

NOVEMBER 1999

NATIONALIZATION PLAN COMPLETED FOR BOSNIA.

IFES Election Administration Specialist Tom Parkins submitted a draft organization proposal to the OSCE Nationalization Project Team in mid-November. The plan called for the transfer of election administration responsibilities to the BiH Election Commission and Secretariat after local elections to be held in April 2000. It seeks to streamline management and reporting relationships and, in accordance with the election draft law currently under consideration by the BiH Parliament, transfers much of the support activities currently provided by OSCE to local authorities.



An example of IFES' municipal council reports from Derventa, Republika Srpska.

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Over the long run, the system should operate similarly to other Central and East European emerging democracies.

Due to the ravages of war and consequential intense distrust between national ethnic groups there are still serious infrastructure and organizational problems. According to the proposal the international community would continue to provide transitional support in the form financing, training, and institutional development. IFES will have an important role in the training and institutional development aspects.

Election Law Information Campaign (ELIC)

IFES continues its work with the OSCE on a media campaign to promote understanding and support of the draft election law. Emphasis is placed on features of the law, which ensure accountability of elected officials. *(Continued on p. 3)*

EUROPE

ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN ELECTION OFFICIALS (ACEEEO)

ACEEEO to Focus Next Conference on Election Technology

Recognizing the need to address the development and utilization of technology in the electoral sphere, the ACEEEO will hold its annual conference in Warsaw from 14-16 June, 2000. The event, hosted by the National Election Office of Poland, will address both legal and practical issues of identifying and implementing appropriate, up-to-date technology to help ensure that an election process is both secure and credible. Election technology can help protect the sanctity of the vote, ensure that the count is accurate, and help disseminate results in a timely manner. The ACEEEO will invite election officials, experts and others involved in the electoral process. In particular, technical experts responsible for implementing and maintaining the infrastructure for elections will be encouraged to attend. Finally, election equipment and service suppliers from around the world will be invited to participate in the conference and exhibit the latest equipment .

IFES, ACEEEO, and University of Essex to Establish New Election Resource

Through their unique partnership, IFES, the ACEEEO and the University of Essex continue to collect election laws and results from Central and Eastern Europe dating back to 1990. The partners are currently developing a user-friendly, web-based database to make these items available. Lawmakers, policymakers, and other experts will soon have this useful comparative information in one, easy to access, location. The web format will also allow the database to be expandable and updated over time.

ALBANIA

Changes Within the Government

Following a cabinet shuffle and a reorganization of ministries and responsibilities in late October, the Ministry of Legislative Reform and Relations with Parliament was disbanded. IFES had been working with the Ministry on the drafting of a new electoral code through the work of the Election Code Working Group. The Judicial Branch of the Prime Minister's Office assumed responsibility for the new election code. Since this change, IFES is working di-

rectly with the Judicial Branch on this initiative and has provided draft proposals developed by the Working Group.

Programming Initiatives

IFES continues to work closely with the Government of Albania and the international community in the pursuit of three major tasks: a new electoral code; establishment of the Central Election Commission (CEC); and, preparation of a new voter registry prior to local elections scheduled for the middle of 2000.

Progress on the Development of the Election Code

A first draft of the election code has been completed and is currently under review by IFES staff and the IFES Election Code Working Group. The draft code makes extensive use of the proposals submitted to the Judicial Branch of the Prime Minister's office by IFES and its Working Group. The current schedule calls for consultation on the new code with the international community in mid December and with the political parties prior to Christmas. The code should be presented to the Council of Ministers at the end of December and forwarded to the People's Assembly in mid-January. If approved, passage in the People's Assembly should occur in mid-February.

Draft Law on the CEC Completed

Based on the need for the formal and prompt commencement of activities by the CEC, a draft law for the establishment of the new CEC was developed by the Judicial Branch of the Prime Minister's Office and has been forwarded to the Council of Ministers for their approval and onward transmission to the People's Assembly. IFES provided assistance to the Judicial Branch Office as it drafted the law and shared the proposals developed by the Working Group on the CEC. The CEC law will be a chapter of the new election code when it is completed.

If approved by the People's Assembly, it is anticipated that the law formally establishing the CEC will pass during December. The draft law provides for a strong and independent CEC with extensive authority over the administration of elections. As a new body, however, the CEC will face many challenges in 2000 as it prepares to work on a new voter registry and administer local elections in the late summer/early fall. IFES will continue to provide technical assistance to the Commission as it is established.

Preparations for Voter Registration

In late November, a 3-person IFES Voter Registration Team arrived in Tirana to provide assistance in detailing the necessary plans for a door-to-door enumeration and creation of a national voter registry in the spring of 2000. Specifically, the team is working in the following areas: procedures and materials needed for the enumeration; creation of national database; voter ID cards and the update of the civil register; and, public information and education. The public information program will focus on the involvement of community organizations in promoting registration and educating the public on the need and procedures for registration as well as undertaking the necessary tasks.

This voter registration initiative is part of a larger Election Assistance Project that has been prepared by a working group made up of IFES, OSCE and UNDP and the Ministry of Local Government. The proposal has been presented to the Government of Albania for its acceptance. Financial commitments are currently being sought from international donors to implement the project. Efforts are also underway to co-ordinate some of these activities with the demographic and housing census to be undertaken in mid 2001.

Impact Summary

The new election code, establishment of the CEC and a rigorously prepared voter registry will have a significant impact on the political and social life of Albanian. It is important, therefore, that they be undertaken and completed with a minimum amount of controversy. While it is anticipated that there may be some opposition from political parties who will not support these initiatives in the People's Assembly, other levels of support within society at large will help to develop a general consensus of acceptance and this in turn will help to ensure local elections held in as free and open a manner as possible. Free and transparent elections at the local level will auger well for smooth Assembly elections in the 2001 and will significantly contribute to stability in Albania.

BELARUS

1999 Public Opinion Survey Distributed

In November, the 1999 Survey of Public Opinion in Belarus was distributed to USAID, the State Department, and members of the NGO community in the United States and the Western NIS. The survey examines public opinion on several issues, includ-

ing the current state of affairs, the proposed union between Belarus and Russia, and the elections staged in May 1999 by political parties opposed to the rule of President Alexander Lukashenko. It also examines the level of public information available and the impact of the mass media. The survey, conducted in May 1999, provides an accurate snapshot of public opinion in Belarus after the opposition elections. It will also serve as a valuable resource to those interested in examining and improving the current conditions in Belarus. By comparing the data with similar information from other countries, such as Ukraine and Russia, it will be possible to develop a clearer understanding of the impact of political, economic, and social transitions in the former Soviet Union. Furthermore, comparing the IFES survey with USIA and other surveys conducted in recent years will allow us to track changes in public opinion in Belarus.

The survey is currently being translated into Russian, and will be available on the IFES web site (www.ifes.org) in English.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (BiH)

(continued from p. 1)

The first ELIC video spot aired on 28 November. IFES Media Advisor Charlotte Souibes has prepared and given production the second video spot, which carries information about the Open List System and an appeal to ask BiH parliamentarians to pass the Election Law. The spot is scheduled to air on 8 December.

The second radio spot has also been produced. The first spot went on air at the same time as the video spot, and carries the same general message. All radio spots will address the same issues as the video spots, but in a shorter and more traditional format. Video and radio spots will soon be available on the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina Web site (<http://www.osecbih.org>), in an effort to reach out to out of country voters. Key frames from the video spots will also be used to illustrate billboards and all other print materials for ELIC.

USAID/Sarajevo Approves New Programming

USAID/Sarajevo tentatively approved a new programming approach at the end of November, which calls for IFES to open an office and operate cooperatively but independently from the OSCE. IFES will work with local election officials on training programs and assist the Association of Election Of-

ficials of BiH (AEOBiH) with its development.

Under the draft election law and the nationalization proposal expected to pass the parliament early in 2000, local officials take on greater responsibility both in maintaining the voter registry and in the execution of elections. IFES assistance will be critical to successful administration of elections in BiH.

AEOBiH Prepares for First General Assembly Meeting

Almost one year to the day BiH election officials appointed the Task Group on the Formation for an Association of Election Officials in BiH, the officially registered Association of Election Officials in BiH (AEOBiH) will hold its first general assembly meeting from 9-12 December at the same site in Teslic in the Republika Srpska (RS). Since holding its inaugural assembly meetings in September, the AEOBiH has held its branch assemblies and elected their presidencies in Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla and Banja Luka; over 400 applications for membership have been submitted to these branches. The branch presidents will preside as the working presidency at the first assembly meeting, along with Asim Kanlic, President of the association. The agenda is designed to inform members about the association's progress and to prepare them for the April 2000 elections. Topics will include discussions on the development of associations and preparation for the work ahead. Dr. Istvan Zsuffa of the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO), of which the AEOBiH is now a member, will also attend to discuss concrete ways in which election officials of the region can cooperate.

The Association's standing committees, the International Committee, the Education and Training Committee, the Seminar Committee and the Information Committee, were also formed this month. The Education and Training Committee and the members of the Presidency have already attended training on voter information and education conducted by the University of Essex and sponsored by the OSCE. The participants learned "train the trainer" techniques so that the education and training committee can pass along their knowledge to all local election commissions (LECs) in their regional branches' areas of responsibility. They will receive more detailed training on the election law in late December, train the LECs by the end of January, and therefore prepare the ground for all LECs to conduct voter education and information campaigns in their own municipalities on the new changes in the election

system.

The AEOBiH, with IFES' assistance, is producing a Member's Handbook in Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian languages, which will be distributed at the general assembly meeting. The handbook will include the following: information about the association's history; its statue; contact information for its members; information on its presidency, court of honor, supervisory board, branch presidencies and its committees; information from the congresses in December 1998 and May 1999; media contacts and its plans for the future. The handbook is a binder that can be easily updated and expanded; there are plans to include the permanent election law, once passed, updates on branch and committee activities, and professional development materials.

IFES Sponsors AEOBiH Members' Visit to Ethics Conference in Providence, RI

Three members of the AEOBiH including Secretary Emin Novalic and Treasurer Simo Marovic, will attend the 21st annual conference of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws in Providence, Rhode Island from 5-8 December. This year's conference focuses on campaign finance laws and practices. The participants will attend sessions on topics including: lobbying and campaign expenditures; instilling the public value of open government; a comparative analysis of campaign finance reform in the UK, US and Canada; managing public access requests; affecting political culture and government institutions from the outside in; and public financing of campaigns. Speakers include: former-governor Michael S. Dukakis; Charles F.C. Ruff, White House Counsel to President Clinton; George D. Brown, specialist in the field of federal-state relations and government ethics from Boston College; and Dr. Kwadwo Afari Gyan, Chairman of the National Electoral Commission in Ghana. The AEOBiH members will share what they learn with their colleagues at the general assembly meeting.

Over 80 Civic Activist Initiatives in Progress

Since 7 July, the start date for the current contract, 82 new Civic Activist Initiatives (Gradjanska Aktivna Inicijativa- or GAINs) have been initiated. These GAINs comprise of village and local community residents who have gathered together to address an issue of importance to them. IFES trainers demonstrate how best to document the communities' needs, address these concerns to the appropriate municipal officials, and exercise due diligence and per-

sistence to obtain the desired results. This approach touches upon two fundamental elements common to democratic civil societies: accountability and transparency. By lobbying their government and pressing to carry the issue forward to another body, citizens are holding their officials accountable. By pressing to see the local budget and learn why the project cannot be funded, they are demanding transparency.

The following are examples from the new 82 GAINs:

- Misurici, of the Maglaj municipality in the BiH Federation: This GAIN is focusing on repairing their local community center of this Bosniak village. They expect that this will encourage the return of displaced Serbs from this village and help them once they return. Serbs comprised about 10 percent of the population of this local community.
- Klopce, of the Zenica municipality in the BiH Federation: This suburban settlement had a long-lasting problem with their water supply. It was struggling to get two water pumps replaced for several years. Now, thanks to the GAIN's lobbying of the municipal council, the pumps are in place and the water supply is working normally.
- Vinska, of the Brod municipality in the Republika Srpska (RS): The local school was recently repaired with a donation from the Norwegian Refugee Council. However, the school that once had grades 1-8 now can serve only grades 1-4. Students in grades 4-8 must commute to another school paying 60-80 DM per month. The mothers of the community have initiated this GAIN to lobby their municipal government to revitalize the 4-8 grade program.
- Rjecica of the Doboj municipality in the RS: Parnica of the Maglaj municipality in the BiH Federation: Bosniaks, who are originally from this village and currently live in Parnica, want to return to their pre-war homes. In order to do so, they need to repair the overpass, which was destroyed during the war. Likewise, Serbs who are originally from Parnica and now live in the RS would like to return. All they needed was a link between the two groups and the local elected officials. Trainers from the Zenica and Doboj offices visited Rijecica and Parnica and provided the residents with guidance while addressing their municipal officials. The residents decided that it would be helpful to have the train stop in the two towns while the overpass was under construction. The two groups jointly addressed the local authorities of Maglaj and the Federation Railway Company with a

request for a train stop in Parnica. Their request was shortly granted with the condition that a platform must be put in to ensure passengers safety when disembarking. As the train that goes through Parnica is under RS railway authority, the two groups will now approach them with the request. This is an excellent example of cross-entity cooperation that will hopefully continue and expand.

- Glamoc municipality in the BiH Federation: Glamoc is well-known for its cattle production and agriculture. This GAIN is working to form an NGO, which will promote the interests of the local producers.
- Listani of the Livno municipality in the BiH Federation: This GAIN is working to reconstruct its local outpatient clinic, which serves a large area.



Members of IFES staff holding post-conference review

Municipal Council Reports to be Produced

Another important part of the IFES Civic Education Program is the production of municipal council reports. IFES trainers attend municipal council sessions and report on the main issues discussed and then compile objective, periodic reports. These reports are then distributed to residents of the outlying communities, which the trainers regularly visit. This is often the only source of information to reach many of these people. These reports create transparency in local government as well as encourage citizens to become aware of their elected officials' activities. Once they are aware many citizens become actively involved in their communities.

Impact Summary

The transfer of the responsibility for election administration to national officials is a complicated, important process in which IFES has played a major advisory role. IFES presented a well-thought-out

plan, created by an expert, which takes societal factors and resource availability into consideration. The implementation of this plan will result in efficient administration of free and fair elections by well-trained conscientious election officials.

The Association of Election Officials in BiH is becoming an important player in the development of its election system. Association members will soon be able to train their colleagues in aspects of election administration in BiH and other important issues, such as campaign finance, in the field of elections. The development of the association will allow for a systematic way of sharing the latest information and training with election officials throughout BiH.

With assistance from IFES civic education trainers, more and more citizens throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina are becoming actively involved in the democratic process and producing concrete results in the reconstruction of their country. Citizens from all ethnic groups are learning to cooperate to resolve common problems with constructive methods. They are becoming aware of their elected officials' activities and are increasingly involved in these activities and demanding greater transparency. They have learned how to best approach their municipal, and some cases higher-level, governments, pool their resources and find other alternatives when necessary.

MOLDOVA

IFES, CEC Organize Training Seminars

In November, IFES and CEC continued to organize regional training seminars for poll workers. IFES/Moldova submitted a list of topics to be covered during the training, and the CEC is currently assembling a group of experts to speak at the seminars. The CEC and IFES have also agreed to work together to prepare for the upcoming elections in Taraclia county. Local elections are scheduled for 23 January 2000.

Also this month, Nicolae Televco, Vice-chairman of the CEC, briefed IFES on the latest CEC activities. In particular, he discussed the recent publication "*Electoral* '99" which contains results from the general local elections and republican referendum held on 23 May. He also informed IFES that the CEC has recently passed a resolution that would require mayoral contestants, who are elected and then refuse to take office, to reimburse the state a portion of the money spent to organize the elections.

IFES Works with Parliament to Amend Electoral Code

In cooperation with the Juridic Direction of Parliament, IFES hosted a series of roundtables on introducing a proportional system in several constituencies. In addition, participants discussed ways to resolve problems in Dniester region, namely the low level of citizen participation in elections, threshold of representation, and awarding mandates. At the request of the Juridic Direction, IFES developed and submitted recommendations, which will be used in drafting amendments to the Electoral Code.

Alexandru Cobzaru, expert of the Juridic Commission of Parliament, also requested IFES' assistance in modifying the Electoral Code to decrease the time allotted for campaigning to half of what is currently stipulated. The suggested amendment is in response to the possibility of early parliamentary elections.

Coordination with Local NGOs

In November, IFES attended the Second Moldovan NGO Forum, hosted by CONTACT NGO Assistance Center. At the request of the CONTACT Center, IFES prepared a report on the recent activities of the NGO Public Service Certification Commission. The CONTACT Center also commended IFES on the *Civic Voice* newsletter and requested that it be sent to its branches throughout Moldova.

The next session of the NGO Public Service Certification Commission is scheduled for 3-6 December. The meetings will focus on amending the Law on Public Associations to better define criteria for certification.

Working with the NGO "Europe Stars," youth branches of the major political parties are organizing "Electoral School," a series of lectures on citizen's electoral rights, media coverage of political campaigning, financing elections, and election monitoring. IFES/Moldova participated in the inaugural meeting of the Electoral School, which was hosted by Europe Stars and CDM XXI. IFES/Moldova noted that this school was not the first of its kind; both the Party of Democratic Forces and Liberal Party tried to establish a similar institution in 1997, and IFES supported a 1998 IRI initiative. Apparently young people are more receptive to NGOs founding such schools since there is little trust of the objectivity of organizations with political agendas or connections. Sessions have focused on the development of Moldovan law and electoral

systems. An IFES representative addressed the impact of introducing various electoral systems, in particular a mixed system, in Moldova. IFES will continue participating in the Electoral School by organizing a series of training seminars that will cover topics such as voters' rights, electoral systems, and political doctrines.

IFES continues to work with political parties and other socio-political organizations, as well as the Registration Department of the Ministry of Justice, to clarify the NGO registration process. The law on public administration reform and the new law on foundations have inherent inconsistencies, and thus make certain aspects of the process ambiguous. It is necessary for modifications to the current legislation to introduce uniform registration procedures for the entire country, regardless of the association's organizational or legal status and status as a regional or national organization.

IFES and the Mass Media

IFES met with Alexandru Cantir, Chairman of the Committee for the Freedom of Press, to discuss the impact of the recently published study on access to information of public interest in Moldova. The study was a cooperative effort between IFES/Moldova and the Committee for the Freedom of Press. IFES and the Committee for the Freedom of Press are discussing the possibility of jointly producing a radio program *Public Official Club*, which would focus on public administration issues.

Civic Voice

IFES/Moldova and the League for the Human Rights of Moldova continue to produce *Civic Voice* radio programs that are broadcast on ANTENNA C. This month the program addressed such issues as provisions of the Law on Public Officials. One program was dedicated to International Youth Day and focused on the social and political rights of youth. During the program IFES/Moldova staff members discussed the electoral rights of young people and spoke about the recently held ACEEEEEO conference in Bratislava. It was noted that low participation of the youth in elections is an issue of concern throughout Europe, and that greater youth involvement is crucial to bettering the electoral process in Moldova. Representatives of the Moldovan and Dutch Helsinki Committees for Human Rights also participated in the program and commented on their projects in Moldova.

IFES/Moldova completed distribution of the Roma-

nian and Russian version of the *Civic Voice* newsletter #26. The "Digest" version (consisting of collected articles of particular interest to public officials) was mailed to mayors and members of local councils. The next issue will include an interview with Vice-chairman of the CEC, Nicolae Televco, in which he will discuss his participation in the October ACEEEEEO conference and stress the benefits of such associations.

Civic Voice has become increasingly popular due to its independent coverage of important political and social issues. Adela Scutaru, Chairman of the Junior Achievement Association, expressed her gratitude to IFES/Moldova for publishing the newsletter. Also, Valeriu Ciubuciu, Presidential Councilor on problems related to youth, education, and environment, indicated that he was very impressed with the professional quality and impartiality of the *Civic Voice* newsletter. He noted that there are few such publications in Moldova that provide both useful information and solid analyses. In particular, he was pleased with the latest issue (#26) and IFES/Moldova Project Director Dorin Tudoran's editorial.

Iurie Arseni, Chairman of the United Youth Association, contacted IFES/Moldova to request back issues of the newsletter, as the organization began to receive the publication only this month and found the information to be very instructive.

Impact Summary

In November, IFES and the CEC continued to work to improve the capacity of election officials through the organization of training seminars for poll workers. Additionally, IFES and the CEC are cooperating to prepare for the local elections in Taraclia county in January. The training assists in the creation of a professional class of election officials and helps ensure the uniform application of election procedures. This, in turn, improves the public's perception of the political process and encourages their participation.

IFES also concentrated on strengthening civil society by working closely with local and international NGOs. IFES attended the Second Moldovan NGO Forum, hosted by CONTACT NGO Assistance Center. The Forum brought together over 200 organizations to discuss goals of common interest and facilitated further coordination among NGOs. IFES provided information on the activities of the NGO

Public Service Certification Commission to participants. IFES is working with the Commission to amend legislation that governs NGO activity to better the legal framework for such activity.

IFES continued to support the Juridic Direction of Parliament in amending the Electoral Code through a series of roundtable discussions. Such roundtables help to increase parliamentary transparency in addition to improving election legislation based on previous experience and to best serve the needs of the citizens of Moldova.

Throughout this month, IFES focused efforts on increasing the participation of the youth in the political development of Moldova. An IFES representative spoke at the opening of the Electoral School, which aims to train youth organizations of Moldovan political parties. IFES will continue to cooperate with Europe Stars on the Electoral School by providing training sessions that will cover such topics as electoral rights, electoral systems, campaign management, election monitoring, and political ideology. This month one of the *Civic Voice* radio programs was dedicated to International Youth Day and discussed the social and political rights of youth as well addressed the need to increase involvement in the political process among young people. Informing the youth of its role in the process and addressing issues that are importance to them are crucial factors in raising their participation levels.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

IFES, Moscow Carnegie Center Hold Round Table on Draft Presidential Election Law

On the eve of the second hearing on the draft *Federal Law On Election Of The President Of The Russian Federation* in the State Duma, IFES/Russia and the Moscow Carnegie Center jointly held a round table discussion of the draft law. Representatives of the State Duma, the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Russian Federation, various state ministries, political associations, media, legislators, and law firms attended the 23 November event.

IFES' Moscow Project Director, Christian Nadeau, presented IFES' findings with regard to the draft presidential election law and provided insight based on his extensive international experience. Emotionally charged presentations by Elena Lukyanova, a Moscow State University professor of law, and Valery Kurman, Russian Institute for Election Law, attracted particular attention from the audience.

The discussion focused on three major issues: election campaign finance; adjudication of grievances; and the role of the mass media in the election process. In addition, a member of the CEC of the Ukraine, Oleksandr Nelga, shared his experience in organizing and conducting the recent presidential elections in his country.

IFES presented each participant with two of its most recent publications: *Analysis and Comments Regarding the Draft Federal Law on Election of the President of the Russian Federation* and *Pre-Election Technical Assessment* (PETA-99).

Preparations For Parliamentary Elections Well Underway

On 26 November the CEC published the final election bulletin containing the list of registered election associations, blocs, and independent candidates for the 19 December State Duma Elections.

By the end of November, 93,000 precinct election commissions had been formed. The CEC hopes that approximately half a million observers delegated by various election associations, parties, blocs, and independent candidates will work with these commissions, in their respective precincts, helping to ensure that the elections are conducted in a free and fair manner.

In addition, approximately 1,000 international observers are expected to participate in the observation of elections. The CEC has already accredited 200 observers. At least 500 observers are expected to be part of the OSCE delegation.

It has been reported that the state commission headed by Vice Prime Minister, Ilya Klebanov will soon approve the use of the State Automated System (GAS) "Vybory," which is currently being tested. A teleconference with the chairpersons of subject election commissions will be held on 9 December to check the preparedness of regional election officials. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin may participate in the conference.

Reportedly, preliminary results of the voting will be available as of 21:00 Moscow time on voting day. The most Western polling station in Russia, Kaliningrad, closes at that time. According to the law, the voting stops at 20:00 local time. It is expected that voting results from the most eastern parts of the country will be available by the evening of 19 December. During the night, hourly updated data re-

flecting the voting results will be transferred to the CEC information center located in “Ostankino” concert hall.

CEC Chairman Veshniakov has recently expressed a private opinion that at least 60% of the voting population of Russia will come on December 19 to the polling stations to vote.

CEC Chairman Alexander Veshniakov Discusses Candidate & Party-List Registration

During a 4 November press conference, CEC Chairman Alexander Veshniakov outlined the status of candidate and party-list registrations across the Russian Federation. Beginning with a discussion of Russia’s 224 single-member districts, he noted that 2,300 people have been registered as candidates of the roughly 3,300 who originally filed with election commissions. From the original 3,300, the commissions denied the registration of 320 for “various reasons,” while the remainder failed to complete the registration process. Of those finally registered, 865 (just under 38%) applied through the new provisions allowing electoral deposit in lieu of signatures.

The majority of single member districts (118) have between 5-10 candidates for election. Districts with the lowest number of candidates include districts No. 27 in Tuva, No. 36 in Altai Krai, and No. 215 in the Oginsk-Buryat Autonomous Okrug, each with three candidates. District No. 100 in Leningrad Oblast posts the highest number of candidates at 24.

As for the federal party-lists, 28 were registered, having a total of roughly 3,700 candidates. Fifteen of the 28 parties used electoral deposits for registration. A total of 409 candidates were struck from the lists – 23 were withdrawn by their parties, 92 removed themselves, 102 failed to submit the required registration documentation, and 192 were struck by the election commissions for filing false information.

State Duma Passes Presidential Election Draft Law In Second Hearing

Anatoliy Lukyanov, Head of the State Duma Legislation Committee, is reported to have said that after the first hearing of the draft *Federal Law on Election of the President of the Russian Federation* legislators suggested 189 amendments to be incorporated into the draft. The State Duma Legislation Committee reviewed the suggestions and recommended that the State Duma accept 141 of the sug-

gested amendments.

According to the amendments that were adopted, presidential candidates are required to provide registration officials with a much wider scope of personal information prior to being registered. This information is mainly aimed at making a candidate’s financial resources more transparent, including personal property, bank accounts, shares in joint-stock companies, treasury bonds, real estate, and other types of investments. In addition, this information now has to be provided not only for the presidential candidate but also for his or her spouse and adult children. These amendments should be viewed as positive progress, since previously neither parliamentary nor presidential candidates were obligated to disclose information on their personal investments. Moreover, the draft law now extends the time the CEC RF and other designated bodies may take to verify the information provided by the candidate. In addition, the time period within which a candidate can be nominated has been reduced to 30 days from the official announcement of the election date.

Election-Related Public Service Announcements Broadcast on Russian TV

Since 22 November, public service announcements produced by the CEC of the Russian Federation have been broadcast across the country on every major TV channel. The videos explain the basic rules by which voters must abide, and detail the voting process and the importance of voting. Several of the videos target specific sectors of society. One of the videos, for example, encourages women to make their own choices instead of voting for candidates favored by their husbands.

UKRAINE

IFES Training of Election Officials Deemed a Success

In conjunction with the Central Election Commission (CEC), IFES provided extensive international expertise and administrative assistance to election officials participating in both the first and second rounds of the Ukrainian presidential elections. A training program designed by IFES/Ukraine consultants Paul Manfuso, Tony Reissig, and Bill Eaton was extremely successful in improving technical procedures for the presidential elections according to the CEC and observers. In particular, volume 4 of materials produced for the approximately 33,000 polling stations, the poll worker training guidebook,

provided clear and precise instructions to officials on their role in the elections. The manual was also indispensable to domestic and international observers as well as party and candidate representatives.

IFES is also working with the CEC to develop a post-election survey on the quality of the training provided to election officials. The survey, developed by Paul Manfuso, will allow IFES to assess the effectiveness of regional and polling station election officials. It will also indicate areas in which IFES needs to improve its training program in preparation for the next elections, and provide the CEC with information on how to further develop its pre-election resources.

At a celebration of the second anniversary of the current CEC, Chairman Ryabets and other commission members acknowledged the valuable assistance IFES has provided over the past year. He noted the importance of IFES's pre-election training program and thanked IFES for the public service announcements and voter education posters .

IFES and the CEC Participate in National Television Viewer Participation Program

IFES Project Director David Earl and CEC Chairman Ryabets participated in a two-hour long television viewer participation program that was aired throughout Ukraine. The program was aired on 13 November, the day before the second round of presidential elections was held. The program's format allowed Ukrainians to call and speak directly to Mr. Earl and Chairman Ryabets to ask questions about the election.

Many callers inquired about the systems used by other democracies, Ukrainian mass media, technical aspects of Ukrainian election laws, ballot security, and the accuracy of the CEC's official results. During the program, Chairman Ryabets highlighted IFES's work in Ukraine and noted the depth of cooperation between IFES and the CEC.

IFES Conducts Fifth Adjudication Conference

IFES conducted a fifth conference on the Adjudication of Election Disputes in Kyiv on 11-12 November. Justices from the Supreme Court of Ukraine participated in the conference, as did the chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of all oblast courts. Chairman of the Supreme Court, Judge Vitaliy Boiko presided over the conference, and Judge Bohdan Futey of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims gave an invaluable presentation about international per-

spectives on election adjudication.

This conference allowed judges to further develop their understanding of their roles and responsibilities in resolving election disputes and provided them with an opportunity to share their experiences with election adjudication cases.

In the near future, the Supreme Court will release a publication detailing the resolutions and consensus reached by the judges at IFES' conferences. The document will become a valuable resource for judges as they continue to develop their understanding of the adjudication of election-related cases.

IFES Implements Civic Education Program

IFES is currently implementing a pilot civic education program in four of Kyiv's most academically rigorous high schools. The program aims to engage students, increase their awareness of current issues, and demonstrate the impact of citizen participation in the democratic process. IFES Senior Consultant Gwenn Hoffman, in cooperation with Professor Sergei Riabov of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, developed the curriculum and manuals for both teachers and students. The curriculum addresses election administration, the role of the media in the electoral process, and political party development while developing students' abilities to acquire and assess information. The program utilizes a variety of instructional methods that actively engage the students through group discussions, student presentations, and student-conducted interviews. Teachers at every school are enthusiastic about having their students participate in the program, and have also expressed their desire to conduct the program in English to further supplement their students' knowledge of the English language.

In the near future, IFES will conduct a roundtable discussion with teachers participating in the program to allow them to share their ideas about and experiences with the program.

IFES Websites Post Election Results

The IFES/Ukraine website (www.ifes.kiev.ua) and the mirror site (www.ifes-ukraine.org) were updated with all first and second round election results provided by the CEC to IFES. Over 1300 visitors viewed the website to obtain election related information, which includes the following:

- Final results of the first and second rounds of elections; the number of votes for each

candidate and the percentage that candidate received; and

- A breakdown of the election results by oblast; the name of the candidate who received the largest number of votes in that oblast; the number of votes cast per oblast; and the percentage and number of votes for each candidate.

IFES Develops Public Opinion Survey

IFES is currently developing its seventh public opinion survey in Ukraine. The survey will address the Ukrainian public's attitudes toward the country's economy, governance, democracy development, and climate for furthering civic society. It will also gauge the public's opinions on the first and second rounds of the recent presidential elections. IFES has been working with American Viewpoint Senior Vice President Gary Ferguson, USAID, and the US Embassy in Kyiv to finalize the survey questions.

Impact Summary

IFES successfully implemented an election official training program in preparation for the first and second rounds of the presidential elections. The program greatly improved the quality of administrative and technical assistance in the elections, contributing to an overall credible electoral process. The CEC thanked IFES for its invaluable assistance with the administration of the elections. To assess the training program and to evaluate ways to improve the program, IFES is conducting a post-election survey of election officials at regional and polling station election commissions.

IFES is also developing a post-election public opinion survey to gauge the Ukrainian public's opinions on the economy, governing system, and most of all, the recent presidential elections. Measuring impact of programming provides necessary feedback to IFES and partner organizations on developing improvements and addressing issues that have possibly been overlooked.

IFES/Ukraine Project Director David Earl and CEC Chairman Ryabets fielded questions from Ukrainian voters in a two-hour long nationally televised call-in program. Ukrainians asked a variety of questions about democracies outside of Ukraine, the mass media, election law, ballot security, and the accuracy of the election results. Such programs are an important part of developing an impartial and transparent

electoral process answerable to an informed and active citizenry.

IFES's civic education program is being implemented in three secondary schools as well as the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. The program will introduce students to the Ukrainian political process and highlight the responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society. In the near future, IFES will sponsor a roundtable discussion group for teachers whose students are participating in the program. The discussion will allow teachers to share their thoughts and experiences participating in the program, and provide an opportunity to suggest potential improvements. Civic education programs for young adults are an essential step in developing an understanding of the political system that is meant to serve their interests. A lack of knowledge can present a serious barrier to the participation of youth in politics. Such programs encourage curiosity and inquisitiveness, which can break down these barriers.

Finally, IFES and the Supreme Court conducted a fifth conference on the adjudication of election disputes to bring together judges from throughout Ukraine and to increase judges' understanding of precedence and the role of courts in ensuring uniform application of legislation and grievance resolution in Ukraine. Working with the courts to build their capacity helps to improve the legal framework for political parties and election administration. It encourages the courts to carry out their role as an independent branch of government by increasing the capability of judges. When the courts react in a timely and appropriate manner in resolving such disputes, their constitutional role is clarified, and public trust in the legal system is increased.

YUGOSLAVIA (Kosovo)

In November, IFES deployed a team of international election experts to the OSCE Mission in Kosovo to create and operationalize the Central Election Commission of Kosovo and draft a work plan for the first election. In addition to integrating domestic personnel and expertise into the internationally administered elections, the work plan will include elements of election administration, logistics/procurement, voter and civic education, and registration data verification and management.

In addition, IFES will develop planning materials for topical elements of a proposed "OSCE Academy of Civil and Public Administration" and stand ready to assist the UN Mission in Kosovo in its civil regis-

tration process.

CAUCASUSCENTRALASIA

ARMENIA

IFES Reviews Local Election Results

In November, IFES continued to follow the publication of election results and the related adjudication of complaints. There were reports of violations, particularly regarding the interpretation of the Universal Electoral Code (UEC). By-elections were held in twelve communities. There will be some elections in December taking place after rulings from the events of 1st Instances. These rulings are final in local elections.

In many precincts ballots that were originally considered invalid, were later validated in accordance to the UEC. In some cases, Regional Election Commissions (RECs) had a higher percentage of invalid ballots than they had registered voters.

As a result of the appeals and complaints following the October 24 elections, the Standing Committee on State and Legal Issues of NA, under the Chair of Mr. Victor Dallakian, initiated a program of activities to review the Electoral Code thoroughly. Representatives of factions and deputy groups, CEC members, political officials not affiliated with the parliament, and other representatives will take part in reviewing the Electoral Code. The committee plans to complete these amendments by the end of next year.

IFES observation team considered the elections well organized. There were some inaccuracies in the voter lists, but these problems were minimal in comparison to problems encountered during the parliamentary elections in May 1999. The overall turnout was high, most likely attributed to the voter education campaign sponsored by IFES.

IFES Continues Cooperation with the CEC

On 12 November, IFES Project Manager Andre Bouchard met with the CEC Chairman Artak Sahradyan, to emphasize the importance of the CEC's new membership in the ACEEEO. Mr. Sahradyan and Mr. Bouchard discussed IFES' involvement in the municipal elections and the direction of future cooperation between the CEC and IFES.

Impact Summary

IFES review of the local elections will be helpful for the preparation of proposals to improve the Universal Electoral Code. A better understanding of the process of the adjudication of disputes will help develop recommendations to improve the important judicial activity. IFES continues cooperation with the CEC and other partners in the field of elections, as well as, contributes to establish a sustainable system of elections in Armenia.

AZERBAIJAN

Voter Education Program for 12 December Municipal Elections

The Azerbaijan municipal elections voter education program represented a cooperative election support effort by the international community while the program was developed and managed by IFES in collaboration with the Central Election Commission (CEC). Voter education products were funded by Internews, the Open Society Institute, the UK government, and IFES. The activity created both an effective campaign through the integration of all messages in the various media, and allowed for efficient use of available voter education funding from diverse sources.

The joint voter education campaign in conjunction with the CEC and under the leadership of IFES voter education consultant Brenda Oppermann developed and produced:

- Video PSAs, on municipal functions and municipal election related issues.
- Video PSAs targeting the CEC's Information Center and the Internews Election Media Center;
- Press banner and display advertisements and 4 information articles run by major newspapers.
- Pamphlets – one on municipalities and their operations, the other on voting procedures;
- Giveaway products reinforcing the election's main messages. These include: coasters, plastic carry bags, and stickers;
- 3 posters for precincts explaining the voting procedures.

IFES has also been assisting:

- The Open Society Institute in the development of a wallet card detailing municipal functions;
- Internews in the development of a series of 3, fifteen minute programs of 'person in the

street' regional interviews on municipal election related issues.

- Local NGO Center for Humanitarian Research and the Norwegian Embassy in the production of a booklet for candidates providing a practical guide to the law and other issues; and coordinating with UNDP in developing their voter education products.

Candidate Registrations for Municipal Elections

The candidate registration period for the 12 December municipal elections ended on 12 November. On 24 November the CEC announced that preliminary figures showed that 43,183 candidates had been registered by Territorial Election Commissions (TECs) to contest the 21,087 vacancies for municipal members in Azerbaijan's 2665 newly created municipalities. This is a considerably lower figure than had been expected. The CEC also announced that 26 political organisations had successfully nominated candidates for these elections and that 39% of registered candidates are affiliated with political parties. The bulk of political party candidates are affiliated with the ruling New Azerbaijan Party of President Heydar Aliyev.

Of the major opposition parties, the Azerbaijan Democratic Party is boycotting the election, but could not nominate candidates as the party has been refused registration. The Azerbaijan National Independence Party at its October National congress decided not to nominate candidates for these elections in protest at alleged violations of the relevant laws. The Musavat Party had reportedly had around 2000 candidates registered; and the Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan reportedly had around 2000 of its nominated candidates registered. Both these parties claimed that serious obstacles were placed in the way of nominating their candidates, and that there were irregularities in the processes by which TECs in some regions refused to register these parties' nominated candidates.

Election Day Guide for Precinct Commissions

IFES/Azerbaijan collaborated with the CEC's secretariat in drafting an Election Day Guide for Precinct Election Commissions (PECs). The guide contained clear explanations of all Election Day activities for PEC members, and concentrates on a step-by-step explanation of procedures for the count of votes under the unfamiliar block vote system. 15,000 copies of the 24-page guide (3 per PEC) were produced at the end of November for distribution to PECs in

time for their training sessions on Election Day issues. Further copies are being produced for distribution to observer organizations and political parties.

Roundtable on Draft Amendments to Law on CEC

On 16 November, IFES Project Manager Alan Wall attended the roundtable on the draft amendments to the law on the CEC jointly sponsored by OSCE/ODIHR and the Milli Majlis. The roundtable was attended by senior government and parliamentary officials, senior officials of government-supporting and some opposition political parties, representatives of OSCE/ODIHR (including its director, Ambassador Gerard Stoudman) IFES and NDI, and a large number of representatives of local NGOs.

OSCE/ODIHR presented its comments on the draft amendments, and noted that while the amendments made improvements to the current law, they did not address the most important issue of defining a composition and providing a mechanism for appointment to the CEC that would have the confidence of a broad spectrum of political participants in Azerbaijan. OSCE/ODIHR stressed that further amendments to the law are needed to address this important issue.

While no major issues were resolved at the roundtable, it was an encouraging sign that government and opposition officials could meet in such a forum and informally exchange views.

Conference on Local Government

On 26 November, IFES Project Manager Alan Wall presented a paper on the block vote election system to be used for Azerbaijan's first municipal elections to an international conference on Right-Center Perspectives on Local Government, sponsored by the Azerbaijan National Independence Party. Speakers presented other papers at the conference from the UK, Bulgaria and Azerbaijan, on election and governance issues confronting local government.

Seminars for NGOs and Candidates

In conjunction with Baku Executive Authority, IFES training consultant Gary Ouellet presented, in each of the districts of Baku, a series of seminars for NGOs and candidates from political parties and voter initiative groups, on international models of local government elections, functions and operations. These presentations have proven highly popular, and stimulated inquiries for further materials from the IFES Resource Center.

Assistance To Local Election Observers

During November, IFES staff and consultants assisted local NGO For the Sake of Civil Society (FSCS) in the development of its election observation program. The assistance during November focused on two fields: the development of the manual/reference book for the NGO's intended 3000 election observers and associated checklists and report forms for observation; and assisting, with NDI, in the development and presentation of training sessions for FSCS observers and regional managers.

Impact Summary

In cooperation with the CEC, IFES created a technical and production management program for an effective voter education campaign in preparation of the 12 December municipal elections. By means of various media, the voter education program intended to educate voters of their rights and responsibilities during the elections. IFES also worked closely with the CEC's secretariat in drafting an Election Day Guide for Precinct Election Commissions. This guide ensured that electoral procedures were applied consistently throughout Azerbaijan on election day. In addition, IFES developed a series of seminars on international models of local government elections, and IFES continued its work assisting local NGOs in the development of election observation.

GEORGIA

Preliminary Results of the Parliamentary Elections

On 7 November, following a week of unverified projections and complaints by the political parties, the CEC officially announced the preliminary results for the Parliamentary elections. For the proportional system, with a voters' turnout of 67.8%, only three political groups were able to overcome the 7% parliamentary threshold:

- "Citizens' Union": 41.75%
- Election bloc "Revival of Georgia": 25.18
- Election bloc "Industry Will Save Georgia": 7.08%

Other parties that did not pass the threshold included the "Labor Party" (6.59%), the "National Democratic Alliance – the Third Way" (5%) and "People's Party" (4.11%).

The Second Round of Elections

The second round of the Parliamentary elections

was conducted on 14 November in these 20 single-mandate districts where no candidates were elected at the first round. In addition, re-voting took place in five districts where, due to irregularities and violations, the Central Election Commission (CEC) invalidated the 31 October vote under the majoritarian system. Unlike the first round held on 31 October, OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission reported that the elections were well conducted in some districts, but were "marred with serious irregularities and violations" in a significant number of precincts. The total voters turn out for the second round was 48%. Although the results of the second round were not released as of 24 November, the CEC reported that 22 members of parliament were elected during the second round.

The New Parliament of Georgia

The new Parliament of Georgia began its work on 21 November with a total number of 233 MPs instead of the 235 established by the Georgian Constitution due to the fact that a new voting could not take place in two single-mandate districts. Out of 233 MPs, 221 members were elected during the 31 October parliamentary elections and the mandate of the 12 members elected in 1992 to represent the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia was extended for a second term. Among these 221, only 63 MPs were members of the previous parliament. Women are also represented in the new parliament, but they only number 21 members of the 221 MPs. While the new parliament mostly comprises policemen, lawyers, judges, businessmen and scientists, politicians are scarcely represented.

The party composition has also considerably changed. In the new parliament 129 members are from Shevardnadze's "Citizen's Union", 58 MPs from the electoral bloc "Revival of Georgia", 15 from the new party "Industry Will Save Georgia", 2 majoritarian MPs are from the "Labor Party" and the remaining 17 are independent majoritarian MPs.

Three political forces have disappeared from the newly elected parliament that comprised the opposition in the previous one: the "National Democratic Party", the "People's Party" and the "Labor Party".

The New CEC

Reflecting the preliminary results of the parliamentary elections, the CEC of Georgia also changed its composition. Representatives from the first 5 parties with the best election results were from Citizen's Union, Revival, Industry, Labor Party and National

Democratic Party. Consequently, the Socialist Party, the Union of Georgian Traditionalists and People's Party lost their representation at the CEC.

IFES Advisory Activities Continue

Working closely with the CEC, IFES Project Manager Antonio Spinelli continues to meet with its representatives to prepare for the activities of technical assistance in support of the upcoming Presidential elections scheduled for 9 April 2000. In several meetings with the CEC, Spinelli discussed their needs and priorities and in particular those aspects of the electoral process that, based on the recent experience of the parliamentary elections, could be improved for the presidential election. The possible joint activities examined with the CEC include:

Meeting with USAID Administrator

IFES participated to a meeting organized by the Office of Democracy and Governance of USAID/Caucasus for the official visit of USAID Assistant Administrator Donald Pressley. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the USAID representative with the overall political situation of Georgia in the aftermath of the Parliamentary elections and to provide the same with an overview of the various organizations' activities in relation to the parliamentary elections. IFES made a multimedia presentation providing detailed information and statistical data on its activities of technical assistance to the CEC, covering the joint IFES/CEC national voter education campaign, the training program for Precinct Election Commission officials, the development and distribution of the election day procedures training manual.

Impact Summary

With its broad activities of technical assistance, IFES played an important role in supporting the CEC of Georgia in the conduct and administration of the 1999 Parliamentary Elections. IFES technical observation of the elections revealed that, compared to the 1998 local elections, the coordinated efforts with the CEC led to a considerable improvement in the overall administration of the election and, more in particular, in the performance of the Precinct Election Commission officials on election day. In addition, the joint IFES/CEC voter education campaign helped in creating a more informed electorate and a more transparent electoral process. Finally, the IFES training program of polling station officials had positive effects both in reducing consolidated election malpractices (such as: multiple voting, ballot stuffing and family voting) and in enhancing the Georgian election process.

KAZAKHSTAN

Curriculum Development Project Launched

Pilot schools participating in the curriculum project began using materials for the civic education course during the second school quarter in cooperation with the Committee for Secondary Education of the Ministry of Education. In November, IFES/Almaty completed the distribution of civic education materials to 34 pilot schools (27 Russian speaking and 7 Kazakh speaking) throughout the country. Each pilot school received a copy of all supporting materials related to the IFES curriculum course in Russian or Kazakh prior to the first day of the second academic quarter, including: textbooks, teacher's manuals, several copies of the anthology for the school, and evaluation forms for teachers, students and parents.



Mock presidential elections in Kazakhstan pilot schools #136 in Almaty.

The instructors and administrators of the pilot schools will teach the IFES civic education course during the second and the third quarters of the 1999-2000 school campaign. IFES and the Ministry of Education gave pilot school teachers an opportunity to modify the recommended lesson plan or independently create lesson plans and the order of course themes within their own schools, using the materials provided. The process of assessment of the knowledge gained by the students (final examinations, tests, etc.) will also be left to each teacher's discretion and will be measured by giving comparative examinations to groups participating in the pilot project and those who were not part of the sample study.

IFES requested that teachers fill out a questionnaire on each section or lesson. The questionnaire's data will allow IFES to make a qualitative assessment of

the effectiveness of the program. The final program report will include the assessment of the effectiveness of the experimental educational course in accordance with the criteria and standards of the Committee on Education of the Ministry of Education of Kazakhstan.

Civic Education Text Introduced

In November IFES also introduced the civic education textbook, anthology, and teachers' manual in Russian to the Altynsarin Methodological Institute for review.

International Civic Education Conference

IFES/Kazakhstan Country Coordinator Marat Bigaliev participated in a conference titled "The Development of Civic Education Network and Coordination Activity in Central Asia and Kazakhstan." The goals of the conference were to exchange information about educational programs and training materials on civic education, to discuss the development of a civic education network and coordination of activities on civic education, to establish a partner relationship and make plans for joint work and to coordinate and extend the civic education network. Bigaliev welcomed participants on behalf of IFES and congratulated them on the conference, which was seen as a big step forward in strengthening a civic education coalition in Kazakhstan. It was the first event undertaken specifically to unite all civic education organizations. IFES had an opportunity to introduce its pilot civic education curriculum course to the audience, and participated in breakout groups to discuss such problems as international standards of civic education, human rights, civic culture and law.

Marat Bigaliev met with a number of people from international and domestic organizations involved in civic education initiatives in Central Asia. Bigaliev joined these and other participants of the conference in endorsing a statement titled the "Declaration and the Program Actions." The statement highlighted the importance of establishing standards of civic education and developing educational programs directed to increase knowledge, promote communications and enhance skills and abilities to a new generation of citizens. It was agreed that effective programs on civic education should be oriented to integration of knowledge in the sphere of philosophy, history, political science and sociology.

Impact Summary

The launch of the curriculum project formally began

in November with integration of the IFES civic education materials into classes in 34 participating pilot schools. Informal launch of the project took place in October with a program of mock student elections that was designed to parallel the elections taking place to the Majilis in Kazakhstan. With the lessons learned from this initiative fresh in the minds of teachers and students of the participating schools, the next step of the project seeks to provide students with a fundamental grounding of democratic values and civics through small group interaction. It is anticipated that this approach will get students more directly involved and generate interest in volunteerism and community betterment. IFES will monitor continuously progress from the various regions of the country in usage of the materials in anticipation of a general review to be conducted in March by the Ministry of Education. Should the experimental course prove successful, it is possible it may be recommended for general adoption by the 2000-2001 school year nationwide. IFES will continue to participate in activities designed to create and support national associations of civic education, such as the *Association of Initiative Schools*, and further the dialogue on issues of interest common to educators across the country.

KYRGYZSTAN

Training for Parliamentary Election Administrators

As Parliamentary Elections have been confirmed for Sunday, 20 February, 2000, IFES has resumed its work with the Central Election Commission (CEC) in the training of Oblast, Territorial and Polling Station Commission members. IFES has revised and reprinted the Training Manual for Polling Station Commissions (originally produced by IFES for the October 1999 Local elections), and this manual will be used in all training events and as a reference guide on election day. In November IFES produced a new booklet entitled *Election Violations: Penalties and Responsibilities*, which was produced as a follow-up to the Election Law Adjudication Conference sponsored by OSCE and IFES in which IFES/Bishkek Project Manager Kerry Heisner participated. The CEC approved the draft of the document produced by IFES, which will be used at all training sessions to supplement the Training Manual. The new booklet gives details of the nine most common election day polling station violations as well as the details of penalties as prescribed by the Criminal and Administrative Codes of Kyrgyzstan.

IFES Undertakes Voter Education Project in Preparation for Parliamentary Elections

During the month of November, IFES identified and dispatched Voter Education Specialist Sebastien Drans to direct the IFES voter outreach campaign leading up to the February legislative elections. The project will be based on the informational needs identified during the October local elections, and will also address region-specific issues identified as major issue areas for the voting populations in those locations. The Kyrgyzstani *NGO Coalition* will be a partner in the program, using the Coalition's 6 regional offices to increase access to regional areas. The CEC will assume overall oversight of the initiative in order to guarantee that it be both cost-effective and comprehensive.

Election Dispute Adjudication Activities Continue

The drafting of a Training Manual for judges on the issue of election dispute adjudication commenced in November. Potential uses for the manual have increased, as it is now envisaged that it will also be suitable as a reference document for superior election commissions. Appeals complaints, under the Kyrgyz Election Code, can be made either to superior commissions or to the Court. IFES Legal Consultant Lamar Cravens has worked on a final drafting of the manual, which is expected to be completed and reviewed before the end of the calendar year.

Election Grants Committee.

IFES/Bishkek participated as a member of the Election Grants Committee (EGC). The Committee is tasked to distribute \$125,000 to NGOs to conduct relevant projects in the lead up to the February 20, 2000 parliamentary elections. Projects selected will have the goal of promoting transparency and accountability in the election process and provide information to the electorate on the voting process. IFES is currently interviewing/assessing applicants that address technical election-related issues. Disbursement of funds is expected to commence in early December. IFES supports the development of the domestic NGO community to serve as watchdogs over the electoral process and conduits of information critical to the participation of a well-informed and active electorate.

Impact Summary

IFES projects in November focused on issues of transparency and building confidence in the election system. The election administration training focused on individual and personal training of the members

of election commissions and have been based on the IFES Training Manual. Issues which arose during the local elections in October have been emphasized in the revised manual and will continue to be reinforced during training sessions on all levels. This type of targeted training is designed to have the impact of increasing the knowledge and confidence of election commission members and ultimately reducing election day violations, thus contributing to a more fair and transparent elections process.

The election/civic education program currently being developed will support the level of information reaching the voting population about such diverse topics as affirmative voting and the principles of proportional representation, and will ideally contribute to their informed participation on election day. The impact of the education program is envisioned to be the creation of an electorate more confident in their rights as voters and in the system being implemented for the first time in a Kyrgyz parliamentary election. In addition, the voter education spots, to come in the form of public service announcements in both print and electronic media, are designed to motivate voters to take an interest in the election process and demand accountability from newly-elected leaders once the voting process is complete. The NGOs who receive election project funding from the Election Grants Committee will serve a check-and-balance function on the election process as well as provide critically-needed information to the voting population.

With the completion of the Election Dispute Adjudication Manual the Judiciary, together with Election Commissions at all levels, will have the means to effectively process any election disputes that are lodged during or after the Parliamentary Elections. It is anticipated that these measures, once completed, will add to the overall legitimacy of the elections and further improve the level of confidence among the voters, election officials, candidates and parties.

TAJKISTAN

Political Party Development

IFES consultant Philip Griffin met with leaders of several political parties to discuss issues related to the election law and forthcoming parliamentary elections. The passage of the new Constitution in September mandated the creation of a new parliament consisting of two houses, with several seats to be filled via party list voting and proportional repre-

sentation. Given the new apparent emphasis on the part of the Government of Tajikistan and the Committee on National Reconciliation (CNR) to foster multi-party democracy, political parties have had to focus on issues such as registration, platform development, and voter outreach strategies. In late November, Griffin and IFES Project Manager Frank Vassallo finalized arrangements to conduct an election law round table involving representatives of all political parties, along with journalists and other observers. An agreement was reached with the Tajik First Press Club to provide media exposure for the event, which would be used as an opportunity to discuss views on the recently released draft election law. Additional topics of concern included provisions for the inclusion of domestic election observers, the situation with independent media, and the role of religion in the State and elections. The discussion was expected to serve as an opportunity for those not involved in the drafting of the election law to raise critical points of concern for consideration.

With support from USAID and the Academy for Educational Development, IFES/Dushanbe finalized arrangements to conduct a political party study tour of Russia for the Duma elections in December. Ten individuals from Tajikistan will be invited to spend two weeks in Russia to study techniques of campaigning, party management, platform development, message conveyance, and additional voter motivation strategies. It is expected that the group will take advantage of the opportunity to apply their experiences to the party-building process underway in Tajikistan in advance of elections to the Majlisi Oli. The list of participants includes representatives of the People's Democratic Party, the Islamic Renaissance Party, the Democratic Party (Almaty Platform), La'li Badakhshan, the Socialist Party, the Justice Development Party, the national movement "Jumbish," the Movement of National Unity and Revival of Tajikistan, the Communist Party, and the Party of Justice. During the stay in Russia, the party representatives will participate in election day observation missions in and around Moscow as coordinated jointly between IFES/Dushanbe and IFES/Moscow.

Presidential Election Held on 6 November

Presidential elections in Tajikistan took place on 6 November. With an officially-reported voter turnout of 98% incumbent President Imomali Rakhmonov was re-elected with an official total of 96% of the vote. Islamic Renaissance Party representative Davlat Usmon was the only challenger to

Rakhmonov in an election and pre-election period widely criticized for falling short of international standards.

Voter Registration

IFES Technology Consultant Michael Yard arrived in Dushanbe to assess the status of the computerized voter registration project with the Government of Tajikistan. Yard undertook a review of the political situation and met with several officials in the Government, Central Election Commission (CEC), and Committee on National Reconciliation to determine the feasibility of proceeding further with the project at this time. A Memorandum of Understanding offered to the Government by IFES guaranteeing its commitment to the project was not addressed by the Government side during the month, and there was speculation that the registration issue would not surface as a major component of the Government's preparations for the February parliamentary elections. Yard offered a possible alternative by suggesting that hardware be procured to serve in an electronic vote-counting and results-reporting capacity. As of the end of November this proposal was still being considered by the Tajik side.

Election Law Issues

The draft election law produced by the legal subcommittee of the CNR was presented for review by the international community and local NGOs and political parties. Given a two-week window for analysis, several concerns were brought to light, including the absence of language guaranteeing the accreditation and participation of non-partisan, third party domestic observers. The law is expected to be considered by the Majlisi Oli in early December.

Impact Summary

IFES promoted an ongoing dialogue on electoral issues among the political parties of Tajikistan by engaging them individually and as a group in discussions. The opportunities for closer contact were enhanced by finalization of plans to hold an early-December election law round table discussion for political parties and media representatives as well as confirmation of participants for a December political party study tour to Russia. As many of the parties addressed concerns of registration and platform development, informal events such as small group meetings led by IFES Consultant Phil Griffin continued to build on an ever-growing atmosphere of trust developing between party representatives seeking to discuss issues of common interest. While criticism of the presidential poll was high among

the international community and opposition political parties, there was a degree of optimism regarding prospects for competing in the February elections to the Majlisi Oli. Dialogue such as that organized by IFES has given and will continue to give a voice to the many parties seeking to hold the Government and CNR accountable for ensuring a fair pre-electoral process.

UZBEKISTAN

Teacher Training Seminar in Nukus

IFES/Tashkent Project Coordinator Lola Maksudova and IFES/Almaty Project Coordinator Marat Bigaliev, in cooperation with Nukus-based NGO partner *Renaissance*, conducted a one-and-a-half-day seminar on 25-26 November for teachers from pilot schools in Nukus. The pilot schools participated in an experimental curriculum project for secondary schools modeled after the IFES program in Kazakhstan. 38 teachers from secondary schools, representatives from different levels of the Karakalpak Ministry of Education, and NGO representatives participated in the training seminar, in which a textbook for 11th grade students was formally introduced.

The first day of the seminar featured introductory remarks from Ministry of Education representative Igillik Kosymbetov and was devoted to the introduction of the textbook “What is democracy?” The opening day included group discussions on the positive and problematic issues of the textbook and teachers’ manual. In general, participants felt that the textbook itself is very substantial and rich in content, with a sufficient number of examples and study cases from all over the world. Suggestions were offered by participants to adapt some of the material to the Karakalpak and Uzbek context. Nevertheless, teachers resolved to adapt the textbook for Karakalpakstan and take the initiative to translate it into the Karakalpak language.

The second day of the seminar covered textbook chapters on electoral systems, the role of political parties and movements, party platforms, election campaigns, the role of mass media, NGOs and the electorate in the election process. IFES Consultant Svetlana Eselbaeva shared her experience as an NGO representative during the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan. IFES staff members Maksudova and Bigaliev gave examples based on their experiences conducting mock elections and working as international observers in the countries of Eastern Europe and Kazakhstan.

Afterwards, participants worked together collaboratively, dividing into three groups, and forming three political parties. Each party made presentations introducing the platform of their self-created party and outlining their campaign strategy for a future election. The participants of the seminar showed great initiative, an eagerness to learn, and were supportive of the interactive method of teaching that they in turn will use with their students.

The student mock elections portion of the curriculum began in November and was designed to run parallel to the actual elections to the Oliy Majlis taking place nationwide. Usage of the textbook formally commences in January with the beginning of the second semester. With the support of the Karakalpak Ministry of Education, it is hoped that the pilot project will generate general interest in pursuing curriculum reform in Uzbekistan.

Public Opinion Survey

The Tashkent-based sociological research firm *Expert* completed fieldwork for the IFES Public Opinion Survey in five regions of Uzbekistan: Karakalpakstan, Tashkent City, Bukhara, Samarkand and Ferghana oblasts. Preliminary results from the survey are currently being prepared in the form of an executive summary. The survey seeks to measure understanding of democracy and citizenship with a focus on the perception of information being received on rights of citizens and the tenets of democratic governance. A full report on the survey is expected in the near future.

USAID Roundtable Discussions

IFES/Tashkent Project Coordinator Lola Maksudova participated in a Democracy Round Table discussion with USAID representatives from Almaty and international organizations working on civic education programs. The purpose of the discussion was to facilitate contributions to the evaluation process in the NGO Sustainability Index. The main characteristic cited of Uzbek NGOs has been their general lack of sustainability. Discussions included attempting to identify possible programs or initiatives that would enhance the prospects for NGO sustainability and viability.

Civic and Legal Education for women

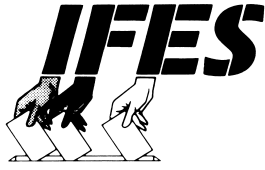
Lola Maksudova participated as an IFES representative and facilitator of the third phase of the OSCE-sponsored project on Civic and Legal Education for Women, which IFES supported additionally by providing ACE project materials and basic voter infor-

mation. The third phase of the project focused on training seminars for potential leaders of NGOs and government officials. Women leaders of Uzbekistan were trained in the skills of creating a network, team building and advocacy. It is anticipated that IFES will be able to make an ongoing contribution to this critical sector of democracy development.

Impact Summary

The teacher training seminar in Nukus was characterized by participants as a very positive experience, which will introduce an experimental curriculum into four pilot schools for the second academic semester. Overall, the teachers expressed the strong belief that IFES should expand this project, as each teacher and Ministerial representative indicated their interest in the material and methodology presented. Karakalpak Minister of Education Sultanov pledged to review the results of the project at the end of the school year and make a determination at that time whether or not the materials would be adopted for general usage. Ministry of Education representative Kosymbetov expressed his intention to continue cooperation with IFES on the curriculum development project in Karakalpakstan, advocating immediate translation of the textbook into the Karakalpak language as part of a follow-up seminar activity. Kosymbetov cited IFES' contribution to the long-term development of democracy in Uzbekistan.

At the OSCE seminars on civic and legal education for women, IFES established contacts with a number of potential partner NGOs who are working on civic education programs. This may be of great assistance to IFES in its democracy youth club initiative as a follow-on project to its public opinion survey. Results of the survey, which oversampled young respondents age 16-24, are expected to help IFES target its civic education programs to better meet the needs of the young and emerging electorate. This increased cooperation among sponsors of civic education programs will contribute to the greater integration of ideas and efforts among partnering organizations.



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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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