

The Europe and Eurasia Report



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

August 2000

DEMOCRACY SUMMER CAMP IN UZBEKISTAN

From 17-23 July IFES held its second-ever Student Democracy Summer Camp in Uzbekistan. The Camp was located in Karakalpakstan, a region in western Uzbekistan that suffers from economic decline and the dire consequences of the Aral Sea disaster. Almost 40 high school students from this region, as well as from Bukhara and Kokand gathered at the 'Altin Dan', a sanatorium located a few miles outside of the regional capital, Nukus. IFES staff worked in close collaboration with representatives of local NGOs, as well as with 6 high school teachers and 8 high school graduates, to teach the students about the virtues of democratic governance and civil liberties.

Building a democratic state was at the heart of the student activities. The students were divided into groups representing individual "states:" as part of the exercise they had to agree on a flag and name for their state, formulate a constitution, and name representatives for a temporary government. Electing a president was the highlight of the Summer Camp. To this end, students formed political parties, appointed their presidential candidates, and elected a Central Election Commission (CEC) to monitor the election.

In addition to their first-hand experiences with democracy, students learned about the ecological problems of Karakalpakstan and the rights of children. In 2 workshops, organized by 2 Karakalpak NGO partners, *Shagala* and *Wild Nature of the Aral Sea Region*, the students discussed challenges and strategies for the protection of children and the environment in the future.

Throughout all of the activities, students demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm and motivation. IFES was also pleased with the performance of its partner NGOs in the region, whose professionalism and motivation made the Summer Camp a success. Should a culture of democracy continue to develop in Uzbekistan and the rest of Central Asia, young persons will need to take an active role through community involvement and volunteerism in civil society activities.

In July 1999, IFES and the Tashkent-based NGO *Public Education Center* held a one-week Democracy Camp for over 100 students representing all Oblasts in Uzbekistan. The Camp

took place in Syr-Darya and featured hands-on experience in democratic governance through the holding of mock elections and the process of campaigning. The event provided the basis for the holding of future interactive student camps such as the one in Nukus.

Representatives of USAID, Eurasia Foundation, and the Peace Corps also attended the Summer Camp. All participants and visitors of the Camp concluded that this project was a small but important step towards democratic rule and a lively civil society in Uzbekistan. IFES already plans to extend the project to other regions, organizing at least two additional camps in the eastern regions of Uzbekistan in 2001.

As IFES has discovered, the best learning experience for students is one that gives them hands-on exposure via practical exercises. In the conducting of its civics and democracy course for secondary school students in neighboring Kazakhstan, of which mock student elections are one of several student interactive exercises, IFES has found that young persons are full of enthusiasm and excitement for participatory democracy, and infected with a desire to learn more. This enthusiasm was found in abundance in Nukus as well, and provided ample evidence that the future leaders and voting citizens of Uzbekistan are prepared to embrace a new era in accountability of government and the principle of a government created by the people and for the people.



Ministry of Interior Building – Students prepare to vote on the Election Day of the IFES Summer Camp.

Elections

Governance

Civil Society

Rule of Law

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EUROPE

ALBANIA

New Agreements between IFES and CEC

In August, IFES and the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Albania formalized a Memorandum of Agreement which provides for IFES to offer advice to the new CEC on matters pertaining to organization and administration, civic education, training, forms and regulations and other matters as mutually agreed to.

IFES continues to participate with the CEC, Ministry of Local Government, UNDP and OSCE in the Election Assistance Project.

CEC Pre-Election Activities

The Government of Albania has provided the CEC with a budget of \$2.2 million for the local government elections. This allocation follows the draft budget prepared by IFES. Also, IFES has helped the CEC institute new ballot printing procedures, helped arrange a contract with a printing house in Slovenia, and has been active in advising the CEC on day-to-day administrative matters as well as more contentious issues related to the appointment of the chair and secretaries of Local Government Election Commissions (LGEC's). IFES continues to press the CEC to adopt a more rigorous meeting schedule, allocation of duties among the members of the CEC and more pro-active decision-making.

Progress With Civic Education and Training

IFES has coordinated a civic education program with the CEC and the EAP focusing on the revision of the preliminary voter list and the distribution of voter identification cards. Television spots are on the air, posters have been printed and distributed and newspapers ads will begin in early September. A second series of media spots is being finalized with the CEC for implementation from mid - September onward. IFES continues work closely with the national NGO Clearinghouse to co-ordinate NGO activity in civic education and international funders and organizations, such as the OSCE, IOM, USAID and the NDI involved in this task. IFES has provided the CEC with a number of draft training materials for local election commissions. However, effective training has been stalled to date due to the tardiness in forming local commissions and at times, late decisions by the CEC. To compensate for the lack of training to date, the CEC has agreed to an IFES proposal to jointly produce a 30-minute training video for Voting Center Commissions to be shown on national television 2-3 days prior to election day. This video will be part of the CEC free time on public radio and television. IFES is exploring purchasing time on private stations as well.

Election Briefing and Monitoring

An ODIHR long-term observation mission is in place with 10 long-term observers deployed around the country. One hundred and fifty short-term observers are expected to be in place by Election Day. The Council of Europe will send an additional 10-15 short-term observers. Albanian NGOs such as the Society for a Democratic Culture and the Helsinki Committee on Human Rights will have approximately 2000 observers. During the past month IFES/Albania Project Director Dickson Bailey has held briefings with the long-term observers and the Friends of Albania. Mr. Bailey has regular briefings with the US Embassy and participates in briefings at the OSCE presence in Albania.

Voters' List Revisions

A preliminary list of voters was presented to the CEC on 25 August. The list has 2,335,000 names. The list is currently being revised through posting in each of the 4,656 polling units and a verification of the original database. The final list is to be based on the verification procedures and the revision in each municipality and commune. This work is to be completed by 13 September. Voter ID cards have been printed and will arrive in Tirana on 5 September. Distribution of the cards will begin on or about 10 September.

Impact Summary

The work of IFES in consultation with the CEC and the international community appears to be have a continued, positive impact on the administration of the election to date. A strong working relationship exists in both sectors. At a special briefing for the international community called by Fotaq Nano, Chair of the CEC, Mr. Nano made the following comments in his opening speech:

“I would like to forward our special thanks to the International Foundation for Election Systems for their assistance as well as the correctness with which its representatives have cooperated with the Central Election Commission. We highly appreciate the IFES assistance and its consistent valuable suggestions to the Central Election Commission. I avail myself of the occasion to express my special thanks to IFES representative in Albania, Mr. Dickson Bailey.”

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)

BiH elections preparations continue

Because no draft election law was passed earlier this year, the BiH General Elections will once again be held according to the Provisional Election Commission (PEC) Rules and Regulations, as mandated by Annex 3 of the Dayton peace accords. These elections, scheduled to take place 11 November, are expected to be the last elections in BiH organized by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The next anticipated election period is the next round of municipal elec-

tions, which are targeted for 2002. These would be the first elections to be conducted under the election law and organized by national authorities, including the Permanent Election Commission and Secretariat, neither of which have yet been set up.

Although a Parliamentary/Council of Ministries working group has been organized to continue working on the draft election law, no progress has been made toward a final revision that would lead to eventual passage of the election law by the BiH Parliament. The working group held a four-day working session this summer without any great success. A second working session is planned for the end of August. The working group is using the OSCE/OHR (Office of the High Representative) Draft Election Law as the basis for the new draft, but there are still as many open questions as there were during the discussion in the Parliamentary Assembly earlier this year.

The levels of elections to be held in Bosnia and Herzegovina in November are outlined below:

Body	Election in the Federation	Election in the Republika Srpska	Electoral System
BiH House of Representatives	Yes	Yes	PR Open List
Federation House of Representatives	Yes		PR Open List
RS National Assembly		Yes	PR Open List
RS President and Vice-president		Yes	PR Preferential List
Cantons (10)	Yes		PR Open List
Municipality of Srebrenica (RS)		Yes	PR Open List

The Association of Election Officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina (AEObiH) is planning to form their own working group to examine chapters in the draft law dealing with election bodies such as Municipal Election Commissions and Polling Station Committees. The working group is currently being put together with the aim to hold its first meeting in October.

Voter Registers, Campaigns, and Notifications Cards

Of all the potential problems inherent to conducting elections in BiH—security, mismanagement, poor training, etc.—the biggest recurring problem is the inaccuracy of the voter register, e.g. voters not finding their names at the polling station that they thought was their polling station or voters not being

on the register at all. This has been a problem in every post-war BiH election, and it continues to cause some voter concern about the conduct of elections. To provide a proper perspective it should be noted that close to 70 % of the electorate participated in the April 2000 Municipal elections and that the elections in April in general were conducted in a professional manner.

Analysis shows that the most vulnerable groups to the inaccuracy of the voter register include the following:

- Persons who have moved residence without informing voter registration authorities;
- Persons who were assigned to a polling station on the basis of flawed police or municipal residence records;
- Persons who have voted in the past by tendered ballot, and are not aware of the requirement to register;
- Persons who registered in 1997 and 1998 without residence data, and cannot be located by municipal election commission within the municipality where they originally registered.

Many measures have been taken to address this problem. Information campaigns have been conducted to inform citizens that they should visit voter registration centers to check their registration data. Despite massive campaigning (electronic and printed media, printed handouts, and face-to-face contact), the success has been limited as citizens have shown little enthusiasm in turning up at registration centers.

The 1997 and 1998 registrants who did not confirm their registration for the past municipal elections have been mailed a request to their last known address to confirm their registration.

Scrutiny lists were posted in all municipalities from 4 August. Lists included the names of all new registrants, i.e. citizens who registered between 1 December, 1999 and 10 July, 2000. Voters, political parties, and Municipal Election Commissions could apply to the Provisional Election Commission (PEC) to have a name deleted from the voter register or to have registration details corrected.

Notification cards are now being used to deal with correction of the registry. Each voter, in principle, will receive a notification card before the election, informing them of the date of the election, the location of their polling station, and how to alter any incorrect registration details.

Notification cards were distributed in June/July to provide voters with a chance of correcting registration details before the finalization of the November election's voter register. A second round of notification will take place just before the election. The effectiveness of notification cards in BiH is difficult to evaluate as it is very difficult to obtain verified information regarding the actual distribution of the cards.

The NGO "Under the Same Sun" took the responsibility of disseminating notifications to the voters in Jablanica. The NGO received 1500 notifications from the Municipal Election Commission and were able to disseminate approximately 1000 of them. Many voters were not found at the addresses stated on the notifications. A large number of displaced persons returned to their home municipalities (around 200 notifications). One hundred and thirty-five notification had the address and name of people who were no longer living in BiH, 80 notifications belonged to persons living in refugee camps "UNIS" and "SLJUNKARA" but according to the Camp Manager these persons were not to be found in the camps. Seventy-five notifications were not delivered because the persons had been evicted from their temporary accommodation. Finally, 10 notification cards belonged to deceased persons.

The question of the distribution of the cards has been somewhat controversial. The OSCE has taken responsibility for financing the printing while national bodies were in charge of financing the distribution. The Federal Election Commission (only in the Federation, not in Republika Srpska) has been promised some resources for that particular purpose, but money has not yet been allocated. The competent body in Republika Srpska did not pass any decision to ensure the financing of the activity. The MECs are, therefore, left to solve the distribution problem.

Finally, there are obvious concerns that the notification cards will not be distributed to the same people who have had registration problems in previous elections. It is expected that OSCE will carry out an evaluation to determine the success of the notification cards later this year.

In sum, it is difficult to expect that registration problems have been substantially dealt with considering the large and continued movement of the population, frequent address changes, and incomplete or missing municipal records. It will remain a challenging task in the future as well.

MACEDONIA

MOU Signed Between IFES and CEC

At a meeting of Macedonia's State Electoral Commission (SEC) on 9 August, the SEC gave its unanimous approval to a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describing the assistance that IFES would provide to the SEC and the nature of the working relationship between the two entities. Thereafter, the SEC Chairman and the IFES Project Director signed the MOU in which IFES agreed to undertake the following activities:

- Develop and implement a SEC-approved voter education and information campaign;
- Support the SEC on media outreach;
- Assist in the development and implementation of a training program for members of electoral boards, including

the preparation and printing of a manual for their use; and

- Act as a resource for the SEC in the areas of comparative election law, and election administration and practices.

The SEC Chairman assigned members and deputies to work with IFES on the voter education and information campaign and the training program. Under the terms of the MOU, approvals were required from the full SEC. By the end of the month, the SEC had provided its final approvals so that both the voter education and information campaign and training program could go forward in advance of the 10 September local elections.

Legal Ambiguities and Time Constraints for Training

The training program, including the preparation of the training manual, almost fell victim to a dispute within the SEC over whether or not it had the legal authority to instruct the Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) on how to implement the law. Most of the ongoing dispute centered on the proposed manual, which was to form the basis for training.

A member and deputy member of the SEC worked with IFES on a draft, which was subsequently presented to the full SEC. Over the course of 5 days, the SEC reviewed the entire document line by line. Additions, deletions, and changes were made. Among the deletions were detailed procedures regarding the counting of ballots at the polling stations. Since the Law on Local Elections does not address counting procedures in a detailed way, the initial draft included recommended procedures based on provisions from the Law on the Election of Members of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. The SEC, however, decided not to include these procedures in the final document.

After final approval, IFES arranged for the printing of the manual. Given the very short time frames, it was decided that IFES would train a core group of MEC members from 18 of the country's 123 municipalities. Training took place in Skopje on 28 August. The plan was for this group to train other MEC members in their regions. Each MEC would then provide training to the electoral board (polling station) members in their municipalities.

IFES had over 4,000 manuals printed and distributed to the MECs in the Macedonian and Albanian languages. At the request of the NDI, IFES agreed to have an additional 1,300 manuals printed for the use of domestic monitors. Finally, IFES agreed to provide 150 copies of the manual in English to the OSCE's monitoring mission. Distribution and training were continuing at the end of the month.

Extensive Voter Education and Information

SEC members and deputies worked with IFES on the development of a voter education and information campaign that included products for both print and electronic media. A

video spot was produced, as were related radio spots, in both the Macedonian and Albanian languages. Also produced were posters to be placed in polling stations, and leaflets to be distributed in advance of election day. Final approvals were obtained from the SEC by the end of the month. IFES also worked with the Macedonian Information Agency and the Broadcasting Council to have the video spots aired nationally and regionally, and initiated plans for the distribution of print materials. The anticipated launch date of the campaign was 1 September.

Impact Summary

The SEC took the lead on both training and voter education and information in local elections, despite the absence of explicit authority to do so in the Law on Local Elections ("LLE"). For the first time, the SEC produced a training manual for use by polling station members. For the first time, the SEC put out a creative video spot instructing voters on basic steps in the voting process. Moreover, in its extensive review of draft materials for both the training program and voter education and information campaign, SEC members confronted and acknowledged serious gaps, ambiguities and inconsistencies in the applicable law.

MOLDOVA

IFES and the CEC

At the request of the CEC, IFES/Moldova Project Director Charles Lasham, Public Administration Coordinator Margareta Mamaliga, and Office Manager Vladimir Gurin observed the local referendum on recalling the mayor of Ciolacul Nou Commune in Balti Judet. On 20 August, the IFES/Moldova staff traveled to the four precincts and completed observer forms in each. An official report of IFES' findings was submitted to the CEC.

IFES and the Parliament

IFES/Moldova Senior Program Coordinator Igor Botan met with representatives of the Juridic Direction of Parliament to discuss several elections-related documents recently passed by Parliament, the Constitutional Court and the President. It was noted that the President's call for a referendum was formally submitted in the form of a draft Parliamentary decision with an open date to be determined by Parliament. The legal ground for such a referendum is somewhat dubious, as the promulgation of Parliament's law precludes it from being subject to a referendum. Additionally, Parliament may refuse to reexamine the President's proposal for the simple reason that it makes reference to articles of the Constitution that have since been modified by Parliament. Lucinschi's mandate expires on 15 January, and according to the decision of the Constitutional Court, the draft that Lucinschi submitted on 13 July will be subject to referendum on 13 January 2000 (conforming with the 6 month waiting period). If resubmission is required, the date for a referendum would be pushed back. At this point, the newly elected President would have

the right to recall his predecessor's initiative.

Perhaps in recognition of this possibility, President Lucinschi has made calls for early parliamentary elections. As the laws regarding the dissolution of Parliament currently stand, neither the President nor his supporters in Parliament are likely to be capable of legally prompting such elections. Nonetheless, the Juridic Direction has asked IFES for recommendations on how to approach early parliamentary elections. Depending on the outcome of the current conflict, such elections may require hasty preparations.

IFES and Political Parties

IFES/Moldova together with the Juridic Direction of Parliament hosted a roundtable to discuss the recently submitted draft Law on Political Parties. The draft, written with the support of IFES and the Ministry of Justice, had been submitted by the Government to Parliament the previous week. It received high praise from the Government, though it excluded some provisions regarding state financing of political parties and a ceiling for donations to political parties. The Juridic Direction suggested that some improvements be made to the procedure for verifying the authenticity of party supporters' signatures. They decided to recommend the draft for adoption with an added provision that sets the threshold for false signatures at 5%, at which point a party would be refused registration.

Political party law was also considered during a meeting between Botan and the Juridic Direction's Andrei Funieru. In particular, discussion centered on the passage of the local Law on Political Parties and other Socio-Political Organizations in Gagauz-Yeri. The local law appears to conflict with elements of *current* national law. After the amendment of party law in 1998, regional parties were pushed out of the system by a provision stipulating that parties may only register if they have an established level of support in 1/3 of Moldova's administrative-territorial units. At that time, IFES pointed out that such a provision would inevitably lead to tensions between the center and the regions. Now that it has been granted autonomy, it seems contradictory to forbid Gagauzia from establishing regional parties. In considering the new draft Law on Political Parties, IFES suggested that the Juridic Direction loosen restrictions on regional parties.

IFES & International Organizations

Mamaliga met with Dr. John Tabor, Chief of Party for the Local Government Reform Project (LGRP). They discussed the IFES/Moldova questionnaire on Mayors' access to information, professional networks and constituent feedback, as well as the delivery and tabulation methods employed. Tabor suggested adding an additional question on the training needs of mayors and their staff in order to inform the development of future LGRP work-plans. The LGRP recently distributed a questionnaire of its own, which focused on suggestions for improving current fiscal legislation. The results of the survey

will be shared with IFES/Moldova.

Supporting NGOs

In August the IFES/Certification Commission Working Group focused on the "Public Benefit", "Transparency and Accountability" and "Participatory Democracy" chapters of the draft Law On Non-Commercial Organizations. The draft is a joint effort of the IFES/Certification Commission Working Group and another working group sponsored by the Center for Non-Profit Law. Natalia Izdebschi, Chair of the Certification Commission, is acting as liaison between the two groups.

This month 3 sessions of the NGO Working Group were hosted. During the first meeting, the chapter on Public Benefit was finalized. Discussion focused on the formation of the Certification Commission (both voluntary members and the Secretariat). As stipulated in the draft, the Secretariat will ensure the normal functioning of the Commission and will be funded by the Ministry of Justice. IFES' recommendation that the financial and activity reports submitted by organizations applying for certification be more specific was incorporated into the overall recommendations, and an article requiring that decisions on certification be made within 60 days of application (and accompanying appeal procedures) was added.

IFES' Lasham and Gutium, attended a session regarding the chapter on "Transparency and Accountability." At that session, a new provision disallowing claims of trade secrecy on information related to organization activities, size and financial records was considered. Adjudication procedures for damages incurred due to illegal suspension of organization activities were also discussed. In coming sessions, the group plans to focus on drafting its official recommendations.

During the last session, the chapter on "Participatory Democracy" was at issue. Members made recommendations regarding the structure and conclusions of the chapter. By the next session, members are due to submit their written recommendations on this chapter, as well as the chapter on "Transparency and Accountability", and approve the final version. Members also considered additional financial benefits for public service organizations. One of the recommendations was an exemption from the VAT (goods and services tax) and a provision in the state budget for funds to be distributed among certain certified Public Service Organizations (PSOs). Gutium instead recommended following the Hungarian example of instituting a 1% discretionary tax. Under this model, taxpayers would decide themselves where money is to go, thus allowing for support to local organizations and breaking the current bias toward funding of urban-based organizations.

Focus Group Study

IFES/Washington Applied Research Officer Rakesh Sharma

and Mamaliga attended 6 focus group discussions conducted by CIVIS/Moldova. CIVIS was offered advice on methods for moderating discussions, recruiting participants, quantifying the fill-in questionnaire results, and preparing moderator reports and ultimate findings. They conducted a total of 12 focus group discussions designed to assess political attitudes throughout the country.

IFES & the Mass Media

IFES hosted a roundtable attended by IFES staff, Alexandru Cantir, Chairman of the Committee for the Freedom of Press, and Liliana Vitu of BBC/Moldova. The impact of activities sponsored by IFES & the CFP were reviewed and future projects related to mass media were discussed.

Civic Voice

This month IFES/Moldova produced issue # 31 of the *Civic Voice* newsletter. The issue features interviews with Mihai Ghimpu, Chairman of the Party of Reforms, and Oazu Nantoi, Chairman of the Social Democratic Party. In his interview, Ghimpu stressed the importance of political parties and the value of the proportional system. He suggested that it is not the system that is in need of reform, but the national agenda. An agenda that might serve to unite Moldovan society, he advised, would be integration into the European Union.

Nantoi explained why parties that do not call themselves Social Democrats, despite embracing social-democratic ideals, have managed to attain to power where his party has failed. Despite rhetoric to the contrary, Nantoi argued that it is not the diversity of political parties that is to blame for Moldova's failures. Rather, he pointed out that history has shown that scapegoating political parties and multi-party systems often results in dictators coming to power. Nantoi also expressed his view of the incumbent Moldovan elite, which he feels is so discredited that it is unable to promote a national agenda capable of uniting the country. Public apathy and lack of confidence in authorities, he noted, further undermines the chances for a genuine national agenda.

The issue also features an article by Lasham, which makes comparisons between the constitutional crisis in Moldova and constitutional problems associated with the passing of the European Parliamentary Elections Act 1999 in the UK. Senior Program Coordinator Botan also contributed an article this month. Botan analyzes the current crisis and its implications for elections in Moldova.

Impact Summary

In conjunction with the efforts of the Center for Non-Profit Law, the IFES/Certification Commission Working Group on NGOs is finalizing recommendations for a comprehensive Law on Non-Commercial Organizations. The recommendations seek the establishment of a legal framework that promotes stronger ties between the people, the issues, and law-

makers. Providing a solid and manageable framework for NGO operations will help to legitimize their status as contributors to the democratic process.

The IFES-sponsored focus group study of political perceptions and attitudes was successfully administered throughout the country. The study will provide a benchmark for the activities of IFES and other organizations working to promote democracy and good governance in Moldova. Most importantly, the published results of the study will be a valuable source of non-partisan information for the media, politicians, and government officials.

Finally, Issue #31 of the Civic Voice newsletter was published in August. The newsletter featured interviews with prominent Moldovan politicians, as well as commentaries by IFES/Moldova's Program Director and Senior Program Coordinator. The newsletter offers a non-partisan source of political information and is widely distributed throughout the country. (The newsletter can be found on the IFES/Moldova website: www.ifes.md/voceacivica/).

UKRAINE

New Project Manager Arrives in Kyiv

In late August, Patrice Noé Johnson arrived in Kyiv to serve as the new project manager for the field office. Johnson has over ten years of experience as a lawyer and senior manager involved in large municipal government operations (legal, administrative, and financial matters). Most recently, she served as Liaison for CEELI in the Republic of Armenia, working with legal associations and jurists. Johnson worked as an electoral officer for the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth as part of her duties as Clerk to the Regional Council. As Clerk, she also functioned as the chief parliamentary law and procedure advisor to the Regional Chairman and Council Members.

During her first few weeks in Kyiv, Johnson met with IFES' in-country partners, representatives of USAID, and international and domestic NGOs.

IFES Prepares Civic Education Program

In August, IFES began to assemble a civic education package to be shared with domestic and international organizations working in the area. The package will include lessons learned from IFES' pilot program, including sample student and teacher manuals, teacher training material, and evaluations of the summer democracy camp.

Students and teachers who participated in the summer democracy camp remained in contact with IFES/Ukraine throughout August. School No. 41 informed IFES that they intend to conduct a training camp similar in content and format to the summer democracy camp for younger students.

For this program they requested methodological resources from IFES consultants and trainers.

Verkhovna Rada Issues Plan for Next Session

Although on vacation until 5 September, the Verkhovna Rada released its tentative work plan for the session that will span September 2000 to January 2001. The Rada intends to consider the following issues during the fall session: amendments to the Constitution based on the outcome of the April nationwide referendum; the draft law on parliamentary elections; and the draft law on political parties.

Impact Summary

By preparing a package that will contain sample materials and an evaluation of activities, IFES ensures that other organizations can benefit from lessons learned as a result of the IFES pilot civic education program. The information provides a starting point for other organizations and schools who are interested in initiating programs that familiarize students with democratic institutions and develop the critical thinking skills necessary for active citizenship.

YUGOSLAVIA (KOSOVO)

With the Kosovo elections anticipated 28 October, the registration process is drawing to a close. The CAC period was the final step in registering for the elections; thus, the Joint Registration Taskforce has been dissolved. The focus in Kosovo is now turning towards publicizing and preparing for election day.

Corrections, Additions, and Challenges Period (CAC)

The Information Technology group generated the Provisional Voters' List (PVL) and had it printed in time for distribution before the beginning of the CAC, which ran from 21-30 August. The period provides registered voters the opportunity to make sure that their personal information is correctly entered on the voters list. Two hundred teams operated 448 confirmation centers. The teams consist of a UN volunteer registration/confirmation supervisor and local staff. Seventy-five were open for the entire period while the others were operated by mobile teams for a limited number of days each. The greatest difficulty that has been faced with the Voters' List has been the more than 16,000 spelling variations for the thirty municipalities. There was a Press and Information (PI) campaign for the CAC that included 3,000 posters and 25,000 flyers as well as radio and television spots.

Dissolution of the Joint Registration Taskforce (JRT)

A Draft Custody Agreement allowed the JRT to transfer the custody of the Municipal Records Centers (MRCs) and records to UN Civil Administration (UNCA) on a rolling basis as the review process has been completed in each municipality. A majority of the MRCs completed their work ahead of schedule and were prepared for handover to the UNCA. Only 200 review cases in Gjakova/Djakovica were not com-

pleted before the scheduled dissolution of the JRT on 1 September. Two elements of the JRT will survive: Inquiry Process and a small IT component—both will be completed by the end of September.

Elections Operations

On 16 August, a ballot lottery was held at OSCE Headquarters to determine the order of candidates, political parties, citizens' initiatives, and coalitions on the October ballot. Representatives of the political entities selected a numbered ball representing their number on the ballot from a sealed container. In order to prevent any one party having the possible psychologically advantageous number 1, numbering began with 11. The event received broad and favorable coverage in the local press.

The CEC decided on the final ballot design on 18 August. Ballot production is slated to begin on 1 September. In each municipality, the ballot will list all certified political parties, coalitions, citizens' initiatives, and independent candidates. Next to each certified political party, coalition, and citizens' initiative, there will be a place where a voter may write in the number of one candidate within a political party, coalition, or citizens' initiative candidates' list. Accompanying the ballot will be a form listing all the names of candidates on a certified political party's, coalition's, or citizens' initiative's candidates' list. The out of Kosovo absentee ballot may be different from the in Kosovo ballot for administrative reasons.

The CEC approved a system for numbering individual candidates on a candidates' list. Each candidate on a certified political party's, coalition's, or citizens' initiative's candidate list will be assigned a three digit number starting from "101." The CEC also approved the text of the instructions to be printed on the ballots. The ballots will be printed in Albanian and Serb-Cyrillic in all 30 municipalities. Additionally, Serb-Latinic and Turkish will be used in some municipalities.

Registration and voting plans are being finalized for various special needs groups including the homebound by disability, homebound by fear, hospitalized, institutionalized, incarcerated, and on-duty Kosovo Police Service officers. In order to enfranchise these individuals, Election Operations try to provide these people an opportunity to vote in the three-week period preceding the Municipal Elections.

Political Party Services (PPS)

The deadline for submission of lists of candidates was 28 July. Then the Political Party Services Division reviewed each list of candidates submitted by the political entities to ensure that all of the legal requirements had been met. If they had not been met, then the PPS informed the political entity that they had until 3 August to make any changes or corrections to their lists of candidates. While most problems were minor, some of the more significant problems requiring correction were insufficient number of women candidates, ab-

sence of registration receipts, and non-registered candidates.

IFES Consultant Kate Birsell oversaw the data entry for candidate registration and verification process, which began on 11 August. Verification addressed voter registration status; registration status in the municipality the candidate is contesting; double candidacy; membership on an MEC, the CEC, or the ECAC; membership in TMK or KPS; standing with the ICTY list of indicted war criminals; age (candidate must be 18 by 1 October, 2000); and compliance with Electoral Rule 2000/ on the percentage of female candidates.

Despite efforts to reach an agreement between UNMIK and representatives of the Turkish community, the Turkish Democratic Union (Türk Demokratik Birliği, TDB) party has decided to withdraw from the election in October. Likewise, the "Movement for Leposavic," which was working to form a citizens' initiative, informed the Department of Election Operations that it would not be contesting the elections. While the movement expressed its desire to keep the support of the international community, it cited fear of intimidation from the Belgrade regime and its supporters and lack of Kosovar Serb registrants as reasons for not participating.

Press and Information (PI)

The PI division selected a logo and slogan for the municipal elections after conducting focus group discussions. The slogan "My Municipality, My Decision" was selected. Both the logo and slogan will be used on all election publications released by the JRT.

PI has completed production of the first in a series of "Camera on Elections" programs. The program was aired on 29 August. The premier of this public service announcement was preceded by a television campaign over the weekend featuring the new logo and slogan without comment. The intent of the precursor campaign is to heighten voters' awareness and build interest in the campaign.

PI's Minorities Outreach has been working on the creation of media messages for communities that have decided not to participate in the registration and election process. They will also develop projects that will benefit those Kosovar Serb communities willing to cooperate with the international community.

Election Supervision

Preparations for the 950 Polling Supervisors are well underway. A Core Supervision manual has been drafted by Supervision and Field Operations and will shortly be finalized, a training site has been identified, and supervisor kits have been ordered. The Training Division held a planning meeting with KFOR regarding the training program. The program will cover the general security situation in Kosovo, emergency evacuation, radio communications, map reading, as well as medical and mine awareness. The training will be

held in Ohrid, FRYOM.

Domestic Capacity Building Division (DCBD)

CEC has now appointed all 30 municipal election commissions (MECs). Additionally, IFES Domestic Capacity Building Advisor Paul Manfuso has taken over as Head of Domestic Capacity Building.

The DCBD, in cooperation with the Training Division, is currently writing a professional development program for the members of the MECs. The training program is scheduled to run 11-18 September and will be conducted at the regional level.

Political entities have started to collect forms and submit names of observers for accreditation. The Training division conducted a training of Political Observers in Peja/Pec on 12 August.

CEC Adopted Electoral Rule 2000/12

In response to disparities in the financing of certified political parties, coalitions, citizens' initiatives, and independent candidates, the CEC adopted Electoral Rule 2000/12 on Campaign Finance Disclosure and Spending Limits. The first financial disclosure report will be due on 15 September and will cover the period since 1 April, 2000. Another disclosure report will be due thirty days after the elections. These disclosure forms will be held by the OSCE and made available for public scrutiny.

There shall also be a campaign-spending limit equal to 1 DM per registered voter in each municipality for which the certified political entity will participate in the election. This limit may be raised in exceptional circumstances

The CEC reviewed a report from the Election Operations Department, Political Party Services Division concerning the submission of candidate's lists for the six political parties and coalitions that applied for extensions of the 28 July deadline. 6 political parties and coalitions in 11 municipalities did not submit candidate lists. The CEC therefore de-certified these political parties and coalitions in these municipalities: the Coalition for Independence (KP) in Lipjan; the Party of Democratic Action of Kosova (SDA) in Prizren; the Centre Liberal Party of Kosova (PQLK) in Podujeve, Ferizaj, and Vushtrri; the Turkish Democratic Union (TDB) in Gjilan, Pristina, Prizren, and Vushtrri; the Albanian National Democratic Party (PNDSH-RA) in Gjakove; and the Albanian Republican Party (PRSH) in Ferizaj.

Impact Summary

Throughout the month of August, election preparations have been coming to a close with the impending elections in October. The JRT has been dissolved with the end of the registration process and the smooth implementation of the Confirmation, Additions, and Corrections period. The ballot design

has been finalized; and a ballot lottery was held to fairly decide each party, coalition, citizens initiative, and independent candidate's position on the ballot. Training for supervisors, MECs, and observers is being prepared and starting to take place. The PI division decided on the slogan and logo for the campaign to encourage voting; they continue working to make certain that all Kosovars are aware of the elections and their significance. At the same time, other divisions focus on ensuring that the elections will run as smoothly as possible and all the details are completed.

CAUCASUS/CENTRAL ASIA

ARMENIA

IFES Project Manager Delivers Two Classroom Lectures

During the month of August, as part of IFES' on-going effort to promote greater understanding of democratic elections among young people, IFES/Armenia Project Manager, Jeff Swedberg, delivered two lectures on the topic of democracy and democratic elections.

Women's Republican Council School

On 16 August, Swedberg addressed the School of the 21st Century, a one-year class for graduating high school seniors run by the Women's Republican Council. His lecture compared the electoral systems of the U.S. with that of Armenia and emphasized the importance of civil society development in the progress of democracy. The School of the 21st Century is funded by UNICEF and the World Food Program and offers a full calendar year of courses to selected students on issues of democracy, civics, women's rights, NGO development, health, and family.

Yerevan State University

On 17 August, Swedberg presented a lecture to the International Summer School of Political Science at Yerevan State University. Twenty-five political science professors from the CIS, Eastern Europe, Baltic countries and Mongolia were in attendance for this three-week course, which was partly funded by the Open Society Institute. Swedberg's presentation, "Elections in Armenia and Other States of the Post-Communist World," focused on both the successes and the shortcomings of elections and electoral related activities in the region over the past decade. Several guest lecturers participated in the three-week course, including Armenian politicians, parliamentary deputies and the members of the Constitutional Court.

IFES Finalizes Study on Voter and Election Issues

In late August, IFES submitted the final report on a study to USAID entitled, "Public Attitudes Toward Political Life: Electoral Experience, Confidence in Leadership and Civic Participation in Armenia." The study is based on the findings of eight focus groups carried out across Armenia by an IFES

survey specialist in coordination with the Armenian Sociological Association. The series of focus groups were designed to identify how ordinary citizens feel about their leaders and institutions, the confidence they have in the electoral process, and their overall perceptions of the political and economic situation in Armenia. Comments from the 80 participants, who were interviewed between 15 and 19 May, indicate that the ongoing economic and political instability in Armenia is diminishing the hopes and aspirations of the people. Alarming, the study reveals a "devaluation" of democratic values and the idea of democracy in the public consciousness. The study focused on the views of those who do not regularly vote in elections; however, the group discussions, and analysis of other survey data does not indicate a decrease in electoral participation. There is a widespread view, among those who do not vote, that the current authorities manipulate elections and election results, often in ways not detected by international observers. The motivation for those that do participate in elections is often a negative reaction to current political life in Armenia. On a brighter note, the participants acknowledged that elections have improved in the way they are technically administered.

The IFES study indicates that corruption is an accepted part of life in Armenia and that it touches everyone. Few expect the authorities to address the problem as long as those in power are benefiting from it. With regard to civil society, the study participants acknowledged the existence and good intentions of the many non-governmental organizations that have been established in the past decade, but seemed unconvinced that the NGO sector will make a difference in improving their lives.

Impact Summary

IFES' on-going four-year record in Armenia has made it a popular choice for local educational institutions looking for an international perspective on democracy issues. IFES lectures encourage dialogue among participants and cover areas such as the role of elections, democracy and civil society development. In addition, these presentations are thoughtfully tailored to the audience, whether secondary school students or academics. Through its recent study on public attitudes, IFES continues to add to the understanding of the political climate of Armenia. While the findings of the study are not encouraging with respect to the attitudes of the population, IFES research does identify areas where programmatic changes could be made to improve public confidence in this fragile democracy.

AZERBAIJAN

IFES Conducting Municipal Civic Education Activity

In August, IFES began delivery of a 10-week municipal governance civic education activity aimed at disseminating information on municipal governance and strengthening citizen recognition of rights and responsibilities in a democracy.

IFES Civic Education consultant Elsie Chang is executing the pilot phase of the activity, which has the support of the Presidential Administration and the Permanent Parliamentary Commission on Local Government.

Using best practices and lessons learned from other IFES civic education activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia, the Azerbaijan civic education program includes an extensive training program for 6 Azeri trainers. Following 6 days of training comprised of sessions on the legal framework of the municipal elections, popular education theory, public speaking techniques and interactive training strategies, the trainers are meeting with groups of citizens in over 60 municipalities across Azerbaijan. These face-to-face civic education sessions aim to accomplish the following:

- Discuss and explicate municipal laws
- Outline and explicate municipal laws
- Suggest ways that citizens could become active in their municipalities
- Answer question concerning municipal functions from citizens

In addition to engaging citizens in a discussion of the mandate of municipalities and the responsibilities of elected municipal members, IFES trainers are also distributing an IFES/Azerbaijan civic education brochure describing the legal framework for municipalities in Azerbaijan, the rights of citizens in municipalities, and ways that citizens can become active in their municipalities.

The IFES municipal governance civic education activity concludes in early September. A follow-on activity to this grassroots civic education effort is planned for Spring 2001.

Assessment of Local and Municipalities Underway

Concurrent to the delivery of the IFES municipal governance civic education activity, IFES is also conducting an assessment of select municipalities in key regions of Azerbaijan. A total of 64 municipalities will be visited and interviews conducted with elected municipal members to determine the extent to which the municipalities are functioning as organs of local democracy. IFES consultant Elsie Chang is overseeing the assessment, which concludes in mid-September.

In August, municipal assessments were conducted in several Baku area municipalities and in Quba, Ismaili, Sheki, Tovuz, Masalli, Lankaran, Astara and Ganja. To standardize the assessment of municipal councils, IFES has developed a basic questionnaire to ascertain the level of development of each municipal council. Once the assessment is complete, IFES will create a database with information on the municipalities canvassed.

IFES Defines Parliamentary Election Support

In support of the upcoming 5 November Parliamentary elections, IFES continues to provide technical assistance to the

CEC in the form of election administration training and technical advice in the administration of the elections under the newly enacted Parliamentary election law. In addition, IFES will also mount a national voter education campaign in the weeks preceding the election. This program will be executed jointly with the CEC and in collaboration with the British DFID Good Governance Fund and Internews.

To implement this election assistance, IFES will deploy a team of experienced international election practitioners, including a training expert, an election administrator, and a voter education specialist. Working closely with counterparts at the CEC, these specialists will strengthen the institutional capacity of the Commission and transfer valuable election skills.

IFES also plans to implement a Training of Trainers program to execute a cascade training program for election commission members and to develop an Elections Day Guide as a resource for the elections commissions. This support of the 2000 Parliamentary elections is part of IFES' ongoing technical assistance project that aims to increase transparency in the election administration process and improve adherence to international standards of democratic elections.

Impact Summary

IFES grassroots civic education activity is strengthening citizens' understanding of their rights and responsibilities in the democratic process and encouraging citizen accountability of Azerbaijan's first generation of elected local officials. In anticipation of Parliamentary elections in November, IFES continues to advocate for increased transparency and fairness in the administration of the elections. Technical assistance to the CEC continues to engender the institutional capacity to administer relevant election laws equitably and transparently so as to promote public confidence in the democratic process.

GEORGIA

IFES Plans Regional Civic Education Activity

To stem increasing public distrust of democratic institutions following the 2000 Presidential elections, IFES is planning a regional civic education activity, tentatively entitled "Become an Active Citizen," which aims to encourage citizens to become informed and take a more active role in democratic life. Delivery of this regional activity is expected to take place in October and November and will involve a series of coordinated training sessions with citizen groups composed of teachers, labor union members, small business owners, students, and NGO leaders

Development of the program curriculum followed an assessment of the civic education experience and capacities of NGOs and civic organizations in and around Tbilisi. This assessment, in which IFES canvassed over 20 domestic and

international organizations, revealed a need for practical, interactive civic education in regions outside of the capital city. As a result, "Be an Active Citizen" will target 7 regional centers (Rustavi, Gori, Telavi, Kutaisi, Khashuri, Akhaltsikhe, and Borjomi) and will focus on the following topics: democracy and democratization; the role and function of local government bodies; citizenship; citizens' rights and responsibilities; and human rights.

"Be an Active Citizen" will be delivered by training teams, composed of experienced Georgian trainers with considerable knowledge in the program content areas. In a Training of Training program planned for September, training teams will receive preparation in adult education techniques, effective communication skills and popular education theory.

Over an eight-week period from October to late November, IFES training teams will provide interactive training to 11 citizen groups of 20–25 people in these subject areas by means of a series of workshops, working sessions and networking sessions. Between these meetings, the IFES trainers will also provide additional on-site support to the citizen's groups to encourage citizens to utilize the tool bag of citizenship skills that will be introduced in the program.

IFES Prepares to Assist Parliamentary Working Group

In late August, at a Parliamentary retreat at a mountain resort north of Tbilisi, Parliament leaders failed to agree on the composition of an election code working group. Both ruling party and opposition members of Parliament have called for such a working group to begin work on a unified or comprehensive election code. Final composition of the working group, which is expected to include representatives of all major political parties and factions, in addition to representatives of domestic and international NGOs, is expected to be decided in early September.

In preparation for IFES assistance to the Parliament, IFES/Georgia Legal Advisor George Baratashvili met with several representatives of democracy NGOs in August to initiate a dialogue among groups that are likely to contribute to the work of the parliamentary working group. With this effort, IFES aims to encourage a constructive and realistic approach to legislative development. As it has since 1997, IFES plans to work with domestic NGOs as it renders technical legal assistance to the Parliament to insure that the working group conducts itself in a transparent and politically responsible manner.

IFES Continues IT Assistance to CEC

In early August, IFES IT Consultant George Katsia completed a series of internet security improvement sessions with the staff of the CEC Computer Department. This assistance resulted in a security upgrade of the CEC's internet server and web site that vastly improves the security of the present system and provides CEC staff with the knowledge necessary

to manage future security requirements.

Following the completion of these security sessions, IFES and the CEC began to plan for an overhaul of the CEC website in September. According to this joint plan, IFES will assist the CEC in the redesign and expansion of the CEC web site to include information on past Georgian elections.

New Law on Regional Self-government Expected

In September the Parliament of Georgia is expected to begin work on a new law on regional self-government. The new law is expected to include provisions for the election of mayors, governors and local council members following pre-election assurances by President Shevardnadze that elections of mayors and governors would take place during his new term. Under the present law on regional self-government, only local councils or Sakrebulo are democratically elected. The election of governors and mayors, which are currently appointed by the president, aims to bring Georgian law into accordance with Council of Europe standards on local self-governance.

Impact Summary

In response to a growing sense of public distrust, IFES has responded by developing a regional civic education activity that will encourage citizens to become informed and take a more active role in public life. In anticipation of work on the legislative basis for elections by Parliament later this year, IFES has initiated a dialogue among non-governmental organizations to focus on common concerns and to encourage a constructive and realistic approach to legislative development. Lastly, IFES' continued assistance to the CEC to improve the security of the CEC's computer network and internet site-- the primary means by which the Commission makes election information available for public inspection - insures that citizens will have access to credible and useful information about both past and future elections.

KAZAKHSTAN

Civic Education and Curriculum Development

IFES staff continued preparations for the introduction of its Civic and Democracy textbook during the 2000-2001 school year. The textbook, which has been undergoing a long-term adaptation process to include Kazakhstan-specific material, has been completed. During August, IFES activities focused on completing printing and distribution of the textbooks in Russian and Kazakh in time for the beginning of the school year. Translations into Russian and Kazakh of an accompanying Teacher's Manual were also completed.

With the assistance of the Ministry of Education, 84 schools have been identified that will participate in the next pilot testing phase and use the textbook beginning in September 2000. These schools are clustered around five centers: Astana, Almaty, Semey, Shymkent, and Aktobe. IFES made a concerted

effort to ensure representative ratios of city to rural schools, and of Russian-language schools to Kazakh-language schools. The clustering of the schools facilitates teacher-training, programmatic follow-up and creates an informal support network among teachers. This was reflected in the training sessions held in August to prepare teachers in the methodology of teaching the course. The training seminars, conducted in the five cluster regions, included overviews of the IFES textbook, related practical exercises and teaching strategies.

The Ministry of Education received a review and recommendations on the revised textbook from the Altynsarin Methodological Institute, and subsequently issued a decree granting official support of the project.

Impact Summary

The extensive efforts supported by IFES to finalize the textbooks and to prepare the teachers in the instruction of the civic education course are aimed at promoting democratic principles at the grassroots level. The hands-on activities included in each major textbook theme, and to be introduced and moderated by teachers, comprise the focal point of the IFES interactive approach. IFES also focused efforts on developing strategic partnerships teachers 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 during the coming school year.

KYRGYSTAN

Education Project in Kyrgyzstan

Following the successful implementation of the IFES democracy textbook in secondary schools in Kazakhstan, IFES Kyrgyzstan has commenced a project to apply the textbook for use in Kyrgyz secondary schools. IFES has approval from the Minister of Education and the Director of the Kyrgyz Institute of Education to proceed with the project. An IFES education committee has undertaken the task of selecting appropriate Kyrgyz authors to contribute to the textbook. By the end of August a number of chapters had been augmented with Kyrgyzstan-specific material. The committee will prepare the teacher's manual and ensure that appropriate democracy and civics education student hands-on activities are included. They will also assist IFES in the editing and implementation phase of the project.

Electoral Sector Assistance

IFES is continuing assistance of the CEC with the training of Precinct staff. IFES has selected core trainers to partner CEC trainers as they travel around the country training the Precinct Election Commissions (PEC). The core trainers were trained in late August and the PEC training program will commence in mid-September and conclude by early October. IFES plans to have a core trainer present training at every PEC event.

The training program will result in a more effective control of PEC's work on polling day. IFES has prepared a manual for core trainers and a procedural guidebook for members of the PEC. The guidebooks will be translated and available in Kyrgyz, Russian and Uzbek languages. IFES has additionally prepared a voter education leaflet and a poster together with a local NGO partner. These will be also be translated and distributed to households and to polling stations. Public service announcements (modelled after those developed by IFES for the February 2000 Jogorku Kenesh elections) addressing voter information needs are slated to be prepared in September, with preliminary discussions commencing in August.

Student Parliament

Following the successful student Summer Camp held at Issyk-Kul in July, IFES has held regular meetings with representatives of the student body elected at the Camp. These students have prepared many projects during their summer vacation and in the period leading up to the presidential elections. They have formed committees to work on a new model for elections of the student council at Kyrgyz State National University; they have planned an 'agitation train' to bring the election message to students across the country; and they have a group working with an NGO producing public service announcements for IFES as well as other activities. One particularly important project will be an IFES student observer group at the presidential election in October. A list of students who were trained by IFES at the Summer Camp and wishing to be IFES Observers is being prepared. They will be trained and participate as accredited observers on election day, a project for which IFES received approval directly from the CEC. The students will meet after the presidential election to discuss and present their findings.

Impact Summary

IFES strategies in August aimed at increasing both the professionalization of the CEC administration and the transparency of the election process. IFES has focused on providing professional assistance to the CEC including the provision of election manuals, posters, training and advertising. IFES is supporting the CEC with the training of PEC staff. IFES has promoted a number of student projects; in particular the IFES Observer group. IFES eagerly supports student activities of this sort, as they represent democracy building at the grassroots level. IFES received approval from the Minister of Education to proceed with development of a civic education project including a textbook on civics and democracy, a teacher's manual, activity resources and a teacher training program for pilot schools to be included in selected regions commencing as early as January 2001.

TAJIKISTAN

Curriculum Development

IFES Civic Education and Gender Consultant Lori Handrahan arrived in Dushanbe to meet with government officials

and representatives of local and international NGOs in connection with IFES' textbook and civics course project. Handrahan and Project Assistant Moukim Mallaev held a series of meetings to discuss viability of the textbook initiative and how it fits into the overall scheme of civics and democracy education in the country. It was determined that efforts have been underway to coordinate and strategize a unified approach to curriculum and textbook development among international donors and the Ministry of Education. The efforts of World Bank, Soros and the Aga Khan Foundation were cited as particularly significant in the sphere of education-sector development for primary and secondary school students. Based on discussions, it was determined the IFES project of introducing a civics and democracy textbook for 11th grade students has a niche in Tajikistan. The need for such information was solidified following results of a series of Focus Groups conducted by IFES in May, in which teachers and students alike cited the lack of textbooks specifically focusing on Tajikistan's particular developmental history. The project, subject to ultimate approval of the Ministry of Education, was well-received by other international partners, with whom IFES pledged to coordinate on an on-going basis as the project gains momentum.

IFES/Tajikistan submitted a formal Civics and Democracy Textbook/Course Development proposal to the Ministry of Education for review. The Ministry forwarded the proposal to the Institute of Pedagogy for discussion and evaluation. The Institute of Pedagogy granted initial support for the IFES proposal and submitted a Letter of Support to the Ministry of Education. A meeting will be scheduled with the Ministry in September to further discuss the project.

Democracy Summer Camp Preparations

IFES/Tajikistan continued working with OSCE/Khojand on preparations to conduct a Democracy Summer Camp for University Students. The event is scheduled to take place at a sanatorium at Kairakum Lake and will conclude in early September. The Camp, which is being co-sponsored by IFES and OSCE, is designed to bring together University students of different backgrounds ages 18 and 23 together (50 students per camp) for a period of 6 days. The goal of the Camp is to train selected university students in the principles governing democratic polities, civil society, participatory democracy and other topics of interest. The aim of the event extends beyond the mere sharing of knowledge, and seeks to foster dialogue and debates on social and political issues in an effort to ensure active participation of the students in the discussions during the Camp and after the Camp as they return to their schools. Preparations for the Summer Camp continued throughout the month of August.

IFES' Televised Discussion: Parliament and Political Party

Philip Griffin received a letter of appreciation from the Majlisi Oli on behalf of IFES for its role in sponsoring a series of television programs titled "Society, Law and Democracy."

Working with NGO partners *Mediopolis* and *The Law and Democracy Center*, IFES sponsored a series of broadcasts that included interviews with parliamentarians on subjects such as political party development, women's issues and education themes. Programs in August included "Priorities of budget planning in the Majlisi Oli," "International relations of the Republic of Tajikistan," "The youth of Tajikistan and its role in the democratic processes of Tajikistan," and "Parliament and the people." All televised discussions included appearances by parliamentary deputies and ministerial-level officials from the executive apparatus, in addition to academics and members of NGOs. The broadcasts were aired tape-delay on regional television, and featured a sharing of information on the work and opinions of parliament, political parties, and others on critical issues facing the country. The objective of the series was to provide direct information to viewers about the political process and the workings of elected officials and others in government in order to better connect citizens with the governing process.

Political Party Round Table Discussion

Representatives from political parties, local NGOs, international organizations, diplomatic missions, independent observers and mass media participated at an IFES-sponsored round table in Dushanbe to discuss the role of political parties and movements in democratization of society. Officials representing several Tajikistani political parties engaged in a useful, spirited discussion and expressed their points of view on the process of democracy development in Tajikistan, the prospects for ongoing multipartyism, party traditions, and the "negative" influence of some traditions on the ongoing national reconciliation process (regionalism, inexperience and weakness of executive authorities etc). The discussion was marked by openness on the part of all participants. IFES Political Party Specialist Philip Griffin encouraged the party representatives to voice their opinions, and several proceeded to criticize the elections (both presidential and parliamentary) and insist on direct elections of local Hokims. Though their remain acute differences in philosophy among party representatives, it was agreed that such forums provide an excellent opportunity to exchange views in an open environment free from excessive control and intimidation.

Elections Update

Political Party Specialist Philip Griffin met Chairman of the Central Committee on Elections and Referenda (CCER) Mirzoali Baltuyev to discuss elections planned for Kurghan-Teppa and Kofarnikhon. These special elections for seats in the Majlisi Namoyandagon were called to fill seats left vacant after the February national elections. IFES indicated it is willing to offer appropriate assistance in the area of election administration and voter awareness should the CCER make a formal request. Chairman Baltuyev praised IFES for its February pre-election work in the area of grievance adjudication, voter education, and domestic observer and election administrator training. It was agreed to maintain regular contact and

discuss specific assistance projects as the need arises.

Impact Summary

IFES took a giant step in the development of its civic education initiative in August. Consultant Lori Handrahan assisted in identifying priorities for both the civics and democracy textbook project as well as the IFES gender program. It was determined that IFES must first gain formal acceptance of the textbook project from the Ministry of Education, and then work with international partners and a coalition of local experts to identify project parameters. IFES was encouraged by the efforts undertaken to date to promote a unified strategy of curriculum reform in Tajikistan, though believes strongly that individual initiatives should be encouraged that seek to introduce new material in an expedient manner in pilot schools. IFES will be working with a coalition of international donors and governmental representatives over the coming months as it seeks to formalize its project's inclusion into civic education curriculum reform efforts.

Promoting access to information on the part of ordinary citizens remains a priority of IFES' political party development project. By including interviews with sitting deputies as well as regional political party leaders, IFES hopes to encourage greater transparency and accountability of elected officials and government representatives. IFES also seeks to advance the development of a multi-party political spectrum by encouraging leaders of all parties to participate in interview sessions and "open microphone" forums. Work with local partner NGOs will continue to expose as many officials and party leaders as possible in the coming weeks to the widest possible viewing audience to hear their positions on issues critical to the everyday lives of Tajikistani citizens.

UZBEKISTAN

Civic Education and Curriculum Development

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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 worked in more than 100 countries. IFES activities are made possible, in part, by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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