

## **November 3-13, 2008, Krakow, Poland**

The "Active Georgia. Women's Academy" project was conducted in Krakow, Poland from November 3 to 13, 2008. The project was organized with a support of International Initiatives Bureau and partner organizations in Georgia: Local Democracy Agency Georgia and NGO Ertoba in the frames of Polish Foreign Assistance. The project was coordinated and mainly facilitated by Slawomir Stolarski.

There were 20 women participants sent from Georgia - 9 from Kutaisi and 11 from Tbilisi. On the 4th of November the Academy was officially opened. For participants there were 9 interesting and productive days ahead. Every new day was enriched with new knowledge and materials, theoretical and practical skills. The key topics covered by the project were: function and role of the local self-government based on Polish experience and specifically on RADA's (Krakow self-government body) example in the way of it's best practices, management structure and skills; political marketing and campaigning; the presentation about EU funds and resources, verbal and non-verbal communication skills and how we use it as a tool in practice. The sessions were conducted in the "lecturing" format with active involvement of participants and a facilitator. Integration sessions were followed by leader formation and project-writing practical lessons, "Oxford Debates" session (which was in the top of the ranking list). Each session was ranked by a facilitator and a participant.

Besides the practical sessions, Women's Academy project participants had field activities in Krakow local NGO and governmental sectors (a visit was conducted to NGO "EFKA" working on women's rights and Krakow RADA as a government body). The sessions were conducted by popular facilitators in Poland - Luiza Czajkowska, Lech Jaszowski, Magda Bartyza, Magdalena Góra, and Ewa Ryłko.

The sessions were on:

- Integration tools by Luiza Czajkowska
- Charisma and leader characters in local society by Luiza Czajkowska
- Project management, MS Project by Lech Jaszowski
- Women project examples (presentation in NGO "EFKA")
- RADA structure and management by Magda Bartyza
- "Oxford Debates" demonstrative session by Mistia Group
- EU citizenship and resources by Magdalena Góra
- Leader as a professional by Ewa Ryłko
- Success of a woman in local self-government by Malgorzata Jantos, Krakow City Council

- Communication with local Media and how to make a presentation by Luiza Czajkowska.

Based on high motivation and active participation of project participants, an idea from project donors will be probably developed for this project to be continued in 2009.

At the end of the project, Georgian women felt their motivation and enthusiasm to bring their knowledge to their home cities and develop here a new, challenging role in local society with bringing some new ideas in dynamic environment of local self-government in Georgia.