



CAUCASUS INSTITUTE FOR PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD) was founded in August 1992 in Tbilisi, Georgia. It is a nongovernmental and not-for-profit organisation. CIPDD is not linked to any political party. CIPDD is a public policy think-tank 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, international and local 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 organizations 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.

David Aphrasidze, 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 board of seven members:

- Ia Antadze
- Marat Baratashvili
- Olesya Vartanyan
- Ghia Nodia
- Charles H. Fairbanks
- Emzar Jgerenaia (Chairman)
- Emilia Khalilova

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2008

2008 is a landmark year for CIPDD: sixteen years after it was founded CIPDD moved to a new office. The 900 sq.m. premises are located at A. Tsereteli Avenue and include a large and adequately equipped conference room. The new office was purchased with financial support of Cordaid (Holland), EED (Germany), and Budapest Think Tank Fund of the Open Society Institute.

During the presentation of the new office invited guests – representatives of partner NGOs, foundations and donor organisations, governmental and educational institutions, foreign diplomats and journalists – were informed about the institute’s new publications, projects and initiatives.

In 2008 CIPDD became a member of CIVICUS, the World Alliance for Citizen Participation (www.civicus.org). It is the fifth international association CIPDD has joined so far. The others include the Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI), Policy Association for an Open Society (PASOS), Russian and Eurasian security network (RES), and International Relations and Security Network (ISN).

In 2008 CIPDD again recruited and trained new personnel, upgraded its equipment, and implemented regular rotation of Board members.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

CIPDD gave priority to three main research areas in 2008: public policy research, democratic institutions, and civil integration. 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, creation of and support for independent regional media networks, media monitoring, etc.

As a public policy think-tank, CIPDD has focused on three main program priorities outlined in its strategic development plan:

- Civil integration in the multi-ethnic and multi-confessional environment
- Democratic state and support for civil institutions
- Public policy debate and development

(more information about CIPDD program priorities is available at www.cipdd.org)

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Civil society development

The CIPDD carried out a research at the end of 2008 with financial support of the Open Society – Georgia Foundation to establish the Civil Society Index for Georgia and develop an action plan for the civil society development on the basis of the methodology of the World Alliance for Citizen Participation (www.civicus.org). The research themes included the level of citizens' participation in political processes, the level of institutionalisation, values, environment and its impact. A report and a policy brief will be prepared on the basis of the research. A 12-member advisory board was set up to oversee the implementation of the project (the board includes representatives of various social groups). The board will take part in the preparation of recommendations for the development of civil society and help promote the research results. The research results and the policy brief will be translated into English and published in two languages: Georgian and English. A conference will be held at the end of the project.

The project “Improving environment for minority integration in Georgia through supporting reforms in the school education system” funded by the Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / EED (Germany) aims at improving conditions for minority involvement in Georgia’s social and political life through support of reforms in the public education system. The main goal is to increase participation of Georgia’s citizens in social life and protect their civil and political rights regardless of their ethnic and religious background. To this end, teachers of public schools underwent training in 2008 on religious and ethnic tolerance. Among other things, the training aimed to increase teachers’ awareness of the country’s ethnic-religious diversity. In addition, measures are being planned in the framework of the project to increase efficiency of school boards.

DONORS

CIPDD projects were funded by the following donors in 2008:

- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- OSI Think Tank Fund - Budapest
- Open Society Institute (OSI)
- Open Society – Georgia Foundation (OSGF)
- European Commission (EC)
- United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
- Office of High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE
- Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / EED (Germany)
- Black Sea Trust of the German Marshall Fund
- Council of Europe (CoE)

To increase civil participation in the public policy development process the CIPDD took part in the activities of public organisations and public services at the regional level. In accordance with the Black Sea Trust exchange program, CIPDD invited employees of public organisations from six regions to take part in an institutional experience-sharing project. One of the objectives of the project was to ensure

broad public participation in policy planning and implementation. Representatives of six NGOs and many local organisations took part in the project. At the first stage of the project representatives of “Kartli Otsdameertes” (Shida Kartli), “Atinati” (Samegrelo), “Education and Environment” (Imereti), “Kakhetis Khma” (Kakheti), “Youth – Students Club” (Guria), and “Union of Meskhetian Democrats” (Samtskhe-Javakheti) received training in policy analysis. At the next stage they were posted to various organisations.

Six policy papers were prepared on the public policy issues that were studied by the project participants. Extracts from the papers were published by local newspapers and discussed by public associations.

A project to increase the quality of public policy debate and analysis in Georgia was carried out with financial support of OSI Think Tank Fund (Budapest) and National Endowment for Democracy (NED). One of the objectives of the project was to enhance capacity for public policy analysis and debate, and increase intellectual level among young policy analysts. A special training module was developed, with the help of a foreign expert John Hicks, to teach methodological and other key aspects of policy analysis. In the framework of the project six select trainers underwent ToT (Training of Trainers) training and attended a policy analysis seminar. Afterwards the trainers conducted training workshops for various target groups (political parties, representatives of the Ministry of Defence, students, minorities, NGO members, officials of local self-governments) in Tbilisi and other cities: Batumi, Kutaisi, Gori. The participants of the workshops were taught the theory of a cyclical model of public policy and basics of a decision-making process.

Cooperation with the government. Identification of political problems and the outlining of relevant solutions

The project “Intergovernmental Agreements on Labour Migration: Policy Research and Recommendations”, sponsored by the Open Society Institute (USA), began by holding consultations with the office of the minister for diaspora issues. The consultations revealed that Georgia did not have bilateral labour migration agreements with foreign countries that could legalise the status of Georgian labour migrants abroad. The main objective of the project was to find and outline solutions to the problem. Ten migration policy experts were interviewed in the framework of the project and foreign experience of such agreements was analysed. Representatives of various governmental agencies participated in the project.

Hundreds of IDPs found shelter in Tbilisi after the August 2008 Russian-Georgian war. About 60 families of IDPs were accommodated in the Geophysics Institute (CIPDD office was situated in the building at the time). CIPDD staff and students of Ilia Chavchavadze State University launched a joint effort to provide relief and assistance for the IDPs with financial support of two donors of CIPDD, OSI Think Tank Foundation and OSCE. The project started with a needs assessment, which helped identify ways to meet the IDPs’ needs. In particular, foods, medications, and other essentials were purchased by the project team and distributed among the 160 IDPs sheltered in the Geophysics Institutes, as well as in other IDP centres. The project was carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Refugees and Settlement.

Transparency and accountability of governmental policies

CIPDD carried out a large regional project in 2008 – “Transparency, Accountability and Civil Participation in Black Sea Region – Proposal for Open Parliaments – Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, and Georgia” – sponsored by Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation and German Marshall Fund. The project was implemented in partnership with Institute of Public Policy (IPP) of Romania, IDIS Viitorul of Moldova, and Centre of Liberal Strategies (CLS) of Bulgaria.

The project revealed and examined how NGOs, trade unions, the business community and mass media assessed the openness of parliaments in the above mentioned countries and how efficiently these parliaments defended interests of stakeholders and ordinary citizens. The preliminary results of the project were presented in October 2008 at a conference in Bucharest. Representatives of Turkish, Ukrainian and Azerbaijani NGOs and academic institutions were invited to the conference.

To publicise the project results, CIPDD organised a round-table discussion in the Simpatia Hotel of Tbilisi on 26 November 2008. Georgian lawmakers, NGO experts, and representatives of trade unions and mass media attended the discussion. The project results were finally published in English.

The project “Pre-Election Media Monitoring” was carried out with financial support of the Council of Europe. Pre- and post-election programs of the Public Broadcasting Company, Rustavi-2, Mze and Kavkasia were monitored and analysed in the framework of the project. The project results were published in a book in

Georgian and English. The main objectives of the project were to analyse whether different political actors had equal and adequate access to mass media, how independent media institutions were in real life, whether Georgian journalists met professional and ethical standards, and whether media provided enough opportunities for informed choice. Several research methodologies were applied in the project: assessment/analysis of legal documents, re-analysis of existing research in the field, extended interviews, focus group discussions, talk-shows, and media monitoring.

Political institutions of Georgia

The project “Political institutions in Georgia” has been under implementation since 2005 with financial support of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD). In 2008 the project was focused on two main directions: the development of the so-called VoteMatch for Georgia and internal assessment of the program.

The VoteMatch – a tool for assessment of political parties’ programmes and a tool for their electorate – is widely used in Europe and USA. It can help voters review party positions on various issues and make an informed choice and, on the other hand, aid political parties in their effort to develop coherent policies and party programmes. The groundwork for the preparation of the VoteMatch was laid in 2006-2007. At first leading political parties agreed to participate in the project. A specially created panel of independent experts identified and set up a list of the country’s most urgent political problems. Unfortunately, due to worsened relations with the political parties, the VoteMatch was not used in the 2008 parliamentary elections.

Programs of political parties were analysed and assessed in the summer 2008 and interviews were carried out with party leaders and activists, and democratisation experts. Mechanisms of internal accountability and assessment of the political parties were also analysed. The main conclusions and recommendations were published in the final project report.

Integration of minorities

Poor Georgian proficiency is one of the reasons of the slow integration of minorities in ethnic enclaves of the country. However, quite a few residents of these enclaves are willing to learn the language. The CIPDD project “Supporting Ethnic Minorities for Democratic Political Participation” sponsored by United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) is designed to address the problem. A new methodology to teach Georgian as a second language was prepared in the framework of the project and a group of select teachers received respective training. A methodological guide to planning and implementing Georgian language courses and a collection of exercises for the development of writing-reading skills were worked out and published in Georgian and in the minority languages. One of the indications of CIPDD’s success in this field is the fact that the education ministry gave its backing to CIPDD’s initiative to provide school boards with an opportunity to participate in preliminary stages of the accreditation of regional schools.

To facilitate civil integration of ethnic minorities CIPDD and its partner organisations – Civil Integration Foundation (Georgia), Research Centre “Region” of the Association of Investigative Journalists (Armenia), and Committee for Protection of Journalists of Azerbaijan – continued to work jointly throughout 2008 to support independent media in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli in the framework of the project “Independent Media for Civil Integration” funded by EU Commission. With support of CIPDD and its partners regional media institutions were able to solve their technical problems and improve professional qualification of journalists, while the Caucasus Journalists Network gave them better access to information.

Another CIPDD project – “Improving environment for minority integration in Georgia through supporting reforms in the school education system” – also aims to promote conditions for equal participation of Georgian citizens in social and political life, regardless of their ethnic and religious background. The project is sponsored by Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / EED (Germany).

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

CIPDD implemented joint projects with the following organisations in 2008:

- Civil Integration Foundation (Georgia)
- Research Centre “Region” of the Association of Investigative Journalists (Armenia)
- Committee for Protection of Journalists of Azerbaijan
- Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)
- Association “School-Family-Society”
- International Centre of Civic Culture
- Centre for Journalism in Extreme Situations (Moscow)
- Ilia Chavchavadze State University
- Public Relations Institute (Romania)
- Centre of Liberal Strategies (CLS), Bulgaria
- Institute of Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS Vitorul), Moldova
- Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

A qualitative sociological survey was carried out in 2008 in the framework of the project to identify problems of public schools in ethnic enclaves of the country. A group of trainers, who were selected in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions through a special contest, attended a ToT (Training of Trainers) workshop in Tbilisi. The trainers will provide training in the regions independently. Another component of the project – a contest to select authors for writing a school textbook on the history of religions – was also completed in 2008. The winners of the contest – a group of authors – have begun writing the textbook in cooperation with the editorial and advisory board. The policy paper “Recommendations for Special Education Policy in Public Schools of Ethnic Enclaves” was prepared in 2008.

Support for media

The Caucasus Journalists Network (<http://www.caucasusjournalists.net>) was founded in the framework of the project “Independent Media for Civil Integration” sponsored by the EU Commission (and co-funded by OSCE and OSI) to facilitate the regional media development. Members of the CJN include journalists from ethnic enclaves of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Their articles are regularly published at the CJN website – a total of 80 articles have been published by the end of 2008. The articles were commissioned by a consortium of newspapers – *Samkhretis Karibche* (Georgia), *Svobodnaya Gruzia* (Georgia), *Resonansi*

(Georgia), *Timer* (Georgia), *Hegt-online* (Armenia), *Respublika Armenia* (Armenia) and *Gazeta 525* (Azerbaijan) – and published in Russian and English.

As part of the project Studio-RE filmed five TV programs which were broadcast by Channel II of the Public Broadcasting Company and 17 regional TV companies. Besides, six interactive talk-shows were produced in cooperation with the Studio-RE and broadcast by the same companies. An online interview was carried out in the framework of one of the talk-shows. In addition, 19 online interviews were conducted with Armenian, Azeri and Georgian politicians. One interview was linked to a televised discussion (all materials are available at www.caucasusjournalists.net/interviews.asp)

Several components of the project implemented in 2008 were designed to improve journalists' professional skills: training workshops (in all, five two-day workshops were carried out in target cities), seminars, and five online legal advise sessions.

To facilitate the CJN development, internet-clubs were set up for journalists in 2008: respective equipment was purchased and four induction courses were organised for the staff. Besides, four training workshops on strategic planning were held in Akhalkalaki, Akhaltsikhe, Gardabani and Marneuli.

To involve local media institutions in civil education activities, several publications on problems of journalism were prepared with financial support of the UNDEF, four regional media centres were created and training workshops for journalists were organised.

Russian-Georgian information-analytical website www.georgica.net

In 2003, in cooperation with the Centre for Journalism in Extreme Situations (Moscow), CIPDD developed a Russian-Georgian analytical website www.georgica.net (formerly www.pankisi.info), in order to improve quality of information about Georgia and Russia available in both countries and create an additional source of information about the Georgian-Russian relationship. All main project activities continued in 2008: Georgian press monitoring, translation of selected articles into Russian, and publication of exclusive articles on the website. The website covers different aspects of the Russian-Georgian relations. One of its sections is named "Georgian Press about Russia".

Discussions, seminars, meetings

After the August 2008 Russian-Georgian war the role of the European Union has considerably increased in the Caucasus. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and CIPDD held a round-table discussion on 10 October 2008 which was attended by representatives of leading political parties of Georgia (Labour Party, United National Movement, Conservative Party, Republican Party, Christian-Democratic Movement) and European Union. Prospects of EU-Georgia relations from the perspective of the political parties topped the agenda. The

participants addressed major problems in EU-Georgia relations and discussed prospects of Georgia's European integration.

Discussion materials and results were published by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and CIPDD, and are available at www.cipdd.org

Earlier (in April and May) Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and CIPDD launched pre-election discussions in different regions of the country and conducted three regional seminars in Marneuli, Akhaltsikhe, and Zugdidi in order to increase public awareness of the role of public institutions in the election process and encourage public debate on election-related issues. Representatives of local self-governments, NGOs, political parties, and media organisations were invited to the seminars.

Guest speakers elaborated on various aspects of the election process, including recent amendments to the election legislation, programs and election campaigns of political parties. They also highlighted the role of international observer missions and local NGOs in the elections. At the end of the seminars the participants discussed different election-related problems.

Publications on the results of the Russian-Georgian war

After the August war CIPDD set up a working group made up of its own and independent experts to prepare a policy paper on the results of the five-day war. The paper consists of three chapters: political, economic and environmental analysis. Each analytical chapter includes a set of recommendations. The paper describes the chronology of events and outlines likely consequences of the war for Georgia, the Caucasus, and major international actors. Maps of military operations are attached to the paper. The website statistics show that the information is accessed quite often. The paper was published in Georgian and English.

2008 PUBLICATIONS



Transparency, Accountability and Civil Participation
in the Black Sea Region – Proposal for Open Parliaments
in English
© IPP



Media in (inter)action
in Georgian and English
© CIPDD



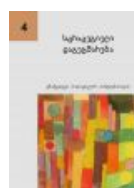
After August 2008: Consequences of the Russian-Georgian war
in Georgian and English
© CIPDD



Security Sector Reform 2004-2007 in Georgia
in Georgian and English
© CIPDD
© Ilia Chavchavadze State University



Problems and Prospects of the Repatriation of IDPs to the Conflict Zones
of South Caucasus
in English and Russian
© CIPDD



Strategic Planning
in Georgian
© CIPDD



Governmental policy: Polish lessons
in Georgian and English
© IPA
© CIPDD

APPENDIX

CIPDD projects implemented in 2008

CIVICUS – Civil Society Research in Georgia

Donor: Open Society – Georgia Foundation

Duration: 01.10.2008 – 30.09.2009

Budget: \$32,000

Coordinator: Paata Gurgenidze

Objectives: In-depth research of the civil society and preparation of an action plan for its future development.

Assessment of the civil society in accordance with the following criteria: civil participation, the level of institutionalisation, values, impact and environment.

Transparency, Accountability and Civil Participation in the Black Sea Region

Donor: Black Sea Trust

Duration: 01.07 – 31.12.2008

Budget: \$5,200

Coordinator: Archil Abashidze

Partners: Institute of Public Policy (IPP), Romania; IDIS Vitorul (Moldova), and Centre of Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria)

Objectives: Analysis of how the civil society (NGOs, trade unions, business community, and media institutions) assess the level of openness of the parliaments of Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, and Romania; and how successfully stakeholders and ordinary citizens can defend their interests in the parliament.

Intergovernmental agreements on labour migration

Donor: Open Society Institute (USA)

Duration: 1.09.2008 – 30.04.2009

Budget: \$23,400

Coordinator: George Gotua

Objective: Analysis of the prospects of bilateral labour migration agreements between Georgia and foreign countries to legalise the status of the Georgian labour migrants abroad.

Exchange program for civil society organisations

Donor: Black Sea Trust

Duration: 01.07.2008-31.12.2008

Budget: \$29,160

Coordinator: Elene Nodia

Objectives: Finding ways to facilitate active participation of local public associations in policy-making and decision-making processes.

Improving Environment for Minority Integration in Georgia through Supporting Reforms in the School Education System

Donor: Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / EED (Germany)

Duration: 1.01.2008 - 31.12.2010

Budget: 370,000 EURO

Coordinator: Sophie Zviadadze

Objectives: Civil integration of ethnic minorities in multi-ethnic and multi-cultural Georgian society

Working on the Quality of Democratic Participation: Increasing Public Policy Competence

Donor: National Endowment for Democracy

Duration: 1.10.2007 – 30.09.2008

Budget: \$45,495

Coordinator: Tamara Pataraiia

Objectives: Improvement of the quality of democratic participation in Georgia by enhancing capacity for public policy analysis and debate among selected target groups.

Supporting Ethnic Minorities for Democratic Political Participation

Donor: United National Democracy Fund (UNDEF)

Duration: 2007-2009

Budget: \$333,550

Coordinator: David Losaberidze

Partners:

- School Family Society Association / SFSA
- International Centre for Civic Culture / ICC
- Civic Integration Foundation /CIF
- Office of the State Minister for Civil Integration

Objectives: Implementation of civil education programs for ethnic minorities.

Independent Media for Civil Integration

Donor: EU Commission

Duration: 2007-2010

Budget: 479,576 EURO

Coordinator: Paata Gurgenidze

Objectives: Support for independent media in target regions (Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti).

Political institutions in Georgia

Donor: The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) through Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)

Duration: 01.02. – 31.05.2008

Budget: 65,332 EURO

Coordinator: George Gotua

Objectives: Support for Georgian political parties and promotion of a multi-party dialogue.

The Georgian-Russian analytical website

Donor: Open Society – Georgia Foundation (OSGF)

Duration: 08.10.2007-07.10.2008

Budget: \$17,728

Coordinator: Tamara Shamil

Objectives: Providing the Georgian and Russian public with impartial and authentic information about the Georgian-Russian relationship.

Research and analysis of the situation in the region of Samtskhe-Javakheti

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

Duration: 01.04.2008-31.03.2009

Budget: 38,392 EURO

Coordinator: Marina Elbakidze

Objectives: monitoring and analysis of political, economic, and socio-cultural indicators of potential tensions in the target region.

Pre-Election Media Monitoring

Donor: Council of Europe

Duration: 01.04. – 31.08.2008

Budget: 27,895 EURO

Coordinator: Elene Nodia

Objectives: Monitoring and analysis of the media coverage of the 2008 presidential and parliamentary elections

Institutional support 2007/2008

Donor: Open Society Institute – Think Tank Fund

Duration: 01.12.2007 – 30.11.2008

Budget: \$60,300

Coordinator: Tina Tkeshelashvili

Objectives: support for CIPDD's organisational sustainability and democratic processes in Georgia.