

The Europe and Eurasia Report



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

June-July 2001

IFES CONDUCTS DEMOCRACY SUMMER CAMPS THROUGHOUT THE CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

The months of June and July were an important milestone for IFES civic education programming in Central Asia, as IFES implemented the first of two rounds of summer camps in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Reflecting IFES' ongoing emphasis on the youth of Central Asia, IFES focused on providing the secondary school participants civic education instruction and practical activities to give the students the tools they need to become active and well-informed members of their societies.

Reflecting IFES' belief that with knowledge comes the power to change and evolve, the objective of the IFES summer de-

mocracy camps was to provide students with more profound and extensive knowledge of civic education and strengthen their civic consciousness and activism. During trainings, Student Action Committee (SAC) "practice days", and other interactive student activities, participants of the summer camps had an opportunity to discuss a wide array of topics, including gender equality, tolerance and conflict resolution, ecology, electoral processes and voter's rights, and the development of civil society. Students also had a chance to learn about active participation in their communities through Student Action Committees. In addition, the summer camps allowed students to freely express their views about the situation in their regions and to develop their critical thinking skills by stimulating them to think of ways their communities can be reformed.

Each summer camp was unique in its content and format, and each provided a success story of its own. The first summer camp in the region took place on 27 June-4 July, on Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan. Due to the great popularity of the first IFES/Kyrgyzstan summer camp in 2000, IFES received a large volume of applications and it was decided to conduct two 2001 summer democracy camps, with the Issyk-Kul camp targeting students from the northern regions of the country. While last year's summer camp focused on elections and electoral rights due to the 2000 parliamentary and presidential elections, Issyk-Kul organizers aimed this year to provide a more broad and comprehensive coverage of democracy's components by introducing such topics as leadership, separation of powers and gender equality.

To achieve this objective and to make students' practical experience gratifying, the summer camp was structured so that during each of the first four days of the camp, students lived under a different regime. There were four parties/regimes - parliamentary monarchy, democracy, communism, and authoritarianism, and representatives of each regime "ruled" a camp for a day. Each party/regime also had a chance to represent its position during the party debates. Students then elected the most popular party during a referendum and it was to rule for the remainder of the summer camp. In addition to the interactive activities affiliated with the regime exercise, an academic portion of the summer democracy camp included two daily sessions of two-hour training seminars.



Students at the Issyk-Kyl summer camp in Kyrgyzstan held a referendum to choose their political regime.

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EUROPE

ACEEEO

In the late spring of this year, representatives of the Hungarian-based Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO) Secretariat held its Annual Executive Board meeting where it was reported that ACEEEO has been recommended for consultative status with the Council of Europe. An accepted vote of the Parliamentary Assembly will represent an important step in the development of the Association.

Throughout the summer, IFES and ACEEEO continued discussing several issues of regional importance that were raised at the executive meeting including campaign finance. This issue will be fully addressed from 14-16 October 2001 when the ACEEEO holds its 10-year Jubilee Conference, "Transparent Election Campaign Financing in the 21st Century," in Brijuni, Croatia. The ACEEEO will be inviting three distinguished scholars on campaign finance in Europe. The three campaign finance scholars will conduct research on political financing in each of the 18 ACEEEO member countries and jointly present to the conference a survey report based on their research and data-collection. USAID is co-supporting the attendance of Professor Janis Ikstens (Latvia), Dr. Daniel Smilov (Bulgaria), and Marcin Walecki (Poland).

In keeping with the ACEEEO's special focus on Southeastern Europe, the conference will also examine recent elections in that part of the world. The ACEEEO has been involved in election-supervising and observation missions in the region, together with the OSCE and Council of Europe, for some time now. It is also developing a sub-group of ACEEEO members from Southeastern Europe. These issues will be addressed along side an exhibition of election equipment and service suppliers being organized by IFES. The exhibition will allow exhibitors to introduce the latest and most appropriate election equipment to over 100 election officials from across the region.

The Secretariat, which is actively developing its program capacity and increasing the information resources available to the members of the ACEEEO, presented its new initiatives to the Executive Board. In order to expand its ability to conduct program initiatives and work more closely with other organizations, the Association continues to build a database of election experts from member countries.

The Secretariat is also giving its Documentation Center a new home at the library of the Institute for Political Sciences of the Hungarian Academy for Sciences. This will allow better organization and maintenance and provide better accessibility for those interested in election-related information from the region. In order to provide more comparative infor-

mation on elections, the ACEEEO is putting out a CD-Rom and expanding its collection of materials from its History of Elections Exhibition.

Finally, the ACEEEO is revising its website to make it more user-friendly and informative. For more information on these activities, please visit the website at www.aceeeo.com.

ALBANIA

June marked the climax of IFES initiatives in Albania over the past year with the parliamentary elections held on 24 June. In July, IFES continued to monitor the progress of the national elections. Second round elections were held on 8 July and the CEC and/or the Constitutional Court ordered new elections in a number of zones or polling centers around the country on 22 and 29 July.

Improvements in the Conduct of Elections

On 24 June, voting occurred in 99 of the 100 zones (in one zone the local commissioners were unable to work together and voting was cancelled by the CEC). Based on the results of the 24 June vote, there were second round elections (8 July) in 44 zones and first round elections in 1 zone. In addition, 27 (out of 4,686) voting centers failed to open in the first round, and voting was conducted in those centers on 8 July as well.

Preliminary results show the Socialist Party (SP) with a solid majority in the National Assembly. The SP did not, however, achieve its objective capturing 60% of the seats in the Assembly. A 60% plus one result would have meant that the SP could easily control the election of a new President by Parliament when the mandate of the current President expires in July of 2002.

The elections were held in a peaceful and calm atmosphere. However, there were many cases of attempted or real manipulation of voting center protocols. This resulted in 20 instances where political parties contested the election results to the Constitutional Court. In addition, the CEC used its powers to fine or prosecute local officials for failing to conduct the elections properly and has instigated court action against a number of local officials. Penalties could be as severe as two years in jail. This is the first time this type of action against local election officials has ever been undertaken in Albania.

IFES activities during the election focused on civic education, training of local officials and technical advice and assistance to the CEC. The civic education program was very visible and effective. While training of local officials occurred, IFES estimates that only 50% of the local officials attended training sessions during the last two weeks of June. Through numerous personal meetings with members of the CEC and the CEC chair, and attendance at most meetings of the CEC, IFES has been able to develop a good rapport and

trust with the commission and was able to provide advice on a broad range of technical and political issues confronting the commission during the election period.

The international monitoring teams from ODHIR, Council of Europe and the Francophone Association all judged the elections to be a major step forward for Albania. The ODHIR report states that the national elections this year were the best held in Albania in the past 12 years. All monitoring teams commented on the increased competency and transparency of the CEC, a greater willingness of the political parties to seek redress through proper court procedures, the effectiveness of the civic education campaign, and the willingness of state institutions to refrain from interfering with the election process.

While a number of positive statements were made about the conduct of the elections, there were also a number of problems identified by the international monitors. These included: the difficulty of the CEC and the Constitutional Court to deal with election related complaints; the constant desire of political parties to change their representatives on lower level commissions; the need for more and continued training of lower level election commission members; and the political interference by parties with the lower level commissions.

National List of Voters

The preparation of a national voter list has been an ongoing project in Albania for the past 18 months. Following the local government elections in October 2000, IFES was asked to take the lead international responsibility for working with the CEC to 'clean' the list. This involved a working partnership with the CEC and significant financial and political support from the Friends of Albania. The project formally began in early March of this year with the initial cleaning of duplicate records in the existing voter list database and preparation of instructions and procedures for local election officials and civil registry offices to further review the list for changes. This review was completed at the end of April, and at that time, a national public revision process was implemented. The revision period lasted for 35 days. During that period the general public was encouraged to review the list to confirm the accuracy of their relevant personal information, and to enable individual voters to make necessary changes (corrections, moves, etc.) to their information. This was an entirely new procedure in Albania, and it met with mixed success.

A major objective of the project was the removal of duplicate records in the database. This was a significant problem in the local government election period last year and proved a continuing problem this year. In the end, the project was able to remove approximately 450,000 duplicate records from the database. With these removals and the changes that came during the revision period, the final voter list for the national elections came to 2,477,000 records. The population of Albania is estimated to be 3,500,000 people. It is the view of

the project team that the list still contains a number of duplicates.

The most significant problem in the current database is the inability of local election officials to properly assign voters to individual polling units. The lack of maps and street addresses and the high mobility of people within the country make this task extremely difficult. In addition, the lack of both a national civil registry database and the enforcement of current laws requiring people to register with civil registry offices when they move makes it almost impossible to keep track of movements or properly verify the existing voter list. These two issues will hopefully be a major focus of IFES cooperation with the CEC of Albania in the coming years.

In July, IFES/Albania began to review the progress of the national registration project and specific needs/required action of the CEC to maintain a national data base. This review includes future equipment needs, which could be purchased through the international donations that IFES has received for that purpose from Germany, Italy, Holland, Denmark, Britain, and Spain. Initial discussions have been held with the CEC, and final conclusions will be made by early September.

Impact Statement

The litmus test for IFES involvement in the development of a democratic election system in Albania is how the elections are judged by the international observers. In the past twelve months, two elections have been held and both have been calm, viewed as reasonably fair and open, and the results have been generally accepted by both the winning and opposition parties. This is in marked contrast to the elections of 1996, 1997, and the national referendum of 1998. In this context, it is clear that IFES has had a direct and beneficial impact in Albania. Future IFES programming in Albania will continue to focus on attaining this goal when the local government elections are held in October 2003.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Election Law Update

The BiH House of Representatives failed to pass a Permanent Election Law during its 22 June session. The Council of Europe had required BiH to adopt a permanent election law by this date as a membership prerequisite. The Council, however, has since approved an additional two months for passage of the law. The BiH Parliament must adopt an electoral framework soon, because the BiH Constitution requires Presidential elections in October 2002. BiH election officials cannot begin preparing for the 2002 elections without a legal framework in place. The objections to the draft election law cited by political parties respond to flaws in the BiH Constitution, not the draft electoral legislation.

Election Observation

In June, IFES sent Bosnian election officials and civic education trainers to Bulgaria to observe the parliamentary elec-

tions. On election day, one group observed polling sites in Sofia and the surrounding areas, while another group observed polling in the town of Plovdiv. When polls closed, the delegation visited a regional election commission/counting center in Sofia, where they had the opportunity to go through all of the steps a polling station committee goes through to deliver documents and verify figures from tally sheets. Observers also monitored the parallel vote counts and exit polls conducted by several NGOs and commercial agencies. This observation mission gave Bosnian election officials and trainers the opportunity to observe transparent and technically high-level elections in a Balkan country.

In addition to the successful trip to Bulgaria, the AEOBiH sent members to observe parliamentary elections in Albania, Italy, and the United Kingdom. On 28 June, participants from all of the observation programs met in Sarajevo to share what they learned with each other and the AEOBiH Secretariat.

IFES/AEOBiH Activities

Field Visits

Representatives of the AEOBiH Secretariat spent much of June in the field meeting and consulting with AEOBiH members throughout BiH. During three weeks of field visits, the



Snezana Lazic, Milos Karisik, and Spomenka Radicic check the inside of a polling booth in the Roma suburb of Plovdiv. Under the Bulgarian law each party or coalition has a separate ballot sheet marked with different color strips. The ballots are put into an envelope before the voter leaves the booth and drops the envelope into the ballot box. Therefore, the availability of all different ballot papers needs to be checked regularly.

Secretariat reached members in 25 cities to exchange information on current and future activities. The consultations also gave members an opportunity to offer comments and recommendations for Association activities—an opportunity which members took full advantage of.

Voter Registration and Re-Registration

The AEOBiH Secretariat provided all MECs with information needed for the voter registration and re-registration project implemented during June. This registration drive targeted voters who cast tendered ballots in the last elections. The MECs that faced the greatest number of tendered ballots provided the IFES/AEOBiH Secretariat with action plans and requests for financial and technical assistance. IFES/AEOBiH approved proposals from 25 MECs. Meanwhile, IFES/AEOBiH considered various activities to support the ongoing voter registration and re-registration project. One possibility is to target areas where people often go when they change their address after moving, such as municipal housing authorities, police stations, and post offices.

AEOBiH Joins ACEEEO

The AEOBiH has joined the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO). Current member and former president of the BiH Presidency Zivko Radisic wrote a letter expressing support to the AEOBiH's membership in the ACEEEO and congratulating the AEOBiH for its efforts in promoting democratic and fair elections.

Civic Education Activities

July marked the fifth anniversary of the IFES Voter and Civic Education Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the past five years, civic education trainers have reached out to thousands of voters and citizens' groups. Trainers have developed a rapport and trust with the citizenry that has enabled them to advise communities in lobbying their municipal officials to address their critical needs. In less than three years, IFES teams have aided local citizens in launching over 450 civic initiatives known as GAINs.

Citizens Guides

IFES has now completed Citizens Guides for 52 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and distributed 17,000 copies to local officials, community leaders, teachers, NGO representatives, libraries, and members of the media. The guides have been received with appreciation not only by Bosnian citizens and officials but also by members of the international community.

IFES was particularly pleased with the Guides' positive reception in Ljubuski. The mayor requested extra copies of the municipality Guide as well as an electronic copy. He also promoted the Guide and IFES' work in the municipality during his weekly press conference. This response is encouraging, as Ljubuski was one of the municipalities where the situation became turbulent following the SFOR attempted

takeover of the Hercegovacka Banka.

GAINs

IFES started several new GAINs addressing concerns of parents regarding local schools. For example, in Dobojo, a group of parents whose children attend the high school there approached IFES trainers. The parents feel the school's curriculum is outdated. They asked the IFES team to help them properly organize a committee whose goal would be to frame a petition requesting a change to the relevant educational programs.

Meanwhile, a team of trainers saw success in a GAIN in the village of Dusanovo that required bringing different ethnic groups together. Residents wanted a garbage site removed and containers installed in their village. They prepared a petition with 54 signatures, an encouraging sign in this community that IFES has worked in since mid-February. Aside from the usual skepticism and unwillingness to sign petitions, the multi-ethnic composition of the village turned out to be another difficulty. Reportedly, Serbs were reluctant to put their signatures under a joint document with Bosniaks. The IFES team helped the community overcome ethnic tensions to complete the petition, hopefully setting a precedent for future cooperation.

IFES also assisted displaced persons through a new GAIN in Fakovic. Displaced persons at the collective center need information on plans to close refugee camps in the Republika Srpska (RS). On IFES' advice, they will address municipal officials, the local branch of the RS Ministry for Refugees, and camp members elected to the RS National Assembly.

CCI Activity*

CCI continued reaching out to citizens throughout BiH through numerous meetings with formally registered and informal groups of citizens as well as through round tables. These meetings allow CCI to present important concepts of democracy and citizen participation to the people of BiH. Through these and other activities, CCI has complemented IFES activities by helping citizens to resolve problems identified by communities. During June, CCI staff initiated six public hearings that were held on 14 June in six different municipalities throughout the country. Each hearing was organized by different groups, including the youth group in Jablanica, the Women's Association from Lukavac, and several informal groups of citizens. The hearings were intended to promote cooperation between citizens and their elected representatives as well as to help solve issues identified in community surveys. Citizens also had the opportunity to talk with their elected representatives about what they have accomplished since they were elected.

During July, CCI trainers continued to work with community groups on identifying and resolving problems. In one particularly successful effort, CCI staff helped a women's asso-

ciation in Teocak municipality to organize a public meeting to discuss community priorities that had previously been identified in a survey. At the meeting, citizens discussed a needed bridge repair, wastewater regulation, and the cleaning of the route at the entrance to the municipality. The mayor attended the meeting and said he was positively surprised with the survey and support for the citizens' initiatives. He added that the survey results had helped speed up the bridge repair, to which the municipality agreed to contribute 7,500 KM. At the meeting's end, the citizens group formed a committee to follow-up on the results.

Impact Summary

Through field visits with MEC members throughout BiH, IFES/AEOBiH received a number of proposals from members that will improve the functioning of this professional association of election officials, ultimately enhancing election administration in BiH. In addition, the enthusiasm and involvement of AEOBiH members in these meetings shows progress toward Bosnian "ownership" of the Association and the BiH electoral process.

IFES civic education teams continued to increase transparency in BiH municipal government as well as providing residents with the knowledge necessary to work with their government. Through GAINs, IFES made progress working with parents on improving schools and found success in reaching across ethnic divisions.

**The Center for Civic Initiatives (CCI) is a Bosnian NGO that conducts civic education activities throughout BiH. While some of CCI's projects are funded by IFES, the organization also receives direct grants from a variety of other sources. IFES turned over its offices in Bihac and Bijelinja to CCI as of May 15 and will gradually turn over other offices as well. The Doboj and Livno offices will be turned over to CCI this fall.*

MACEDONIA

Political Background

June and July saw a further deterioration in the political and military situations in Macedonia, as well as increased international efforts to avoid a descent into political stalemate and widespread inter-ethnic violence. By the end of the June, most U. S. expatriate personnel were requested by USAID to leave the country. IFES was not spared. On 29 June, the Project Director relocated to Tirana, Albania, for an indeterminate period.

The political and military situations worsened throughout much of July, as did the government's relationship with the international community. The month was marked by increased violence, including a violent demonstration in Skopje targeting the OSCE and several embassies; increased activity by armed Albanian insurgents in the area around Tetovo; on-again/off-again political talks; verbal attacks against NATO and international negotiators from the European Union and the United States; and an increased number of ethnic Macedonians displaced by the fighting. By the end of the month, the

US Embassy and USAID had further reduced staff, and most expatriate personnel of USAID contractors had relocated to either the United States or to neighboring countries.

The IFES Macedonia office remained open during July with local staff. In daily e-mail and telephone communication with the Staff Director, IFES staff continued to maintain contact with the Ministry of Justice, USAID and others. In view of the crisis, the focus of the IFES work in Macedonia began to shift from comprehensive electoral reform to planning for election assistance in the expectation that a political settlement would include a component for early elections. Staff began identifying the myriad obstacles facing authorities in planning and implementing early elections, including infrastructure problems, such as the destruction of polling stations and the displacement of large numbers of the population.

Public Discussion of Draft Electoral Laws

As the political and military situations worsened, Minister of Justice Mehmeti on 20 June convened a public discussion of two draft laws developed by the Working Group on Electoral Reform established by his predecessor, former Minister Xhevdet Nasufi. IFES, pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice, has been providing advice and assistance to the Working Group since February.

Despite the troubling outside events, the public discussion was well attended by political parties and NGOs. IFES assisted by providing materials it had developed on electoral reform and by providing interpreters to international invitees. The discussion itself was productive and positive. Representatives of some of the smaller political parties expressed their gratitude to the Minister for soliciting their views.

Working Group Study Tour of Albania

On 21 June, five members of the Working Group traveled to Albania with the IFES Macedonia Project Director to observe the elections on 24 June and to discuss electoral law and administration with experts and officials there. The Study Tour was sponsored by World Learning. Of the five Working Group members, three were ethnic Albanian and two were ethnic Macedonian, including the Chairman of the Macedonian State Electoral Commission, Josif Lukovski.

The trip, undertaken in cooperation with IFES Albania, was a huge success, marred only by the knowledge that the situation in Macedonia was rapidly deteriorating. Albania has a comprehensive electoral code that went into effect 14 months ago, and a well-staffed permanent election commission. While elections are far from perfect in Albania, they are much improved and are more advanced than those in Macedonia. The Working Group members were very impressed. Hopefully, Macedonia will be able to build upon this experience when the country's focus shifts to improving its electoral framework.

Impact Statement

It is significant that despite the worst inter-ethnic crisis Macedonia has experienced since its independence from Yugoslavia, both ethnic Albanians and ethnic Macedonians traveled together to neighboring Albania because they believed they could learn something from Albania's more developed electoral system. It is also significant that in this deeply troubling time for all citizens of Macedonia an ethnic Albanian Minister of Justice brought together all political forces within the country for a serious discussion of electoral issues. At some point the conflict will end, and the serious rebuilding of Macedonia's electoral framework will begin. The commitment of all ethnic groups will be essential if there is to be improvement in Macedonian elections. What occurred in June 2001 demonstrates that there are those who have that commitment.

If a political settlement is reached, IFES is in the position to provide needed assistance to election authorities in a post-conflict setting.

MOLDOVA*IFES and the Central Election Commission (CEC)*

During June and July IFES continued to work with the CEC. In June, IFES and the CEC focused on the draft amendments to the Electoral Code, the final version of which has been submitted to Parliament. IFES' Senior Program Officer Igor Botan attended the CEC meeting of 13 June where the amendments proposed by IFES and the OSCE were discussed. The proposed amendments reviewed at the CEC meeting referred to regulation of candidates' election campaigns, the verification of signatures on election rolls, the formation of election lists and coverage of election campaigns in the mass media. Mr. Botan also discussed the results of the elections in 11 localities in a meeting with CEC Chairman Dimitru Nidelcu. In July, IFES staff and the CEC met to discuss the election of 11 mayors and the CEC requested assistance from IFES in the translation of documents from the ACEEEO. IFES/Moldova Project Director Charles Lasham, IFES Vice President for Programs Juliana Pilon and IFES/Moldova Senior Program Officer Igor Botan met with the chairman of the CEC, Dumitru Nidelcu, to discuss the assistance that IFES/Moldova has rendered to the CEC and the contribution that IFES has made to the democratic process in Moldova.

Women in Politics Seminar

The participation of women in political life received significant attention from IFES/Moldova in June. IFES/Moldova hosted the "Women's Participation in Moldovan Politics" seminar in cooperation with the ABA-CEELI. The one-day seminar was held to examine the reasons underlying the political under-representation of women. Invitees included Parliamentarians, Ministers, government officials, party leaders, women's NGO leaders, women mayors and selected members of the international community. Over 80 people participated in the seminar. Ana Bejan, currently the Prefect of So-

roca County spoke on "Women in Moldovan Politics" and Berit Lindeman, a member of the OSCE/ODIHR election observer team, spoke on "Comparative Legal Provisions from Around the World- Successes and Failures."

Electoral School

A session of the Electoral School, attended by IFES/Washington VP for Programs Juliana Pilon, was held on 11 July. Information about the political process in Moldova was presented to the leaders of the youth branches of political parties. Attendees engaged in discussion about the impact of the Electoral School project and considered the format and content of future sessions to be organized by CDPD after the transfer of operations from IFES/Moldova.

Public Administration/ NGO Partnership Project

IFES continued work on the pilot project in Soroca Judet aimed at building partnerships between local public administrators, NGOs, and citizens groups. During June, the content for A Step by Step Guide to Partnerships was developed and approved for publication. The guide includes a brief presentation of the structure and role of public administration, the role of NGOs, and information on the theory and practice of partnership building. Case studies of successful partnership initiatives in several villages have also been included. A seminar was held in Soroca Judet on 17 July, in which representatives from mayoral offices and NGOs from 20 villages were instructed on the types and forms of partnership, methods of partnership building and project development. 750 copies of the A Step by Step Guide to Partnerships brochure have been published and will be distributed to mayors and NGOs at the local level; copies of the brochure were distributed to the 17 July seminar participants, along with other materials.

Supporting NGOs

NGO Program Coordinator Ina Gutium continued to assist NGOs in Ungheni and Soroca counties with acquiring public benefit status, and NGOs in Orhei and Balti Counties with the registration procedure. Ms. Gutium also provided assistance to the Associations of Pensioners in completing the applications and forms required for gaining public benefit status. Senior Program Officer Igor Botan met with sociologist Ion Jagau, who requested assistance from IFES in conducting research on the observation of elections. Mr. Botan also attended a session of the Certification Commission, where applications by local NGOs seeking public benefit status were examined. In July, NGO coordinator Ina Gutium met with Serghei Kassirov of the Ciuvas Association of Moldova, who informed her that the organization had acquired public benefit status and thanked her and IFES for providing assistance with the application.

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UPCOMING EVENTS IN EUROPE AND EURASIA

13-16 October	Event: ACEEEO Conference, "Transparent Election Campaign Financing in the 21st Century"
	Location: Brijuni, Croatia
	Contact: Mate Radic ACEEEO Advisor E-mail: aceeeo@matavnet.hu Website: www.aceeeo.com
18 October	Event: Launch of IFES' Domestic Successor, ADEPT
	Location: Chisinau, Moldova
	Contact: Nathan Van Dusen Program Assistant, IFES/Washington Email: nvandusen@ifes.org
19-20 October	Event: Conference, "Election Dispute Resolution: Judicial Authority and Independence"
	Location: Sofia, Bulgaria
	Contact: Nathan Van Dusen Program Assistant, IFES/Washington Email: nvandusen@ifes.org
TBD October	Event: Briefing for Political Parties on Preliminary Results of IFES' Nationwide Survey
	Location: Kiev, Ukraine
	Contact: Robert Richey Program Officer, IFES/Washington Email: rrichey@ifes.org
7-9 December	Event: Association of Election Officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina (AEOBIH) Annual Conference
	Location: Sarajevo, BiH
	Contact: Beverly Hagerdon-Thakur IFES Field Representative/Training Advisor, Sarajevo, Email: BeverlyHT@aebih.com.ba

about the role that SACs can play in resolving the problems facing individual communities. During the camp, students were engaged in activities that helped them learn processes necessary to successfully establish and sustain SAC activities. Students covered topics such as SAC theory, structure, charter and elections. This knowledge was tested on the sixth day of the camp, when students were given an opportunity to implement what they had learned through a SAC simulation exercise. Each student group developed a SAC that had to deal with the problem of air pollution caused by a local chemical factory. In order to make the activity more interactive, the camp's organizers created an environment in which SAC would have to work, and trainers, teachers and IFES staff played the roles of representatives of the media, local and international NGOs, and local government officials.

The camp improved students knowledge of civics; facilitated development and interaction between local NGOs, students, schools and the department of education; instructed students how to organize and conduct SACs, and provided an open forum for participants to share their experiences and learn from one another. Consequently, the IFES democracy summer camp in Kokshetau became a great continuation for civic education activities for many students in the northern and central regions and helped them to find ways of becoming more actively involved in their communities.

"CAR Democracy Camps" from page 1

According to the feedback received from the students attending the Issyk-Kul camp, they valued an opportunity to attend trainings on topics which they knew little about, such as NGO development, political structures, and functions of a state. Results of the exit test showed that students' knowledge of civic education topics improved and some of the misunderstandings about democracy were eliminated. Furthermore, since the young Kyrgyz generation still experiences difficulties in being vocal in their society, students also gained the opportunity to freely express their views; to be heard, and to be supported by IFES. Through training discussions, student activities, and debates, students proved themselves to be an educated and talented group of young people who have their own opinions about the situation in their country and what needs to be done to improve it.

The summer democracy camp in Kokshetau, Kazakhstan, which took place on 15-21 July, was similar to the Issyk-Kul camp in that it too aimed to strengthen students' knowledge of civic education and to show its practical applications. However, the focus of the Kokshetau camp was on the creation of Student Action Committees and educating students

As in the other Central Asian republics, democracy summer camps became the highlight of the IFES/Tajikistan programming this summer, with the first camp in the Khujand/Kairakkum region of Sugd oblast, starting on 27 July. Similar to the Kyrgyzstan experience, the popularity of IFES summer democracy camps was so great that 190 applications were received for 65 available places. However, such popularity allowed IFES and its partner NGOs, Mehr and Chashmai Haiyot, to choose the most worthy participants and ensured a group of students with a strong background in civic education and activism.

Equally thorough selection was conducted among trainers to ensure a strong academic program that utilized interactive methods. The goal of the trainers was to educate students in topics such as children's, women's and human rights, critical thinking, civil society, the election process, and voter's rights. After interviewing a list of potential NGOs, IFES/Tajikistan selected Fakht, Chashmai Haiyot, Shokhrud, Women and Society, Center for Human Rights, and Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligence as local partners for the Sugd oblast event. Considerable attention was also given to the content and quality of the summer camp modules, with each presenting a specific theme related to the work of NGOs and the interest of citizens, and focusing on human rights, social

protection, educational issues, the environment, governance, media, gender issues, and other topics.

Echoing their counterparts in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, Kairakkum camp students were very enthusiastic about the knowledge they gained in the summer camp and expressed an interest in applying what they learned to activities within their schools and local communities. IFES was gratified to see that when students were leaving the summer camp, they were returning to their communities as more educated and energized citizens of their country.

Thus, the first round of IFES summer democracy camps in Central Asia made a powerful impact on the new generation of citizens in that region. Through trainings, role playing, debates, and other interactive activities, students expanded their understanding of democracy and the role of a civil society. In addition, summer democracy camps became an important logical link between the IFES civic education courses taught to high school and university students and various student activities that the Foundation supports in the region. Student forums, trainings, debates and other activities gave students practical application of the knowledge they already received during the civic education course and provided possible channels for students' future activism. As a result, students were able to see that the civic education they receive in class is very relevant to their lives and that they can impact the situation in their schools and communities by joining SACs, supporting democratic student elections in their institutions, and assisting with future summer camps and other civic education activities of IFES. This gives IFES confidence that summer democracy camps will continue to develop as a sustainable and popular project in Central Asia and strengthen a culture of democracy in the region.

Moldova from page 7

Civic Voice

A special edition of *Civic Voice* was published on the topic of the national minorities. The special edition includes interviews with Theodor Magder, the Executive Director of the Association of the Jewish Organizations and Communities in the Republic of Moldova and Mihail Sidorov, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights and National Minorities. The US government, through a grant to the Center for Development of Participatory Democracy (CDPD), financed this special edition of *Civic Voice*.

*Center for Development of Participatory Democracy (CDPD) Activity**

The first four of the planned 24 *Civic Voice* radio broadcasts, produced by CDPD with funding from the US Embassy, were aired on ANTENNA C Chisinau Municipality Radio Station. The focus of the series is ethnic tolerance in Moldova. The 9 June broadcast dealt with the relationships between the ethnic

majority and minorities in Moldova, including factors that may aggravate or improve relations between the majority and minority groups. The 14 June broadcast addressed government measures to encourage national minorities to preserve their ethnic identities. The broadcasts of 20 and 28 June were dedicated to the role of international organizations in addressing interethnic conflicts. On 12 and 26 July, CDPD aired two *Civic Voice* Radio programs on ANTENNA C Chisinau Municipality Radio Station. The broadcast on 12 July continued the series' theme of encouraging ethnic tolerance. On 25 July the broadcast examined various interethnic conflicts around the world and methods to resolve them.

CDPD held a board retreat in Sinaia, Romania dedicated to discussing the activities of CDPD as the successor to IFES in Moldova. Board members discussed modification of the CDPD bylaws, the strategic plan and adoption of a code of ethics. Proposed amendments to the bylaws refer to a clear delimitation between Board and Staff members, requiring that founders who are employees of CDPD suspend their activities as members of the board. It was also decided that an Advisory Board should be established, which would be composed of outstanding persons who would promote the organization.

Impact Summary

IFES and the CEC continued to follow the progress of the amendments to the Electoral Code. IFES assisted the CEC in drafting the amendments, the final version of which has been submitted to parliament. The amendments are designed to bring the Electoral Code in line with newly developed laws and address problems that arose in past elections. An amended Electoral Code will contribute to the more efficient and accurate administration of the electoral process, in turn enhancing electoral transparency and voter confidence in the election process.

The one-day Women's Participation in Moldovan Politics Seminar brought more than 80 participants together for workshops on the role of women in political party leadership, local political activity and in Moldovan society as a whole. The seminar was an opportunity to discuss the challenges to greater women's political participation and develop methods to overcome these challenges. The seminar equipped the attendees with strategies to be more active and effective participants in Moldovan politics and work for the increased participation of women in political society.

IFES/Moldova's domestic successor, CDPD, continues to expand its programmatic and funding base in preparation for the handover of operations. The CDPD is implementing several projects with grants from the Charity Know How (UK). These projects demonstrate the CDPD's capacity to grow and sustain its work after the closeout of IFES operations in Moldova. In addition, the Public Administration/NGO Partnership project, which brought together representatives of NGO and municipal administrations for an explanation and

discussion of the program, has built the initial relations that will serve as foundations for future cooperation.

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

YUGOSLAVIA (KOSOVO)

Polling Station Committee Foundation Training

IFES is developing a training program for Polling Station Committees (PSC) in preparation for the upcoming November elections. Trainers will work with teams from each municipality, consisting of one member from each Municipal Election Commission (MEC). Each PSC member will use the same curriculum and receive similar training. Train-the-trainer sessions followed by the PSC training are scheduled for September. IFES is coordinating this program together with the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa.

In July, Gabriella Arcadu from the Scuola Superiore visited Kosovo to assess the situation in Serb areas in advance of the preparation of a PSC training curriculum. In addition to discussing the curriculum, Ms. Arcadu and IFES staff addressed the special issue of implementing the training in Serb areas, which previously have not participated in electoral activities. This assessment included meeting with the co-chair of the Serb Special Task Group, head of Political Parties Services, and Serb MEC members in Gracanica, Strpce, and Kamenica. The message in Serb areas was clear: the Serbs are eager to register to vote, but the political parties will only compete and the Serbs will only vote if Belgrade tells them to do so. The Serbs, however, indicated that the IFES PSC training will be useful to them even if they do not participate in the November General Election.

MEC Training

IFES also took steps to coordinate with the OSCE on training for MEC members. OSCE Capacity Building will provide technical election training to MEC members, including procedures for Voter Services. IFES will provide the managerial and administrative training necessary for local election administration. IFES will also train MEC members on their duties in each phase of the electoral process. IFES MEC Coordinator Hermann Thiel has been working with the Voter Services Division and the Field Operations Division to determine the concrete tasks of MECs during the Voter Services period. MECs are primarily responsible for the recruitment of staff. They will have a supporting function during the training of Voter Services Staff, and will perform quality control checks on Voter Services Centers throughout the period.

The OSCE held training sessions in July for MEC members on the Voter Services process. IFES Project Manager Pauline Dion and Thiel attended these sessions in order to present

MEC members with their responsibilities during the Voter Services period. They provided MEC members with a checklist, prepared in consultation with the Voter Services Division, to aid them in reporting on activities at Voter Service Centers. Dion and Thiel also introduced the upcoming foundation PSC training and requested that each MEC select a member to be part of the training team.

Preparations for Voter Registration Period and Elections Continue

IFES undertook numerous activities to ensure that the necessary and proper framework, procedures, and materials were prepared and in place before 30 July when the voter registration period in Kosovo began. The IFES Legal Advisor worked with the OSCE Elections Department and United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to complete a draft voter registration and electoral legal framework, including regulations, procedures, and administrative directions. The amended framework provides the OSCE with the legal authority needed to conduct voter registration, prepare a voters' list, and assign voters to polling stations. The framework also reflects the current status of UNMIK and OSCE roles in the registration process.

The Legal Advisor addressed issues and procedures relating to voter complaints by establishing standardized mechanisms for the OSCE and Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG)'s office to handle election- and media-related complaints during the electoral process. In addition, IFES worked with the Election Complaints and Appeals Sub-Commission (ECAC) to establish a system to ensure all parties are notified in a timely manner of complaints against them and decisions made by the Commission. IFES has also advised the OSCE and UNMIK on a number of issues, such as options for preventing elected officials from holding more than one elected mandate inside or outside of Kosovo and amending CEC electoral rules on campaign finance to achieve a more level playing field. IFES worked with the ECAC on procedures for the receipt and processing of claims and appeals for rejected voter registration applicants.

In addition to its focus on laying a legal framework for voter registration, IFES has also provided substantial input and assistance with administrative and operational components of the electoral process through the support of the Election Department's new Operations Unit. The Operations Unit was created to oversee the coordination of and support for divisions directly responsible for voter registration and election activities. The IFES Technical Advisor has assisted the new unit in developing procedures and coordinating the operational work of the various divisions, including the design and revision of forms needed for the registration process.

With IFES assistance, the Voter Services Division completed the design and refinement of voter registration forms by the 30 June deadline despite the time constraints and other diffi-

culties, such as a lack of formal regulations outlining procedures. This marks the first time quality assurance and control standards have been imposed in Kosovo elections.

The Technical Advisor has also focused much attention on advising the OSCE on the technical aspects of voter registration to ensure that the process moves forward smoothly. The registration forms and training manual for Out-of-Kosovo registration have been reviewed and finalized, with particular attention paid to explaining what documentation is acceptable to prove one's eligibility to register. To aid in determining eligibility for individuals who have no documentation, IFES is facilitating cooperation between ElectroKosova and the OSCE to secure the data provided to the Joint Registration Taskforce last year. In reviewing the registration forms and training manuals, IFES also identified several policy issues in need of resolution, including the need to notify thousands of people of their polling place. This includes voters who have registered since the last election at civil registration centers that will not be used as polling centers in November, people who voted at mega-polling centers that will be split up, and voters who have not yet registered but may still do so.

Meanwhile, IFES is advising the OSCE's Political Parties Services Division in its efforts to develop procedures for verifying signatures collected by political parties seeking certification. Serb parties that have not previously registered may collect signatures from supporters who have not yet applied for inclusion on the civil or voter registries, in violation of formal verification rules. In order to avoid imposing barriers to the establishment of new political parties, IFES' Technical Advisor drafted a concept paper for the Division suggesting a balance between the requirements of the formal rules and the current practical realities.

Impact Summary

IFES training activities for PSCs and MECs represent a significant contribution toward the eventual nationalization of elections in Kosovo. The IFES training provides local election administrators with the knowledge and skills needed to oversee free, fair, and effective elections. IFES continues to improve and increase the professional development opportunities available to election officials, thus taking election administration in Kosovo to a new level.

IFES has provided the OSCE and UNMIK with substantial legal and technical advice and assistance in preparation for the November 2001 elections in Kosovo. By addressing voter registration and electoral procedures, IFES is helping to ensure that the elections will proceed in a timely and effective manner, allowing Kosovars an opportunity to experience a second free and fair election. The November election preparations will also leave Kosovar election officials with greater capacity and experience in electoral administration, thus preparing them for eventual self-administration of Kosovo elections.

CAUCASUS/CENTRAL ASIA

ARMENIA

Second Training Session for IFES Civic Educators – Focus on Local Self-Government, Condominium and Police Laws

Under the direction of Chief Trainer Al Decie, 16 IFES trainers and a number of additional observers from IFES' civic partner, the Women's Republican Council, underwent a second round of training from 10-16 June. This training was built on the initial two-week orientation session held in late March and early April.

Much of the training session focused on the establishment of initiative groups, in which a group of citizens, initially organized through a dialogue group, identifies an advocacy project and works, with the guidance of IFES trainers, to devise an action plan and address the issue. Since much of the work IFES is doing complements the activities of other organizations, both in the domestic and international communities, special attention was given to bringing in representatives of other organizations involved in civil society activities in Armenia. Trainers were also briefed on three publications: a brochure on local self-governance, a booklet on condominium law, and a pamphlet regarding the recently enacted law on police. Along with informing citizens, these publications are intended to serve as a vehicle to initiate dialogue groups on civic issues.

Initiative Group Activities Begin as Dialogue Groups Continue

In Yerevan, IFES trainers began working with a group of citizens challenging a controversial decision to close a popular kindergarten. The initiative group began after IFES trainers received a phone call from the director of Kindergarten No. 136, who had attended a community council meeting in the Arabkir neighborhood where a vote was taken to close the kindergarten. According to the school's director, 55 children attend the kindergarten located in a district that includes a building inhabited predominantly by blind people. Many of the children have parents who are blind and can only attend Kindergarten 136 since their parents are not able to travel the long distances required to attend another kindergarten proposed by the community authorities.

On June 31 a dialogue group was organized at Kindergarten No. 136 with the participation of 34 employees and parents (31 women and three men). All of them reiterated that they are against the liquidation of the kindergarten and stressed the quality of the services they receive there. With the advice of the IFES trainers, they created an initiative group and began designing an action plan. The following week they drafted an open letter to a number of state and local authorities requesting that the school be kept open. It was signed by affected parents and published in Yerevan newspapers. The initiative group drafted a petition appealing to the Community Council



Working group at the second training session for IFES/Armenia's civic educators held 10-16 June.

members to review their decision. They collected 171 signatures and delivered the petition to the Arabkir community authorities. On 28 June, the kindergarten organized a concert of the children in the school and invited the media as well as Community Council members. Representatives of two TV channels and a reporter from *Aravot Daily* were present. One of the Community Council members and the head of the Education Department of Arabkir Community also attended.

Throughout July, the IFES Yerevan trainers continued their activities with the kindergarten initiative group. Providing encouragement from the sidelines, IFES helped draft an open letter from parents urging the importance of saving this kindergarten. The letter and a sympathetic article were published in the *Aravot* daily newspaper. On 2 July, the Municipal Liquidation Committee came to the kindergarten to initiate closing procedures such as the inventory of furniture. The IG contacted the media to alert them of the intentions of this visit. After the arrival of reporters, the members of liquidation committee left the kindergarten. The following day additional press stories were published. In the meantime, IFES trainer Hayastan Stepanian wrote a court brief as part of a lawsuit to stop all liquidation action. Court action is pending at the time of this writing.

In Abovian, IFES trainers helped an initiative group reach a successful conclusion. Residents of a building located at 20 Hanrapetutian Street were wrongly billed 1.5 million Armenian drams (\$2,700) for repairing a water pump, although the water pump was the property of the electricity supply network. IFES trainers helped the residents form an initiative

group and draft a letter to the electricity officials. After receiving the letter, the electricity supply network reduced the bill to 15 thousand drams (\$27), covering only the cost of consumed electricity.

IFES Attends Election Roundtable

On 7-8 June, Jeff Swedberg represented IFES at roundtables organized by the Ar-

menia office of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) on amending the election code. Forty members of parliament, including Speaker Armen Khachatrian, attended the first roundtable. Although the factions did not present recommendations in any formal way, Orinats Yerkir, Dashnaksutiun, Stability and National Deputy factions had their written recommendations included in the program packet. On the second day, Regional Election Committee (REC) members attended. State and Legal Issues Committee Chairman Victor Dallakian said there would be a draft package ready for consideration by mid September.

USAID Attends its First IFES Dialogue Group

On 17 July Keith Simmons, USAID-Armenia Mission Director and Cheryl Kim, USAID Democracy and Governance Officer, attended their first IFES-Armenia event - the third in a series of dialogue groups held at a Yerevan cultural center. Most attendees were parents of local children. Hayastan Stepanian and Artur Ayvazian conducted the session on "Human Rights and the Constitution." Ayvazian introduced the IFES project, while Stepanian led the group discussion on constitutional rights. Several posters diagramming the constitution aided her presentation. The 31 participants (10 women) were given an information package that included the second chapter of the Constitution, UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (not yet ratified by Armenia), a list of NGOs providing free legal services, and the law of Armenia on the Child's Rights. Stepanian spent several minutes after the session talking to Simmons who was particularly interested in the process of moving from dialogue to initiative. Stepanian briefed him in detail on the initiative group involving the threatened

closing of a neighboring kindergarten.

Kotayk Trainers Advise Community Council on Telephone and Water Issues

IFES trainers Manuk Hakopian and Marietta Mchitarian attended a community council session in the mountain village of Garni. In addition to preparing their routine community council report for distribution to the community, the IFES team provided consultation to the Mayor and Council on two major issues. The first concerned Garni's lack of an external phone connection for the last eight months. This significant tourist village of 8,000 has no telephone connection with Yerevan. Moreover, its connection with Abovian, the largest city in Kotayk, was cut because of a damaged cable. Upon the suggestion of IFES, the Council wrote a letter to the Governor of Kotayk.

IFES trainers also learned about the planned construction of a new water pipeline from Garni to the capital city of Yerevan that would adversely affect the already insufficient water infrastructure of Garni. Acting upon the suggestion of the IFES, the Mayor of Garni proposed the writing of a letter to the enterprise constructing the pipeline demanding that compensation to Garni be included in the costs of the project. The Council debated three possible options of compensation. Ultimately, the council decided to postpone the discussions of this issue after studying the problem more thoroughly.

IFES Leads Discussion Group of NGOs on Draft NGO Law

IFES' Yerevan trainers organized a dialogue group with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss the new draft law on NGOs. Representatives of 26 active organizations engaged in a lively and high-level discussion. There was general consensus that the draft should be substantially revised and members of the group agreed to submit written comments. At the end of the meeting, an 8-person initiative group was created to draft a work plan and coordinate a joint package of recommendations on the draft law.

Armavir Trainers Address Yezidis

In the rural region of Armavir, IFES trainers conducted a dialogue group in Ferrik village, which is primarily populated by the Yezidi ethnic minority (related to Kurds). The civic educators explained the laws and articles of the Constitution related to the rights of ethnic minorities and stressed the importance of participation in local self-governance. The chairperson of the Women's Republican Council (WRC) chapter of Etchmiadzin, Astghik Manukyan, spoke about establishing a WRC branch in that village. The participating Yezidi men were critical of this idea since their traditions assign a sedentary role to women. However, the IFES instructors explained the inevitability of women's involvement if they are interested in the development of their community.

Vanadzor Trainers Host Discussion on Inter-Sector Partnerships

IFES hosted a roundtable discussion at the Stepan Sorian Museum in Vanadzor, including 45 participants representing national government, local government, NGOs, business, and mass media. The participants of the roundtable discussed the idea of partnerships between government, business, and NGOs, and agreed such cooperation is essential for the development of their communities. At the end of the meeting, participants decided to organize additional discussions with the involvement of all three sectors to identify interests of each of the sectors as well as to identify concrete mechanisms that will foster sector collaboration.

IFES Cooperates with School of Young Leaders/Organizes Volunteer Action

IFES cooperated on a host of activities involving the School of Young Leaders, a one-month school on human rights and democracy issues funded by the United Nations and administered by the Women's Republican Council, IFES' civic partner. Project Director Jeffrey Swedberg addressed the class of 100 with an overview of IFES' activities. IFES Project Assistant Shoushanik Makarian gave an abbreviated version of her popular "conflict resolution" training. IFES trainers Hayastan Stepanian and Artur Ayzazian conducted a dialogue group on human and children's rights. Around 90 of the school's students (ages 13-14) participated in an IFES-sponsored volunteer action – the cleanup of trash around a number of highly visible high-rise apartment buildings in the Ajapniak neighborhood of Yerevan. The Ajapniak community government provided tools and trucks to the effort. The deputy community leader, two community council members, and numerous presidents of local condominium associations attended the event.

Impact Statement

With the conclusion of its second training session in June, IFES has created a skilled cadre of 16 civic educators. The second stage of IFES' civic strategy – the movement from dialogue groups to initiative groups – has begun. While still in its earliest stages, the strategy for initiative group creation is already bearing fruit, as local citizens realize they can challenge decisions of authorities that they consider unfair.

IFES/Armenia spent the month of July looking both inward and outward. Its newly enlarged staff agreed upon vision and mission statements that will provide a unifying purpose for the program. At the same time, the training teams engaged in projects as varied as the regions in which they work. As of 23 July, IFES Civic Trainers had reached over 4,200 citizens through 205 dialogue and initiative groups. While all worked within the dialogue group-initiative group framework, the subject of each dialogue was as broad as inter-sector partnerships or as narrow as the fine print in a new draft law. Initiatives ranged from the drafting of court briefs to the organization of young neighborhood cleanup squads. All the activi-

ties, however, were unified in their purpose of making Armenians feel they had the power to make a difference in their communities.

AZERBAIJAN

IFES Participates in Council of Europe Conferences

On 7-8 June, IFES/Azerbaijan was invited to join the Government of Azerbaijan delegation to attend the first Council of Europe (COE) Conference on regional local governance in the South Caucasus held in Tbilisi, Georgia. The 29-member Azeri delegation was comprised of five deputies from the Milli Majlis (Members of Parliament); four staff leaders from the Ministry of Justice Methodology Institute Center for Support to Municipalities; municipal chairpersons from various regions; and IFES Azerbaijan Project Manager, Elsie Chang and IFES Project Assistant Victoria Demidova.

This international conference convened municipal representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia working on local governance development. The delegations met to exchange information about progress toward implementing municipal mandates in their respective countries, particularly on the topic of administrative supervision of central government on local self-government. IFES was publicly commended by the Azeri delegation for its work with municipalities in the country.

Municipalities in Azerbaijan have a relatively progressive and supportive legal framework. For example, Azerbaijani municipalities have the right to set municipal tax rates within their boundaries and to directly collect those taxes. Furthermore the municipal councils decide without the intervention of central government about how to allocate funds in their budget. However, all three Caucus countries still face challenges in determining a clear division of functions between the recently elected municipal councils and existent parallel structures of appointed local authorities. Also, all of the Caucasus countries concur that training of elected municipal councilors is still necessary to raise the level of professionalism and knowledge base of the new cadre of municipal officials. The COE re-affirmed its commitment to provide the region with training to assist the development of municipal councils. During the Tbilisi conference the participants also discussed the role of central governments in supporting municipal mandates and the legal remedies available to municipalities through the relevant state juridical bodies.

IFES translated official presentations made by the three senior Azeri delegates from the Parliamentary Permanent Commission on Regional Issues and the Ministry of Justice's Methodology Institute Support Center for Municipalities. These translations were provided to the COE who will post the IFES translations on its website.

Subsequent to the conference held in Georgia, the COE and Azerbaijan Ministry of Justice hosted a two-day conference

in Azerbaijan to discuss in greater detail administrative controls and support demonstrated by the Government of Azerbaijan to strengthen municipalities. Artemy Karpenko, COE Program Specialist, Directorate of Cooperation for Local and Regional Democracy chaired the event along with Akif Rafiyev, Deputy Minister of Justice. IFES Azerbaijan participated in this conference that was held on 20-21 June in Baku. About 60 municipal representatives were invited to attend the event. Senior representatives from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Taxation presented their role in furthering municipal implementation in the country.

Second Phase of IFES Civic Education Program Concluded

IFES civic education training teams held 65 meetings in municipalities around the country during the first two weeks in June, engaging about 1500 citizens, community groups, and local NGOs. This second phase of municipal civic education aimed to expand the work IFES initiated last summer in 65 municipalities to inform both municipal councils and citizens about the municipal legal framework and citizen participation in local self-government.

IFES Azerbaijan Municipal Database Expanded

IFES used information collected from IFES municipal assessments to include an additional 19 municipalities to the IFES database that contained data about the 65 municipalities that IFES initially surveyed in 2000. IFES Azerbaijan also is inputting data from another 44 recently assessed municipalities that were surveyed by two former IFES trainers who have organized their own local NGO called Toward Civil Society. The NGO is conducting civic meetings and municipal assessments modeled on the program designed by Chang who developed the training methodology and municipal assessment surveys during the pilot phase of the municipal project last summer. IFES Azerbaijan and Toward Civil Society will collaborate on future municipal civic education projects and share information and resources.

CEC Announces Election Date for Additional Parliamentary (Milli Majlis) Elections

The Chairman of the CEC announced that additional elections for Aghjabadi and Tovuz single mandate constituencies would be held on 16 November 2001 to fill vacant Parliamentary seats. The death of the Tovuz Member of Parliament, who also served as the deputy Speaker of Parliament, created the need for additional elections in that constituency. In the case of Aghjabadi, the elected Member of Parliament resigned from his seat after the 7 November 2000 elections when he was appointed to become head of the Aghjabadi Executive Authority by President Heydar Aliyev. According to the election calendar approved by the CEC, the nomination of candidates for vacant seats are scheduled to occur no later than 11 October and the registration of candidates should take place no later than 21 October. IFES Azerbaijan continues to work with the CEC on the administration of these additional elections.

Parliament (Milli Majlis) Passes Five New Municipal Laws Before Summer Recess

During an extraordinary session of the Milli Majlis, which extended Parliament's work from 31 May-2 July, the Parliamentary Permanent Commission on Regional Issues drafted and proposed additional municipal legislation for the Parliament's consideration. Three of the new laws were approved by Parliamentarians and passed by the President. The laws that were passed include:

1. The Model Statute on Building Associations
2. The Statute on Rules and Schedule for Transfer of State Property to Municipalities
3. Rules for Municipal Requests

Two other laws were ratified by the Milli Majlis, but have not yet received the President's signature. The laws are The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Management of Municipal Lands" and The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Water Economy of Municipalities."

One additional piece of municipal legislation, "On Local Taxes and Payments," is still in draft stage and will be re-considered during the autumn session of the Milli Majlis that is scheduled to start on 30 September. IFES Azerbaijan translated the enacted laws and draft legislation and will distribute this information to interested bilateral Embassies, USAID, the COE and local NGOs that are working on local governance issues.

Impact Summary

IFES/Azerbaijan participated in two Council of Europe conferences on the topic of local democracy development in the Caucasus at the municipal level. Work on municipal development remains a key activity for IFES in Azerbaijan. IFES met with senior Government of Azerbaijan representatives and elected municipal members to discuss ways in which IFES can assist municipalities achieve standards delineated by the European Charter on Local Self-Government. IFES and the Council of Europe delegates exchanged information about the status of municipal development in Azerbaijan and plan to continue coordination of activities. Additionally IFES is developing the local capacity of an indigenous NGO that is interested in municipal issues and enhancing citizen participation in local self-government. On the local governance front, IFES Azerbaijan continues to work closely with the relevant Government of Azerbaijan policymakers, elected municipal leaders, and with citizens on the legal framework for municipalities and civic education.

GEORGIA

IFES Holds Information Sessions on Draft Unified Election Code

With the completion of the draft Unified Election Code (UEC) and its submission to Parliament for debate in June,

IFES has sought to promote public debate of the contents of the draft legislation. IFES conducted draft election code information seminars in Tbilisi, Khashuri, Gori, Telvai, Rustavi, Tbilisi, Akhalstikhe, and Kutaisi.

To widely publicize the Code's contents, IFES printed 3000 copies of the draft UEC in a tabloid newspaper format and distributed these copies at the information sessions. The printed draft versions include a brief history and outline of the drafting process, an appeal from the NGO coalition involved in the drafting process for the public to provide feedback, an explanatory letter, and a corresponding table that cross references articles from the existing laws to the article where the subject is dealt with in the draft code.

The majority of the information sessions were organized through the IFES civic education partners with participants drawn from a wide cross section of the community. Participants at the sessions asked a wide range of questions about the content of the draft and on a wide range of topics related to election administration. At times it became clear that people were confusing the draft election code with the drafted amendments to the local self-governance law. The information gathered at these sessions formed a sound basis for return visits and further discussion on the content and implementation of the UEC upon adoption.

Ozurgeti By-Elections

On 24 June, IFES staff undertook a technical assessment of the by-election conducted to fill the vacancy in the District of Ozurgeti. The two IFES teams sought to assess the administration of the election both at the District and Precinct levels. The teams particularly examined parts of the process which had been identified as problematic in previous elections. These included: voter identification procedures; authentication of the ballot papers; special voting (voting by voting License, adding of voters onto the Supplementary Voter List, Mobile Voting and etc); and voting and counting procedures in general

Of the five candidates who lodged nominations, two consequently withdrew their nominations, one before the ballot papers were printed and one after which required notices to be posted in all precincts and voting screens. The IFES teams noted that at the 22 precincts visited election officials appeared to be endeavouring to conduct the elections properly. Where problems were identified by either the IFES team or other observers, attempts were made to rectify the problem.

Although a number of complaints have been lodged regarding alleged violations, the IFES teams observed that in virtually all of the 22 precincts they visited election commission staff were making every effort to administer the elections according to the law. Where problems were identified by observers, efforts were made to rectify them. However IFES staff observed that training of election commission staff is

virtually non-existent and continues to recommend that it is critical that proper training of both election commission staff and domestic observers be implemented.

According to the Ozurgeti DEC, 45% of eligible voters participated in the poll. Official results were as follows: Makar Nikolaishvili was nominated with 16,923 votes, Mikhael Gogotishvili received 9,127 and Irina Kipaleishvili who withdrew 23 June received 360 votes. A full report of the IFES assessment is being prepared and will be provided to the District Election Commission Chairman and to the CEC.

CEC and IFES Work to Update CEC Website

IFES continues to assist the CEC in the development of an intranet facility and in the updating of the CEC website. For up-to-date information on the June 24 by-elections in Ozurgeti please refer to the CEC website: www.cec.gov.ge.

IFES is providing the CEC with the necessary technical and financial support to contract a webmaster to develop a database management system for website updates which will enable future updates to be undertaken in a more timely fashion. As originally intended, the website aims to provide election administrators, political parties and voters with timely and relevant information on the election system and all election-related developments.

Local Government Elections – Planning and Assistance to the CEC

IFES is continuing to work with senior management at the CEC as part of the ongoing consultation process for establishing the most appropriate form of technical assistance and support that IFES can provide to the CEC for the forthcoming local government elections and for the longer-term capacity building of the CEC. IFES has engaged in meetings with each department within the CEC in order to clarify the functions of each department and to seek the views of staff on a number of issues related to the development of staff and organizational capacity.

Prior to beginning direct support of the fall local elections, IFES plans to renew its MOU with the CEC. Preparation of a new MOU will be drafted in close consultation with CEC management, who has expressed interest in a new agreement to underpin the work and cooperation between the two organizations.

Civic Education Networking Activities

Through out June and July civic education work continued to be focused on activities and meetings throughout the IFES CEP regional network. IFES staff visited Kutaisi, Akhalstikhe, Borjomi and Khashuri.

Kutaisi

IFES CEP staff worked with the newly formed Coalition of

NGOs in Kutaisi. IFES presented a session on Civic Education activities and led a discussion on possible areas of cooperation, particularly in facilitating active citizenship and fostering improved communication between Sakrebulo and citizens. This group expressed interest in organizing information sessions on the draft election code in Kutaisi.

IFES also presented the Civic Education program objectives and process outline to a new NGO “Children and Students Association” in Kutaisi. The group aims to work with children on civil society issues. Ms Gogoladze led two discussion sessions with children on the themes of “What do I expect from my school?” and “What does democracy mean to me?”.

Akhalstikhe

IFES worked with the Akhalstikhe teacher’s network to assist in further developing the action plan they drafted at the workshop in Likani. The group meets every Monday and is progressing towards establishing a Parents and Teachers Association.

Borjomi

The Teacher’s Network in Borjomi organized a range of activities in Borjomi schools to celebrate Children’s Day on 1 June. IFES attended a number of activities and met with students and teachers. Many have formed ‘volunteer groups’ with student and teacher representation and are working on future activities. They are designing logos, theme songs and organizing poster and ground art competitions on varying themes related to children and schools as part of civil society. Some are already undertaking activities such as tree planting, cleaning their schools and local churches, basic building repairs, and collecting information on school graduates who may be interested in assisting the schools civil society activities.

Khashuri

From 11-15 June, IFES worked closely with NGO partners operating in the Khashuri region. On 11 June IFES presented a session on IFES’ Civic Education work. The presentation included an overview of the concepts discussed at the teachers’ workshop in Likani and the process for implementation. It was agreed that the teachers who attended the workshop would continue to organize information sessions and training for other teachers in the Khashuri area.

During the rest of the week, IFES worked with the NGO “Khashuri Citizen’s Council” conducting introductory discussion groups in Surami (16 participants), Kviskheti (31 participants), Khtsisi (28 participants) and Tsromi (28 participants). At each place they introduced concepts of active citizenship, the importance of forming an ‘active citizen’ group, and how to prepare an action plan that was ‘action’ focused and dealt with something that was able to be addressed by the community.

From 9-13 July, IFES attended a follow-up civic education session in Khashuri. This session aimed to coordinate discussion groups with local NGOs “Khashuri Citizens’ Council” and “Democrat.” Discussions were held in different Sakrebulo (community centers) of the Khashuri region including Osiauri, Tsotskhara, Gomi, Tskhramukha, Khalebi. Participants included Sakrebulo members, students, elders, teachers and other Georgian citizens. USAID representatives attended meetings held in Tskhramukha. IFES continues to work with the “Khashuri Citizens Council” on evaluations and developing future activity plans for civic education activities in the Khashuri region.

Civic Education Training for Discussion and Dialogue Group Leaders

Training of the Discussion and Dialogue Group Leaders from Telavi and Khashuri areas was undertaken from 26 June-1 July in Telavi. Participants were drawn from the Khakheti and Khashuri areas. These two groups sought training to enable them to facilitate “Community Development” based on:

- Reaching citizens in small communities;
- Overcoming the lack of information available to citizens;
- Motivating citizens to be actively involved in their community;
- Establishing dialogue and co-operation between Sakrebulo representatives and citizens.

The training was based on providing information sessions, facilitating group discussions, and activities. The group work sought to explore ways of moving from discussion groups to active citizens, defining community needs, how to deliver information to communities, and the relationship between representatives and citizens. Practice in leading discussions was based on topics such as; ‘One vote – One Ballot’, Election Laws, electing representatives, and the importance of elections to a democratic society.

Participants provided very positive feedback on the format and content of the training. They were also appreciative of being able to work with people from a different region. IFES will use the participants’ evaluations to develop future civic education activities per their feedback.

Impact Summary

IFES continues to support the codification of Georgia’s election laws. IFES is encouraging open public debate of the draft UEC to increase public confidence in the law and consequently in the democratic process. IFES also continues to work to improve the transparency of the CEC. An updated and expanded Internet presence will bolster the CEC’s accessibility and transparency by allowing citizens to obtain credible and useful information about Georgian elections, both past and future. IFES is working closely with the CEC to identify the most appropriate form of technical assistance and

support that IFES can provide for the forthcoming local government elections. Lastly, IFES’ civic education activities continue to promote cooperative action among elected leaders and participants of civil society by informing citizens about local governance and civic responsibility and providing them with the skills to undertake initiatives to solve local problems.

KAZAKHSTAN

Ministry of Education and Science Backs IFES, Signs Protocol of Understanding

Several months of negotiations resulted in the execution of a Protocol of Understanding between IFES and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Protocol enumerated the terms of cooperation of IFES and the Ministry in the areas of secondary school curriculum development and civic education programming in Kazakhstan. The objective of the partnership is to promote the educational development with the use of a civic education course and related activities, and to provide methodological training to teachers. During the signing of the Protocol, Minister Bek-turganov expressed his continuing interest in and support of IFES’ civic education projects and highlighted the importance of increasing the number of participating rural schools.

After the signing the Protocol, IFES representatives met separately with a Ministry of Education official, Ms. Ishanova, to discuss the details of current and future IFES projects. The Ministry expressed its support for IFES programs by issuing updated letters to the regional education departments. These letters requested regional departments to support IFES in identifying new schools, providing trainers from the teacher’s institutes, and assisting with the textbook distribution to the rural and regional level schools. The Ministry also offered some financial support for IFES programs, including assistance in securing the venue for the IFES summer camp in Borovoye, and assistance in distributing the textbooks around the country.

Summer Camps in Kokshetau and Aktau

IFES staff focused on preparations for the summer camps in Aktau and Kokshetau throughout June and July with the first event beginning the last week of July in Kokshetau. The programs of both camps provided students with experience-based training for Student Action Committees (SACs), an activity that allows students to organize and attempt to resolve problems and concerns within their communities.

Teacher’s Training at Summer Camp Should Build on IFES’ Programs

During the summer camp in Kokshetau, teachers who accompanied students were invited to attend a two-day teacher’s training session focusing on the IFES civic education course and related SAC and Student Local Government Day (SLDG) activities. This program introduced the IFES program to teachers who had not previously worked with IFES,

and also brought them together with teachers who already had experience with IFES' programs. As a result, more than 25 teachers from Astana, Kostanai, Petropavlosk, and Oske-men regions learned about IFES' civic education programming from the IFES staff and the experienced teachers. These new teachers will in turn work with their fellow teachers back in their home regions. This ripple effect should provide the best possible first hand instruction to the teachers/trainers who will pass the information along and comprise the next 'class' of civic education instructors.

Student Local Government Day Gets Media Attention and is Highlighted with other Programs

Building on its previous successes, the SLDG project received attention in various arenas during the month of July. First, the local Atyrau newspaper, "Prikaspiyskaya Kommunna", printed a story about the IFES SLGD project, including extracts from some students' essays. This public mention for the program in Atyrau will build further interest in the program and assist in the recognition that students and local government officials deserve for their dedication and hard work. Furthermore, the public notice will attract more attention to IFES' work with this program and facilitate its sustainability in Atyrau.

The SLGD program also played a role at the summer camp in Kokshetau. During the teachers' training, teachers saw a presentation on the program, its practice, history and applicability. To best facilitate the SLGD taking root in new cities, IFES provided the teachers with the SLGD manuals and will make the program a cornerstone for the new schools civic education work during the coming school year.

Impact Summary

During June and July, IFES/Kazakhstan witnessed the busiest program schedule, with summer camps, teachers' training and preparation for the next school year underway. Such intense workload allowed IFES to impact the civic education field with a greater diversity of programs and to appeal to a broader audience. The current schedule also brought a new group of participants to the program, which opens IFES to new opportunities for sustainability. The impact on the students, the primary focus of IFES' programs, was at its most intensive during June and July. Furthermore, with several publications about IFES programming, it was also able to achieve broader publicity. As a result, by having the information in the public eye, IFES impacts a wide range of people, with information about civic education, local governance and academic activities.

In addition, during June and July, IFES/Kazakhstan programs were strengthened by the dedication of formal commitment to IFES/Kazakhstan's programming initiatives by the Ministry of Education. The new relationship, fortified by the Protocol of Understanding, cements the trust, dedication and goals for both parties involved. IFES anticipates that this contracted

form of cooperation between the Kazakhstan field office and the Kazakhstani government will aid its mission to develop Kazakhstani citizens' awareness and involvement in a democratic and free civil society.

KYRGYSTAN

IFES Continues Secondary and Tertiary Level Education Projects

During the months of June and July, IFES/Kyrgyzstan continued its focus on the civic education textbook project in preparation for the forthcoming academic year. The Minister of Education of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Kamilya Sharshekeeva, approved the IFES request to commence the course in selected schools later in the calendar year. The teacher's manual is also currently being edited for introduction this calendar year.

IFES is also continuing to develop a tertiary civic education project. With the assistance of a committee of local authors, IFES is preparing a synopsis of the proposed subjects utilizing the resources of the IFES secondary civics education textbook. The committee members plan to pilot the course in partner universities during the winter semester. IFES is also beginning preparations for a web-designed civics education project to support the tertiary civic education program.

Democracy Summer Camp

At the end of June, IFES/Kyrgyzstan, in partnership with Kyrgyz State National University (KSNU), conducted the first of two student democracy summer camps. Student applications were received from Bishkek universities and the 22 secondary schools. The final list of participants included students representing several universities of Bishkek and school-children from the 22 schools who piloted the IFES civics education textbook. The event was held at the KSNU Issyk-Kul facility and hosted 120 students, local trainers and NGO partners, and IFES representatives. During the camp program, students received instruction from trainers in the areas of political history, establishing an NGO, legal and judicial practice, election procedures, and journalism. In addition, students produced their own newspaper summarizing the events.

IFES is now focusing on the preparation of another camp to be held in the Fergana Valley. The agenda at this event will be modified to include both additional instruction from the IFES civic education course and skill development trainings. The students will receive special trainings including gender program awareness, land reform information, and other issues of particular relevance to residents of the Fergana Valley.

Student Activities

In June and July, IFES conducted its inaugural SLGD events. Two SLGDs were conducted in June; one in Bishkek and the other one as part of the Issyk-Kul summer camp. Ten stu-

dents participated in visiting the Bishkek city council and 20 students visited the Cholpon-Ata council in Issey-Kul rayon.

IFES staff also worked on improving and updating IFES manuals to assist in the future organization of the student-oriented activities. These manuals included an SAC Manual for teachers and tutors, a Local Self-government Day Program, and the Process and Regulations for Students Elections at secondary schools. These manuals were prepared following the trial of student activities at the 22 schools that piloted the IFES textbook during the last academic year.

Public Survey

Following intensive consultations with USAID and embassy staff, IFES has undertaken its first major public survey in Kyrgyzstan in five years. IFES is working with local partner INFOREX to conduct the survey, which is aimed at receiving information on successes in development of civic society in recent years and perspectives of democratic processes. The responses to the survey will make it possible to evaluate the perspectives of democratic transformations. Truthful information on the facts of public development will help international organizations to plan their strategy and implement their assistance programs in Kyrgyzstan more effectively.

Impact Summary

During the first two months of the summer, IFES continued to be intensely involved in rewriting and editing the secondary textbook, tertiary proposal, and a number of manuals. IFES/Kyrgyzstan development of the tertiary civic education course will combine local needs for civic education at universities and western teaching standards and utilize modern educational software technologies. IFES believes that this will be an important step in replacing the current lecturing teaching methods used in Kyrgyzstani educational institutions with more interactive methods of study.

Furthermore, IFES/Kyrgyzstan is pleased to be conducting an important analysis of public opinion that will give international organizations an important tool to design effective programs of democratic development in Kyrgyzstan.

TAJIKISTAN

Democracy Summer Camp

During the months of June and July, IFES staff focused on preparations for the summer camps in Kairakkum of the Sugd Oblast and Karatag of the Dushanbe area, which were to take place on 27 July-5 August and 12-21 August.

During the selection process, students were required to write an essay on the roles and obligations of citizens in Tajikistan. The best essayists were invited to participate in an oral interview. Together with its primary partner NGOs, Mehr and Chashmai Haiyot, IFES/Tajikistan oversaw the selection process to ensure that the most worthy students would receive

invitations. As a result, out of 190 applications received from the Sugd Oblast, 67 students were selected, and out of 125 applications received from the Dushanbe/Areas of Republican Subordination, 56 students were selected.

In addition to identifying students, IFES/Tajikistan conducted a process of selection for trainers to conduct modules during the summer camp on topics including human rights, critical thinking, civil society, women and culture, voters rights and a mock election. After interviewing a list of potential NGOs who could contribute significantly to the democracy summer camps, six were selected from the Sugd Oblast (Fakht, Chashmai Haiyot, Shokhrud, Women and Society, Center for Human Rights, and Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligence) and four were selected from Dushanbe (Social Partnership, Journalists Protection Foundation, Mehr, and Science Foundation). Considerable care was given to each NGO's module in the summer camp program in order to develop them fully and avoid any overlap of lessons. Each module will present a specific theme related to the work of NGOs and the interest of citizens, and will focus on civic rights, social protection, educational issues, the environment, governance, media, gender issues, and other topics. Furthermore, as part of the camp, it was decided to pilot-test a series of student activities from the IFES civic education textbook.

IFES would like to recognize the valuable work of two primary local coordinators, Bihodjal Rakhimova of Chashmai Haiyot and Latif Hadiyev of Mehr, both of whom contributed greatly to administrative and programmatic aspects of the democracy summer camps.

Student Local Government Day Attracts Substantial Media Recognition

In June, a documentary about the SLDG activities that were held in Khojand, Kurghan-Teppe, and Leninski District, was broadcast on four independent television stations, six radio stations, and six newspapers throughout Tajikistan. The documentary included key interviews with participating government officials, teachers, and students. This publicity will help to increase the knowledge of the SLGD in regions where this activity did not take place, and perhaps, inspire them to initiate their own SLGD activity.

Civic Education Textbook Project

In July, IFES/Tajikistan Project Assistant Ramsia Mamadnazarova met with several local authors, selected by IFES to contribute to the secondary Civic Education textbook titled "Citizenship, Participation and Governance: Your role in Tajik Civil society in the 21st century." Authors for each of the 21 chapters were selected in June and have been preparing Tajik-specific text to add to the general information. The textbook contains a variety of topics, including human rights, civil society legal norms, governance, elections, gender issues, nationalism, conflict prevention, and economic rela-

tions, and uses a more interactive course methodology. Following editing and translation into Tajik and Russian, the textbook will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for the final approval, and pilot testing is expected to begin in the fall of 2001. Several of the student activities are already being tested at the two democracy summer camps in order to gauge their effectiveness with the students and assess what, if any, improvements in the design and teacher training will be necessary prior to pilot usage in schools.

Political Party Development: IFES Conducts Leadership Skills & Capacity Building Conference

From 18-19 July, IFES conducted the latest in its series of political party development events, holding a two-day conference to discuss strategies for leadership skills and capacity building with representatives of parties and movements in Tajikistan. Representatives of all registered parties as well as many non-registered parties and movements were in attendance.

IFES/Tajikistan, in cooperation with OSCE and National Association of Political Scientist of Tajikistan, held a Political Party Development Conference on 18-19 July in Dushanbe. The topic of the conference was "Leadership Skills/Capacity Building" and "Long Term Planning." Representatives from all five registered political parties (Peoples Democratic Party of Tajikistan, Communist Party of Tajikistan, Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan, Socialist Party of Tajikistan and Democratic Party of Tajikistan) as well as leaders and representatives of Tajikistan Public Movements (Movement of National Unity and Revival of Tajikistan, "Jumbish", Congress of National Unity of Tajikistan and "La'li Badakhshon") participated in the conference.

Moderators of the seminar were Philip Griffin, IFES Political Party Consultant, Yuri Isaev a speaker/guest and political consultant from Russia, and two representatives of OSCE. The conference brought together political party representatives from Sughd oblast, Khatlon oblast and Dushanbe. The conference produced a high level exchange of views with hot discussions on samples and experiences in various areas of the country. Party representatives had a good chance to come together, discuss political issues, share experiences, and listen. Yuri Isaev presented a module to participants focusing on image making and the image of politicians in mass media, with a focus on television. Isaev shared detailed information on techniques of preparation and conduction of pre-election campaigns, taking into account demographic research, history of the constituency, main political problems in each region, logistical issues, proxies, types of voter outreach, working with the mass media, and the election day work itself.

During the small working group sessions, participants divided into four conditional parties. They created a long-term calendar plan from the present stage to the date next regularly-scheduled National Elections in 2005. During the

group presentations many questions were raised by participants about timing issues, image making, and organization of local party structure. At the end of the seminar, representatives of the mass Media (TV Poitakht) interviewed participants and later aired a 15-20 minute TV program outlining the results of the event.

IFES conducted other follow-up work to spread information about the event and a documentary shot by the First Tajik Press Club was expected. The event will be shown on nationwide television on 7 August. The Executive Director of the First Press Club, Daler Amonov, also delivered a copy of the Press Release that was distributed in both Russian and Tajik concerning IFES' political party event in July.

Impact Summary

Final preparations were put in place for the two IFES Democracy Summer Camps for 10th and 11th grade students in Sughd Oblast and the Dushanbe-Kurghonteppa area. IFES worked with its teams of trainers to complete the training modules, which will provide interactive instruction and critical thinking on civil society, volunteerism, political processes, gender issues and civic rights. The concept of interactive methodology and critical thinking is new for Tajikistani students, and the use of such methods could prove to be a watershed in the student education program. Such a methodology has also been proposed for the 9th grade civic education textbook/course project. The Teacher's Manual for this project was completed in July, and particular onus will be put upon training teachers in the use of these practices, and in integrating the new material into their traditional lesson plan formats. Local authors continued to prepare chapters for the text following the outlines established earlier, and once completed, the chapters will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for review.

The political party development conference was well-received by all participants, and a genuine exchange of views took place during the training component of the event. Smaller parties and movements used the opportunity to express their opinions to representatives of the larger parties, particularly as concerns registration issues. A full update on the status of political parties in Tajikistan will be published by IFES in printed format by September. At present five parties are legally registered. Others are attempting to complete the registration process and found the conference training very useful in terms of planning organizational strategies for the short and long term. Future events in IFES' PPD program include a gender/youth conference in Khojand and one more group training session on party politics in Dushanbe. Both events are scheduled for September.



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

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IFES provides technical assistance in the promotion of democracy worldwide and serves as a clearinghouse for information about democratic development and elections. Since its inception in 1987, the Foundation has worked in more than 100 countries. IFES activities are made possible, in part, by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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