

Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development

Annual Report 2010

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Address: 72 Akaky 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 2010 totalled the equivalent of 645,700 USD.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

As in the previous year, CIPDD gave priority to three main research areas in 2010: 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, creation of and support for independent regional media networks, media monitoring, etc.

DONORS

Funds for the 2010 projects were provided by:

- European Commission
- Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / EED (Germany)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- OSI Think Tank Fund - Budapest
- Office of High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE
- Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation
- USAID
- Initiatives for local self-government and public service reforms (PASOS/LGI)
- Saferworld (UK)
- Netherlands Foreign Ministry
- Open Society – Georgia Foundation (OSGF)
- European Commission (EC)
- Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)

PROJECTS

Civil society development

Sponsored by the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation and USAID, the project “**Nationwide CSO network**” aims to increase the capacity of local civil sector organisations to conduct policy analysis, improve their advocacy skills, advance understanding of legal framework of civil participation, foster communication and cooperation between local civil society representatives and local authorities on regional development issues, and encourage partnership relations between CSOs from different regions and exchange of best practices among them. In the framework of the project, activists of ten regional NGOs, selected on the contest basis, received training in CIPDD in various areas of policy analysis (theoretical knowledge, research, report writing skills, data summary/analysis, and cooperation with local self-governments). As a result, the training participants have gained sufficient knowledge of regional problems, acquired analysis and advocacy skills, and enhanced their ability to cooperate with local self-governments and assume responsibility for dealing with social problems.

The project “**CIVICUS – Civil Society Research in Georgia**”, funded by the Open Society – Georgian Foundation, ended in 2010. The overall goal of the project was to create active and effective national and international platforms for knowledge-based actions to strengthen the Georgian civil society. As part of the project CIPDD carried out a research, which resulted in the creation of Civil Society Index, a tool which enables to assess the current state of the Georgian civil society and formulate a comprehensive strategy for the development of this sector. The research was based on a methodology developed by CIVICUS (World Alliance for Citizen Participation – www.civicus.org) and covered the following dimensions of civil society: civic engagement, level of organisation, practice of values, perceived impact, and external environment. To achieve the project goals, CIPDD organised ten focus-group discussions in Tbilisi and different regions, and carried out five case studies: 1) attitudes of the business community to non-governmental organisations and

corporate responsibility; 2) coverage of the civil society problems in news programs of leading national TV companies of Georgia; 3) accountability in Georgia's civil society organisations – forms and processes, 4) volunteering in Georgia – motivation of the young members of major Georgian political parties; 5) the impact of the trade union of teachers and scholars on the education policy in 2004-08.

Apart from the Civil Society Index, CIPDD produced and published – in Georgian and English – the policy brief “Georgian Civil Society – Assessment 2010” based on the research results. Besides, a twelve-member advisory board, made up of representatives of various civil society organisations, was set up to prepare recommendations for the development of civil society in Georgia.

The project “**Reforms in Georgia: 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. It provides for a series of capacity building activities for Georgian civil society organizations and the development of effective action plans to raise public awareness and mobilize local communities. The project employs five major tools to achieve its goals: 1) capacity-building training workshops for representatives of local civil society organisations and local activists in eight regions of the country; 2) preparation/publication of policy papers on the problems of decentralisation and public debates on local self-government problems; 3) the development of a communication network and online database on the problems of decentralisation; 4) public awareness-raising programs; 5) the development of two university courses on decentralisation and participation in Ilia University.

Main beneficiaries of the project include representatives of NGOs, media institutions, political parties, local self-governments and municipal councils. The project is also designed to provide a forum for interested independent experts and community activists to meet and share their views about the decentralisation process.

Democratic reforms and policy research

In partnership with OSI Think Tank Fund (Budapest) and with financial assistance of the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, a team of CIPDD experts developed a methodology for carrying out the project “**Effective Mechanisms and Practice of Fighting Corruption in the Black Sea Region: Lessons of Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Georgia and Next Steps**” in 2010. The methodology was designed to analyse and assess the current anti-corruption policy of the Georgian government (legislation, institutions, and practices). The results of the research were published in a respective policy paper. Besides, a regional conference was organised in the framework of the project to present and share the Georgian experience of anti-corruption struggle. Finally, plans were made for regional cooperation against corruption.

The NED-funded project “**Policy Agenda for Democratic Reforms**” aims to improve the quality of professional debate on the democratisation processes and promote the respective discourse. 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 Saqvelidze – Professor of Javakhishvili 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). Four policy papers will be produced and published – in Georgian and English – in the framework of the project. The policy papers will be available at the CIPDD website and blog. Besides, eight analytical articles will be published in Georgian newspapers about the identified problems.

The research project **“Assessment of 2009-2010 Constitutional Reform by Political Parties”** was carried out with financial assistance and cooperation of Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) in the first half of 2010. In the framework of the project, CIPDD researchers identified major directions of the country’s political development, with emphasis on constitutional and legislative reforms, and worked out a research strategy and system for regular, monthly, evaluation of political parties’ views. During the project implementation CIPDD provided logistical support for NIMD. The project allowed to get a clear picture of the attitude of mainstream Georgian political parties towards constitutional reform.

The project **“Roadmap for 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 OSI Think Tank Fund (Budapest). The project aims to promote a visa-free regime and facilitate people-to-people contacts between the target countries. The project methodology includes 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 integration

The three-year project **“Improving Environment for Minority Integration in Georgia through Supporting Reforms in the School Education System”**, funded by Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / EED (Germany), ended in 2010. The last year of the project focused on training workshops for teachers of public schools to improve their skills and capacity to promote tolerance and respect for ethnic and religious diversity. Special training modules were also prepared in the framework of the project to increase efficiency of school boards. Trainers were selected in different regions of the country and received training in CIPDD. This aspect proved especially important, as the local trainers carried out the project activities in their regions in the languages of local ethnic minorities (at first the trainers relied on assistance of CIPDD staff but after improving their skills and experience they were able to work independently). The government of Bolnisi Municipality and the local resource-centre provided substantial assistance to CIPDD during the implementation of the project in the municipality.

One of the main products of the project – the school textbook on the history of world religions – was published in 2010. Another important outcome of the project was the policy paper **“The Reform of the Georgian National Education System and Non-Georgian Schools”**, which analysed in depth the Georgian government’s 2009 education reforms and their impact on the education process in non-Georgian schools of the country. Before the publication of the policy paper CIPDD organised a

discussion on the education reform for representatives of the education ministry, NGOs, Ilia University, Javakhishvili State University and non-Georgian schools of the target regions.

In the framework of the project **“Independent Media for Civil Integration”**, funded by the delegation of EU commission to Georgia, CIPDD continued to work in 2010 towards the main objectives of the project in cooperation with its partners – Civil Integration Foundation (Georgia), Research Centre “REGION” (Armenia), and the Committee for Protection of Journalists of Azerbaijan (RUH) (Azerbaijan). In 2010 the main focus of the project activities was on the development of independent media in two target regions – Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli. The emergence of viable and really independent media in these regions (both home to large ethnic enclaves) is largely seen as a vital precondition for successful civil integration of local ethnic minorities. The project aims to achieve three specific goals: enhanced outreach of (and coverage by) the media in the South Caucasus countries to the target regions of Georgia; increased professional capacity of journalists in the target regions; improved infrastructure and capacity of the Caucasus Journalists Network. As part of the project, local journalists were given technical assistance and training by CIPDD, and better access to information through membership of the Caucasus Journalists Network.

The main training modules (problems of regional journalism, effective communication and problem solving, news reporting, basic journalistic standards of Georgian newspapers) were followed by a series of training workshops on other related topics (project management, strategic planning, and institutional development). The training materials and results, as well as materials of online discussions and interviews, are available at the website www.caucasusjournalists.net. In all, 30 online interviews and 8 discussions were organised in the framework of the project. The project ended in the creation of a new independent organisation – Regional Media Mutual Assistance and Development Fund.

Conflicts: monitoring and analyses

The project **“Research and Analysis of the Situation in the Region of Samtskhe-Javakheti”** began 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.

The project **“Development of Early Warning System in Conflict-Affected Shida Kartli Region of Georgia”** began in 2009 and ended in August 2010. The project was funded by European Commission and implemented in cooperation with Pro NGO! e.V. (Germany). Its main activities included monitoring and analysis of the situation in Georgian communities along the administrative dividing line with South Ossetia. The analysis/monitoring results were made available to all major stakeholders (Georgian government, NGOs, international organisations, first of all EUMM – European Union Monitoring Mission and European Commission). The project also led to the creation of an information sharing network for all organisations interested in problems of IDPs.

To achieve the project results, six local correspondents were employed to prepare monthly reports about the ongoing events and processes in the region. On the basis of their reports and reviews of the

respective Georgian media materials, CIPDD prepared monthly reports in Russian and English on political, economic, socio-cultural, and institutional indicators in the region. The project materials are available at the CIPDD website (www.cipdd.org): 66 monthly reports of the correspondents, 11 summary reports and three quarterly reviews produced by CIPDD. To discuss the monitoring results and inform the stakeholders of the identified problems, CIPDD organised three round-table discussions in the framework of the project, which were attended by representatives of the Ministry for Refugees and Settlement, Council of Europe, EUMM, local NGOs and media organisations.

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. In 2010 the main project activities included 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” is another joint project of CIPDD, GYLA and Saferworld. The project is funded by UK Conflict Pool and its main objective is to facilitate constructive public discussions between community and authority representatives on the local and national strategies in the four target regions and at the national level. A series of discussions **“Planning for Peace Together”** was held in Tbilisi and four target regions in the framework of the project to look into and discuss problems of the conflict-affected communities.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF 2010

CONFERENCES. PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS

The following public discussions, conferences and seminars were held in 2010:

“Planning for Peace Together” – a series of discussions in various cities of Georgia:

- March 19 – Gori
- March 20 – Akhaltsikhe
- March 26 – Rustavi
- March 27 – Anaklia
- March 31 – Tbilisi

Discussion materials (audio records, transcripts, photos and podcasts) are available at CIPDD website www.cipdd.org. The website contains a blog for feedback and comments.

Educational programs in the framework of Cultural Diversity Day:

- May 25 – Bolnisi

- November 16 – village of Rachisubani
- November 24 – Poti

A series of training workshops “Learning to Accept and Recognise Cultural Diversity” in three target regions: Ajaria, Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti.

January 20 – Public discussion “Pending Normalization of Turkish-Armenian Relations: Implications for Georgia”

January 27 – Round-table discussion “Shida Kartli after August 2008 War: Challenges and Solutions”

March 12 – Round-table discussion “New Education Policy Initiatives in the Context of Civil Integration”

March 26 – Conference “Civil Society in Georgia”

May 4 – Round-table discussion “Problems of Shida Kartli Region”

October 25 – Round-table discussion “Effective Mechanisms and Practice of Fighting Corruption in the Black Sea Region: Lessons of Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Georgia and Next Steps”.

October 27 – Discussion “Security in Shida Kartli – Conflict Dynamic” (in cooperation with Saferworld)

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

In 2010 CIPDD was involved in joint projects with the following foreign and local organisations:

- Civil Integration Foundation (SIF, Georgia)
- Research Centre “Region” of the Association of Investigative Journalists (Armenia)
- Committee for Protection of Journalists of Azerbaijan
- Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)
- Ilia University (Georgia)
- Saferworld (UK)
- Pro NGO! (Germany)
- Erasmus University (Netherlands)
- MATRA Social Transformation Program
- World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)

PUBLICATIONS

The EU’s Eastern Partnership: Civil Society Expectations and New Opportunities
Policy Review
by Tamara Pataria

February 2010
Podcast

Pending Normalisation of Turkish-Armenian Relations: Implications for Georgia

Policy Review
by Ghia Nodia
January 2010
Podcast

New Education Policy Initiatives in the Context of Civil Integration

Policy Paper
by Shalva Tabatadze
May 2010

Major Information Sources and Perception of Citizenship – the case of Samtskhe-Javakheti

Policy Paper
by George Andguladze, with contributions from regional correspondents (Edgar Harutyunian, Ararat Ttian, Shorena Tetvadze, Kristina Marabian, Makhare Matsukatov, and Tsira Meskhishvili)
November 2010

People's Diplomacy and Peaceful Conflict Resolution: Public Perceptions of Local Problems in Samegrelo Region

Report
by Nona Kobalia, Madona Kharebava, and Merab Danelia
November 2010

Public Perceptions of Local Problems in Kvemo Kartli Region

Report
by Merab Tsindeliani
November 2010

Community Perceptions of the Causes and Effects of the August 2008 Conflict in Kvemo Kartli, Samegrelo, Samtskhe Javakheti and Shida Kartli

Report
June 2010

Public Awareness of Social Rights – Community Perceptions of Local Problems in Shida Kartli Region

Report
November 2010

Cultural Dialogue and Civil Consciousness – Religious Dimension of Intercultural Education

A series of articles
by Katja Christina Plate, Olexander Butsenko, Hans-Georg Zieberts, Ketevan Kakitelashvili, Daniela Klandijeva, Shalva Tabatadze, Friedrich Schweitzer, and Nino Chikovani
July 2010

Cultural Diversity Day in School

Roadmap

September 2010