



**EURASIA FOUNDATION**

**Fiscal Year 2007  
Mid Year Report**

Presented to the  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
by the Eurasia Foundation

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## **I. Introduction**





## Introduction

### EURASIA FOUNDATION

#### Overview

*Excerpts from the President's Report to the Board of Trustees – April 2007*

During the first half of fiscal year 2007 (FY07), the Eurasia Foundation has succeeded in registering its representative office in Russia under the new NGO law, emerged unscathed from a hostile tax audit of our local entity in Belarus, and raised more than \$2.5 million in non-core funds. Amid these encouraging developments, we face serious challenges, notably our region's mercurial politics. Constitutional paralysis in Ukraine erupted into a full crisis with President Yushchenko's call for early elections; hunger strikes by the opposition in Kyrgyzstan threatened to grow into riots; and the sudden death of the Armenian Prime Minister precipitated a showdown between the ruling faction and a new political party in advance of May elections. In Russia, the approach of parliamentary and presidential elections in less than a year complicates an already tense political climate, and in Azerbaijan our application to register, a local entity may take as long as a year to work its way through the bureaucracy.

Despite political turmoil and bureaucratic impediments—, which not only increase the difficulty of operating a program but can also limit the spectrum of programs possible—our work advances. The Foundation recently completed a comprehensive assessment of the training of public officials in Ukraine, and consolidated its leadership position in anti-corruption initiatives in Moldova. We have expanded our successful labor migration program in Kyrgyzstan, and launched a program to improve municipal management in Azerbaijan. Even though we were forced by the government to close our office in Uzbekistan last year, we continue to work there, funding a public advocacy center in Bukhara, the premier business school in Tashkent, and an Uzbek business incubator association. In Russia, the Foundation's regional media program witnessed the resignation of the entire editorial staff of one client newspaper when the publisher tried to kill a local corruption story; the staff printed the story in a new publication, which already has a circulation in the thousands. We are moving ahead with registration of the East Europe Foundation (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova) and the Eurasia Partnership Foundation (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and are planning launches for the fall (see localization update, below).

#### Localization

Eurasia Foundation is now midway through a process of creating independent local foundations throughout the Eurasia region. In 2004, we established the New Eurasia Foundation in Russia, in 2006, we launched the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia, and plans are underway to open the Eurasia Partnership Foundation in the South Caucasus and the East Europe Foundation in Ukraine and Moldova this year.

These four new foundations will join with Eurasia Foundation, their American counterpart, to form the Eurasia Foundation Network. At its center, the Eurasia Foundation Network will consist of five partners—EFDC, the New Eurasia Foundation of Russia (FNE), the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA), the Eurasia Partnership Foundation of the Caucasus (EPF), and the East Europe Foundation of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova (EEF). Updates on the progress made in running, developing, registering and launching of each of EFDC's local partners follows.

**New Eurasia Foundation of Russia (FNE):** FNE's board of directors approved a new institutional development strategy in FY07. The strategy defines FNE's general approach for the development of the Foundation and determines key strategic areas for improvement, including expansion of the program portfolio, collaboration with the Federal and regional authorities, financial sustainability, and internal capacity development. FNE's strategy will be reviewed annually to assess progress and introduce necessary revisions to the overall strategic approach, the strategic goals and to the planned activities for the next year.

FNE's revised Charter was re-registered by the Ministry of Justice. The revisions endorse the creation of a Finance Committee, and a Nominations Committees. They also delegate more authority to the Executive Committee, and reduce the number of Board members from 19 to 11. There have already been several meetings of the FNE Finance and Nominations Committees.

**Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia:** EFCA-Kyrgyzstan completed its first financial year and is preparing for its year-end audit. In consultation with its Audit and Finance Committee, EFCA selected a local firm to conduct the general 2006 audit of EFCA-Kyrgyzstan. EFCA also selected KPMG to perform the required A-133 audit of US Government funds. EFCA-Kazakhstan officially launched operations in February. EF transferred most of its donor and grantee agreements over to EFCA, and EFCA hired all of EF's local staff.

**Eurasia Partnership Foundation of the Caucasus (EPF):** Plans are underway to open the Eurasia Partnership Foundation in the South Caucasus this year, and we have made substantial progress toward that goal. Our application for registration has been approved in Georgia, and applications are pending in Armenia and Azerbaijan. During the first half of FY07 EF also identified potential board members and received positive indications from the Swedish government about our proposal for \$3 million in core funding for the new foundation.

**East Europe Foundation of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova (EEF):** The East Europe Foundation was registered as an international charitable foundation in Ukraine in May 2007. During the first, half of FY07 EF also identified potential board members and sought core support from USAID and other donors. Plans are underway for a September 2007 launch.

EF plans to launch a Moldovan foundation in 2008. Registered in 2005 and operational since April 2006, the New Eurasia Establishment (NEE), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Eurasia Foundation, successfully convinced the Ministry of Economy to operate tax free in Belarus.

### **Program Highlights**

EF's Azerbaijan office has teamed with the International Finance Corporation to expand its Corporate Social Responsibility program in a new direction. The *Corporate Governance Project* will train journalists in investigative techniques and in how to write a quality investigative business story covering corporate governance issues. Because of the efforts of organizations like the Eurasia Foundation in Moldova, the process to elect a Governor of the Gagauz-Yeri Autonomy (Gagauzia) was widely considered free and fair and the people elected the opposition candidate, Mihai Formuzal, as their Governor. The National Endowment for Democracy contributed \$30,600 to EF's free and fair elections programs in Gagauzia.

Implementing the second phase of a major *Community Development Program* with co-funding from Altria Group and Philip Morris, Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA)

helped a rural district in Kazakhstan increase the number of active NGOs from three to 28. The project has improved the financial sustainability of NGOs by providing them with training, consultation and by developing a strategic plan for a forum of NGOs. The eight initial grantee projects have improved the situation for a wide range of beneficiaries from disabled people to youth to repatriated Kazakhs through a range of different activities. The Altria Group/Philip Morris Kazakhstan has contributed \$340,000 to this project to date.

In Ukraine, Eurasia Foundation commissioned a major strategic assessment of the present state of public administration education and training and the prospects for launching a capacity building institution for public officials. The assessment report is available in English upon request.

Through its *Developing Municipal Performance Indicators* program in Azerbaijan, EF is working to create a standard system by which to evaluate objectively a municipality's performance according to its legal responsibilities and stated goals. With assistance from a team of local experts, EF developed a comprehensive set of more than 100 indicators that may be used to evaluate the performance of municipalities in Azerbaijan. The indicators are based on extensive research into international best practices in the monitoring of local self-government institutions and existing legislation in Azerbaijan.

Once gathered, this objective data on individual municipal performance will allow both central and local governments to identify areas where professional staff development is necessary, to set targets and benchmarks for achieving goals and help central budget planners target their allocations to municipalities that are performing well. In addition, a systemized method of evaluating municipal performance will raise the confidence of national and international funding agencies to work directly with local government structures.

In Russia, the New Eurasia Foundation has developed three model projects in partnership with the cities of Tambov, Suzdal and Murom. These projects represent various approaches to improving vocational education in the Russian regions. A vocational education management model will be implemented in the Tambov region that will help to modernize the management infrastructure of formal vocational education system; a model Hospitality and Tourism Continuing Education Center will be established in Suzdal to help address the lack of a qualified workforce, and the lack of access to quality vocational schools; and a modern metal work curriculum will be developed for Murom to revitalize the quality of vocational education in the Vladimir region and better equip large number of young people with practical and applied skills. Negotiations with Regional Administrations are currently underway to contribute up to \$ 90,000 to this project.



## **II. Development Update**





## Development Update

### EURASIA FOUNDATION

#### Non-US Government Fundraising

In the first half of FY07, the EF network raised and leveraged more than \$2.5 million in non-USG funds for its programs in the former Soviet Union. Of the \$2.5 million, nearly \$1.1 million came from European and private US sources and \$1.4 million was raised and leveraged by legacy institutions from corporations, foundations, international development organizations and governments. In addition, \$1.08 million was awarded to EF from non-USAID USG sources for programs in the former Soviet Union and \$1.7 million was awarded for programs outside the region.

The following table represents the total fundraising in the first half of FY07 for each region and legacy institution:

<b>Region/Legacy Institution</b>	<b>FY07 Non-USG Raised and Leveraged</b>
South Caucasus	\$294,200
Central Asia/EFCA	\$709,379
Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova	\$411,685
Unrestricted	\$19,898
Miscellaneous	\$62,854
Russia/New Eurasia Foundation	\$548,690
EERC	\$464,885
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,511,591</b>

#### *South Caucasus*

**EF Armenia** won a \$280,997 grant award from United Nations Democracy Endowment Fund (UNDEF) for a 2-year anti-corruption program that focuses on increasing the role of Armenia's government, civil society organizations and media in the fight against corruption. UNDEF is a new fund within the UN, and made its first awards in January 2007.

#### *Central Asia*

**EFCA** has received 30 awards in the first half of FY07, totaling \$408,156. They have also submitted 36 proposals, bringing their pipeline figure to over \$6.2 million. EF has also continued to raise funds for Central Asia for those projects which require a US 501(c)(3). Thus far in FY07, EF has raised \$301,223 for projects in Central Asia and there is over \$2 million in the pipeline from EF efforts to raise funds for Central Asia.

**EFCA Kazakhstan** received awards from Altria/Philip Morris Kazakhstan, Chevron Corporation and ExxonMobil, totaling \$190,936. This funding was for three projects: the Community Development program, the Chevron Artisan Support program and Ecotourism Education/Training program. In addition, EFCA Kazakhstan was awarded a \$136,353 grant from Nurenergoservices LLC, a subsidiary of AES Corporation. These funds represent an extension of an on-going program and will cover the year two activities of the Leadership Learning Center (LLC) in Ust-Kamenogorsk.

#### ***Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova***

**EF Ukraine** secured \$240,000 in direct funding from the Royal Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a program in municipal energy savings. This is the first time that EF Ukraine has received direct funding from the Netherlands. Also in Ukraine, the OSCE provided \$117,000 in direct funding for the fourth year of the program Local Economic Development in Rural Areas and Small Towns.

#### **Non-USAID USG Awards**

In the third quarter of FY07, the Department of State's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) awarded EF an additional \$1.08 million for programs in the former Soviet Union. These awards, not reflected in the totals above for the first half of the fiscal year, are for two programs:

- *The Islam and a Democratic Azerbaijan* program (\$484,882) will help develop and support an organic grass-roots movement of formal and informal religious communities working throughout Azerbaijan to promote democratic reforms and address critical social needs. This program will create mechanisms for scholars, religious leaders and civil society professionals to explore contemporary issues of Islam and democracy; raise public awareness about the compatibility of Islam and democracy in Azerbaijan; and foster partnerships between formal and informal religious groups, the government and members of civil society to collaborate on initiatives that promote democratic principles throughout the country. The implementation of the program has been delayed due to objections from the Azeri government. EF/Baku is working with the Embassy there on a way to overcome this hurdle.
- *The Central Asia News Service (CANS)* program (\$600,000) will establish a service covering four countries of Central Asia? EF will work a Kyrgyz news service to train and recruit 30 correspondents in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as southern Kyrgyzstan. These correspondents will produce an average of 100 fact-based news items per day, which will be posted on a new CANS website. In addition to increasing access to news from the predominantly Muslim countries of Central Asia, this project will lift journalism standards and help present a more balanced picture of Central Asia to the world.

In addition to the non-US government fundraising listed above, EF raised \$1.7 million in US government funds by responding to grant competitions (Requests for Applications) during the first half of FY07. This total includes the following awards:

- EF received \$850,000 from the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) of the Department of State for the expansion of the Iran Regional Third Sector Initiative; and
- EF's China Program received \$778,000 from DRL for a program to create a Local Information Center in Qinghai, China.

Under a grant from the Middle East Partnership Initiative of State's Near East Bureau, the Eurasia Foundation also continued to help with the design and launch of a foundation for the Middle East (the Foundation for the Future) and received grant extensions of its original six-month grant in July and November 2006.



### **III. The Grantmaking/Operating Programs, and Evaluation and Results**





## Grantmaking/Operating Programs

EURASIA FOUNDATION

### South Caucasus

#### *Armenia*

In the first half of FY07, the Eurasia Foundation invested \$536,790 in USG funding on programs benefiting Armenia. Highlights include:

A targeted grant competition to promote **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** practices among small and medium-sized enterprises to resolve business-related disputes led to: the establishment of the first arbitration court in Armenia; the training of over 500 entrepreneurs, lawyers and students; the provision of free on-line and telephone consultations on mediation; the introduction of a course on mediation into the curricula of the Russian-Armenian Slavonic University in Yerevan; and the introduction of revisions to the existing law on arbitration.

One of EF's partners in the **Armenian Media Distribution Network** trained staff at newspaper distribution centers in the Armavir, Aragatsotn, Kotayk, Tavush and Ararat regions in innovative distribution models and created computer software that tracks sales and reader interests. After just one year, the average circulation of newspapers distributed through the network increased by more than 1,000 copies per issue, or by about 20 percent. In 2007, EF plans to build upon these successes by supporting the establishment of additional distribution agencies in regions where access to print media remains difficult.

Through the **Inter-Municipal Networking Program**, EF provided grants to six municipalities and four inter-community unions (serving a total of 84 communities) in Armenia in 2005. Each network links larger municipalities with smaller communities with fewer resources. Following the establishment of these networks, EF conducted a survey of the networks' capacity needs. This survey revealed a strong interest among municipal staff for more information on financial management and on the Law on Local Self-Government. In response, EF organized a series of training-of-trainers sessions on these two subjects for 19 municipal staff, who in turn trained 560 local government employees from their municipal networks.

EF launched a new and innovative pilot program designed to strengthen capacity for improved performance and service delivery among six Armenian NGOs. The **Development of Organizational Capacity (DOC)** program uses a combined approach of grant support and ongoing mentoring and consulting. EF works closely with each grantee to identify key capacity shortfalls and draft an action plan to address those needs. Among the identified capacity areas are: marketing and fundraising strategies; communications development; improved planning and evaluation procedures; and involvement of new members and volunteers. As each NGO implements its action plan, EF will continue to monitor its results. In the coming months, EF will oversee program implementation and at the completion of the program, a follow-up DOC assessment will be conducted to measure progress.

## *Azerbaijan*

In the first half of FY07, the Eurasia Foundation invested \$388,735 in USG funding on programs benefiting Azerbaijan through five grants and other activities, including operating programs. Azerbaijan highlights include:

A mid-term evaluation of the **Youth Fund Program** in Azerbaijan demonstrated the following impact from the first 12 months of the program:

- 79 young people aged 17-30 implemented 28 youth-led community projects in rural regions of Azerbaijan
- 17 Youth Fund committee members received new or improved employment opportunities after beginning the program
- 20 new positions have been created as a result of youth-led community projects, with 50% of those positions filled by young women
- 29 media products were produced highlighting the Youth Fund, including 10 regional television appearances by local committee members
- Approximately 280 young people living in the communities benefited from 28 projects in rural Azerbaijan

The office is now finalizing 20-minute and 10-minute documentary films about the program, which will air on Azerbaijan's national television channel this spring.

The **Municipal Management & Transparency Program** in Azerbaijan has publicly launched its first set of 116 performance indicators to measure the effectiveness of municipalities in key social, economic and environmental areas. Once finalized, EF will develop computer software and a training manual for the municipalities to use in implementing the indicator system. Three municipalities have been identified as pilot regions and the Ministry of Justice has expressed interest in spreading the model to additional regions of the country.

EF and its grantee, the **Azerbaijan Microfinance Association (AMFA)** began benchmarking the Azerbaijani microfinance sector, with an eye toward providing greater access to funding and promoting increased transparency. Eight microfinance institutes and one bank qualified for the benchmarking study and registered at the Microfinance Information Exchange Market (a global web-based microfinance information platform). Bringing together business leaders and government officials, AMFA organized Azerbaijan's third Microfinance Conference. The project also organized training sessions on microfinance software, a working group on social performance management, and concluded with the presentation of the first ever benchmarking study report on Azerbaijan.

## *Georgia*

In the first half of FY07, the Eurasia Foundation spent \$758,760 in USG funding on programs benefiting Georgia through four grants and other activities, including operating programs.

The Georgia office expects to be engaged over the next 18 months in the following program areas: the facilitation of public/private partnerships, the improvement of NGO and media capacity to engage in civic monitoring, the promotion of tourism, and the introduction of the Youth Fund project.

In February, EF-Georgia hosted a workshop on the status of **civic monitoring** in Georgia that was attended by over 25 prominent NGO representatives. The workshop sought to determine the direction for improving civic monitoring practices in Georgia and to build a consensus on the

scope and methods of civic monitoring. In July, EF-Georgia hosted a roundtable meeting on civic monitoring with participation of NGO representatives and state officials to facilitate a dialogue and cooperation. In July, EFG announced RFP to solicit proposals from NGOs in the field of civil monitoring.

EF-Georgia's programs in the fields of **Tourism and Vocational Education** have capitalized on strong the relationships with the government and are a natural complement to one another. The focus of these projects is to improve the quality of vocational education, specifically in the field of tourism and service provision. One grant will support the newly established Tourism Multi-disciplinary College, which is the first such school to be set up under the new system of vocational education developed by the Ministry of Education and Science. The project will develop curricula and study materials for short training courses for bartenders, cooks, confectioners, waiters, housekeepers, hotel receptionists, and hotel reservation employees. The school is expected to become a source of professionally trained staff for hotels, restaurants, and travel companies to support Georgia's growing tourism industry.

In February, EF organized a **donor coordination meeting on tourism development** in Georgia with the Department of Tourism. The Department presented their plans to develop a master tourism strategy to an audience of over 45 representatives from various donor organizations and NGOs. EF will select a European consultant affiliated with a well-known school of tourism management to help the faculty of the new vocational school develop its curriculum.

EF-Georgia also recently published a book, "Lessons from the Real World," that is a collection of five **business cases based on Georgian companies**. Georgian business professors and consultants who received special training in case writing developed the cases. Their work was evaluated and commented on by experts from the Central and East European Management Development Association. This program was a first step in the creation of comprehensive material that ties business theory to local Georgian business practice and simultaneously improved the case writing skills of local professors and business consultants.

The **Georgian National Museum**, with EF support, completed a major project to improve its internal management systems, especially in the areas of finance and accounting, human resource management and strategic planning. The museum underwent an extensive revision of staff and policy under a new strategic plan that is in line with international museum management practices. The strategic plan is now being implemented, and the museum is undergoing dramatic renovations to improve visitor services and modernize exhibition areas. The museum has also signed a major agreement with the Smithsonian Institution and attracted support from BP to construct a state-of-the-art auditorium/lecture hall that can be used for public events.

To promote the work of Georgian textile artists and encourage the preservation of Georgia's traditional crafts, the **Georgian Textile Group (GTG)**, a volunteer-led organization of professional artists, researchers, art historians and ethnographers was formed in 1993. EF's Georgia office financed a GTG project that taught over 200 women in Georgia's mountainous regions traditional skills such as making felt and carpets and trained them in updating designs to make them more marketable. As a result, participants formed several artisan groups capable of independently marketing their creations. In October 2006, the GTG participated in the National Geographic "All Roads" Folk Art Market in Washington, DC. Total profits for their artwork were over \$7,000, which is nearly four times the average annual salary in Georgia. This success encouraged the GTG to apply for entry at the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market in New Mexico, the largest international folk art market in the United States. The event, which took place July 14-15, attracted numerous visitors, including trade buyers from major retailers. The GTG's artisans enjoyed the opportunity to share their creative spirit

with other participants and were pleased with the success of their products, which generated over \$12,000 in sales.

### ***South Caucasus Cooperation Program***

In 1998, Eurasia Foundation launched the South Caucasus Cooperation Program (SCCP), a unique initiative to promote and strengthen cross-border partnerships among civic activists, entrepreneurs, journalists, professional associations, educators, and other engaged citizen groups of the South Caucasus. SCCP-sponsored partnerships address shared regional challenges by developing common approaches as well as by exchanging experiences and innovative ideas. SCCP awarded six grants in the first half of FY07. Highlights include:

SCCP's **European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Civic Dialogue Project** promotes regional cooperation within the framework of the ENP. The project's goals are to foster dialogue and collaboration between government and civil society on public policy issues common to all three ENP Action Plans and to raise awareness of the concrete benefits of the ENP process among the general public. The project's inaugural conference in October identified waste management, food standards and safety, and vocational education training (VET) as the research topics for three trilateral policy reports. During the following six months, SCCP organized three policy forums to set the research agenda for each policy report with input from local stakeholders and international experts. Research tenders on all three policy topics were launched between January and May 2007. Research on waste management is already underway; research on VET and food standards and safety will start in August and September. SCCP is also developing a complementary media component that includes television and radio programs. In December, the first of the four video documentaries was completed and broadcast, and the second on waste management is currently under production. Three of the six radio programs – one on each of the research topics – were produced and broadcast between December and May.

SCCP launched the **South Caucasus Export Catalog** project in February. The project aims to contribute to the region's economic development by enabling local export-oriented businesses in all three countries to enhance their business profile among prospective foreign partners inside and outside the region. The partners will develop high-quality print, electronic, and web-based versions of a catalog that will feature comprehensive information on producers and service providers located in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. Unlike simple business-to-business directories that typically provide only contact information; the South Caucasus Export Catalog will provide potential importers with such critical information as product specifications (photos, certifications, weights and volumes, and packing information), delivery terms, and contact coordinates of representation offices in other countries. SCCP organized two planning sessions in March and June with all three partners and with representatives from AmCham-Georgia, GTZ, and the USAID-sponsored SME Support Project. Participants developed and reviewed the implementation of project benchmarks linked to funding disbursements and discussed ideas and opportunities for promoting and distributing the catalog as widely as possible. The anticipated publication date of the catalog is December 2007.

In October 2006, SCCP began support to a trilateral grant on **consumer rights and food safety**. The three partners jointly elaborated a common methodology for monitoring suspicious food products. The first round of monitoring and laboratory examinations were completed in January, the results of which are being used to develop outreach activities and legislative changes. The Georgian partner organized a meeting at the Ombudsman's Office on food labeling and developed a radio program on consumer rights, while the Armenian partner started developing a

newspaper article and a televised public service announcement. All three partners have worked with their respective legislatures and line ministries to introduce changes in consumer rights laws.

SCCP also began funding apicultural associations in all three countries to disseminate **modern beekeeping practices**. During the past six months, the three partners developed and exchanged training materials and implemented an initial set of in-country seminars. Ten participants from each country have been identified to participate in an up coming series of regional trainings, starting in April 2007. The partners have also begun developing a regional website and bulletin that catalogues beekeeping farms in all three countries.

## Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova

### *Belarus*

Registered in 2005 and operational since April 2006, the New Eurasia Establishment (NEE), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Eurasia Foundation, successfully convinced the Ministry of Economy to allow it to operate tax free in Belarus. EF also continues to support cross-border programs benefiting Belarus from its Kyiv Regional Office.

In the first half of FY07, NEE and the Eurasia Foundation spent \$195,339 in USG funding on programs benefiting Belarus through grant and operating program activities. The following are among EF's accomplishments in the first half of the year in Belarus:

- NEE's **student legal clinics program** rolled out to new universities, bringing the total to 11. A new manual ensured that a broader audience could learn techniques on representing the interests of their clients, primarily vulnerable populations who cannot afford to retain a lawyer.
- A master class on **business education** provided over 20 business school professors new opportunities to learn modern business education practices from their colleagues from throughout the country and from other countries.
- Exiled to Lithuania, the **European Humanities University's** distance-learning operations expanded significantly in its first full year of operations, registering over 2,000 on-line students in courses currently banned in Belarus.
- Educators and education policymakers gathered at NEE's sixth international conference **Contemporary Business Education in Belarus: Meeting the Challenges** in April 2007. Among the issues discussed at the conference was the overall need for better adoption of information technology. Participants emphasized the value of introducing distance learning and other computer-based methods into Belarus' business education curriculum.
- NEE's second annual business forum, **Belarus' Innovative Economy: Challenges, Management Technologies and Effectiveness**, brought together over 300 business leaders, education professionals and students in April 2007. The Belarusian Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister of Economy, along with a number of other high-profile government representatives, were invited to speak at the event. International experts from Greece, Ukraine, Russia and Netherlands attended the forum, providing commentary on international business trends.

### *Moldova*

In the first half of FY07, the Eurasia Foundation spent \$194,374 in USG funding on programs benefiting Moldova through one grant and other activities, including operating programs. In Moldova, programmatic accomplishments include:

- EF's support of **non-partisan monitoring and voter education** led to relatively free and fair elections in the Gagauzia Autonomous Region. The Gagauzia elections are often a bell-weather for how the government will behave during subsequent elections. EF conducted a coordinated set of activities during the Gagauzia elections in December 2006 including a parallel vote tabulation, comprehensive and detailed

- education campaign for voters and election officials, non-partisan long- and short-term monitoring, reporting on any violations of existing laws and media monitoring.
- The president of Moldova attended the opening of two new **European Interactive Centers** in regional capitals. The Interactive Centers are Moldova's first regional clearinghouses for information and discussion on the benefits and responsibilities of closer integration with the EU. The centers act as a platform for discussion and interaction among nongovernmental organizations, local public authorities, journalists and business groups about the benefits and responsibilities of closer cooperation with Moldova's neighbors.
  - EF facilitated the formation of the **Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections** (Coalition 2007). In preparation for general local elections this June, the Coalition trained media monitoring organizations and deployed approximately 2,000 election observers. The Coalition witnessed and reported a number of election violations by authorities, while its regular media monitoring reports pointed out biases that led some media outlets to alter their positions. One particularly successful strategy, parallel vote tabulation, allowed the Coalition to report vote counts before the election officials. By announcing their results first, the Coalition was able to head off any attempt at fabricating votes.
  - In June, representatives from Coalition 2007 and EF's Moldova office presented their observations at an event jointly organized by the National Endowment for Democracy, the Moldova Foundation and EF. After their presentations, they were joined in a panel discussion by David Kramer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs; William Hill, former OSCE Ambassador to Moldova and Mary Pendleton, the first US Ambassador to Moldova. While in Washington, the Coalition also met with representatives from the State Department, USAID and United States Congress to discuss democratic reform and civil society development.

## *Ukraine*

In the first half of FY07, the Eurasia Foundation spent \$477,435 in USG funding on programs benefiting Ukraine through seven grants and other activities, including operating programs. EF's accomplishments in Ukraine from first half of the year include:

- New energy efficient heating systems were installed in schools in the rural Khorostyshiv region under the **Municipal Partnerships for Energy Use** program. An EF grant helped pay for the first boiler, but community contributions paid for other village schools based on the achievements of this successful pilot. The Municipal Partnerships program is currently working in four communities; funding from the Netherlands will roll the program out to three more areas.
- The release of the **Strategic Assessment of Public Administration Education**, conducted by Indiana University, led to further discussions among donors and government officials regarding the urgency for renewed interventions for reforming public administration education in Ukraine. The Assessment was praised as the most comprehensive of its kind in Ukraine.
- EF arranged a **study tour for 12 Ukrainian civil servants** who will participate in internships at public administration institutions in Poland and Hungary this summer. Participants will take part in an orientation in Krakow, and then spend five weeks in practical training with their Polish and Hungarian counterparts. Upon their return, participants will meet again to discuss the differences

between other European administrative practices and those of Ukraine, and how they will apply their newfound knowledge once they return to work. In addition to its practical benefits, it is hoped that the internship will help start the debate on public administration reform and decentralization in Ukraine.

- EF wrapped up and presented the results of the **Sustainable Solutions for the Needs of the Disabled initiative** (created with Phillip Morris Ukraine) in March 2007. The initiative supported five Kharkiv-based NGOs. Through the efforts of one NGO, 491 people with disabilities found jobs, while another 163 attended training centers to develop business and vocational skills. Another EF grantee established, and continues to operate, a center for visually impaired entrepreneurs and has developed plans to provide legal services to people with visual impairments. Seeking to increase disabled youth's access to information technology, one grantee launched a computer-training center with help from the local community, which donated 34 secondhand computers.

## Central Asia Regional Program Office

### *Uzbekistan*

In the first half of FY07, EF invested \$460,434 in USG funding on programs benefiting Uzbekistan through two grants and other activities, including operating programs.

Following the closure of EF's Tashkent office in March 2006, the EF Regional Programs Office (RPO), based in Almaty, reinvigorated its efforts to engage Uzbek beneficiaries throughout Central Asia.

The RPO's biggest focus is on **labor migration**. With funding from the Dutch Government, EF is also planning to extend the work of its Public Advocacy Center in Bukhara, which is providing legal services to vulnerable groups and conducting highly successful strategic litigation in a number of areas.

RPO also continues to strengthen **Kelajak Ilmi International Business School**, funding books, computers and a scholarship program and continuing to seek resources to help the school with a building purchase.

EF is also working with an Uzbek **business incubator association** on promoting SME trade, providing access to practical and analytical information via [www.uzngo.info](http://www.uzngo.info) (with support from OSI), and maintaining a **database on Uzbek NGOs** to accurately track NGO closures and monitor the state of civil society in the country.



*For information on programs in Russia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan, please see the section entitled, “Large Grants, Legacy Institutions and Special Projects.”*





## Evaluation and Results

**EURASIA FOUNDATION**

### **Evaluation**

As new programs got underway in FY07, EF and its network affiliates refined our understanding of beneficiary needs utilizing both needs assessments and baseline evaluations. The intensive use of upfront research reflects the continued shift away from grantmaking toward operational programs and the resulting need for a more thorough understanding of the challenges facing a particular sector. In the first half of FY07, EF spent more than \$200,000 (3.26 percent of its total spending) on evaluation.

In the first half of FY07, EF and its affiliates implemented 8 baseline and needs assessments, 3 impact and summative evaluations, 1 mid-term/process evaluation, and 1 institutional assessment and produced 2 research papers. For the complete list of evaluations completed in the first half of FY07, please refer to Appendix 1. Two illustrative evaluations are highlighted below.

#### ***Needs Assessment on Public Administration Education and Training in Ukraine***

As part of its ongoing support for public administration reform in Ukraine, EF sought to strengthen the capacity of Ukrainian civil servants by improving the system of public administration education and training (PAET). However, before launching the new initiative, EF required a more detailed understanding of the structure of PAET in Ukraine. Given the enormous resources needed to modernize the PAET system, the Foundation also recognized that it could make a useful contribution by providing other donors with robust information about the challenges facing the system. EF contracted with Indiana University (IU) to assess the needs of the PAET system and to propose action-oriented strategies for reform. IU conducted the assessment from July 2006 to February 2007. The assessment focused on potential institutional interventions and responses by EF and other donor organizations to build capacity and address training gaps in Ukraine's approach to PAET.

The assessment noted a number of critical deficiencies in the current PAET system in Ukraine. The system includes the following institutions: the National Academy of Public Administration, the Institute for Training of Senior Civil Servants, more than 25 Regional Training Centers and about 50 other institutions offering Master of Public Administration and Master of Public Service programs. Although the array of institutions sounds comprehensive, the quality of education and in-service training they provide remains unsatisfactory. Courses such as policy analysis, public finance, and monitoring and evaluation are either not provided at all, or are of low quality and lack a practical component. In addition, current in-service training programs are not tailored to the specific requirements of the trainees, are heavily weighted toward education rather than skills-based training, and do not provide skills and knowledge in a number of important areas, such as personal effectiveness, general management, change management and leadership of civil service reform.

The recommendations of the evaluation report included the following:

- Ukraine needs to move from a centralized, highly regulated system of providing training to a more flexible and pluralistic system. Such a system would place emphasis on the training recipient organizations, such as government agencies and local governments, and allow them to play a larger role in determining training needs and selecting training providers to meet those needs. Training provision should move from a monopolistic to a pluralistic model with multiple training providers available to training recipient organizations.
- However, moving immediately to a more competitive pluralistic model without a coherent training strategy and policy, sufficient knowledge base, adequate needs analysis, and well-formulated training standards risks the provision of ill-conceived and substandard training courses. Therefore, the report recommended that the transition to a more flexible, pluralistic model proceed in phases.
- Emphasis in the first phase should be placed on building capacity in certain institutions in modern approaches to public administration. The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) has already begun to shift its curriculum from an academic approach toward skills-based in-service training. Institutions such as NAPA will require significant external assistance in order to develop the required capacity.
- The report emphasized that no one institution in Ukraine can revolutionize the system of training alone. What is required is a well-integrated system in which the various institutions perform appropriate roles suited to their function.

## Results

The EF representative offices, the New Eurasia Foundation (FNE), Eurasia Foundation Central Asia (EFCA), and the Caucasus Research Resource Centers closed 226 grants in the first six months of FY07. The findings from the standard indicators for these grants closed reveal the following:

### *Changes occurring on individual level*

1. Number of direct individual beneficiaries	26,742
2. Number of trainees	10,330

### *Changes occurring on an organizational level*

3. Number of organizational beneficiaries	2,053
4. Number of new partnerships formed by grantees	508
5. Resources leveraged (in-kind) from counterparts	\$769,279

### *Changes occurring on a societal level*

6. Media products disseminated	10,589
7. Grantee innovations replicated by others	100
8. New jobs created	1,060
9. New businesses formed	39

## **Evaluation Plans for the Remainder of FY07**

During the second half of FY07, EF and its affiliates plan to undertake approximately 21 evaluations. The evaluation work conducted during this period will focus more on program and project impact. Of the 21 evaluations, EF and its affiliates plan to complete 12 impact evaluations. EF is particularly interested in the findings and recommendations of a cluster impact evaluation, entitled “Building Relationships and Changing Attitudes among SCCP Participants.” This evaluation should provide EF with a better understanding of the influence that SCCP is having on its participants and the overall effectiveness of the program. In general, the emphasis on impact evaluations in the second half of FY07 demonstrates EF’s continued effort to learn valuable lessons and incorporate those lessons into future programming.

### ***Baseline/Needs Assessments***

- Needs Assessment: Profile of Potential Labor Migration in Armenia
- Needs Assessment: Public Administration Education and Training in Ukraine
- Capacity Assessment: Vocational Education and Training in Kyrgyzstan
- Needs Assessment: Research on Eco-tourism in Kyrgyzstan
- Needs Assessment: Research in the Sphere of Artisanship in Kazakhstan
- Needs Assessment: Research in the Sphere of SME development in Zhylyoi District of Atyrau Oblast, Kazakhstan
- Baseline Assessment: Small Business Development Program in the Baley District of the Chita Region, Russia

### ***Program and Project Impact Evaluations***

- Cluster Impact Evaluation on Tajik-Afghan Cross-border Projects
- Impact Evaluation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program in Armenia
- Assessment of Best Practices: Armenian-Turkey Track Two Diplomacy Projects

### ***Process and Mid-Term Evaluations***

- Mid-Term Process Evaluation of Youth Fund Program in Azerbaijan

### ***Institutional Assessments***

- Six Organizational Assessments of Local NGOs (through EF-Armenia’s Development of Organizational Capacities Program)

### ***Research Papers***

- The Political Economy Approach to the Study of Armenia – Turkey Cross-Border Engagement
- Opening Armenia's Border: Sectoral and Distributional Consequences



#### **IV. Large Grants, Legacy Institutions and Special Projects**





## Large Grants, Legacy Institutions and Special Projects

EURASIA FOUNDATION

### Large Grants

#### Eurasia Foundation Central Asia (EFCA)

##### EFCA - Kazakhstan

EFCA-Kazakhstan officially launched operations in February. In the first half of FY07, EF and EFCA spent \$728,939 in USG funding on programs benefiting Kazakhstan through 14 grants and other activities, including operating programs. Program highlights in Kazakhstan include:

- The EFCA office in Almaty continues to strengthen sector-specific private enterprise, with the goal of diversifying the economy of Kazakhstan and providing economic opportunities to rural communities.
- EFCA-Kazakhstan is building on its artisan support initiative in partnership with Chevron with the goal of improving the productivity of artisan groups in rural communities and giving them access to domestic and international markets. EFCA hosted a three-day design seminar for felt artists in spring 2007, led by Philip O'Reilly, a British artist and an expert in felt design. Twenty professional artisans from rural districts of Almaty and southern Kazakh oblasts had an opportunity to apply new tools and techniques to generate new design ideas. The seminar is part of the three-year EF Kazakhstan Artisan Support Program (KASP) launched in February 2006 to promote handicrafts as a means to self-sufficiency. KASP offers entrepreneurs the chance to strengthen their skills, visibility and selling potential on both domestic and international markets. This particular seminar addressed the needs of local artisans and was the first project of an ambitious training program planned within KASP for this year.
- EFCA is expanding its eco-tourism initiative in Kazakhstan in partnership with ExxonMobil and new donor ABN AMRO Foundation. EFCA, OSCE, the Global Ecological Fund, and three Kazakh government ministries organized a roundtable discussion on the development of ecological tourism in Kazakhstan's protected nature reserves. Local and international NGOs, tourist agencies, and government bureaus worked together to develop a set of recommendations on tourism to the Ministry of Tourism and Sport of Kazakhstan. Recommendations included changes to legislation, creating oblast-level coordination councils, methods of evaluating the burden tourism places on nature reserves, and ways to minimize damage.
- The Eurasian National University (ENU) in Astana recently celebrated the first graduation of its **Master of Science in Environmental Management and Engineering (MSEME)** program. This was the first environmental science program to be created in Kazakhstan and was organized by EFCA in collaboration with USAID and AES Corporation in Kazakhstan. ENU professors developed the program with assistance from specialists at the University of New Mexico (UNM). During the two-year program, students study chemistry and physics, as well as climatology, meteorology, hydrology, methods of cleaning water and sewage and more. Eight of this year's nine graduates have already received job offers from leading companies and government institutions involved in addressing ecological issues.

- EFCA will continue its focus on promoting **Corporate Social Responsibility** in Kazakhstan with targeted assistance to journalists and an advocacy campaign to improve the legal environment for corporate philanthropy.
- As part of its efforts to help universities produce graduates with practical skills that companies demand, EFCA-Kazakhstan will continue running **university-business partnerships**. These partnerships link the corporate community to universities, particularly universities located in the provinces.
- EFCA **established operations in the port city of Aktau** on the Caspian Sea. Due to its relative remoteness, Aktau is often overlooked for international aid. Among its activities in Aktau, EFCA partnered with locally based NGO *Zhastar Zhetistekteri* to implement programs confronting Aktau's 30 percent unemployment, large numbers of labor migrants and a general lack of skilled professionals. Another program will support *Zaman*, a microfinance institution providing financial resources to underserved rural areas and women entrepreneurs. EFCA will also help launch a labor resource center to provide labor migrants from Uzbekistan with employment counseling, legal and safety information.

### EFCA - Kyrgyzstan

In the first half of FY07, EFCA spent \$280,855 in USG funding on programs benefiting Kyrgyzstan through nine grants and other activities, including operating programs. Highlights include:

The Bishkek office continues running its successful labor migration initiative. To assist migrant workers from Kyrgyzstan's rural regions, EFCA and the British Embassy in Kazakhstan created a regional network of labor migration centers, the newest recently launched in Kyzyl-Kiya. The network serves as a resource for legal consultations, technical assistance and information about job opportunities. Since October 2006, over 1,600 workers have been added to a database that enables center staff to track workers outside of Kyrgyzstan and ensure their safe return and fair treatment. Almost 2,000 labor migrants have been seen in legal consultations and more than 300 have found employment through the center. Rather than encouraging migration to Russia, the Kyzyl-Kiya center will focus on finding opportunities for workers within the Kyrgyz Republic. The center will also collaborate with three local professional schools to hold short-term courses for migrants.

With funding from the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (British Government), the Osh Office is also launching a program to assist labor migrants in the impoverished Batken oblast of the Ferghana Valley.

Bishkek has also renewed its focus on community-based tourism, support for artisan communities, as well as its initiative to improve the transparency and quality of higher education. As part of its transparency in education program, EFCA is helping to develop five career centers at universities in Bishkek, Osh and Naryn. The centers strengthen the bonds between colleges and businesses, creating an important feedback loop that will help higher education institutions had better meet the needs of the modern marketplace. EFCA organized training in November 2006 for career center staff, led by expert consultants from the University of Michigan and KIMEP, an Almaty university. The training taught career center staff to work with employers and help students with writing resumes, finding internships and planning their careers.

With support from the Dutch Government, the Bishkek office will implement a poverty alleviation grants program in 2007. EFCA is also jointly running a small grants program with the World Bank for the second year. One recipient of a grant from the EFCA/World Bank program is the public organization Onor Kenchi, which is working to improve the socio-economic position of disabled women in Issyk-Kul oblast. The organization teaches the women how to produce crafts for sale, informs them on their rights and how to protect them, and helps them run profitable small businesses.

The Osh office also initiated a program to help youth prevent ethnic conflict, supported by the Danish Government. EFCA awarded seven grants to NGOs working in southern Kyrgyzstan and northern Tajikistan for projects which will further the ideas of tolerance, good neighborliness and protecting the rights of young people. For example, a radio program in Batken will provide instruction and guidance to thirty young correspondents as they prepare and release on-air programs promoting tolerance. Another project, in Osh, will fight unlawful fees being extracted from students in area schools.

Although the Osh office has not engaged partners in Uzbekistan this year – at the request of the U.S. Government – more than 20 Uzbek writers attended an EFCA-sponsored festival run by local libraries.

### EFCA - Tajikistan

In the first half of FY07, EFCA awarded 14 grants benefiting Tajikistan and conducted other operating program activities.

The Dushanbe office launched a Media Correspondents' Network in 2007. EFCA, with support from the Institute for War and Peace Reporting and Internews, trained a group of Tajik journalists. From this group, the editors' working group of the Tajik Regional Correspondents Network selected eight journalists, based on stories they submitted following the training, to make up the network. With funding from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor and the Dutch Government, the Dushanbe office will help link this network into a larger regional news service run by Aki-Press in Bishkek.

The Dushanbe office is also working closely with the U.S. Embassy to launch an American Chamber of Commerce, with international and domestic corporate members, with the goal of providing an active business advocacy voice to the local business community.

Representatives of Tajik organizations attended a November 2006 conference of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in Istanbul for the first time. EFCA has been working with a public organization in Tajikistan to train accountants, prepare them for exams, which would grant them the status of certified professional international accountants, and advance the organization's goal of eventual membership in the IFAC.

The Dushanbe office is also focusing fundraising efforts on primary education, which continues to deteriorate in the country.

### **New Eurasia Foundation - Russia**

In the first half of FY07, the New Eurasia Foundation (FNE) spent \$103,179 in USG funding on programs benefiting Russia through 35 grants and other activities, including operating programs.

Since the inception of its operations in 2004, the New Eurasia Foundation raised over \$4.5 million from non-USG sources for the expansion of its program portfolio and capacity development. Increased emphasis in 2007 will be given to securing unrestricted grants for general purposes. As of March 2007, the New Eurasia Foundation (FNE) is implementing about 45 on-going projects in 22 regions of the Russian Federation. Highlights include:

**Housing self-management program** – FNE developed and introduced new processes for citizens to interact with their government. The Ministry of Regional Development adopted and utilized this FNE process for the development of regional expertise concerning federal legislation and policies. FNE's approach generates demand for local housing NGO services, educates and empowers citizens to develop solutions on a wide range of housing and community development issues, and influences local decision-making. Examples include the Homeowners' Cooperatives Chairmen's Club established in Perm, and the housing education program developed in Volgograd, now being replicated in other pilot territories of the

project. Due to FNE's work, the Ministry of Regional Development modified their mid-term operational plan (2007-2008) on housing and communal sector development to minimize barriers impeding proliferation of homeowners' cooperatives.

**Migration program** – FNE is collaborating with the Federal Migration Service to engage independent experts, including non-governmental organizations, in discussion of migration related issues and to examine the Russian federal migration program. The Foundation has initiated projects (“migration bridges”) among the Russian territories where certain migrant groups live and work and in the sending NIS counties (Tatarstan and Uzbekistan; Sverdlovsk oblast and Kyrgyzstan; Stavropol oblast and Armenia; and Volgograd oblast and Tajikistan). The program establishes migration information centers in the sending countries and support centers for migrants in recipient regions. One of the outcomes of FNE's migration program is the creation of a methodology for monitoring migration and managing migration trends. This practical methodology was developed by an interdisciplinary team of researchers representing leading Russian research organizations and could be applied to different territories of the Russian Federation as well as to the NIS countries.

**Youth development program** – FNE contributed to the expansion of a new State youth strategy by consulting the Ministry of Education and Science and the Federal Education Agency, and by collaborating with other non-governmental and public organizations that work on youth issues. This strategy was approved on December 18, 2006. As a result of FNE's efforts, regional and inter-regional NGO networks have been created. Both the Network of Community Schools Resource Centers and the Network of Regional Youth Resource Centers work in concert on a broad spectrum of youth-related problems at the regional and municipal levels. The NGOs operating at secondary schools involved in the Community Schools Project have improved significantly. The project development skills acquired by these schools enabled ten of them to compete and be selected for an award of 1 million rubles to develop winning project proposals under the national education project.

**Innovation infrastructure development program** – FNE contributed to the 2007-2011 innovation development strategy of the Stavropol region and Primorskiy region, as well as the strategy implementation plans for 2007. The Stavropol strategy has become an integral part of the territorial socio-economic development strategy and will be funded out of the regional budget. FNE's program on the *Commercialization of Russian Intellectual Assets and technologies (CRIAT)* provides advisory support to scientific groups and small innovation enterprises of the Stavropol region, raises funds to support development solutions from preliminary to completed products, and brings these technologies to market. For example, 35 projects developed with the Stavropol center for technology transfer advisory support won national and territorial contests and were funded at the level of 19 million rubles. The projects are aimed at the development of bioactive food components for therapy and prevention of arthritis; application of the innovative test system for the diagnosis of mycosis; and the introduction of biotechnology-based products (microorganisms) for agriculture.

**Entrepreneurship development program** – FNE assisted in the establishment of the Advisory Councils on Small Business Development for Kamensk-Uralsky (Sverdlovsk region) and Shelekhov (Republic of Karelia), which are comprised of representatives from local municipalities, the business community and NGOs. These Advisory Councils will be instrumental in promoting, approving and carrying out municipal small business support programs for 2006-2010 financed by municipal budgets.

**Territorial development program** – The FNE projects that are being implemented in the Republic of Udmurtia have helped to improve the management skills of municipal employees and representatives of local industrial enterprises by bringing new ideas and initiatives to municipal development and investment. Thus, the municipal employees developed and adopted local e-governance programs for the cities of Votkinsk and Glazov for 2006-2010. A new transportation investment program, “*Circumferential highway*”, was developed for the city of Votkinsk, and its implementation is underway

with an allotment of 10 parcels of land for the construction of roadside cafes, gas stations, and automotive service stations, and for the development of investment projects in the housing and utility sectors.

**Higher education program** – FNE collaboration with eight pilot regional universities has enabled them to identify new approaches to strategic development, to improve university management and organizational development, and to unite the universities’ efforts and resources to implement a new curriculum. All of the pilot universities took part in a national contest, held as part of the National Education Project, to identify the leading Russian universities currently utilizing innovative education programs. New experience obtained by the representatives of regional universities through the study tours in USA and Belgium and follow-up trainings and seminars was instrumental in the design of their innovative education project proposals. Five out of the eight FNE pilot universities became the winners of the national contest and would receive financial support from the Government. For example, the Taganrog State University of Radio Engineering will receive around 350 million rubles for the development of the entrepreneurial and innovation university.

**Media program**– Under a cooperative agreement from the Moscow USAID Mission, the New Eurasia Foundation implements the Russian Independent Print Media Program (RIPMP). Efforts of the FNE media team resulted in an increasing number of regional publications among partner newspapers that are trying to provide their audiences with thoughtful and unbiased reporting on important and often controversial issues. The slogan *Moy gorod bez tsenzur* (my city without censorship) marked the appearance of a new independent publication at the end of 2006 in Khanty-Mansiisk. The entire editorial staff of the town’s *Gorod hm* newspaper walked out after its publisher pulled a story about the embezzlement of public funds allocated for the reconstruction of a local factory. High-ranking local officials were suspected of involvement. The censored story was then printed in the first issue of the journalists’ new publication *Moy Gorod*, which they put together on their home computers and with the help of colleagues in other regions. Today, *Moy Gorod* already has a circulation of 2,500 copies.

RIPMP’s client newspapers had impressive results in improving the quality of journalism, increasing newspaper circulation, and thus strengthening the market position of their newspaper companies. RIPMP staff helped client newspapers capitalize on a general boom in the newspaper advertising market, and advertising revenues in 2006 grew by an average of 59 percent. Circulation figures also increased and the pagination of client publications increased by an average of 10 pages.

## Legacy Institutions

### Economics Education Research Consortium (EERC)

#### EERC Ukraine

FY07 marks an exciting time for the Economics Education and Research Consortium (EERC) in Ukraine. In October 2006, EERC and the Victor Pinchuk Foundation announced the launch of a new joint project – the creation of the **Kyiv School of Economics (KSE)**. KSE represents a transformation of the EERC master’s program in economics, previously hosted at the Ukrainian National University “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy” in to an independent educational institution. During the next decade the Victor Pinchuk Foundation will donate more than 10 million dollars towards the development of KSE.

The following activities took place during the first half of FY07:

- Legal registration and licensing processes began for the Kyiv School of Economics
- Agreements on cooperation were signed or negotiated between EERC and International Institute of Business (IIB), the University of Houston, the Center for Economic Research and Graduate

Education of Charles University (CERGE)/ Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (EI), and Central European University (CEU)

- Faculty were lined up for the 2007-08 academic year

**Registration of KSE:** At an EERC Board of Trustees meeting on October 12, 2006, the Board decided to establish the Kyiv School of Economics as an independent educational institution. Ukrainian industrialist Victor Pinchuk will be the honorary chairman of the KSE board; Dr. Anders Aslund of the Institute of International Economics, Washington, and Regina Yan of the Eurasia Foundation, will be co-chairmen of the board. Tom Coupé, manager of EERC masters program, will be director of KSE. EERC is in the process of registering the Kyiv School of Economics and its charitable foundation. We are also working on obtaining a license for KSE as an educational institution. EERC asked EERC Board member Yuriy Yekhanurov, as a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Education and Science, to present our proposal on an experimental status for the Kyiv School of Economics to the Ministry of Education.

**Cooperation with the International Institute of Business:** The International Institute of Business (IIB) is a Ukrainian post-graduate university focusing on business education. IIB offers an international MBA program in cooperation with the University of New Brunswick, a purely Ukrainian MBA and two post-diploma degrees in finance and marketing. IIB is willing to host the EERC MA program.

The Victor Pinchuk Foundation hired consultants from Chartwell Education Group to study the possibility of merging the Kyiv School of Economics with IIB. One of the major benefit of such a merger would be a straightforward way to obtain university status and business education for KSE. The consultants are currently preparing a report about the potential merger.

**Cooperation with the University of Houston:** Negotiations with the University of Houston, which will give KSE students the opportunity to receive Masters Degrees from the University, are in the final stages.

**Cooperation with CERGE and CEU:** The Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education of Charles University (CERGE) in Prague was founded in 1991 as an American-style Ph.D. program in Economics taught entirely in English. In 1992, the Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (EI) was created as an economics research institution, seeking to carry out topical research of the highest international standards. The two institutions entered into a cooperation agreement in 1993, which later evolved into a formal joint workplace agreement in 1999. EERC and CERGE-EI have recently agreed on a project that will allow EERC and KSE graduates to study for and receive a PhD from CERGE while spending most of their time in Ukraine. EERC organized a series of Czech and Ukrainian faculty trips to Prague and Kyiv in order to establish the project. EERC has received a grant from OSI/HESO to support this initiative. At the beginning of January 2007 one EERC student took the CERGE PhD exams.

A similar cooperation agreement with **Central European University (CEU)** is also in place. CEU is an American graduate university with a focus on the social sciences and the humanities, accredited both in the United States and in Hungary, and located in Budapest.

**Faculty Staffing for the 2007-08 Academic Year:** The faculty for the academic year 2007-08 will consist of 75% full-time and local Ukrainian faculty, and another 25% senior international visitors. There are eight full time western- trained faculty members for the MA Program, and six Ukrainian faculty members who will teach at least one course. In addition, EERC will bring in a record 12 highly visible international-level economists to add strength to our program. In 2007/2008, these international professors, from universities in Canada, the United States and Europe, will teach subjects such as international economics, emerging capital markets, the economics of Europe, and transition and labor

economics. A list of faculty publications in periodicals can be found at <http://www.eerc.kiev.ua/EERCatmedia/media.shtml>

## ***EERC Russia***

In the first half of FY07, EERC continued its core operations of research competitions and grant making while strengthening its effort to mainstream its methodology in Central Asia as a partner in the Business and Economics Education Project implementation team. Promoting policy-oriented thinking among EERC's grantees remained one of the highest priorities. EERC continued to manage and participate in a number of international projects and commissioned tenders.

### ***1. Mainstreaming EERC methodology***

**Central Asia:** In the first half of FY07, EERC finished implementing the Central Asia Applied Research Network project (CAARN). This project was a joint initiative funded by USAID through the B&EE project implemented by CARANA Corporation, OSCE, EF-Central Asia and EERC and a variety of local private donors.

**Ukraine and Belarus:** In the first half of FY07, EERC also continued cooperation with the Economic Research and Outreach Center (EROC) at the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE) in the field of conducting research grant competitions and workshops. In December 2006, the sixth joint research competition ended at a Research Workshop at the EERC-Kyiv premises in Kyiv, Ukraine. Based on the results of the Research Workshop six joint grants (co-funded in equal shares) have been approved for funding. More information about the workshop is provided below.

### ***2. Strengthening capacity for research and policy analysis***

**Research competition:** EERC's regular research competition, which support policy-relevant research conducted by CIS-based scholars, continues in FY07. The fall 2006 research competition was concluded at a December 2006 Research Workshop. A total of 80 new research projects were reviewed; at the research workshop in Moscow on December 15-17, 2006, five research projects were approved for full research grants (three in cooperation with EROC) and researchers received development grants (two in cooperation with EROC). The Spring 2007 round of competition was launched in February and will be concluded at a July 2007 Research Workshop to be held Kyiv at the EERC-Kyiv premises.

**e-Library:** The research network's online library serves as a gateway to modern research literature in economics and other social sciences, and provides access to important sets of working papers and economics and other journals through the JSTOR archive. Website statistics demonstrate that demand for services provided by the Network's e-library remains high.

**Swedish Professorship Awards competition:** In February 2007, EERC announced another round of the Swedish Professorship Awards competition. The competition invited premier economics departments in the CIS to submit applications for the award funded by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and designed to support research activities of returning Ph.D. faculty by providing a research supplement to their regular salary, and to facilitate their involvement in EERC's networking activities. The second round of competition was announced in June 2006. It was publicized through the EERC website and by direct dissemination to the major universities with strong economics departments, such as KIMEP (Almaty), American University in Central Asia (Bishkek), European University at St. Petersburg, New Economic School (NES) and Higher School of Economics (HSE) in Moscow, and Kyiv School of Economics (KSE).

**Summer Schools:** In the first half of FY07, EERC applied for and received a grant from OSI HESP in support of a three-year long faculty development project through a series of summer schools, winter contact sessions and individual research projects. The project's goal is to enhance knowledge among CIS economics faculty of recent political economy-related literature, which looks into the role of institutions

in shaping economic decision-making, blocking or promoting efficient allocation of resources, and supporting "bad" or "good" market outcomes. A careful analysis of these institutional developments, mostly driven by political considerations, can explain many failures in transition and developing economies, while still adhering to the fundamental principles of economic science. The first summer school is scheduled to take place in July 2007.

### **3. *Transforming the network into a 'think-net'***

EERC has been working to move toward greater emphasis on utilizing research capacities that have been built in Russia and other CIS countries through:

- Engaging network members in research, training and mentoring activities addressing demand from external donors, international organizations and local government;
- Organizing research policy dialog through conferences and round-tables, delivering policy-relevant research products, and disseminating policy analysis via electronic means; and
- Building alliances among donor organizations committed to the mission of promoting research capacity building and policy dialog in the CIS region.

## **Small Business Loan Program (SBLP)**

On August 1, 2004, the Izmirlian Eurasia Universal Credit Company LLC (IE UCC) officially began operations. The IE UCC offers term loans and lines of credit to businesses engaged in the production and service sectors. Since its inception through March 31, 2007, the IE UCC has disbursed \$8.1 million in 150 loans and had \$4.6 million in loan balances outstanding. The IE UCC is now solidly profitable with all profits reinvested in new lending. The Eurasia Foundation's goal of establishing a permanent small business finance company has been achieved. Because of its lending IE UCC, borrowers created 843 jobs.

The next step in the IE UCC evolution was the exit of the Eurasia Foundation as an owner. This step occurred in mid-December 2006 when the Izmirlian Foundation purchased the Eurasia Foundation's ownership in the IE UCC. The Izmirlian Foundation requested that the Eurasia Foundation continue to have board representation and did not change the name of the institution.

All viable loans disbursed under the SBLP – Armenia have all been repaid and efforts continue to collect loans that had previously been “written off” with substantial success.

As previously announced, the SBLP - Ukraine ceased its active operations on March 31, 2004. The two partner banks fully repaid all outstanding loan balances with their last payments in March. The total amount of loans disbursed in Ukraine from inception of the program was \$6.8 million and the total number of jobs created 745.

## **Special Project**

### **Caucasus Research Resource Consortium (CRRC)**

The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) is a network of resource and training centers established in the capital cities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia with the goal of strengthening social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus.

A partnership between the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Eurasia Foundation, and local universities, the CRRC network offers scholars and practitioners stable opportunities for integrated research, training and collaboration in the region.

The CRRC program is placing renewed emphasis on improving the quality of the research it funds. An innovative online application system for research fellowships encourages learning by all applicants (even those who are ultimately rejected) through an extensive and interactive application process. The system attracted nearly 200 interested applicants and 73 complete applications, most of which met basic quality standards (a significant achievement). The new fellows who are selected will now be required to publish in international, peer-reviewed journals. This should help to connect local researchers to international scholarship and raise the profile of the program. The fourth CRRC Data Initiative (a yearly household survey covering roughly 7,000 respondents in all three South Caucasus countries) is also under preparation, with a renewed emphasis on methodological rigor.

In November 2006, CRRC launched a blog <http://crrc-caucasus.blogspot.com/>. From Nairobi to Sydney and from Bishkek to Los Angeles, the blog now attracts a worldwide readership and is often picked up by other blogs. The blog aims to summarize research on the South Caucasus for those interested in the region that do not have enough time to read all of the fascinating research being done. The blog also provides insights and commentary.



**Appendix A**

**Expenditure Chart by Strategic Objective**

**October 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007**



USAID Core III Expenditures

Grant number EMT-G00-02-00008-00

Period 10/1/06 - 3/31/07

		Russia	Ukraine	Moldova	Belarus	Uzbekistan	Turkmenistan	Tajikistan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Georgia	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Total
ENI-SO-1.2	(Fiscal Policies)	\$ -	\$ 53,118	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,301	\$ -	\$ (164)	\$ 11,579	\$ 41,661	\$ 55,753	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190,249
ENI-SO-1.3	(Private Enterprise)	\$ -	\$ 90,883	\$ 62,400	\$ -	\$ 116,505	\$ -	\$ (1,460)	\$ 97,545	\$ 51,957	\$ 405,808	\$ 385,839	\$ 388,735	\$ 1,598,212
ENI-SO-1.4	(Responsive Fin Sctr)	\$ -	\$ 53,118	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,300	\$ -	\$ (164)	\$ 7,749	\$ 62,252	\$ 55,753	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 207,009
ENI-SO-2.1	(Informed Citizenry)	\$ 103,179	\$ 157,599	\$ 131,974	\$ 1,281	\$ 221,108	\$ 672	\$ (1,648)	\$ 596,563	\$ 41,661	\$ 125,866	\$ 101,151	\$ -	\$ 1,479,407
ENI-SO-2.2	(Legal Reform)	\$ -	\$ 53,118	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,082	\$ -	\$ (205)	\$ 7,751	\$ 41,661	\$ 59,824	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 192,232
ENI-SO-2.3	(Local Government)	\$ -	\$ 69,599	\$ -	\$ 194,058	\$ 36,138	\$ -	\$ (358)	\$ 7,751	\$ 41,661	\$ 55,756	\$ 49,800	\$ -	\$ 454,405
		\$ 103,179	\$ 477,435	\$ 194,374	\$ 195,339	\$ 460,434	\$ 672	\$ (3,999)	\$ 728,939	\$ 280,855	\$ 758,760	\$ 536,790	\$ 388,735	\$ 4,121,513



**Appendix B**

**Outcome Statements of Grants Closed**

**October 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007**



## Armenia

### **Diana Ter-Stepanyan**

C05-7104

\$1,740

Vanadzor, Armenia

6/1/2005 - 5/10/2006

Diana Ter-Stepanyan evaluated the effectiveness of the civic education-training program implemented in Armenian high schools (upper grades of secondary schools). She conducted a quantitative (questionnaire based) survey among 494 tenth grade schoolchildren from all of Armenia's regions to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of "Human Rights," "Civil Society" and "State and Law" courses offered since 2001 in the scope of the civic education program in the schools. Particularly, she evaluated the knowledge and attitudes of schoolchildren in regard to various laws, crimes and punishment options, the role of the state, human rights and their violation, the need for and the topics to be included in the law courses offered in the schools, etc. The results of the survey indicate that, despite having a course on civic education, Armenian schoolchildren still possess controversial opinions/attitudes on various legal issues. For instance, only 48% of surveyed schoolchildren were ready to follow the laws unconditionally, while the rest mentioned that they would only follow the laws if they reflected Armenian traditions and social values. Furthermore, only 40% of schoolchildren accepted the role of the court as a mechanism to regulate disputes. In parallel with educating schoolchildren on civic education, Ms. Ter-Stepanyan recommended to convey certain values to the children, which would motivate them to follow the laws. She also recommended providing training to the teachers of civic education and developing interactive training materials, which would increase the effectiveness of the training sessions. The principals and teachers of secondary schools, administrators of educational programs and other interested parties to revise the curriculum of the civic education-training program and introduce more effective teaching methods for this course can use this study.

### **Gohar Jerbashyan**

C05-7105

\$2,000

Yerevan, Armenia

4/11/2005 - 5/2/2006

Gohar Jerbashyan conducted a detailed, multi-dimensional analysis of child poverty in Armenia. She analyzed the data available from the CRRC 2004 Data Initiative and from the Family Poverty Benefit (FPB) databases and conducted a content analysis of other sources. By exploring various types of socially vulnerable families (for example, those who lost their income earners, experienced hardships because of the inadequacy of survivors' pensions, or had two or more children under the age of 14) she found that neither survivors' pensions nor FPB provided needy children with adequate financial resources to enable them to sustain decent living standards and acquire skills and knowledge to lift them out of poverty and take part fully in Armenian society. As a result of her research, Ms. Jerbashyan provided a set of policy recommendations to combat child poverty in Armenia, the most important of which included covering poor children with quality state-funded early childhood development programs, increasing the level of single parent employment, increasing the minimum wage, introducing tax credits for families with children, revising school programs and increasing childhood health care. Ms. Jerbashyan recommendations will help policy makers and the donor community in Armenia to implement various projects and policies aimed at reducing child poverty in Armenia.

### **Investigative Journalists**

C04-7006

\$36,801

Yerevan, Armenia

10/1/2004 - 4/10/2006

Exchanging information in the South Caucasus is often hindered by a lack of financial resources and political tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The internet however enables the media and researchers to establish and develop information exchange networks that are financially affordable and that offer the least control by the region's governments. The "Investigative Journalists" non-governmental

organization and its Azerbaijani and Georgian partners enlarged their region-wide, information exchange network among journalists, editors, and researchers through EF funding. The partners developed a subscription scheme for analytical news articles, conducted online interviews with regional decision makers, and organized online forums for journalists. In addition, the grantees trained local journalists on internet use and monitored the impact of the two-year initiative on journalists in the region. The monitoring results demonstrated that the project improved journalists and experts' access to reliable information on regional events and provided an efficient mechanism to promote an exchange of ideas.

#### **VAN Radio**

C04-7002

\$34,290

Yerevan, Armenia

10/1/2004 - 3/10/2006

Armenians, Azerbaijanis, and Georgians are keenly interested in news from neighboring countries of the South Caucasus; however, local media pay very little attention to regional issues. Instead, the region's population typically relies on Russian and Western news sources. To address this issue, EF provided a linkage grant to "Radio VAN" LTD and its partners in Azerbaijan and Georgia to develop a cross-border radio program entitled Radio Bridge to address issues of regional concern. The partners broadcasted 58 cross-border radio programs and organized journalist exchanges to learn about broadcasting operations and journalist practices in neighboring countries. In addition, the partners established a website - [www.radiomost.get.to](http://www.radiomost.get.to) - that continues to function. This project improved public awareness of current events throughout the region and it also expanded cross-border cooperation among journalists and representatives of other sectors.

#### **ACHILLES - Drivers Rights Society**

C03-7001

\$34,992

Yerevan, Armenia

10/1/2003 - 2/5/2005

High levels of corruption among traffic police in the South Caucasus has led to abuse of drivers' rights, particularly for travel to neighboring countries. Working with its partners in Azerbaijan and Georgia, the ACHILLES Society for Defense of Drivers' Rights sought to strengthen drivers' rights through an EF linkage grant. The partners comparatively analyzed regulations on driving and vehicle use in all three countries and conducted a survey to determine public awareness of drivers' rights. Based on these assessments, the partners launched a drivers' rights information campaign that included print and broadcast media reports, informational billboards, brochures on legal rights, and a telephone hotline to provide immediate legal consultations to drivers. Pre- and post- project surveys demonstrated that drivers' legal knowledge was strengthened.

#### **Apiculture and Apitherapy Association of Armenia**

C05-7043

\$1,020

Yerevan, Armenia

6/1/2006 - 7/31/2006

Beekeeping has the potential to be a substantially profitable area of agribusiness for the South Caucasus; however, the industry's development has been inhibited by such factors as low volumes of quality apiary products, inadequate certification practices, and the inability to comply with international standards. The Union of Apiarists and Apitherapy in Armenia, together with its Azerbaijani and Georgian partners, conducted preliminary research and developed a follow-up linkage proposal aimed at improving the quality of their products. The follow-up proposal includes a series of well-designed trainings with local and international experts on modern apicultural practices and activities to elaborate common standards and certification criteria for apicultural products. The future linkage project will also enhance networking opportunities for professional apiarists throughout the South Caucasus. The linkage project will be supported through the South Caucasus Cooperation Program.

#### **Film Critics and Cinema Journalists Association**

C03-7043 \$39,480  
Yerevan, Armenia 10/1/2003 - 5/15/2006  
The once vibrant film making industries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have declined since the break up of the Soviet Union. Like many other industries in the region, they have suffered from low levels of investment because the small size of national markets makes them less attractive to international investors. The Armenian Association of Film Critics and Cinema Journalists, together with its partners in Georgia and Azerbaijan, collaborated to attract domestic and foreign investment for their respective national filmmaking industries through an EF linkage grant. The partners created the Caucasus Film Commission Website and published the Caucasus Film Production Guide to promote the South Caucasus as a location for film production. Through their activities, the partners established cross-border links among filmmaking industry representatives and audio-visual professionals. The website they created continued functioning after the completion of the project.

#### **Armenian Marketing Association**

C05-7027 \$1,130  
Yerevan, Armenia 11/1/2005 - 12/14/2005  
The majority of local businesses in the South Caucasus lack sufficient resources and capacity to develop partnerships with partners abroad. The development of a regional export catalog can help expand access of locally produced goods and services to foreign markets. The Armenian Marketing Association, along with its Azerbaijani and Georgian partners, conducted preliminary research and developed a well-designed linkage project proposal to develop high-quality print, electronic, and web-based promotional materials, known as the South Caucasus Export Catalog. The Catalog will feature comprehensive information on producers and service providers located in all three countries of the region. The future linkage project will also include an extensive promotional campaign among local businesses to include approximately 600 enterprises (200 from each country) in the catalog. The linkage project will be supported through the South Caucasus Cooperation Program. If successfully implemented, the catalog project will enable export-oriented businesses in the region to link with prospective foreign partners and to undertake joint efforts to break into foreign markets.

#### **Media Group Information and Legal Center of Armenia**

C06-7003 \$935  
Yerevan, Armenia 4/19/2006 - 6/10/2006  
News reports on neighboring countries by national media outlets in the South Caucasus are plagued by misinterpretation or distorted facts. This is primarily because many state- and privately-owned media entities are used to promote personal or political interests. In order to promote more professional and objective news coverage of neighboring countries, EF provided a contact grant to the Armenian Media Group Information and Legal Center Non-Governmental Organization and to its Azerbaijani and Georgian partners to research and develop a linkage project proposal. The partner organizations planned to establish a regional professional association of analytical journalists, to organize roundtable discussions among stakeholders, to publish a weekly analytical e-magazine, and to provide professional training seminars. Although the proposal was well designed, the competition's expert panel selected other more competitive projects.

#### **Regional Development Center**

C03-7046 \$63,231  
Yerevan, Armenia 1/15/2004 - 7/17/2006  
Weak administrative procedures negatively affect the business environment and investment climate of the South Caucasus. Through an EF linkage grant, the Center for Regional Development and its partners in Georgia and Azerbaijan developed recommendations to enable more efficient and transparent trade procedures and advocated their adoption. The partners also promoted public awareness of regional trade issues by establishing an on-line consultation service, by publishing a series of regional trade bulletins,

and by organizing an international workshop on trade facilitation in the South Caucasus. The partners initiated a constructive multi-sectoral dialogue among region's business community, policy experts, and regional trade officials.

### **FEMIDA**

C06-7007

\$810

Yerevan, Armenia

4/1/2006 - 5/14/2006

News reporting in the all three countries of South Caucasus lacks objectivity and professionalism, particularly in the oftentimes-controversial area of law enforcement. To address this issue, EF provided a contact grant to International FEMIDA Public Organization and its partners in Azerbaijan and Georgia to research and to develop a linkage project proposal. The follow-up project included a monitoring initiative to assess the quality of electronic and print media coverage on law enforcement issues. Based on the initiative's findings, the partners planned a series of region-wide trainings and roundtables on best practices for journalists specializing in law enforcement reporting. Although the proposal was well designed, the competition's expert panel selected other more competitive projects.

### **Greens Union of Armenia**

C05-7025

\$940

Yerevan, Armenia

3/1/2006 - 4/14/2006

The pollution in the Kura-Araks River basin is a critical environmental issue for the South Caucasus. Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, which jointly utilize and manage the water resources of the two rivers, also share common problems related to municipal, agricultural, and industrial river pollution. This contact project brought together Greens Union of Armenia and its Azerbaijani and Georgian counterparts to discuss and develop a follow-on linkage project proposal to strengthen sustainable management of shared water resources and mechanisms against pollution. The elaborated linkage proposal was submitted to the EF SCCP, but was not selected for funding due to its low competitiveness.

### **Yerevan Press Club**

C06-7002

\$860

Yerevan, Armenia

4/1/2006 - 5/24/2006

For more than a decade, national mass media outlets in the South Caucasus have been unable to provide objective and professional coverage of events in the neighboring countries. In large part, this occurred because many media entities in the region, both state- and privately-owned, reflect the interests of certain political and/or nationalist forces. An EF contact grant to Yerevan Press Club and its partners in Azerbaijan and Georgia enabled the organizations to research and develop a linkage project proposal to promote unbiased reporting events in neighboring countries. The proposal was to include monitoring and analysis of the major news programs broadcast in all three South Caucasus countries, monitoring compliance with norms of journalism ethics, and developing recommendations to improve self-regulation by the media. Although the proposal was well designed, other more competitive projects were selected for further support by the competition's expert panel.

### **Yerevan State University, Faculty for Journalism**

C06-7010

\$487

Yerevan, Armenia

4/1/2006 - 5/14/2006

Journalism schools in the South Caucasus often fail to provide their students with basic professional skills to work in the modern political, economic, and social environments. To address this issue, EF provided a contact grant to the Yerevan State University, faculty of Journalism and its partners in Azerbaijan and Georgia to research and to develop a linkage project proposal aimed at improving the quality of university-level journalism programs. The follow-up project envisioned expanding the Master's Program in Journalism at the Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management to include students from Azerbaijan and Armenia and establishing a program of joint instruction and faculty exchanges among the

partner institutions. The competition's expert panel found the proposal to be well designed and recommended it for further support.

**Helsinki Citizens Assembly Vanadzor Office**

C06-7006

\$935

Vanadzor, Armenia

4/1/2006 - 6/15/2006

Newspaper articles containing biased language and inaccurate information in part fuel the stereotypes that Armenians, Azerbaijanis, and Georgians have of each other. To address this issue, EF provided a contact grant to the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor Office NGO and to its Azerbaijani and Georgian partners to research and develop a linkage project proposal. The follow-up project envisioned strengthening contacts among newspaper journalists from all three countries, increasing the cross-border flow of balanced information on current events, and developing journalistic skills through the publication of a regional newspaper entitled "Bridge." Although the proposal was well designed, the competition's expert panel selected other more competitive projects.

**Internews Armenia**

C04-7008

\$48,701

Yerevan, Armenia

12/1/2004 - 8/31/2006

A regional integration among the countries of the South Caucasus in part depends on adequate information flow as a means of supporting dialogue and mutual understanding. The region's mass media entities are plagued by subjective and unprofessional reporting awareness because of financial instability and political tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Media Support "INTERNEWS" NGO and its partners in Georgia and Azerbaijan implemented the EF-sponsored project, in which regional television journalists covered events in neighboring countries through a weekly Russian language television program, known as "Perekrestok." In addition to daily news events, the program extensively addressed topics about minorities, women, children, and marginalized populations with support from the Media Diversity Institute. By bringing timely, independent news and information to the viewing public, the program contributed to a further dialogue and mutual understanding across the region.

**Achilles - Drivers Rights Society**

Y06-0001

\$9,355

Yerevan, Armenia

2/1/2006 - 5/15/2006

Traffic inspection has traditionally been one of the most corrupted state structures in Armenia. The anti-corruption strategy adopted by the Armenian Government in 2003 suggested a number of measures to prevent corruption in this sphere. Public awareness and legislative reforms were key points in those recommendations. The implemented project sought to increase public monitoring over the work of the traffic police through a telephone hotline service and legal consultations for drivers. The hotline provided free consultations and legal support to more than 1,100 traffic participants over a period of 6 months. Three focus groups were conducted in order to reveal other issues of corruption in the sphere. A round table discussion was organized at the end of the project to highlight the findings of the hotline and the survey. The grantee organization cooperated with the police to analyze a wider range of data than that gathered by the hotline database. A relationship for further cooperation between the NGO and the traffic police was established. The grantee submitted a package of amendments and additions to the Law on Road Traffic Security and the Law on RA Police to the RA Government.

**Oda-Express Agency**

Y03-8001

\$28,050

Yerevan, Armenia

12/1/2004 - 1/31/2006

Despite an increasing number of private agencies, the newspaper distribution market in Armenia is still underdeveloped. This project sought to improve the print media distribution system in two remote districts of Yerevan through the creation of press offices in the target communities and the introduction of

home delivery and subscription mechanisms. During the course of the project, the organization managed to establish two affiliate offices in the South-West and Norq communities. The latter failed to maintain a separate office and is currently located in the central office. After completion of the project, the Organization managed to keep a sustainable number of subscriptions in both communities (about 700) and to increase its overall sales by more than 10%. More than 15% of the reading auditorium in the targeted districts obtains print products through the Oda Express Agency. Oda Express managed to increase its sustainability by creating a new filial company for managing local print media, conducting staff trainings and obtaining a reputation in the targeted districts. The grantee failed to accomplish some of the anticipated indicators due to the adoption of the controversial Law on Post and Postal Services as well as due to the lack of supporting a PR campaign. However, the organization has a solid capacity and a good reputation and can be further involved in media distribution networks.

### **Armenian Agricultural Academy**

Y03-5051

\$20,885

Yerevan, Armenia

4/1/2004 - 7/31/2006

Agribusiness accounts for nearly 40% of Armenia's national income and in order to efficiently use the resources of the growing agricultural sector, there is a need for qualified agribusiness professionals and entrepreneurs. There is one specialized institution in Armenia, the Armenian Agricultural Academy (AAA), that produces 450 to 500 graduates every year. However, the employment rate of the graduates is little. This happens for several reasons: graduates lack job interviewing and resume writing skills, there is little awareness among potential employers about the existing human resource potential of the AAA graduates, and, there are no linkages between AAA and private enterprises, farmers and agribusiness industry associations in Armenia. There is no formal mechanism for assisting graduates with their job search and there is no training to prepare them for job interviews. AAA proposed a solution to the above-mentioned problems by establishing a Career Placement and Counseling Office (CPCO) and by helping the CPCO develop linkages between the AAA and Armenian private enterprises, agribusiness employers and in-country farmer associations. During the two years of operation CPCO succeeded in creating databases on students/graduates, which currently includes all the graduates of Academy for 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 and current students totaling 2,000 people. The Center also established extensive links with all the private enterprises, farmers and agribusiness industry associations in Armenia, which totaled 80 organizations. The center also succeeded in the creation and maintenance of the web page on career services <http://www.careers.am/>, which includes all relevant information, vacancies, guidelines on preparation of resumes, etc. During project implementation, CPCO organized 2 career fairs and 36 seminars, during which the resume writing and interview skills were provided. In sum, 484 students/graduates passed training and currently have professionally designed CVs and qualifications for interviews. Eurasia Foundation provided the first year of operation of the Center and the second year was funded by Cafesjian Family Foundation. CPCO is sustainable now and continues to provide its services to the students and graduates of not only AAA but also including students from other Higher Educational Institutions in Armenia.

### **Young Lawyers Association**

Y05-7007

\$23,050

Yerevan, Armenia

7/20/2005 - 8/20/2006

The needs assessment conducted by the Advanced Social Technologies NGO showed that small and medium enterprises in Armenia need alternatives to the existing court system to solve their commercial disputes in a more effective and timely manner. For this purpose, the Armenian Young Lawyers Association (AYLA) implemented a project aimed at the promotion of Mediation and Arbitration as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms by providing respective services in six target regions of Armenia: Yerevan, Syunik, Shirak, Gegharkunik, Tavush and Lori. The need for information among stakeholders was the cause of a large-scale information campaign that proposed 18 one-day trainings on ADR for 283 representatives of SMEs, lawyers and students in the target regions of Armenia. To provide

high-quality mediation and arbitration services, a five-day TOT session was conducted for 25 mediators that will further provide free services and conduct similar trainings in the regions of Armenia. 2000 copies of a Mediation Guide were published to support the promotion of ADR countrywide, 5000 booklets on ADR and respective RA legislation were also disseminated to stakeholders. Throughout the project, free on-line and telephone consultations were provided to 186 applicants. By the end of the project, major pre-conditions for the effective application of ADR were created. The interest on part of SMEs towards these mechanisms of dispute resolution is growing, which resulted in one organization and 5 individuals including clauses on Mediation in their sub-grant agreements. In the future, the number of similar cases is expected to increase. As all organizations funded under the ADR program, the need for more close and detailed work with SMEs in the future was identified by AYL.A.

### **Blitz Media**

Y04-8007

\$39,435

Yerevan, Armenia

11/22/2004 - 8/22/2005

Despite an increasing number of private distribution agencies, the newspaper distribution market in Armenia is still underdeveloped. This project sought to establish viable distribution networks in five regions of Armenia. Four permanent representative offices of Blitz Media were opened in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Kotayk and Tavush regions of Armenia. During the course of the project, Blitz Media managed to establish a sustainable model for newspaper distribution. The grantee conducted training courses for regional agents, developed special software to track sales and demand, and developed and implemented innovative subscription and distribution methods. Blitz Media in the targeted regions distribute one hundred and forty five different newspapers. Blitz Media has also provided marketing consultations to newspapers. The Organization has developed background capacity and networks for creation of an Association of Distributors, however, legislative shortcomings are still hindering the development of the distribution market in its full capacity.

### **Development of Civil Society**

Y03-5112

\$18,116

Yerevan, Armenia

7/20/2005 - 1/26/2007

Despite the presence of donor and international organizations, a large number of registered NGOs and a rather favorable legislative environment, Civil Society is still a fragmented and underdeveloped sector in Armenia. This project supported an assessment of the level of civil society development in Armenia by the CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation. The assessment was carried out using secondary sources, focus groups, consultations with regional stakeholders, and a review of stories in the media on civil society, and a series of case studies. The National Advisory Group and a Public Council were created to support the research. A conference was held to introduce the draft report and to suggest recommendations for CS development in Armenia. The Armenian version of the report was presented to the Civicus Assembly in Glasgow and should be published when Civicus finishes analyzing all country reports (53 reports worldwide). Because of the project, the grantee has produced a comprehensive report on the state of civil society in Armenia. The findings and recommendations of the report can be used by EF in the future as well as by other NGOs and donor organizations.

### **Educational Development of Gyumri**

Y04-8008

\$16,786

Gyumri, Armenia

12/1/2004 - 11/30/2005

Despite an increasing number of private agencies, the newspaper distribution market in Armenia is still underdeveloped. This project sought to improve the print media distribution system in the region through the creation of press offices in the communities and the introduction of home delivery and subscription mechanisms. Five representatives' offices were created in Amasia, Ani, Artik, Akhuryan and Ashotsq communities of the Shirak Region. A special training course was designed and conducted for local agents. Ongoing market surveys have been conducted in cooperation with the Armenian Marketing Association

to track the readers' demand, advertisement trends and to update subscriber database. Special software was installed to maintain subscriptions and sales. At the end of the project, the grantee had doubled its sales and it maintains a sustainable group of individual and corporate subscriptions. Steps have been undertaken for further expansion of the distribution network to northern regions. The grantee has managed to establish strong partnerships with local and foreign organizations, which have become a key factor for its success and sustainability. Its marketing capacity can be used for further stages of the EF Media Distribution Program.

### **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Gegharkunik Region**

Y04-7001

\$25,706

Gavar, Armenia

10/1/2004 - 10/31/2005

Gegharkunik Region is one of the least developed regions in Armenia. According to a survey conducted by Gegharkunik Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), the region has the lowest potential for investment in Armenia. According to the National Statistical Department, more than 60% of the population of the region lives below the poverty level. The majority of the population consists of refugees, the workforce does not have adequate skills, and there is a high level of migration. All of these factors contribute to the region's poor economic situation. In order to attract more investment to the Gegharkunik Region, GCCCI conducted an analysis of the systematic problems for business development in Gegharkunik. This analysis identified which legislative issues hinder the flow of investments into the region. Based on these findings, the Chamber of Commerce conducted an advocacy campaign and lobbied for legislative changes both on the national and local government levels. The Chamber of Commerce was able to engage local executives, representatives of regional government, members of the National Assembly, and many NGOs in advocating for more favorable governmental policy for regional development in general and small and medium enterprise (SME) development in particular. Because of these lobbying activities, the Ministry of Finance accepted some of the proposed legislative changes and municipalities of the Gegharkunik Region changed operational procedures according to GCCCI's suggestions. GCCCI has established partnerships with two leading parliamentary factions and continues to work actively with government structures and leading advocacy NGOs. The organization is currently involved in developing strategies for regional development, making recommendations for SME development, and preparing new legislative initiatives that will improve the business environment in underdeveloped regions.

### **Community Center of Ashotsk**

Y04-6017

\$15,487

Ashotsk, Armenia

10/1/2004 - 1/31/2006

The Ashotsk sub-region of the Shirak Region, located in the north of Armenia, is isolated from big cities. The communications infrastructure is not developed in the region and the population has poor access to information. There are very few community organizations functioning in Ashotsk that provide information or capacity development support to businesses and individuals. In response, Ashotsk Community Center implemented the "Path to Success" project to establish a multifunctional community support center for providing information, professional development support and consultations to agribusinesses and the population of Ashotsk. The Community Center created a library with technical literature and developed a database of the socio-economic needs of the twenty-five communities of the Ashotsk sub-region. The Community Center collaborated with leading experts of the region to involve them in the organization of training seminars for community members on project design and management, marketing, and election procedures. About one hundred and fifteen citizens also received consultations and services provided by the Center. One of the important achievements of the project was the establishment of a partnership council comprised of twelve community members from the NGO, private and local government sectors. The aim of the partnership council is to discuss community issues, identify priority areas and develop targeted strategies for socio-economic development of the region.

Because of the project, the population of Ashotsk now has access to a well-equipped community center that provides a broad range of services for ordinary citizens, NGOs and businesses.

### **Defender of Rights Union**

Y05-7002

\$25,476

Yerevan, Armenia

7/20/2005 - 7/31/2006

Despite an increasing number of private agencies, the newspaper distribution market in Armenia is still underdeveloped. This project sought to improve the print media distribution system in the region through the creation of press offices in the communities and the introduction of home delivery and subscription mechanisms. Five representatives' offices were created in Amasia, Ani, Artik, Akhuryan and Ashotsk communities of the Shirak Region. A special training course was designed and conducted for local agents. Ongoing market surveys have been conducted in cooperation with the Armenian Marketing Association to track the readers' demand, advertisement trends and to update subscriber database. Special software was installed to maintain subscriptions and sales. At the end of the project, the grantee had doubled its sales and it maintains a sustainable group of individual and corporate subscriptions. Steps have been undertaken for further the expansion of the distribution network to northern regions. The grantee has managed to establish strong partnerships with local and foreign Organizations, which has become a key factor for its success and sustainability. Its marketing capacity can be used for further stages of the EF Media Distribution Program.

### **Goris Municipality**

Y03-7003

\$21,214

Goris, Armenia

6/1/2003 - 8/30/2004

Local governments in Armenia need the introduction of cutting-edge technologies for the automation of internal procedures, information storage and retrieval, training of key personnel in the operation of new programs, modern fiscal management, strategic administrative planning as well as customer service to improve the efficiency of its operation. To address these problems a Municipal Information-Analytical Center was established within Goris municipality. The project also established an internal computer network, introduced software packages for municipal development and created various databases to support municipality activities. An information campaign was organized to raise public awareness on the activities of the Center. The campaign included the dissemination of information bulletins and brochures, face-to-face meetings, and round table discussions. In particular, three brochures and three booklets were published to inform the population about the operation of the Center. Meanwhile a round table was held to present the community needs and the strategy to address those problems. Because of the project, Goris Municipality now provides better access to information for its citizens and performs its responsibilities more efficiently. A close partnership with local NGOs has been established.

### **Kapan Municipality**

Y03-7001

\$19,509

Kapan, Armenia

6/1/2003 - 8/31/2004

Local governments in Armenia need the introduction of cutting-edge technologies for the automation of internal procedures, and improved information storage and retrieval. To address these problems a Municipal Information-Analytical Center was established within the Kapan Municipality. The goal of the project was to increase the quality and efficiency of services provided by municipalities to citizens and to promote their participation in local governance decision-making processes. A package of municipal programs, such as budgeting, population register, and recordkeeping were installed within the Center to help accelerate and improve routine activities. Municipal staff was also trained to operate these programs. In addition, an active information campaign was run to raise the awareness of the population on activities of the MIAC. Within the scope of the project, four information bulletins (600 copies) and seven information leaflets (200 copies) were published to inform the population about the operation of the

MIAC. This resulted in improved effectiveness of municipality activities because time was saved on providing services, filtering statistics information on the population, budgeting, etc.

**Maternity Center of Armenia**

Y04-6011

\$18,848

Yerevan, Armenia

10/1/2004 - 3/31/2006

Homeowners' associations and NGOs functioning in the Kanaker-Zeitun District of Yerevan lack the capacity to design and implement community development projects, establish partnerships and raise funds for project implementation. To stimulate the process of community development, the Maternity Fund of Armenia implemented a project to develop the above-mentioned capacities of local organizations and to promote civic participation in decision-making processes. Within the project a series of trainings was conducted for representatives of 35 homeowners' associations and ten NGOs, four information booklets and 26 issues of a community bulletin covering the activities of the municipality, homeowners' associations and NGOs were published and disseminated, 23 public hearings were conducted on issues concerning the local district problems, and around 700 citizens received free legal consultations. Because of the project, local NGOs and homeowners' knowledge that will help them perform more effectively, local citizens became more involved in community activities, and the organization established collaboration with the municipality. EF support enabled the NGO to enlarge the scope of its activities and to work more effectively in the sphere of community development. Thanks to its active work and qualified, staff the organization managed to gain the respect and recognition of community structures and the municipality in particular.

**Union of Builders of Armenia**

Y05-7003

\$17,030

Yerevan, Armenia

7/20/2005 - 9/20/2006

In Armenia, the owners of medium and small-sized businesses often can not rely upon the judicial system for the resolution of disputes, due to corruption within the court system and the high costs associated with long court proceedings. The promotion of alternative methods of dispute resolution (ADR) in Armenia is one way to improve the legal environment for SMEs. With support from the EF, the Union of Builders of Armenia implemented a project to promote the use of ADR in the construction sector. Within the scope of the project, the grantee examined, summarized and presented the experience of foreign countries in promoting mediation to the Union members. The grantee also conducted five round table discussions for representatives of construction companies, to inform them about alternative methods of dispute resolution and their advantages over the traditional court system, as well as to present the "Charter of Corporate Ethics" and "Regulations for Commercial Dispute Resolution". Ten members of the Union were selected and trained to provide mediation services. Because of the project, the members of the Union and the representatives of construction companies acquired a basic understanding of ADR, and Union members developed rules and regulations for commercial dispute resolution. Soon, the Dispute Resolution Center will also be established by the organization to provide mediation services to construction businesses in Armenia. In the future, the Union plans to lobby for legislative changes that will help create a more favorable legal environment for further promotion of ADR.

## Azerbaijan

### **ABD - Azerbaijan Agency for Business Development**

B05-0193

\$20,320

Baku, Azerbaijan

7/20/2005 - 5/1/2006

In order to support increased economic opportunities for citizens in Azerbaijan, this project was supported to develop potential for rural green tourism enterprises in the northern regions of Azerbaijan. The grantee organization held a survey in 6 villages (approximately 104 households), in the Oguz region to identify possible recipients of technical assistance aimed at developing their cottage industries. Because of the survey, approximately 59 households (291 people), were selected to attend three training sessions. Of the 59 households who received assistance, approximately 48 were determined to be capable of providing services to visiting tourists.

### **NGO Golden Hive**

C05-0043

\$1,140

Baku, Azerbaijan

6/1/2006 - 7/31/2006

Beekeeping has the potential to be a substantially profitable area of agribusiness for the South Caucasus; however, the industry's development has been inhibited by such factors as low volumes of quality apiary products, inadequate certification practices, and the inability to comply with international standards. The Union of Apiarists and Apitherapy in Armenia, together with its Azerbaijani and Georgian partners, conducted preliminary research and developed a follow-on linkage proposal aimed at improving the quality of their products. The follow-on proposal includes a series of well-designed trainings with local and international experts on modern apicultural practices and activities to elaborate common standards and certification criteria for apicultural products. The future linkage project will also enhance networking opportunities for professional apiarists throughout the South Caucasus. The linkage project will be supported through the South Caucasus Cooperation Program.

### **Azerbaijan Bank Training Center**

C03-0054

\$33,700

Baku, Azerbaijan

4/22/2004 - 4/19/2006

The lack of well-trained personnel is one of the key obstacles hindering the development of insurance markets in the South Caucasus. To address this issue, the Association of Insurance Companies of Azerbaijan, along with its partners in Armenia and Georgia, prepared a curriculum and teaching methodology for a vocational education course for insurance professionals. The training program was modeled on the German system of professional education. The three partner organizations visited Berlin to learn about this system from experts from the German Union of Insurers and the Institute of Insurance Industry Professional Development. The partners also adapted a German textbook on insurance and translated it into the three national languages of the region. In addition to preparing the curriculum and textbook, the partners met in Tbilisi to create a strategy to introduce a unified system of professional certification for the region's insurers. An international expert on professional certification, Ms. Sharon Goldsmith, provided technical assistance to the partners. Lastly, the Association of Insurance Companies of Azerbaijan developed a charter for a vocational education center, the Insurance Learning Center, and the Association's board of directors approved the center's charter. The Association hopes to launch this center in the near future.

### **Azerbaijan National Committee of Helsinki Citizens Assembly**

C06-0006

\$1,175

Baku, Azerbaijan

4/1/2006 - 6/15/2006

News reports on neighboring countries by national media outlets in the South Caucasus are plagued by misinterpretation or distorted facts. This is primarily because many state- and privately-owned media

entities are used to promote personal or political interests. In order to promote more professional and objective news coverage of neighboring countries, EF provided a contact grant to the Observer newspaper and to its Armenian and Georgian partners to research and develop a linkage project proposal. The partner organizations planned to establish a regional professional association of analytical journalists, to organize roundtable discussions among stakeholders, to publish a weekly analytical e-magazine, and to provide professional training seminars. Although the proposal was well designed, the competition's expert panel selected other more competitive projects.

### **ECOS - Environmental Sustainability**

C05-0025 \$974  
Baku, Azerbaijan 3/1/2006 - 4/14/2006

The pollution in the Kura-Araks River basin is a critical environmental issue for the South Caucasus. Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, which jointly utilize and manage the water resources of the two rivers, also share common problems related to municipal, agricultural, and industrial river pollution. This contact project brought together ECOS- Environmental Sustainability and its Georgian and Armenian counterparts to discuss and develop a follow-on linkage project proposal to strengthen sustainable management of shared water resources and mechanisms against pollution. The elaborated linkage proposal was submitted to the EF SCCP, but was not selected for funding due to its low competitiveness

### **Entrepreneurship Development Foundation**

C03-0046 \$49,100  
Baku, Azerbaijan 1/15/2004 - 7/17/2006

Weak administrative procedures have a negative impact on the business environment and investment climate of the South Caucasus. Through the EF linkage grant, the Entrepreneurship Development Foundation and its partners in Armenia and Georgia, developed recommendations to enable more efficient and transparent trade procedures and advocated their adoption. The partners also promoted public awareness of regional trade issues by establishing an on-line consultation service, by publishing a series of regional trade bulletins, and by organizing an international workshop on trade facilitation in the South Caucasus. The partners initiated a constructive multi-sector dialogue among the region's business community, policy experts and regional trade officials.

### **Yeni Nesil- Union of Journalists of Azerbaijan**

C06-0002 \$894  
Baku, Azerbaijan 4/1/2006 - 5/24/2006

For more than a decade, national mass media outlets in the South Caucasus have been unable to provide objective and professional coverage of events in the neighboring countries. In large part this occurred because many media entities in the region, both state- and privately-owned, reflect the interests of certain political and/or nationalist forces. An EF contact grant to Yeni Nesil - Union of Journalists of Azerbaijan and its partners in Armenia and Georgia enabled the organizations to research and develop a linkage project proposal to promote unbiased reporting events in neighboring countries. The proposal was to include monitoring and analysis of the major news programs broadcast in all three South Caucasus countries, monitoring compliance with norms of journalism ethics, and developing recommendations to improve self-regulation by the media. Although the proposal was well designed, other more competitive projects were selected for further support by the competition's expert panel.

### **Guild of Professional Film Producers**

C03-0043 \$34,419  
Baku, Azerbaijan 10/1/2003 - 5/15/2006

The once vibrant film making industries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have declined since the break up of the Soviet Union. Like many other industries in the region, they have suffered from low levels of investment because the small size of national markets makes them less attractive to international

investors. The Guild of Professional Film Producers in Azerbaijan, together with its partners in Armenia and Georgia, collaborated to attract domestic and foreign investment for their respective national filmmaking industries through the EF linkage grant. The partners created the Caucasus Film Commission Website and published the Caucasus Film Production Guide to promote the South Caucasus as a location for film production. Through their activities, the partners established cross-border links among filmmaking industry representatives and audio-visual professionals. The website they created continued functioning after the completion of the project.

### **Internews Azerbaijan**

C04-0008 \$48,052  
Baku, Azerbaijan 12/1/2004 - 8/31/2006

Regional integration among the countries of the South Caucasus in part depends on adequate information flow as the means of supporting dialogue and mutual understanding. The region's mass media entities are plagued by subjective and unprofessional reporting because of financial instability and political tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Internews Georgia and its partners in Armenia and Azerbaijan implemented an EF-sponsored project, in which regional television journalists, covered events in neighboring countries through a weekly Russian language television program, known as "Perekrestok." In addition to daily news events, the program extensively addressed topics about minorities, women, children, and marginalized populations with support from the Media Diversity Institute. By bringing timely, independent news and information to the viewing public, the program contributed to a further dialogue and mutual understanding across the region.

### **Marketing Specialists of Azerbaijan**

C05-0027 \$1,594  
Baku, Azerbaijan 11/1/2005 - 12/14/2005

The majority of local businesses in the South Caucasus lack sufficient resources and capacity to develop partnerships with partners abroad. The development of a regional export catalog can help expand access of locally produced goods and services to foreign markets. The Armenian Marketing Association, along with its Azerbaijani and Georgian partners, conducted preliminary research and developed a well-designed linkage project proposal to develop high-quality print, electronic, and web-based promotional materials, known as the South Caucasus Export Catalog. The Catalog will feature comprehensive information on producers and service providers located in all three countries of the region. The future linkage project will also include an extensive promotional campaign among local businesses to include approximately 600 enterprises (200 from each country) in the catalog. The linkage project will be supported through the South Caucasus Cooperation Program. If successfully implemented, the catalog project will enable export-oriented businesses in the region to link with prospective foreign partners and to undertake joint efforts to break into foreign markets.

### **International Media Bridge (Radio Space)**

C04-0002 \$36,249  
Baku, Azerbaijan 10/1/2004 - 3/10/2006

Armenians, Azerbaijanis, and Georgians are keenly interested in news from neighboring countries of the South Caucasus; however, local media pay little attention to regional issues. Instead, the region's population typically relies on Russian and Western news sources. To address this issue, EF provided a linkage grant to Radio "Space" and its partners in Armenia and Georgia to develop a cross-border radio program entitled Radio Bridge to address issues of regional concern. The partners broadcasted 56 cross-border radio programs and organized journalist exchanges to learn about broadcasting operations and journalist practices in neighboring countries. In addition, the partners established a website - [www.radiomost.get.to](http://www.radiomost.get.to) - that continues to functions.

### **International Media Most**

C06-0007 \$971  
Baku, Azerbaijan 4/1/2006 - 5/14/2006  
News reporting in the all three countries of South Caucasus lacks objectivity and professionalism, particularly in the oftentimes-controversial area of law enforcement. To address this issue, EF provided a contact grant to International Media Most and its partners in Armenia and Georgia to research and to develop a linkage project proposal. The follow-on project included a monitoring initiative to assess the quality of electronic and print media coverage on law enforcement issues. Based on the initiative's findings, the partners planned a series of region-wide trainings and roundtables on best practices for journalists specializing in law enforcement reporting. Although the proposal was well designed, the competition's expert panel selected other more competitive projects.

**OBSERVER Newspaper Editorial Office**

C06-0003 \$1,053  
Baku, Azerbaijan 4/19/2006 - 6/10/2006  
News reports on neighboring countries by national media outlets in the South Caucasus are plagued by misinterpretation or distorted facts. This is primarily because many state- and privately-owned media entities are used to promote personal or political interests. In order to promote more professional and objective news coverage of neighboring countries, EF provided a contact grant to the Observer newspaper and to its Armenian and Georgian partners to research and develop a linkage project proposal. The partner organizations planned to establish a regional professional association of analytical journalists, to organize roundtable discussions among stakeholders, to publish a weekly analytical e-magazine, and to provide professional training seminars. Although the proposal was well designed, the competition's expert panel selected other more competitive projects.

**RUH - Journalists Defense Committee**

C04-0006 \$33,553  
Baku, Azerbaijan 10/1/2004 - 4/10/2006  
Exchanging information in the South Caucasus is often hindered by a lack of financial resources and political tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Internet, however, enables the media and researchers to establish and develop information exchange networks that are financially affordable and that offer the least control by the region's governments. The RUH - Journalists Defense Committee of Azerbaijan and its Armenian and Georgian partners enlarged their region-wide, information exchange network among journalists, editors, and researchers through EF funding. The partners developed a subscription scheme for analytical news articles, conducted online interviews with regional decision makers, and organized online forums for journalists. In addition, the grantees trained local journalists on Internet use and monitored the impact of the two-year initiative on journalists in the region. The monitoring results demonstrated that the project improved journalists and experts' access to reliable information on regional events and provided an efficient mechanism to promote an exchange of ideas.

**Society of Regional Studies**

C04-0004 \$41,819  
Baku, Azerbaijan 1/12/2004 - 8/2/2006  
The pollution in the trans-boundary water systems is a critical environmental issue for the South Caucasus. Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, which jointly utilize and manage the water resources of the Kura - Araks river basin, also share common problems related to municipal, agricultural and industrial river pollution. Through a network of three Public Environmental Information Centers, the partners conducted public awareness activities targeting the population, the business community, and the local governments in the Kura - Araks river basin by conducting regular thematic seminars on environmental issues, holding a series of national roundtables to discuss pressing environmental issues, and organizing quarterly seminars for Center staff and representatives of the mass media. Additionally, the partners published local-language water monitoring handbooks, produced several TV programs on essential

environmental issues and organized volunteer civic water monitoring groups. These activities will further encourage in-country partnerships among the public, business, and government sectors and develop cross-border venues for more open information exchange and cooperation concerning environmental issues.

## Georgia

### **Anastasia Kitiashvili**

C05-4102

\$1,995

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 11/30/2006

Anastasia Kitiashvili researched attitudes toward education in the South Caucasus Countries. Based on the educational block of the CRRC Data Initiative 2004 the fellow analyzed educational data obtained in each country; conducted cross-cultural analysis and in addition, studied data on migration and social economy issues directly related to the educational sphere. The study showed that although many (26.7% Georgian, 18.3% Azerbaijani, 17.4% Armenian) respondents with higher education remain unemployed, the attitude toward the education system in these countries is generally positive. According to the findings, the main reasons for studying are professional growth and interest in the field. The exception is Azerbaijan, where receiving a diploma is considered as the main motive. The analysis revealed that Azerbaijani and Georgian women make decisions more independently about starting educational programs than men, whereas in Armenia men tend to be more self-determining in this regard. The study of migration data revealed that the main reason for emigration for a third of migrated Georgians is studying, whereas for the other two countries this number is relatively low. In this regard, the main destination country for Georgians is Germany, for Armenians the United States and for Azerbaijani Russia or Turkey. As the three South Caucasus Countries joined the Bologna process, the educational sphere is currently among the top priorities for the countries' governments. The results of the research can be useful for governmental agencies (Ministry of Education; Ministry of Labor), non-governmental organizations and research groups working in this sphere. Based on the results of the analysis, the researcher prepared an article, which will be published in December 2006 in the Georgian journal "Intellect." In addition, the fellow presented the findings at the CRRC Georgia premises. The final report and the article were posted on CRRC-Georgia's website and are available for the research community, policy makers and all interested parties.

### **Eka Kavtiashvili**

C05-4106

\$2,000

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 12/15/2006

Taking into consideration the best international practices and the current situation in Georgia, Eka Kavtiashvili analyzed problems relating to the reintegration of Georgian prisoners into society in general and the labor force in particular and provided recommendations to reform the Georgian penitentiary system. According to the findings, prisoners worldwide face many of the same issues: prisoners' safety is often violated, prisoners are not provided with adequate medical assistance and prisons are overcrowded. According to interviews done by the fellow, in Georgia, 90% of prisoners are unemployed when they enter prison and do not have any professional qualifications and, therefore, most probably will remain unemployed, even after they are released from jail. Furthermore, medical assistance is extremely limited and sanitary conditions do not meet basic health standards. Unfortunately, there is no organization in Georgia that helps released prisoners to reintegrate into the workforce. Moreover, regardless of the fact that only 9.7% of prisoners have obtained a tertiary degree and only 48% a secondary degree. The prisoners, even the ones who are under age, cannot receive any education while in prison. Unfortunately, the researcher was not able to obtain statistical data showing the rate of recidivism. However, according to those familiar with the penitentiary system, the percentage of such prisoners is very high. Because reintegration programs do not exist in Georgia, most of those released from jails cannot find work and cannot reintegrate into mainstream society and, therefore, commit a crime again. The fellow stresses the need to create reintegration programs for prisoners in Georgia, however, she suggests that a necessary precursor to such programs involves improving living conditions in prisons, creating employment as well as educational programs within the prisons, and increasing and improving access to medical care. Kavtiashvili also emphasizes the necessity of involving psychologists and social workers in counseling

prisoners. This research analysis was done using two methods: primary and secondary source research and face-to-face, in-depth interviews with 50 respondents in Tbilisi, Rustavi and Ksani. The results and recommendations of this research can help policy making governmental agencies (Ministry of Justice, Ombudsman's office), non-governmental organizations and research groups working on these issues. At the end of the project, the results of the research were presented at CRRC-Georgia premises and the final report was posted on the web site.

### **Ekaterine Pirtskalava**

C05-4107

\$2,000

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 12/15/2006

Ekaterine Pirtskalava analyzed the economic condition of the population in the three South Caucasus countries, based on the 2004 CRRC Data Initiative data. At the same time, she studied similarities and differences in the profile of poverty and reasons leading to it across the three countries. The survey data elucidates the difficult economic conditions in which citizens of the three countries live. Those families that perceive themselves to be poor or extremely poor families compose the largest percentage of respondents in Georgia (48.7%), and a slightly smaller percentage (46.2%) in Armenia. The situation is much better in Azerbaijan, where only 37.9% consider their families poor and improvements over the past three years were noted by one third of respondents. The perception that the economic situation was worsening was more prevalent among Armenian households (26.2%) compared to Azerbaijani (13.9%) and Georgian households (3.6%). Georgian respondents were, by far, the most optimistic about their future. The study showed that 79.4% of Georgian respondents believed that their economic situation would improve. This may be partially attributed to the drastic political change of November 2003. Gender also clearly plays a role in the economic well-being of families. Of female-headed households, 54.4% (compared to 41.0% of male-headed households) described their households as poor. The average income of male-headed households was substantially higher at \$167.80 compared to female-headed households where the average income was only \$115.50. Female-headed families were not only poorer than male-headed households, but they more often perceive their economic status as having worsened. According to the findings, 37.8% of female-headed households compared to 31.8% of male-headed ones pointed to the worsening of their economic condition during past three years. The results of the fellow's research contain valuable information for Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Economic Development, international organizations (World Bank, UNDP Oxfam, etc.) and research groups working on policy analysis and preparing projects on poverty reduction. The fellow presented the research results at the CRRC-Georgia office. In addition, the final product was disseminated through the CRRC and IPS (International Policy Studies) web sites.

### **George Tsuladze**

C05-4109

\$2,000

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 11/30/2006

George Tsuladze analyzed emigration from Georgia based on the 2002 census. Based on desk-research, secondary data analysis of the 2002 census data and expert interviews, the fellow examined emigration problems and established why the census fails to capture reliable data. Since 1989 more than 1 million Georgian citizens emigrated, therefore external migration is and will be a central challenge for Georgia. According to the 2002 census, 58.7% of emigrants are men and 41.3% are women; 80% of emigrants move abroad for improving their economic conditions; 42.7% of male, and 35.6% of female migrants financially support families left in Georgia; most of the emigrated people have secondary education; the majority of emigrants (29%) are from Tbilisi; Samegrelo, Svaneti, Samtshkhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli also have high rate of emigration; as for nationalities 60.9% of emigrants are Georgians, 11.1% Armenians, 7.7% Greeks and 7.7% Azerbaijanis. This reflects a disproportionate rate of emigration among Greeks, but roughly comparable levels of migration by Armenians and Azerbaijanis. The study showed that the 2002 population census did not provide extensive information about migration patterns for the following main reasons: 1. The census could not cover those families that entirely moved abroad,

2. Some respondents concealed family migration patterns due to distrust, 3. Some migration is seasonal. For the next census the fellow recommends the following measures: more training for questionnaire design; full scale advertisement and thorough description of the census; reducing the number of questions in the questionnaire; and taking into consideration international experience in surveying migration. UNHCR (which expressed an interest in translating parts of the research) and the State Department of Statistics, which stated that they want to integrate the recommendations into the migration block of their future census, received the research results and recommendations with great interest. It can be of more general interest to other policy-making governmental agencies (e.g. Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation) and non-governmental organizations (International Migration Organization, OSCE) and has been used by international researchers interested in this field. The results of this study were published in a form of brochure and the final report. The fellow presented the results of his study at the CRRC office in Tbilisi. The final report was posted on CRRC-Georgia's website.

**Giga Zedania**

C05-4111

\$1,840

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 12/15/2006

Giga Zedania analyzed the recent Georgian debates about a "national ideology" through two modern and internationally recognized theories: deconstruction and hegemonic theory. According to the research, ideology had a peculiar place in the Soviet Union. Zedania argues that the absolute domination of communist ideology during the last decade of existence of Soviet Union was because nobody had faith in it. Consequently, the communist ideology existed in total cynicism. The fellow argues that cynicism toward official ideology reached its peak in Georgia, because the ideological press was not as strong as in the center, especially in 1970s and `80s. During this period began the attempt of establishing a new narrative, focused on the Georgian nation and displacing the exhausted notion of class. Zviad Gamsakhurdia works of the period are exemplars of this trend: they aimed at mobilizing citizens and legitimizing a new political force, through an appeal to a romantic national destiny. Gamsakhurdia himself therefore can serve as a classical example of creating and developing an ideology in which Georgia was to serve as a synthesis between East and West. The second phase of ideological development is the period of Shevardnadze's presidency, when political discourse was completely changed. The discourse now focused on human rights and democracy, discarding the preoccupation with the main characteristics of Georgian nature or culture. Debates about a specifically national ideology were suspended, but after the Rose Revolution in November 2003, a new stage of development began: in this third phase, there is an attempt of creating a dialectical synthesis of the previous two stages - national and liberal-democratic discourses were to be united and come into harmony. The researcher analyzed an important debate in the recent history of Georgia, which will be of interest not only for the representatives of the social sciences, but also for journalists, historians and public, including foreign observers. This study enriches our understanding of how these theoretical frameworks can be used to analyze contemporary political debates, and therefore in themselves are a contribution to the development of local academic analysis. By the end of the project, the results of the research were posted on CRRC-Georgia website intended for research community and all interested parties. In addition, the fellow presented his research findings at CRRC-Georgia premises, drawing a large audience.

**Mariam Sakevarishvili**

C05-4113

\$1,950

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 12/20/2006

Mariam Sakevarishvili analyzed the life of labor migrants returning to Georgia. She combined CRRC 2004 Data Initiative findings with 50 interviews across Georgia. The interviews very much replicated the findings from the Data Initiative: prior to emigration, 37% of respondents did not have adequate income; 31% were unemployed; 16% cited personal reasons for migration. The priority for most of the migrants was the financial support that they provided to their families; also, many respondents stated that one of the most important things gained during emigration was strengthening their self-esteem. All respondents

had realistic expectations about migration, therefore most were satisfied and thought that they had achieved their goals - purchased an apartment, returned loans, and met other immediate needs. The research indicates that many male migrants are involved in criminal activity, as this seems the only escape from poverty (especially since illegal immigrants often are excluded from the formal employment sector). Sakevarishvili suggests that this contributes to building stereotypes of Georgian males as being criminal and dangerous. Apparently, Georgians themselves tend to be cautious about establishing connections with their compatriots abroad. The majority of the respondents do not exclude the possibility of re-migrating. The respondents said that the biggest discomforts for them were nostalgia and the relationship with the host country police. As for the adaptation process in foreign countries, Sakerashvili found that emigrants adjust better in Russia, Israel, Spain and Portugal, in the order in which they are listed. Respondents who lived in Russia even did not use the word "adaptation" in the conversation. For them, Russia has closer ties with Georgia than any other European country and both nations have a lot in common. According to the research most of the emigrants used to live in Russia. More specifically, based on CRRC DI 2004 data 31% of respondents said that their relatives were living in Russia, 16% in Greece, 13% in Germany, 13% in the US, 7% in Israel; 7% in England. After coming back from abroad, the respondents did not really notice tremendous changes in Georgia. For most, the changes that they found in their homeland were superficial. The above-mentioned findings are based on the analysis of migration block of CRRC DI 2004 and face-to-face, in-depth interviews with 50 respondents in Tbilisi, Gori, Dmanisi, Kutaisi and Lanchkhuti. Since migration is one of the biggest problems for Georgia, the findings of the research contain valuable information for the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, non-governmental organizations (International Migration Organization, OSCE, and UNHCR) and for researchers interested in this field. By the end of the project, the fellow presented her research findings at the CRRC-Georgia premises, drawing a large audience, and the results were posted on the website.

**Murtaz Kvirkvaia**

C05-4114

\$1,975

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 12/15/2006

Murtaz Kvirkvaia researched social problems (unemployment, the pension system and health insurance) in Georgia and developed a set of policy recommendations based on his research. According to his findings, 55% of the population lives on the brink of poverty and 9.6% of the population is extremely poor. By Kvirkvaia's estimations, the unemployment rate is 3.5 times higher than the official data claim and a third of economically active citizens are jobless. However, the most vulnerable of groups, the fellow argues, are pensioners. The analysis showed that the pension system is founded on an intergenerational contract, where today's pensions are being paid by future generations, which makes pensioners' social problems impossible to resolve. Based on his research, the fellow put forth a framework to resolve Georgia's social problems. He argues that the state cannot play the leading role in resolving social problems for the majority of the population, like it used to do during the Soviet era. Accordingly, Kvirkvaia considers economic liberty as the main factor in economic growth and the best solution to social problems. Economic liberty would enable the government to liberate itself from the necessity of solving economic and social problems that should not fall within its purview. For instance, the fellow argues that a system based on an intergenerational contract, which underlies what is known as the "Bismarck model" for pension systems, is effective only in cases where the number of employed people is four times larger than the number of pensioners; this is clearly not the case in Georgia, which must develop a pension system that is more reliant on the market. Based on the study, the researcher organized a seminar, which brought together 21 students and lecturers from Tbilisi State University and the Caucasus Academic Center. The results and recommendations of the research can help policy-making governmental agencies (Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Health and Social Security), non-governmental organizations, and research groups working on these issues. The fellows presented the research results to an interested audience at the CRRC-Georgia office. In addition, the final product was posted on CRRC-Georgia website and is available to the research community.

**Nani Chkhaidze**

C05-4115

\$2,000

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 11/30/2006

Nani Chkhaidze compared 1990s election programs of parties that won the parliamentary elections in the South Caucasus. Overall, the fellow analyzed political programs of 66 political parties, 36 in Georgia, 20 in Armenia and 10 in Azerbaijan. According to the research results the categories democracy, social justice and welfare state expansion are most emphasized in the Azerbaijani pre-election campaign, followed by Armenian and then Georgian political parties. Education expansion is most popular in Georgian party programs, with Armenia second and Azerbaijan third. Environmental protection has a similar ranking: most stressed in the Georgian pre-election campaign, then Armenian and Azerbaijan. Support for social harmony and social welfare is most prized in Armenia, followed by Georgia and Azerbaijan. The program analysis is based on the analytical methods of the content: i.e. what ideas, politics, targets and interests are the focuses of the parties' platforms. These categories are encoded by means of a "qualification scheme", originally developed by David Robertson (1957). The research will be interesting for those studying civil society and its development, as well as in comparing political parties and their program. It can help to design programs to strengthen civil society and public participation. The fellows presented the research results at the CRRC-Georgia office. In addition, the final report was posted on the website and is available for the research community and all interested parties.

**Nino Japaridze**

C05-4116

\$2,000

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 12/15/2006

Nino Japaridze analyzed what needs to be done to integrate Azeri and Armenian youths into Georgian public life. The fellow used the CRRC Data Initiative 2004 to analyze the attitude of South Caucasians toward certain groups of people (homosexuals, drug addicts, alcoholics, those with HIV, and people having tuberculosis). According to the data, Georgians are most tolerant, with Armenians second, followed by Azerbaijanis. Most respondents prefer marriage with the same nationalities, but regarding friendship, a third of the respondents express no national preferences. The focus groups consisting of ethnic minorities and Georgians in Tbilisi, Marneuli, Bolnisi and Akhaltsikhe showed that education is a particular problem. Minorities do not know Georgian, and therefore said that they were not able to participate in the national university entrance exams. Consequently, they were not satisfied with the educational reform. Respondents as further main problems mentioned unemployment, drug addiction and absence of entertainment places. The fellow recommends that more attention should be paid to regional problems. Most of the representatives of focus groups were unhappy with the fact that the government did not care about the regions as much as about the capital; in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe Javakheti, where most ethnic minorities live, more emphasis ought to be paid on offering Georgian language classes; training courses on human rights should be offered, so that citizens know and can exercise their rights; regional healthcare reform must start; a lot should be done in order to facilitate investment and reduce the unemployment rate. The results and recommendation of this research could be useful for the Georgian government and various non-governmental organizations working on minority issues. By the end of the project, the results of the research were posted on CRRC-Georgia website. In addition, the fellow presented her research findings at CRRC-Georgia premises, drawing a large audience.

**Rusiko Velidze**

C05-4121

\$1,950

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 12/20/2006

Rusudan Velidze analyzed the living conditions of the Georgian population living in Gali District (Abkhazia Region). The researcher conducted face-to-face, in-depth interviews with 60 respondents. The study results revealed that the Georgian population faces difficult social and living conditions. After the change of Georgian government the number of population returning to Gali increased, but their economic conditions remained harsh. Some of the main findings include: most of the respondents believe

that the war was triggered artificially and that Shevardnadze's government contributed to the escalation of the conflict. As for the current government, the population trusts it more and hopes that the territorial integrity of Georgia will be restored. After establishing Georgian schools in the district, the educational problems are more or less resolved. There are 32 Georgian schools, with a monthly fee of 4 to 7 GEL. The level of education is good. However, healthcare remains one of the major problems. The healthcare system is disorganized and there exists only one hospital in the district, which lacks medical supplies and qualified doctors. The main information source for the population is television. Georgian, Russian and Abkhaz TV channels are available in the district. Velidze also reports that the Georgian population does not have any relationship with Abkhaz people and do not know much about their everyday life. This research contains valuable information for the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, for non-governmental organizations and researchers and simply ordinary citizens of Georgia who are interested how the Georgian population in Gali lives. By the end of the project, the research was posted on CRRC-Georgia's website. In addition, the fellow presented her research findings at CRRC-Georgia premises, drawing a large audience.

### **Rusudan Nadiradze**

C05-4120

\$1,950

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 12/20/2006

Rusudan Nadiradze analyzed problems of Georgian conscripts doing their compulsory military service. Throughout 2005, she conducted face to face, in-depth interviews with 57 soldiers of 4 military units in different regions of Georgia, and with 4 experts. While reform is in progress, the situation in military units changes daily. Therefore, social and living conditions vary. The study shows a considerable difference between social and living conditions of small and big military units. Barracks of small military units are better equipped and there is enough space for the inhabitants. Food is healthier, and more is available, in smaller units. Hygiene and clothing provision, however, tend to be problematic for both types of military units. The research also indicates that in smaller military units the relationship within and between ranks is better. In these smaller units, comradeship is easier to establish, therefore deeper conflicts are very rare, and this makes it easier for conscripts. Overall, service members in small military units tend to be more satisfied with their work than soldiers in bigger military contingents. Some of the respondents think that hardship is an indispensable part of military life. Moreover, overcoming difficulties is often associated with strength and bravery. According to the findings, military service is gaining more prestige that is social. During the interviews, soldiers also talked about reasons of desertion. According to the soldiers, the main causes of desertion are the harsh social and living conditions, but in most of the cases these are additional personal conflicts. Most of the respondents are not aware about their rights; none of them have ever contacted any institution regarding their rights, because such a practice simply does not exist. The interviewed experts think that a lot needs to be done to transform Georgian soldiers into a professional army: officers need to be trained to understand human rights; to establish army discipline, relevant principles and regulations should be developed; the government has to clamp down on all violations; there should be more public control over the army; all procedures need to be fully legalized and codified, and, as Nadiradze says "unlawful relations must be prevented". As the Georgian army is undergoing reform, the research results should be interesting for the Ministry of Defense, the Ombudsman's office and various non-governmental organizations. By the end of the project, the results of the research were posted on CRRC-Georgia's website. In addition, the fellow presented her research findings at CRRC-Georgia premises, drawing a large audience.

### **Sergo Baramidze**

C05-4123

\$2,000

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2005 - 12/15/2006

Sergo Baramidze analyzed the barriers hindering the development of cooperatives and other forms of business partnerships in the rural areas of West Georgia. This research was done using face-to-face, in-depth interviews with farmers and experts. The fellow found that in rural communities of Georgia,

peasants and small-scale farmers tend to be self-reliant and not interested in forms of cooperation, such as agricultural or credit cooperatives. For instance, only 5% of the credit unions developed through the World Bank attained a modicum of success. The researcher highlighted five main barriers hindering co-op developments in rural areas of Georgia: 1) peasants and small-scale farmers are unfamiliar with the benefits of cooperation; 2) farmers are not educated about the principles of community resource management; 3) there is no concrete plan for the development of small farm cooperative markets in rural communities; 4) villagers distrust each other too much to cooperate; 5) a lack of financing exists for agricultural development. In order to improve co-op development in rural areas, Baramidze suggests developing cooperative management training materials based on recommendations developed by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and Credit Agricolle and adopting them to the local Georgian environment taking into consideration aspects of Georgian cooperative heritage - Soviet farms (kolkhoz) and Georgian co-ops that existed before the Soviet revolutions in 1917 and 1921 - that may still be useful in contemporary Georgia. Moreover, Baramidze suggests incorporating the best types of social interactions of communities existing in rural Georgia's day-to-day life into the business cooperation. For example, Baramidze believes that practices developed from Georgian eating and drinking culture such as the unique method of delegation of toasts to other members of table (alaverdi) could be transferred into the business life of rural communities. The results of the study were published in the local magazine Economica and broadcast on the 1st Channel program, Moderator. The results of the research can be useful for governmental agencies (Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Economic Development), non-governmental organizations and research groups working in agriculture. After the culmination of the project, the results of the research were presented at CRRC-Georgia and posted on the CRRC Web site.

**Black Sea Press Association**

C03-4026

\$29,957

Tbilisi, Georgia

11/1/2004 - 12/31/2005

Lingering political conflict and the tendency of many media entities to promote personal or political interests has prevented the development of objective and professional coverage of events in the neighboring countries of the South Caucasus for more than a decade. To address this issue, EF provided a linkage grant to Association "Black Sea Press" and its partners in Armenia and Azerbaijan to establish a mechanism for extensive information and analysis exchange among regional news-making communities. The partners published analytical reports on local print media and guidelines on media coverage in neighboring countries. In addition, they produced documentaries on the role of NGOs and the media in addressing regional issues. Project reports were regularly published in local newspapers and broadcast on local television channels, and the partners continued cooperating on limited scale even after the project was completed.

**Elkana Biological Farming Association**

C02-4035

\$31,434

Tbilisi, Georgia

10/1/2003 - 4/19/2006

Organic foodstuffs are among the most competitive products for potential export from the South Caucasus. However, the lack of awareness and information about organic farming among small farmers in the region hinders the development of organic agribusiness. Through the EF linkage grant, the Elkana Biological Farming Association, together with its partners in Armenia and Azerbaijan, conducted organic marketing seminars for farmers, facilitated the formation of organic farming networks and created a database for organic foodstuffs from the region to enable better production planning and to identify common export markets. The organic farmers' network continues to function, and other donors, because of EF's pilot grant making, funded follow-up projects.

**Educational Initiatives Association**

C06-4006

\$860

Rustavi, Georgia

4/1/2006 - 6/15/2006

Newspaper articles containing biased language and inaccurate information in part fuel the stereotypes that Armenians, Azerbaijanis, and Georgians have of each other. To address this issue, EF provided a contact grant to the Georgian Association of the Educational Initiatives and to its partners in Armenia and Azerbaijan to research and develop a linkage project proposal. The follow-on project envisioned strengthening contacts among newspaper journalists from all three countries, increasing the cross-border flow of balanced information on current events, and developing journalistic skills through the publication of a regional newspaper entitled "Bridge." Although the proposal was well designed, the competition's expert panel selected other more competitive projects.

**Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA)**

C06-4010

\$679

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2006 - 5/14/2006

Journalism schools in the South Caucasus often fail to provide their students with basic professional skills to work in modern political, economic, and social environments. To address this issue, EF provided a contact grant to Khazar University and its partners in Armenia and Azerbaijan to research and to develop a linkage project proposal aimed at improving the quality of university-level journalism programs. The follow-up project envisioned expanding the master's program in journalism at the Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management to include students from Azerbaijan and Armenia and establishing a program of joint instruction and faculty exchanges among the partner institutions. The competition's expert panel found the proposal to be well-designed and recommended it for further support.

**National Committee of Helsinki Citizens Assembly**

C06-4003

\$721

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/19/2006 - 6/10/2006

News reports on neighboring countries by national media outlets in the South Caucasus are plagued by misinterpretation or distorted facts. This is primarily because many state- and privately-owned media entities are used to promote personal or political interests. In order to promote more professional and objective news coverage of neighboring countries, EF provided a contact grant to the Georgian National Committee of the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly and to its partners in Armenia and Azerbaijan to research and develop a linkage project proposal. The partner organizations planned to establish a regional professional association of analytical journalists, to organize roundtable discussions among stakeholders, to publish a weekly analytical e-magazine, and to provide professional training seminars. Although the proposal was well designed, other more competitive projects were selected by the competition's expert panel.

**Green Movement of Georgia**

C05-4025

\$1,085

Tbilisi, Georgia

3/1/2006 - 4/14/2006

The pollution in the Kura-Araks River Basin is a critical environmental issue for the South Caucasus. Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, which jointly utilize and manage the water resources of the two rivers, also share common problems related to municipal, agricultural, and industrial river pollution. This contact project brought together Green Movement of Georgia and its Azerbaijani and Armenian counterparts to discuss and develop a follow-up linkage project proposal to strengthen sustainable management of shared water resources and mechanisms against pollution. The elaborated linkage proposal was submitted to EF SCCP, but was not selected for funding due to its low competitiveness.

**Green Wave Association**

C04-4002

\$34,702

Tbilisi, Georgia

10/1/2004 - 3/10/2006

Armenians, Azerbaijanis, and Georgians are very interested in news from neighboring countries of the South Caucasus; however, local media pay very little attention to regional issues. Instead, the region's population typically relies on Russian and Western news sources. To address this issue, EF provided a linkage grant to Green Wave and its partners in Armenia and Azerbaijan to develop a cross-border radio program entitled Radio Bridge to address issues of regional concern. The partners broadcasted 56 cross-border radio programs and organized journalist exchanges to learn about broadcasting operations and journalist practices in neighboring countries. In addition, the partners established a website - [www.radiomost.get.to](http://www.radiomost.get.to) - that continues to functions.

### **Liberty Institute Foundation**

C06-4007

\$660

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2006 - 5/14/2006

News reporting in the all three countries of the South Caucasus lacks objectivity and professionalism, particularly in the often-controversial area of law enforcement. To address this issue, EF provided a contact grant to International Media Most and its partners in Armenia and Azerbaijan to research and to develop a linkage project proposal. The follow-up project included a monitoring initiative to assess the quality of electronic and print media coverage on law enforcement issues. Based on the initiative's findings, the partners planned a series of region-wide trainings and roundtables on best practices for journalists specializing in law enforcement reporting. Although the proposal was well designed, the competition's expert panel selected other more competitive projects.

### **Driver, Road & Law Union**

C03-4001

\$31,801

Tbilisi, Georgia

10/1/2003 - 2/5/2005

High levels of corruption among traffic police in the South Caucasus has led to abuse of drivers' rights, particularly for travel to neighboring countries. Working with its partners in Armenia and Georgia, the League for the Defense of Citizens' Labor Rights in Azerbaijan sought to strengthen drivers' rights through an EF linkage grant. The partners comparatively analyzed regulations on driving and vehicle use in all three countries and conducted a survey to determine public awareness of drivers' rights. Based on these assessments, the partners launched a drivers' rights information campaign that included print and broadcast media reports, informational billboards, brochures on legal rights, and a telephone hotline to provide immediate legal consultations to drivers. Pre- and post-project surveys demonstrated that drivers' legal knowledge was strengthened.

### **Trade Policy and Law Center**

C05-4027

\$985

Tbilisi, Georgia

11/1/2005 - 12/14/2005

The majority of local businesses in the South Caucasus lack sufficient resources and capacity to develop partnerships with partners abroad. The development of a regional export catalog can help expand access of locally produced goods and services to foreign markets. The International Center for Trade Policy and Law, along with its Azerbaijani and Armenian partners, conducted preliminary research and developed a well-designed linkage project proposal to develop high-quality print, electronic, and web-based promotional materials, known as the South Caucasus Export Catalog. The Catalog will feature comprehensive information on producers and service providers located in all three countries of the region. The future linkage project will also include an extensive promotional campaign among local businesses to include approximately 600 enterprises (200 from each country) in the catalog. The linkage project will be supported through the South Caucasus Cooperation Program. If successfully implemented, the catalog project will enable export-oriented businesses in the region to link with prospective foreign partners and to undertake joint efforts to break into foreign markets.

### **Civic Culture Center**

C05-4004 \$1,155  
Tbilisi, Georgia 4/11/2005 - 5/16/2005  
Armenia and Azerbaijan ratified the European Charter of Local Self Government in 2002, and Georgia ratified the Charter in October 2004. As the Council of Europe Country Reports for the three countries state, the local self-government systems in these countries remain rather weak, while in Armenia and Azerbaijan large elements of the European Charter remain unimplemented since the 2002 ratifications. This project sought to support the development of effective and responsive systems of local self-governance in the countries of the South Caucasus. The partners conducted preliminary research and developed a proposal for a linkage project that included an analysis of national legislation on local self-governance and the extent to which this legislation complies with the provisions established by the European Charter. Additionally, the future linkage project included the formation of national task forces to produce research-based policy recommendations and advocate for their adoption by the national legislative bodies. The partners submitted a well-designed linkage proposal to EF in a timely manner, but it was not selected funding through the grant competition.

### **Professional Beekeepers Association**

C05-4043 \$880  
Tbilisi, Georgia 6/1/2006 - 7/31/2006  
Beekeeping has the potential to be a substantially profitable area of agribusiness for the South Caucasus; however, the industry's development has been inhibited by such factors as low volumes of quality apiary products, inadequate certification practices, and the inability to comply with international standards. The Professional Beekeepers Association of Georgia, together with its Azerbaijani and Armenian partners, conducted preliminary research and developed a follow-up linkage proposal aimed at improving the quality of their products. The follow-up proposal includes a series of well-designed trainings with local and international experts on modern apicultural practices and activities to elaborate common standards and certification criteria for apicultural products. The future linkage project will also enhance networking opportunities for professional apiarists throughout the South Caucasus. The linkage project will be supported through the South Caucasus Cooperation Program.

### **ALPE, Association for Public and Legal Education**

G04-0101 \$47,360  
Tbilisi, Georgia 10/1/2004 - 6/1/2006  
The integration of ethnic minorities, while increasing their civic awareness, is a compelling task for the strengthening of statehood and civil society in Georgia. Intensive civic education, information campaign training and learning tours in Georgian state bodies were organized for 614 participants from 17 Armenian, Azeri and Russian schools in Georgian regions populated with ethnic minorities. Tbilisi contributed significantly to the increase of their civic awareness, which had been expressed in the proactive civic attitude of these groups in their communities. Eleven round-tables, with the participation of prominent Georgian opinion leaders and politicians, had 370 participants and 2 training sessions on the basics of democracy for 55 teachers, parents and members of school boards of trustees to significantly enhance their knowledge and civic awareness. The project's usefulness to the beneficiaries in these regions motivated other Azeri and Armenian schools to become beneficiaries of the project and receive the project's printed products (such as the highly popular children's edition of the Georgian constitution). The project was extended to print and distribute more books because of the high demand of this publication. Through the youth-friendly informational and educational activities, the project helped the target groups of the Armenian and Azeri youth to get rid of isolation and become more motivated civic actors within their communities. The research conducted by the grantees in regional schools and contacts established with ethnic minorities helped them to create a valuable baseline of information and establish useful contacts, which will contribute to the success of their pending projects in this field. The project contributed to the increased sustainability of the organization and helped it to establish itself as a distinguished and experienced interethnic NGO.

**School-Family-Society Association**

G03-8015

\$40,444

Tbilisi, Georgia

9/1/2003 - 10/30/2005

The introduction of the modern management in secondary schools of Georgia is one of the key issues of the ongoing educational reforms. The linkage grant awarded to School-Family-Society Association assisted and coordinated the activities in seven schools selected for grants within the EFG and OSGF sponsored competition. The competition Open School Initiative aimed at development of transparent and participatory management in schools with the ultimate goal of creation of an open schools' network in Georgia. The Trustees' Boards, with different degrees of efficiency, were established in six schools through the first-ever democratic elections. The boards actively engaged in school management, including budget making and monitoring which made the school governance more transparent and participatory and resulted in rebuilding trust and cooperation between pupils, their parents and the schools' staff. The result of the training on modern concepts of schools and methods of democratic management of schools increased the degree of participation of parents and pupils in the decision-making processes in the targeted schools. The NGOs established in each target school to lead the reforms were trained within the linkage project and then helped to implement the concept of open schools, including School Codes, a strategic plan of school development and fundraising skills. The creation of a network of open schools involved 30 additional schools. The experience of open schools has been extended to 16 schools in Ajaria and Marneuli. The program "Restructuring and Systemic Development of Schools" and the new association Open Schools League have been created. The project published five issues of a highly popular magazine about education reforms, 1000 copies of booklet and leaflets about school reform. These publications improved public information and awareness of the advantages of the open school model. The open school network needs further consultative support, additional funding and better cooperation with stakeholders to function effectively.

**Sachino Anti Corruption and Defense of Consumer Rights Association**

G05-1006

\$24,565

Kutaisi, Georgia

6/1/2005 - 7/17/2006

Imereti is one the most difficult regions in Georgia in terms of a lack of transparency by local government bodies and the potential for misuse of state budgetary funds. The Association Anti Corruption Sachino in coalition with the Imereti Branch of the Young Economists Association of Georgia carried out a project under EF's Anti-corruption NGO Watchdog Initiative, which was aimed at increasing the transparency of local authorities and supporting improved budgetary processes in the region. The project succeeded in achieving dialogue with the local government officials by presenting a package of recommendations on more effective budget formation and administrative reforms, many of which were accepted. It also provided training programs on issues such as effective monitoring and management of budget funds, release of public information and participatory decision making to civil servants from several municipal councils within the region. The project coalition team has also developed recommendations on transparency and the availability of public information within other governmental agencies in Imereti. In Kutaisi, the local administration has proposed including six members of the project in a special committee on infrastructure and development at the City Hall. The project had the following outputs: series of TV talk shows and radio programs broadcast and aimed to increase citizens' awareness toward the budget processes in the region, seven information bulletins on budget monitoring, and more than 400 individuals attended round table and town hall meetings as well as the training programs organized by the project team. As a result of the Sachino's anti-corruption project, the local government and the city council of Imereti Rayon improved budgetary issues and encouraged the participation of NGOs and interested citizens in the decision making processes.

**School of Business Administration**

G03-0048

\$54,483

Tbilisi, Georgia

9/1/2003 - 12/15/2006

The growth of the private sector in Georgia has created a demand for local managers with international management skills. Caucasus School of Business (CSB), which is one of the two leading business schools in Georgia, has been successful in addressing this demand by offering basic BBA and MBA programs to the first generations of local managers. However, in order to further develop, the school has had to address several institutional weaknesses, including scarce library resources, a small capacity for faculty development, and a lack of international recognition. Through the grant, CSB expanded its library by purchasing textbooks and joining the Georgian Library Association, through which the school subscribed to three electronic business libraries. The grant promoted the development of core faculty by supporting two faculty members' research activities in partnership with Georgia State University in the United States, strengthening the existing partnership between CSB and GSU. With the support of GSU and with financial assistance from the United States' Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, CSB initiated the development of a Ph.D. Program at the school. In preparation for the program, five CSB faculty members gained admission to GSU's PhD Program. The project positioned the school towards international accreditation through membership in the Central and East European Management Development Association (CEEMAN). As a part of the accreditation process, CSB completed a self-assessment and underwent evaluation by CEEMAN experts. A significant achievement of the grant has been that CSB was granted CEEMAN accreditation because of this process.

### **Monitoring of Economic Corruption Center**

G04-0065

\$35,357

Tbilisi, Georgia

10/1/2004 - 11/30/2005

Combating the long-lasting corruption and non-transparency in the energy sphere, which has long impeded Georgia's economic development, is one of the challenging issues for Georgian government and civil society. The baseline assessment of the situation in the energy sector was one of the first made by a non-governmental organization. The monitoring and analyzing of the processes in the energy sector allowed for the revealing of abuses in the state-run energy units and the mobilizing of public opinion and an expert's pool against these abuses. The wide-scale information campaign, including a website, 42 newspaper insertions, a number of articles, television programs, information bulletin, PSA's and experts' discussions contributed to increased public awareness and citizens' participation in decision-making in the energy sector. It also urged energy officials to respond to citizens' inputs and the monitoring results. The increased transparency of the tenders conducted by the Energy Ministry was one of the achievements of the project.

### **Training and Consultancy Center**

G05-0137

\$30,846

Tbilisi, Georgia

10/1/2005 - 11/30/2006

The Georgian tourism sector is hampered by numerous problems, especially the poor quality of tourism products and services. This problem is acute in the local hotel sector, where the combination of high prices and poor service is frustrating for Georgian and international customers alike. To address these problems, the project conducted a series of trainings in various aspects of small hotel operation in Batumi/Kobuleti, Borjomi, Telavi/Sighnaghi, Mestia, and Kazbegi-- areas with high numbers of tourists. Around 70 individuals attended the trainings. The study materials were collated and published as a guesthouse handbook, and 1,000 copies were distributed throughout the country to guesthouse personnel. In addition, a documentary film covering best practices as well as challenges for the small hotel sector was developed and broadcast by three regional television companies. At the end of the project, a special survey to assess the impact of the project was conducted. More than 40% of 189 respondents reported that they improved concrete aspects of their businesses, while 80% noted that they changed their attitudes to the guests because of the project. These figures show that by addressing the lack of professional knowledge of the service industry among hotel managers and general staff, the program contributed to an improvement in the quality of Georgia's small hotels and guesthouses.

**Alvani 2000**

G05-1015

\$23,573

Telavi, Georgia

6/1/2005 - 10/31/2006

The public education system in Georgia is undergoing profound changes and reforms, as the country moves from a centrally planned system to one that puts greater control in the hands of people at the community level. Enhancing the creation of a sustainable and well-functioning school management system in public schools by encouraging school stakeholders, NGOs working on education issues, and other interested parties to participate in school decision making and management was one of the major goals of Alvani and its partner coalition, the Social Policy Working Group (SPWG). The SPWG education reform-monitoring project succeeded in creating a monitoring group that tracked the performance of school administrations in nine public schools of Telavi, Kakheti region. The project team provided training programs to school stakeholders in order to increase their knowledge and skills in decision-making and school board management in accordance with the new system of PTAs in public schools. The training programs targeted variety of issues such as: new school board system and its legislative background, participatory budgeting at public schools, strategic planning, etc. Community Union Alvani in coalition with SPWG monitored school board election process in nine schools of Telavi and its neighboring villages by mobilizing local NGO and community resources to ensure effective public participation in decision making. The project also put much effort on the public awareness-raising component through an effective media campaign, which included publishing newspaper articles, airing public service announcements, broadcasting a series of radio programs dedicated to developments in the education sector, and restructuring of public schools in Georgia. One of the project's most successful activities was the creation of a district-wide network, which enables school board members from different schools to communicate information and exchange experience through round table meetings and discussions. The project managed to maintain sustainability and the monitoring group composed of NGOs and different school stakeholders continues observing the education reform process in Telavi district.

**Economic Policy Research Center**

G05-0085

\$21,785

Tbilisi, Georgia

9/1/2005 - 12/15/2006

Professional public oversight over expenditures and revenues of the state budget is an efficient tool for improving budget transparency, government accountability and citizen participation. This budget oversight project, implemented by the Economic Policy Research Center, conducted extensive civic monitoring and analysis of the state's budget from an anti-corruption angle and presented findings revealing inappropriate planning of expenses and revenues to the broader public. The grantee developed recommendations to improve accurate budget forecasting and transparency in the budget planning process and submitted them to the relevant Parliamentary committees and the Executive Branch. The Parliamentary committee for adopted some of the recommendations financial issues. The Control Chamber and the Ministry of Finance expressed interest in the work of the grantee, which contained recommendations on improving the budget planning based on modern approaches, including the mid-term expenditure framework (MTEF) methodology. The project activities were covered by 2 news agencies, four radio stations, five TV stations, and 10 articles in six newspapers. The project results were posted on the grantee's website, [www.eprc.ge](http://www.eprc.ge), and informational bulletins were distributed among the stakeholders. The extensive information campaign contributed to an increased public awareness of civil control over the state budget. The grantee has strengthened its capacity and enhanced its skills in civic monitoring.

**Human Rights Protection and Social Equity Research Center**

G05-1021

\$24,978

Poti, Georgia

6/1/2005 - 12/5/2006

The port city of Poti is one of Georgia's most important strategic economic regions. However, there are still concerns about the management of city funds and other semi-private entities, such as the city port,

Energy Company, etc. In order to enhance the process of transparent decision-making and NGO and public oversight in Poti, the EF Watchdog grantee Human Rights Protection and Social Equity Research Center, in partnership with a coalition of NGOs (Youth Alliance and Youth Choice), tracked budgetary processes in various sectors and revealed several cases of misappropriations within these entities. A series of investigative articles and findings of the survey were published in the grantee's weekly newspaper, "Free Word", which was funded in the framework of the project. In order to strengthen the capacity of print media outlets in Poti, the project team conducted a series of training programs for local journalists presented by various experts from the well-known NGO, Young Economists Association of Georgia, in the field of budget and economy, as well as other EF Watchdog grantees working on the issues of budget oversight. The training programs were targeted at enhancing journalists' monitoring skills and knowledge of budget formation so that their reporting could be more accurate and effective. Over 60 articles were written that addressed the problems and concerns of the local communities while identifying cases of corruption and fraud. Because of the project, approximately 30 journalists were trained in monitoring and budget tracking skills, several public opinion polls were conducted and more than 1000 individuals interviewed, while identifying problems related to corruption among the local population and address those problems. One of the articles published by the project team won the first prize for the best investigative journalistic work in a competition organized by Transparency International.

### **Tanadgoma Library Center for Disabled**

G05-0093

\$19,456

Tbilisi, Georgia

9/1/2005 - 7/15/2006

The development of inclusive education in Georgia, acknowledged worldwide as a means for the enhancement of civic integration of disabled youth, represents a compelling issue for the strengthening of civic society and the ongoing reform of Georgia's educational system. The project was largely a pilot because of the lack of experience and public awareness of inclusive education in Georgia. Nevertheless, the grantee in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science organized pro-active public information and awareness-raising round-tables with the ministry officials, NGO leaders, schoolteachers, disabled children and their parents, representatives of the media and international donors. The grantee ran TV PSAs and distributed leaflets about the basics of inclusive education and new approaches to disabled children. In the project, 158 teachers and 11 education officials and NGO leaders were trained in Tbilisi and Batumi and 73 disabled children were enrolled into the mainstream schools. The grantee delivered the training to the additional schools in the city of Rustavi and Ajara, which expressed willingness to engage in the inclusive education. The project resulted in creation of a viable and well-equipped resource center of inclusive education capable to serve countrywide teachers, disabled children and their parents. The grantee managed to raise funds from other donors for continuation and diversification of the activities aimed at civic integration of disabled youth.

### **New Generation - New Initiative**

G06-0059

\$18,312

Tbilisi, Georgia

7/12/2006 - 12/11/2006

Violations and fraud during elections have been a major obstacle for democracy development in Georgia during the last decade, and inaccurate voters' lists were a large part of the problem. The myriad of errors in these lists, such as names appearing twice, names left out of the lists, and deceased people's names remaining, made it much easier for vote counts to be manipulated and left ordinary people in doubt as to the fairness of the process. The local elections that were called with only six weeks notice in October 2006 left many political parties and ordinary citizens confused, and the potential for having yet another flawed election was high. In response, New Generation New Initiative (NGNII) developed a project that aimed at detecting irregularities in the general voter list and conducting election monitoring in 10 districts in Tbilisi and in 13 district commissions at the regional level in Georgia. The grantee also conducted a public awareness campaign urging the public to check their information on the list and to get out and vote. During the project implementation, NGNI elaborated recommendations for the Central Election

Commission (CEC), conducted press conferences, produced information bulletins on local election related problems, and developed voter education materials so that voters increased their knowledge of the system of local elections in Georgia.

### **Rustavi 2 Broadcasting Company**

G06-0031

\$20,434

Tbilisi, Georgia

4/1/2006 - 12/15/2006

Meskhethians are the former Muslim inhabitants of Meskhethi (Georgia) along the border with Turkey. Joseph Stalin deported them to Central Asia in 1944. Unlike other groups that were deported to Central Asia, they were never "rehabilitated" after the death of Stalin and allowed to return to their land. Today, they are dispersed over a number of other countries of the former Soviet Union. Many of the Meskhethians are ethnic Turks, while some are descendants of indigenous Georgians who became Muslim in the 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The estimated population of Meskhethians is around 300,000. In May 1989, a pogrom of Meskhethians occurred in the crowded and poor Fergana Valley, Uzbekistan because of growing ethnic tensions. This triggered an evacuation to the Krasnodar region of Russia. In the 1990s, Georgia began to receive a limited number of Meskhethians settlers, if they declared themselves to be of ethnic Georgian origin. Their resettlement created tension among other ethnic groups now living in their historical land. However, when Georgia joined the Council of Europe in 1999, it made a commitment to provide a legal basis for the return of Meskhethians with a view to organizing their collective repatriation. Little has been done on an official level to turn this commitment into reality, and the topic remains a sensitive issue. The goal of this project was to create a factual documentary film about the history of the Meskhethians to dispel misinformation about the group and promote a public dialogue on the topic. The documentary, which was co-financed by the grantee, Rustavi-2 Television, and the Open Society Georgia Foundation, was aired on Rustavi-2 and shown in separate screenings at Georgia's largest cinema. The film attracted a large number of viewers, many of whom made calls to the station after the broadcast. The grantee took the additional step of translating the film into Russian and distributing DVD copies to regional Georgian television stations for re-broadcast. While much remains to be done to solve this problem, the film was a good first step to raising public awareness about the plight of the Meskhethians and opening up dialogue on how Georgia can best meet its obligations toward this group.

### **Securities Industry Association**

G02-4185

\$83,565

Tbilisi, Georgia

10/1/2002 - 6/1/2005

The securities market is a new sector for the Georgian economy, yet despite considerable efforts to develop the legal framework for the sector, it has not demonstrated significant growth. In addition to various macro and microeconomic factors, development of capital markets is halted by a lack of knowledge among market participants of the complex regulations governing the sector, and by a general lack of public awareness of the functions of capital markets. The Georgian Securities Industry Association (GSIA) has been actively involved in the development of securities market regulations and is leading reform efforts. For example, it is working to raise the level of professionalism of brokers and to increase public awareness about financial markets. The grant aimed to increase the Association's effectiveness in supporting the institutional development of the Georgian capital markets. The project included development of the Association's internal policies and procedures, creation of regional offices, development of a professional code of ethics for securities market participants, improvement of the association's publications, and development of a program for a Training Center for professionals working in the field. The latter is probably one of the biggest achievements of the project. The activities included development of training materials and a special computerized testing program that includes more than 1000 tests used for the certification of brokers, as well as the development and publication of commentaries to the law on securities markets. With additional support from the United States Agency for International Development's Georgian Enterprise Growth Initiative, the Association used the training materials to deliver a large-scale training program in corporate governance to around 150 representatives

of stock-exchange companies, legal firms and media. These materials have also become a part of the curricula of the university that hosts the center. The grant also allowed the Association to contribute to the development of the recently adopted Tax Code. Currently, following a request from fifteen banks, the Association is organizing special seminars for bank personnel in securities-related tax code issues. In general, the relevance of the Association is largely determined by the state of local capital markets. Positive developments in the securities market such as the recent emission of bonds by banks and the municipal government's expressed interest to issue treasury bills will raise the value of and demand for services provided by the Association.

### **Signagi Information Center**

G03-6018

\$27,070

Signagi, Georgia

7/1/2003 - 6/2/2006

The process of local government development and decentralization is a relatively new experience in transitional Georgia. There are various difficulties faced by local governments in Georgia, in particular, the lack of transparency, the shortage of professionalism, skills and knowledge of LG members and staff that limit their ability to perform duties in an efficient manner. The competition "In Support of Local Government in Georgia" was announced by the EFG in 2003 to establish local information centers in various regions of Georgia. The competition was co-financed by the USAID and Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency. The aim of the Signagi Information Center was to establish an effective, transparent and professional system of local governance in the city of Signagi, to foster citizen participation in decision-making processes, facilitate equal access to information resources for both the local government and citizens, and enable local government bodies to realize better community needs. In order to achieve the indicated goals, the grantee developed a demand driven comprehensive database, and organized 3 public meetings. The center distributed 13 monthly information bulletins. Up to 222 local citizens received requested information in the information center during the project. The center later became a part of the Network of Local Information Centers established by LGIC linkage project, the Partnership for Social Initiatives. The Network unites nine information centers throughout Georgia.

### **Suntni - Group for Promotion of Active Tourism Development**

G03-0015

\$32,595

Tbilisi, Georgia

6/1/2004 - 6/30/2006

The Georgian tourism sector, which has been widely recognized as an industry offering exceptional opportunities for poverty reduction and economic growth, is hampered by numerous problems, one of the most important of which is the lack of reliable information on tourism attractions. The project addressed this gap by creating an electronically mapped inventory of architectural attractions. The grantee collected information on the exact location, urban and natural environment, nearest roads and paths as well as the cultural and historical significance of around 2000 monuments of Eastern Georgia. The textual and photo information was integrated into a multi-layer electronic map and placed on CDs. The grantee promoted this product through a public presentation and started distribution of the CDs to local travel companies, foreign embassies and schools. According to the feedback received from major travel companies the information will be used for the development of new tourism products. It will also broaden opportunities for individual local and foreign travelers, which represent a big segment of discovery tourism' market.

### **Liberty Institute Foundation**

G05-1022

\$24,447

Tbilisi, Georgia

9/12/2005 - 8/31/2006

The move toward modern and participatory methods of management in Georgian secondary schools is a key aspect of aligning the national education system to international standards. The overarching goal of the competition, financed by the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (UK) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), was to reduce corruption by increasing transparency and strengthening the public's role in decision-making. The education sector in Georgia has long been

acknowledged as one of the most corrupt, extending all the way down to the secondary school level, where the misappropriation of state funds and school charity funds is rampant. The project contributed to the settlement of these problems by publishing a guide about participatory budgeting, designed for the elected school boards, principals, teachers and parents, and training over 300 representatives from 101 schools in Tbilisi, Telavi, Gori, and Akhaltsikhe. Kutaisi was later added to the list after a request from local schools. The project also provided training on participatory school budgeting for the members of the newly created education resource centers, which function as regional arms of the Ministries of Education and Science. The project activities enhanced transparency in school management, budgeting and increased public participation in budgetary processes. The Resource Centers improved their knowledge and skills in participatory budgeting. The media campaign improved public awareness of the advantages of participatory budgeting in schools. The inculcation of participatory budgeting in the target schools helped to make the new school administrations more accountable and the schools' budgets transparent, which reduces the risk of corruption. A follow-up to the performance of the target schools and replication of the participatory budget training in other schools is recommended to secure sustainability of the project achievements.

### **Strategic and International Studies Foundation**

G04-0074

\$26,371

Tbilisi, Georgia

10/1/2004 - 11/30/2006

The Ministry of Economy's Department of Tourism and Resorts, like most of the governmental agencies, faced an urgent need for internal restructuring after the Rose Revolution. The Department could not effectively function due to such problems as the lack of a well-defined mission and internal regulations, overstaffing, the absence of job descriptions and outreach outlets. The project promoted structural reform of the Tourism Department through the development of its mission, bylaws and recruitment strategy. It also assessed local and international legal documents governing the industry and developed recommendations for their improvement. The newly recruited staff was trained in policy analysis and project management. In addition, the Department's official website was created and launched. This website (<http://www.tourism.gov.ge>) provides information on the Department's mission and activities as well as official travel-related information for domestic and international tourists. In parallel with this project, the Eurasia Foundation worked directly with the Department to develop a comprehensive set of promotional materials, which were presented at international tourism fairs. The support received from EF has helped the Department to become a capable institution promoting the local tourism industry. Overall, tourism to Georgia has increased significantly. During the first nine months of 2006, Georgia received approximately 605,000 foreign visitors, representing a 50% increase over the same time of the previous year.

### **Union of Democratic Development of Georgia (UDDG)**

G05-1001

\$24,636

Ozurgeti, Georgia

6/1/2005 - 6/30/2006

The Guria region is one of the poorest in Georgia and it struggles with pervasive corruption. However, the NGO sector in the Guria region has always been very pro-active while addressing problems facing local communities, which is why the region was targeted in the Eurasia Foundation's NGO Watchdog competition. This project was carried out by a coalition of local organizations led by the Union of Democratic Development of Georgia (UDDG) to monitor the reform process in several different areas, including the budgetary process, secondary education and school board elections and the civil registry. The coalition established working groups to monitor the target areas, perform public outreach and to provide legal aid to over 750 individuals who were impacted by corruption. Reducing corruption and improving the effectiveness of the local civil registry offices was one of the most successful components of the project. The program's legal aid staff provided legal advice and helped citizens in solving problems related to civil registry issues, while at the same time tracking different components of the civil registry reform in Guria. As a result, civil registry agencies in the Ozurgeti district became more effective in

providing necessary registration and passport documents to citizens. DDUG and its partner NGOs also monitored implementation of education reforms in various directions by monitoring the new financial system of public schools, and providing training programs to newly elected school board members and school administration in the schools of the Ozurgeti district and its neighboring villages. The project monitoring team also publicized the results of school board elections. DDUG staff and their project partners focused on several areas in the context of their program, in an attempt to address those problems and concerns faced by citizens of the Ozurgeti district. They helped improve constructive dialogue among local communities and district administration through round table meetings and public discussions. The project also encouraged the participation of youth-led groups involving different youth NGOs, students and active young people in monitoring and discussion activity around a variety of issues.

### **Intellect-Union of Young Scientists**

G05-1050

\$24,065

Batumi, Georgia

6/1/2005 - 6/15/2006

Adjara had always been one of the major concerns to Georgia in terms of corrupt practices. It was famous for its illiberal regime even after the revolutionary change of government in the country. It is noteworthy that after establishing a rather democratic government system in 2004 this region has started to take progressive steps toward democratic development. However, Adjara is still facing challenges as the leftovers of the years of dictatorship and abuse of rule of law affect the normal functioning of state institutions and governmental agencies. In order to help improve accountability and good governance through appropriate spending of budget funds within the local government of Adjara, the Young Scientists Union Intelligence in partnership with Democracy Institute and Liberal Development and Human Rights Protection Association carried out a project aimed at increasing citizens' awareness towards corruption and monitoring the Batumi budget. The project team succeeded in committing the local city council decision makers to include the alternative package of recommendations developed by the project experts in the 2006 and 2007 budget for Adjara region. These recommendations were based on effective and optimal spending of budget money for the entire region. Alongside the recommended work, the project monitoring team identified several wrongdoings and misappropriations in the process of the spending of finances at various sectors and governmental agencies of Adjara thus publicizing and uncovering the monitoring results to a broad audience. Among the major achievements of Intellect, the project team was successful in accomplishing the following tasks: winning several court cases to local governmental agencies for release of public information; providing training programs and consultations to the representatives of the local city council, mayor's office and various governmental agencies; enhancing constructive dialogue between local authorities and the public by bringing together local communities, citizens, civil society organizations, media and local authorities. The Young Scientists Union Intellect did incredible work in order to eliminate the level of corruption within the governmental institutions and enhance the process of transparent and effective decision-making. Thanks to the hard work and effort made by the project, team to combat corruption in various sectors and governmental bodies in Adjara the local government became more accountable and cooperative in the process of the elaboration of the local budget in the region.

### **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)**

G05-1003

\$24,384

Tbilisi, Georgia

6/1/2005 - 6/30/2006

Producing high quality investigative journalism has always been a problem in Georgia. While there have been several attempts to create investigative journalistic programs for electronic and print media, many of these programs failed to reach their goals. ICFJ has gained broad experience and expertise in investigative journalism during the past several years, offering trainings and assisting in the creation of a journalism resource center in the Caucasus. As part of EF's Anti-Corruption NGO Watchdog Initiative program, ICFJ selected and trained three groups of young journalists through a competition, in order to train them in investigative reporting and enhance their monitoring skills. The 20 stories that were produced represent

months of effort by the three eight-reporter teams working for the Caucasus Investigative Resource Center. The stories covered judiciary reform, energy sector reform and the Georgian health care system. These stories were posted in English and Georgian on the project website, [www.circ.ge](http://www.circ.ge), free use by the Georgian media and other interested organizations. The training programs provided to the group of young journalists were of high quality, bringing internationally well-known journalists from Eastern Europe and the United States. The trainers provided case studies on investigative journalistic practices in Romania and other Eastern European countries and introduced young Georgian journalists to the investigative journalistic techniques necessary to produce quality stories. The ICFJ project team and project coordinator, Jodi McPhillips, organized three press events, presenting the stories written by the three teams of young journalists involved in the project and spoke about successes of the program. One of the project's successes was when these press events were widely covered by Georgian print and electronic media and demand for these stories has definitely increased among different international and American organizations such as: USAID, ABA CEELI, OSCE, etc. as well as the local NGO community.

### **World Vision**

G05-0011

\$37,823

Tbilisi, Georgia

1/31/2005 - 6/30/2006

The lack of mechanisms for the integration of disabled children into Georgian society has left disabled children and their parents without support from state institutions in their daily life. To help disabled children improve their mobility and social integration, the organization established a workshop, which produces low cost adaptive equipment for disabled children in Tbilisi. During the implementation process, the staff involved in the workshop underwent trainings from an experienced Armenian expert, and the workshop was equipped with the necessary machines to produce adaptive devices. The workshop was established at the facility of the Children's Neurological Hospital, which allows parents of disabled children to get easy access. The workshop produces various types of adaptive equipment that is exhibited in the hospital's show room. The workshop keeps a database where 400 children are registered and has already served up to 120 disabled children. The workshop management actively cooperates with the clinic's medical personnel who subsequently refer patients. In addition, a brochure advertising the workshop's services was produced and distributed among international organizations, the PSP drug stores chain and polyclinics throughout Georgia

### **Young Scientists Club of Ozurgeti**

G05-0111

\$29,334

Ozurgeti, Georgia

9/1/2005 - 11/30/2006

Building the capacity of civil society organizations (CSO) in underserved areas of Georgia, such as the Ajarian Autonomous Republic, and building a viable CSO network between neighboring regions is critical if Georgia's civil society is to extend its influence beyond the capital region. The grantee, Ozurgeti Young Scientists Club, is one of the most experienced CSOs from the Ozurgeti region. They provided all-around assistance to start-up CSOs the neighboring region of Ajaria, focusing on the district Kobuleti. The project trained Kobuleti CSOs in the skills and knowledge of civic advocacy, monitoring, fundraising and organizational development, which they had lacked before. The project established a well-equipped resource center in Kobuleti, which hosts seminars, trainings and meetings between CSOs and serves simultaneously as a library and a learning place for the local youth, CSOs and ordinary citizens. The resource center hosted 5 public meetings and provided consultations to over 100 people during the course of the grant. The grantee conducted five trainings in Kobuleti for 64 civic activists, carried out four civic advocacy actions with 160 participants, seven presentations on civil society topics for 400 participants, and conducted two surveys of 1,679 local respondents on civil society needs. The Kobuleti CSOs took part in two study tours in Ozurgeti, where local NGOs shared their experience on various CSO-related issues. These activities enhanced the degree of citizen participation and information and their civic awareness. The local media actively cooperated with the resource center. The resource center needs further fundraising and partnerships with other CSOs to keep the skilled staff in place and

maintain sustainability. The resource center has already submitted a proposal to the US Embassy Democracy Program. The grantee continues to assist the Kobuleti civic sector through grants financed by other donors.

## **Kazakhstan**

### **IEAWE**

A05-0055

\$19,953

Almaty, Kazakhstan

9/12/2005 - 9/12/2006

Non-governmental organizations in the Enbekshikazakh district of the Almaty oblast are underdeveloped and do not have sustainability plans. The grantee conducted trainings and seminars for NGO leaders, which covered topics like registration, sustainable development, strategic planning, taxation, project documentation, innovative technologies usage, and how to create a business plan. The trainings and seminars attracted 120 people. Additionally, the grantee provided consultations to 870 people at its information center and was able to raise an additional \$2,000 to carry out its project. The grantee worked with NGOs in four villages to build institutional capacity and provided them with solar-powered fruit-drying machines to establish dried fruit businesses to generate income for reinvestment into the NGOs. With increased institutional capacity from the trainings, local NGOs drafted a two-year development strategy for an NGO network. Based on its performance, the grantee was asked to participate in the upcoming EFCA Community Development competition. This project is part of EFCA's multi-year Community Development Initiative, with funding from Philip Morris Kazakhstan, LLP and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

### **Fairy Tale of Nature**

A05-0058

\$8,938

Esik, Kazakhstan

9/9/2005 - 9/9/2006

Schoolchildren, their parents and young adults in Esik have few outlets available to engage in community development. To increase their civic activism, the grantee organized 10 public events aimed to raise the awareness of the importance of protecting the environment, which attracted between 3,000 and 5,000 residents. The grantee also offered lectures and film viewings to over 40 schoolchildren and provided seminars on therapy for disabled children using animals at an ecological rehabilitation center. Based on its performance, the grantee was asked to participate in the upcoming EFCA Community Development competition. This project is part of EFCA's multi-year Community Development Initiative, with funding from Philip Morris Kazakhstan LLP and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

### **Association of Young Leaders**

A06-0037

\$5,045

Almaty, Kazakhstan

7/27/2006 - 10/27/2006

Youth organizations can have a positive impact on socio-economic development. Unfortunately, in Central Asia, weak civic activism among youth and the absence of mechanisms to engage youth, prevent leaders of youth organizations from having an impact. The grantee organized a summer camp for leaders of youth organizations from Central Asia to discuss experiences and exchange ideas. Representatives from governmental bodies and donor organizations, as well as speakers from Macedonia, Turkey and Russia, conducted 12 training sessions on themes related to Youth activism. The camp participants designed partnership projects and created an electronic database to encourage continued discussion following the camp. Youth leaders reported increased cooperation in discussing issues and planning partner projects. This project was conducted under EFCA's Open Door Program, with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank.

### **Kamkor**

A05-0052

\$11,412

Esik, Kazakhstan

9/9/2005 - 10/30/2006

Disabled people in the Enbekshikazakh district of the Almaty oblast suffer from difficult socio-economic conditions and a lack of sufficient legal advice. The grantee established an electronic database of disabled people living in the district and conducted a survey among 1,100 disabled to determine their employment potential. The grantee provided vocational training to 46 disabled people, opened an information resource center to provide legal advice and conducted seminars and a roundtable with the disabled, local organizations and akimat (government) representatives to discuss problems of the disabled experience. Because of the trainings, two disabled people set up businesses and 10 found jobs. The grantee also raised \$7,000 from the local government to supplement its activities. Based on its performance, the grantee was asked to participate in the upcoming EFCA Community Development competition. This project is part of EFCA's multi-year Community Development Initiative, with funding from Philip Morris Kazakhstan LLP and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

#### **School Named After Lomonosov**

A05-0061

\$11,057

Turgen village, Kazakhstan

9/9/2005 - 9/9/2006

Schoolchildren have little exposure to issues related to the environment in Turgen village, which is located next to a nature reserve. The grantee organized a summer camp to introduce children to concepts of ecology, patriotism, civic duty and healthy living. 320 children from underprivileged families stayed at the camp, which was run in partnership with local government bodies, international organizations and parent-teacher associations. With the small fees children paid to take part in the camp, the grantee generated income to be reinvested back into its project. Based on its performance, the grantee was asked to participate in the upcoming EFCA Community Development competition. This project is part of EFCA's multi-year Community Development Initiative, with funding from Philip Morris Kazakhstan LLP and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

#### **Association of Blind People**

A05-0053

\$12,122

Shelek, Kazakhstan

9/9/2005 - 10/10/2006

Vision-impaired residents in the Enbekshikazakh district of the Almaty oblast suffer from unemployment and social isolation. To improve the socio-economic and legal conditions for the empowerment of the blind, the grantee provided Braille reading and computer courses, needlework classes and legal consultations to 23 residents. The grantee engaged local government, local business and civic organizations, who provided information and logistic support for some project activities. Based on its performance, the grantee was asked to participate in the upcoming EFCA Community Development competition. With the support of local government, this project was carried out as part of EFCA's multi-year Community Development Initiative, with funding from Philip Morris Kazakhstan LLP and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

#### **Turgen Branch of IEAWE A-Kenes**

A05-0056

\$9,288

Turgen Silo, Kazakhstan

9/9/2005 - 9/9/2006

Repatriated Kazakhs, known as Oralmany, have difficulty assimilating in the Enbekshikazakh district of the Almaty oblast and finding work. The grantee conducted seminars for its members, who are Oralmany, to develop business skills and provided trainings in the organization of self-help groups, production of handicrafts and marketing. The grantee also provided classes in Cyrillic, as many Oralmany cannot read Kazakh in Cyrillic. Sixty-one Oralmany participated in the seminars and classes and several established a community self-help group. Through the business training of its members, the grantee created a means of producing and marketing handicrafts. Based on its performance, the grantee was asked to participate in the upcoming EFCA Community Development competition. This project is part of EFCA's multi-year Community Development Initiative, with funding from Philip Morris Kazakhstan LLP and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

**Youth Center Orken**

A05-0059

\$9,868

Shelek village, Kazakhstan

9/9/2005 - 9/9/2006

Youth in Shelek village do not have access to sufficient extracurricular activities, which often leads to delinquent behavior. In order to engage youth, the grantee organized sport clubs, embroidery groups, cultural activities and intellectual games. Additionally, the grantee brought together youth in environmental campaigns and roundtables to discuss how to lead a healthy lifestyle. Seven hundred thirty-one youth participated in project activities, while 30 volunteers and 8 World War II veterans helped organize and attended youth events. The high level of involvement in the activities demonstrated increased social activism among youth. Based on its performance, the grantee was asked to participate in the upcoming EFCA Community Development competition. This project is part of EFCA's multi-year Community Development Initiative, with funding from Philip Morris Kazakhstan LLP and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

**Youth Media Soyuz of Kazakhstan**

A05-0035

\$12,375

Almaty, Kazakhstan

6/1/2005 - 10/5/2006

Journalists are not sufficiently informed about issues related to orphan care to report objectively on them. The grantee trained 20 journalists in how to publicize orphan care issues, write objectively and fact check thoroughly. The grantee held a competition among journalists for the best article on children and alternative forms of orphan care as an incentive to use the skills they learned. Through the project activities, the grantee established a network of journalists, who are equipped to report on orphan care issues. The grantee also established a web site as a resource for the public for information on alternative forms of orphan care. Five editors have placed a regular column in their publications devoted to articles about orphan care. The project is part of a multi-year Foster Parenting Initiative, with funding from Philip Morris Kazakhstan LLP.

## Kyrgyzstan

### Smile Foundation

H06-0922

\$6,965

Osh, Kyrgyz Republic

5/15/2006 - 10/16/2006

Juvenile delinquency and child labor and homelessness are major impediments to youth development in Central Asia. In partnership with the Khujand NGO Chaika, the grantee addressed these problems through social adaptation support and by providing job training for teenagers and helping them find jobs. The grantee also held an advocacy campaign under a government program aimed to reduce child labor. In Osh, the grantee trained 209 teenagers in methods of small business development, 36 in hairdressing techniques and 36 in sewing skills. Ten young people signed job contracts, while eight adolescents were placed at the governmental social adaptation programs. The grantee plans to continue providing trainings and prepare an average of 60 tailors and 36 hairdressers a year. Additionally, the grantee can provide more than 20 homeless or needy teenagers with free occupational trainings. In cooperation with the local government agencies and civil society organizations, the grantee initiated the development of a national program on "Eradication of the Worst Forms of Child Labor," which will be presented to the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic.

### Ferghana Regional Artist Branch

T05-0909

 050

Osh, Kyrgyz Republic

Partnership is an important part of the establishment of friendly relations and stability throughout the entire Ferghana Valley region. The grantee strengthened cooperation between artists and artist groups in the Ferghana Valley. A database was developed and a website set up, drawing attention to the work of artists in the Valley. Unfortunately, the grantee was unable to carry out all of the planned activities, due to the closure of the EF office in Tashkent (three months into the project). The project succeeded in developing good ties with its Kyrgyz colleagues, and the Osh Branch of the Artists' Union sustained the project.

### Kokand City TV Studio Mulokat

 -0909 / H03-0909 / T03-1909

\$ 19,256

Osh, Kyrgyzstan

People from the Ferghana Valley lack regional information. The three grantees – the three key television companies of the Valley ("Piramida Osh," "Mulokat" and "SM-1"), along with two partner stations from Uzbekistan ("Marginal") and Tajikistan ("Guli bodom,") jointly created and broadcast 50 information programs, entitled "Voices of the Fergana Valley – Neighbors' Points of View." Three experts for 22 employees from the five stations carried out training sessions on methods of joint production of informational-analytical programs. As a result, the participants developed their production skills and established cooperative ties with other organizations.

## Moldova

### Technical University of the Republic of Moldova

K03-0004

\$27,517

Chisinau, Moldova

10/1/2003 - 3/31/2006

Moldova's economic woes have led to limited job opportunities, especially for recent graduates of technical and engineering schools. According to some estimates, up to 50% of graduates of the Moldova Technical University (MTU) cannot find jobs requiring the skills obtained. The grantee provided business development and management training as part of the MTU curriculum. The grantee organized three new training modules (in "Managing Small Enterprises", "Quality Management" and "Intellectual Property Management") to its existing programs; adjusted and improved 10 existing training modules, introducing more case studies in business administration; and trained 131 students in business start-up and management techniques. Of these students, 18 of the most successful were selected for internships at Moldovan companies, gaining vital practical experience. It is too early to assess how many students will use their new skill set to start businesses upon graduation, but the business administration training course at the Technical University was popular among students, which led to its approval and inclusion in the university's curricula.

## Russia

### **Kamensk Uralsk Municipal Small Business Support Fund**

M05-0017

\$38,663

Kamensk Uralsk, Russia

9/21/2005 - 10/31/2006

The project was aimed to acceleration of small business growth in Kamensk-Uralsky, Sverdlovsk Oblast, by broadening services of local SME support infrastructure. Kamensk SME Support Fund added a new marketing and production cooperation department and launched a new investment loan for SME as an element of its micro-finance program. Local entrepreneurs received benefits from consultations on marketing, human resource management, as well as, on business and investment planning. SME got also access to a new virtual business-map of Kamensk-Uralsky and a marketing database of services that can be provided as a municipal contract or large enterprise sub-contracts.

### **Nizhneserginsky Municipal Fund for Small Business Support**

M05-0005

\$47,998

Nizhnye Sergi Raion, Mikhailovsk, Russia

5/2/2005 - 8/31/2006

A Municipal SME Support Fund was established in the framework of FNE and SUAL-Holding. The "Joint Initiative for Small Business Development and Job Creation in Mikhailovsk and Nizhny Sergy District" received start-up funding and began operating. The fund's staff received trainings at the Sverdlovsk Oblast SME Support Fund on microfinance and consulting basics and had internships at leading municipal funds. The fund established a business library and developed a business and legal software package. Local entrepreneurs got benefits from access to the fund's resources and internet, as well as, to methodological instructions on SME regulations and interactions with administrative authorities. The fund provided micro-loans to small businesses at the expense of Sverdlovsk region budget resources transferred by the Oblast SME Support Fund.

### **Pskov Regional Center of Educational Technologies**

M04-0294

\$10,000

Pskov, Russia

1/1/2005 - 1/31/2006

The project was aimed at developing mechanisms of regional interaction between youth, authorities and businesses based on the mutual interest of involving youth in dynamic civil activities connected with solving youth problems the and problems of the Pskov region. Sociological research was conducted to identify and coordinate the interests of different social groups in effective application of youth potential. There was also a round table on youth problems, a seminar and many meetings for the participants of the project. The main results are the formation of a regional resource center and the development of 6 projects (which were represented at the seminar "Regional Youth Projects", and were chosen to take part in the All-Russian Fair). A set of informational and methodological materials was compiled.

### **Public Fund "300 Year's City"**

M06-0017

\$4,422

Kamensk-Uralsk, Russia

5/18/2006 - 8/31/2006

A server, on which the geo-informational system (GIS) in Kamensk-Uralsky town will be installed and updated, and software necessary to manage the server was purchased under the project implementation. A shell program to fill and manage the GIS will be developed by ERMA SOFT Management joint-stock company in cooperation with the Administration of Kamensk-Uralsky in the framework of the Joint Initiative of SUAL-Holding and USAID. ERMA-SOFT will also provide technical assistance to the Public Fund "300 Years for the City" to test the GIS and secure its start-up operation period.

### **Shelekhov Business Development Agency**

M05-0021

\$24,994

Shelekhov, Russia

9/1/2005 - 9/30/2006

The project was aimed to enhance small business growth in Shelekhov, Irkutsk Oblast, by broadening services of local SME support infrastructure. Shelekhov Business Development Agency has new marketing and production cooperation departments. The Agency and the "Soyuz" Credit Cooperative staff got training in Irkutsk Oblast SME Support Fund and Business Development Agency on microfinance and consulting basics and internships at leading SME support organizations. Local entrepreneurs received benefits from consultations on marketing aspects, access to business library, and guidance on product promoting and participating in municipal contracting competitions. The Agency pre-assesses client business-projects and helps them to develop micro-loan and leasing applications for Irkutsk Oblast SME Support Fund and Irkutsk Leasing Company.

### **Amurnet Far Eastern Project Management Association**

V04-0119

\$99,953

Blagoveshchensk, Russia

9/1/2004 - 8/31/2006

A critical challenge facing all non-governmental organizations is to secure a basic level of financial sustainability despite the fluctuating availability of donor funds. To address this challenge for their own organization and to assist others, the Amurnet Far Eastern Project Management Association utilized an institutional development grant to create the Center for Additional Innovative Education. Through the Center, Amurnet consults NGOs, businesses and local authorities and provides them with innovative project management techniques. Amurnet's seminars and consultations are provided on a paid basis. For the period of September 2004 to March 2006, Amurnet earned more than \$22,000 by providing such services - a remarkable achievement for an NGO operating in the Russian Far East. Currently the income from service provision represents more than 15% of Amurnet's gross revenue. The grant also allowed the grantee to raise its staff capacity by supporting their pursuit of higher education and their participation in professional trainings. As a result, Amurnet staff members have been invited to provide project expertise for the local administration and NGOs. For example, Amurnet is expected to be included into the Amur Oblast's development team, which will guide the oblast's major new education program. The institutional development project helped to increase Amurnet's stability and allowed it to expand its support to key stakeholders in the region.

### **Civic Initiatives**

V04-0099

\$95,283

Khabarovsk, Russia

9/1/2004 - 8/31/2006

In Khabarovsk Krai, as in other Russian Far East regions, citizens take a rather passive role as their local governments create economic and social development policies. To address this issue, the Civic Initiatives Non-Commercial Partnership sought to strengthen citizen participation in creating local public policy by involving knowledgeable, non-governmental experts in the decision-making process. The project team organized three trainings and a workshop for potential experts and public servants. As a result, 242 people from Khabarovsk and neighboring Primorsky Krai were trained to become specialists in pressing public policy issues. By the end of the project, the grantee created a roster of experts who are expected to work closely with municipal governments and involve ordinary citizens in decision-making. A series of 3 brochures was published to guide the experts' work with local municipalities and community members. In addition to these activities, the grantee used project funds to reorganize its structure, launch its own website, and raise staff capacity through individual education and cross-trainings within the organization. This helped the grantee to work more professionally, expand its database of potential clients and increase its sustainability by earning some income on a fee-for-service basis. The project increased the organization's stability while allowing it to expand its support to civic organizations and municipal bodies in the region.

### **Educational Center of Buryat Republic**

V03-0160

\$92,541

Ulan-Ude, Russia

4/1/2004 - 8/31/2006

Despite ongoing administrative reforms in the Buryat Republic, civic organizations and local citizens still lack knowledge and understanding about their rights and the opportunities to participate in local government. In order to address these deficiencies, the grantee proposed increasing the demand for effective local government by strengthening the leadership of citizen unions in the Republic. The grantee improved staff capacity of local unions established a network of six resource centers throughout the Republic and expanded technical information services for the leaders of citizen unions and the public. In addition, the project helped the grantee increase its own organizational stability, and allowed it to expand its methodological and informational support to citizen unions and governmental bodies as they develop joint projects.

## Tajikistan

### Fund for the Memory and Protection of Journalists Rights

104-0044

\$28,195

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

3/16/2005 - 9/30/2005

The project did not achieve the expected goals due to the potential risks identified now when the grant was awarded. The political climate in the country especially towards independent media has changed which resulted in suspension of the activities of the grantee. Prosecution of the Director of the project made it difficult for the grantee to receive printing press equipment that would enable the grantee to publish independent materials. However, the verdict of not guilty has been announced for the leadership of the grantee, which may result in renewal of the activities of the grantee and further usage of the equipment in order to accomplish the goal of the project.

## Ukraine

### **Academy of Ukrainian Press, International Charity Foundation**

K05-0318

\$12,811

Kyiv, Ukraine

2/1/2006 - 4/11/2006

Public access to unbiased information from independent media is recognized by international election observation organizations as one of the main criteria for holding democratic elections. Despite improvements in election administration and media freedom since the 2004 presidential elections, voters in Ukraine had limited access to information during the country's 2006 parliamentary and local elections. According to an IFES study conducted prior to the election, only 30% of respondents said that they had enough information to make an informed choice and 61% of respondents were not satisfied with the level of information they received. The grantee conducted two waves of monitoring of pre-election coverage by 18 media outlets in six Ukrainian cities during the 2006 campaign. Their analysis of the coverage was distributed among media outlets, experts, election observation missions, and the public. The grantee also conducted 10 regional presentations and 3 seminars for journalism students on good journalistic practice and media monitoring during elections. The project not only measured, but also contributed to, the print media's adherence to democratic standards in the run up to the elections.

### **Information Center for Local Government and Election Technologies Development**

K04-0090

\$17,594

Cherkasy, Ukraine

8/1/2004 - 7/31/2005

Local governments in Ukraine are unable to address societal issues effectively if mayors and city and town council members lack certain essential democratic governing skills. Consequently, the public lacks confidence in and even mistrusts local governments. To address this problem in the Cherkasy oblast, the grantee improved 540 council members' governing skills through a series of 20 trainings on cooperation amongst local authorities, businesses and the third sector; community development; budgeting; and legislation pertaining to councils' activities. The grantee also developed educational resource materials for council members and provided regular consulting to the councils. The grantee also studied participating rural council members' approaches to addressing local problems and held a concluding conference to share best practices in local social and economic development. Through this project, three communal enterprises were created, 20 participating councils developed new by-laws for their respective territories, and local government authorities signed agreements on cooperation with NGOs in each participating community. Part of the Eurasia Foundation's Strengthening Rural Councils initiative, the project provided council members much-needed practical skills, including how to effectively use citizen input when making decisions that impact the community.

### **Institute of Social and Cultural Management**

K05-0317

\$5,184

Kirovograd, Ukraine

2/21/2006 - 4/5/2006

Despite improvements made in election administration and media freedom in Ukraine since the 2004 presidential elections, voters experienced limited access to the information during the campaign period in the country's 2006 parliamentary and local elections. A Freedom House study conducted prior to the 2006 elections revealed that 47% of Ukrainian citizens were not aware of important changes that had been made in election legislation. Polls conducted by IFES revealed that only 30% of respondents said that they had enough information to make an informed choice, and 61% of respondents were not satisfied with the level of information they received. To encourage voters in Kirovohrad oblast to exercise their rights during the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary and local elections, the grantee educated journalists, civic leaders and voters on analyzing campaign platforms. The grantee held two trainings for 50 journalists and civic leaders, hosted a press club meeting and three information sessions, and produced a televised quiz show and various printed materials. These activities together contributed to 100 publications in the local

media and on the website “3rd sector and 4th power”. Working with journalists, civil leaders, and NGOs, the program-helped voters in Kirovohrad oblast make an informed and choice on Election Day.

### **Internews - Ukraine**

K05-0304

\$47,811

Kyiv, Ukraine

1/1/2006 - 6/30/2006

Public access to unbiased information from independent media is recognized by international election observation organizations as one of the main criteria for holding democratic elections. Despite improvements in election administration and media freedom in Ukraine since the 2004 presidential elections, voters still had limited access to information during the country's 2006 parliamentary and local elections. According to an IFES study conducted prior to the election, only 30% of respondents said that they had enough information to make an informed choice and 61% of respondents were not satisfied with the level of information they received. The grantee addressed this issue by assisting 10 regional TV stations in producing and airing TV debates between representatives of different political parties. Participating TV stations received training and ongoing consulting assistance. Co-funded by the Internews Network U-Media Project, the grantee provided information on election issues and parties' platforms to the public, and enabled participating regional television stations to improve their skills in producing high quality, balanced election-related programming.

### **Lviv Media-Club**

K06-0038

\$2,650

Lviv, Ukraine

3/2/2006 - 3/31/2006

Despite improvements in election administration and media freedom since the 2004 presidential elections, voters in Ukraine had limited access to information during the country's 2006 parliamentary and local elections. A Freedom House study conducted prior to the 2006 elections revealed that 47% of Ukrainian citizens were not aware of important changes that had been made in election legislation. Polls conducted by IFES revealed that only 30% of respondents said that they had enough information to make an informed choice, and 61% of respondents were not satisfied with the level of information they received. The grantee addressed this issue by conducting a "get-out-the vote" initiative in Lviv oblast, producing a series of 12 radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and two weekly analytical radio programs with expert commentary and live discussion. The PSAs and radio shows, aired on a local radio station, discussed new elections legislation, new voting procedures and stressed the importance of every vote. Listeners' active feedback during the live discussion confirmed the importance of the issues addressed, and the effectiveness of the chosen medium. The project encouraged voters in Lviv oblast to exercise their voting rights, and enabled more voters to make informed choices during the 2006 elections.

### **Media Law Institute**

K06-0101

\$2,762

Kyiv, Ukraine

7/1/2006 - 8/31/2006

The Ukrainian NGO Media Law Institute organized an international school for media lawyers in the summer of 2006. EF's support enabled four Belarusian lawyers specializing in media law to take part in this program. The Belarusian lawyers joined participants from Ukraine, Moldova, the South Caucasus and Central Asia for a three-week training on European standards for freedom of speech and the European Court of Human Rights. During the training program participants also took part in a conference, three round tables, and a mock trial based on real events. In addition to acquiring new skills and advancing their understanding of European principles of democracy, participants established valuable connections with their peers in other countries. The summer school and participants were co-financed by Internews Network, the International Renaissance Foundation, OSCE, Internews Ukraine, and International Media Support.

### **Private Initiative Development Agency**

K05-0131 \$8,294  
Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine 10/1/2005 - 7/31/2006  
After the 2004 Presidential election, the new Ukrainian government declared administrative reform and improving local self-governance a top priority. This decision coincided with an unprecedented level of public interest in the political process both on national and local levels. However, there existed few forums or institutions, such as public councils and independent expert groups, to harness citizens' concerns and utilize civil society's potential to provide feedback to the government. The grantee addressed these challenges by setting up the Administrative Reform Support Center in Ivano-Frankivsk. A network of five letterboxes collected 50 suggestions for improving local and national governance from citizens. These suggestions and draft, national and local policy documents were discussed at the three-roundtable conference attended by 160 participants. One round table, which included an expert discussion of administrative reforms, was broadcasted on local TV. The Center submitted to the local authorities a brochure on recommendations and possible approaches towards administrative-territorial reform in the oblast. The Center is now an established structure, that provides citizen and expert input to the policy making process within local government. Based on experiences gained through this project, the grantee also established a public council on European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

### **Step-by-Step Foundation**

K05-0281 \$5,000  
Kyiv, Ukraine 10/25/2005 - 11/25/2005  
Schools can play an important role in addressing the needs of their communities. By making their human and material resources available and through innovative social entrepreneurial activities, schools can help solve their communities' problems. The grantee hosted an annual international conference for a network of schools and educational associations from Eastern and Central Europe and Eurasia on Nov. 3-5, 2006. Eighty conference participants participated in workshops focusing on the school's role in community volunteering, community partnerships, social entrepreneurship and other activities. The grantee published three articles on the principles of social entrepreneurship at community schools, and introduced new pages into its newsletter in Ukraine dedicated to social entrepreneurship and social partnership. As the result of the conference and workshops, 9 community schools initiated social entrepreneurship activities, ranging from offering barber services to low-income members of the community to selling wood crafts to raise funds for nursing homes, to organizing various charity events to benefit vulnerable groups. Building on these successes, the grantee will continue to promote social entrepreneurship in schools for the betterment of the community.

### **Journalism Union Community Connections Alumni Association**

K05-0139 \$6,083  
Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine 10/1/2005 - 9/30/2006  
After the 2004 Presidential election, the new Ukrainian government declared administrative reform and improving local self-governance a top priority. This decision coincided with an unprecedented level of public interest in the political process both on national and local levels. However, there existed few forums or institutions, such as public councils and independent expert groups, to harness citizens' concerns and utilize civil society's potential to provide feedback to the government. The grantee addressed these challenges in Zaporizhzhia by launching the "Sichova Rada" public council, which brought together eleven representatives of the local city council, businesses, and NGOs. The grantee introduced public hearings in each of the city's rayons to discuss a draft city charter, tourism and administrative services in Khortytsya Island National Park, and the administrative-territorial structure of the city. Nearly 2,000 residents participated in these hearings. The grantee also published and broadcast 28 stories in the local media to raise awareness of the project's goals, and trained 133 representatives of local governmental and nongovernmental organizations on communicating with citizens, holding public hearings, and issues related to administrative-territorial reform and local self-governance. As the result of the project, the Zaporizhzhia city council incorporated a number of citizens' recommendations submitted

by Sichova Rada in its city charter. A suggestion for development of Khortytsya National Park was also submitted to city authorities and the national parks administration. The grantee will continue to use the system of interaction with public developed within the project when working on other issues important to residents of Zaporizhzhia.

## United States

### **The Global Systems Analysis and Simulation Association Inc.**

W06-0007

\$37,281

Flushing, New York

8/18/2006 - 9/30/2006

Like many remote regions of Russia, Altai Republic is in desperate need of economic development and modern health services. In an attempt to address these needs and to encourage citizen involvement in charting the course for this development, the grantee embarked on a journey to bring together dozens of stakeholders to solve a multitude of problems facing the Republic. This grant allowed the first set of these stakeholder meetings to take place and laid the groundwork for an ambitious agenda to address the most pressing needs of this remote community.

## Uzbekistan

### **Business Women Association of Fergana Region**

T02-0905

\$23,491

Ferghana, Uzbekistan

10/1/2003 - 6/30/2006

In order to promote economic growth and economic ties in the Ferghana Valley, two business associations, SBDC Consult in Kyrgyzstan and the Association of Business Women (ABW) of Ferghana City in Uzbekistan collaborated to identify the needs of business owners and find ways to address them. The grantees conducted a survey of 307 business owners from Kyrgyzstan and 300 from Uzbekistan and held two roundtables to identify their needs. Sixty people from each country were selected to participate in 12 trainings in each country covering issues of customs regulations and tax legislation. The grantees also provided consultations to give business owners the skills and information to overcome challenges and to develop business contacts. Two hundred people (69 from Kyrgyzstan and 131 from Uzbekistan) received consultations on business development issues and the ABW of Ferghana set up an Information Center in Support of Cross-Border Enterprise in Fergana City. The grantees distributed 10 information bulletins (630 copies in Uzbekistan and 2,400 copies in Kyrgyzstan) on trade issues. ABW of Ferghana provided consistent support to business people during the project. Administrative problems and the inability to incorporate recommendations from an outside consulting company prevented SBDC Consult from providing services to business people to the very end of the project.

### **Mekhr Tayanchi Center**

T04-2013

\$4,720

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

9/28/2004 - 2/28/2006

Tashkent has many homeless teenagers, who either are or are at risk of becoming drug users. The grantee gave more than 150 street kids legal, psychological and medical assistance, as well as consultations on how to avoid drugs and HIV/AIDS. The grantee established a good working relationship with the police during the project. The state-run film company produced a documentary on the project, bringing greater attention to the problem. The grant was part of the USAID-funded Drug Demand Reduction Program.

### **Bolalar va Kattalar -Creative Development Center**

T04-2001

\$4,462

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

9/28/2004 - 1/30/2006

The ability of parents and children to communicate about drug use has been identified as an important preventative measure. The USAID-funded Drug Demand Reduction Program therefore established a cluster of grants, called Family-to-Family, which the Foundation implemented in Uzbekistan, and of which this project is a part. The grantee selected nine families in one neighborhood and held a series of meetings with them to increase their knowledge about drug use and intra-family communications, and published a brochure on preventing drug use through stronger family communications. The grants in the Family-to-Family cluster will be used to develop a training model that can be replicated elsewhere.

### **Medical Students Association**

T04-2007

\$5,748

Samarkand, Uzbekistan

9/27/2004 - 12/31/2005

The ability of parents and children to communicate about drug use has been identified as an important preventative measure. The USAID-funded Drug Demand Reduction Program therefore established a cluster of grants, called Family-to-Family, which the Foundation implemented in Uzbekistan, and of which this project is a part. The grantee worked in six makhallas - traditional Uzbek neighborhoods. It published six editions of a newsletter with information on promoting healthy lifestyles and strong family ties. It developed a methodology for holding family evenings, where it worked with 34 families in the six makhallas on improving communication and understanding about drug use. Despite the positive reception

from communities and local government about the grantee's work, the Ministry of Justice was taking steps to close this NGO as the grant was concluding. Nevertheless, the projects it developed will be incorporated into a module that can be repeated in other areas.

**Public Union IZIS**

T04-2017

\$7,862

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

9/24/2004 - 10/31/2005

The USAID-funded Drug Demand Reduction Program has as one of its goals introducing alternative treatments for rehabilitating drug users. The grantee helped more than 130 drug users through a variety of methods, including a 12-step program, yoga, acupuncture and other forms of non-medicated treatment. About 70 clients expressed an interest in continuing rehabilitation, of which 32 quit using drugs during the project period. The grant was an important demonstration of treatments that profess to lower the rate of patients who return to drugs after treatment.



**Appendix C**

**US Government Grants by Country and Strategic Objective**

**October 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007**



## **Armenia**

### 1.3 Private Enterprise Development

#### **Armenian Marketing Association**

\$38,175

Armenia

The proposed linkage grant will contribute to the economic development of the countries of the South Caucasus by developing the capacity of local businesses to export goods and services. The partners will focus on promoting locally produced goods and services through the development of quality print, electronic, and web-based versions of a South Caucasus Export Catalog. The catalog will feature comprehensive information on producers and service providers located in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia and will be distributed through embassies, consulates, and large importing-exporting organizations in foreign countries. The successfully implemented project will support the establishment of new cross-border business links both within and outside the South Caucasus region.

## Azerbaijan

### 1.3 Private Enterprise Development

#### **Marketing Specialists of Azerbaijan**

\$35,249

Azerbaijan

The proposed linkage grant will contribute to the economic development of the countries of the South Caucasus by developing the capacity of local businesses to export goods and services. The partners will focus on promoting locally produced goods and services through the development of quality print, electronic, and web-based versions of a South Caucasus Export Catalog. The catalog will feature comprehensive information on producers and service providers located in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia and will be distributed through embassies, consulates, and large importing-exporting organizations in foreign countries. The successfully implemented project will support the establishment of new cross-border business links both within and outside the South Caucasus region.

## Georgia

### 1.3 Private Enterprise Development

#### **International Center of Trade Policy and Law**

\$30,120

Tbilisi, Georgia

The proposed linkage grant will contribute to the economic development of the countries of the South Caucasus by developing the capacity of local businesses to export goods and services. The partners will focus on promoting locally produced goods and services through the development of quality print, electronic, and web-based versions of a South Caucasus Export Catalog. The catalog will feature comprehensive information on producers and service providers located in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia and will be distributed through embassies, consulates, and large importing-exporting organizations in foreign countries. The successfully implemented project will support the establishment of new cross-border business links both within and outside the South Caucasus region.

#### **The Georgian Union of Mountain Activists**

\$25,190

Georgia

To promote tourism in the mountainous regions of Georgia through building capacity of local tourist guides. 35 guides will be selected and provided with training in 7 regions of Georgia, such as Upper and Lower Svaneti, Racha, Khevi, Khevsureti, Pshavi, Gudamakari, and Shida Kartli. The program will cover different aspects of safety, emergency medical care, camping, hiking equipment, and selection of food during expeditions. The trainees will also learn how to develop trekking tours and mark hiking paths. They will practice their skills on-site. The training materials will be compiled into a manual for guides, which will be distributed in the mountainous regions. In addition, a special Georgian-English and English-Georgian dictionary for guides will be developed and published. Information on the trained guides will be circulated among travel agencies, hotels, and alpinist circles. The project will improve the level of service provided by local guides and contribute to employment in the mountainous regions of Georgia. This project is co-funded by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

#### **Tourism Vocational College**

\$39,584

Tbilisi, Georgia

To promote vocational education reform in the service sector by supporting the development of the first tourism vocation school. The project will make curricula and study materials for 9-month training and 3-month retraining programs for 7 professions: barmen, cooks, confectioners, waiters, housekeepers, hotel receptionists, and hotel reservation employees. The programs will be based on the professional qualification standards to be developed in cooperation with the representatives of the private sector. The project will also develop a set of outreach materials for potential applicants and employers such as leaflets, a brochure and the college web site. During the first year, around 300 individuals will be enrolled in these courses. After completion of the project, in the years of 2008-2009 the college is planning to develop curriculum and study materials for four advanced professional programs. The school will become a source of professionals for hotels, restaurants, travel companies, and so on. Introducing even a small number of qualified professionals into the tourism workforce will raise the standards and expectations of the industry. The school will also affect the overall education reform. If successful, it can be emulated and modified for vocational education in other industries.

#### **Civic Initiative Center (CIC)**

\$34,458

Tbilisi, Georgia

To support countrywide coalition building and issue-based regional cooperation among civil society organizations (CSOs) in Georgia. This project builds upon the USAID-funded Citizens Advocate Program, and will further increase the capacity of Georgian CSOs to mobilize citizens, advocate for their interests and lobby for policy reforms. These goals will be accomplished through the involvement of more CSOs into the CSO Code of Ethics, monitoring of CSOs compliance with the Code's principles, series of workshops, round-tables, and issue-based retreats for CSOs, a CSO fair, development of issue-based policy papers, and the redesign of the [www.advocacy.ge](http://www.advocacy.ge) multipurpose web portal as a vibrant forum for CSOs and other stakeholders. The project will support strengthened and enhanced networking among Georgian CSOs, especially between the regions and the capital. The project is co-funded by Open Society Georgia Foundation.

### **Justice and Liberty Association**

\$33,071

Tbilisi, Georgia

To support strengthened civic oversight over Georgia's defense and security agencies and to increase transparency and public awareness about the process under which Georgia is seeking admission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). As Georgia enters into the intensified dialogue stage of its push towards membership in NATO, effective public oversight over the reforms in the defense and security fields will be essential if Georgia is to be accepted into the next Membership Action Program phase. To achieve these goals the project will train media and government officials on transparency in security agencies, provide civic monitoring on the implementation of NATO-related programs by the government, conduct a public information campaign about the findings, and develop recommendations, including legal initiatives for improved cooperation between NGOs and Georgia's defense and security structures.

### **Civil Society Institute**

\$37,000

Tbilisi, Georgia

To improve municipal government in Batumi, the institute is one of the newly created self-governing municipalities under the new local government law in Georgia. The Civil Society Institute will implement a project aimed at legal and administrative reforms of Batumi City Hall. CSI will study the existing administration structure for ways to improve efficiency, develop a human resource policy for the City Hall administration, promote modern administration methods, encourage transparency and openness within the city hall system and establish mechanisms for public participation in City Hall activities.

## **Kazakhstan**

### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$350,380

Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan

To establish a local foundation to support the development of civil society in Central Asia. The Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) is the one of the first private, indigenous foundations in Central Asia with a network of offices across the region. This grant will provide funding for EFCA to promote the advancement of civic institutions and private enterprise throughout Central Asia through its grant making and operating programs.

### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$133,167

Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan

To establish a local foundation to support the development of civil society in Central Asia. The Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) is the one of the first private, indigenous foundations in Central Asia with a network of offices across the region. This grant will provide funding for EFCA to promote the advancement of civic institutions and private enterprise throughout Central Asia through its grant making and operating programs.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$133,167

Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan

To establish a local foundation to support the development of civil society in Central Asia. The Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) is the one of the first private, indigenous foundations in Central Asia with a network of offices across the region. This grant will provide funding for EFCA to promote the advancement of civic institutions and private enterprise throughout Central Asia through its grant making and operating programs.

#### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

### **Chintamani Foundation**

\$ 7,352

Tashkumyr, Kyrgyzstan

To decrease smoking among young men and women. The grantee will carry out an information campaign to dissuade young people in Tashkumyr and nearby villages from using tobacco. The project will create a precedent in monitoring the implementation of the law “On Administrative Liability for Smoking in Public Areas,” and will decrease the likelihood that school-age children will start smoking.

### **NGO Altius**

\$ 7,251

Jalalabad, Kyrgyzstan

To increase the proportion of young people involved in state and community management. Training sessions will be held for young leaders where they will learn how to advance their interests. They will also share ideas about how to work with youth NGOs. The project will promote dialogue between youth, state, and civic institutions, and will strengthen cooperation between youth NGOs in the two countries.

### **Labor Migration Assistance Centers Network**

\$ 42,252

Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation

To protect the rights of Kyrgyz labor migrants working in Russia. Together with partner organizations in Russian Federation, the grantee will coordinate the activities of labor migration assistance centers in order to help migrants to register legally and receive work permits, and work to increase labor migrants’ awareness of their labor rights and responsibilities. The project is part of a larger pilot initiative which will help protect the rights of Kyrgyz labor migrants in regions of Russian Federation.

### **Kirgizia–Ural Foundation**

\$ 10,602

Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation

To promote human rights of labor migrants from Central Asia countries in Yekaterinburg and Sverdlovsk oblast by provision of information and legal services in the Center for Assistance to Labor Migrants. The grantee will cooperate with civil institutions in advocating for human rights, also with local employees and local governance in gathering information on employees’ needs and job vacancies available, with Centers for Assistance to labor migrants in Kyrgyzstan by information database exchange on job vacancies and resumes of those seeking legal employment in Russian Federation. The current project is a part of larger initiative of the EFCA on enabling labor migrants from Central Asia countries to get legalization and legal employment in Russian Federation.

## 2.2 Improved Legal Systems

### **Ferghana Valley Lawyers Association**

\$ 39,606

Kyrgyzstan

To reduce hardships for citizens when crossing the border between the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan. The grantee will conduct an advocacy campaign to speed up the ratification of agreements, which will simplify border-crossing procedures. The grantee will also work with the border guards of the Kyrgyz Republic to improve their professional skills, inform citizens of border-crossing procedures and advise them on legal issues related to border crossing. The project is expected to build partnerships between civic actors and the Kyrgyz border control and reduce transit barriers for citizens.

### **International Law School**

\$ 5,249

Kyrgyzstan

To develop international law as a specialization in legal education in Kyrgyzstan. The grantee will conduct a national competition on international law for the Jessup Cup 2007 in Kyrgyzstan. The project will contribute to the law school students' capacity in the field of international law and will establish access for the law school students of Kyrgyzstan to the opportunity of obtaining practical skills of advocacy and court cases in the field of international law.

## **Moldova**

### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

#### **Transparency International**

\$21,567

Moldova

To promote ethical standards among government employees in Moldova. The grantee will conduct a series of activities with central and local government administrations, academia, civil society, and media including: organizing trainings for government employees tasked with anti-corruption activities; a workshop with members of parliament to promote a code of ethics; and a public awareness campaign on the benefits of adopting a code of ethics. Together with the Anticorruption Alliance, the grantee will also develop and promote a draft law on Code of Ethics. The project will improve ethics in the public sector and the quality of public services.

## Russia

### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

#### **Higher Education Policy Institute**

\$49,500

Russia

To expose Russian leaders in the field of higher education to the American experience of colleges and universities playing a key role in the social and economic development of the regions in which they operate. Through a symposium and study tour, this project will offer the participants lessons learned and American best practices as they work to develop strategies and models that will broaden and deepen the role that universities in Russia play in the life of the society and economy.

## Tajikistan

### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$133,167

Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan

To establish a local foundation to support the development of civil society in Central Asia. The Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) is the one of the first private, indigenous foundations in Central Asia with a network of offices across the region. This grant will provide funding for EFCA to promote the advancement of civic institutions and private enterprise throughout Central Asia through its grant making and operating programs.

### 1.3 Private Enterprise Development

#### **Union of Consumers**

\$18,458

Sogd Oblast, Tajikistan

With the purposes to introduce the international standards of bar-coding system in Tajikistan and creation of GS1-Tajikistan as the national organization of commodity numeration. The grantee will create the normative base, which will contribute to the institutional development of the Tajik organization of commodity numeration and promote the idea of bar coding through the creation of website GS1-Tajikistan. The grantee will also carry on an intensive PR- campaign to attract commercial institutions to become members of GS1-Tajikistan, which will give financial stability to this organization. As a result, it is expected that the membership GS1-Tajikistan will reach 80 organizations and it will be accepted as a member of the international organization GS1 Global. This will allow GS1-Tajikistan to award national identification codes. Project will be co-financed by International Trade Centre.

#### **Sapeda**

\$26,228

Khatlon Oblast, Tajikistan

To further support cross-border trade between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The grantee will conduct trainings for small businesses, traders, NGOs from bordering regions on commercial legislation and marketing. Bilateral meetings to discuss ways to eliminate administrative barriers for cross-border trade will be organized for government officials from both countries. A trade fair will be organized at the end of the project in Kunduz province of Afghanistan with a large representation of Tajik traders.

#### **Dekhkan Farm Agrocomplex**

\$10,235

Sogd Oblast, Tajikistan

To foster agricultural entrepreneurship development in the Spitamen district of Tajikistan. The grantee will create an experimental duck farm in the northern part of Tajikistan. The project will evenly distribute 600 ducks among 10 farms, conduct training seminars, and publish manuals on effective duck farming. The project will improve the farming and business skills of farmers and facilitate the expansion of duck industry.

#### **NGO Nihol**

\$8,490

Tajikistan

To promote community economic development. The NGO will establish a fruit-tree nursery with volunteer help from five villages on land donated by the government. Once the apple and pear trees are mature enough to replant, it will provide training in fruit raising and distribute the trees to the volunteers.

This will help restore a once important sector of the local economy hard hit by the civil war and subsequent economic dislocation.

**National Fund “The Silk Road is the Road of Unity”**

\$13,100

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

To support the development of tourism business in Tajikistan. The grantee will invite international trainers to educate its employees on hotel and restaurant businesses. As a result, 200 people will be trained to provide quality hotel and restaurant services. Tourism in Tajikistan will become more attractive and comfortable. Two manuals will be published in the Tajik language on running a hotel and a restaurant business for a wider use. At the end of the project, a roundtable discussion will take place to recommend the best practices to the National Tourism School.

**Central Stock Exchange**

\$10,303

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

To support economic reforms. The grantee will train university students in currency trading, then stage a competition among the universities. As a result, universities and students should increase their interest in the fledgling currency trading industry, which will both widen employment opportunities and increase macroeconomic efficiency.

1.4 Competitive Responsive Financial Sector

**Professional Accountants and Auditors Institute**

\$17,790

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

To support the development of high quality international standards for accounting and to strengthen the accountancy profession. The grantee will join the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), which will enable a countrywide to transfer to international standards of financial reporting and accounting. The project includes hosting for the first time in Tajikistan a meeting of the Certified International Professional Accountants; publication in Tajik and Russian of a manual for accountants to be used at higher education institutions and during courses for accounting certification.

2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

**Youth Initiatives Fund**

\$10,599

Vahsh District, Khatlon Oblast, Tajikistan

To promote community development in a multi-ethnic community still recovering from the Tajik Civil War. The NGO will create a community center in a building donated by the local administration. There, residents will have access to e-mail to contact relatives who left because of the war or economic hardship, and get free legal consultations. The center will also host a number of cultural events. This should strengthen ties among community members and between civil society and the government.

**Masuliyat**

\$7,496

Sogd Oblast, Tajikistan

To raise awareness of the effects of corruption. The grantee, a youth organization, will stage events in 11 communities and three universities, broadcast a television show and distribute brochures to inform people of the economic consequences of corruption. It will conduct a before-and-after survey among its target audience to measure how people's understanding of corruption has improved.

**Amparo Association**

\$9,054

Sogd Oblast, Tajikistan

To improve the legal skills, capacity and marketing ability of law students of the Sogd oblast. The grantee will conduct a number of training courses and mock trials, which aim to provide law students with skills necessary to find a job in a legal environment. The grantee will open a career center and a Web site specifically designed to help law students increase their visibility. The project will help to improve the qualifications of law students and young lawyers and their potential for employment in a legal environment.

**Shahrvand Support Center**

\$1,635

Khatlon Oblast, Tajikistan

To support development of cross boarder relations between Tajikistan and Afghanistan and establishing of partnership on the area of civil society. Grantee will conduct needs assessment of development of civil society in Kunduz province as a mean for upcoming cooperation in implementation of joint projects. The outcome of the survey will be strategic base for further cooperation.

2.3 More Accountable Local Government**Fidokor**

\$10,928

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

To support the development of the local self-governance in the southern districts of Khatlon region. The grantee will design an educational program aimed at improving social partnership between NGO leaders and municipal and government officials involved in the activities of local self-governance organs. The grantee will carry out a PR campaign to promote effective self-governance; the grantee will publish posters about the role and principles of local self-governance and brochures about the structure and people of local self-governance organs. With the aim to exchange best practices, leaders of five participating districts will have meetings throughout the region. The grantee will publicize its activities in local newspapers and radio programs.

**Khamroz**

\$4,439

Khatlon Oblast, Tajikistan

To strengthen local self-governance. Tajikistani legislation gives rural councils a degree of autonomy, and much donor attention has focused on this opportunity. However, their urban equivalents, known as makhallas, are still managed centrally. The grantee will set up a coordination council among 40 urban neighborhoods. This council will act as an information and training clearinghouse for Makhalla leaders, who will develop plans for local development initiatives. The grantee will then hold a round-table to promote decentralization of Makhalla governance.

## **Ukraine**

### 1.3 Private Enterprise Development

#### **LEaD: Local Economic Development III**

Implemented in partnership with OSCE, the Local Economic Development (LEAD) program an integrated approach to stimulate economic development and job creation. The LEAD program helps local partners resolve problems using local resources, providing assistance with a combination of grants, networking opportunities and technical assistance. LEAD encourages public-private partnerships in rural areas and small towns in 13 oblasts of Ukraine. LEAD is also being implemented in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The program is focused on spurring SME development at the regional level; building business support infrastructure; creating conditions for the public-private dialogue at the regional level.

#### **Entrepreneurs Union of Small, Medium and Privatized Enterprises**

\$20,045

Sevastopol, Ukraine

To improve regulatory policy toward small businesses in Sevastopol by initiating constructive dialogue between entrepreneurs and local authorities and enhancing local government capacity to implement business-related legislation. The grantee will monitor and analyze current regulatory policies; create a legal assistance center and provide training and consultations for businesses, associations and local lawmakers; conduct an information campaign on related issues in the local media including articles, newsletters, interactive TV shows and viewer surveys; foster information exchange between entrepreneurs through conferences, internet forums, and a mailing list; and help entrepreneurs' unions actively participate in the developing of regulatory norms. The project will help balance state regulation of business activities in the city.

### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

#### **Social and Cultural Management Institute**

\$10,823

Kirovograd Oblast, Ukraine

To improve analysis of social policy by civil servants, NGOs and journalists in Kirovohrad oblast. The grantee will conduct a seminar and three trainings in oblast and rayon centers, publish a textbook on social policy analysis, analyze drafts of government social policies, and hold a small grants competition for local initiatives, which can improve these policies. Because of the project, co-funded by the Stefan Batory Foundation, NGOs in Kirovohrad will play a more active role in analyzing public and non-governmental social programs.

#### **Vox Populi: Local Initiatives Support**

A small grants component, the opportunities fund, is a part of Vox Populi initiative (funded by USAID, Mott Foundation and WFD) aimed at encouraging citizens and expert input into administrative reform in Ukraine. The opportunities fund will be available to support local projects such as: civic education and discussions; community activities to encourage participation in the reform process; debates on reform issues; public opinion surveys; or other methods of gathering feedback for regional and national policymakers.

#### **East-Ukrainian Center of Civil Initiatives**

\$6,110

Lugansk Oblast, Ukraine

To pilot a method of gathering public input into administrative-territorial reforms in Lugansk oblast. The grantee will train public servants and leaders of non-governmental organizations from two rayons on designing and implementing reforms and on principles of participatory local governance. A public debate and a press conference will draw attention to the opportunities and challenges presented by reforming local self-governance in the oblast. The grantee will also publish a brochure containing ideas for administrative-territorial reforms developed by participating local governments and NGOs. The local authorities will be able to apply the principles of participatory governance in addressing other issues of importance to their communities in the future.

**Press-Club of Reforms**

\$3,937

Kirovograd Oblast, Ukraine

To inform citizens of Kirovograd oblast on administrative-territorial reform in Ukraine and to stimulate public interest in the reform planning process. Journalists and citizens will learn of proposed reforms through a new website and four televised press-club meetings in Kirovograd and rayon centers. Public recommendations on the reforms will then be conveyed to central and local governments through a brochure. This project will both raise citizen awareness and inform local governments of the public's ideas on administrative-territorial reform in Kirovograd oblast.

## Uzbekistan

### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$100,785

Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan

To establish a local foundation to support the development of civil society in Central Asia. The Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) is the one of the first private, indigenous foundations in Central Asia with a network of offices across the region. This grant will provide funding for EFCA to promote the advancement of civic institutions and private enterprise throughout Central Asia through its grant making and operating programs.

### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$133,167

Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan

To establish a local foundation to support the development of civil society in Central Asia. The Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) is the one of the first private, indigenous foundations in Central Asia with a network of offices across the region. This grant will provide funding for EFCA to promote the advancement of civic institutions and private enterprise throughout Central Asia through its grant making and operating programs.

## 1.3 Private Enterprise Development

### **Sod Bi Fund**

\$70,200

Uzbekistan

To promote trade between small businesses in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The grantee will establish a network of trade consultants, hold trade fairs in both countries and open a web portal specializing in trade. This should open trade opportunities to small businesses and highlight the economic benefits of free trade.

### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia**

\$50,000

Uzbekistan

To establish a local foundation to support the development of civil society in Central Asia. The Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) is the one of the first private, indigenous foundations in Central Asia with a network of offices across the region. This grant will provide funding for EFCA to promote the advancement of civic institutions and private enterprise throughout Central Asia through its grant making and operating programs.

### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$249,595

To establish a local foundation to support the development of civil society in Central Asia. The Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) is the one of the first private, indigenous foundations in Central Asia with a network of offices across the region. This grant will provide funding for EFCA to promote the advancement of civic institutions and private enterprise throughout Central Asia through its grant making and operating programs.



**Appendix D**

**Non-USG Government Grants by Country and Strategic Objective**

**October 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007**



## Armenia

### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

#### **Artak Dabaghyan**

\$3,460

Yerevan, Armenia

Artak Dabaghyan will conduct an ethnographical survey in the Tavush region of Armenia. The survey aims to explain how trade on the Armenian-Georgian-Azerbaijani border affects peoples' ethnic stereotypes and political attitudes. The study will include focus groups and interviews with community members, traders, local administration and NGOs, as well as on-site ethnographical observations. In addition, Dabaghyan intends to analyze statistical data to reveal the economic and demographic trends in the region, which is an important spot of emerging economic interdependence (especially around the Sadakhlo-Bagratashen marketplace) in a war-devastated area. Dabaghyan's study will offer important insights into how the dynamics of trade shape inter-ethnic relationships. These insights can provide clues for researchers, policymakers and NGOs alike to design programs that promote inter-ethnic trust in environments of post-conflict reconstruction in border regions across the South Caucasus.

#### **Gyulnara Hovhannisyan**

\$3,500

Armenia

Gyulnara Hovhannisyan will analyze the pension system in Armenia to understand better the role that gender plays in pension security, and predict how the pension reforms currently being implemented in Armenia will affect women. Using quantitative and qualitative methods, she will study how effective the pension system in Armenia is from a gender perspective. For instance, she will examine men's and women's employment and salary patterns, which determine the size of payments to the pension system, to better understand the disparities between male and female pensioners. Taking into account that radical reforms are currently being implemented in the pension system of the Republic, Ms. Hovhannisyan will also study gender-related problems that are emerging because of the implementation of the new system. It is expected that findings of this research will help find solutions to gender-related problems existing in the pension system, thus, helping to eliminate gender disparities. The results of this study will be useful for all interested parties involved in pension reforms: the National Assembly of Armenia, the Government of Armenia, the State Foundation for Social Insurance, the Central Bank of Armenia, employers, professional unions, experts and others. The fellow will produce an analytical report, a book, a set of policy recommendations and a jointly published international paper. To prepare and publish the international paper, Ms. Hovhannisyan will collaborate with two experts, Lena Zezulina and Jennifer Hastings, from The Services Group (TSG), the international economic consulting company that will implement USAID's Social Protection Systems Strengthening Project in Armenia. Ms. Hovhannisyan will also present the major findings of her research project at CRRC-Armenia and elsewhere to interested parties.

#### **Edik Kyureghyan**

\$3,500

Armenia

Edik Kyureghyan will investigate the socioeconomic, demographic, cultural and political changes that have affected the rural population of Armenia over the past two and a half decades. Mr. Kyureghyan will use data collected during the Main Directions of Ethnosocial Development of the Population of Armenia survey, which was implemented by Yu. Mr. Arutyunyan, academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and by Dr. E. Karapetyan in 1980, and, using most indicators of that survey, will replicate the questions in the same Armenian regions and villages. By replicating an earlier survey, Mr. Kyureghyan

will test how the perceptions and attitudes of the rural population have changed regarding religion, traditions, national culture, family relationships, family structure, social values and many other issues. Policy makers can use the results of this survey to initiate and implement programs in Armenia's rural areas. Such programs could include the improvement of rural infrastructure and the implementation of employment and land reforms. Furthermore, social scientists, politicians and other specialists may use the dataset produced because of this project to help forecast further socioeconomic, demographic, cultural and political developments in Armenia's rural areas.

## **Kazakhstan**

### 1.3 Private Enterprise Development

#### **Farmers and Entrepreneurs Fund**

\$6,750

South Kazakhstan Oblast, Kazakhstan

To increase civic engagement in solving social problems and to stimulate growth among farms in Southern Kazakhstan. The grantee will provide consulting and training services to farmers to improve farm management and establish a working group of representatives of the local government, businesses and non-governmental organizations to coordinate efforts to solve local social problems. In addition, to establishing partnerships to address community problems, the grantee will provide a select group of farmers with loans through its micro-credit fund to grow their business. Philip Morris Kazakhstan and the U.S. Agency fund the project for International Development (USAID).

#### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$3,450

Kazakhstan

South Kazakhstan Entrepreneur-to-Entrepreneur Support Initiative is aimed to develop civil society in a rural region. The grantee will oversee the development of a network of NGOs and a community foundation. The program will encourage public service to address social problems and produce a sustainable source of funding for the region's NGOs. Altria Group is co-funding this project.

### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

#### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$87,562

Kazakhstan

To improve environmental protection in Kazakhstan. The grantee will support a partnership between the Eurasian National University in Astana and the University of New Mexico to develop a master's of science program in environmental engineering and science. The program will graduate 10 or more young experts a year, capable of assisting the public and private sectors in improving environmental stewardship. AES Corporation finances the project.

#### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$47,811

Kazakhstan

To develop civil society in a rural region. The grantee will oversee the development of a network of NGOs, which will encourage public service to address social problems. Altria is co-funding this project.

#### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$20,498

Kazakhstan

The project "Kazakhstan Foster Parenting Initiative" is aimed to promote deinstitutionalization of orphans. The grantee will support a network of NGOs and work with the government to increase foster care and adoption as an alternative to orphanages. As a result, more children will grow up in families and support will grow for reforming the system of orphan care.

#### **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$88,746

Kazakhstan

To meet the corporate citizenship objectives of Philip Morris Kazakhstan (PMK) in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The community Development Program will have four major components in Almaty and South Kazakhstan Oblasts: Community foundation support program in Enbekshikazakh District; South Kazakhstan Entrepreneur-to-Entrepreneur Support Initiative in Kuzgurt and Sairam Districts; Assistance to underprivileged people in Enbekshikazakh District NGO support program in Iliy District. Philip Morris Kazakhstan is co-financing this project.

**Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia: Kazakhstan**

\$1,792

Kazakhstan

To promote private farming and community engagement. The grantee will oversee a project to train farmers and provide them with micro credit, and create public-private mechanisms to address social problems. As a result, self-help efforts and sustainable private farms will increase. Altria Group is co-financing this project.

**Foster Parenting Initiative Phase IV**

To improve the lives of orphans and parentless children in five regions of Kazakhstan, the Eurasia Foundation is launching the fourth phase of its multi-year Foster Parenting Initiative. Currently, the process of de-institutionalization is improving; however, there exists a lack of programs addressing alternative forms of orphan care foster family support and social services. The next phase of this multi-year program will focus on the development of established centers, which promote alternative forms of orphan care as approved by Kazakhstan law, such as mentorship, foster care and adoption by families in Kazakhstan.

**Perekrestok Foundation**

\$8,850

Kostanai Oblast, Kazakhstan

To create a center to support the deinstitutionalization of orphans and children without guardianship. The center will provide support to the local department of childcare and conduct activities to place children with foster families around the city and region. The project is expected to develop further foster parenting as an alternative form of foster care, with the long-term goal of decreasing the number of institutionalized children. This project is part of the multi-year Foster Parenting Initiative, with funding from Philip Morris Kazakhstan and the United States Agency for International Development.

**Youth Media Soyuz**

\$5000

Kazakhstan

To promote foster care and the deinstitutionalization of orphans in Kazakhstan. The grantee will update its web site, [www.ballas.kz](http://www.ballas.kz), with information on laws concerning orphan care, question and answer capabilities and the contact information of all orphanages in Kazakhstan. The web site, which represents the only internet resource about orphans in Kazakhstan, is expected to raise awareness about major issues and provide updated information on relevant reforms at the government level. The project is part of a six-year initiative, with funding from Philip Morris Kazakhstan and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

**Tomiris Association**

\$9,410

Pavlodar Oblast, Kazakhstan

To create a center to support the deinstitutionalization of orphans and children without guardianship. The center will provide support to the local department of childcare and conduct activities to place children

with foster families around the city and region. The project is expected to develop further foster parenting as an alternative form of foster care, with the long-term goal of decreasing the number of institutionalized children. This project is part of the multi-year Foster Parenting Initiative, with funding from Philip Morris Kazakhstan and the United States Agency for International Development.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

#### **Fergana Valley Initiatives**

The Eurasia Foundation has launched a regional initiative in the Ferghana Valley. The goal of this initiative is to promote meaningful cross-border and inter-ethnic cooperation at the local level in the Ferghana region through training and small grants.

##### **Agency of Voluntary Services Altius**

\$7,251

Kyrgyzstan

To increase the proportion of young people involved in state and community management. Training sessions will be held for young leaders where they will learn how to advance their interests. They will also share ideas about how to work with youth NGOs. The project will promote dialogue between youth, state, and civic institutions, and will strengthen cooperation between youth NGOs in the two countries.

##### **Legal Company of Alternative Support**

\$7,000

Osh, Kyrgyzstan

To limit unreasonable and illegal financial demands placed on families in government schools. An information campaign will be carried out on how to resist illegal fees and payments demanded from students. The grantee will develop and implement a transparent budget for the schools of Osh. It will help to develop and disseminate the principles of transparent budgets at the republican level, strengthening trust and mutual responsibility between parents and school administrations. The Danish Government supports this project.

##### **Ferghana Valley Lawyers without Borders**

\$39,606

Osh, Kyrgyzstan

To reduce hardships for citizens when crossing the border between the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan. Osh grantee will conduct an advocacy campaign to speed up the ratification of agreements, which will simplify border-crossing procedures. The grantee will also work with the border guards of the Kyrgyz Republic to improve their professional skills, inform citizens of border-crossing procedures and advise them on legal issues related to border-crossing. The project is expected to build partnerships between civic actors and the Kyrgyz border control and reduce transit barriers for citizens.

#### **Labor Migration Program**

EF funded program will assist Kyrgyz labor migrants to work legally in Russia. This project aims to provide Kyrgyz immigrants with legal support, as well as to identify available jobs and skills needed to fill the vacancies in Russian labor market. The project will also try to establish a dialogue between civil society and government bodies to improve migrant labor laws. This would have a tremendous social and economic impact on the region. At the end of the project, EF will commission an external impact evaluation, including a survey of labor migrant, employers and local government officials, to identify best practices and lessons learned.

##### **Center for Forecasting and Social Information**

\$42,252

Kyrgyzstan, Russia

To protect the rights of Kyrgyz labor migrants working in Russia. Together with partner organizations in Russian Federation, the grantee will coordinate the activities of labor migration assistance centers in order to help migrants to register legally and receive work permits, and work to increase labor migrants awareness of their labor rights and responsibilities. The project is part of a larger pilot initiative, which will help protect the rights of Kyrgyz labor migrants in regions of Russian Federation.

**Youth Program FV EFCA- Small Grants**

This program is aimed at assisting local organizations to solve social and economic problems facing the youth in Southern Kyrgyzstan and Sogd oblast of Tajikistan. It seeks to improve the coordination of the youth activities between civic groups and governmental agencies. Up to ten grants will be awarded to registered non-commercial organizations of up to \$7,000 to projects of 6-8 months in length

**Radio Station Salam - LLC Daanazat Ordo**

\$7,000

Kyrgyzstan

To promote ideas of tolerance and non-violent conflict resolution among the youth and local communities of the border districts of Batken Oblast. Young correspondents will undergo training, after which they will prepare and broadcast programs advocating good-neighborliness and tolerance. The programs will help develop the principles of inter-ethnic tolerance and good-neighborliness among the young people of the region, which in turn will reduce incidents of inter-ethnic conflict. The Danish Government supports this project.

**Kosh Araket Fund**

\$7,000

Kyrgyzstan

To develop business initiatives among poor youth. The grantee will conduct training sessions and provide technical assistance to develop small businesses for young men and women from underprivileged families in Osh. The project's activities will improve these families' financial situation, and this will serve as an example to others who wish to create sustainable family businesses. The Danish Government supports this project.

**Chintamani Foundation**

\$7,352

Kyrgyzstan

To decrease smoking among young men and women. The grantee will carry out an information campaign to dissuade young people in Tashkumyr and nearby villages from using tobacco. The project will create a precedent in monitoring the implementation of the law "On Administrative Liability for Smoking in Public Areas", and will decrease the likelihood that school-age children will start smoking.

**Youth and Civilization Foundation**

\$ 7000

Khujand, Tajikistan

To decrease the spread of religious extremism and raise the social and political consciousness of young people. An advocacy campaign will be carried out to raise public awareness of religious radicalism. A dialogue will be established between youth, government, and civic institutions in Tajikistan. Research will be carried out, and the results will be presented to the government. The Danish Government supports this project.

**Information Center DDD**

\$ 6,750

Osh, Kyrgyzstan

To strengthen the professional development of young specialists from local television companies in Osh, and to disseminate information more effectively on the activities of community institutions, which address social problems. A series of theoretical and practical seminars will be held for the young specialists, and three documentaries will be produced and shown on local TV. The specialists will improve their skills, and informational support will be provided to the “Youth Program” of EFCA’s Osh office.

## 2.2 Improved Legal Systems

### **School of International Law**

\$5,249

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

To develop international law as a specialization in legal education in Kyrgyzstan. The grantee will conduct a national competition on international law for the Jessup Cup 2007 in Kyrgyzstan. The project will contribute to the law school students' capacity in the field of international law and will establish access for the law school students of Kyrgyzstan to the opportunity of obtaining practical skills of advocacy and court cases in the field of international law.

## **Moldova**

### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

#### **Transparency International**

\$21,567

Moldova

To promote ethical standards among government employees in Moldova. The grantee will conduct a series of activities with central and local government administrations, academia, civil society, and media including: organizing trainings for government employees tasked with anti-corruption activities; a workshop with members of parliament to promote a code of ethics; and a public awareness campaign on the benefits of adopting a code of ethics. Together with the Anticorruption Alliance, the grantee will also develop and promote a draft law on Code of Ethics. The project will improve ethics in the public sector and the quality of public services.

## **Russia**

### 1.2 Fiscal Policies & Management Practices

#### **Municipal Council of Vladimir Oblast**

\$1,200

Russia

Project is aimed to set up the Youth Informational Club in Vyasnikovsky district of Vladimir region in order to meet the youngsters' actual, personal requirements and needs in different areas: local industries' job vacancies, possibilities for education and training, leisure options. Young people may meet, share ideas and experiences, be involved in different spheres of life attractive for them, and perceive the world around them. In the framework of the project the project participants' cooperation mechanisms will be defined, existing forms and methods of youth NGOs' work will be analyzed, further possibilities for cooperation with the project group will be discussed. Project development perspectives are connected with the analysis of youth needs' changes during the youth informational club work.

#### **Education Development Center**

\$1,200

Saratov Oblast, Russia

Project is aimed at involving youth from the Saratov region municipal territories into the network cooperation of the youth municipal public councils. Such network cooperation helps to define and provide sharing the best practices in youth public council's development, it helps to develop and implement mechanism of cooperation between this councils and their social partners - regional and local authorities, business, youth workers. Main activity of the project is the Regional Conference of the youth municipal public councils' leaders. Further development of the youth municipal public councils that will be focused on involving more youth in their activities is planned.

#### **Educational Technologies Center**

\$1,200

Pskov Oblast, Russia

Project is aimed to create the conditions for orphans to develop skills for socialization, communication and positive behavior. High school and university students from the close age group will be involved as volunteers in the work with this type of children and youth. This project will enable the team of volunteers to implement their activities in the youth sphere, to feel them useful and valuable for the society. Young orphans will improve their social and communicative skills, become more socialized and open for life choices. Orphanages staff will strengthen their capacity in using new methods for work with this group of children.

#### **Municipal Council of Vladimir Oblast Association**

\$1,200

Vladimir Oblast, Russia

Project is aimed to develop Youth Parliament as an effective mechanism to support and implement different youth initiatives in Guz-Khrystalny, District of Vladimir Region. Youth parliamentary work will enable young people to implement social youth projects. Youth attitudes and readiness for voluntary work in the region will be analyzed. Several youth projects will be supported with the help of Guz-Khrystalny District youth parliament. Regional Youth parliaments' best practices will be used to enrich the Guz-Khrystalny District youth parliament's work.

#### **Volga Region Leaders**

\$1,200

Saratov, Russia

Project is aimed to generalize and disseminate best regional practices of the youth NGOs -participants of the ACT Project. In the framework of the project regional cooperation mechanisms of the pilot projects participants' will be defined, existing youth organizations' forms and methods of work will be analyzed; forms and methods for further interregional cooperation of youth NGOs will be defined. Interregional conference "We are acting!" for presentation of the youth pilot projects' implementation results will be held in Saratov. Project dissemination will be based on using the "ACT" Project experience and innovative mechanisms and methods in the other Russian regions

### 1.3 Private Enterprise Development

#### **Municipal Administration of Nadvoitsky**

\$20,932

Republic of Karelia, Russia

To support better effectiveness of local self-government bodies and improve the quality and accessibility of municipal services provided to the population in the urban settlement of Nadvoitsy (Segezha district, Republic of Karelia). The project will improve qualifications of Nadvoitsy administration employees and leaders of social institutions in territorial management, implementation of budget commitments, and development planning. A website will be created to represent administration of the urban settlement of Nadvoitsy at the district and republican levels.

#### **Municipal Administration of Kandalaksha**

\$38,041

Murmansk Oblast, Russia

To improve the quality of municipal services provided to residents of the city of Kandalaksha, Murmansk oblast, by reforming the municipal utility system. A new technology based on an integrated computerized system will be introduced in the municipal utility management system. Employees of the municipal administration and organizations participating in the management of the municipal utility system will be trained to work with the new software product, maintain operations of economic subdivisions of the municipality, and forecast the sector's development. As a result, information exchange among utility organizations will be optimized, the quality of utility services will be improved and their scope will be expanded.

#### **The Museum of History**

\$25,000

Kandalaksha, Russia

The project is designed to facilitate small business development in the Murmansk region by creating a tourism support infrastructure in the City of Kandalaksha. The project will identify the most promising tourism business development venues in the region, put together a tourism development business plan, and identify the optimal infrastructure required to support small business development in the sphere of tourism. Project results and recommendations will serve as the groundwork of a municipal tourism development program that is planned to be financed by budget funds and large local enterprises.

#### **Sluzhba Zakazchika Institution**

\$6,878

Sverdlovsk Oblast, Russia

The project aimed at selection of local organization that will coordinate the process of strategic planning of the town development will be implemented in order to raise the life standards and lower social tension in Severouralsk. Project activities should include logistics for all strategic planning events, securing public discussions on key strategic issues, and facilitation activities of the strategic working group. This

project is a part of the SUAL Holding and New Eurasia Foundation Joint Initiative for Small Business Development in Severouralsk.

#### **Northern Caucasus State University of Technology**

\$13,688

Stavropol Krai, Russia

The project is aimed to create a favorable environment for developing innovations in Stavropol Krai by improving mechanisms of support to innovations. North-Caucasus State Technical University will add an Office for Technology Commercialization as an independent unit. The Office will be included in the network of innovation support structures lead by the Center of Technology Transfer, and will assist innovative companies and scientific groups to select, test, and promote new technologies. The project will result by establishing two new innovative companies and signing two agreements with production corporations on implementing innovative ideas of NC STU.

#### **Stavropol Center for Business Information**

\$37,736

Stavropol Krai, Russia

The project is aimed to create a favorable environment for developing innovations in Stavropol Krai by the consolidation of efforts of support to innovations. The project will allow the establishment of the Center of Technology Transfer as a department of the Stavropol Center for Business Information as a key element of the technology transfer network. The Center will unite technology centers, educational and scientific institutions, and enterprises to improve their staff qualifications. During the project period the Center will develop and test mechanisms of selection priority innovations and fundraising for their production.

#### **Stavropol State University**

\$13,690

Stavropol Krai, Russia

The project is aimed to create a favorable environment for developing innovations in Stavropol Krai by improving mechanisms of support to innovations. Project activities will allow the Office for Technology Commercialization at Stavropol State University (SSU) to broaden the range of services and to test selection and market promotion procedures for innovations of SSU scientific groups. The Office will be included to the network of innovation support structures led by the Center of Technology Transfer.

#### **Stavropol State University of Agriculture**

\$13,816

Stavropol Krai, Russia

The project is aimed to create a favorable environment for developing innovations in Stavropol Krai by improving mechanisms of support to innovations. The Technology Commercialization Department at Stavropol State Agrarian University (SSAU) will develop and test mechanisms of selection, Business-planning, and market promotion of the innovation ideas of SSAU scientific groups. The Department will be included in the network of innovation support structures lead by the Center of Technology Transfer.

#### **Sodeistvie-2007**

\$18,611

Chita Oblast, Russia

To enhance small business growth in the Baley rayon, Chita Oblast, by developing local SME support infrastructure and providing SME with access to microfinance within the framework of Joint Initiative For Small Business Development in Baley, Chita carried out by New Eurasia Foundation, JV TASEEVKOE and the Russian Microfinance Center, a consumer credit cooperative of citizens "Sodeistvie-2007" was established. This grant will provide funding to this institution to launch

microfinance operations. It also provides opportunities for its staff members to receive training and internships in the leading and the most successful Russian microfinance institutions. The RMC will assist Chita Regional Fund for SME Support in mobilizing external financial resources from ZAO "Centurion Capital"-an independent specialized microfinance investment fund mobilized resources will then be redirected to the newly created consumer credit cooperative of citizens "Sodeistvie-2007." The RMC will provide training and consulting support to the Fund's personnel on the aspects of performance monitoring of "Sodeistvie-2007".

#### **Small and Medium Business Support Agency**

\$23,784

Murmansk Oblast, Russia

To support small business development in economically depressed districts of the Murmansk region by promoting innovative experiences in attracting loan funds to small and medium-sized businesses and introducing new investment attraction methods for small businesses. The project will analyze and systematize entrepreneurial experiences and train aspiring entrepreneurs in methods used to attract loan funds. The Murmansk Regional Agency for Support of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses will provide advisory support to regional small and medium-sized businesses on issues related to attraction of external financing.

#### 1.4 Competitive Responsive Financial Sector

##### **Sodeistvie**

Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia

\$44,575

To ease the access to affordable financing for small businesses in the Arkhangelsk Oblast through the development of a credit cooperation. Small entrepreneurs currently lack the opportunity to receive bank loans due to high mortgage requirements and sustainability ratios. The grantee will set up new cooperative representative offices in five small towns, train the staff, and develop appropriate savings and loans procedures. By the end of the grant, the cooperative will have doubled the number of business loans and increased its membership and savings capital by 15 percent. Information about the project will be widely disseminated in the local press and on the grantee's web site. The project will lay the foundation for a sustainable, non-banking financial system in the region.

#### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

##### **Russian State University of Pedagogy Named After A.I. Gertsen**

\$32,500

Leningrad Oblast, Russia

The project "Innovative development of regional universities: qualification improvement of faculty members" of the Russian State Teachers' Training University named after A. I. Gertsen is designed to improve professional qualifications of faculty members from eight pilot Russian regional universities. 40 representatives of these universities will undergo training in the course of three sessions under the "Training of development managers for Russian regional universities" program and will be issued with state-standard qualification improvement certificates. As a result, a group of strategic development managers and faculty qualification improvement tutors from Russian regional universities will undergo training and acquire qualification improvement certificates. Program participants will put together individual projects designed to develop their respective pilot universities.

##### **Republic of Karelia**

\$4,023

Republic of Karelia, Russia

To support development and maintenance of the KRPFCCF "Centaur" official website. The project will help the "Centaur" Fund to expand its network of partners, involve more participants in its activities, and provide information about therapeutic horseback riding to a larger number of disabled children.

### **Pskov State Polytechnic Institute**

\$10,000

Pskov Oblast, Russia

The project "Establishment of a small business support office under the Finance and Economics Department of the Pskov State Polytechnic Institute" will foster entrepreneurial activities in Pskov and the Pskov Oblast. The project will put together four training programs for representatives of the regional community: "How to start your own business" - for students, "Effective methods of finding employment" - for former military officers and unemployed women, "Managing your agricultural loan" - for farmers, and "Important problems of small and medium-sized businesses" - for entrepreneurs, as well as kits of methodological materials thereto. A number of conferences and panel discussions will be held to ensure effective collaboration between the institute and the local community. Ultimately, the project will help determine the topics of term papers and theses in the sphere of regional development and collaboration with the local community (30-50 topics) and put together a project-related information resource on the Internet. Local and regional mass media outlets will help ensure informational support of the project.

### **Primorsky State Academy of Agriculture**

\$30,933

Primorsky Krai, Russia

To prevent degradation of Primorye rural territories through attracting young professionals into the agricultural sector with active participation of business companies. The project team will launch the model of interaction between businesses, local authorities, educational establishments and NGOs to resolve social-economic issues in community development. Also young specialists will be attracted to work in the agricultural sector by special terms and conditions guaranteed by the employers. It is expected that the number of graduates from Agricultural Academy who return to live and work to rural territories of Primorsky Krai will increase.

### **North Murmansk Humanitarian Institute**

\$30,390

North Murmansk Oblast, Russia

The project is designed to provide for a dialogue venue to facilitate interaction between NGOs and bodies of power in 7 closed administrative-territorial units (ZATO) of the Murmansk region. Representatives of NGOs and bodies of power will jointly undergo training under the "Cross-Sectoral Partnership - Cooperation Technologies" program. As a result, joint activities will be undertaken and joint social projects and programs will be developed.

### **Regional Red Cross Department**

\$11,816

Republic of Komi, Russia

To support the popularization of volunteerism, especially among the youth of the Komi Republic. The project will conduct comprehensive enlightenment activities among various population groups to popularize volunteerism and recruit new volunteers for NGOs of the Komi Republic. A republican conference for NGO leaders of the Komi Republic will be held to discuss the participation of volunteers in NGO activities.

### **Norsk Kompetanseutvikling**

\$40,198

Murmansk Oblast, Russia

To illuminate possibilities and stimulate the development of Murmansk to become an international regional center of the Barents.

**New Education Foundation**

\$13,915

Republic of Karelia, Russia

To support the organization of the republican festival of NGO “Time to Act.” The project will help improve the dialogue between the state, public, and private sectors. “Marathon of Good Deeds” will be held to demonstrate the actual contribution of NGOs in the development of the republic.

**Garant**

\$44,087

Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia

The project is designed to develop and test new technologies and mechanisms used to leverage business funds to support the implementation of social programs in the Arkhangelsk region and replicate business fundraising experiences in the Nenets Autonomous District. The project will develop a pilot social program for the Nenets Autonomous District and encourage the Arkhangelsk City Council to adopt the “Social Investments” program.

**Regional Educational Technologies Center**

\$34,837

Murmansk Oblast, Arkhangelsk Oblast, Republic of Karelia- Russia

To support training of social managers of the Russian North-West in effective methods of project development, social partnership, and to introduce effective models of inclusion for partners in the decision-making and implementation process. It will also promote the development of the social sphere which will help create three variable models of civil participation in public administration for each of the pilot regions and three programs designed to develop and test the variable models, as well as a scope of methods used to conduct public discussions and negotiations with social partners, and information materials that help identify the most significant historical trends and foreign experiences compatible with regional peculiarities. Based on the project results, recommendations will be developed to amend the normative base regulating social partnership in the pilot regions.

**Ural State University**

\$2,835

Sverdlovsk Oblast, Russia

Electronic resource for migrant students for their integration in cultural, social and lingual space of region need to be created. For this purpose it need to be developed a basis for live dialogue of students on the problems of migration and as in wide aspect of social problems and as in narrow aspect of students life. The most important result of the project will be Internet site and its functioning after the finishing of project.

**Ural State University of Mining**

\$2,785

Sverdlovsk Oblast, Russia

Harmonization of interethnic relations in youth society through the students and other youngsters uniting and attracting them to solving their problems through the organizing of common activities in the areas of education, culture, rest and others with help of university resources (staff, techniques, others) .Also volunteering jobs will be done by students.

**Karelian State University of Pedagogy**

\$5,800

Republic of Karelia, Russia

To support the development of a training course “Prevention of Drug Abuse and Its Consequences among Adolescents and Youth” and a series of training seminars among the students of the Karelian Teachers' Training University. It is assumed that university graduates will use the knowledge acquired in the course of the project in their teaching practices.

### **Ukrainian Culture Society Kalina**

\$26,153

Republic of Karelia, Russia

To create conditions for painless integration of labor migrants arrived from the NIS countries into local community in Petrozavodsk and to prevent possible conflicts based on their national origins. The grantee will set up a hot-line service to provide migrants seeking urgent consultations on various matters, offer them free legal and psychological consultations and a number of other services such as training in Russian language and organization of migrants' children spare time. Besides, a number of NGO volunteers from Karelia's remote towns and villages will be trained on provision legal and psychological services for migrants in their localities. In cooperation with the leaders of national Diasporas, the project team will organize a number of round-tables with local and regional public officials in charge for design and implementation of migration policy. Because of the project an information and organization base for migrants' social adaptation will be created, law infractions by and against labor migrants will be decreased and the public will be educated on migrants' role in Karelia' social-economic development.

### **Society of Deaf People, Regional Branch**

\$34,460

Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia

This grant supports a project aimed at enhancing the opportunities for disadvantaged people to participate in decision-making processes in the Arkhangelsk Oblast and at increasing the number of entrepreneurs among this group. The project activities include the organizational strengthening of NGOs working with the disabled through the creation of a union of civil initiatives. This organization will create multi-tiered connections among NGOs, helping them to coordinate their work in identifying and solving problems relating to the disabled and in assisting the disabled in starting up their own business. The project is part of the American-Norwegian Northwest Russia Small Grants Initiative.

### **Labor Migration Program**

EF funded program will assist Kyrgyz labor migrants to work legally in Russia. This project aims to provide Kyrgyz immigrants with legal support, as well as to identify available jobs and skills needed to fill the vacancies in Russian labor market. The project will also try to establish a dialogue between civil society and government bodies to improve migrant labor laws. This would have a tremendous social and economic impact on the region. At the end of the project, EF will commission an external impact evaluation, including a survey of labor migrant, employers and local government officials, to identify best practices and lessons learned.

### **Forecasting and Social Information Center**

\$42,252

Kyrgyzstan, Russia

To protect the rights of Kyrgyz labor migrants working in Russia. Together with partner organizations in Russian Federation, the grantee will coordinate the activities of labor migration assistance centers in order to help migrants to register legally and receive work permits, and work to increase labor migrants' awareness of their labor rights and responsibilities. The project is part of a larger pilot initiative, which will help protect the rights of Kyrgyz labor migrants in regions of Russian Federation.

### **Kirgizia - Ural Foundation**

\$10,602

Moscow, Moscow Oblast, Sverdlovsk Oblast)-Russia

Small grants closed competition “Innovative Technologies and Methods in Community Education”

The competition is aimed at advancing and disseminating community school model and developing community education in Russia.

**Learning Youth of Ulyanovsk**

\$2,939

Ulyanovsk Oblast, Russia

To create a student self-government mechanism via the development and application of a model of interaction between community schools and students of teacher-training institutes of the Ulyanovsk oblast. The project will develop and test a model of interaction between community schools and active students of teacher-training institutes via a business game and a special session at a summer camp. The project will enable students of teacher-training institutes to expand their participation in the solution of school and community problems via their involvement in community school activities and the school democratization process.

## **Tajikistan**

### 1.3 Private Enterprise Development

#### **Union of Consumers**

\$18,458

Dushanbe, Sogd Oblast, Tajikistan

With the purposes to introduce the international standards of bar-coding system in Tajikistan and creation of GS1-Tajikistan as the national organization of commodity numeration. The grantee will create the normative base, which will contribute to the institutional development of the Tajik organization of commodity numeration and promote the idea of bar coding through the creation of website GS1-Tajikistan. The grantee will also carry on an intensive PR- campaign to attract commercial institutions to become members of GS1-Tajikistan, which will give financial stability to this organization. As a result, it is expected that the membership GS1-Tajikistan will reach 80 organizations and it will be accepted as a member of the international organization GS1 Global. This will allow GS1-Tajikistan to award national identification codes. Project will be co-financed by International Trade Centre.

### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

#### **Ferghana Valley Initiatives**

The Eurasia Foundation has launched a regional initiative in the Ferghana Valley. The goal of this initiative is to promote meaningful cross-border and inter-ethnic cooperation at the local level in the Ferghana region through training and small grants.

#### **Right of Citizen**

\$8,734

Sogd Oblast, Tajikistan

To increase the proportion of young people involved in state and community management. Training sessions will be held for young leaders where they will learn how to advance their interests. They will also share ideas about how to work with youth NGOs. The project will promote dialogue between youth, state, and civic institutions, and will strengthen cooperation between youth NGOs in the two countries.

#### **Youth Program FV EFCA- Small Grants**

This program is aimed at assisting local organizations to solve social and economic problems facing youth in Southern Kyrgyzstan and Sogd oblast of Tajikistan. It seeks to improve the coordination of youth activities between civic groups and governmental agencies. Up to ten grants will be awarded to registered non-commercial organizations of up to \$7,000 to projects of 6-8 months in length

#### **Youth and Civilization**

\$7,000

Tajikistan

To decrease the spread of religious extremism and raise the social and political consciousness of young people. An advocacy campaign will be carried out to raise public awareness of religious radicalism. A dialogue will be established between youth, government, and civic institutions in Tajikistan. Research will be carried out, and the results will be presented to the government. The Danish Government supports this project.

## **Ukraine**

### 1.3 Private Enterprise Development

#### **Lead: Local Economic Development III**

Implemented in partnership with OSCE, the Local Economic Development (LEAD) programs an integrated approach to stimulate economic development and job creation. The LEAD program helps local partners resolve problems using local resources, providing assistance with a combination of grants, networking opportunities and technical assistance. LEAD encourages public-private partnerships in rural areas and small towns in 13 oblasts of Ukraine. LEAD is also being implemented in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The program is focused on spurring SME development at the regional level; building business support infrastructure; creating conditions for the public-private dialogue at the regional level.

#### **Entrepreneurs Union of Small, Medium and Privatized Enterprises**

\$20,045

Sevastopol, Crimean Autonomous Republic, Ukraine

To improve regulatory policy toward small businesses in Sevastopol by initiating constructive dialogue between entrepreneurs and local authorities and enhancing local government capacity to implement business-related legislation. The grantee will monitor and analyze current regulatory policies; create a legal assistance center and provide training and consultations for businesses, business associations and local lawmakers; conduct an information campaign on related issues in the local media including articles, newsletters, interactive TV shows and viewer surveys; foster information exchange between entrepreneurs through conferences, internet forums, and a mailing list; and help entrepreneurs' unions actively participate in the developing of regulatory norms. The project will help balance state regulation of business activities in the city.

### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

#### **Municipal Partnerships for Better Energy Use**

The goal of the program is to improve energy efficiency at the local level through public-private partnerships. The competition will support projects promoting better energy use, targeting housing, public buildings, and communal enterprises. Project activities may include public awareness campaigns and citizen engagement on better energy use, policy analysis of energy saving opportunities, introducing new energy savings programs in pilot regions, and public discussions on tariffs or distribution of subsidies

#### **Polis'ka Initiative**

\$19,890

Zhitomir Oblast, Ukraine

To improve energy-savings awareness and practices within local communities in Zhitomir oblast. The grantee will help install new, energy-efficient biomass boilers at two schools, hold an essay contest on energy-savings among schoolchildren, publish an elementary-level textbook and launch an energy-saving training course for schools and colleges in Korotyshiv rayon. The grantee will also draft recommendations on further energy-saving measures in the rayon, and publicize the projects success so that neighboring communities may replicate the model. Co-funded by the OSCE, the project will result in increased awareness and use of energy-saving technologies in the region.

#### **European Integration and Regional Development Agency**

\$27,840

Lvov Oblast, Ukraine

To introduce community mobilization as a strategic tool in improving energy efficiency in Novyi Rozdil, Lviv oblast. Using the local government's audit of municipal energy effectiveness, the grantee will recommend energy-saving projects to the citizens of Novyi Rozdil. The grantee will then implement one pilot project co-funded by the local government and community contributions. The grantee will highlight the project's success in informational campaigns so that neighboring communities and local authorities may replicate this model. Co-funded by the OSCE, the project will increase the capacity of a non-profit community development agency in Novyi Rozdil, raise citizen demand for energy efficiency initiatives, and introduce an energy-saving technology in the region.

## **Uzbekistan**

### 2.1 Citizen Political/Economic Participation

#### **Labor Migration Program**

EF funded program will assist Kyrgyz labor migrants to work legally in Russia. This project aims to provide Kyrgyz immigrants with legal support, as well as to identify available jobs and skills needed to fill the vacancies in Russian labor market. The project will also try to establish a dialogue between civil society and government bodies to improve migrant labor laws. This would have a tremendous social and economic impact on the region. At the end of the project EF will commission an external impact evaluation, including a survey of labor migrant, employers and local government officials, to identify best practices and lessons learned.

#### **Two Wings Association**

\$11,268

Uzbekistan

To protect the rights of labor migrants in Almaty oblast. The grantee will monitor labor migrants' working and living conditions and provide legal and medical support. In addition, the grantee will work with the government and employers to address migrants' problems. This should help improve conditions for labor migrants, and contribute to the public policy debate over labor migration.

#### **Bereke Foundation**

\$15,569

Uzbekistan

To support labor migrants in Southern Kazakhstan. The grantee will set up two information centers in districts bordering Uzbekistan to provide migrant workers with legal and psychological support and assistance accessing bank services, and raise public awareness of labor migrants' needs. The grantee expects to improve the quality of life and working conditions of labor migrants.

#### **Kazakhstan International Bureau on Human Rights and Observance of Law**

\$14,099

Uzbekistan

To help labor migrants in Kazakhstan comply with the law and defend their legal rights. The grantee will provide labor migrants from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan with legal services and court representation at centers in Aktau, Almaty, Astana and Shimkent. The grantee will also seek to raise public awareness on labor migrants' rights through information campaigns, and will offer recommendations on labor migration legislation.

#### **Women Support Center**

\$15,356

Uzbekistan

To support Central Asian labor migrants in Northern Kazakhstan. The grantee will set up a labor migration center to provide migrant workers from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan with legal and psychological support, court representation and assistance accessing medical services, and raise public awareness of labor migrants' needs. This should improve the quality of life and working conditions of labor migrants.