

**Europe and Eurasia
Monthly Report
Table of Contents**

Europe

International Women’s Day..... p. 1

Albania: Preparations for June Elections p. 2

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Legal Reform & Youth GAINS p. 3

Macedonia: Defining the Role of Electoral Management Bodies..... p. 5

Moldova: Post-Election Assessments & NGO Training..... p. 5

Yugoslavia (Kosovo): Post-Election Survey..... p. 7

Caucasus

Armenia: Women’s Day Fairs..... p. 8

Azerbaijan: U.S. Study Tour Returns..... p. 11

Georgia: Election Code Development..... p. 12

Central Asia

Kazakhstan: Student Olympiad..... p. 13

Kyrgyzstan: Pilot Civic Education Project..... p. 15

Tajikistan: Political Party Forum & Civic Education Project..... p. 16

Uzbekistan: Student Action Committee Manuals..... p. 17

EUROPE

ALBANIA

Assistance to the Central Election Commission (CEC)

In March, IFES continued its two major initiatives in Albania: working directly with the CEC on the preparation of a national list of voters for the June 2001 parliamentary elections and assisting the CEC in the preparation and implementation of the national election.

National Voter List Near Completion

In March, all 416 civil registry offices worked on compiling additions to the list (since June 2000) and verifying the names that come directly from the civil registry offices. This work will be completed in early April. Through the OSCE, international donations have been pledged to the Voter Registration Project.

Fundraising will continue in April, with the goal of raising an additional \$300,000. The electoral code will be amended to remove the requirement for a national voter card for the parliamentary election. The Voter Registration Project Management Board met twice during the month of March. The second meeting included representatives of the political parties.

Election Preparations

In late March, the President of Albania held a consultation meeting with representatives of political parties and the international community regarding the election date. Based on comments of the CEC and IFES regarding the need for sufficient time to prepare for the elections, it is likely that the election date will be fixed for 24 June with second round elections on 8 July.

IFES, along with the Constitutional Court and the Council of Europe, has been involved in the planning of a judicial seminar with the justices of the Constitutional and High courts on the adjudication of election disputes. This seminar will be held in early April and will be followed by training sessions with lower level judges through the Magistrates School.

Arrangements were made in March for the publication of a book of Electoral Zone maps reflecting the new zones approved by Parliament in late March.

IFES worked with the CEC in March to assess proposals from a special Parliamentary Commission on the Voter List. The proposals do not conform to the requirements of the electoral code, and through the Voter Registration Project further effort will be made to accommodate the interests of the Parliamentary Commission.

A number of political parties came forward with proposed changes to the electoral code in March. These changes are

being considered by Parliamentary committees but are not likely to be approved in advance of the elections due to time constraints. The necessary amendment to the electoral code to remove the requirement for a national voter card for these elections has not yet been submitted to Parliament.

Impact Statement

IFES is the lead international organization assisting the CEC in the development of the national voter list for the upcoming parliamentary elections. Through this involvement, IFES has a direct impact on the work of the CEC and the broader international community. IFES has provided information on project progress at meetings of the Friends of Albania and has provided advice to OSCE and US Embassy staff.

BOSNIA AND HERZIGOVINA

AEOBiH Activities

AEOBiH Legal Council Submits Suggestions for Improving the Draft Election Law

Based on an initiative made by the AEOBiH Presidency members, the Legal Council of the Association of Election Officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina was established in February 2001. The Legal Council consists of twelve experienced lawyers and judges who are AEOBiH members from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They represent all three ethnic groups and come from both BiH entities, as well as Brcko district. The aim is to develop this group into a strong advisory body that will deal with legal regulations from the field of elections, not only for the benefit of AEOBiH members, but also for voters, political parties, state institutions, and non-governmental organizations.

In the coming period, the Legal Council will focus on supporting the passage of the Draft Election Law. At a recent meeting, the Legal Council drafted a proposal suggesting twelve technical amendments to the Draft Election Law. This proposal was forwarded to Mr. Sead Avdic, Chairperson of the House of Representatives of the BiH Parliament for their consideration during future discussions on the draft legislation. This action was taken after a meeting between Mr. Avdic and representatives of the AEOBiH, where Mr. Avdic expressed his full support to the AEOBiH and its activities. He also proposed that the AEOBiH organize a short presentation on the topic of multi-member constituencies, which is currently being prepared to present to the BiH House of Representatives later this month. The Legal Council intends to continue meeting with the newly constituted BiH authorities in order to promote the AEOBiH and its role in the nationalization process, as well as to foster the exchange of information between AEOBiH members and relevant government bodies.

The Legal Council also expects that the AEOBiH will become actively involved in the process of drafting and adopt-

ing legal sub-regulations, which will fall under the competence of the BiH Election Commission once it has been fully established. By providing technical advice regarding practical matters in the law and sub-regulations, the AEOBiH will be able to make an important contribution toward the enhancement of the elections process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Campaign Finance in Bosnia and Herzegovina

During late March 2001, the Election Appeals Sub-Commission (EASC) issued a number of decisions concerning campaign finance regulations in relation to the 2000 general election, during which campaign financing was regulated for the first time.

Campaign finance regulation is a difficult endeavor in most democracies. Most countries have adopted legal acts and regulations with the aim of leveling the playing field for political parties and eliminating financial interests' manipulation of elections. Political parties and candidates are, however, often in a position to override regulations as the authorities do not have the sufficient administrative capacity and competence to ensure strict adherence to regulations, or the political parties and candidates themselves are not internally democratic, transparent, and accountable and, therefore, are capable operating outside the reach of official regulatory bodies.

The campaign financing regulations in BiH consisted of four key components:

- 1) disclosure provisions that required political parties to file reports with the Provisional Election Commission (PEC) detailing their income and expenditures prior to the elections and once again following the elections;
- 2) donation limits of 3,656 convertible marks (KM), or approximately \$1750, and a prohibition of accepting any donations from public companies;
- 3) spending limits of one convertible mark per voter in each electoral race; and
- 4) enforcement, including the capacity to audit the financial records of political parties.

At its recent session on 23 March, the EASC issued three summary decisions:

- The EASC found that nine parties failed to file financial disclosure forms (FDFs) by the deadline of 28 December 2000, or failed to file an FDF at a proper location, as was the case for the Party of Democratic Center of Cazin. All of the parties were censured for violating Article 1601 in the Rules and Regulations (which requires political parties to file FDFs with the PEC no later than thirty days after the PEC publishes the results from the 11 November 2000 general elections) and were warned that any future violations of the campaign financing requirements could affect

their right to participate in future elections in the country.

- The EASC found that twelve parties failed to complete FDFs properly. The most common violation was failure to include all payment bureau accounts on the FDFs.
- The EASC also considered thirteen referrals from the PEC regarding possible violations of campaign financing requirements by six different parties: the Party of Democratic Progress (PDP), the Serb Democratic Party (SDS), the Social Democratic Party of BiH (SDP), the Socialist Party of Republika Serbska (SPRS), the Party for BiH (SBiH) and the New Croat Initiative (NHI). The EASC found that all of the parties failed to complete the FDFs properly. The parties were censured for these violations, which fall under Article 1601.

Aside from these summary decisions, the EASC also took decisions in individual cases concerning the SDA and HDZ. The SDA was censured for failing to report all its payment bureau accounts. As sanctions, the EASC requested the resignation of the accountant/bookkeeper of SDA Tuzla Office, and the resignation of the Vice President of the SDA from Tuzla Canton. In the last case, the Croat Democratic Union (HDZ) was censured for failing to report all of its payment bureau accounts.

Is the system working? Many political parties had a difficult time adapting to the new regulation of campaign and party financing. That is to be expected whenever new legislation is adopted. However, some parties clearly took their new legal obligations more seriously than others.

It is difficult to assess whether or not the campaign finance regulations in BiH are effective and are having the intended impact. The assessment is, however, that there is a very long way to go before campaign finance regulations can be implemented effectively in BiH, regardless of the design of the regulations.

The design of the current regulations depends on a fairly democratic and transparent system of party organizations and a solid administration (with the current design there is emphasis on the role of a controlling and monitoring administration) to enforce the regulations. Neither is in place in BiH. On the contrary, political parties are far from democratic in their organization and the elections administration that is supposed to enforce the regulations is minimal, consisting of five people working over a period of four to six months during the past election. This administration will probably weaken in the future as the international electoral component decreases, with both the international financial auditors in OSCE and international lawyers in EASC likely to terminate their engagement very soon.

Civic Education Activities

GAINS

The Civic Education teams continue their efforts with GAINS. The new GAINS include promising initiatives for young people, such as an intra-canton network of youth centers based in Buzim, which reaches out to young people in eight municipalities in the Una Sana Canton. Another youth GAIN reached completion when a local sports club responded positively to the request of eight young people to use the club's premises for table tennis. The youth are now advocating the establishment of a formal sports club.

In addition to reaching out to youth, IFES teams worked on coordinating IFES' six electricity GAINS in Bihac and seven electricity GAINS in Livno. The mayors of Drvar and Bihac met on 19 March and agreed to continue using the old, closer power supply rather than relying on power from more distant and mountainous Martin Brod. Two representatives of the electricity company attended the meeting and agreed to cooperate as well and will determine the condition of the old power supply system and then present a proposal to prospective donors. With this meeting, IFES has made significant progress in promoting cooperation between local communities.

Council Meetings

IFES Civic Education teams continued to attend council meetings throughout BiH. At IFES' suggestion, a councillor in the Canton 8 municipal council called for the mayor to provide short updates prior to each council meeting on events occurring between council sessions. The council adopted the resolution. Meanwhile, recognizing the importance of local community structures, the municipal council in Siroki Brijeg approved two Mjesna Zajednica, local community structures, that had existed before the war and are slowly coming back into existence with IFES encouragement.

Impact Summary

IFES/AEOBiH's Legal Council plays a unique role in BiH by serving as a non-partisan advisory body that will deal with legal regulations from the elections field. The Legal Council's twelve proposed amendments not only recommend necessary changes to the draft election law but also draw attention to the fact that people are still interested in having such a law passed and implemented. The watchdog role being played by IFES/AEOBiH with regard to campaign finance should bring more attention to the flaws in the current process of review and enforcement of candidate and party finance regulations.

IFES' civic education activities were particularly effective in the area of youth involvement this past month, resulting in two successful GAINS initiatives. The agreement of Drvar and Bihac to cooperate on the electricity project is historic in

these two problematic cantons. It reinforces previous successes by IFES in fostering cooperation between local communities.

MACEDONIA

Background

March was a month that saw increased tensions between the country's Albanian and Macedonian populations. Macedonian security forces clashed with armed fighters in Kosovo border areas and in and around Tetovo. By month's end, the military situation appeared to be under control and the ruling coalition (including the Democratic Party of Albanians) held together. During this period, the Working Group on Electoral Reform, established in January by Minister of Justice Xhevdet Nasufi, met on four occasions.

Voters' List Testing

In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Bureau of Statistics, IFES conducted integrity testing of the voters' list database. At the end of the month, it presented a final report to the Working Group that identified problem areas and made recommendations for further testing. Further testing will require the approval and cooperation of the Ministry of Interior.

Review and Analysis of Electoral Laws

Despite the fighting in areas around Tetovo and the Kosovo border, the Working Group held four meetings in March. In addition to its consideration of the IFES preliminary report on the voters' list testing, the Working Group reviewed the Law on Voters Lists and Voter ID Cards and began its review of the Law on Election of Members of Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia.

The Ministry of Justice prepared a draft of recommended changes and alternatives to the Law on Voters Lists and Voter ID Cards. After the Working Group approves a draft, written comments will be solicited from political parties.

Regarding the Law for Election of Members of Parliament, the Working Group focused on alternative election models and on the structure of electoral management bodies. IFES provided the Working Group with a number of papers on electoral system models, as well as specific analyses of two recent proposals to Parliament that would replace the current system with a pure proportional model. The current parallel system, often referred to as a mixed system, provides that 85 of the 120-member Parliament be elected in single constituency districts by a relative majority while 35 members are elected on the basis of proportional representation.

IFES also provided the Working Group with a variety of materials on electoral management bodies including models from other countries.

Impact

The database testing will enable the government to take steps to ensure a clean voters' list. The analyses of the proposals to change the electoral system has provided the Working Group with vital information on the implications of the various models, including the effect on small and ethnically based parties.

MOLDOVA

IFES & the CEC

Following the 25 February parliamentary elections, IFES/Moldova and the Central Election Commission (CEC) reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of the administrative process. It was agreed that the elections proceeded relatively smoothly and that no significant flaws were revealed. IFES made several suggestions for improving the administrative process in the future, however, including publishing examples of doubtful ballots for election officials and candidates' representatives immediately prior to elections. Example ballots would include decisions of the CEC as to what constituted valid and invalid ballot papers.

Supporting NGOs

IFES/Moldova, in conjunction with the Certification Commission of the Ministry of Justice and the Social Investment Fund (SIF), held two training seminars on "Public Benefit Certification" in Ungheni and Cahul Judets. Through the end of March, 6 of a planned 8 seminars have been held. These seminars are aimed at guiding NGOs that are seeking public benefit status through the registration and certification process. Approximately 80 representatives of registered and unregistered NGOs, mayors, and other public officers attended the seminars. Participants were instructed as to how local NGOs are registered and the benefits of public benefit certification.

IFES/Moldova's Ina Gutium gave a presentation on the importance of Public Administration/NGO partnerships and participants shared their experiences of registering at the local level. The issues raised during the discussion as well as on post-seminar questionnaires indicate an urgent need for training seminars on NGO registration for mayors and local councilors. Last year, IFES/Moldova organized seminars of this kind for public officers and NGOs at the Judet level, but no such training has been conducted at lower administrative levels. IFES/Moldova provides ongoing support to NGOs that request assistance with the registration process.

IFES continues to work with Intercultural Dialog on publishing a civic education guide. IFES has agreed to contribute \$1,000 toward the publication of the guide. UNESCO/Paris and UNDP are also participating in the creation of the guide and the development of accompanying curriculum. The publication of a revised Public Officer's Guide also received attention this month. IFES and the League for the Defense of



IFES/Moldova and the Ministry of Justice Certification Commission sponsor a seminar on NGO certification in Cahul Judet

ity Know How's Active Grants Programme. CDDP's Ina Gutium, Margareta Mamaliga, and Tamara Chitoroaga traveled to six communities in Balti and Ungheni Judets to assess existing levels of social capital. Following the assessment, three villages were selected for further work with the project. Social capital was assessed on the basis of the following criteria – evidence of cooperative activities within the community, exchange of assistance between non-related members of the community, trust in the local institutions, voter turnout in recent elections, and the existence of informal leaders within the community.

The annual report of the Embassy of the Netherlands on "Human Rights and Liberties in the Republic of Moldova" highlights CDDP in its discussion of NGO/Public Administration partnership. CDDP was mentioned for its effective partnerships with the CEC and the Ministry of Justice.

the Human Rights of Moldova (LADOM) agreed to approach a number of funding agencies to help cover the costs of production.

Civic Voice

This month Iurie Rosca, Chairman of the Peoples' Christian Democratic Party (CDPP) gave an interview for IFES/Moldova's Vocea Civica newsletter. Mr. Rosca discussed both the mass media in general and its behavior during the last electoral campaign in particular. Mr. Rosca cited this last campaign period as one of the dirtiest and noted that he has filed suits with several TV stations that aired reports accusing him of being a former KGB spy.

Also interviewed in March was Andrei Neguta, Second Secretary of the Communist Party. Mr. Neguta discussed the concept of the modern communist. He differentiated modern communists from social-democrats as politicians who place serving the public interest above monetary interests. He points to the Chinese model as the closest to Moldovan Communism. Mr. Neguta mentioned review of privatization activities, judicial reform, and consideration of a bicameral legislature as the Communists' top priorities.

*CDDP Activity**

In March, CDDP began field-testing for its Mentoring in Community Development Project, a project funded by Char-

On 21 March, the U.S. Embassy awarded CDDP a grant amounting to \$6,080 for a project aimed at identifying ways of solving interethnic conflict in Moldova.

Electoral School

In March IFES/Moldova organized three sessions of the Electoral School for political party young wings. The lectures were dedicated to election results, post electoral developments, and parliamentary bodies.

Impact Summary

As in past elections, IFES/Moldova's post-electoral focus was on assessing the performance of the CEC and providing recommendations for improving the administrative framework. IFES' work with the CEC aims to promote a more transparent and efficient electoral process through building the institutional capacity of the commission. IFES' work with the CEC will prove particularly critical if legislative changes to the framework for elections proposed by the incoming administration are realized.

IFES' seminars on NGO certification, co-sponsored by the Certification Commission, have been met with tremendous success. The seminars inform the NGO community of the benefits of certification, which serve as mechanisms of accountability between NGOs and the populations they serve.

Overall, the seminars enhance the transparency of relations between NGOs and their regulatory bodies.

* The Center for the Development of Participatory Democracy (CDDP) is a registered Moldovan NGO that consists of current IFES/Moldova staff and an independent board of directors. In 2001, CDDP will succeed IFES in its role as a non-partisan supporter of free and fair elections in Moldova. While some of CDDP's projects are funded or supported by IFES, many are funded by direct grants to the organization from a variety of other sources.



George Smith of the AEA presents the topic of Voter Education to the Municipal Election Commissioners of Peja in Kosovo.

YUGOSLAVIA (KOSOVO)

MEC Training Seminars

In early March, IFES held the second training seminar for Municipal Election Commissioners' in each of the five administrative regions in the province. Berit Lindeman, a former legal expert for the Core Staff of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to Moldova and to Azerbaijan, introduced the topic of a Legal Framework. Ms. Lindeman discussed the main elements of an effective legal framework for elections and explained how each step of the electoral process is subject to the rules and procedures outlined in this framework.

Professor Rafael López-Pintor spoke to the MEC members in a special session sponsored by the OSCE on the Registration Process on 18 March. The Director of Elections Operations opened the session, and the Head of the CEC Secretariat presented a brief report on the status of the preparations for the next electoral cycle. Professor López-Pintor then addressed the advantages of a voter registration program, the purpose of having a voters' list, methods for producing a voter register, ways of limiting the costs of voter registration, and methods for auditing the register. He also gave an overview of different voter registration systems employed around the world.

During the week of 25 March, training sessions were held on Voter Education for the MEC members. George Smith, Deputy Chairman of the Association of Electoral Administrators, which is the organization representing electoral staff in the UK, presented this topic. It was the first topic that allowed the involvement of participants in planning and developing strategies for the next elections. The discussions and exer-

cises resulted in the drafting of proposed actions aimed at improving the reach of voter education programs in the Commissioners' municipalities. Voters in remote rural areas, disadvantaged voters, minorities, and youth were identified as the principal targets for these actions. In only one region was lack of coverage attributable to the inadequacy of logistical means.

Upcoming training sessions will cover election planning and electoral management bodies. The Election Planning session by Zsolt Szolnoki of the ACEEEO will take place 23-27 April. The workshop on Electoral Management Bodies by Azemina Vukovic from the AEOBiH 30 April through 4 May.

Survey Report Released

The IFES post-election survey report has been released both from IFES/Washington and IFES/Pristina. It was administered by IFES in December 2000. The survey was of independent and party candidates, observers from 106 NGOs, and the Municipal Elections Commission (MEC) members who administered the election process in Kosovo. The findings conclude that Kosovar election officials need specialized training to assume increased responsibilities and functions and achieve greater transparency in administration. Survey participants agreed that this reform, along with more community outreach, must occur before Kosovo's general elections take place. The Survey Report assesses Kosovo's first democratic election in depth, from addressing the clarity and sim-



Attendees at IFES/Armenia's Civic Educator training in Tsakhkadzor

plicity of ballots and voter registration lists to the fairness of the campaign itself. It can be viewed on IFES' web page at <http://www.ifes.org/Pdf/Kosovo_FinalReport.pdf>.

Impact Summary

IFES's MEC training seminars have been a success so far. The attendees have included all ethnic groups, including Serbs, and the seminars have been well attended. The MECs evaluation of the workshops has been positive. For example, MEC members have noted that they would like to continue the seminars, that IFES activities are welcomed, and that the seminars are well-organized, well prepared, and highly professional.

CAUCASUS

ARMENIA

IFES Civic Activities Focus on Women's Participation

A central component of IFES Citizen's Awareness and Participation Project is the cooperation of IFES with an indigenous women's NGO, the Women's Republican Council (WRC), to encourage civic participation among Armenian women. Within this framework, IFES and the WRC held a number of events in March in conjunction with International

Women's Day (IWD). This newly re-established 8 March holiday provided a useful focal point for a number of WRC/IFES educational events.

IFES-WRC Press Conference

On 1 March, IFES and the WRC held a joint press conference to mark the beginning of IWD activities. Nineteen different media outlets attended the two-hour conference. Both Nora Hakopian of WRC and Jeff Swedberg of IFES gave presentations and issued press releases to the media. The following excerpt of a 2 March AZG daily article offers a good summary of the event:

At the press conference held on 1 March at the House of Journalists [regarding International Women's Day], the Chairwoman of WRC Nora Hakopian and the Director of Armenian Office of IFES Jeffrey Swedberg informed that [the day's] celebrations will be organized in 7 Marzes. The major celebration will be held in the capital at the Chamber Music Hall on 8 March. During this month a round table will be organized with the partici-

participation of all women MPs and they will discuss the obstacles hindering the advancement of women and their involvement in community development projects. According to Nora Hakopian, this year's holiday is noteworthy because it's the first International Day of Women in this millennium and will become a platform for those women all over the world who demand a louder voice and prominent role in peace negotiations and strategies. It should be mentioned that "Women United for Peace" has been declared the theme of the year by the Secretary General of the United Nations – Koffi Anan.

Women's Fairs

IFES/Armenia and the WRC organized a series of eight women's fairs in Gavar, Gyumri, Armavir, Hrasdan, Artashat, Ashtarak, Ijevan, and Yerevan to commemorate IWD. All were attended by local officials and covered in the local press. As is the case around the world, the various celebrations reflected different approaches in different communities.

By far the largest and most ambitious of the IFES/WRC women's fairs was in Yerevan, where an overflow crowd of over 500 people occupied the Komitas Chamber Music Hall for 3 hours of music and speeches.

Continued on page 10

“Women’s Day” from page 1

On the holiday itself, a more elaborate women’s fair was staged in Yerevan, where an overflow crowd of 500 people filled the Komitas Chamber Music Hall for three hours of music and speeches. The Mayor of Yerevan, Robert Nazarian, opened the event and welcome speeches were given by Nora Hakopian and Project Director Jeffrey Swedberg. Musical entertainment was interspersed throughout the day, with entertainment ranging from classical and folk compositions to performances by a women’s marionette ensemble and children’s dance troupe.

Journalist Roundtable on Women’s Issues

On 20 March, the WRC held a roundtable for journalists on women’s issues. The centerpiece of the roundtable was a presentation of a WRC-sponsored study of the Armenian press and its coverage of women in the public sphere. In a lively discussion, the 30 roundtable participants—primarily representing newspapers and radio outlets—discussed the findings, which assert that the press in recent years is increasingly portraying women in a positive light. Participants also praised other favorable trends identified by the study: women of all professions are increasingly being highlighted in the press and public criticism regarding the lack of women’s participation in public life is increasing in frequency.

Conference of Women Deputies

On 27 March, the WRC held its Conference of Women Deputies, a meeting to which all identified parliamentarians, past and present, were invited. In all, 150 former female members of parliament – most from the Soviet-era council – were invited. 95 actually attended the event at the National Academy of Sciences. The former deputies were recruited through radio advertisements. WRC staff also combed through the parliament archives and searched village records. One former deputy from Nairi thanked Nora Hakopian, saying “for the past few hours, you have taken us out of the shadows.”

Exhibition of Women Portraits

To further highlight the contribution of women to Armenian society, IFES will join the WRC in the opening an exhibition of portraits of women in early April. On exhibition will be 60 works by students of the Yerevan Art Institute. At the close of the exhibition, which is expected to remain on view until the end of the month, a grand prize winner will be announced for the best portrait.

Women and Statehood Essay Contest

In an effort to promote increased awareness of women’s his-

UPCOMING EVENTS IN EUROPE AND EURASIA

26 April	Event: Location: Contact:	OSCE Roundtable on Elections Astana, Kazakhstan Bradley Austin Project Manager, IFES/Kazakhstan E-mail: ifes@ifes.almaty.kz
TBD June	Event: Location: Contact:	Women in Politics Seminar Chisinau, Moldova Charles Lasham Project Director, IFES/Moldova E-mail: charles@ifes.md
TBD	Event: Location: Contact:	Conference, “Election Dispute Resolution: Judicial Authority and Independence” Lviv, Ukraine Nathan Van Dusen Program Assistant, IFES/Washington E-mail: nvandusen@ifes.org
11-13 October	Event: Location: Contact:	ACEEEO Conference, “Transparent Election Campaign Financing in the 21 st Century” Brijuni, Croatia Nathan Van Dusen Program Assistant, IFES/Washington E-mail: nvandusen@ifes.org

tory and their accomplishments, the WRC and IFES will co-sponsor an essay contest among secondary school children. IFES and the WRC have already begun to work closely with the Ministry of Education to administer this competition, which will be judged by a panel of distinguished educators. The WRC and IFES will award a number of prizes to school children of various ages for essays on the importance of women in Armenian statehood at a ceremony anticipated for late April.

International Women’s Day Calendar

To promote broader public awareness of the Women’s Day holiday among the Armenian public, IFES and the WRC have jointly distributed a commemorative 2001 International Women’s Day calendar poster (see cover). The poster depicts significant women of the past century of Armenian history, outlines the historical development of International Women’s Day, and provides contact information for the WRC. Some 10,000 copies of the poster were distributed to women’s organizations, public associations, schools, and NGOs in conjunction with the events planned for March and April.

Working closely with the WRC, IFES hopes to expand its International Women’s Day programs in future years. Public response to this year’s series of events has far exceeded expectations. An array of activities drawing from the many themes evoked by the women’s day holiday can only serve to further increase public awareness of the vital role civil society plays in creating a democratic society that responds to the demands of its citizenry, both female and male.

"Armenia" from page 8

A number of women's NGOs sent representatives and contributed materials, with copying expenses paid for by IFES, for distribution at the day's events. Participating NGOs included Family and Health Association, St. Sandukht Women's Union, Karavan 88, Golden Hands, Commission for Orphans, Soldiers' Mothers, Business Women's Association, Sartonk 89, Cooperation, Mother and Child, Hope – Job, New Art, Center for Civic Society Development, Shoghhd Union, Astrik – Union of Girl Scouts, Gayane Charity, Armenian Relief Society, League of Women Voters, Association for Human Development, Republican Council of War Widows, Women's Business Association of Vanadzor, and Armenian Intelligent Women.

The Mayor of Yerevan, Robert Nazarian, opened the event by offering his tribute to women and promised to make Yerevan a "cleaner and greener" city. After speeches by Nora Hakopian and Jeffrey Swedberg, renowned classical pianist Svetlana Navasardian performed a number of classical music pieces. Short speeches in the evening were delivered by Deputy Minister of Education Aida Topozian, Member of Parliament Hermine Naghdalian, Deputy Minister of Culture Alice Adamian, Member of Parliament Hranush Hakopian, Chairman of the National Assembly's Health Committee Gagik Tadevosian, and Rita Balian – an American who had financed a new mammography center in Armenia.

The fair included entertainment ranging from folk ensembles and compositions by a prominent female composer, to a women's marionette show and a children's dance troupe. During an intermission, 12 baskets containing goods donated by USDA and Armenian companies were raffled by IFES as door prizes. The show was hosted and managed by professional MCs and well received by the capacity crowd. National Armenian Television covered the event as part of a Women's Day news broadcast.

Journalist Roundtable and Conference of Women Deputies

IFES activities also included a journalist roundtable on women's issues and a conference of women deputies. For more information on these two activities, please refer to the feature article on the cover of this bulletin.

The prime accomplishment of the event was the creation of a 16-member executive committee that will be charged with determining the structure of the new organization. The executive committee will also draft women's rights legislation for submission to the parliament. Plans will also be developed for the promotion of women to the parliament, possibly through the creation of a club of women candidates. Press coverage of the event was most evident on the independent television stations (A1+, Armenia, AR) and on local radio stations.

Training of IFES Civic Educators Begins

On 25 March IFES began a 2-week training session for its 16 new civic educators. Ten members of the WRC, including the chairwomen of the chapters in which IFES is establishing field offices and 3 central office staff, joined the trainers for the full orientation. Maya Gogaladze of IFES-Georgia, along with Ed Morgan, Neboljsa Blhahic, and Snjezana Lasic of IFES-Bosnia, provided training sessions based on existing IFES civic education projects. Guest speakers, including representatives of Chemonics, the Union of Communities, the NGO Center, World Learning, the Yerevan Councils Association, and Junior Achievement addressed evening sessions. Trainers have also worked on producing individual work plans for their teams. The training will be completed on 6 April 2001.

First Publication will be on Courts and Legal Aid

IFES printed 4,000 copies of a publication that will be used by the trainers during their first field visits. The publication, originally produced for the Chemonics Rule of Law Project, is entitled "The Court System of the Republic of Armenia." IFES will add inserts containing contact information for legal aid services. Junior Achievement, as part of their civic education in the schools program, is also distributing the book. This cooperation highlights how the international NGO community in Armenia is successfully integrating into the larger USAID strategy. Furthermore, during IFES' trainer orientation, representatives of Chemonics spoke about the book and showed an accompanying video.

Impact

The restoration of International Women's Day as a national holiday provided IFES with a unique opportunity to showcase its women's civic participation message. In addition to spreading the message that 8 March should be celebrated by acknowledging the accomplishments of women, IFES sponsored activities increased women's participation in public life. For example, there were 146 NGO members, 176 public officials, and over 2000 participants who took part in IFES sponsored IWD events. In addition, the WRC's "Journalist Roundtable on Women's Issues" and "Conference of Women Deputies" highlighted media coverage of women in society and encouraged increased participation of women in public life.

In the end, the various International Women's Day events were well received and generated effective media coverage for both IFES' activities and its partnership with the WRC. Lastly, IFES' training of its Civic Educators and several WRC members will allow the direct citizen participation portion of this project to begin in earnest. The timing of the training and the deployment of the Civic Educators to the field will allow IFES to take advantage of the increased public awareness generated by International Women's Day events.

AZERBAIJAN

Memorandum of Understanding Signed with Central Election Commission (CEC)

After more than a three-year presence in Azerbaijan, IFES and the CEC formalized their professional relationship by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 1 March 2001. The MOU outlines areas of mutual cooperation and underscores the CEC's interest in IFES' continuing provision of technical assistance toward electoral reform in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

IFES is currently assisting the CEC in preparation for municipal by-elections slated for 27 April. The elections were scheduled to fill newly vacant seats in 298 out of the 2700 municipalities. In only one municipality, Azizbeyov, will a full council be elected, as elections were not held there in December 1999 when the nation-wide municipal elections originally took place. Elections in other municipalities are required to fill a small number of seats that were vacated due to resignations and deaths by previously elected council members.

CEC Official Participates in Ethics in Government Program in U.S.

In March, IFES was asked by the U.S. Embassy's Public Diplomacy Office and the Political Section to nominate a member of the CEC to participate in a three-week International Visitors Program for officials from Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia. The program was designed to assist public and private sector representatives from Caucasus countries in learning about the role and concept of ethics and transparency in government in the U.S. Based on IFES' recommendation, Rovzat Gasimov, Head of the International Relations Department of the CEC joined a Constitutional Court justice and a member of the Milli Majlis (Parliamentary) Permanent Commission on Economic Affairs as part of the Azerbaijani delegation.

On 29 March, IFES hosted Gasimov in its Washington offices. Gasimov met with IFES Vice President of Programs Juliana Pilon, Europe and Eurasia Deputy Director Victor Perea, and Caucasus Program Officer Michael Svetlik to discuss IFES' continued election assistance to Azerbaijan. In addition, Gasimov toured IFES' F. Clifton White Resource Center, which holds a vast collection of materials on elections, election administration, and civic participation from around the world.

IFES Participates in Briefing for Ambassador Bill Taylor

On 2 March, IFES participated along with a select group of six USAID partners in providing a critical background briefing at the U.S. Embassy for Ambassador Bill Taylor. IFES/Azerbaijan Project Manager Elsie Chang provided a brief synopsis of IFES' current activities, including election assis-

tance to the CEC, assistance to the Committee on Regional Issues of the Milli Majlis, and civic education. Ambassador Taylor was in the Caucasus region for bilateral economic talks and a fact-finding mission in preparation for the U.S. government role in facilitating a solution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

Public Administration Seminar at Western University

On 28 and 29 March, Project Manager Elsie Chang participated in two public administration seminars at Baku's Western University. The seminars were part of a weeklong workshop on public management for undergraduate and graduate students organized and sponsored by Indiana University. Approximately 60 undergraduate and graduate students attended Chang's two sessions entitled "Participatory Democracy and Electoral Reform."

In her presentations, Chang challenged and encouraged the students to take individual responsibility for creating a democracy in the post-Soviet state and to exercise their right to vote. Chang also emphasized the importance of local self-government when discussing municipal elections and legislative mandates of municipal councils. Students received copies of the voter and civic education materials used by IFES during past elections. According to the organizers of the workshop, the students rated IFES with the highest guest speaker score for presentations made during the five-day workshop.

Azerbaijani Municipal Leaders Present Findings from Visit to the U.S.

On 12 March, the eight-member Azerbaijani delegation of municipal leaders, nominated by IFES to take part in an international visitors program sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, returned to Baku to formally present their reports to the Milli Majlis and the Ministry of Justice. The municipal leaders spoke eloquently about their satisfaction with the program and the quality of the three-week trip and shared some of the lessons they learned while touring seven states. The delegation and holding over 50 meetings with municipalities, NGOs, citizens groups, and professional associations of city managers.

Members of the delegation commended what they saw as a visible adherence to rule of law in the United States and expressed their admiration for the cooperative working relationship between the federal, state, county, and city levels of government. Delegates also remarked on the efficiency and transparency of local self-government in the United States and the close relationship between elected officials and the electorate in their communities. IFES will organize a follow up conference so that municipal councils throughout the country can be informed about the lessons learned by the delegation.



IFES/Georgia facilitates civic education roundtable in Kutaisi, Georgia.

the NGOC, joined with IFES to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This memorandum outlines the responsibilities of each organization and provides for a transparent framework for drafting the new election code. Under this framework, IFES is facilitating weekly working sessions of the PWG and CNGO, and will be providing technical support to the team of lawyers tasked with the actual drafting the code.

IFES continues to collaborate closely with NDI, IRI, ODIHR, and other domestic democracy organizations as the drafting process unfolds. IFES also provides regular updates on drafting progress to USAID and other partner

organizations. Such collaboration and exchange of opinions is only expected to intensify once the draft code is released for comment by the public.

A draft of the general provisions section of the code is nearing completion and is being reviewed by the team of four legal drafters representing the PWG and NGOC. Following this review process, which will ensure that recommendations from the February conference and consultations with the working group and other interested parties have been considered, the draft will be released.

The Parliament has requested that the drafting of the unified election code be completed by the end of April to ensure sufficient time for discussion and adoption of the code prior to the end of the Spring 2001 Parliamentary session. This ambitious schedule is necessary so that the new code can be implemented in time for Sakrebulo (local governing councils) elections now expected to be held as scheduled at the end of October.

CEC and IFES Work to Update CEC Website

Following months of planning, the CEC and IFES have agreed on a joint approach to updating the contents of the CEC website. On 9 March, IFES and the CEC signed a short-term agreement defining the scope of work and the responsibilities of each organization in the revision of the site. The site was originally launched in March 2000 to increase the dissemination of election information prior to the April 2000 Presidential elections.

Impact Summary

IFES moved forward with signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the CEC in an effort to advance the working relationship between the two organizations. In an effort to continue development of technical assistance, IFES assisted the CEC with professional development of key staff by sending CEC members and other officials to the U.S. on two programs sponsored by the U.S. Embassy. In addition, in recognition of IFES' commitment toward civic education in Azerbaijan, Indiana University and Western University invited IFES to present two sessions on participatory democracy and electoral reform to youth studying public management in Baku. IFES' participation in the seminar encourages increased awareness of democratic principles among Azerbaijani youth.

GEORGIA

IFES Supports Election Code Development

IFES continues to provide technical assistance in support of drafting a unified election code by the Inter Faction Parliamentary Working Group (PWG) and the Non-Governmental Organization Coalition (NGOC). Following the IFES-sponsored election code conference in Bakuriani in February, IFES has worked diligently in recent weeks to seize upon the enthusiasm and energy arising from the conference proceedings.

During the month of March, the Chairman of the PWG, Gigi Tsereiteli, and Nugzar Ivanidze, Director of the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy and a member of

In mid-March, work commenced on the review and update of the CEC web site, with IFES providing technical and financial support to assist the CEC in identifying and contracting a webmaster. The webmaster will work with the Commission to develop a database management system for updates which will enable future updates to be undertaken in a more timely fashion. As originally intended, the web site aims to provide election administrators, political parties, and voters with timely and relevant information on the election system and all election-related developments.

IFES Facilitates Roundtable in Kutaisi

On 17 March, IFES sponsored and participated in the first of a series of roundtable discussions on local governance issues to be held in the Imereti region. This roundtable series is a part of IFES' "Be an Active Citizen" civic education program which seeks to encourage greater citizen awareness and involvement.

Maya Gogladze, the IFES/Georgia Civic Education Coordinator served as the facilitator of the Kutaisi roundtable which served as a lively forum for discussion for over 30 participants. IFES/Georgia Project Manager Silvana Puizina, IFES/Georgia Legal Advisor George Baratashvili, and Ghia Nodia, Director Caucasian Institute for Peace Democracy and Development, provided election law and local governance expertise.

Members of Kutaisi area Sakrebulo, NGOs, and community groups from the Imereti region participated in and observed the three-hour discussion. The first 90 minutes of discussion focused on the role and achievements of Sakrebulo in the region, with the second 90 minutes focusing on how it is possible to stimulate citizens to become more involved in debating and voicing opinions on local government issues. Participants discussed citizen responsibility, collaborative initiatives among citizens and local councils, and the importance of public accountability for elected leaders and civil society organizations.

The roundtable discussion was televised as a 35-minute segment on Kutaisi television and broadcast throughout the region.

IFES Participates in IRI Seminars Aimed at Youth

On 12 and 13 March, IFES' Giorgi Baratashvili took part in two IRI organized Youth and Politics. The seminars were held in Kutaisi and Poti and focused on youth participation at all levels of local council elections including standing as candidates. Baratashvili presented information to the seminar participants on youth and election laws, covering topics such as how to nominate candidates, election and voting rights, registration requirements, and age requirements for standing as a candidate.

Impact Summary

Throughout March, IFES continued to support the codification of Georgia's election laws. The transparent and collaborative method established for the drafting of the election code aims to increase public confidence in the law and consequently in the democratic process. Expanded public participation in the drafting process promotes a consensual approach to law-making which will lead to broader acceptance of the Code by election stakeholders.

The IFES-organized roundtable in Kutaisi promoted cooperative action among elected leaders and participants of civil society by informing citizens about local governance and civic responsibility. The roundtable encouraged open dialogue, stressed community-based initiatives and strengthened accountability of elected leaders by their constituents. In addition, IFES continues to work with the CEC to improve the Commission's web site. An updated and expanded internet presence will bolster the CEC's accessibility and transparency by allowing citizens to obtain credible and useful information about Georgian elections, both past and future.

CENTRAL ASIA

KAZAKHSTAN

Student Olympiad/Teachers Seminar on Civic Education

After months of extensive and exhaustive preparation, IFES conducted the Student Olympiad for Civic Education and Teachers' Seminar on 29-30 March. All of the effort paid off, as all of the students and teachers arrived in Almaty on time and well prepared for the event. All the students worked hard at the Olympiad, showing that they learned a great deal in the process of just getting there. The students also seemed to enjoy the Olympiad, which intend to sow the seeds for continued interest in civic education and to help ensure a future for the program when IFES' assistance is no longer available.

Work of the CE teacher, Lydia Rybakova, on the design of the Olympiad rounds and individual tests also brought great results. Her continued involvement in developing the Teachers' Agenda proved invaluable, since the program that she developed with IFES kept the teachers thinking, interacting, and energized. They fed off one another, sharing ideas, and using personal experiences as guides to be better civic education instructors.

The Olympiad was an opportunity for IFES to get a broader range of evaluation and feedback on its course and the accompanying textbook. The teachers went home with questionnaires for themselves, their students, and the students' parents. These questionnaires are designed to evaluate each topic of the civic education course and, once returned, these



Presentation of one of the participants in the Student Olympiad, Almaty, Kazakhstan

documents will enable IFES to conduct a thorough evaluation.

In addition, the Olympiad provided direct assistance to other IFES programs. Immediately following the Olympiad and Seminar, Marat Bigaliev, IFES/Kazakhstan Project Coordinator, met with staff of IFES/Kyrgyzstan and explained various aspects of IFES/Kazakhstan curriculum development and civic education projects.

Furthermore, the Olympiad established connections between students, teachers, and various organizations. The Ministry of Education was represented by Ms. Raisa Petrovna Sher, who addressed the attendees and talked directly with students, teachers, and USAID staff. IFES also invited staff members from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research, the Association of Young Leaders, and the Indian Embassy to participate in the Olympiad. In addition, five judges representing various sectors of the civic non-governmental community oversaw the academic portion of the event and frequently interacted with the students.

IFES, Partners, and Teachers Prepare to Launch Student Local Government Day

In the month of March, IFES' work on the Student Local Government Day project took some small but important steps forward. Most importantly, a relationship with the International City/County Management Association has resulted in a

list of names of potential hosts for the students. While the program was initially met with skepticism, upon further examination, all who heard about it ended up positive and in support.

Furthermore, IFES was able to convince the teachers who participated that the project is worthwhile and possible, which is exactly the attitude that is needed if the program is to succeed. While the idea of students and any elected officials interacting closely is a foreign concept to most citizens of Kazakhstan, some progressive-thinking participants have expressed an interest. IFES' next goal is to get the tools to execute the program into their hands and let the program grow.

Currently, the Civic Education instructor, Lydia Rybakova, is working on identifying additional schools and elected officials that are interested and qualified to participate in this program.

Impact Summary

While the Olympiad and Seminar consumed most the IFES/Kazakhstan staff's time this month, the effort was well worth the time spent for everyone involved. The representative of the Ministry of Education who attended was very impressed and her positive review is likely to build even greater support for IFES' programs and the programs within the Ministry. It will also open new potential opportunities for training programs and sustainability. The Olympiad was also helpful for the teachers and students; they are bringing the lessons learned there and the event's enthusiasm back to their schools.

IFES' various programs are creating new avenues for cooperation and assistance. Some of these programs are the ones that have gone unattended for a while, while others are completely new. For example, IFES had previously discussed work with the Indian Embassy, but was not able to come to an agreement on how to proceed. Now, with the Embassy's participation at the Olympiad, IFES hopes that this will be the first of several combined efforts to assist Kazakhstan's students.

The Student Local Government Day program will also involve working with a level of government that is new for IFES. With the help of fellow non-governmental organizations in Kazakhstan, IFES plans to build a new and, hopefully, expanding program at this level.

KYRGYSTAN

Secondary Education Project in Kyrgyzstan

During the month of March, IFES/Kyrgyzstan has concluded the review and finalized the first draft of the democracy textbook. The Institute of Education has approved the textbook for piloting and the Minister of Education has given approval to pilot the textbook in 21 secondary schools. A teacher's manual has also been written and constitutes the basis for the training of teachers who are selected for the piloting of the textbook. The manual instructs the teachers on how to use the democracy information and suggests how the teachers can divide the textbook into 68 segments or lessons so that they correspond to the Kyrgyz school year. The teachers' manual includes activities and games as well as lesson plans.

IFES/Kyrgyzstan already trained 20 teachers who will pilot the textbook in their schools over the next six weeks. IFES will then bring these teachers to meet with the authors and representatives of the Ministry of Education to learn from the piloting and finalize the textbook for printing. Either during the pilot phase or at its conclusion, IFES plans to meet again with the Minister of Education to sign a Protocol of Understanding. The Minister of Education, Ms. Kamilya Sharshkeeva, will be asked to approve the introduction of the civic education course in Kyrgyz secondary schools during next academic year.

Higher Education Project in Kyrgyzstan

During March, IFES continued to work on forming a committee to research and write a tertiary civic education project. Mr. Vladislav Pototskiy and Mr. Lamar Cravens have been asked to provide their advice on the prospective program and budget. The draft proposal is still being considered and will be concluded in April and forwarded to IFES/Washington for consideration. It is likely that the proposal will focus on the provision of one targeted civic education course. IFES is also looking into the option of asking students from different groups to review the materials in order to obtain a wider diversity of perspectives. The committee is considering a web-designed project that will utilize a number of themes or modules.

Student Activities

One of the prominent student activities supported by IFES in March was a seminar on problems in higher education. This seminar, attended by students, representatives of the Ministry of Education, and university administrators, considered a range of serious problems in education. The topics included Management of Finances, Legal Issues, Academic Issues, Minimum Academic Standards, Student Aid, and Corruption in Higher Education. The seminar produced a substantial report with recommendations, which was submitted to the Minister of Education.

Another student activity supported by IFES was the proposal to hold democratic elections for representatives to university student council at the Kyrgyz Russian Slavonic University (KRSU). IFES is assisting a group of students with the planning and training proposals for conducting elections in the new academic year. The deputy rector at KRSU already indicated that all faculty heads have agreed to the proposal and the university will conduct democratic elections using IFES assistance.

Democracy Summer Camp

IFES has met with its partners to discuss arrangements and to plan the program of activities and a timeframe for the two IFES-sponsored democracy summer camps. The committee has finalized the application form and determined selection criteria for accepting student applications to the summer camps. IFES will hold summer camps in the KSNU facilities at Issey-Kul and at Mamakaeva, in Osh. Both centers are considered safe and are equipped with facilities appropriate for the students.

IFES Website

The IFES/CAR website was officially launched by Mr. Scott Lansell, IFES Europe & Eurasia Program Director, on 31 March. The website is located at www.ifescentralasia.kg and provides 'home pages' of each of the four IFES/CIS offices - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Information on this website helps to support IFES fieldwork in election reforms, civic education, and political party development.

Local Government Elections

During March, IFES continued to monitor the reports on the pilot elections for local self-government heads in villages and towns.

Impact Summary

Due to the intensive month of activities and meetings, IFES/Kyrgyzstan has the approval of the Institute of Education and the Minister of Education to pilot the civic education democracy textbook in secondary schools. Since the selected teachers were already trained in late March, they will pilot the textbook in their classrooms during April and through mid-May. A teachers' instruction manual has also been prepared to accompany the civic education textbook.

During March, IFES has commenced work on a tertiary civic education project. A group of professors has prepared a draft structure and is currently discussing the relevant input of content and academic standards. The group believes it will be possible to pilot at least some of the materials during the new academic year. This project could require 12 months of research and writing to complete and will use modern educational software technologies.

In addition to continuing its work in civic education sector, IFES is awaiting the opportunity to participate and comment on the draft law on local government elections. This is expected to be possible following the completion of the pilot elections. IFES hopes to be able to assist the CEC and the parliamentary deputies with democratizing election laws and procedures.

TAJIKISTAN

Curriculum Development

In March, IFES Civic Education Consultant Gregory Stephenson and Project Assistant Moukim Mallaev traveled to Khujand to oversee a one-day training session for the Student Local Government Day (SLGD) and the Student Action Committees (SACs). Twenty-nine secondary school teachers and representatives from the Ministry of Education, the City Government, the Procurator's office, the Militia, and the Court were in attendance. In addition, representatives of the local television station and members of the press were on hand for the event. The trainer was Asherboi Imomov, a law professor from the Tajik State National University.

After the training seminar, informal interviews were conducted to gauge the receptivity of the projects. While many of the teachers expressed great enthusiasm for the SLGD, more were interested in the SAC program because the goals and the format of this activity were so unlike those that were utilized during the Soviet era. The teachers commented that they foresee many positive results from the introduction of these two activities. The SLGD will be conducted on 17 April, while the SAC program will operate on a continual basis until May 2001.

Stephenson and Mallaev also had an opportunity to meet with the Mayor of Kurghan-Teppa, Sirojiddin Valiev, to discuss and obtain approval for the SLGD and SACs. After listening to their presentation, Mr. Valiev stated that he was "very enthusiastic about the project and the positive effect that it will have" on the youth of his city. Subsequently, Valiev recommended that Stephenson and Mallaev meet with the Head of the City Education Department to discuss the implementation of the projects.

In addition, as a result of intensive talks with Aigul Khalafova, UNESCO Education Program Specialist, UNESCO has obligated up to \$3,000 for the printing of the textbook for use in the pilot schools for September 2001. As a donor, UNESCO will have its logo and name appear on the cover.

Civic Education Textbook Project

During the month of March, IFES/Tajikistan Civic Education team welcomed the arrival of the new Civic Education-Textbook Development Specialist from New Zealand, Simon Jenkins. Following numerous meetings and briefings with

representatives of schools, the Ministry of Education, and local and international agencies, such as Counterpart Consortium, UNDP, OSCE, UNIFEM, UNICEF, and SHARQ, Simon began identifying ways of adjusting the Kazakh model of civic education textbook. The goal of Mr. Jenkins work is to adapt the model to the unique conditions of the Tajik educational system.

Through a series of discussion papers, Jenkins already provided specific recommendations about the proposed style, targeting, and the delivery mechanisms of the textbook and also examined the work and capacities of potential local partners. A key outcome has been the proposed retargeting of the project resources. It is hoped that this will lead to a greater number of beneficiaries and increased impact on any one individual.

Joint IFES/OSCE Political Party Forum in Khujand

The Joint IFES/OSCE Political Party Forum in Khujand on 15 March was the most prominent event of the month for IFES. A lot of effort went into planning this event, with numerous meetings being held with OSCE Khujand Field Officer, Ann Frotscher, D. Amonov of the 1st Tajik Press Club, and A. Mamadazimov, Chairman of the National Association of Political Scientist of Tajikistan. The purpose of the meetings was to work on the agenda, develop topics and themes, and to discuss the logistical details for the event. The efforts of IFES and OSCE were rewarded with an unexpectedly large turnout and the attendees were from a diverse range of backgrounds. Representatives of the following parties and bodies were in attendance:

- Democratic Party of Tajikistan;
- People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan;
- Socialist Party of Tajikistan;
- Communist Party of Tajikistan;
- Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan;
- Ideology Department of Hukumat;
- People's Democratic Party;
- Social-Democratic Party of Tajikistan; and
- Movement of National Unity and Revival of Tajikistan.

IFES/Tajikistan was represented by Political Party Development (PPD) Consultant Philip Griffin, PPD Assistant Bahridin Sharipov, PPD Assistant Masumov, and Program Assistant Ramsia Mamadnazarova.

During the forum, participants were able to discuss a range of serious issues facing political parties of Tajikistan. All parties were represented and the discussions were open, frank, and lively.

Political Party Development

Philip Griffin continued to make preparations for the PPD Conference "*POLITICAL PARTIES, 1 YEAR AFTER THE ELECTION, EXPANDING THE ROLE WOMEN IN POLI-*

TICS,” which is to be held in Dushanbe on Tuesday, 3 April and Wednesday, 4 April, 2001. In addition to meeting with local presenters and working on the agenda and hand-out materials, Mr. Griffin continued to search for guest speakers. After undertaking extensive talks with its partners in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia, IFES was finally able to secure the attendance of Ms. Isakunova, UNDP/ Kyrgyzstan Gender Expert, Professor Karasaeva of the Slavonic University of Kyrgyzstan, and Ms. Darutina of the League of Women Voters of St. Petersburg.

Besides planning the for the forthcoming conference, Mr. Griffin also met with Behzod Mingboyev of MEDIOPOLIS and Bernie Ryan of the American Bar Association (ABA) to coordinate activities for 6 additional episodes of the IFES-sponsored and supported TV program, “Society, Law and Democracy.” Ten additional episodes will also be sponsored by ABA. The planning process involved ensuring the continued and relevant participation of Majlisi Namoyandogan members as well as the continued involvement of political party activists.

Impact Summary

March proved to be an eventful month for IFES/Tajikistan. In the area of civic education, IFES/Tajikistan organized and conducted a Student Action Committee/Student Local Government Day training seminar. Twenty-nine teachers present at the training will not only bring SACs and SLGD to their schools, but will also participate as trainers for next year’s SAC and SLGD activities. The event proved to be a success, with attending teachers expressing positive and enthusiastic attitudes toward the introduction of these two activities in their schools.

The IFES Civic Education team also welcomes the addition of a new member, Civic Education-Textbook Development Consultant Simon Jenkins from New Zealand. Mr. Jenkins has already begun making an active contribution to the team’s efforts and will be working on developing a civic education textbook suitable for Tajikistan’s educational needs.

Furthermore, IFES/Tajikistan was enthusiastic to learn that UNESCO agreed to donate \$2,000 - \$3,000 toward the printing of the IFES textbook.

In addition to civic education programs, IFES held a Political Party Round Table in Sugd Oblast and, together with the OSCE, co-sponsored a joint Political Party Forum in Khujand. At both events, all parties were represented and the discussions of the current problems facing Tajikistan’s political parties were open, frank and lively. The event’s popularity not only allowed the representatives to address many topical issues, but parties also received media coverage. Newspaper articles covering the event appeared in *Kurier Tajikistana*, *Biznesman* and *Narodnaya Gazeta*, and television station TBT produced a 15-minute segment.

UZBEKISTAN

IFES concludes work on Student Action Committee Manuals
During the month of March, IFES concluded its work on teacher training manuals for Student Action Committees (SACs). The teacher training manual provides teachers in participating schools with a liberal set of guidelines. These guidelines are aimed at educating teachers and mentors about their roles within the SACs. Some of those guidelines tackle issues such as the ideological basis of the SAC, how to create an SAC, and proscribe the conduct of students and teachers within the SAC. After Dmitry Shevkun completed the Russian and English versions of the manual and the approval was given by IFES/Washington, plans were made to hold teacher training during the week of March 26.

In addition, IFES/Uzbekistan contacted Damira Tukhtasinova, IFES coordinator in Fergana, to get a list of the people who attended the IFES February meeting on SACs: Damira Tukhtasinova – Director of the Tarakkiyot education center and SAC Regional Coordinator, Rano Makhkamova – Trainer, Zulifia Khosilova – Trainer, Islom Dilkhonov – Trainer, Boris Mirzayev – Deputy Director of the school #3, Dilbar Sokhibova, - Deputy Director of the school #10, and Lailo Yusupova – Deputy Director of “Parvoz” Gymnasium school.

IFES closes its offices in Uzbekistan

In light of USAID’s decision to re-allocate funds from the Uzbekistan project to other IFES projects in Central Asia, IFES/Uzbekistan staff initiated close-out procedures through the end of March. Among the closeout activities, IFES staff made appeals to several outside organizations, such as the British Embassy, the Japanese Embassy, and the Asia Development Bank, for supplementary funding. Many organizations were interested in IFES’ programs and expressed desire to cooperate with IFES in the future.

Furthermore, in following through with the closeout procedures, the staff of IFES/Uzbekistan were notified of their termination and local partners were informed of the closing. The letters of notification were sent to the Ministry of Public Higher and Special Secondary Education and numerous international and local NGOs with whom IFES worked in the past.

Impact Summary

Amid the unfortunate termination of IFES’ presence in Uzbekistan, the Student Action Committee manuals were completed, with teacher training scheduled to take place in the end of March. Hopefully, this crucial part of civic education implementation will also be nurtured during IFES’ absence. IFES would like to thank its entire staff in Uzbekistan for their hard work and dedication to civic education programming. IFES also looks forward to the new challenges of implementing civic education initiatives throughout the rest of Central Asia and will never foreclose on a return to Uzbekistan in the near future.



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

International Foundation for Election Systems
1101 15th Street, NW
Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Tel. (202) 828-8507
Fax (202) 452-0804

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.

PLEASE VISIT IFES' FAMILY OF EUROPE AND EURASIA WEBSITES:

Washington, D.C.: www.ifes.org

ACEEEO: www.aceeeo.com

Albania: www.ifesalbania.org

Armenia: www.ifes.am

Election Results & Laws Compendium:
www.essex.ac.uk/elections/

Bosnia: www.aeobih.com.ba

Central Asia: www.ifescentralasia.kg

Georgia: www.ifes.ge

Moldova: www.ifes.md

Russia: www.ifes.ru

IESD (Russia): www.democracy.ru

Ukraine: www.ifes-ukraine.org

IFES/Washington Europe and Eurasia Staff:

Scott R. Lansell, Director of Programs
(scott@ifes.org)

Victor Perea, Deputy Director of Programs
(vperea@ifes.org)

Steve Connolly, Senior Advisor
(connolly@ifes.org)

Anthony C. Bowyer, Senior Program Officer
(anthony@ifes.org)

Alexandra Levaditis, Program Officer
(alexandra@ifes.org)

Michael Svetlik, Program Officer
(msvetlik@ifes.org)

Dana Beegun, Program Officer
(dbeegun@ifes.org)

Chad Vickery, Senior Program Assistant
(cvickery@ifes.org)

Maggie McDonough, Senior Program Assistant
(mmcdonough@ifes.org)

Carrie Ellis, Senior Program Assistant
(cellis@ifes.org)

Irina Zaslavskaya, Senior Program Assistant
(irina@ifes.org)

Sonia Pastuhov-Pastein, Program Assistant
(spastein@ifes.org)

Nathan Van Dusen, Program Assistant
(nvandusen@ifes.org)

Emily Parkinson, Program Assistant
(eparkinson@ifes.org)

Kathy Vittum, Program Assistant
(kvittum@ifes.org)

Irina Volchansky, Program Assistant
(ivolchansky@ifes.org)