



FY 2004 QUARTERLY REPORT (3RD QUARTER)

Cooperative Agreement No. 119-A-00-00-00039-00

KYRGYZSTAN

Civic Education On-Site Technical Assistance

**Submitted to the
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

By IFES

April 1 – June 30, 2004

I. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Secondary Civic Education Textbook Project in Kyrgyzstan

In the third quarter, IFES was able to overcome some logistical difficulties caused by internal review process changes in the Ministry of Education and now, with their active support, IFES has begun the printing of 11,000 copies of Part One Russian and 46,000 Part One Kyrgyz Textbooks with their associated Teachers' Guides. This print run will be enough to supply all secondary schools in the country. In July, IFES plans to begin distribution of the textbooks and teachers training.

Prior to printing, IFES conducted, in conjunction with OSCE, a tender process for the textbooks' printing. The tender attracted the interest of 29 companies with 17 placing bids (ranging from \$95,000 to over \$700,000). IFES and OSCE staff met with and eliminated all but the three most realistic bids which ranged by no more than 15% in terms of cost. These bids were from the following vendors:

1. Uch Kun - the official government printer (although the cheapest this company was rejected on quality);
2. The Freedom House-initiated Mass Media Centre (rejected due to some concerns over its close association with a donor).
3. Al Salaam Printing Company, which was the most expensive bidder.

The OSCE and IFES chose Al Salaam based primarily on the overall quality of the product and their reliability. IFES was also pleased with the printing that they provided in the past for previous versions of the textbook. IFES was also aware that they would likely subcontract a significant portion of the printing to a reliable printer such as the Mass Media Centre.

Once the printer was chosen, IFES negotiated better terms on some items on the joint OSCE/IFES contract.

Also during this quarter, IFES has worked with the Japanese Embassy which has now upped its proposed contribution to nearly \$80,000 for the textbook production.

During this quarter, IFES examined the secondary impact of the textbooks when students take them home for homework. It is obvious that they are creating a great deal of interest at home among the parents of the students, partly because of the design, but also simply due to the general lack of information about democratic principles and practices, especially in local languages.

IFES staff continued placing inserts with information for teachers in the Kut Bilim Sabak newspaper with feedback and comments from the teachers showing that this is well appreciated by the Kyrgyz teacher community. With the start of the country-wide distribution of the newspaper its impact will be even more noticeable. IFES has also heard that one of its pilot teachers, Svetlana Gerbach, has won the teacher of the year award (\$1200) for Chui Oblast, using IFES materials.

As part of IFES' ongoing cooperation with the Kyrgyz Academy of Education (The Ministry of Education's Curriculum Development Unit), IFES staff conducted some joint teacher training workshops and ran a special one-day workshop for Academy staff on text book and curriculum development processes and issues. This training was very well received and the Academy has asked IFES to conduct more of such events.

IFES staff also worked jointly with USAID and AED on a series of gender awareness workshops.

Student Activities

During this reporting period IFES staff investigated the actions of Student Action Committees (SACs). While many are involved in doing good work, one example shows why this project is so important. One student committee in a small village in the South organized relief for landslide victims, despite considerable initial opposition from local government authorities and schools. However, by the end of the project, students were commended on their efforts by all villagers.

In April, IFES staff organized two highly successful Student Local Government Day events (SLGD). One event was held jointly with the CEC and another was organized in the parliament. During the SLGD activity conducted in the city of Bishkek, deputies of the parliament and officials from the Kyrgyz Central Elections Commission (CEC) acted as hosts for the students taking part in the event. A total of eight students took part in the activity. On the CEC side, Ms. Nina Muhina, Head of the CEC Information Department, and Ms. Dinara Moldosheva, Head of the Election Technologies Department, worked with four students that day and six more students worked with officials of the organizational department of the Kyrgyz Parliament. Another SLGD event was held in Jalal-Abad province on May 3-5, 2004. The activity was arranged and conducted by IFES South Coordinator Konstantin Valyaev.

Also in April, IFES ran three election trainings with 56 ABA CEELI lawyers which were very well received by the participants. On April 5-6, IFES has conducted TOT for the following three youth organizations that are based in the southern part of Kyrgyzstan: "Young Lawyers of Kyrgyzstan," "Young Lawyers of the South," and "The Young Generation of Lawyers of Kyrgyzstan." A total of 32 participants attended the training with an emphasis made on the provisions of the newly adopted electoral law and elections procedures. The main goal was to provide participants with interactive learning skills based on the Kyrgyz elections code so that they could act as trainers for their respective communities.

In addition to Osh training for the "Young Lawyers of the South," IFES Kyrgyzstan conducted two trainings in Naryn and Bishkek. Fourteen students of Naryn State University attended the training (mostly from the "Young Lawyers of Kyrgyzstan – Naryn"), as well as two ninth-grade students and a representative of one of the local NGOs (in all seven girls and ten boys from Naryn town).

Anvar Mukanbaev made an introduction, providing the training background – students of law faculties who are members of the organization "Young Lawyers of Kyrgyzstan" asked ABA CEELI to organize trainings on elections because they intended to participate in coming elections as observers and needed to be able to train others. This training was one of several trainings that ABA CEELI was going to organize for this organization.

The training consisted of two components: TOT (training for trainers), discussion and introduction of amendments to the "Elections Code," with different types of interactive methods of teaching used. The sessions were held mainly in Russian, but there were some questions and explanations in Kyrgyz. Also some role plays were enacted by the participants in Kyrgyz, covering some real Election Day situations.

In the Bishkek TOT, 15 participants, who represented the Bishkek branch of the “Young Lawyers of Kyrgyzstan Association” took part. Participants were briefed on the recently enacted Kyrgyz electoral law, namely rights and responsibilities of international and domestic observers, voting procedures at the polling station on Election Day, adjudication matters, etc. The training lasted for two days (Saturday and Sunday), and was very much liked by participants.

Summer camps

This quarter saw the development of new summer camp modules and the gaining of funding for two more camps from the New Zealand government and GTZ.

Elections in Kyrgyzstan

This quarter saw an increase in election-related activity by both Kyrgyz citizens and international organizations. There are strong indications that effective coordination of implementers will be needed in order to promote cooperation and avoid duplication. Further, the CEC has given indications that it is supporting new election technologies and administrative and legal changes designed to promote credibility in the process. Meetings with governmental bodies, opposition parliamentarians, and NGOs highlight the interest in the country of sustained engagement with the CEC in order to promote further changes.

IFES staff ran an election training workshop for local officials in Batken Oblast with funding assistance from GTZ. At the training, participants were able to study the theory and implement in practice the following most efficient interactive methods:

1. Imitations
2. Panel discussions
3. Case studies
4. Preparation of election materials in small groups, etc.

In addition, participants, with support provided by facilitators, were able to develop election related training modules. Also, IFES staff acquainted participants on new changes and amendments introduced to the Kyrgyz electoral law, as well as pointed out those areas in the code that are viewed with concern by the international community and answered participants’ questions.

At the end of the training, participants filled out anonymous evaluation forms, analysis of which indicated that the training that was conducted was very useful for participants. More than 95% of participants rated the training as “exceptional” and the remaining 5% rated it as “good.” In the near future, GTZ intends to recruit four trainers out of twelve who attended the training on a contract basis to conduct local Aiyl Okmotu trainings.

At the end of June, IFES has been informed that funding for PEC training from DRL had reached the final stages.

II. MATERIALS PRODUCED

- Final proofs of Russian and Kyrgyz Students Textbooks and Teachers’ Guides for Part one Textbook.
- Revised edition of Part two Textbook (text is prepared, but not laid out)
- A Teachers Guide in three languages - Kyrgyz, Russian and Uzbek (to be printed in July).
- An English version of the part one of the Students Textbook.

- Three IFES inserts in further editions of Kut Bilim Sabak, Kyrgyz government education newspaper (*this publication is provided by Kut Bilim in three languages, Russian, Kyrgyz and Uzbek*).

III. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Textbook

The next quarter will see the finalizing and laying-out of part two of the Kyrgyz textbook and part one of Uzbek textbook, as well as the beginning of the distribution of the books and the implementation of teacher training throughout the country.

Some issues remain unresolved regarding the Japanese Embassy's proposed contribution of \$80,000 for the textbook. As of the end of June, IFES still is not sure this funding is secured due to some difficult constraints placed on IFES, such as the requirement to use the funds in only three oblasts and only in one language.

Summer camps

Over the next quarter, IFES staff will run five summer democracy camps. While it has done these events before, IFES will, as it usually does, implement new innovative themes and methodologies, with some new materials being developed for each camp.

Student Action Committee (SAC)

During the final quarter, IFES will be running a SAC forum where SACs will present their projects to each other, exchanging ideas and sharing their experiences.

Elections

IFES still does not have significant funding from USAID or other donors for election work in Kyrgyzstan. However, as of the end of the quarter, the German Embassy has expressed strong interest in having IFES implement a project to supply transparent ballot boxes and USAID has suggested that it would support the provision of indelible and invisible inks and lamps.

IFES also has a strong indication that it will receive funding from US State Department DRL for PEC training.

IFES staff members are continuing to meet with other donors such as the Swiss Development Cooperation office and DFID for smaller scale but highly targeted funding.

Other

At the end of the next quarter, IFES will begin implementing its innovative village stakeholder camps in Batken with funding support from GTZ.

Staffing

This quarter saw the departure of IFES-Kyrgyzstan's accountant and the hiring and training of a new one. Chedomir Flego, former IFES Project Manager has returned to his position on June 28, 2004.

IV. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Performance Indicator	Indicator Definition & Unit of Measure	Data Source	Data for Q3 FY04
Curriculum Development			
# of New Students Participating in the Civic Education Course	Student Participation and Reach of the Textbook and New Teaching Methodologies	Participating Schools	0
Student Action Committees			
# New Students Participating in SACs (# of Women)	Student Participation and Reach of Extracurricular Civic Education Activities	Teachers/ Mentors	84 (32)
# of SACs Formed (# of Activities)	Reach and Activeness of SACs	Teachers/ Mentors	3 (3 out of 3 called)
Student Local Government Days			
# of Students (# of Government Officials) Participating in SLGD	Student Participation and Reach of Extracurricular Civic Education Activities That Promote Real-Life Learning	IFES	28 (21)
Information Resources			
# of Hits on the Website	Awareness and Interest in IFES Resources	IFES	9613