

Monthly Report # 01/08



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members

From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Delegate

Subject: January Monthly Report

Date: 6 February 2008

1. Local situation review

- Presidential elections held on January 5 went smoothly and peacefully. International observers and monitors positively evaluated the election process and the elections were proclaimed by basically all of them as free and fair, however, it was marked by significant shortcomings and electoral violations, too. Election committees have received a big number of letters of complaints, but it has not greatly influence on the final results. Ex-president Mikhail Saakashvili was declared as a winner. The opposition does not have the documentary proof for their initial and written accusations. There was official Presidential Inauguration held on January 20 in Tbilisi and on 21st, the President took the oath in Kutaisi Bagrati Cathedral.

2. Implemented Activities

- The month of January was not so much busy in Georgia and many days marked in the calendar as “a vacation”. In the first part of January, we worked on annual reporting for 2007. The document was sent to the all the partner organizations of LDA Georgia, however, we have not received any comments or evaluations.
- We have continued training courses that we had to suspend for pre-term election period.
- In the second half of January, LDA Georgia had prepared a project entitled as “No to Human Trafficking”. The application was submitted to the Embassy of the United States in Georgia, under “Democracy Commission for Small Grants” program competition for 2008. The aim of the project is to organize informational and educational seminars on human trafficking and illegal migration for youth and students. Also, it is planned to provide an information campaign throughout the city related to the topics. We will receive a notification about a proposal at the beginning of April.
- LDA Georgia prepared a new brochure in English and Georgian languages. I would like to use the chance and thank all who assist agency to develop the new booklet. It will provide support to disseminate updated information about the organization and promote a good image

3. Future Plans

- On February 12-14, Mr. Martial Paris, ALDA Regional Manager will visit Georgia. We are planning to have number of visits to different local and international organizations in Tbilisi and Kutaisi. Also, we will organize information meetings with youth as part of the “Youth the Right Direction” project.
- At the end of February the training courses will be completed and summarized.

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Monthly Report 03/08



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members

From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Executive Director

Subject: March Monthly Report

Date: 31 March 2008

1. Local situation review

- On March 25, His Holiness and Beatitude Ilia II, Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia arrived at the rally outside the parliament of Georgia and second time urged the members of the opposition parties to stop the hunger strike. They terminated the hunger strike that lasted for 15 days. It was over in Kutaisi, too. Parliamentary elections will be held on 21 May. After the elections, the number of members of Parliament of Georgia will be decreased in 150. It mostly will intensify the pre-election process.

2. Implemented activities

- Last month the Agency mostly worked on a preparation of some new projects. We drafted a new proposal together with GYLA (Georgian Young Lawyers Association) and AYES (Association of Young Economists of Georgia), Kutaisi branches. The goal of the project is to work on 2009 budget planning and participation in its performance/utilization processes with 6 municipal units of Imereti Regional Department of Attorney-Governor. We plan to train state officials and increase population participation level in the above-mentioned processes.
- The Agency keeps working with "Biluts Association", a Spanish organization. The aim of the project is to organize youth exchange programme in July 2008. Almost 30 young people from France, Russia and Spain will visit Georgia. Local youth representatives will also participate in the project. The draft of the project is almost ready and it will be finalized in April.
- "Basics in Public Relations" training course is completed. The participants were rewarded with certificates and a handbook with all-important and useful information related to public relations and protection of women's rights.
- Last month we received some unpleasant information regarding two projects we submitted to donors. LDA Georgia's joint project with City of Strasbourg, which aimed to organize exchange visits of Kutaisi and Strasbourg elected representatives, was not approved for funding. We have a rejection from the US Embassy on Human Trafficking project, too. We have to revise the above-mentioned projects and submit them to other donor organizations.

3. Future plans

- On April 8-11, in Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina) a meeting of ALDA and LDA Delegate's will take place. Joseph Khakhaleishvili from LDA Georgia will participate in the meeting.
- The Agency will keep working on new projects. The Youth Exchange project and a joint project with regional administration will be finalized.

Monthly Report 04/08



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members

From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Executive Director

Subject: April Monthly Report

Date: 30 April 2008

1. Implemented Activities

- As I have reported in the March Monthly Report, the Agency is preparing a joint proposal with GYLA (Georgian Young Lawyers Association) and AYEG (Association of Young Economists of Georgia). The goal of the project is to work along with office of State Attorney-Governor in Imereti Region on the local budget planning and implementation for 2009. Project will cover 6 municipal units of Imereti Region. However, the proposal preparation process is temporarily stopped which is caused by the pre-election period in Georgia and assignment of new Governor of Imereti Region. The above-mentioned project should be verified with a new Governor and then, the project preparation activities will be continued.
- LDA Georgia keeps ongoing collaboration with “Biluts Association”, a Spanish organization and the aim of our project is to organize youth exchange programme for July 2008. Almost 30 young people from France, Russia and Spain will visit Georgia. Local youth representatives will also participate in the project. Currently, we are seeking for partner organizations in Russia, then a detailed draft of the action plan will be prepared and the exact date for the exchange program will be set.
- On April 8-11, in Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina) a meeting of ALDA and LDA Delegates took place. Many different issues were discussed and agreed among delegates and ALDA. One of the decision declared was about the training under 'Youth the Right Direction' which will be conducted on June 23-29. Kutaisi will host 4-day training for peer educators – up to 20 young participants: 10 local and 10 young people from Serbia, Croatia, UK and Italy. The working language of the training will be English and its main goal is cooperation establishment among youth and drafting of joint projects. From May, the selection of training participants will be started and other organizational issues settled.
- Shon Phinan, the representative of International School for Peace Studies also participated in the above-mentioned meeting (this school is one of the partner organization for the project). He made an announcement about a new project which will be prepared in partnership with ALDA and aims to protect women's rights and

increase their participation in public affairs. All LDAs will participate in the project. Preliminary results will be open for discussion in the month June.

- ALDA together with LDAs has prepared a joint project for local media representatives (journalists) on European Union enlargement. Project foreseen different activities, including seminars, exchange visits, setting up network of journalist from different countries and etc. The project proposal is already submitted to the European Commission and we expect a result to be announced in June.
- From April 21 to 27, Thea Kakhadze, the member of Federation of Disabled People of Georgia was sent to Gyumri (Armenia) to participate in Social Workers Meeting for Caucasian countries. The meeting was organized in the frames of Youth in Action program frames by “Minorities Europe” and “Youth for Peace and Development”. The meeting report will be prepared in the nearest future.

2. Plans for Future

- On May 15-16, there will be ALDA Governing Board Meeting held in Vienna. The new board members will be elected. From LDA Georgia partners, Mr. David Mayer, the Newport City Council member is named as a candidate for a board member.
- From May, we will start selection process of training participants and setting up other technical issues.
- There will be LDA Partners 3rd Meeting preparation activities started. The meeting is planned to be held in Kutaisi, at the end of June.
- LDA Georgia will continue to work on new projects as well.

Monthly Report 04/08



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members

From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Executive Director

Subject: May Monthly Report

Date: 2 June 2008

1. Implemented Activities

- In the month of May, LDA Georgia has received a confirmation from the donors on approval of two project proposals. The first one is “Active Georgia-Women’s Academy” which is funded by the Ministry of External Affairs of Poland and implemented by the Bureau of International Initiatives (leading organization), Ertoba (a local NGO) and LDA Georgia. The project aims the capacity enhancement and growth of local self-government. In this particular project we focus to develop a local democracy using the biggest potential resource of civil society members – women, recognizing that women possess an enormous potential to improve local self-government. Empowerment of young leaders with an adequate knowledge and skills will be achieved in the following topics:
 - A role and function of local self-government using experience of Polish colleagues, a good practice and management skills;
 - Basics of political marketing and campaigning;
 - The European funds and resources, learning practical tools.These topics will be covered during the Academy Courses in Krakow, from 7th to the 17th of September. 20 women will participate in the academy course and 8 out of them will represent City of Kutaisi.
- The second project “The Factory of Cultural Managers” will be implemented in the frames of the Youth the Right Direction project funded by European Commission. The goal of the project is to conduct a seminar with a topic of intercultural dialogue skills in November 2008 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The seminar is organized by the European Union Youth Cooperation Organization and young participants from Lithuania, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Ukraine, Hungary, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, France, Spain, Turkey and Russia will participate. LDA Georgia as a partner organization is eligible to have 4 participants. The goal of the seminar is:
 - to promote dialogue between European cultures;
 - to develop co-operation and to establish (or prepare) future, strong and reliable partnerships;
 - to build an awareness and recognition of differences between cultures and identities at local, national and international level, as well as to identify existing common ground between the realities of participants at these different levels;
 - to explore and find ways to deal and fight against cultural prejudices;
 - to present “Youth in Action” Program as a tool to work with youth on culture, diversity and active participation.
- The General Assembly of ALDA elected a new Governing Board and its Bureau on May 16, 2008 in Vienna, Austria. The new Governing Board is appointed for four years and is now composed as follows:

Bureau :

President, Mr. Per Vinther (DK)

Vice President, City of Kargujevac, Mr. Dobrica Milovanovic (Serbia)

Vice President, Region Puglia, Mr. Bernardo Notarangelo (IT)

Treasurer, Wolverhampton City Council, Mr. Roger Lawrence (UK)

Secretary, City of Bydgoszcz, Mrs. Imislawa Gorska (Poland)

Other elected members of the Governing Board :

Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, M. Tondo (IT)

Region Istria, Mr. Oriano Otocan (Croatia)

City of Monfalcone, M. Lucio Gregoretti (IT - LDA Georgia partner)

Asael, Mr. Jesus Sola Se villa (Spain)

Local Democracy Agency Sisak, Ms. Paula Rauzan (Croatia), as representative of the Consultative Committee of the LDAs.

A special note was assigned to the past President, Mr. Gianfranco Martini, as Honorary President of ALDA. During the General Assembly, the past Governing was thanked for its commitment and work by Per Vinther. The program of ALDA was presented by Antonella Valmorbidia, Director and approved by the General Assembly focusing on:

1. Support of the Local Democracy Agencies in South Eastern Europe and in the Caucasus.
2. Support the European Active Citizenship with its members in Europe
3. Develop pilot activities in other regions in Eastern Europe
4. To strengthen the organization.
5. Focus on the technical assistance work
6. To develop further contacts with European institutions.

As every year, the Congress and ALDA assign certificates to local governments, NGOs and individuals who become member of ALDA. Among these organizations was Newport-Kutaisi Association (NKA), LDA Georgia partner. We would like to use the chance and to congratulate them.

- Our collaboration with "Biluts Association", a Spanish organization was cancelled because they could not manage to seek for a partner in Russia and it disabled the proposal to be submitted by the deadline.
- Starting from June till August 2008 we have the intern in our office. Her name is Evelien Klijweg. She is a student at the University of Utrecht College in Netherlands where she aims to acquire a bachelor degree in the Development Studies and Political Science. Her major responsibilities with us include of drafting youth projects and establishing links with international organizations.

2. Plans for the Future

- Preparing activities of training of Peer Educators for June 24-28, 2008.
- Selection of women participants for attending a Women's Academy in Krakow, Poland.
- Working on new projects.

Monthly Report 06/08



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members

From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Executive Director

Subject: June Monthly Report

Date: 4 July 2008

1. Implemented activities:

- In the reporting period the Agency has selected "Active Georgia. Women's Academy" program participants. Just to remind that project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and implemented by "International Initiatives Bureau" (leading organization, Krakow, Poland), "Ertoba"-local NGO and LDA Georgia. The main goal of the project is to enhance women's active participation in the development of local democracy. There were 32 applications submitted and 9 applicants selected for participation in the program. Based on the requirements of project there were representatives of local self-government and NGO sectors selected and below are the names of participants:
 1. Khatuna Tsanova-Head of Kutaisi Youth Department
 2. Ketevan Deisadze-Chief Specialist, Public Relations Unit, Kutaisi Mayor's Office
 3. Teona Zakarashvili-Lawyer of Social Affairs Committee of Kutaisi City Council
 4. Inga Bochoidze-Chief Specialist, Kutaisi City Council
 5. Elene Berekashvili-Head of Imereti Gender Center
 6. Nana Chapidze- Coordinator of Human Rights Center
 7. Thea Nutsubidze-Assistant of Executive Director, Local Democracy Agency Georgia
 8. Lela Kelbakiani-Rector of the Institute of Economy and Law of Kutaisi
 9. Maka Khetsuriani -NGO "Women for Regional Development".

The participants have already received confirmation from Polish side and it is planned to start arranging visa and travel preparation activities. In August, Mr. Slawomir Stolarski, a representative of International Initiatives Bureau will conduct a visit to Kutaisi in terms to meet program participants and to draft a detailed plan of project implementation activities.

- The one of the key activities of LDA Georgia in June was Peer to Peer Training organized by ALDA, LDA Georgia and local self-government. 20 young people participated in the training from Croatia, Serbia, Italy, Northern Ireland, France and Georgia. It was the first international training in the frames of the European Commission program "Youth in Action", hosted by the City of Kutaisi. The key goal of the training was to train "Youth the Right Direction" project participants as youth ambassadors; using non-formal education tools to enhance their different skills and capacities, to learn how to draft a joint project and how to submit it for funding.

The training participants also met with Mr. Nugzar Shamugia, the Mayor of Kutaisi, Mr. David Gordeladze, the Vice-Mayor and Ms. Khatuna Tsanava, the Head of Kutaisi Youth Department. Local self-government held an official reception and all the participants were handed out with gifts as a sign to remember the event. I would like to use a chance and convey my personal gratitude and thank you words on behalf of LDA Georgia and ALDA to Kutaisi local self-government for their active support in organizing the international training.

- In the month of June, LDA Georgia actively collaborated with ALDA and continued working on a new project in the frames of "Non-governmental Actors and Local Self-government" CFP (call for proposals) issued by European Commission delegation in Georgia. The main goal of the project is to raise the level of "active citizenship" in Kutaisi and involve governmental and non-governmental actors and population in it. The deadline for proposal submission is July 15, 2008.

2. Plans for Future

- To work on a proposal (for CFP issued by European Commission).
- To prepare training report.
- To work on new projects.

Monthly Report 07/08



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members

From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Executive Director

Subject: July Monthly Report

Date: 6 August 2008

1. Implemented activities:

- In July Agency mainly was focused on preparation of two proposals in collaboration with ALDA. One of them was "Local coalitions for development actions in Kutaisi", submitted by ALDA to the European Commission within the Call for Proposals N. EuropeAid/126966/L/ACT/GE. Overall objective of the proposal is development of human resources of the local civil society through:
 - capacity building of local civil society for meeting the challenges of the local sustainable development from policy formulation to effective implementation
 - encouraging local/regional/European issue based partnerships for development, with particular focus on: sustainable development, social issues and income generating activities
 - consolidating the interaction between local NSA and LA networks,
 - strengthening the institutional capacity of NSA for creating the NGO development networks in local communities
 - supporting the creation and strengthening of the consultation centres for local business through co-operation with EU partners and exchange of good local practice

The main expected results are:

- improved operational and institutional capacities of local civil society organisations and their networks
- improved effective issue based co-operation and partnerships links at local, regional and Europe-wide levels;
- increased wide awareness and understanding of the role of NSA and LA, and their co-operation partnership for development;
- increased number of trans-national exchanges of good local practice
- enhanced coordination of local actors for effective measures in the field of sustainable development and improved functioning of NGO consultation centres

ALDA is the applicant organization for this proposal. Beside ALDA there is the network of international and local partners involved in the framework of proposal: Asociacion Aragonesa de Entidades Locales –ASAEL (Spain); City of Monfalcone (Italy); Georgian Young Lawyers Association; Association of Young Economists of Georgia; The National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia and Kutaisi City Council as an associate. Details about selection process will be announced in August-September 2008.

Second project prepared in collaboration with ALDA during July was "Microcredit Scheme and Support for Women Entrepreneurship in Agriculture in Imereti Region – Georgia" and was submitted to the Region Veneto by the Applicant organization "Codess Sociale". The project idea is to support Women Entrepreneurship in Agriculture in Imereti Region by providing trainings and small credits for them. In the

partners network for this project following local and international organizations are involved: Provincia Vicenza; Codess Sociale; Association of Local Democracy Agencies; Microfinanza SRL; Commune of Monfalcone; Local Democracy Agency Osijek (Croatia); Local Democracy Agency Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Association Newport-Kutaisi; Local Democracy Agency Georgia; Georgian Young Lawyers' Association; Association of Young Economists of Georgia; Abkhazintercont; Imereti Regional Gender Equality Resource Centre and Youth for Civil Development.

- In July Agency together with International Initiatives Bureau and NGO “Ertoba” has selected "Active Georgia. Women's Academy" program participants. Just to remind that project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and implemented by above mentioned organizations. The main goal of the project is to enhance women's active participation in the development of local democracy. There were 32 applications totally submitted and 20 participants selected, 9 of them are from Kutaisi. Based on the project requirements representatives of local self-government and NGO sector were selected and below are the names of participants:
 - Khatuna Tsanova-Head of Kutaisi Youth Department
 - Ketevan Deisadze-Chief Specialist, Public Relations Unit, Kutaisi Mayor's Office
 - Teona Zakarashvili-Lawyer of Social Affairs Committee of Kutaisi City Council
 - Inga Bochoidze-Chief Specialist, Kutaisi City Council
 - Elene Berekashvili-Head of Imereti Gender Center
 - Nana Chapidze- Coordinator of Human Rights Center
 - Thea Nutsubidze-Assistant of Executive Director, LDA Georgia
 - Lela Kelbakiani-Rector of the Institute of Economy and Law of Kutaisi
 - Maka Khetsuriani -NGO "Women for Regional Development".

The participants have already received confirmation from Polish side and it is planned to start arranging visa and travel preparation activities. In August, Mr. Slawomir Stolarski, a representative of International Initiatives Bureau will conduct a visit to Kutaisi in terms to meet program participants and to draft a detailed plan of project implementation activities.

2. Plans for Future

- To organise the visit of the representative of International Initiatives Bureau in Kutaisi
- To work on technical issues related to the visa and travel to Poland.
- To work on new projects.

Monthly Report 08-09/08



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members

From: I. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Executive Director

Subject: August-September Monthly Report

Date: 1 October, 2008

1. Local situation review

- The recent tragic events that took place in August in Georgia caused situational change as in the country and as in the city of Kutaisi. From the first days of war there were approximately up to 3000 internally displaced persons relocated in Kutaisi from Kodori gorge, Gori and Tskhinvali regions. In spite of many difficulties local authorities together with NGO and business sector and with support of local population managed to organize IDP shelters locally and food supply on a systematic basis. The IDP Coordination Committee was established consisting of members from NGO and state sector and LDA Georgia was actively involved in all activities related to IDPs. With joint recourses it was managed to organize the provision of different type of supplies and donations to IDPs. Some IDP households already got back to their initial place of location but nearly 600 of them still remain in Kutaisi and it expected that they will spend the upcoming winter here.

Nowadays, the major problem is preparation of their shelters to create relevant living conditions for winter period. The premises they are living now are not residential i.e. schools, kindergartens, administrative buildings and internal power, water and sewage supply systems are not ready for the workload they are in now. It is urgent to solve this and other similar problems before cold winter period starts. The local government will need a support from international society and institutions to launch fundraising activities in support of rehabilitation of shelter for internally displaced people. I would like to use the chance and convey my thank you words to all who supported our people in this difficult period.

2. Implemented activities

- As mentioned above, the Agency was actively involved in the activities of local IDP Coordination Committee. To be specific, LDA Georgia has purchased 2000 plastic bags for food distribution activity; For 2 days, the food provision activity was organized by us in 4 different IDP shelters; Our support was provided to the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation of Georgia, West Georgia Department, specifically in food division and distribution activities; Based on the request of IDPs residing in Vartsikhe Collective Center, LDA Georgia has purchased a color TV-set for them; We already distributed toothpaste and toothbrushes donated by Ms. Sonia Fisher (Newport-Kutaisi Association). I would like to thank her for a goodwill and support.

The ALDA got actively involved in the activities serving to support Georgian IDPs. Mr. Per Vinther, ALDA President, sent official letter to Permanent Representation of Georgia to the Council of Europe and to His Excellency, the Ambassador, Mr. Zurab Tchiaberashvili. In the letter he conveyed ALDA's support for Georgia and addressed to LDA members to make an effort to get actively involved in launching a fundraising activity in support of internally displaced people in Georgia. The official launch will take place in Strasbourg on 2nd October 2008 in the building of the Council of Europe, with the participation of Mr. Nugzar Shamugia, the Mayor of Kutaisi who will online participate in the press conference from LDA Georgia's office. It clearly states that

ALDA and LDA Georgia are ready to use all existing resources and actively support those in need.

- As for the other activities. Due to the tensed situation in Georgia, the study tour of "Women's Academy" project participants was postponed. They will visit Poland for November 3-12, 2008.
- Again, the existing situation caused the canceling of youth exchange program in Turkey, in the city of Konya. 5 young people were unable to participate in "Euro-Caucasian Cultural Mixage" exchange program. Unfortunately, the program was not postponed and it was held without Georgian participants.
- With a support of Youth Info Point, Esma Nachkebia, the Youth Ambassador under "Youth the Right Direction project", participated in the "New Models of Youth Collaboration" training program conducted in Lenkoran, Azerbaijan on August 7-15, 2008. Duration of TC was 6 days, including arrival and departure days. Participants were from Germany, Austria, Holland, Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine, Georgia and Azerbaijan, 28 youth workers age between 18 and 35, who were already involved in local and national associations, youth clubs, youth councils and youth initiatives. Her travel costs were covered by Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan and LDA Georgia.
- Again, with a support of Youth Info Point, Vasil Partskhaladze, Deputy Head of Kutaisi Youth Department participated in the conference "European Standards of Youth Policy Planning" that took part on August 21-24, 2008 in Kiev, Ukraine. There were up to 60 participants from the post-Soviet states and Europe. The main goal of the conference was a sharing of European experience and knowledge in how to plan and implement youth policy, how to draft and execute joint projects and its activities, etc.
- Tea Nutsubidze, the Assistant of Executive Director of LDA Georgia, participated in the NGO meeting conducted in Tbilisi on August 26, 2008. Local and International NGOs met with Diego Pinto, Secretary General of European Youth Forum (YFJ). Topic of the Meeting was "Georgia - Russia: Children and Youth Deserve Peace". By his visit to Georgia, Mr. Pinto expressed his moral and physical support to the Georgian youth. He said that on the occasion of tensed political decisions between Georgia and Russia, youth organizations from across Europe deeply deplore the horrors of the full-fledged war taking place in their continent and call on Russian and Georgian leaders to resolve this crisis in a peaceful manner.
- On October 30, 2008 in the city of Monfalcone, Italy, the General Meeting of the Agency members will be held. The agenda of the meeting includes presenting of the report from Executive Director on conducted activities, also LDA Georgia Statute will be officially endorsed and Agency Governing Board elected. As a part of the meeting agenda, another question about IDPs residing in Kutaisi will be discussed. The official invitation letter and agenda for the meeting will be distributed in the next week. I would like to ask the Agency members to provide information for participation in this event.

Monthly Report 10-11/08



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members

From: I. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Executive Director

Subject: October-November Monthly Report

Date: 30 November, 2008

1. Local situation review

After August events, the situation in Kutaisi and in the whole country is comparably calm. The quantity of "New IDPs" has reasonably reduced, however, still there are 180 IDP families residing in shelters. Based on a decision of Kutaisi local self-government, in terms to improve the living conditions of IDPs, there were 3 administrative buildings allocated for them. After relevant rehabilitation activities that will be implemented in these buildings, there will be possibility to accommodate IDP families. With a support of the Government of Georgia, from the central budget there were some resources allocated for this purpose. Nowadays, the urgent need is to supply IDPs with heating and washing systems. The official letter on behalf of the Mayor of Kutaisi was already sent to ALDA and will be sent to LDA Georgia members.

IDP Coordination Board keeps working. It is chaired by UNHCR Kutaisi Office. The Board started its activities since November 2008.

As for the political situation it is still tensed in Georgia. Russian armed forces still control Akhagori region, Kodori gorge and Perevi village. It is rough abolition of Sarkozy-Medvedev six-point ceasefire agreement.

2. Implemented activities

- From October 12-19, 2008, in Budapest, Hungary, in the European Youth Centre, the training course on "Human Rights Education with Children for Ombudsman Offices and Advocacy Organizations" was held. Tamuna Kepuladze, Ombudsman Office representative in Kutaisi, attended it with a support of Local Democracy Agency Georgia and Youth Info-Point (Youth the Right Direction Project). The course brought together 25 participants.

Objective of the course were:

- To introduce COPMASITO (the manual on human rights education with children) as a tool for working on human rights education with children;
- To develop the participants' knowledge and competence in key concepts of human rights education with children;
- To familiarize the participants with the approaches and activities of COMPASITO and how to contribute to the development of a pan-European network of professionals working with children on human rights issues.

Training participants were certified and are accredited to organize trainings on COMPASITO.

- On October 31, 2008 in the City of Monfalcone, Italy, the Third General Meeting of LDA Georgia Members and Governing Board was held. Presentation was made by LDA Georgia Executive Director on the LDA activities implemented so far, future plans and projects. A new edition of LDA Georgia Statute was adopted and new Governing Board elected. More detailed information about General Meeting and Governing Board Meeting is provided in the [Attachments 1 and 2](#).

In the frames of the visit, there were official meetings held with Ms. Silvia Altran, the Vice-Mayor of the City of Monfalcone. The meeting were attended also by Mrs. Sandro Perelli, the representative of Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, Mr. Per Vinther, President, ALDA, Mr. Nugzar Shamugia, the Mayor of the City of Kutaisi, Mr. Akaki Seperteladze, the Deputy Chief of City hall administration, Mr. David Mayer, Newport city council and Newport-Kutaisi Twinning Association, Ms. Nawel Rafik-Elmrini, the Vice-Mayor of the City of Strasbourg and other members of the Agency. The decision was made to start working on Georgian-Italian joint cooperation project, which will be submitted for funding to Friuli-Venezia Giulia region. The representatives of the Cities of Monfalcone and Strasbourg have received a proposal from Mr. Nugzar Shamugia, the Mayor of the City of Kutaisi about twinning of the cities. Also, the suggestion of conducting the Fourth General Meeting of LDA Georgia Members and Governing Board in Kutaisi was adopted as well.

- Rosemary Butler, the Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of Wales visited Local Democracy Agency Georgia on the 12th of November 2008.

The head of LDA Georgia Ioseb Khakhaleishvili introduced to Rosemary Butler the main priorities of the last and the following years. He gave detailed information about current and future projects. Mr. Khakhaleishvili also mentioned about LDA Georgia's participation in different local and international projects. He spoke about the youth training, which took place in July 2008 in Kutaisi. In addition he said that the participants of that training course are and will be actively involved in the "Youth the Right Direction" project. They are obliged to share their experience with local youth and help them to participate in different Youth Exchanges.

The head of LDA Georgia also mentioned about the different issues that are connected with LDA Georgia's work in general.

Rosemary Butler was interested in the following issues and asked about:

- Non-funded projects
- The duties and rights of the members of the board. How they are involved in LDA Georgia's work and decision-making process
- IDP from the South Ossetia and how the LDA Georgia helped these people
- The local and International partners and their involvement in the decision making process

The head of LDA Georgia answered all her questions and gave the detailed explanation concerning each subject.

After the official meeting Rosemary Butler was given a gift from LDA Georgia.

- Local Democracy Agency Georgia was one of the partner organizations of the Contact Making Seminar "Factory of Cultural Managers", held on 4-8-th of November, 2008 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The participants from Lithuania, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Ukraine, Hungary, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, France, Spain, Turkey and Russia took part in this Contact Making Seminar.

The main aim of the project was to create a space for sharing concepts, ideas and strategies on how to involve youth in the process of making events in local organizations successfully. Another important aspect of the project was to establish new contacts between participants in order to set up future partnerships and create a network of partners. LDA Georgia sent 3 participants to Baku

As a result of the seminar the preparation process of the following projects were started:

- a) "Discrimination and Minorities" - will be a Contact Making Seminar where the following countries will participate: France, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Georgia, Lithuania, Estonia. The applicant for this project is French organization "Association A.M.S.E.D."
- b) "Wedding Traditions" - will be a Youth Exchange where the following countries will participate: Estonia, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland. The applicant for this project is Estonia. Georgia is the host country.

c) "Don't burn the bridges" - will be a Youth Exchange where the following countries will participate: France, Moldova, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Poland, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Lithuania. Georgia is the host country. All the participants are looking for the applicant country for this project.

All the projects will be applied under Youth in Action programme call for 1 February 2009.

- From 18 to 23 November 2008 Mr. Per Vinther, President, ALDA, Srdjan Cvijic, Policy Officer EU Affairs and Field Operations, ALDA conducted a fact-finding mission to the South Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia). The purpose of the visit to Georgia was to strengthen the already existing programs undertaken by the LDA Georgia. The goal of the fact finding mission to meet relevant stake holders in Azerbaijan and Armenia and explore the ground with a view of future opening of the Local Democracy Agencies in these countries. In Tbilisi, on 20 November 2008, Mr. Vinther, Mr. Cvijic and Mr. Khakhaleishvili met H.E. Per Eklund, Head of the EU Delegation to Georgia; Mrs. Nino Nakhaidze, Head of division for the Council of Europe, MFA Georgia and Petri Salo, Ambassador of Finland in Charge of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia; Nikoloz Khachirashvili, Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi; David Losaberidze, Program Director, the Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development; Ketevan Tsikhelashvili, Coordinator for Georgia and the South Caucasus Dialogue Project, Friedrich Naumann Foundation; Manana Salukvadze, Founder, CIMS Consulting; Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of the Foundation for Democracy and Development. The purpose of the meetings in particular was to raise awareness in the country about the work of the LDA Kutaisi, and to expand ALDA's network in the country. The visit to Baku and Yerevan served the purpose of preparation of individual country visits to Azerbaijan and Armenia in 2009. The purpose of these visits will be to meet local government representatives in the targeted Armenian and Azerbaijani municipalities where future LDAs could be opened. Preparations of these visits are already under way.

- 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.

- As I have mentioned in my previous monthly report, ALDA participated in grants contest issued by European Commission in Georgia. The submitted proposal successfully passed some selection steps but unfortunately failed on last phase and was not selected for funding. The project will be worked up again and submitted to other local and European donor institutions.
- **At the end of the report I would like to provide you with some good information. Based on the decision of Kutaisi Local Self-government, there were 2 rooms allocated for LDA Georgia in the building of local Youth Department, on the 4th floor. I would like to use a chance and thank to all people who made this decision. Here, I ask for partners to support us in fund-raising for purchasing office furniture and to conduct some rehabilitation works for our new office. Preliminary, we need about EUR 5,000. With our joint efforts, I hope we will solve this problem.**

3. Future plans

- To work on 2008 Annual Report and label for 2009.
- Fund-raising for our new office reconstruction
- To prepare projects.

ATTACHMENT 1

General Meeting Protocol # 3

On October 31, 2008 in the City of Monfalcone, Italy, address: Piazza della Repubblica 8, 34074, Monfalcone (GO), Italy, the Third General Meeting of LDA Georgia Members was held. The meeting was attended by:

1. Per Vinther (ALDA)
2. Antonella Valmorbida (ALDA)
3. Stanka Parac (ALDA)
4. Ioseb Khakhaleishvili (LDA Georgia)
5. David Mayer (Newport city council and Newport Kutaisi Twinning Association)
6. Lucio Gregoretti (city council of Monfalcone)
7. Chiara Valdesolo (city council of Monfalcone)
8. Nawel Rafik-Elmrini (city council of Strasbourg)
9. Nugzar Shamugia (Mayor of Kutaisi)
- 10 Nodar Jikia (Head of GYLA Kutaisi Branch)
11. Sofio Shubladze (Partners Georgia)
12. Lali Unapkoshvili (City of Tbilisi – International Relations Department)
13. Akaki Seperteladze (Deputy Chief of City hall administration)
14. Mariam Tkeshelashvili (Deputy Head of KNIA)
15. Alessandro Perelli (Officer of region Friuli Venezia Giulia)

According to the LDA Georgia Statute, Article 6, the Meeting has a decision-making capability.

LDA Georgia Members General Meeting Agenda:

Issue

1. Welcome address
2. Election of chair and secretary of the General meeting.
3. Presentation of LDAs activities
4. Strategic planning of the LDAs
5. Coffee break
6. Approval of LDA statute,
7. election of LDA Georgia governing board
8. Lunch
9. Discussion on to support refugees living in Kutaisi
10. Definition of future activities of the LDA and involvement of the partners, open discussion
11. Closing of the meeting

1. According to the first issue of the Meeting Agenda, the welcome speeches were given to: Per Vinther, Antonella Valmorbida and participants attending
2. According to the second issue of the Agenda, Mr. David Mayer, was elected as a Chair of the Agency General meeting. Ms. Chiara Valdesolo was elected as a meeting secretary.
3. According to the third issue of the Agenda, Mr. Ioseb Khakhaleishvili, LDA Georgia Executive Director presented a report on LDA Georgia activities.

The voting process was preceded about Report approval.

For -- unanimous

Against ---none

A decision was made and LDA Georgia General Meeting has approved a report.

4. According to the fourth issue of the Agenda, Ms. Antonella Valmorbida, Executive Director of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies made a speech introducing the ALDA and LDAs cooperation activities and objectives.
She briefed the participants about the future activities and the role of partners in the LDA for the success of the operations.

5. According to the sixth issue of the Agenda, which was related to the new edition of LDA Georgia Statute, the speech was made by David Mayer and presented a new version of the LDA Georgia Statute. The voting process was preceded about LDA Georgia Statute approval.

For -- Unanimous

Against ---none

A new edition of LDA Georgia Statute was approved since more that 50% of the participants agreed.

6. According to the seventh issue of the Agenda, based on the LDA Georgia Statute, Article 8, the Governing Board of the Agency is composed by the members of a permanent authority (local self-government representatives of the member cities) and three members (Agency member non-governmental organizations). The permanent members of the Agency are:

1. City of Newport
2. City of Monfalcone
3. City of Strasbourg
4. City of Nantes
5. City of Kutaisi
6. City of Tbilisi

To proceed with other 3 member vacant positions, the following candidates of the Governing Board were named:

- 1.NALAG National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia
- 2.GYLA Georgian Young Lawyers Association (Kutaisi Branch)
- 3.KNIA Kutaisi Newport International Association

The voting was preceded and as members of the Agency Governing Board was elected:

1. NALAG National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia
2. GYLA Georgian Young Lawyers Association (Kutaisi Branch)
3. KNIA Kutaisi Newport International Association

7. According to the ninth issue of the Agenda regarding to a discussion on supporting refugees living in Kutaisi and a decision on that, the speeches were made by Mr. Nugzar Shamugia, who reported about the current situation of IDPs in Kutaisi

The following decision was made: it was recommended that the Executive Director would contact all ALDA and LDA partners inviting them to participate in the fund-raising campaign to support the refugees in Kutaisi and Imereti region

8. According to the tenth issue of the Agenda, the discussion was conducted by those present

The following decision was made: the future priorities of LDA Georgia will be capacity building for local authorities, women and youth empowerment and active citizenship

9. Closing of the Meeting. The meeting was summarized by the Chair person and decisions approved by all participants

David Mayer
The Chair of the General Meeting

Chiara Valdesolo
General Meeting Secretary
Monfalcone, Italy

31/10/2008

ATTACHMENT 2

Governing Board Protocol # 1

According to the LDA Georgia Statute, Article 8, on October 31, 2008 in the City of Monfalcone, Italy, address: Piazza della Repubblica 8, 34074, Monfalcone (GO) Italy, the Agency Governing Board Meeting was held. The Agency members attended meeting:

1. David Mayer (Newport city council)
2. Lucio Gregoretti (city council of Monfalcone)
3. Ioseb Khakhaleishvili (LDA Georgia)
4. Antonella Valmorbida (ALDA)
5. Nawel Rafik-Elmrini (city council of Strasbourg)
6. Nugzar Shamugia (Mayor of Kutaisi)
7. Nodar Jikia (Head of GYLA Kutaisi Branch)
8. Sofio Shubladze (Partners Georgia)
9. Akaki Seperteladze (Deputy Chief of City hall administration)
10. Mariam Tkeshelashvili (Deputy Head of KNIA)

According to the LDA Georgia Statute, Article 9.1, the Chair of the Governing Board is Mr. David Mayer, who is a representative of the lead member of the Agency and a meeting secretary is Ms. Chiara Valdesolo.

Agency Governing Board members unanimously adopted the Meeting Agenda.

Governing Board Meeting Agenda

1. To adopt a candidature of an Executive Director
2. To define a membership fee
3. To participate in establishing a new non-governmental organization according to the LDA Georgia Statute, Article 8.3, sub-article "h".
4. To get an consent from the Chair of the Governing Board about amendments to be proceeded in the Agency foundation documentation by Mr. Ioseb Khakhaleishvili, LDA Georgia Executive Director and approval of a facsimile of David Mayer, the Chair of the Governing Board.

1. According to the first issue of the Agenda to adopt a candidature of an Executive Director for a 1-year period based on the LDA Georgia Statute, Article 8.3, sub-article "c". According to the Article 10.4, Mr. David Mayer has nominated a candidature of Mr. Ioseb Khakhaleishvili.

The voting process was preceded.

For -- unanimous

Against --- none

It was approved that Agency Governing Board has endorsed Mr. Khakhaleishvili to the position of LDA Georgia Executive Director for a one-year period starting from January 2009.

2. According to the second issue of the Agenda, the speech was made by Antonella Valmorbida, who asked Governing Board for an approval to define Agency membership fee according to the LDA Georgia Statute, Article 8.3, sub-article "n".

An endorsement was made and agency membership fee is defined as the following

- For international partner cities: €5,000 annual fee

- For NGOs: €50 annual fee
- For cities of Kutaisi and Tbilisi: in-kind contribution of annual fee accepted until May 2009

3. The third issue of the Meeting Agenda was to hear a speech of Mr. Ioseb Khakhaleishvili, LDA Georgia Executive Director who made a proposition to consider LDA Georgia as a one constitutor/founder of a new non-governmental organization based on LDA Georgia Statute, Article 8, sub-article "h".

LDA Executive Director reported the board regarding the participation of LDA Georgia as one of the founders of a new local NGO, which will work on European funding and project proposals.

A decision was made that based on the LDA Georgia Statute, Article 8, sub-article "h", LDA Georgia is authorized to act as one of the constitutor/founder of a new non-governmental organization. Mr. Khakhaleishvili was authorized to sign foundation documentation on behalf of LDA Georgia.

The governing board voted:

For -- unanimous

Against ---none

4. According to the fourth issue of the Agenda, based on the consent of Mr. David Mayer, (Governing Board Chair) and according to Agency Governing Board members' request, a decision was unanimously adopted by the meeting members. Mr. Ioseb Khakhaleishvili, LDA Georgia Executive Director was instructed to make amendments in LDA Georgia registration/establishing documentation and in the agency profit-register sheet and he was authorized to put a signature instead of the Chair of the Agency Governing Board on the package of amendments.

In addition, based on this Protocol, I, David Mayer, the Chair of the Agency Governing Board, hereby confirm that in business relations I will use the following designated signature.

David Mayer
The Chair of the General Meeting

Chiara Valdesolo
General Meeting Secretary

31/10/2008

Monfalcone, Italy