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OVERVIEW

This is the fifteenth quarterly report for the Internews Broadcast Media Strengthening Program in Armenia, reflecting activity and achievements between April 1 and June 30, 2004. Our activities are on schedule and have been successfully implemented during these past three months.

LOCAL EVENTS AFFECTING THE MEDIA

Rally in Support of A1+

On April 2, a rally in support of freedom of expression was held in Yerevan. It marked two years since the station A1+ has been off the air.

Opposition and Journalists Attacked

On April 5, an unidentified group of athletically built men attacked the National Unity opposition party leaders during their meeting with voters on the streets of Yerevan. Journalists covering the event were targeted as well including photo journalist Onik Grigorian (a British citizen) from *Hetq* an online newspaper of the Association of Investigative Journalists; *Aravot Daily* correspondent Anna Israelian and *Haikakan Zhamanak Daily* correspondent, Hayk Gevorgian. They were attacked and their still cameras smashed. Kentron TV, Hay TV, Public Television of Armenia and the National Unity Party itself had their video cameras broken as well, while a Shant TV cameraman had his videotape of the incident seized by the attackers. A 17-year-old resident of Aghartsin village, Armen Tamrazyan, was seriously injured while attempting to help the journalists. The entire incident took place in the presence of the police.

Immediately following the incident, Internews issued a statement condemning the attacks and warning that they constitute "pressure on mass media and restriction on the right of the public to be informed."

On April 6, Internews and other participants of the Civil Society in the Context of Democratic Reform in Armenia workshop organized by the "Partnership for Open Society" initiative (composed of 40 NGOs) issued a further joint statement [sic]:

“On April 5, 2004 prior to the Yerevan meeting of “National Unity” party leaders with the voters, the police impeded journalists’ activity on the highways connecting the regions with the capital. During the rally, authorities obviously connived at the violence applied: the journalists were exposed to beating, photo and video cameras were broken, films and tapes were confiscated and destroyed. Both hampering journalists’ work and violence towards them fall under criminal offence.

Overt bias of certain media, even those who fell victim to the incident, in covering the events is also to be blamed.

We, participants of the workshop, organized by "Partnership for Open Society" initiative, strongly condemn one more instance of regular violation of the rights for receiving and disseminating information, as well as freedom of expression. We call upon law and order bodies to punish the instigators and perpetrators.

We declare that if in this case as well the culprits, several of them being known, are not punished and the damage to the media is not compensated, we will have to state that Armenian authorities are not interested in consolidating the basic democratic values in the country: the rights for freedom of expression, press, travel, conducting meetings and rallies, exchanging opinions and the right of the society for getting objective information.

We call on all the media, irrespective of their political preferences, to demonstrate professional unity and to rise against the cases of violation of freedom of expression through joint efforts.”

On April 12, the opposition held a rally near the National Assembly building in Yerevan, demanding negotiations with the Speaker of the Parliament and Chief of the Police, as well as access to the recorded TV and radio reports of the event, as covered live by members of the media. The police responded with violence and heavy surveillance of the offices of TV companies. Correspondents from *Haikakan Zhamanak*, Haik Gevorgian and Avetis Babajanian, a cameraman of ORT TV, Levon Grigorian and the correspondent of *Chorrord Ishkhanutyun* newspaper, Mher Ghalechian, were beaten while on working the demonstration. The police also raided the headquarters of the opposition Popular Party of Armenia and arrested its press secretary, Ruzan Khachatryan, who was also beaten prior to her release on April 14.

In the official April 13 statement, the police said that the rally participants engaged in illegal and aggressive activities presenting a real threat to public order. The police, therefore, responded with physical force in accordance with the law “On Police.”

Internews issued press releases, kept a continuous log of all news and developments and interviewed rally participants and victims of police beatings.

Russia’s NTV No Longer Available in Armenia

The Russian NTV channel stopped broadcasting in Armenia. First, it lost its audio feed on April 8. Then, it lost the video portion of its signal the next day. Paradise TV who rebroadcasts NTV said that it experienced technical problems with the transmitter. NTV has been replaced by another Russian channel, *Cultura*.

Several programs on Armenian Television have also disappeared. On April 9, Yerevan TV did not broadcast a program called *Burg*. A few days earlier, Kentron TV stopped its program *Tesankyun*.

PACE Criticizes Armenia

On April 28, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution on the political situation in Armenia. The resolution says that "freedom of expression continues to be seriously curtailed and several acts of violence against journalists, which took place during the recent events, were carried out or were allowed to happen by the police and security forces." PACE called on the Armenian authorities to immediately investigate the recent incidents, inform the Assembly of their findings, and "create fair conditions for the normal functioning of the media, notably as regards the issuing of broadcasting licenses to television companies, particularly to television channel A1+."

Kentron TV Disappears, Restarts under a New Name

On April 24, the new head of Kentron TV, chief editor of the Aravot newspaper, Aram Abrahamian, announced that the channel would interrupt its broadcasting schedule and restart in 10 days under the name of Aravot TV. The company is now owned by the head of Milta LLC, Murad Guloyan, a non-party National Assembly member. This marks the second time that Kentron TV was sold since winning its frequency in the competition with A1+.

Armenia Remains "Not Free"

On April 28, Freedom House published its annual global survey of media independence in 2003. Armenia earned 64 points and remained in the "not free" category.

Rally in Yerevan Demands Transparent Licensing Process

On May 3, approximately 150 protesters marked the World Press Freedom Day by marching through Yerevan in support of A1+. The demonstration started from the Journalists House, ending at Charles Aznavour Square. The participants demanded that the authorities hold broadcasting license competitions for the vacant frequencies and involve representatives of public organizations in the process of evaluating the bids.

New Frequency Decisions by the Commission on Television and Radio

On May 11, the National Commission on Television and Radio announced a licensing competition for the 33rd channel [UHF] in the town of Nor Hajn in Kotayk region. The bids should be submitted by August 9 to be considered on August 18. Currently, this frequency belongs to Nor Hajn TV.

On May 24, the National Commission on Television and Radio met to consider the bids for 106.5 FM in Yerevan. The Commission ended up renewing the license of the current broadcaster on this frequency, Impulse Radio, who partly re-broadcasts Russia's Mayak Radio. The frequency was to be contested by Ultra Radio, who failed to present its application.

On May 28, a new channel Yerkir-Media began broadcasting in Armenia. As reported earlier, its founder, Husaber CJSC, won the licensing competition in December 2003. It had outbid A1+ TV for 56th UHF channel in Yerevan.

No Office Space for Ashtarak TV and Newspaper

Since May 21, Ashtarak TV and their newspaper in Ashtarak, Aragatsotn region, have been locked out of their editorial offices by the building owner, Director of Aragatsotn Arspas LLC, Sargis Amirian. The Ashtarak TV staff believes that Amirian may be reacting to a number of critical articles about him published in the newspaper.

On June 18, the court of first instance of the Aragatsotn region, in Ashtarak, freed a part of Ashtarak TV's property that had been arrested due to the company's failure to comply with its tax obligations. Since some of Ashtarak TV's equipment came from Internews, Internews had to file and submit the appropriate paperwork to the court on June 9. Its equipment was released following the June 18 court session.

I. PROGRESS ACCORDING TO TARGETS

Internews is working under USAID Armenia's Strategic Objective 2.1: More Transparent, Accountable and Responsive Governance, specifically pursuing the following Intermediate Results:

IR 2.0: Strengthened Independent Media

IR 2.1: Increased Quality of the News

IR 2.2: Increased Quantity of the News

In pursuing these results, Internews has engaged in the following projects:

- Conducted a month-long seminar for 13 participants from various TV stations.
- Produced 13 episodes of the weekly current affairs TV show *Ditak*, 13 episodes of *Crossroads*, and 12 episodes of the radio show *Aniv*.
- Conducted two seminars on "Sales and Management" for media sales agents.
- Provided continuous support to partner stations through the equipment loan-out program.
- Repaired television production equipment for stations around the country.

IR 2.3: Increased Financial Viability of Media Outlets

- Made technical assistance available to TV stations.

IR 2.4: Improved Media Freedom and Advocacy

- Continued to provide legal consulting services to TV and radio stations.

IR 2.5: Improved Informational Circulation

- Maintained and updated eight websites.
- Published 75 news items about the Armenian media on the www.internews.am website.
- Published over 50 national informational pieces on <http://home.media.am>, the local news source.

II. ACTIVITY IN DETAIL

IR 2.1: Increased Quality of News

IR 2.2: Increased Quantity of News

[1.1] TRAINING FOR A STRENGTHENED INDEPENDENT MEDIA

- A) NAME OF COURSE: TV Journalism
B) CONDUCTED: April 5-May 1, Yerevan
C) CONSULTANTS: Victor Muchnik, Denis Bevz (Russia)
D) PARTICIPANTS: 13 trainees (8 female) from 7 TV stations, 2 freelancers

Comments: This was one of Internews' most productive J-school sessions to date. The quality of newscasts in general, and news stories in particular, improved on a daily basis, and participants showed an unusual eagerness to work until the completion of the day's assignment, even if it meant working into the evening.

In the second week of the session, the participants went to Mughni to practice field reporting as well as to work in teams as true production crews. The fact that trainers Victor Muchnik and Denis Bezv worked together combining theoretical and practical instruction enabled the participants to grasp both sides of journalism at the same time on the basis of the same set of standards.

A) NAME OF COURSE: Media Sales & Marketing School
B) CONDUCTED: May 3-8, Yerevan
C) CONSULTANTS: Grigori Moshkin (Russia)
D) PARTICIPANTS: 11 trainees (9 female) from 1 radio station, 6 TV stations

A) NAME OF COURSE: Media Sales & Marketing School
B) CONDUCTED: June 21-26, Yerevan
C) CONSULTANTS: Farida Savdeeva (Russia)
D) PARTICIPANTS: 12 trainees (9 female) from 1 radio station, 6 TV stations

Comments: These two sessions served as a continuation of the Media Sales and Marketing School that was launched last year. Both of them sought to advance the same idea: that a station's financial independence rests on the revenue stream derived from the sale of air time. The four-part session concentrated on the real-world application, enabling the participants to put to practice the theoretical instruction received in the classroom as well as return to Internews to ask follow-up questions.

[1.2] OTHER TRAINING EVENTS

[1.2.1] On-Site Training Courses

A) NAME OF COURSE: The Concept of Regional Television
B) CONDUCTED: April 9, Yerevan State University
C) CONSULTANT: Victor Muchnik (Russia)

A) NAME OF COURSE: Why is TV different from other types of the mass media?
B) CONDUCTED: April 16, Yerevan, Russian Armenian State University
C) CONSULTANT: Victor Muchnik (Russia)

Comments: When Internews' seminars are led by international consultants, the company tries to find an opportunity to bring the trainer to locations outside of Internews' office. This value-added aspect of training, which is equally attractive for the consultants as well as the participants, has proven to be a highpoint of Internews' overall mission under this grant. In this particular case, Victor Muchnik visited and lectured at two Yerevan-based universities, specially addressing senior-level students. In his message to them, he stressed the importance of local television and underscored its value as part of the private sector development.

[1.2.2] In-House Consultancies

In April-June, Internews Armenia' staff conducted a series of individual consultations to students of journalism departments at universities. Under the supervision of the staff media trainer Lilik Stepanyan, students from Yerevan State Pedagogical University, Armenian-Russian (Slavonic) State University, and Yerevan Institute of Theatre focused on "Special Reports" production and prepared materials and stories for several partner stations around the country.

Additionally, Internews Programming Manager conducted two workshops. The first one brought regional TV station managers to Internews' office to discuss the new challenges in programming such as a program exchange, cooperation with independent production studios, co-productions, and cooperative purchasing of programming.

The second workshop focused on the results of the Moscow market trip and building a consortium of regional buyers in the framework of a regional TV association. Yerevan-based stations, production groups, and regional broadcasters met to discuss possibilities for providing programming to the regions as well as other possible exchange projects. Managers from Sahoghakat TV, Shant TV, 3rd Alik production, and Hairenik TV took part in the workshop held in April-May.

III. JOURNALISM AND PRODUCTION COMPETITIONS

IR 2.1: Increased Quality of News

IR 2.2: Increased Quantity of News

In April 2004, Internews announced two competitions. The first one, entitled *Lend Me a Hand*, sought to support the production of documentary films about marginal or disenfranchised social groups such as the pensioners, the disabled, orphans, refugees, ethnic or religious minorities, etc. The second one was for the production of a series of PSAs on the topics of emigration, socially vulnerable groups, public health, education, culture, and corruption. This second competition aimed to promote the concept of social issue campaigns.

Internews received a total of 31 applications, and the winners got up to \$5,000 to complete their documentary films and up to \$3,000 to do PSAs. The jury selected the following projects:

Documentary film production Lend Me a Hand

Title	Production Information	Synopsis:
Children's Home	Asparez, Gyumri. Project Manager: Yeranuhi Soghoyan	Children with birth defects are often isolated from the public. Rejected by their parents, they pass from one orphanage to another.
Beyond the Margin	Private Look, Yerevan. Project Manager: Hovhannes Galstyan	Few people dare to swim against the tide. Those few people exist, and they are often homeless.
From Fear to Life	Monarch TV, Yerevan. Project Manager: Sirakan Abroyan	Two disabled children still hope for a better future.
A Continuation of War	Shoghakat, Echmiadzin. Project Manager: Satenik Faramazyan	Minefields remain a residual of the war. Oftentimes, children become their immediate and certainly most visible victims.
Female Freedom Fighters	Zoom, Yerevan. Project Manager: Mariam Ohanyan	Years after the war, female freedom fighters seek help and attention.

Public Service Announcement production

Title	Production Information	Synopsis:
Education – Is It Equal for Everyone?	Fortuna, Stepanavan. Project Manager: Karen Arshakyan	Secondary education for the poor and the disabled – does everybody have equal access?
Get to Know Your People	Monarch TV, Yerevan. Project Manager: Arman Yeritsyan	PSAs on various arts and crafts featuring young artists and their work.

You Owe Your Compassion to the Red Cross	Art Site, Yerevan. Project Manager: Arzuman Harutyunyan	Compassion and philanthropy for the sake of building civil society. Volunteer work as an essential form of expressing civil activeness.
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Internews also distributed equipment to the winning stations based on the results of the competition announced in 2003. The winners included Ardzagank Radio, Yerevan; Hi Fm Radio, Yerevan; Tospa – Hit FM radio, Yerevan; Impulse Radio, Yerevan; Van Radio, Yerevan; Shant Radio, Gyumri; and Interkap Radio, Vanadzor. Each station received similar equipment packages for the implementation of their approved radio programs.

IV. EQUIPMENT REPAIRS, CONSULTANCIES & LOAN OUT

IR 3.1: Increased Quantity of News

IR 3.2: Increased Financial Viability of Media Outlets

Internews' equipment was used by the following organizations to produce television programs:

<u>Cameras:</u>	11 organizations/journalists used Internews' cameras 83 times.
<u>Editing Suites:</u>	4 organizations/journalists used Internews' editing suites for a total of 43 hours.
<u>Internet:</u>	1 organization used Internews' Internet computer 6 times.
<u>Dubbing:</u>	19 organizations/journalists used Internews' facilities requiring 60 hours of production.

Internews also continues to provide students from various schools of camera operation and filmmaking at Armenian institutions of higher education with an opportunity to produce videos and films through the *pro bono* use of Internews' facilities.

V. PROGRAM ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION

IR 2.3: Increased Financial Sustainability of Media Outlets

During this reporting period, Internews dubbed programs produced by different studios and organizations and distributed them to the following TV stations:

Station	Location
Hrazdan TV	Hrazdan
Hachin	Nor Hachin
Zangak	Martuni
Last	Goris
Shant	Yerevan
Anna TV	Artashat
Ankyun +3	Alaverdi
Kamut	Noyemberyan
Sosi	Kapan
Sisian yev menk	Sisian
ALT TV	Armavir
Kyavar	Gavar
Tashirk	Tashir
Interkap	Vanadzor
Ashtarak TV	Ashtarak
Lusalik	Charentsavan

Fortuna TV	Stepanavan
Abovyan TV	Abovian
Tsayg	Gyumri

VI. PARTICIPATORY CO-PRODUCTION

IR 2.1: Increased Quality of News

IR 2.2: Increased Quantity of News

IR 2.3: Increased Financial Sustainability of Media Outlets

Banali (The Key)

A limited series of programs portraying Armenian business success stories is in various stages of production at this time. To date, programs have been developed on the themes of publishing, wine production, and the dairy business.

Perekrestok (Crossroads)

Internews produced and distributed 13 episodes of the weekly Trans-Caucasus news exchange program *Perekrestok (Crossroads)*, in cooperation with Internews' offices in Georgia and Azerbaijan. The following stations broadcast *Perekrestok* in Armenia:

Station	City
Hrazdan TV	Hrazdan
ALT TV	Armavir
Hachin	Nor Hachin
Kyavar	Gavar
Zangak	Martuni
Tashirk	Tashir
Last	Goris
Interkap	Vanadzor
Shant	Gyumri
Shant	Yerevan
Anna TV	Artashat
Armine	Sevan
Lusalik	Charentsavan
Ankyun +3	Alaverdi
Fortuna TV	Stepanavan
Kamut	Noyemberyan
Lanj	Abovian
Dzagedzor	Kapan

Internews produced and broadcast 13 episodes of the half-hour weekly program *Ditak*. Journalists and camera operators from five TV stations as well as freelancers participated in the program's production. Some of the topics covered are as follows:

- Corruption, Part 1 – A look at the strategic anti-corruption program to be implemented in the community sector.
- Corruption, Part 2 – While school headmasters are supposed to be selected by the local councils rather than appointed by politicians, schools in Shirak are headed by the relatives and members of the regional administrator's party.

- Domestic Politics, Part 1 – A program about the police action against the opposition on April 13.
- Domestic Politics, Part 2 – Natalya Voutova, representative of the general secretary of the Council of Europe, was the studio guest for this follow-up program.
- Domestic Politics, Part 3 – A look at the internal political situation in Armenia, violent action against journalists, and general intimidation techniques used by the authorities.
- Veterans of the Great Patriotic War – What kind of attitude do the Armenians have towards the veterans of war? The secretary of the Great Patriotic War Veterans Union discussed these issues in the *Ditak* studio.
- Domestic Politics, Part 4 – An Interkap TV reporter lost his job as a result of a rally in Vanadzor – *Ditak* takes a look at this incident.
- Corruption in the Judicial System – The Monitoring Chamber discovered discrepancies in the Project of Judicial/Legal Reforms implemented by the Ministry of Justice.
- Family Code – The new Family Code clarifies adoption and divorce rules.
- Equal Education in Armenia – The issue of education for children with special needs is not being discussed as much as it should be – why is there no clear government policy yet? How can the public sector help?
- Titles, Awards & Medals – While President Robert Kocharian granted numerous titles and awards this year, the poet Silva Kaputikyan returned her award to the President's Office.
- Social Security Cards – The possible introduction of social security cards has been the topic of many rumors and debates.

The following stations broadcast *Ditak* on the weekly basis:

Station	City
Hrazdan TV	Hrazdan
ALT-TV	Armavir
Hachin TV	Nor Hachin
Kyavar	Gavar
Zangak	Martuni
Tashirk	Tashir
Last	Goris
Interkap	Vanadzor
Lori	Vanadzor
Shant	Yerevan
Anna	Artashat
Armine	Sevan
Lusalik	Charentsavan
Ankyun + 3	Alaverdi
Kamut	Noyemberyan
Abovian	Abovian
Sisian yev Menk	Sisian
Fortuna 6+6	Stepanavan
Dzagedzor TV	Kapan
Tsayg TV	Gyumri

Aniv (The Wheel)

This quarter, Internews-affiliated Yerevan freelancers and correspondents from regional radio stations in Vanadzor and Gyumri produced 12 episodes of *Aniv*. Some of the topics they covered are as follows:

- Political Developments, Part 1 – This edition covered the April rallies and the Prosecutor General's Office actions against the opposition.
- Political Developments, Part 2 – This edition focused on the evening of April 12, when the police violently dispersed the demonstration near the presidential office.
- Political Developments, Part 3 – This edition presented the position of youth organizations towards the current political developments in Armenia.
- Political Developments, Part 4: The prospects of leveling the playing field for opposition political parties are discussed.
- Freedom of the Press – According to the Freedom House study, Armenia is classified a country without freedom of speech. How can it be with the free press representing the centerpiece of the first years of independence?
- Coffee and Consumers' Rights – Recently, lab tests revealed that some coffee sold in Armenia does not meet the acceptable norm. But where can the consumer turn to for truthful information?
- Street Trade – Street-side kiosks continue to do good business in Yerevan, with the city administration blaming community leaders, and community leaders pointing the finger back at the Municipality.
- Protecting Children – In principle, adults should protect children's interests. However, too often children become victims of adults' mistakes.
- Ecology – In the period of June 4-17, *Aniv* specifically covered issues related to the environment including tree-cutting, deserted land, and garbage piles.
- Offers and Demands of Education – What kind of educational background do graduates of schools and universities receive? Do their education and skills meet the current demand in Armenia? And can you really buy a degree?
- Refugees in Armenia – June 20 marked the International Refugee Day. According to recent estimates, Armenia currently hosts 260,000 refugees. This year, the Armenian government adopted the first official policy on building apartments for refugees. But does the government do enough?

Aniv Investigations

In April-July, Internews produced two programs in this new groundbreaking broadcast series: a piece about adoption and a piece on the protection of patients' rights. Currently, the *Aniv* journalists are working on the programs about Armenian labor migrants; the terrorist who took part in the attack in the Parliament and committed suicide in jail; and taxes on pharmaceuticals.

All *Aniv* programs can be found at <http://home.internews.am/aniv/2002.htm>.

The following radio stations broadcast *Aniv* on the weekly basis:

Station	City
Ardzagank	Yerevan
Shant	Gyumri
Interkap	Vanadzor

Khndir

The *Khndir* crew produced the second part of the program on prostitution and continued working on the program entitled "The Price of Death in Armenia."

VII. LEGAL SUPPORT

IR 2.4: Improved Media Freedom and Advocacy

Media Law

Throughout this reporting period, Internews provided numerous legal consultations to journalists who were beaten or targeted during the rallies and subsequent police action on April 12-13. Internews' lawyers drafted and submitted written complaints to the office of the Human Rights Ombudsman on behalf of Mher Ghalechyan, reporter from *Chorrord Ishkhanutyun* newspaper who was illegally arrested and detained during the events. Internews' attorneys accompanied Ghalechyan during his police interview regarding the complaint and the subsequent investigation.

Internews' lawyers also continued working on the analysis and recommendations for the proposed Intellectual Property legislation and its compliance with the EU and Council of Europe standards. The legal staff completed a concept paper on the issue, participated in a meeting of experts held in April in Tbilisi, and organized a roundtable discussion on the issue of intellectual property in June.

In April-May, Journalists and cameramen participating in the four-week Journalism seminar at Internews delivered a lecture on media law stressing the legal aspects of reporting in the context of the new law on the dissemination of information, freedom of the access to information, as well as relevant provisions of the Criminal Code. It is worth noting that this component of media advocacy work is a regular part of every Internews training that provides members of the Armenian media community with information about their rights and obligations under the existing law.

In June, members of Internews' legal team also attended a seminar on copyrights organized by ArmAuthor NGO and consulted the Monarch Production Studio regarding copyright issues with respect to the sale of its programs to broadcasters. Stagy TV also received counsel and advice on copyright issues.

Also in June, Internews' legal staff participated in the seminar on "Mass Media Legislation in Armenia" organized by the Asparez Journalists' Club for media professionals, NGOs, and regional authorities as part of the Progress through Education project. The event was followed by a live talk show broadcast by Fortuna TV on the media-related legislation.

Internews provided legal consultations to Ashtarak TV that has been barred from its offices rented from the municipal body. Internews' legal staff offered its assistance with the filing of a lawsuit with the Economic Court.

Internews' lawyers reviewed and made changes to the agreements between Internews and partner stations for the use of Internews-owned equipment and facilities. They also prepared the necessary legal documentation for the *Kids' Crossroads* project and the kids' participation in it.

VII. INTERNET CLEARINGHOUSE

IR 2.5: Improved Circulation of Information

Internews continued to maintain and update its websites on the daily basis, including all links from main sites to related Internews sites. At this time, 80 percent of the stations in the country are able to access information available on Internews' website and use it in their news production.

In April-July, Internews updated its website with 75 news blocks containing Armenian media-related information. Internews also posted information on its various news programs (*Ditak*, *Perekrestok*, and *Aniv*) on the web and on the www.media.am regional News Exchange site.

VIII. PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND ROUND TABLE MEETINGS

During this reporting period, Internews assisted broadcasting partners with a variety of travel grants.

In April, Khachik Danelyan from ALT TV, Armavir; Vahe Sargsyan from SOSI TV, Kapan; and Hrach Baghdasaryan from Tsayg TV, Guymri, participated in the TV Programming Market held in Moscow.

In June, Hrach Kostanyan, Executive Director of ArmenAkob TV; Rubina Ghazaryan, Executive Director of Yerkir-Media TV; Ara Shirinyan from Shoghakat TV; Artur Yezekyan from Shant TV, and Narine Khachaturyan from Second Armenian Channel H2 participated in the DISCOP Programming Market. Internews selected the participating stations on the basis of their requests following a call for participation and their demonstrated ability to buy programs. As was the case last year, participants were able to make new and reestablish old contacts and refine their negotiation skills while experiencing the world of international rights syndication.

Also in June, Arthur Bakhtamyan traveled to Kyrgyzstan to serve on the jury for the Emmy International semifinal round.

In June, Shushanik Arevshtyan from radio VAN, Yerevan; Laert Soghoyan from TV Shant, Yerevan; and Vahram Kocharyan from Radio Ardzagank, Yerevan, attended the School for Media Managers in St. Petersburg.

Other project-related travel:

In April, Chief of Party William Canter, Managing Director Nouneh Sarkissian and Technical Director Konstantin Geodakian attended the International Conference of the National Association of Broadcasters in Las Vegas, Nevada. Internews also sponsored the Chief Engineers of Public TV and H2 Television, who were able to attend the event and broker favorable deals for the purchase of state-of-the-art engineering and production equipment.

In April, assistant to the Chief of Party Ruzanna Martirosian participated in a conference on public policy organized by the Caucasus Resource Research Center.

In April, May, and June, Internews' accountant Lusine Aleksanyan took part in a two-day multi-month seminar on accounting and tax issues organized by the Association of Accountants and Auditors of Armenia.

In April, attorney Lusine Abovyan participated in the meeting of experts held in Tbilisi within the framework of the project "Approximation of Information Technologies Legislation to the CoE and EU Standards."

In May, producers Naira Martikyan and Lilik Stepanyan took part in the Training for Trainers seminar organized by FOJO and Internews Georgia in Tbilisi.

In June, the most active contributors to Internews' *Ditak* program – Karine Simonyan from TK Ankyun+3, Alaverdi; Eduard Mkholyaryan from Studio Noemi, Gyumri; and Internews' producer Armen Sargsyan – attended the Golden Beggar documentary film festival in Kosice, Slovakia. Internews brought several Armenian films to present at the festival, and one of them – a documentary produced by TK Kyavar from Gavar with Internews' financial support in 2001 – received excellent reviews from the jury and the audience.

In June, webmaster Naira Avagyan participated in a workshop on web design organized by the Caucasus Media Institute.

In June, staff lawyer Lusine Abovyan took part in a seminar on copyrights organized by ArmAuthor NGO and participated in Internews' roundtable discussion on Information Technologies Legislation and its compliance with European standards.

William M. Canter
Chief of Party