

Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development

Annual Report 2011

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Address: 72 Akaki Tsereteli Av., II floor; Tbilisi 0154, Georgia

P.Box 101, Tbilisi 0108, Georgia

Tel: (995 32) 355 154

Fax: (995 32) 355 754

E-mail: info@cipdd.org

Website: www.cipdd.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD) was founded in August 1992 in Tbilisi, Georgia, as a non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation. CIPDD is a public policy think-tank – not linked to any political party – mainly active in Georgia. However, it is also involved in regional cooperative projects with the countries of South Caucasus, Black Sea and Balkan regions. CIPDD often works in partnership and coalition with other civil sector organisations, be they Georgian or foreign. On the other hand, CIPDD often cooperates with the Georgian government, political parties and international organisations. CIPDD is not neutral with regards to political values: if there is a need, it takes part in civic initiatives in support of liberal democracy. In such cases, CIPDD usually enters coalitions with like-minded organisations and individuals.

MISSION STATEMENT

We want democracy to be a process whereby citizens take responsibility for their political institutions rather than a new dogmatic ideology that the avant-garde of the society imposes upon

their “backward” brethren. The Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development is a catalyst of public discussion: We gain knowledge on public problems, propose to the citizens their analysis, assessment and options for the solution, and broaden the circle of people who is willing and capable to debate public issues.

Major activities of CIPDD include conducting public policy research, publishing and disseminating its results, and organising different forms of debate – professional, political or public – around this work. In addition, CIPDD is involved in advocacy efforts, including public advocacy and lobbying, and training related to its work.

Ghia Nodia, the CIPDD chairman, provides general guidance of CIPDD activities. The six-strong administrative staff is managed by the executive director, Avtandil Jokhadze. CIPDD’s program activities are coordinated by the internal executive board, which includes the chairman, executive director and project coordinators.

CIPDD’s work is strategically guided and supervised by the external board made up of seven members:

- Marat Baratashvili
- Olesia Vartanian
- Giga Zedania (Chairman)
- Zaza Tevzadze
- Eka Kvesitadze
- Ghia Nodia
- Charles H. Fairbanks

FINANCES

CIPDD relies on sponsorship of donor organisations, and enthusiasm and responsibility of its staff, partners and colleagues. Only a small portion of its funds comes from other sources, such as, for instance, voluntary donations from its staff and incomes generated by the sale of CIPDD publications (most of these publications are distributed for free). The CIPDD Budget 2011 totalled the equivalent of ??? USD.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

As in the previous year, CIPDD gave priority to three main research areas in 2011: public policy research, democratic institutions, and civil integration. Throughout the year its activities included contribution to the secondary education reform, training on standard mechanisms of public policy development, functional analysis of political institutions, facilitation of civil participation among ethnic and religious minorities, etc.

DONORS

In 2011 CIPDD projects were funded by:

- European Commission (EC)
- Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / EED (Germany)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- Open Society Institute (OSI)
- Office of High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE
- Initiatives for local self-government and public service reforms (PASOS/LGI)
- Saferworld (UK)
- European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)
- Foundation of the Institute of Public Affairs, Warsaw (FIPA)
- Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM)
- Netherlands Foreign Ministry
- Foreign Ministry of Denmark
- Foreign Ministry of Poland

Democratic reforms and political research

The project “**Kachreti Dialog: Round Table for Good Governance**”, funded by EPD.

2011 project activities and products:

Six round table discussions aimed at confidence building between political parties and civil sector organisations, increasing the intellectual level of political debate, and promoting a more pluralistic political environment. The topics of round tables:

- modern communication technologies
- agricultural reform in Georgia
- risks and benefits of the pension reform in Georgia
- prospects of education reform, from the perspective of minority schools
- Black Sea peace network

The sixth round table – on the ongoing judicial reform in Georgia – was carried out as a joint activity together with another CIPDD project, NED-funded “**Developing a Policy Agenda for Democratic Reforms**”. It was attended by representatives of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal.

The NED-funded project “**Developing a Policy Agenda for Democratic Reforms**” aims to improve the quality of professional debate on the democratisation processes and facilitate the respective discourse.

2011 project activities and products:

- A seven-member advisory board (David Aprasidze – Dean of MBA/MA and PhD programs of Ilia University; Ghia Areshidze – Partnership for Social Initiatives; Giga Zedania – Professor of Ilia University; Ramaz Saqvareshidze – Professor of Javakhsishvili State University; Malkhaz Saldadze – Open Society-Georgia Foundation; George Chkheidze – East-West Management Institute; and Levan Tsutskiridze – Georgian representative of Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy) identified four major priority areas for democratic reforms in Georgia and prepared a list of the problems that would be studied on the basis of a special methodology and expert interviews (questionnaire).

- Three policy papers, in Georgian and English: “The Crisis of Democratisation in Georgia” (by Ghia Nodia), “The Election System and Process in Georgia” (David Aprasidze), and “Judicial System and Justice in Georgia” (David Aprasidze). The policy papers are available at the CIPDD website and blog. Besides, analytical articles were published in Georgian newspapers about the identified problems.

Conflict monitoring and prevention

The project “**Research and Analysis of the Situation in the Region of Samtskhe-Javakheti**” started in 2000 and is still under way being financed by the Office of High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE, all along. In the framework of the project, CIPDD prepares monthly reports in Russian and English on political, economic, socio-cultural, and institutional indicators in the region, on the basis of monthly reports from local correspondents and reviews of the Georgian media coverage of the problems of Samtskhe-Javakheti. The reports are only for the eyes of the Georgian foreign ministry and OSCE and aim to help them plan and implement their policies more efficiently.

The project “**Promoting Broader and More Informed Dialogue on Conflict, Security and Peace in Georgia**” is funded by the European Commission and implemented jointly by three partner organisations – CIPDD, Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association (GYLA), and Saferworld (UK). It intends to increase the capacity of Georgian civil society to analyse and play a constructive role in conflict and security issues.

2011 project activities and products:

Four regional forums, in the form of a dialogue, in the target regions (Samegrelo, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli) for representatives of local civil society organisations. The objective of the forums was to enhance the capacity of the participant organisations to analyse conflict-related problems, prioritise peace initiatives, and prepare recommendations for decision-makers. Results of the forums were published in a respective policy paper. In addition, the project partners provided significant advice and assistance for local civil society groups in the target regions and organised a number of workshops and conferences for them.

“**Strengthening Civil Society-Government Dialogue on Conflict and Stability and Empowering Conflict Affected Communities on Their Security Needs**” is another joint

project of CIPDD, GYLA and Saferworld. The project is funded by Saferworld (UK) and its main objective is to facilitate constructive public discussions between community and authority representatives on the local and national strategies at the regional and national levels.

2011 project activities and products:

- A series of discussions “Planning for Peace Together” in Tbilisi and four target regions designed to look into and discuss problems of the conflict-affected communities. The discussions helped identify three main risks perceived by the target communities as most threatening and serious. It is important that respective recommendations were based on public perceptions and opinions, rather than on expert analysis.
- Four regional peace, security and stability strategies – one for each target region – and a national strategy, developed and presented to policy and decision makers for consideration in order to enhance the dialogue between the political leadership and decision makers on the one hand and the civil society on the other at the international, national, and regional levels.
- The brochure “The Outcome of the August War” which outlines measures to achieve and ensure peace, security and stability in the future.
- A series of brochures “Planning for Peace Together” with materials of ten discussions carried out in the framework of the project, available at the www.cipdd.org

Migration and repatriation

The project “**Humanitarian Assistance for Repatriated Muslim Meskhetians – Prevention of Self-Repatriation**” is funded by European Commission and implemented in cooperation with partner organisations, Association “Tolerant” and Society for Humanitarian Research of Azerbaijan (ISHR). As part of the project, Information Research Centre operates in CIPDD office, offering legal advice and counsel to repatriated/self-repatriated Muslim Meskhetians.

2011 project activities and products:

- Focus group discussions to identify and discuss needs and problems of the potential returnees, mainly from the Muslim Meskhetian community of Azerbaijan. Another topic of discussion was the relationship between the already returned Muslim Meskhetians and their neighbours. The discussion materials were published in a brochure “Deportation from South Georgia – Focus Group Results”.
- The historical paper “Georgia – Historical Homeland of the Muslim Meskhetians” (available at the CIPDD website), a guidebook and a brochure on legal problems related to the repatriation.
- Presentations and seminars for journalists and civil society activists.
- Financial aid and a psychological and social rehabilitation program for Muslim Meskhetians living in Akhaltsikhe, Ianeti, Nasakirali and Tbilisi.

The project “**Improving Mechanisms of Migration Control and Coordination of Migration Policy in Georgia by Reference to the Polish Experience**” was carried out in partnership with Poland’s Institute of Public Affairs and aimed to foster high standards of border control and immigration policy in Georgia.

2011 project activities and products:

- A series of consultations for Georgian and Polish migration experts and other stakeholders (the interior ministry, the foreign ministry, the ministry of social policy and migration, etc).

- Several experience and knowledge sharing workshops and round-table discussions in Tbilisi and Warsaw.
- Knowledge and experience sharing visit to Warsaw by eight middle-level officials of the interior ministry, the foreign ministry, and the civil registry of Georgia.
- The brochure “Migration Policy Development in Georgia: Lessons from Poland”, available in three languages – Georgian, English and Polish – with description of project results.

The project helped identify legal, administrative and institutional obstacles to the implementation of the EU-Georgia agreement on border control and migration, increase transparency of the ongoing legal and institutional reforms in Georgia by promoting a dialogue between civil sector organisations and governmental institutions, open up new communication channels between Georgian organisations involved in this sphere and empower them with skills and knowledge of strategic planning.

The project “**Paving the Road towards Visa-Free Travel between EU and Eastern Partnership Countries**” is implemented in cooperation with “PASOS/LGI – Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative” and with financial assistance of Open Society Institute (OSI). The project aims to promote a visa-free regime and facilitate people-to-people contacts between the target countries.

2011 project activities: monitoring and evaluation of the legislation and institutions in relation to visa-free travel, and a constant dialogue with Eastern Partnership stakeholders for sharing respective experience/knowledge. The webpage www.novisa.ge was created in the framework of the project.

Civil society development and civil integration

The project “**Integration of Ethnic Minorities in South and Southwest Georgia**” is funded by Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / EED (Germany). Community intercultural centres and media-clubs were established in Bolnisi and Ninotsminda to promote intercultural dialogue and integration of youths from minority groups. Project partners: Language House (Bolnisi) and Healthy Society (Javakheti) – the former is focused on teaching Georgian as the second language, while the latter is dealing with secondary education problems.

2011 project activities and products:

- Round table discussions with participation of cultural experts, youth contests and intellectual games
- Training courses for youths on production of documentary and fictional movies (based in the newly created media-club)
- Information and awareness raising campaigns to keep local minorities informed about the ongoing education reform and aware of the new opportunities created for teachers and students by the reform
- Georgian language courses

- Educational programs for school students “My Favourite Georgian Story”, “My Favourite Armenian/Azeri Word”.

The project “**Civil Society for Development: Decentralisation and Participation in Georgia**” started in 2010 and is scheduled to end in 2013. The project is based on research methodology provided by CIPDD’s main partner in the project, International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University, (Netherlands), and funded by Netherlands Foreign Ministry (East and South-East Department). The project aims to strengthen civil society organizations so that they can mobilize effectively and act collectively to participate in local self-government activities and promote local development.

2011 project activities and products:

- Training workshops for local activists: the second round of ToT (training for trainers), August 2011, Bakuriani (the first round took place in the Hague, being attended by representatives of 16 civil sector organisations from 8 regions of Georgia). Training topics: policy analysis tools and methods, monitoring and community mobilisation strategies; results of the first round; planning of the next regional training workshops.
- Two-day training workshops in eight regions of Georgia, in September-November, based on a specially prepared training module. Main topics of training: identification of the problems of local communities and solution strategies. Participants: activists of local civil sector organisations, officials of local self-governments, and journalists.
- Policy paper on the problems and prospects of citizens’ participation in local self-government. The paper was sent to Erasmus University for review. After being finalised, the document will be posted on CIPDD webpage.
- An action plan for an awareness raising program, which aims to provide local communities with detailed information about the role and responsibilities of local self-government and raise awareness of the importance of citizens’ participation in local self-government. A youth contest will be held in the framework of the program in eight regions of Georgia for the best essay “Why It Is Important to Participate”. The main objective of the contest is to promote and facilitate debate among the youth on the significance of citizens’ participation. The contest winners will receive various awards.
- A guidebook on community mobilisation strategies and methods, prepared in cooperation with experts of Erasmus University for local civil sector organisations and groups. The guidebook will be distributed in eight regions of Georgia.
- Resource centre for local self government development, based in CIPDD office, is open to all stakeholders. The centre has a library with a total of some 700 books, research papers and periodicals on decentralisation problems, including political and financial aspects of decentralisation, citizens’ participation, and lessons from European, Asian, Latin American and African countries. The resource centre is linked to the project website www.participate.ge and a

respective Facebook account, which provide detailed information about the project activities and local self government development.

- Two master degree university courses: 1) “Economic Rationale for Decentralisation” and 2) “Decentralisation and Civil Participation”. The syllabuses of the courses were prepared in cooperation with and under the guidance of International Institute of Social Studies (Hague, Netherlands), Erasmus University. In 2011-2012 autumn semester both courses were taught to master degree students of Ilia University and representatives of civil sector organisations.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

In 2011 CIPDD was involved in joint projects with the following foreign and local organisations:

- Saferworld (UK)
- Erasmus University (Netherlands)
- MATRA Social Transformation Program
- Association Tolerant
- Georgian Young Lawyers Association

Attachment

Projects and activities, 2011

1.

Project title: **Humanitarian Assistance for Repatriated Muslim Meskhetians – Prevention of Self-Repatriation**

Donor(s): European Commission

Partner(s): Association Tolerant, Centre for Humanitarian Research

Duration: 12.2010-06.2013

Budget: 124,414 EURO

Coordinator(s): Elene Nodia

2.

Project title: **Press Freedom**

Donor(s): European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)

Duration: 01.05.2011- 31.12.2011

Budget: 26,890 EURO

Coordinator(s): Ghia Nodia

3.

Project title: **Integration of Ethnic Minorities in South and Southwest Georgia**

Donor(s): Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED)

Duration: 12.11.2011- 31.09.2013

Budget: 230,000 EURO

Coordinator(s): Sophie Zviadadze, Tiko Tqeshelashvili

4.

Project title: **Georgia and Sweden in Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime: Global, Regional, and Practical Issues**

Donor(s): Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM)

Duration: 10.2010-04.2011

Budget: 9,500 EURO

Coordinator(s): Tamar Patariaia

5.

Project title: **Developing a Policy Agenda for Democratic Reforms**

Donor(s): National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

Duration: 10.01.2010-05.2011

Budget: 40,810 USD

Coordinator(s): Tamar Patariaia

6.

Project title: **Paving the Road towards Visa-Free Travel between EU and Eastern Partnership Countries**

Donor(s): PASOS/LGI – Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative; Open Society Institute (OSI)

Duration: 09.2010-10.2011

Budget: 17,000 USD

Coordinator(s): Tamar Pataraia

7.

Project title: **Kachreti Dialog: Round Table for Good Governance**

Donor(s): European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)

Duration: 04.2011-12.2011

Budget: 26,890 EURO

Coordinator(s): Tamar Pataraia

8.

Project title: **Research and Analysis of the Situation in the Region of Samtskhe-Javakheti**

Donor(s): Office of High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE

Duration: 02.2011-12.2011

Budget: 41,250 EURO

Coordinator(s): Marina Elbakidze

9.

Project title: **Improving Mechanisms of Migration Control and Coordination of Migration Policy in Georgia by Reference to the Polish Experience**

Donor(s): Foundation of the Institute of Public Affairs, Warsaw

Duration: 01.04.2011- 31.12.2011

Budget: 74,047 EURO

Coordinator(s): Tiko Tqeshelashvili

10.

Project title: **Effective Conflict Prevention After the 2008 Crisis**

Donor(s): Saferworld

Duration: 01.09.2009-01.05.2011

Budget: 79,942 EURO

Coordinator(s): Tiko Tqeshelashvili

11.

Project title: **Strengthening Civil Society-Government Dialogue on Conflict and Stability and Empowering Conflict Affected Communities on Their Security Needs**

Donor(s): Saferworld

Duration: 01.07.2009-30.04.2011

Budget: 16,565 EURO

Coordinator(s): Tiko Tqeshelashvili

12.

Project title: **Civil Society for Development: Decentralisation and Participation in Georgia**

Donor(s): MATRA Social Transformation Program, Netherlands Foreign Ministry (East and South-East Department), International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University (Rotterdam)

Duration: 01.04.2010-31.03.2013

Budget: 670,988 EURO

Coordinator(s): Lika Sanikidze