, it is moving in that direction. The trend toward a more diverse, complex legal culture will be met with varying degrees of support depending on the dominant figures in Parliament.

Electoral reform was strongly debated in Parliament last year, yielding amendments in relation to some of the less contentious issues, such as the rights of Moldovan voters working abroad. The fundamental question of whether to maintain the current proportional system or to move to a majoritarian or mixed system, however, remains unresolved. IFES has consistently called for the consideration of approaches that would lead to better representation of regional interests, but consensus on the importance or details of this issue has proved unattainable. The ability of the new parliamentarians to establish working relationships and an atmosphere of consensus will determine whether or not electoral reform can genuinely be considered.

Finally, the constitutional issues that were broached in 2000 are likely to be a subject of future debate. Current leaders in Parliament have stood by their decision to limit executive power, but the decision was arrived at relatively quickly and, arguably, without full consideration of its implications. The decision may or may not be revisited by the next Parliament, but it will certainly be on voters' minds as they go to the polls.

The first challenges facing the new Parliament will be tests of character. Moldovan citizens have endured a standoff between the legislative and executive branches, a brief constitutional crisis, and two elections in less than one year's time. More difficult than winning the election will be winning the confidence of the voters once the members have taken their seats. Proof in the form of stability and progress, not electoral prowess, is what their constituents are seeking.



**ALEGERI PARLAMENTARE  
25 FEBRUARIE 2001**

**VOTAREA PAS CU PAS**



**Prezintă buletinul de identitate.**

**Semnează în lista electorală în dreptul numelui.**

**Primește buletinul de vot.**

**Intră singur în cabina de vot.**

**Aplică ștampila în interiorul cercului din dreptul concurentului ales.**



**Înainte de a introduce buletinul completat în urna de vot, acesta se ștampilează de un membru al biroului electoral.**

**VOTUL TĂU CONTEAZĂ!**

**Comisia Electorală Centrală  
Fundația Internațională pentru Sisteme Electorale**

*IFES/Moldova voting process poster*

*“Azerbaijan” from page 7*

ticipants for the international visitors program. IFES recommendations on the program content for the municipal leaders trip were also adopted by the Embassy.

The group will focus on themes such as the accountability of elected officials; city/county governmental relationships; urban vs. rural municipal management; arid land issues; citizen participation in local governments; and agriculture and agribusiness development. While touring the District of Columbia and five to six states in America, the municipal leaders will also be introduced to professional associations of city administrators and citizens groups.

*IFES Washington and Azerbaijan Participate in USAID Conference*

Michael Svetlik, IFES/Washington Program Officer, and Project Manager Elsie Chang represented IFES at a USAID Caucasus two-day conference in Baku on “Creating a Culture of Democracy in Azerbaijan.” USAID Democracy and Governance partners in attendance were IFES, NDI, ABA, ISAR, Eurasia Foundation, AED and Internews. Representatives from the US Embassy Political Section and Public Diplomacy Office presented their views as well. On the second day, humanitarian and economic USAID partners joined in the discussion about creating program linkages to foster further democratic development.

*Impact Summary*

IFES Azerbaijan continues to engage the CEC and provide technical assistance for electoral reform and implementation. Voter education and training materials were created by IFES and endorsed by the CEC during the January repeat elections.

Although both rounds of the Milli Majlis elections revealed polling irregularities and weaknesses in the existing system of election administration, IFES believes that future avenues of cooperation with the CEC are possible, particularly in the areas of professional development of permanent CEC staff and training of election officials. Senior Azerbaijan government officials commended IFES to the US and British Embassies and to OSCE/ODIHR for IFES’ constructive engagement of the CEC during both rounds of elections.

On the civic education front, IFES continues to engage elected municipal members and citizens in their municipalities to foster understanding and cooperation between elected officials and their constituents. IFES designed an international visitors program for Azerbaijani municipal leaders to learn about public administration in the United States.

**GEORGIA***IFES Supports Election Code Development*

In an effort to support the further development of a sustain-

able system of elections in Georgia, IFES continues to advise a wide variety of election stakeholders regarding the reform of election laws. During the month of January, IFES met numerous times with Gigi Tseriteli, Chairman of the Parliamentary Working Group on the Election Code, as well as with members of the working group to discuss the need for technical assistance in the election code drafting process. In addition, IFES met regularly with representatives of various non-governmental organizations active in the democracy and governance field to discuss areas of particular concern, including election commission composition and domestic monitoring provisions. Such working sessions included representatives of the International Centre for Civic Culture; the Caucasian Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development; The Liberty Institute; and the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy.

As called for in amendments to the Law on Parliamentary Elections, adopted during the summer of 2000, the Parliament of Georgia is obligated to create a unified electoral code to govern local, Parliamentary and Presidential elections by the end of the Spring 2001 Parliamentary session. The legislative session is expected to conclude in early June and elections for local councils (Sakrebulo) are anticipated later this fall.

*Election Code Conference Planned*

In support of the continued reform of election legislation in Georgia, IFES intends to host an election law conference in the mountain hamlet of Bakuriani on 10 and 11 February. Attending the conference will be members of the Inter-Faction Parliamentary Working Group, the Central Election Commission (CEC) and representatives of the NGO community working in the area of election law. International expertise will be provided by IFES and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The conference will be conducted in the format of a roundtable discussion together with workshop style discussions.

This election law conference aims to bring together representatives of the NGO community, members of the CEC and parliamentarians tasked with developing a unified electoral code for Georgia. The conference seeks cooperation between the Inter-faction Parliamentary Working Group and the NGO community. It is hoped that this collaborative approach will allow the process of drafting and promulgation of the new law to be completed by June 2001. This will provide sufficient time for the new law to be implemented prior to the Sakrebulo elections scheduled for the end of this year.

*Civic Education Initiative Proves Successful*

In January, a second newsletter was completed and distributed to members of the “Be an Active Citizen” network and to a number of organizations working in the area of governance and civil society building. The newsletter focuses on the activities and projects identified by each of the regional

networking groups, as well as the Freedom of Information provisions (Chapter 3 of the General Administrative Code of Georgia), the State Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and the role of education in building a strong civil society.

On 31 January, IFES hosted a meeting of organizations, both international and domestic, working on governance and civil society building activities in Georgia. The aim of the meeting was to promote increased awareness of civic education needs outside of Tbilisi and to facilitate an exchange of information and to seek ways to collaborate and co-operate with regional groups. It is hoped that such coordination will conserve resources by averting duplication of efforts and facilitating exchanges of valuable contacts and resources. Organizations attending the meeting were NDI, Horizonti, Urban Institute, Eurasia Foundation, Soros Foundation, International Center for Journalists, Internews and Georgian Youth League.

#### *CEC and IFES Work to Update CEC Website*

In a continued effort to increase transparency in the administration of elections, IFES is moving forward to assist the CEC with updating the official web site. This joint effort seeks to provide the CEC staff with the technical skill necessary to maintain the site and to develop a database management system for future updates. Such a system will enable web updates to be undertaken in a more timely fashion and thus provide election administrators, political parties, and voters with relevant information on the election system and all election-related developments.

#### *Impact Summary*

During the month of January, IFES continued to support further reform of the system of elections in Georgia and to encourage increased awareness of democracy and democratic governance among the citizenry. IFES initiated a dialogue between the Parliamentary working group on the election code and a coalition of democracy and governance NGOs in order to focus on common concerns and to encourage a constructive and realistic approach to legislative development. IFES continued to develop a regional civic education activity that encourages citizens to be well informed and active in public life. Together with the CEC, IFES also worked to improve the transparency of the election administration authority by developing a plan to ensure that publicly available information on elections and election-related developments is timely and relevant.

## **KAZAKHSTAN**

#### *Teacher Training Project*

In January, IFES/Kazakhstan staff Marat Bigaliev and Karlygash Balapanova conducted training seminars for teachers from new IFES pilot schools in Pavlodar, Atyrau and Karaganda. In all three locations IFES representatives worked

closely with the local Departments of Education (DoE) and Institutes for Teacher's Qualification and Skills Improvement. The events were designed to familiarize new pilot school teachers with the IFES Democracy and Civics textbook and the methodology of instructing the civics course that goes along with the book. The presence of regional government representatives was essential, as it gave clarity to issues such as the number of hours in the school's curriculum allocated to the civic education courses. Their attendance also provided a forum for the teachers to ask questions and get direct answers.

The seminar included presentations on course methodology, and forms and methods for teaching civic education topics. During the afternoon sections, teachers learned how to adapt and work with the practical exercises and student tasks described in the IFES textbook. Special attention was given to the Student Action Committee (SAC) and Student Local Government Day projects.

A pre-test component was introduced as a new addition to the training agenda. The IFES team explained that the purpose of the pre-test was to measure students' knowledge of basic principles of democracy and civics. A post-course exam was also introduced, in order to monitor progress achieved. The exam questions cover subjects which reflect the themes of the course. In each region IFES will work with its local coordinators, who are responsible for gathering pre-test results from schools and then reporting them to the IFES office in Almaty.

The teachers' main expectation from the training was to learn new teaching methodologies. IFES developed the training agenda to provide teachers with ways to find their own manner of teaching the new civic education concepts. As the textbook and course are in their second year of piloting, IFES has encouraged participating teachers and schools to find the optimal ways of using the material, placing emphasis on the student interactive exercises contained within each chapter. The training seminar also explored how to avoid possible problems in class and the best methods for introducing certain textbook topics. By the end of the seminar, all attendees understood how to implement the course and textbook, and had a much better understanding of how the course fits into the greater Ministry of Education plan.

Another positive aspect of the training was that it provided an opportunity for teachers to share their experiences. In doing so, the teachers gained more knowledge on how to develop the SAC activities. Out of the 52 teachers who participated, 35 teachers had already launched the course during the third quarter of the school year, starting in January 2001. All of those schools have civic education as a separate and distinct subject in their curriculum. Eighty percent of the 35 new schools had received the IFES textbooks by the middle of January. The remaining schools received their books by the end of January.



*SAC participants receive certificates*

#### *Student Action Committees*

A joint IFES/Kazakhstan and IFES/Uzbekistan team held a Student Action Committee organizational discussion in Karaganda. At the meeting, IFES representatives Marat Bigaliev and Dmitry Shevkun focused on instructing teacher-mentors to encourage participating students to seek out issues that address community problems. Teachers reported on the status of civic education courses and pre-existing student outreach activities in their schools. Karaganda will be the pilot city for the IFES Student Action Committee project. Using lessons learned there, the project will expand to include students in Atyrau and Pavlodar.

While in Karaganda, IFES representatives met with Marina Sabitova, Director of the Center for Support of Democracy (CSD). IFES and CSD discussed details of opening an IFES Democracy Resource Center in Karaganda using the existing center at the CSD office as a base. The location of the resource center should prove convenient for most schools and NGOs in the Karaganda city limits. Sabitova provided IFES an updated list of all local NGOs, which will be distributed among the Student Action Committee teacher-mentors as potential partners for the students.

#### *IFES and the Ministry of Education*

IFES continued to work closely with the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Astana. Marat Bigaliev met with Mrs. Mairash Ishanova, the Senior Specialist on Civic Education of the Department for the Secondary and General Education. At this meeting Bigaliev and Ishanova discussed the draft Memo of

Understanding (MoU) and the draft program for the Student Olympiad on civic education. The MoU, once signed, would be the governing document of all of IFES' civic education programs, and have the formal, official backing of the Ministry. The Student Olympiad will once again take place at the end of March in Almaty, and include students from many of the IFES pilot schools nationwide. A "winning student" will be chosen based on competitive testing and evaluation.

Due to the change in leadership at the Ministry of Education, additional time was required to develop the final draft of the MoU. The Ministry of Education has fully supported the program, and expressed its interest to attend this year's Olympiad. By mid-February it was expected that the Ministry would issue letters to all local Departments of Education instructing them to conduct local civic education tournaments among the IFES schools. Winning stu-

dents will then be sent to compete for their region in the Olympiad in Almaty. The MoE may also utilize the press-service of the Ministry and media outlets to cover the event and provide certificates for the winners.

#### *OSCE/ODIHR Round Table on Elections*

By invitation of the OSCE Center in Almaty, IFES participated in the second round table on election issues in Astana. The aim of the event was to discuss how to implement the recommendations from the OSCE/ODIHR final report on the 1999 Parliamentary Elections in Kazakhstan. The meeting brought together representatives of the Majilis, government agencies, political parties and local and international NGOs. IFES was represented at the event by Country Coordinator Marat Bigaliev. The main theme of the event was how to improve transparency of elections. Special sessions were devoted to discussing proposals related to the creation and independence of the election commissions; transparency of vote counting and election results. The following topics were discussed:

1. Composition of the election commissions (from various organizations, independence from all legislative branches);
2. Registration of candidates (all candidates must compete on equally basis, reporting on campaign finance);
3. Clear regulation of all voting procedures (certification of final results in a timely and proper manner, transparency of vote count and tabulation);
4. Equal representation of women and men (50% representation in PP lists);

5. Election of half of the Majilis deputies by party's lists; and
6. The process of recalling of deputies from the legislative body.

As a result of lengthy discussions, all working group members agreed to develop a table with proposals and recommendations on all subjects. The next step will be the submission of recommendations to the parliamentary working group in the Majilis for review, with the hope that amendments are eventually made to the current election law. IFES and other international organizations pledged to monitor the process on an ongoing basis.

#### *Impact Summary*

January's main activities involved preparing for and conducting training seminars for teachers from new IFES pilot schools. It is expected that the Student Action Committees and the Local Government Day projects will be ready to commence in March and April. In addition, the IFES/Kazakhstan team drafted the first pre-test questionnaire, draft program and rules for the Student Olympiad and the draft Memo of Understanding. All of these were sent to IFES/Washington for review and subsequently to the Ministry of Education of Kazakhstan in Astana for feedback.

IFES/Kazakhstan also remained involved in election reform activities. The OSCE Center in Almaty invited IFES to observe the second round table on elections, and, responding to an inquiry from the Central Election Commission (CEC), IFES continued to provide the CEC with materials on improving electoral legislation by reviewing international norms and practice.

In January, the IFES/Kazakhstan Resource Center in Almaty continued to provide information to various organizations and individuals on elections and civic education. IFES negotiated with the representatives of the ISAR Resource Center in Atyrau and the Center for Support of Democracy in Karaganda concerning the opening of regional resource centers. These two organizations agreed to accept IFES' materials, adding them to their own current holdings.

## **KYRGYZSTAN**

#### *Secondary and Tertiary Education Projects in Kyrgyzstan*

Following the recommendations of Dr. Issak Bekboev, Director of the Institute of Education, and three Institute staff members who reviewed select draft chapters of the IFES Civics and Democracy textbook, IFES has undertaken revisions to bring those chapters into closer compliance with the Institute's guidelines. The textbook was submitted in its entirety to the IFES home office in Washington for review, which will be followed by additional fine-tuning and, eventually, formal submission to the Ministry of Education. The pilot edition of the book, which has a target of March to launch a

limited pilot testing, will be more closely aligned with the state standards on educational curriculum for secondary schools in Kyrgyzstan. An accompanying teacher's manual will be developed and tested during the training of teachers selected for participation in the piloting of the textbook. The first meeting with the new Minister of Education, Ms. Kamila Sharshekeeva, proved very encouraging, and IFES expects to sign a Memorandum of Understanding during the next meeting with the Minister in February. Ms. Sharshekeeva expressed keen interest in the civic education project and inquired whether or not the textbook would also contain a chapter on systemic corruption. Though IFES had not planned to include a chapter on that subject, the prospect of addressing that issue proved of interest.

In order to introduce a tertiary civic education project as part of a philosophy course in Kyrgyz universities, IFES formed an advisory committee comprised of professors and lecturers from several universities. Dr. Vladislav Pototskii, Director of the Bishkek-based sociological research firm Inforex, was requested to advise on the prospective program and budget for this project. In addition, IFES developed a strategy and draft structure for the course. During February, IFES/Kyrgyzstan plans to look into appointing appropriate authors to undertake research in the specified areas and reporting mechanisms.

#### *IFES Website*

Due to the efforts of IFES' Central Asia country offices during the past several months, the draft of IFES/CIS website is now available at [www.ifescentralasia.kg](http://www.ifescentralasia.kg). It serves as a home page for the four IFES/CIS offices in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, and aims to support IFES' work in the areas of election reforms, civic education and political party development. The website is being tested on Kyrgyzstan's EICat web provider and the first phase is expected to be completed in March 2001.

#### *Student Activities*

As a follow-up to post election activities, IFES held meetings with university students to gain input on their vision for future student-based programming. One option, which was discussed with the students, was holding a conference for students to discuss systemic pluses and minuses from the 2000 elections. Another possible program involved holding student council elections modeled on the current practice at the American University of Kyrgyzstan (AUK). The AUK students have offered to assist IFES in the preparation of student elections at other universities. Currently, several approaches are being considered.

#### *Central Election Commission in Kyrgyzstan*

Although not currently conducting technical assistance programs with the Central Election Commission, IFES continued to serve as an observer with the CEC. IFES has offered to assist the CEC, as appropriate and as advised by USAID and

the U.S. Embassy, in future projects that will develop and enhance democratic political culture during the conduct of elections.

#### *Local Government Elections*

A decree, dated January 17, 2001, announced the President Askar Akayev's decision to conduct "pilot elections" for local self-governments in towns and villages. The Minister of the new Ministry of Local Self-Government and Regional Development, Mr. Tolobek Omuraliev, was able to provide IFES with details of the forthcoming elections. Since until recently the heads of local administrations in Kyrgyzstan were appointed by Akims, the Minister stated that the idea to elect heads of local self-governments is a major breakthrough towards democracy. He also indicated that the first round of pilot elections will be held on March 4, 2001, in the village of Lebedinovka of Alamudun rayon. Voting will be universal, secret and direct. Any Kyrgyz citizen between the ages of 25 and 60, with higher or secondary special education and at least 2-year experience of working in self-governments can be a candidate. By the end of April, pilot elections will be conducted in one village of each oblast. These elections will be the first stage of reforms, with nationwide elections being conducted in 11 cities and 458 villages in October 2001.

Furthermore, since national and clan interests are strong in all villages, the Minister indicated that there could be many candidates. Therefore, during the elections the number of candidates will be restricted to five. According to Mr. Omuraliev, such system is known throughout the world as "soft rating". Also, the president's decree provides for four levels of inspection of candidates' conformity with the rules, beginning with a review by the village Kenesh.

The Minister announced that the issue of controlling the heads of local self-governments is being discussed alongside the issue of democratic elections. He stated that the Administration is currently reviewing regulations on the institution of the people's Kurultai (congress) that would consist of local community representatives. The heads of the local self-governments will report to this institution, and the representatives of the people's Kurultai will have the right to impeach the heads of local self-governments who fail to perform satisfactorily.

#### *Impact Summary*

As a result of January activities, IFES/Kyrgyzstan was able to prepare for submission of modules from the second edition of the Civics and Democracy textbook. IFES has prioritized the importance of maintaining a high standard for the textbook and ensuring that it meets the educational requirements of the Institute of Education and the Ministry of Education.

Besides work focused on Kyrgyzstani secondary schools, IFES also commenced its tertiary civic education project. A group of professors prepared a draft structure and will pro-

ceed to identify appropriate experts to research the feasibility of introducing a civics concentration into universities. IFES hopes to complete this research in approximately six months in order to pilot the course as a component of the philosophy course in three selected universities. Although this project is in its initial stage, it is expected to progress quickly once researchers are selected.

In addition to expanding the scope of work in the area of civic education and enhancing its technical aspect of operations, IFES continued to seek ways of cooperating with the CEC in the areas of democracy building and development of democratic political culture. It is anticipated that during this year the CEC will be involved in election law reform, a possible referendum, and local government elections, and IFES will seek to assist the CEC with these projects.

In order to uphold regulatory power of election laws over the power of presidential decrees during the local self-government elections, IFES will work with the Kyrgyz legislature to draft a law on local self-government before the elections in October.

## **TAJIKISTAN**

#### *Curriculum Development*

January proved to be an intensive month, as numerous meetings were held by IFES to enhance and expand its scope of activities in the area of curriculum development.

In order to reinforce the curriculum development initiative with more local expertise, experience, and guidance, IFES/Tajikistan set out to create the Curriculum Development Committee and the Senior Advisory Board. Numerous meetings were held between IFES Civic Education Consultant Gregory Stephenson and prominent academicians, government of Tajikistan officials, and members of local and international NGOs. High-ranking representatives from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Tajikistan University, and the Scientific Research Institute of Pedagogy indicated their support for the IFES proposal to develop a civics textbook for secondary school students in the country. The belief was expressed that the design and goals of the curriculum development initiative are viable and have a lot of potential. As the result of preliminary interviews, IFES identified 8 strong candidates for the Senior Advisory Board and 5 highly qualified candidates for the Curriculum Development Committee.

#### *Contact with International Assistance Providers*

The Ministry of Education has given preliminary indications that they would like IFES to work with the schools that the World Bank has identified in its project. Assistant Director of the World Bank-PIU met with representatives of IFES/Tajikistan to update them on the status of the World Bank's Schools Renovation Project. It is hoped that through collabo-

ration IFES can introduce its textbook to be used in these schools.

A foundation for strong collaborative work between IFES and the Aga Khan Humanities Project was also set in place. During January meetings, Tony Russell, Aga Khan School Project Consultant, indicated that through his curriculum development work with local teachers there is a place for IFES to send members of its Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) for participatory/non-participatory training. As a result, through this exposure to Aga Khan's teaching methodologies/curriculum development, the CDC will be able to write and edit a textbook that will be more readily capable to evolve with the changes that are occurring in the teaching field. In addition, teachers that receive training through Aga Khan will have an opportunity to use the IFES Civic Education textbook in their classroom, which could expand the piloting of the IFES textbook by 8 new schools.

#### *Letter of Support from Ministry of Education*

Progress was achieved in gaining approval for a Memorandum of Understanding between IFES and the Ministry of Education. During a meeting at the Ministry of Education, Civic Education Consultant Gregory Stephenson and Project Coordinator Moukim Mallaev learned that due to the support of Mr. Mollachaev (MoE), who lobbied for the acceptance of the Civic Education project, IFES/Tajikistan received a preliminary letter of approval from the Ministry. An official MoU, signed by the Minister of Education, should be completed in late February.

During the month of January, several international donors were contacted to gauge interest in providing support to print and distribute an IFES-developed Civic Education textbook in the Fall. Preliminary discussions were held with several groups who have expressed an interest in working in the civic education sector. IFES has submitted an overview letter that outlines the project objectives and goals and specifies the type of collaboration that is being sought. Currently, the Civic Education project is requesting funding for the printing of approximately 3,000 books.

#### *Political Party Development*

During IFES' meeting with Hristo Hristov, UNTOP Political Officer, it was indicated that UNTOP Ambassador Ivo Petrov would like to solicit IFES' input and support for a forthcoming conference on parliamentary work on human rights. IFES Political Party Development consultant Phillip Griffin stated that IFES would consider participating in the event, provided that Tajik political parties would also have a meaningful role in it.

IFES' work in the area of political party development was given favorable reviews by U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan Robert Finn. Ambassador Finn complimented Philip Griffin

and IFES after viewing 8 episodes of the IFES-sponsored and supported TV program "Law, Society and Democracy". The events were televised on tape delay in different localities around the country. Together with local partners Law & Democracy Center and Mediopolis, the events were designed to give local legislative representatives and political party representatives an opportunity to describe their work and address viewer questions.

#### *Exchange Program*

The U.S. Embassy asked IFES to contribute names of qualified candidates to the Legislator Exchange program by recommending deputies from the Majlisi Namoyandogan to take part in an Embassy-sponsored trip to Washington, D.C. to observe and meet with members of the U.S. Congress. IFES had several candidates in mind, and agreed to advise the Embassy on program content as well as possible participants. In November, IFES led a delegation of 11 political party representatives and deputies from Tajikistan on a study tour of the Bavarian Parliament in Munich, Germany.

Gregory Stephenson and Political Party Development Assistant Bahridin Sharipov had an opportunity to attend the NAPST Round Table discussion, "Interaction issues of parties and movements within the national and cultural communities of Tajikistan, and issues of participation and inclusion of national minorities in political party activities in Tajikistan". Many political parties, such as the Socialist Party, Movement of National Unity and Revival of Tajikistan, and Congress of National Unity, along with the leaders of many of Tajikistan's minority groups, such as Uzbeks, Turkmen, and Koreans, were represented at the Round Table.

IFES also attended a NAPST Round Table in Kofarnihon. Participants included district representatives from Faizabad, Leninski, and Kofarnihon, presidential advisers, military and government officials, representatives from embassies, political parties, and NGOs. During the first phase of the Round Table, district representatives shared information on the present political situation in their districts. The second phase of the Round Table was focused on holding small group discussions to work out recommendations for different competent bodies regarding issues such as strengthening democracy and confirmation of law superiority in Tajikistan; the military-political situation and possible sources of military threats, and ways of improving the economy and the standard of living. These events provided IFES representatives with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the situation with political parties in Tajikistan and expand the scope of contacts with representatives of various political parties.

#### *Impact Summary*

The Civic Education Textbook Adaptation Program took a major step forward when it received a Letter of Approval from the Deputy Minister of Education Rashidov. This letter precedes a Memorandum of Understanding that is expected

in February. In addition to the continuing funding campaign and screening process for the SAB and CDC, success was achieved in establishing a collaborative agreement with the Aga Khan Foundation-Humanities Project. As a result, IFES/Tajikistan will send two members of the Curriculum Development Committee for training in interactive training methodologies.

Throughout January, IFES/Tajikistan also continued its work in the area of political party development. Meetings with the U.S. Ambassador Finn, UNTOP Political Officer Hristov and representatives of various international and local NGOs showed that IFES' work and partnership is valued in the region by partner organizations. The IFES team was also able to meet with representatives of many political parties in Tajikistan and discuss their plans and problems. Consequently, IFES hopes that by utilizing this feedback from the political parties and support from the international and local political community, IFES can better organize the next series of organizational development and gender-focused political party outreach events beginning in March.

## UZBEKISTAN

### *IFES Initiates Development of Civic Education Modules*

IFES began the process of developing a set of nine civic education modules for institutions of higher education. The project was made possible by working closely with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education in Uzbekistan, which expressed a high level of support for the program. The Ministry's support for the modules and accompanying teacher training program provides critical assurance that the project will be integrated into the curriculum of institutions of higher education. Together with the Ministry, IFES will also be cooperating with the Tashkent-based branch of the Civic Education Project, which provides expertise in teacher training methodologies. IFES also plans to work with trainers of new teaching methodologies from the International Reading Association. IFES Country Director Jeffrey Carlson spent considerable time discussing the IFES approach with potential partners in order to create a program that complimented other initiatives under way, and met the special needs of tertiary and secondary level students in the country.

The first modules to be piloted will be – “The Role of the Family,” “Economics and Society,” and “The State and Nationhood.” These will be introduced to teachers from Social Science, Philosophy, and Law faculties at pilot universities. IFES has identified a set of core general humanitarian courses in each faculty that every student is obligated to take. IFES believes that teachers of these courses will be particularly well suited for training to pilot the modules. It is estimated that approximately 10 – 15 teachers will be trained during the first pilot phase. After that, the number will multiply as more universities, institutions and modules are added.

### *IFES works with local NGOs*

IFES will be working with the Tashkent Public Education Center (TPEC), with whom it also sponsored a Student Democracy Summer Camp in Syr-Darya in 1999. TPEC will be providing contact information for schools and teachers who will participate in IFES' after-school student clubs and democracy summer camps for secondary students in Ferghana and Nukus. Student clubs, under the guidance of secondary teachers teaching civic education, will offer students a chance to put what they learn in the classroom to work. By identifying and solving problems in their communities, students will gain first-hand experience about the functions and structures of democratic society. During the summer recess, democracy summer camps will give secondary students hands-on knowledge of civic participation, community involvement, citizenship and other basic tenets of democracy. IFES also will work with local TPEC affiliates in Ferghana and Nukus to organize and run the camps.

### *Uzbek President Calls for Teaching Citizens about the Constitution*

In the beginning of January, Uzbek President Islam Karimov issued an instruction stating that the Constitution of Uzbekistan should be taught as a subject at all levels (see BBC CAU, January 7, 2001). The instruction calls for setting up a special commission to create a program to teach the Constitution so that young people and the general public understand both its contents and essence. It also calls for special courses and methods of teaching to be established. This instruction corresponds well with IFES' planned civic education activities aimed at institutions of higher education. These activities include, among other civic education topics, teaching the constitution in both theoretical and concrete terms. IFES also plans to incorporate new teaching methodologies that are well suited for teaching civic society and democracy.

### *Impact Summary*

As in other Central Asian Republics where IFES works, civic education represented the focus of IFES programming in Uzbekistan in January. As indicated by President Karimov's remarks during the month, Uzbekistan is devoting substantial resources to reforming its education system. By 2005, the country hopes to replace public secondary schools with a system of colleges and lyceums. Partnering with other organizations, IFES is prepared to meet these needs with a program that includes targeted civic education training and material and curriculum development. In January, IFES took several key steps to line up support for its approach with local government and members of the international and local NGO community. IFES' focus on civic education module development and teacher training at the tertiary level is designed to create the capacity among higher institutions to provide specialized instruction in civics and democracy.





### MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

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