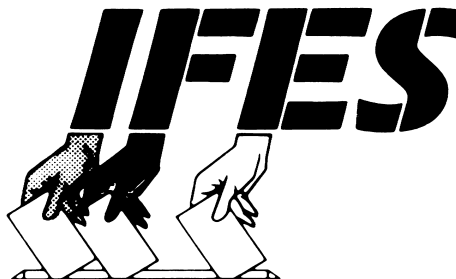


Europe and Newly Independent States (ENI) Report



MARCH 2000

Acting President Putin Wins Russian Presidential Election

On 26 March 2000, Russia held its second Presidential election since the breakup of the Soviet Union. Despite the lack of campaigning by the heavy favorite – acting-President Vladimir Putin – voter turnout was nearly 69%. Vladimir Putin won in the first round, having received 52.77% of the vote. Genadiy Zyuganov, the candidate from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (KPRF) candidate came in second place with 29.21 of the votes and Yabloko candidate Grigory Yavlinski came in third place with 5.8%. None of the other eight candidates received more than 3% of the vote.

The CEC announced the official election results on 7 April in the official press -- Rossiiskaya Gazeta and Parlamentskaya Gazeta – and, in accordance with the law on Presidential elections, the elected



IFES representatives meet with CEC Chairman Alexander Veshniakov in the days leading up to the presidential election.

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President of the Russian Federation will take office on the 30th day after the official publication of the results. This means that the new President will enter office on May 7.

IFES Presidential Election Assessment Mission

IFES/Russia staff, Board Members and consultants conducted an extensive assessment mission of the Presidential elections that took place on 26 March. IFES' assessments took place in four Oblasts and 15 polling stations beyond the Russian border. The IFES assessment team mission included a dinner function with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission, Alexander Albertovich Veshniakov, on Thursday, 23 March, which was attended by USAID and U.S. Embassy officials. In addition, IFES' initial impressions and comments on the Presidential elections were solicited by the Chairman and staff of the CEC at meetings following the
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EUROPE

ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN ELECTION OFFICIALS (ACEEEO)

ACEEEO Executive Board Meets in Warsaw

Representatives of election management bodies from Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Ukraine met in Warsaw at the ACEEEO's Executive Board meeting in March. The Board addressed the formation of a Southeastern European sub-grouping of election officials, the financial sustainability of the Association, and preparations for the upcoming conference in Warsaw.

ACEEEO Steps-up Election Monitoring

IFES and the ACEEEO met with the OSCE/ODIHR in Warsaw to discuss plans for observing the elections in Kosovo this fall. Prior to the meeting, the ACEEEO had submitted a proposal to the OSCE outlining the formation of a consortium of observer organizations. The model proposed by the ACEEEO would ensure the independence of observers, maximum coverage on the ground, and a credible reporting structure. At the meeting, the OSCE promised to gather interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in order to finalize the observation plan in April.

Independently of IFES, the ACEEEO is also preparing to send 60 polling-site supervisors to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). These supervisors, sent in coordination with the US Embassy in Hungary, will participate in local elections scheduled for 8 April. Since 1996, the Association has supported more than 400 observers and supervisors in BiH alone.

IFES Prepares for ACEEEO Annual Conference

Preparations continue for the upcoming Annual ACEEEO Conference, "Information Technology in Elections," scheduled to take place from 14-16 June at the Marriott Hotel in Warsaw, Poland. Election officials, information technology specialists, and other experts from over 25 countries are expected to attend the conference. The event will address both practical and legal considerations tied to identifying and implementing new information technology in the electoral process. The event will be co-hosted by the ACEEEO, the National Election Commission of Poland, and IFES. Information on the ACEEEO

can be found at their web site: www.aceeoo.com.

An exhibition of election technology, equipment, and services will play an integral role in the conference proceedings. Worldwide participation in the exhibition is expected from companies involved in elections as well as those interested in entering the field. For more information on the exhibition or to request a registration form, please contact IFES' ACEEEO Vendor Coordinator Matt Curtis by e-mail at mcurtis@ifes.org.

ALBANIA

OSCE Commences Party Talks on the Electoral Code

Not surprisingly, the drafting of a new electoral code has been a highly political and controversial undertaking in Albania. While IFES was working with the Judicial Branch of the Prime Minister's Office to draft a new code, it proved impossible for a code to be drafted without significant input from all the political parties, especially the opposition. On 8 March the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) established a roundtable of political party representatives, under the chairmanship of OSCE Ambassador Ahrens, to discuss the government's draft electoral code. The roundtable consists of five members from the parties represented in the governing coalition, five members from the parties in the opposition, and five members from the international community (IFES, OSCE (2), the Office for Democratic Initiatives and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Council of Europe).

As anticipated, the most contentious issue in the law is the composition of the Central Election Commission (CEC). The roundtable has been meeting daily (6 days a week) for four to five hours a day and reviewing every article in the law in an effort to establish political agreement on key issues. On two occasions, the opposition parties walked out on the grounds that the proposals for the CEC and lower level commissions were not equitable. In conjunction with the talks on the electoral code, Ambassador Ahrens and United States Ambassador Limprecht have been holding meetings with leaders of the political parties and the President of the Republic in an effort to achieve a political consensus on the CEC.

Ambassador Ahrens has placed a deadline of 7 April for the completion of the roundtable's work. It is unlikely that all parts of the code will be finalized by that time. As a result, the document passed to the Council of Ministers will contain all articles on which there is agreement, and draft language from international experts where agreement was not achieved. The Code will cover the composition and operation of the CEC and all other election commissions, voter registration, local and national election procedures, conduct of referenda, recount of ballots, and procedures for overturning election results. Registration of political parties and rules covering the media will not be particularly strong, as a result of other developing processes in the courts (registration) and a national media commission (which is currently being formed).

IFES/Albania Program Director Dickson Bailey has participated in the talks each day and has been involved in one-on-one negotiations with the lead negotiator of the opposition parties regarding the composition of the CEC and other areas of particular concern to the parties.

Progress on the Electoral Assistance Project Continues

The implementation of the Electoral Assistance Project (EAP) has been slow and difficult due to several factors, including the lack of lead international staff, lack of initial funding commitments and protracted negotiations with the Ministry of Local Government on technical issues related to the use of the existing civil registry and Social Insurance Data base. During March, IFES brought in a second international registration expert, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) engaged the services of a Chief Technical Advisor. Those additions, plus a great amount of time discussing solutions to ongoing problems, have enabled the project to work more effectively and quickly. Major concerns, however, remain even as the enumeration phase draws closer.

IFES has undertaken primary responsibility for the oversight of the enumeration process and the public information program. IFES has also provided technical advice to the project on the development of the data base and the options for voter identification cards. At the present time, IFES is updating the public information plan developed in November 1999 during IFES' registration assessment, and plans to add a Public Information Specialist to the

IFES/Albania team during the month of April.

Resignation of Some CEC Members Expected

As a result of the political controversy that has accompanied the development of the new election code, the membership of the CEC has been called into question and members have been under considerable pressure to resign in order to facilitate a new round of appointments. During March, one member submitted her resignation and it is possible that at least two more will do so in the near future. The turmoil and uncertainty surrounding the CEC has made it impossible for any preparatory planning to take place for the local elections scheduled for this fall.

Impact Summary

IFES has been instrumental in moving the draft election law to the process of political negotiation and has played a key role in the OSCE party talks. While the success of the talks may be seen as mixed if full agreements are not achieved, the progress will in the end be a significant addition to the transparency of the local government elections this fall, as they provide a forum for political dialogue and compromise. The issue of transparency is a key concern for the international community's commitment to Albania through the Stability Pact, and the successful conduct of local government elections is crucial to continued support.

BELARUS

1999 Opinion Survey Translated into Russian

The 1999 Survey of Public Opinion in Belarus has been translated into Russian and will soon be available for public distribution. The IFES survey examines public opinion on several issues, including the elections staged in May 1999 by political parties opposed to the rule of President Alexander Lukashenko, the current state of affairs in Belarus, and the proposed union between Belarus and Russia. It also measures the level of public information available and the impact of the mass media. While providing a better understanding of the public's attitudes toward Belarus' current political and economic situation, the data can also be compared to similar information from other countries, such as Ukraine and Russia, to develop a deeper understanding of the impact of political, economic, and social transitions in the former Soviet Union. To order a copy of the English-language copy of the

survey, please direct your requests to IFES/Washington's F. Clifton White Resource Center.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)

IFES/BiH Continues Work on Civic and Voter Education

In the Republika Srpska (RS), according to both IFES Supervisors Jim Heilman and Velko Milojev, IFES/Bosnia continues to be confronted with contention surrounding the elections and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) regulations. In addition, IFES' voter education campaign, which was supported by both the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and the OSCE, is not being well received by voters. It appears to ethnic Serb voters that the international community may first remove individuals who are elected by the voters but who are not supported by the international community. Consequently, some voters feel that they are being told for whom they should not cast their votes.

In March, attendance at civic education seminars (GOGs), particularly in the Bijeljina area, remained lower than the rest of the RS. However, in spite of the difficulties, IFES training teams have now conducted 2,388 GOGs with an attendance of 37,970 voters.

IFES also conducted candidate forums throughout the month of March. The first candidate forum was held on Wednesday in the Prekaje village elementary school, 15 kilometers from downtown Drvar. It was moderated by Vasilija Broceta, a 26 year old unemployed civic activist. Ninety citizens came out for this event, and three of the four major political parties participated: the SNSD-Milorad Dodik, the Zavicajni Socijaldemokrati RS i BiH (Stranka Drvarcana), and the Socijalisticka Partija Republike Srpske.

Representatives from the three parties presented their respective platforms before responding to questions related to returning refugees, unemployment, lack of infrastructural reconstruction, the right of children to attend classes taught in the Serbian language, and privatization. The issue of corruption stirred heated debate but the moderator was able to maintain control. Some people in the audience demanded that others not vote for candidates who have not yet returned to Drvar, and blamed politi-

cians for "alienating the common folks." At the end of the forum, which lasted nearly two hours, Trainer Ivo Ceko held a GOG on the voting process with the new open-list provisions.

IFES' work with student interns was completed during March, with Coordinator Natasa Borcanin holding a day-long session at the central project office in Zenica in the Rudar Hotel. Sixteen students, working in teams of two, conducted sessions in Sarajevo, Glamoc, Zenica, Banja Luka, Derventa, Kakanj, and Travnik. This effort resulted in 37 GOGs that were attended by 892 young voters. Of this number 417 voters were women. During Saturday's session students expressed some common concerns that they formulated in a one-page document. Interns expressed that they have encountered several obstacles as they sought assistance from some universities and student unions while organizing GOGs. Despite explaining that their approach was strictly non-political, they were forbidden from working at several university locations such as classrooms and dormitories. However, this did not prevent the interns from overcoming these obstacles and conducting sessions and engaging their peers in discussions about the election process.

Several student interns observed that young people expressed disinterest in the political process and do not see solutions in the existing political system. This is the same reason why GOG participants said they would not vote. Overall, the interns noted that aside from the experience of holding GOGs, meeting their peers from both entities in BiH was very valuable. They hoped for a more thorough training program that would enable them to empower their generation.

IFES/Bihac Organizes Music Concert

IFES' Bihac office organized an extremely successful music concert in March. This event was the outgrowth of an idea Supervisor Foster Tucker developed when he was in Bihac in 1997, but which was larger than IFES resources would allow. This year, IFES collaborated with the IRC, the Democratization Center of the OSCE, Mladi Musicians, and several local businesses and political parties to raise the funds necessary to sponsor a rock band competition. By arranging for the University of Bihac Student Association to serve as an official sponsor, IFES persuaded the Mayor of Bihac to allow the use of the Luke Sports Center as concert venue. Seven political parties had tables at which they handed out

their literature, and some had young party members distributing information to the crowd on their behalf. More than 5,000 people came to hear the 16 competing bands, in addition to three guest bands, that played until after 1:00 Sunday morning. Our Bihac staff created ballots for attendees to choose their favorite group; at the end of the evening the ballot box was opened and more than 1800 ballots were counted to determine the winner.

IFES Supports Bosnian Electoral Institutions

IFES' activities in support of the Association of Election Officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina (AEOBiH) and the Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) continued throughout March. Reports from all participants to the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) Annual Conference trip have been received and translated. The member representing the Information Committee also submitted her article, which contains an interview with Mr. Keith Hathaway of the AEA. The interview is included in the March edition of the AEOBiH Newsletter.

IFES Institutional Development Adviser (IDA) Jeppe Olsen has received and reviewed data from the survey of Local Election Commission (LEC) members which was conducted at the end of 1999. In general, LEC members seem to be fairly satisfied with their resource base, which is quite surprising. IFES is looking forward to receiving the final analysis of the survey results.

In addition, IFES Field Representative and Training Coordinator (FR/TC) Beverly Hagerdon met with Alex Finnen, Director General of the OSCE, Michael Boakes, Director of the Professional Development Branch of the OSCE, and Ben Feit and Vesna Misanovic of USAID/Sarajevo on 6 March. A tentative agreement was reached in which the AEOBiH will take over the responsibility for training polling station committee members for the general elections, currently scheduled for October 2000. IFES FR/TC is awaiting information from the OSCE in order to draft a proposal for AEOBiH participation, which will be forwarded to IFES/Washington in April. The OSCE will then draft a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the roles and responsibilities of the OSCE and IFES in regard to this project. Mr. Feit is briefing other USAID staff members on this new development, and his initial response was very positive. Additional funding may be necessary as current budget funds would most likely not meet

the needs of this project.

Regional AEOBiH branch meetings were held in Mostar, Tuzla, Banja Luka, and Sarajevo on 7, 9, 10, and 11 March. A voter information strategy for the upcoming municipal elections was presented by the Education and Training Committee members at each of the branch meetings. IFES FR/TC briefed all branch members about their current and upcoming activities involving AEOBiH. Representatives from the Center for Civic Initiatives, a local NGO involved in electoral activities, gave presentations on domestic observer training programs, which are currently being conducted across the country. Some of the branches also took this opportunity to resolve outstanding staffing issues.

IFES staff members have maintained regular contacts with the Sarajevo branch representative of the Information Committee regarding media appearances of the AEOBiH. Weekly programs on Radio Stari Grad are being aired every Monday. AEOBiH representatives have introduced the AEOBiH in general terms regarding its structure, goals, and activities. The two remaining broadcasts prior to polling day will focus on election-related issues.

In addition, work on the March edition of the AEOBiH newsletter (local language version) has begun and will be finalized in April. An English version of the newsletter will be sent to IFES/Washington and the OSCE.

IFES Visits Civic Education Training Sessions, Voter Education Activities.

Field visits were made on 23 March to IFES' Civic Education office in Zenica, where Mr. Ed Morgan gave a briefing on their ongoing activities. IFES FR/TC, IDA and Secretary/Interpreter (SI) proceeded to two small local communities in the Vares and Breza municipalities to observe discussions being held by IFES Civic Education trainers with villagers regarding the upcoming elections.

A field visit was made on 24 March to Kacuni, in the Busovaca Municipality, to observe AEOBiH voter education activities. AEOBiH Secretary Emin Novalic conducted two sessions in order to educate teachers, school staff, and students at the Kacuni elementary/secondary school about open lists, ballot papers and polling station locations for the municipal elections.

MOLDOVA

IFES, CEC Conduct Seminar for Balti County Election Officials

In March, IFES and the Central Election Commission (CEC) conducted a joint seminar entitled “Electoral Bodies: Organizing and Holding Electoral Polls—Implementing Citizens’ Constitutional Rights to Elect and Be Elected” in Balti County. IFES/Moldova and IFES/Moldova’s successor organization, the CDDP, developed and distributed a study on the advantages and disadvantages of contemporary electoral systems around the world. Participants were very interested in the topics discussed at the seminar, and made many suggestions on how to improve Moldova’s electoral framework. In addition, they noted that IFES/Moldova’s Poll Worker Guide was extremely helpful to election officials, and suggested that the guide be reprinted and redistributed. The guide has become particularly invaluable for officials in rural areas of Moldova, where there is an acute lack of information on electoral systems.

At a series of meetings following the seminar, IFES and the CEC made plans for a second seminar, which will likely be held 5 April in Edinet County. In addition, IFES and the CEC agreed to cooperate in order to produce a second printing of both the Poll Worker Guide and the Electoral Code. CEC Chairman Dumitru Nidelcu noted the importance of distributing information about the Electoral Code, as there are many proposals currently being suggested to modify the code.

IFES’ seminars were covered in a 13 March article from the Moldovan news agency FLUX. The article described the subjects covered at the seminars, and included a citation from CEC Secretary Anatol Puica, who said the CEC intended to hold such seminars through July or August 2000.

IFES Assists Working Group to Develop Law on Political Parties

This month, the Permanent Bureau of Parliament asked the Ministry of Justice to draft a new Law on Political Parties and Other Socio-Political Organizations. Valeria Sterbet of the Ministry of Justice requested IFES’s legal expertise and financial assistance in establishing a working group to draft the new law. IFES/Moldova has also been cooperating with Natalia Izdebschi, Chair of the Ministry of Jus-

tice’s NGO Registration Department, to define the conditions under which the Working Group will propose the law.

Electoral School Continues to Involve Youth in the Political Process

IFES/Moldova continued to work with the local NGO the Stars of Europe to educate youth representatives of political parties about the fundamentals of the electoral process. On 2 March, IFES staff member Cornel Gurin delivered a lecture entitled “Contemporary Electoral Systems,” and IFES/Moldova produced and distributed informational materials on various types of election systems as well as laws and the concept of separation of powers in Moldova.

The next session of the school, which was held on 9 March, focused on public service opportunities in Moldova and the use of referenda as a means of implementing direct democracy. Participants were particularly interested in the formation of public service groups at the local level, and analyzed the responsibilities of public servants to their constituents. They made several suggestions on how Moldova’s laws relating to public servants could be improved.

On a related topic, the 16 March session of the Electoral School was dedicated to the advantages and responsibilities held by incumbent candidates participating in elections in Moldova. A brochure entitled “Electoral Campaigns of Candidates in Public Positions” was distributed to Electoral School participants, who noted that Moldova’s current legal structure does not include enough provisions to prohibit an abuse of power by public officials seeking to use their position to their advantage in electoral campaigns. As a result of the school session, IFES and the CDDP will suggest draft revisions to Moldova’s Electoral Code that would define, prohibit, and suggest sanctions for abuses of power by government officials.

Another session of the school focused on administrative acts in Moldova, and information on this topic was distributed to conference participants. The materials familiarized participants with the adoption and implementation of administrative acts in Moldova.

At the 30 March session of the school, participants

discussed and debated the Statute on Elected Officials with the help of an educational brochure entitled "Peculiarities of the Elected Officers' Mandate," which was published jointly by IFES/Moldova and the CDDP. Participants noted that the newly adopted statute needs additional revisions in order to make its provisions comply with those of the administrative and electoral laws.

IFES Supports NGO Community in Moldova

This month, IFES and LADOM agreed to continue their work on the *Civic Voice* radio program until the end of June. Given the high popularity of the program and a lack of citizen education materials in Moldova, the two organizations would like to extend the program, which airs on the Antenna-C Chisinau radio station, as long as possible. In a related note, 17 March IFES staff member Gabriel Mumjiev attended LADOM's human rights conference, which was entitled "Observing Socio-Economic Rights in the Republic of Moldova: Achievements, Experience, Tendencies." Mr. Mumjiev delivered a speech on how citizens can participate in local public administration, and answered conference participants' questions on the implementation of civic and voter education programs. IFES also helped to publish and distribute the Public Officer Guide at the conference.

IFES/Moldova also provided assistance to the NGO Club by providing the organization with copies of the *Civic Voice* newsletter. The Chairman of the NGO Club, Boris Steinman, requested 30 additional copies to distribute to the Moldovan Academy of Science.

In addition, Veceslav Balan, the Chairman of the Juvilex Youth Center for Legal Research, invited IFES to conduct a joint project on educating young voters attending universities and institutes in Moldova. IFES agreed to provide legal expertise, materials from IFES/Moldova's Resource Center, and copies of the *Civic Voice*. IFES also donated copies of the *Elections in Moldova* CD-ROM to Juvilex's Resource Center.

IFES also distributed a questionnaire to NGOs regarding their access to resources in Chisinau. IFES will develop a study based on the results of the questionnaire, and the study will be published in an upcoming issue of the *Civic Voice*.

IFES Airs Civic Voice Radio Programs, Continues to Publish Newsletter

Throughout March, IFES and LADOM continued production of the *Civic Voice* radio program, which is broadcast weekly on Antenna C-Chisinau Municipality Radio Station. This month's programs addressed such issues as corruption among public administration bodies and the ways in which international organizations can monitor human rights in Moldova. Representatives from the Center for Human Rights answered callers' questions. The 9 March edition focused on women's and children's rights in Moldova, and featured an interview with Maia Banarescu, Assistant to the Parliamentary Lawyer on Human Rights. The 23 and 30 March editions discussed youth participation in the electoral process, and encouraged young people to become more involved with public affairs in Moldova.

In addition, IFES mailed the Romanian and Russian versions of the #28 issue of the *Civic Voice* newsletter. This issue features interviews with Dmitrii Ciubasenco, Editor in Chief of the *Moldavskie Vedomosti* (Moldovan News) newspaper, and Constantin Tanase, Editor in Chief of the FLUX newspaper. Both Ciubasenco and Tanase discussed the current state of the Moldovan mass media. IFES distributed the newsletter to the presidential administration, Parliament, government, local public administration bodies, political parties, NGOs, socio-political organizations, embassies, universities, and public libraries throughout Moldova. Past issues of *Civic Voice* are available on the IFES website at www.ifes.org/Pdf/vocelist.htm.

Impact Summary

IFES' seminar for election officials in Balti County established a means of communication between the CEC and local election officials, and provided information on both the Moldovan electoral system and various election systems used around the world to officials working in an area that is often lacking in quality information. In addition, the seminar helped prepare election officials to oversee the upcoming presidential elections by emphasizing the importance of free and fair electoral procedures. As the election draws closer, IFES will ensure that the various actors in the election process are informed about the responsibilities they have for creating a democratic election process in Moldova, which will decrease the potential for corruption or confusion about the voting process.

IFES' ongoing participation in the Electoral School continues to engage young people in the political process by informing them of pertinent legal and political issues. The weekly sessions prepare the youth to take an active role during the upcoming election cycle and in civil society in general. In addition, the analytical discussions conducted during the Electoral School help the participants make informed and educated decisions about the Moldovan political process.

IFES' publication and distribution of the *Civic Voice* newsletter has also become an invaluable source of information to members of the NGO community, public officials, and individuals interested in learning more about legal and political happenings in Moldova. In addition, the *Civic Voice* provides objective information in areas where the news that is provided is often biased or inaccurate.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

(continued from p. 1)

election. IFES is currently preparing an extensive analysis of the state of elections in Russia that will focus on the December 1999 State Duma and March 2000 Presidential elections. IFES' initial Findings and Recommendations from the 1999 State Duma elections can be found at www.ifes.ru:8101/eng/comments/index.html.

Communists Insist on Manual Re-Count

The election headquarters of the KPRF is conducting an independent re-count of the election results based on the official protocols. By the end of the day on 27 March, the KPRF had verified 36% of the votes. According to the Communists' count, Putin received 44.8%, whereas Zyuganov – 33.2%. It was also stated that should mass falsifications be identified by the KPRF parallel vote count, the information would be immediately forwarded to the CEC. CEC Chairman Alexander Veshniakov promised Zyuganov that he would personally see to it that any documented complaints would be seriously considered.

State Duma Finally Fully Formed

The process of formation of the Russian State Duma is finally complete: repeat elections for eight deputies of the State Duma were held in single-mandate election districts simultaneously with the Presidential elections on 26 March.

The first-round election on 19 December 1999 in seven of these districts were considered to be invalid due to the fact that the majority of voters voted against all the candidates. Repeat elections were held in the eighth district due to the death of the elected deputy.

In one of the more closely watched repeat elections, Viktor Cherepkov was elected in Vladivostok with 27.74% of the votes (56.81% voter turnout). Cherepkov, the former Vladivostok mayor, is well known for his opposition to Primorskiy Krai Governor Yevgenniy Nazdratenko. This was Cherepkov's third attempt to win a seat in the State Duma. During each of the past campaigns, Cherepkov had been removed from the ballot by the Subject Election Commission for alleged violations of campaign rules. Despite his victory on 26 March, Cherepkov is again facing the possibility of not taking office: on 27 March, the district election commission declared the election invalid due to the fact that one of the candidates – a local business woman and a close friend of the governor – was removed from the ballot for violations of campaign rules one day prior to the election day. The case is pending in court and until a decision is made Cherepkov will not be able to take his seat in the Russian State Duma.

Gubernatorial Elections: Seven Governors Retain Their Seats

Gubernatorial elections were held in seven regions of Russia at the same time as the Presidential elections (26 March). Gubernatorial elections were held in Altayskiy Krai, Kirov, Murmansk, Saratov, Khanty-Mansiyskiy, Yamalo-Nenetskiy and the Jewish autonomous region. In all of these regions the gubernatorial elections were won by incumbents.

UKRAINE

IFES, CEC Review 1999 Presidential Elections

The Central Election Commission (CEC) of Ukraine hosted a post-election conference, sponsored by IFES, on 16-17 March to review the presidential elections conducted in the fall of 1999. The conference examined various aspects of the preparations and conduct of the elections to acknowledge improvements made and determine how to address existing procedural and systemic weaknesses. Presentations focused on election legislation, its implementation, campaign finance, the formation of electoral bodies, media coverage, and election admini-

stration.

The conference assembled election commissioners from Ukraine, Moldova, Russia, and Hungary, legal scholars from the four leading Ukrainian law schools, international experts from IFES and IRI, and representatives of Ukrainian central financial institutions and local government bodies. IFES experts Barry Weinberg, former Deputy Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice, and Craig Donsanto, Director of the Election Crimes Branch, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, spoke about the civil and criminal aspects of election law respectively. A paper written by Donsanto on defining and preventing electoral crimes was distributed to conference participants while Weinberg's remarks have been provided to IFES/Ukraine for their future use. IFES/Ukraine also intends to make a Ukrainian translation of Donsanto's book, "Federal Prosecution of Election Offenses," available to all conference participants on CD-Rom in the near future.

Verkhovna Rada Forms New Committee to Study Election Legislation

In March, Parliament established a committee to study and evaluate the election legislation of Ukraine. Headed by Deputy Chairman Havrysh, the committee will assess the impact of proposed legislation and initiate a dialog with public associations and nongovernmental organizations involved in this area. After the first meeting, IFES was approached to supply committee members with election codes of various countries which could provide guidance to Ukrainian lawmakers in drafting a universal code. To date, IFES has provided the committee with election codes from Moldova, Australia, and Kazakhstan.

IFES/Ukraine Web Site Continues to Grow

The IFES/Ukraine web site (www.ifes.kiev.ua) and mirror site (www.ifes-ukraine.org) have recently been updated to include more information regarding elections and civic education. Through the site, visitors can now access the six-volume CEC Compendium of Normative and Legal Acts, which was distributed in preparation for the 1999 presidential elections, and view election results broken down by city. Additionally, the teachers and students civic education manuals prepared by IFES Consultant Gwenn Hofmann are available online.

Although IFES/Ukraine is not assisting the CEC to prepare for the 16 April all-Ukrainian referendum, the CEC has offered to provide IFES with the results so they can be posted on the IFES/Ukraine web site. In the meantime, visitors to the site can review the Draft Law on Referenda.

IFES to Train Teachers for Civic Education Program

In March, IFES began preparations for a conference entitled "Civic Education in Ukraine: Learning the Ropes of Civil Society and Methodical Problems" scheduled for 14-15 April. The conference will assemble teachers who are involved in implementing the IFES/Ukraine civic education program, civic education specialists, and teachers from schools that are interested in introducing the program. During the conference, IFES Consultant Christina Houlihan, Close Up Foundation, and Professor Sergei Riabov of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy will train the participants how to utilize interactive teaching methodologies in the classroom (such as role-playing, student interviews, and group discussions) in order to maximize student participation and retention of lessons. The conference will also address how the recently elected student governments can establish and maintain relationships with local community (government and non-government) representatives, identify service projects, organize and mobilize other students, and secure supplemental funding.

In addition to providing training to teachers, the conference is intended to serve as a forum for discussion and feedback about the current civic education program, improvements to the curricula and methodology, and best practices. Students and teachers from each participating school will have the occasion to showcase achievements and share anecdotal information on opportunities and barriers encountered through implementation.

IFES Participates in Information Fair

Throughout March, IFES continued to attend meetings of the Parliamentary Assistance Coordinator Group. The meetings allow members to interact with the Verkhovna Rada to discuss international technical assistance programs and learn more about the Rada's affairs.

This month, IFES/Ukraine also participated in the

annual information fair, which was organized to familiarize parliamentary deputies with the various organizations providing assistance to Ukraine. IFES distributed materials outlining IFES' activities in Ukraine, and a staff member was present to answer any additional questions.

Impact Summary

IFES' sponsorship of the CEC post-election conference enabled various participants in the recent presidential elections to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the electoral process. The conference resulted in a series of recommendations and proposed amendments to current election legislation, most notably the need to establish permanent regional election commissions, begin development of a universal election code for Ukraine, and introduce a civic education course in high schools. The conference also provided an opportunity for IFES to review its technical assistance programs for the 1999 elections and gain insight into areas that may require additional assistance in the future.

The upcoming conference for teachers participating in the IFES/Ukraine pilot civic education program will ensure that teachers are adequately trained to teach in a manner that elicits active student participation in both the classroom and community. The newly formed student governments will be able to respond to the needs of the students by developing cooperative relationships with local businesses and government representatives. While developing students' leadership and decision-making skills, involvement in student government activities will also demonstrate that young people do possess the power to influence community affairs.

YUGOSLAVIA (KOSOVO)

IFES experts are assisting the UN and OSCE to implement the operational plan for registration and elections developed by IFES and the OSCE. In particular, they are working closely with the Joint Registration Task Force (JRT), set up by the UN and OSCE, to develop technically feasible parameters and standards for the civil registration--a process that had been delayed since the beginning of last summer. The process will be divided into two phases. The first phase is will register people over the age of 16 for inclusion on the Civil and Voter Registries. This phase will take place both in and

out of Kosovo. However, those currently outside of Kosovo are only eligible to register to vote. The criteria for civil registration is the following:

- The applicant was born in Kosovo;
- At least one of the applicant's parents was born in Kosovo;
- The applicant has resided in Kosovo for a continuous period of five years or more;
- The applicant was forced to leave Kosovo, and, for that reason, is unable to meet the residency requirement in the preceding subparagraph;
- If, at any the time during the initial registration period, the applicant is a dependent child under the age of 18 years of a person who has been accepted for inclusion on the register of habitual residents of Kosovo; or
- If, at any time during the initial registration period, the applicant is a dependent child between the ages of 18 and 23 years of a person who has been accepted for inclusion on the register of habitual residents of Kosovo, and is in full-time attendance at a recognised educational institution.

IFES Helps Joint Registration Task Force to Prepare for Registration

In March, the IFES team took important steps towards preparing for registration. The IFES team supervised the completion of the Document Consolidation Project, which is consolidating data from ElektroKosova, telephone records, data sets from CRS/Albania, and social security information, marks an important step in the registration process. Surveys were conducted to assess preparedness of the population for registration. Registration Site audits were carried out and along with recommendations for refurbishment. Plans are also being made to identify and deploy personnel in preparations for registration. Already, International Municipal Records Officers (MROs) were deployed in 24 of the 29 municipalities in March. At the same time, international trainers were assigned to assist with the sorting of documents on the municipal level. Over 2000 local staff will be recruited to work on the registration process in approximately 400 registration sites. In April, about 300 UN Volunteers will be deployed to supervise the registration process. Finally, the IFES staff has been reviewing the Registration Procedures Manual to ensure that the process is operationally feasible and that the procedures are clearly understandable.

IFES Takes Lead in Information Technology Activities

All information technology including network administration, hardware maintenance, help desk support, database development and other IT projects have been consolidated under one department, headed by IFES IT Specialist Michael Yard, who will handle all information technology-related activities. This department is working with SAGEM (a fingerprint equipment vendor) on issues concerning database programming specifications, equipment configuration, training requirements, and Central Database site considerations. In March, Yard prepared to conduct a suite of tests to determine whether SAGEM has met contract requirements before accepting delivery of equipment from the factory. The department also is working with Thomson (an identification card printer and digital camera vendor) and other companies that have yet to be selected. StarData in New Delhi was selected to be the data capture company to enter information from approximately 1.6 million registration forms, both within Kosovo and out of the area. Registration forms will be received from registration centers inside Kosovo and scanned by the former Social Security Administration for Kosovo and scanned data will be received from IOM for out of Kosovo registration. The scanned images will be sent to StarData, who will key in data and send back datasets. The data will be validated by the Social Security Administration, and forwarded to the central database site.

IFES Provides Legal Assistance

In March, IFES Legal Specialist Dan Blessington worked to draft voter registration administrative directions. These directions would provide the legal basis for the registration activity and address the following: the scope of registration, general procedures, accepted documents for proving one's identity, civil and voter registration eligibility both in and out of Kosovo, review and inquiry, appeals, challenges and confirmation, and data protection. Blessington and Yard met with the Council of Europe data protection team to address legal issues related to the collection, storage and use of biometric and other data. The input from the Council of Europe will ensure that international standards of data protection are met. The administrative directions have not yet been adopted as of this writing.

IFES Assists with Training

IFES assisted the Training Department to assemble a team of international trainers. These trainers will

be needed to assist Senior Core Supervisors with the recruitment of local trainer(s); train and supervise local trainers; train local registration center staff as a team with the local trainer and provide supplemental training where necessary; assist with dissemination of public information; and, prior to commencement of training local registration center staff, assist with the municipal documentation project. Preparations are also being made to train the 300 UN Volunteers arriving for registration and to train personnel on the SAGEM registration equipment.

IFES Helps with Public Information Activities

IFES Public Information Advisor Elise Shoux has made numerous visits to international and local NGOs, minority communities, and OSCE field offices in order to assess opportunities to reach women, youth, and minority groups. The OSCE is using radio, newspapers, and posters in its outreach efforts. Public service announcements with the message "prepare for registration by finding your documents" were prepared to introduce the public to the registration process. An Albanian-language newspaper advertisement was initiated with the core message – Prepare for registration by finding or obtaining your documents that prove identify and residency. Additional advertisements placed in Albanian dailies as well as Turkish and Bosnian by-weeklies. Efforts are also being made to place advertisements in Belgrade papers. IFES is also helping conduct focus groups and plan survey of citizens' attitudes.

IFES Assists with Press and Information

A Joint Election Information Cell (JEIC), responsible for elections reporting and internal information, was set up. Under the leadership of IFES Media Specialist Charlotte Souibes, the JEIC will have the lead on the presentation of the JRT and registration and elections to the media. It will also be issuing weekly reports. Souibes was also active creating the internal reporting structure for the JRT.

Out-of-Kosovo Registration May Prove Problematic

A formal agreement has yet to be signed with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the registration of Kosovar residents living in Serbia. Diplomatic efforts are underway to prevent the possibility of a boycott of these residents. At the same time, alternatives are being examined. Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia.

CAUCASUS/CENTRAL ASIA

ARMENIA

IFES/Armenia Observes Local Election

IFES Project Manager Jeffrey Swedberg and Information Officer Hovannes Serajian observed a local election in the Yerevan community of Kanaker-Zeitun on 12 March in an effort to assess the electoral process prior to the parliamentary by-elections of 21 May. Of particular interest was the role of the community head in preparing the voter list, as the Kanaker-Zeitun community did an admirable job of improving the voter list since previous elections. Success was attributed to the fact that those who had been left off the list during the parliamentary and local elections had appealed to have their names put on amended lists. The lists posted in March were based on the corrections made to lists from May and October 1999. However, the extremely low turnout in this election made it difficult to assess whether problems would have manifested themselves if more voters had participated.

IFES/Armenia Prepares for 21 May By-Elections

In support of the Armenian by-elections scheduled for 21 May, IFES/Armenia continues to provide voter education support to the CEC. IFES and the CEC plan to hold four town hall meetings in districts with by-elections to educate voters on voting procedures and the importance of voting in by-elections. The meetings will be publicized and covered by independent media organizations.

Additional technical assistance will include IFES seminars with community leaders, passport office officials, political proxies, and NGOs on the mechanics of amending the voter lists in mid-April. An agenda focusing on short presentations, question and answer sessions, and exercises employing specific scenarios will provide all participants with a better sense of the procedures for amending voter lists. Guides for both community leaders and civil society representatives will be provided. In addition, IFES has prepared additional voter education posters in anticipation of the upcoming by-elections.

IFES Assists with Electoral Process Reform

IFES continues to provide the CEC with translations of international electoral documents as well as professional development assistance through the sponsorship of the CEC's membership in the ACEEEO. In addition, IFES plans to build the current work

capacity of current CEC staff members. IFES hopes to create a professional staff skilled in the areas of media, voter education, computer technology and legal issues. The process will begin by working with existing staff to produce a CEC monthly newsletter, which would be designed on computer and scanning equipment donated by IFES. The newsletter would be delivered to relevant government offices and pro-democracy NGOs.

IFES Prepares a Study on Voter and Election Issues

IFES consultant Thomas Carson will travel to Armenia to design a focus group study of the Armenian electorate. The purpose of the study is to determine the cause of and potential solutions for the increasing level of voter apathy and the feelings of powerlessness it may represent. In addition, such information will assist IFES and the CEC in designing voter education campaigns that may be more closely targeted to address voter apathy.

Parliamentary Chairman Indicates Support for IFES Suggestions

A 13 March meeting with Viktor Dallakian, Chairman of the National Assembly's Committee on State and Legal Issues, indicated the success of IFES' effort to make recommendations on three issues regarding amendments to the election code. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on comments submitted by Chairman Dallakian on 23 March. His comments were coordinated with feedback from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The responses focused on three amendments proposed by CEC Chairman Artak Sahradian, and are listed below:

1. Additional advisory language is needed to clarify that workers who must vote via absentee ballot should be assigned close to home in order to prevent fraudulent supplemental lists;
2. The appeals process should be rewritten and consolidated into a new chapter of the election code;
3. The rights of domestic observers to appeal decisions of the electoral committees should be maintained, but with language that emphasizes that observers may not interfere with the work of the electoral commission.

Chairman Dallakian agreed with all three recommendations and asked for further comment on the

rest of the 35 amendments submitted by the CEC as well as comments on the amendments that will be submitted shortly by the Council of Judges.

IFES/Armenia Completes Translation of the Armenian Law on Referenda

As requested by the U.S. Embassy, a translation of the current law on referenda was completed by IFES and is available to the public on the IFES/Armenia website. The current law on referenda was drafted in 1991 and predates both the National Assembly and the CEC. It contains numerous references to bodies, such as the Supreme Soviet and the Central Committee on Referenda, that no longer exist. While the law was amended in 1995 and was the basis of the July 1995 referendum on amending the Constitution, it is widely recognized that any new referendum proposing to amend the Constitution will need to be administered under a new law. If the aim is to amend the Constitution to prevent the President from dissolving Parliament after May 31 (one year after the 1999 parliamentary elections), the National Assembly must act quickly.

Impact Summary

In preparation for the 21 May by-elections, IFES continues to work with the CEC to improve voter education by preparing a series of town hall meetings, seminars for community leaders, and a study on voter and election issues. In addition, to promote the further development of free and fair elections in Armenia, IFES continues to assist with election law development. In addition, IFES translated the Armenian Law on Referenda and is coordinating its work with the UNDP and OSCE to present joint suggestions to the Chairman of Parliament on three proposed amendments to the election code.

AZERBAIJAN

Interim Project Manager Tony Reissig Arrives in Baku

On 7 March, Project Manager Alan Wall left his position at the IFES/Azerbaijan field office. IFES Interim Project Manager Tony Reissig attended briefings and met with Mr. Wall in Washington to prepare him to manage the Azerbaijan office.

IFES Observes 26 March Repeat Elections

Two IFES teams observed the repeat municipal elections held in 76 municipalities where the required minimum turnout (25% of voters) was not achieved during the December election.

IFES staff attended a meeting with the Council of Europe's observer mission to discuss anticipated election day difficulties with members of Azeri political parties. The Council of Europe sent six members, headed by Jean-Claude Frecon, to meet with the party members. Another meeting was held on March 27 at the CEC to discuss the results of the observation.

IFES observation teams visited 18 Precinct Election Commissions (PEC) during the election, evaluated the results of voter education campaigns, and reported no serious irregularities. In general, voting stations were set up in the prescribed fashion. The number of voting compartments was often insufficient during peak voting periods and not all Precinct Election Commissions (PEC) managed to control the waiting crowds properly during these times. Informational materials prepared by IFES were usually displayed prominently in the voting stations, though not all had placed ballot-marking posters in the voting compartments. Minor irregularities included family voting, ballot papers being given out prior to voting compartments being available, allowing voters to mark ballots in public, and unauthorized persons being present in the polling stations. The Council of Europe observation teams witnessed similar irregularities.

Initial reports show that 75 of the 76 municipalities made the 25% threshold. The Narimanov district must repeat the election in three months.

IFES/Azerbaijan Assists with Complaint Adjudication Conference

IFES/Azerbaijan is facilitating the attendance of two Azeri judges to attend a complaint adjudication conference in Ukraine in June. The conference will bring together judges from the NIS and Europe who have experience with election complaint adjudication issues in their countries. Two judges were selected from Azerbaijan. With the assistance of ABA-CEELI, Mr. Eldar Mamedov and Mr. Bakhman Garibov were chosen to attend the conference.

IFES Considers Election Result/Count Center

IFES Interim Project Manager Tony Reissig attended a meeting organized by Ilgar Mamedov, Deputy Chairman of the National Independence Party of Azerbaijan, to discuss the feasibility of the Election Result/Count Center project. In attendance were U.S. Embassy Political Officer Michael Speckhard, Peter Van Praagh of the National De-

mocratic Institute, John Alvis of the International Republican Institute, Stephen Szadek of USAID, and David Stubbs of the Open Society Institute (SOROS). Attendees noted that a consultant should be hired to draft a concept paper on this project. Michael Speckhard made copies of Alan Wall's draft proposal and distributed them. Each agency, with the exception of Igar Mamedov's, will make comments and prepare a consolidated proposal to be given to Michael Speckhard at a meeting scheduled for 12 April.

Impact Summary

In cooperation with the CEC, IFES positively influenced the results of the repeat municipal elections by increasing voter information and transparency through the production of voter education materials and Precinct Election Day guides. The voter education campaign provided Azeri voters with clear, concrete information and materials. Consequently, voters were better informed of their rights and responsibilities. In addition, IFES continued to support local NGOs and organizations by participating in local meetings and strengthening the IFES Resource Center, which currently has over 2000 documents regarding election laws, election manuals, examples of election forms and procedures, anti-corruption initiatives and performance appraisals.

GEORGIA

CEC Launches Presidential Elections 2000 Website

To improve public access to CEC resolutions and instructions and to increase overall transparency in the electoral process, the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Georgia has launched a Presidential Elections 2000 website. The site (www.cec.gov.ge, English; www.cec.gov.ge/index.htm) was developed by the CEC with the technical assistance of IFES and Information Resources Management (IRM) of USAID/Washington.

Michael Farbman, USAID/Caucasus Mission Director, joined CEC Chairman Jumber Lominadze at a press conference to officially launch the website on 31 March. In remarks before the press, Farbman stressed the importance of the site and noted that it will inform citizens, political parties and non-governmental organizations about election preparations, voting procedures, and locations for district and precinct election commissions.

The Presidential Elections 2000 website includes copies of all election laws governing the 9 April presidential elections, procedures for filing election complaints, and information about polling site locations. In addition, important voter information and regularly updated news about CEC activities can also be found on the site. Following the election, preliminary and final results will be posted on the site to provide citizens and journalists alike with the most up-to-date information regarding the outcome of the election.

Members of the press will be able to access information on the website from a computer reserved for press use in the CEC's Press and Public Affairs Department. In addition, the Commission has installed a computer terminal at the offices of Internews, a Georgian news agency, to provide increased access to the website for representatives of electronic media outlets.

IFES Assists CEC with Election Preparations

In support of the 9 April presidential elections, IFES provided technical assistance to the CEC that will improve the preparedness of election officials. IFES printed a compendium of newly revised election laws, created a Precinct Election Day Guidebook for polling station officials, and provided ballot security bags.

As the laws governing the elections were recently amended, IFES moved quickly to assist the CEC with the publication of 30,000 copies of a compendium containing the Laws on Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. Distribution of these compendia included three copies for each of the 2600 precinct election commissions, 3000 to members of local councils, 600 to Members of Parliament and their staff, 3000 to local observers, and thousands of copies to political parties and the seven candidates running for President.

In collaboration with the CEC Legal Department, IFES/Georgia Project Manager Antonio Spinelli prepared a step-by-step election day guide to assist polling station officials in the administration of the elections. IFES/Georgia will print 14,000 copies of the guidebook and will distribute it to election commissions, political parties, observer groups and international organizations. In addition, Spinelli produced a companion 25-minute video on election procedures that will be broadcast before the elections.

To increase public trust in the upcoming elections, IFES has also provided the CEC with ballot security bags to transport ballots and essential election materials. These durable single-use security bags will be used to distribute ballots from the CEC to the 75 district election commissions, which in turn will distribute sealed bags to the 2600 precinct commissions prior to election day. Additional bags will be used to return used ballots and tally sheets to the district commissions following the conclusion of vote tabulation in polling stations on election night.

IFES Assists CEC with Voter Information Campaign

In the month prior to the 9 April presidential elections, IFES Voter Education Consultant Catherine Barnes assisted the CEC with the implementation of a national voter information campaign. The multimedia campaign consists of two phases. Phase one, which was concluded in early March, provided voters with information on how to make appeals to the voters' lists. The voters' lists were on public display 3 weeks prior to election day. Phase two, which has been underway since mid-March, has focused on motivating citizens to vote and informing voters about balloting procedures.

In both phases of the voter information campaign, public service announcements (PSAs) were produced in both Georgian and Russian and were broadcast by independent and state-owned television and radio outlets. In phase two, posters to inform voters about identification requirements and voting procedures were also produced in Armenian and Azeri, in addition to Georgian, to provide areas populated exclusively by ethnic minorities with access to invaluable election information.

At the request of the CEC, the voter information effort also included the production of a poster-sized precinct tally sheet for each polling station in the country. This poster will allow voters to view precinct results and will increase the transparency of the election process.

IFES Holds Election Complaint Adjudication Workshops

From 7-11 March, IFES/Georgia held a series of roundtables and workshops aimed at clarifying the judicial and administrative procedures for adjudicating election complaints. In collaboration with the Judicial Training Center, IFES hosted roundtables with justices of the Supreme Court and with *rayon* judges. IFES and the CEC conducted workshops



Craig Donsanto and Barry Weinberg, U.S. Department of Justice, participated in a series of workshops designed to clarify election adjudication procedures.

for election officials from throughout Georgia. On 10 March, IFES held a workshop on complaint adjudication for domestic election observation organizations and journalists.

On behalf of IFES, two distinguished officials from the United States Department of Justice participated in this series of workshops: Craig Donsanto, the Director of the Election Crimes Division of the United States Department of Justice, and Barry Weinberg, the former Deputy Head of the Voting Rights Division of the Department of Justice. Over one hundred and fifty participants attended this series of events. Participants included representatives from the Supreme Court of Georgia, District Courts, the Central Election Commission, District Election Commissions, Georgian NGOs, international NGOs, election observer groups, and representatives of the Georgian media.

The roundtables and workshops emphasized judicial and administrative responsibilities for the adjudication of election complaints in all phases of the election cycle: appeals to the voters' lists, registration of candidates and parties, pre-election campaign activities, and election day conduct. Special attention was also given to the impact that the new General Administrative Code of Georgia will have on the resolution of such complaints. Conference proceedings will be recorded in a printed report.

Impact Summary

IFES' support of the 2000 presidential elections effectively increased the capacity of the CEC to administer nationwide elections. Collaboration with the CEC on a Precinct Election Commission Election Day Guidebook and the introduction of ballot

security bags were positive developments that IFES hopes will help prevent voting irregularities and thereby raise voters' level of confidence in the election process. In addition, IFES assisted the CEC in the creation of a Presidential Elections 2000 website that increased the transparency of the election process by providing information about election preparations, voting procedures, voter rights, election administration and locations of district and precinct election commissions. Finally, to strengthen the process of adjudicating election complaints, IFES held a series of workshops. The workshops highlighted the need for transparency in the complaint adjudication process and bolstered confidence in the adjudication process among domestic observer organizations and political parties by making the requirements for lodging complaints readily available.

KAZAKHSTAN

IFES Conducts Student Civic Education Olympiad and Teacher Evaluation Conference

IFES activities in March focused on preparations for the Student Olympiad and Teacher Evaluation Conference on 30–31 March. Fifty students and teachers took part in a Student Olympiad and Teacher's Conference held in the Teacher's Training Institute in Almaty. IFES Vice-President Juliana Pilon, the author of the civic education textbook that was introduced in pilot schools around Kazakhstan, was present for the conference and used the opportunity to talk with many students and teachers on the book and materials.

The Olympiad consisted of a written test dealing



Participants of the Student Olympiad and Teacher's Conference at the awards ceremony held on 31 March in Almaty

with subjects discussed in the IFES civic education curriculum. Based on the results of that test, four finalists were selected to make an oral presentation on civil society in Kazakhstan. Students were also assigned to small discussion groups that focused on various issues relating to civil society in Kazakhstan. The four finalists made their oral presentations on Friday morning before the full audience. While the judges were outside evaluating the finalists, a general session was conducted with the students on how the textbook could be used as a tool for them to help construct a future civil society.

One highlight of the event was the awards ceremony, at which U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan Richard Jones presented the awards, followed by a private meeting with the four finalists and their teachers. The students were provided with the opportunity of asking the Ambassador's opinion on various matters related to democracy in Kazakhstan. According to reports from USAID, the Ambassador was encouraged by the event and is prepared to take up an offer from the finalists to visit their schools in the future. Contact names and addresses for all finalists and their teachers have been provided to the Embassy. IFES will consider making the Olympiad an annual event.

During the Olympiad for the students, teachers of the civic education course were organized into six workshops derived from the themes which were determined to be critical for the review process: small group projects, design of the materials, language of the materials, methodology, Student Action Committees and the Teacher's Manual. All teachers were asked to provide an assessment based on their experience, on the problems they encountered and on their recommendations for the future. Detailed notes were taken from the workshops and from the general discussions to be used in the next stage of the textbook's evolution. Among the guests were the Minister of Education in Karkalpakstan, Uzbekistan and the President of the Altynsarin Institute, which reviewed the materials last year. Judges and minutes-writers from the Almaty State University, consisting of trainee teachers preparing to teach civic education, served the event well.

The final project of the event is the publication of a record of proceedings, which will be coordinated and distributed with help from Shamen Smagulnova of the Association of Initiative Schools, and distribute. At the close of conference, gifts were distrib-

uted to all teachers and students, in addition to the certificates (of attendance) given to all students.

Impact Summary

IFES has continued to contribute to long-term democratic development in Kazakhstan with its civic education project. As the result of the Student Olympiad, IFES has furthered the education and commitment of the next generation of citizens and voters in Kazakhstan. With the insight gained from participating pilot school teachers, IFES will be able to continually improve and expand the civic education curriculum. Through the contacts made at the conference, IFES also focused efforts on developing new civic education initiatives to increase youth participation in social and political life, with the assistance of international and local NGOs and university level students.

KYRGYZSTAN

IFES/Kyrgyzstan Welcomes New Project Manager

IFES is pleased to announce the arrival of new Project Manager Chedomir Flego. Mr. Flego joined IFES as a specialist in the area of election administration after a distinguished career with the Australian Election Commission (AEC). Mr. Flego brings extensive international experience to the office, having completed assignments in Cambodia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Liberia and South Africa. Mr. Flego will oversee IFES' on-going election administration and civic outreach programs in Kyrgyzstan.

IFES Continues Election Dispute Adjudication Activities

IFES is gathering records of election dispute court decisions made by judges who participated in the adjudication training. These decisions will provide case studies for inclusion in an update of the adjudication manual, as well as provide precedent to guide rulings in similar cases. IFES staff in Bishkek drafted, printed and distributed the initial version of the manual in February, and anticipates continuing training and updating activities during the next several months.

Student Summer Camp Project Expands into Kyrgyzstan

Preparations for a student summer camp in Kyrgyzstan have commenced based upon the summer camp project completed by IFES in Uzbekistan last summer. Mr. Edyl Moldoev, the head of Kyrgyz State National University (KSNU) has been tenta-

tively selected to work with IFES on the student, summer camp project. In addition to providing instruction and practical knowledge of election laws and processes, students will have an opportunity to compare ongoing work in civic education. Summer camp students will introduce what they learned at their university and talk further about introducing civic education (based on what they learned at the summer camp) into secondary schools and communities back in their local villages.

Impact Summary

IFES strategies have been aimed at increasing both the professionalization and the transparency of the elections process by focusing on training judges in the area election dispute adjudication. Through activities such as the proposed summer camp, IFES efforts are assisting in strengthening the various NGOs, as well as increasing the commitment to democracy amongst a young generation of voters and citizens.

TAJIKISTAN

Second Round of Elections to Majlisi Oli Held in March

The second round of elections to the Majlisi Namoyandagon (Assembly of Representatives) of Majlisi Oli, were held on 27 February for the remaining seats in the 63-member chamber. Elections to the 33 member of Majlisi Milli (National Assembly) were held on 23 March in Dushanbe and all oblasts. Elections to the Majlisi Milli (National Assembly) were conducted by representatives of oblast Majlisis and the Dushanbe City Majlis. After the second round of Elections to the Majlisi Namoyandagon (Assembly of Representatives) new elections were called in three regions: Khorogh, Khojamaston and Kofarnigan, which will take place in April.

The First Session of Majlisi Namoyandagon (Assembly of Representatives) Convenes

The first session of Majlisi Namoyandagon (Assembly of Representatives) the 63 members of Parliament began its work in Dushanbe on 27 March. Sadullo Hairullayev was elected the speaker of the Majlisi Namoyandagon (Assembly of Representatives) with Abduolmajid Dostiyev, Gulafzo Savriddiniva, and Jamoliddin Mansurov elected vice-speakers. Nine persons were elected chairpersons of committees: Abdurahmon Azimov-Committee for Law, Defense and Security; Zarif Aliev-Committee for Legislation and Human

Rights; Yusuf Ahmedov-Committee for Industry and Energy; Shodibek Ahmedov-Committee for Agrarian Policy, Food and Employment; Sanavbar Rahimova-Committee for Affairs of Women, Health Care, Social Security and Ecology; Safar Safarov-Committee for Economy, Budget, Finance and Taxes; Ibrohim Usmonov-Committee for International Affairs, Public Organizations and Ethnic Relations; Abdusattor Jaborov-Committee for State Construction; Mamadsho Ilolov-Committee for Science, Education, Youth Policy and Culture. During the session Chairpersons of Parliament commissions were also elected: Amirsho Miraliev-Commission for Ethics and Privileges of Deputies, and Halifabobo Hamidov-Commission for Control of Regulations and Organizational Work. Mr. Narzullo Abduvahobov was elected Head of Administration of Majlisi Oli. IFES has proposed working with the new parliament to produce a directory of members, and in cooperation with other international partners to promote development of a professional Parliament.

Election Dispute Adjudication Continues

IFES Legal Consultant Lamar Cravens completed work on the Tajik and Uzbek versions of the booklet "A Reference and Training Manual for the Resolution of Election Disputes in Tajikistan". IFES / Tajikistan arranged for the printing of the summary in the following quantities: Russian version-350 copies, Tajik version-130 copies and Uzbek version-20 copies. The summary booklet and appendix of laws and legislative norms will be delivered to the Supreme Court next month. The Manual, prepared as a reference document for judges and lawyers, was completed in Russian language prior to the February Elections and used as a basic for training judges in Dushanbe, Kurgan-Tyube and Khojand- a series sponsored by IFES and ABA. Select representatives from Tajikistan also participated in joint training seminars with their Kyrgyzstani counterparts in Bishkek organized by IFES/Bishkek and ABA. The final training materials, which include a complete set of elections and constitutional laws, relevant to the adjudication of disputes process, is now available in three languages in Tajikistan in hard copy, and Russian CD-ROM format. A complete set will be presented to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Ubaidullo Davlatov at a formal ceremony in April.

Voter Education Project Assessed

Results of IFES' election day survey to measure the

impact of the electronic and print media voter education project indicated that a respectable degree of voters, selected at random, either read, viewed or heard information on the election process or on political parties that helped them make a more informed decision on election day. IFES and the First Press Club of Dushanbe collaborated on a survey of voters across the country on February 27 during the first round of elections to the Majlisi Namoyandagon. In all, 5550 voters were interviewed, with 79% indicating that they recently watched television. Of that number, 96% (3807 persons) described seeing one or more of the IFES-produced television public service announcements, with the episode titled "Voting Girl" mentioned by 96%, "Children of Tajikistan" mentioned by 95%, and "Informed Voter" by 94%. Slightly less than half of the respondents indicated that they recently listened to the radio, with 23% (513) describing one of the IFES-produced radio public service announcements. Some 1929 respondents answered that they recently read newspapers, with 90% describing that they had seen voting and political party platform information sponsored by IFES. A total of 1438 respondents recalled seeing posters at polling stations, with 99.5% describing one of the IFES-produced posters. Television was, as expected, the most popular medium of information conveyance, and the most accessible.

Political Party Development

IFES/Dushanbe Political Party Development Consultant Philip Griffin and Party Development Assistant Bahridin Sharipov, in cooperation with other local and international partners, assessed the needs of the post-election party development environment. Since only three of six parties succeeded in placing candidates into the Majlisi Namoyandagon, it was conceded that programs would have to continue that would keep the "outside" parties actively engaged in the political process, given the importance of maintaining political dialogue in the country in the peace-building process. Griffin and Sharipov met with Dr. Muzaffar Olimov of the Sociological Research Center *SHARQ* to discuss producing a directory of new members to the Majlisi Oli. It has become clear that issues surrounding professionalization of the new parliament will be a top programming priority, including the formation of parliamentary blocs. IFES is currently discussing how to best implement programs to develop parliamentary structures and help outside parties remain constructively engaged in the political process with USAID and the U.S. Embassy.

IFES/Dushanbe Office Relocated

IFES/Dushanbe moved its office to a location in the Tajik Cinematological Complex, which will allow it to better address some of the needs of staff and programmatic institutes. The new office will also prove more accessible to visitors coming to explore holdings in the IFES/Dushanbe Resource Center. The new office contact numbers are: 25 Behzod Street, 1st Floor, Dushanbe, 734013, Tel. (992 372) 21-80-52, 21-70-98, Fax: 21-25-80 E-mail: IFES@IFES.tajik.net .

Project Manager Frank Vassallo departed IFES/Dushanbe at the end of March following completion of his duties. IFES\Washington Program Officer for Central Asia Anthony Bowyer will travel to Dushanbe to assume IFES office coverage.

Impact Summary

IFES/Dushanbe began the post-election phase of its program by making preparations for working with the new parliament and by continuing its judicial training work with the Supreme Court. Though determined to remain actively engaged in technical election issues, IFES will seek to broaden its program by focusing on civic education and information exchange. One particular need will be continued political party development, particularly for those parties that find themselves on the outside after the parliamentary elections. The continued and constructive engagement of those parties in the political process will be essential to the ongoing peace process.

In evaluating the impact of its voter education project, IFES determined that most randomly sampled voters watched or listened to one or more of the IFES-produced voter education spots on television and radio. The result appears to be a more informed electorate on Election Day. The print voter outreach program also enjoyed success, with the vast majority of respondents reporting that they had seen IFES posters or detailed newspaper information on the political parties. While the electorate in Tajikistan is far from achieving fully-informed participation, some positive steps were achieved in understanding the new system of party list elections and providing information on the differences in party platforms, as based on information provided by the parties themselves.

The election adjudication manuals produced in Tajik, Uzbek and Russian for judges and lawyers will

assist in the professionalization of the judiciary in Tajikistan and will allow for judges across the country to learn from the experience of the 2000 elections through provision of relevant election legislation in a single resource.

UZBEKISTAN

IFES Staff Contributes to ACCELS Civic Education Conference in Ferghana

IFES/Uzbekistan Project Coordinator Lola Maksudova and Igilik Kosymbetov, a partner of IFES from the Ministry of Education of Karakalpakstan, participated at the ACCELS Conference entitled "Civic and Interdisciplinary Education" held in Ferghana City. Representatives from leading American organizations specializing in the area of civic education, such as Civic Education Programme (CEP), IREX, Peace Corps, Counterpart Consortium, graduates of the ACCELS training programme from Russia and leading Uzbekistani NGOs participated at the conference. The Conference was mainly attended by teachers and professors from the Ferghana Valley region.

The conference successfully generated interested in the IFES civic education curriculum in Nukus. Igilik Kosymbetov presented a speech on IFES activities in Karakalpakstan, including a discussion of the IFES training seminar for teachers this November. Mr. Kosymbetov stressed the willingness and enthusiasm of the Ministry to cooperate with IFES on the curriculum development project. Teachers from the Ferghana stated that there is a definite need for such a textbook both at the secondary school and the university level, considering the absence of textbooks focusing on civic education.

IFES/Tashkent Staff Commence Civic Education Preparations in Karakalpakstan

Project Manager Eilis Ward and IFES/Uzbekistan Lola Maksudova traveled to Nukus to assess the possibilities of the civic education program development in Karakalpakstan. The meetings with the Education Minister Sultanov, Deputy Rector of the teachers training institute, Igilik Kosymbetov, several NGOs, teachers from the pilot schools were highly productive and the response for IFES conducting civic education projects was very positive from every side.

Kosymbetov praised the IFES curriculum development project in Kazakhstan and stated that the Kara-

Karakalpak Ministry of Education desires the IFES textbook and introduction of the curriculum in Karakalpak pilot schools. The Ministry affirmed its commitment to initiate the course throughout Karakalpakstan. Adaptation of the textbook will focus on incorporating the following issues into the text:

- family issues and marriages in Central Asia
- legal protection of environment
- articles on nationalism.

Minister Sultanov is prepared to issue a decree on implementation of the curriculum development course in the pilot schools this autumn. The Minister assured IFES of his full support for a proposed student summer democracy camp.

Teachers from the pilot schools which participated in the IFES training seminar last November met with IFES staff during March. Although none of them have fully used the textbook as a course, the majority had already used select material from the book and the anthology in their lectures. Several teachers even conducted mock elections in their schools and stated that students were very active and enthusiastic about running mock elections events.

With the help of Counterpart's NGO Support Center and its leader Palmurza Khojabekov, Eilis Ward and Lola Maksudova had a very good opportunity to meet Nukus NGOs which are linked to the development of civic education projects in Karakalpakstan. Two of them are already planning some civic education projects in Nukus: the NGO Renaissance and

the Center for Public Research.

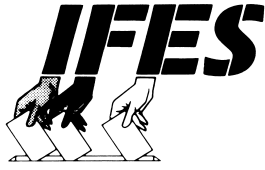
Summer Camp Project Planned for Karakalpakstan

IFES commenced preparations for the IFES summer camp for Karakalpak students of senior classes, with the assistance of Arzoim Abdirova, a leader of the Center for Public Research.

One of the most active members of the Center for Public Research, Muhabbat Shlymbetova, agreed to coordinate the organization of clubs for youth, similar to the "Green tie club" based in Gymnasium 1. Members of the club are actively involved in the youth movement of the region and are currently conducting inter-school debates. It was agreed with Muhabbat that the clubs for youth will be organized in pilot schools and that every team will bring five issues of concern for discussion at the summer camp.

Impact Summary

IFES/Uzbekistan continues to focus its efforts on civic education. With the support of the the Ministry of Education of Karakalpakstan, IFES will continue progressing in the curriculum development project. Activities such as this project and the democracy summer camp project will increase the understanding of and commitment to democracy among young citizens. By enlisting the assistance of local NGO partners, IFES will foster the long-term sustainability of the NGOs and prepare them to assume an expanded role in these activities.



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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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