

NOTE FOR THE RECORD 01/02/07



To: ALDA, LDA Georgia partners
From: J. Khakhaleishvili – LDA Georgia Delegate
Subject: Activity report 01-15/02/2007
Date: 16 February 2007

1. General observation of local situation

Kutaisi still is without a Mayor. There is Niko Kachkachishvili, the Acting Mayor, who temporarily undertakes the responsibilities. This is the 5th Mayor appointment in our town after the Rose Revolution. Truly, each of newly appointed Mayors change their chair, but this doesn't help, probably they should change their facility or a room at least. On the other hand, there is peaceful and accepting situation. The rehabilitation of the Central Garden was not finished yet. Initially, it was planned to complete it in early October 2006.

2. Conducted activities

- As you are informed, starting from February 1st, our office is located in the new address, in the new premises. Precisely specified, this is a building of Charity Humanitarian Center "Abkhazeti" (<http://www.chca.org.ge>), the local NGO and we pay EUR 100 per month (including taxes and payables). You can agree that, it is extremely difficult to manage office arrangements twice in 4 months period but, we did it. Our initial Agreement is for three (3) months. Recently, some days ago, Antonella addressed her letter to Kutaisi and Imereti authorities on allocation of office space. Also, the visit of Antonella and Per is extremely important. It will more strengthen LDA overall position and will serve as a reminder for our newly elected local authorities to perform their duties in a better way.
- Regarding to registration issues: recently, I have informed you about it and I received the reply from David only. I am still waiting for your comments and suggestions. Before Partners Meeting, there is 2 months left.
- The Web page is not fully completed yet, but it does work. Again, please share your comments and remarks on its design and content.
- During my visit in Tbilisi, I have met with the representatives of GYLA and Human Trafficking Defense and Support State Fund about preparation of the Project on Human Trafficking and concerning the issues. We were able to obtain the Statement of the President of Georgia ratified on January 27 and the Activity Plan against Trade in People (Human Trafficking) for 2007-2008. It will greatly help us in our project preparation activities. Besides, we accessed the Report on Trafficking in Georgia, prepared by US State Department, the GYLA Project description and more additional information. We shared / provided with all this to our Austrian partners and we think it will simplify their project-planning thing.

3. Future plans

- Human Trafficking Project preparation activities – ongoing
- Per and Antonella visit planning and preparation activities – ongoing
- Working on a Web page – ongoing
- Documentation preparation for Partners Meeting –ongoing
- Meetings with local authorities about the office and other related issues - ongoing

Monthly Report 01/05/07



To: ALDA, LDA Georgia members
From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Delegate
Subject: Monthly Report 01-15/05/2007
Date: 17 May, 2007

1. Local Situation Review:

In the offices of City Council and Kutaisi Mayor, the optimization process came to the end. 60 % of staff members were resigned from their offices and there is busier and engaged working speed in the building that you can feel. We hope that new staff will do their best to successfully cope with more tasks provoked by optimization process.

Recently, new fountains were put in motion and rehabilitation of Central Garden was finished. It is very beautiful and nice, but unfortunately, Kutaisi historical fountains are already the part of our city history.

The beginning of May was distinguished and marked out with frequent visits to Kutaisi. The Ambassador of Poland, delegations from Velko-Polska District (Poland), Zhitomir District (Ukraine) which is twinning Ukrainian district to Kutaisi, also, with friendly visit, the delegation from the Embassy of Ukraine and the Ambassador himself, visited Kutaisi a while ago. Moreover, at the end, the delegation of Newport-Kutaisi twinning Association, one of the LDA members, conducted their visit. It is also remarkable, that Mr. Donald MacLaren, the Ambassador of Britain joined honored visitors' team. These visits clearly state that Kutaisi is interesting spot and many countries and districts are eager to establish relationships with our town and all these will serve to support local self-government and town itself, to share successful experiences and resolve currently existing problems

2. Implemented Activities:

- After returning from Strasbourg, from the second LDA Partners Meeting, the information about the visit was broadcasted through the local public television. In the programs, dedicated to this visit, there was detailed revision of Strasbourg meeting performed. Local population received information about implemented activities of the Agency and its plans. In addition, with the representatives of local TVs, it was agreed to periodically broadcast LDA activities.
- At the beginning of May, it was one more meeting held with Mr. Niko Kachkachishvili, Kutaisi Mayor and Mr. Kakhaber Nemsitsveridze, Head of majority faction of local City Council. The meeting was resulted with a final decision to supply LDA Georgia with an office space and from June, the Agency will be allocated in the Mayor's Office building. I am using the chance to convey my gratitude to all, who supported us in this regard.
- Now regarding registration process: as I have reported previously, in terms to comply and fulfill the process of registration of the agency's governing board, from each of member we need: **1. A letter addressed to LDA, stating that you agree with the aims and objectives of our organization and agree to become a member of our organization. 2. A letter testified by notary, that delegate is singly empowered to**

sign the agency's governing board registration documentation. In addition, the non-governmental organizations that are members of LDA, should communicate with each other, in terms to agree on which three organizations should be the members of governing board. Already three weeks passed and appropriate email was sent to each LDA member. I have feedback only from Newport and 3 candidate names from Newport-Kutaisi Association: Kutaisi-Newport Ass., GYLA and NALAG). Please, submit your documentation in time in terms to support the progress of Agency business.

- In the reporting period, there were actively processed numbers of meetings held with local self-government representatives on possible projects. I would like to inform you that starting from June, the agency starts implementation of two new projects. One project's idea comes from local self-government and it is about to train two branches of government, municipal units, non-governmental organizations and media in General Administrative Code and its requirements. The project will last 8 months and is guided by invited experts who will conduct 12 trainings. Additionally, in the frames of the project, the printed material will be prepared.

The duration of another project is the same, 8 months and aims to conduct trainings on women's rights. The target audience will be the same but representatives from schools will be added. The printed material will be prepared and project advertisement organized.

In my previous Report, I informed you that it is still valid to conduct 2-day business meeting funded by Georgian Representation in the European Council, dedicated to Human Trafficking issues. The members of the Parliament of Georgia, Heads of Imereti District Municipal Units and representatives of the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Education will take part in this meeting.

- On May 16, 2007, there was the meeting held in LDA Georgia office with delegation of Newport-Kutaisi Association and with Ms. Madonna Megrelishvili, the Head of Kutaisi-Newport Association. The guests received detailed information about Agency activities, about projects that Agency plans to implement. The visitors felt sufficient with the delivered information. In terms to value support of the Newport-Kutaisi Association, the guests were gifted with a book named "Old Tbilisi".
- On May 10, 2007 in the Center for Effective Governance Systems and Territorial Arrangement Reforms (CEGSTAR) Office, the meeting was held with David Chichinadze, the Center Director and with Sopho Petriashvili, the Center Expert on Public Minority Issues. During the meeting it was discussed how to develop future collaboration of two organizations and specifically, implementation of a joint proposal on needs assessment for self-government units throughout Georgia. In spite of the fact that, many of organizations conducting trainings for public servants, there is still lack of common standards for this type of trainings. Besides, it is not clear in which sphere of activity or what type of trainings to organize/hold. It was agreed to introduce the idea to ALDA and after its approval to start project preparatory activities.

The same day the meeting was held in Partners-Georgia Office, which is the LDA member organization. Milena Mitagvaria, the Deputy Director of the above-mentioned organization, chaired the meeting. There was information exchanged between the organizations and considering the activities of Partners-Georgia, the idea of joint project was developed. Specifically, to conduct trainings for representatives of Imereti Region 12 Municipal units on effective public relationship issues. This project will be also reviewed with ALDA and after its approval, project preparatory activities will start.

The same day, I participated in the Official Reception dedicated to Europe Day, which was organized by the European Commission Delegation. The members of State

Government, Parliament of Georgia, representatives of diplomatic bodies and non-governmental organizations, over 250 guests, took part in the reception.

3. Future Plans:

- To organize new office in the building of Mayor's Office
- To complete board registration process
- To agree on details with Council of Europe representatives about workshop, planned to conduct in June.
- To prepare and submit final version on training projects
- On May 25-26, to participate in ALDA General Assembly meeting in Sarajevo.

NOTE FOR THE RECORD 01/02/07



To: ALDA, LDA Georgia partners
From: J. Khakhaleishvili – LDA Georgia Delegate
Subject: Activity report 15-28/02/2007
Date: 01 March 2007

1. General observation of local situation

Kutaisi has a new Mayor. Mr. Niko Kachkachishvili, the former Vice-mayor was elected by Sakrebulo as sixth Mayor since “Rose Revolution”. Hope he will stay on his position longer than previous one. Last week President of Georgia issued order on reduction of local government staff by 70% since April. It is impossible even to imagine how remained 30% can deal with all activities and responsibilities they have. On the other hand, there is peaceful and accepting situation.

2. Conducted activities

During reporting period I actively cooperate with Dorothee Fisher (ALDA Press Officer and Project Manager) to develop “Fighting Human Trafficking in Georgia” project proposal. The project will concentrate on the problem of human trafficking and the role of local authorities and NGOs. We will start with a brief needs assessment (has been partly done already for the project proposal) and then concentrate on 5 thematic workshops dealing with the international recommendations on human trafficking (including the report that the Congress drafted or the CoE Convention on human trafficking), best practice exchange and the protection of victims. This will be followed by an international conference. I think it would be particularly interesting if you could get involved in one of the seminars about the international conventions and/or the international conference. Another idea would be to publish a handbook at the end of the project including translated international conventions. We will distribute the existing CoE promotional material among the participants of the seminars. Project was submitted to the Austrian Development Agency. From local side we got new Mayor’s, GYLA’s and KNIA’s support letters, hope with other ones we assure ADA to fund our project.

- As you are informed Per and Antonella will be on mission in Georgia on 13-15 March. I also worked on preparation of visit schedule. We will have meetings with different international and local organizations in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi. There is the preliminary plan of meetings:

13.03 Tbilisi

09:30 Urban Institute - Mr. William Krause, Chief of Party
11:00 Italian Embassy
12:00 COE - Igor Gaon, Special Representative
14:00 EC
15:30 SIDA - Louise Bermsjö Programme Officer
17:00 NALAG David Melua Executive Director

14.03 Kutaisi

10:30 Governor of Imereti Region, Mayor and Head of Sakrebulo

12:00 GYLA

14:00 KNIA

15.03 Batumi

10:00 Meeting with Mr. Hansen

After meeting we go back to Tbilisi.

- English version of our website is almost done, we only need to complete partners' page including their logos, links to their web-site, info on contact person. Still your comments and suggestions are welcomed, if you have any comments please send it to me and we'll try to foresee it. Georgian version is in the translation process and whole page will be finished during next 10 days.
- I also develop the content of booklet related to the opening of LDA Georgia, design will be done during current week, so for Per and Antonella's visit it will be ready for distribution.

3. Future plans

- Per and Antonella visit planning and preparation activities – ongoing
- Working on a Web page – ongoing
- Working on booklet design and printing
- Documentation preparation for Partners Meeting –ongoing
- Meetings with different organizations during Per and Antonella visit
- Working on re-registration of LDA

NOTE FOR THE RECORD 01/02/07



To: ALDA, LDA Georgia partners
From: J. Khakhaleishvili – LDA Georgia Delegate
Subject: Activity report 15-30/03/2007
Date: 10 April 2007

1. General observation of local situation

Mayor's and Head of City Counsels offices still are in the restructuring process. As I mentioned in previous report reorganizations should be completed till the May. That's why any discussions with local authority on coming projects are stopped; Vice mayor asked me to postponed the discussions in May. Hopefully for the end of May we will have a final decisions on Women's rights and private donor's projects.

2. Conducted activities

- During reporting period I worked on preparation of documents for registration of LDA. All requested documents were presented to the Kutaisi Tax Inspection. Today morning I received the call from Kutaisi Tax Inspection informing that **Local Democracy Agency Georgia is registered. Congratulations, now we officially exist.**
- Final version of LDA Georgia statute was also developed. I would like to use the chance and thank David Mayer for his active support and patience. The document is already circulated and as agreed will be signed in Strasbourg during 2nd partners meeting.
- As you are informed Per and Antonella were on mission in Georgia on 13-15 March. We had 10 meetings with different international and local organizations in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi. Report on mission was already sent.

3. Future plans

- Partners meeting on 16th April 2007
- Preparation of documents for traveling of Georgian delegation to Strasbourg
- Documentation preparation for Partners Meeting
- Preparation of the meeting with local authorities
- Meeting in Tbilisi at CoE office to discuss details on trafficking project

NOTE FOR THE RECORD 01/05/07



To: ALDA, LDA Georgia partners
From: J. Khakhaleishvili – LDA Georgia Delegate
Subject: Activity report 15-30/04/2007
Date: 01 May 2007

1. General observation of local situation

Mayor's and Head of City Counsels offices still are in the restructuring process. The list of possible employees is already identified and it should be approved during current week. Out of 500 employees in Mayor's office about 130 will be stay on their positions. About 70% of employees are will be dismissed. The situation is very stressed and difficult. The local government now is focused on only one issue, how to make the process less painless for themselves and for people.

2. Conducted activities

- As you are aware on 16th of April LDA Georgia second Partners Meeting was held in Strasbourg. Detailed report about meeting will be provided during current week, I just would like to thank partners for their participation and support, we have one new member in our family, it is City of Strasburg, I would like to use the chance and welcome our new member, hope that our cooperation will be effective and successful.
- As I informed you in my previous report, LDA Georgia was officially registered. To adjust the registration documents according to the changes we adopt during partners meeting and to complete the process I still need some documents from your side. All necessary docs are listed in my email sent to all partners on 30th of April. Please provide documents ASAP, and the agency will be officially and fully functional.
- Issue related to the office still is staying unclear. Local government again express its willingness to provide the office for agency, but because of the optimization process was just finished they asked one month to decide the issue, so hopefully since Summer we will have a new and permanent office.
- 18th of April I had a meeting with Mr. Igor Gaon (Special representative of COE Secretary General in Georgia). We discussed issues related to the coming workshop on Trafficking issues, which LDA Georgia will organize in Kutaisi with support of Office of the Special Representative of the Council of Europe Secretary General in Georgia; Council of Europe Information Office in Georgia; Legal Task Force and LDA Georgia. The meeting is planned in June, with participation of Members of Parliament, representatives from local Authorities, Ministries of Interior and Education, State fund on Trafficking issues, totally 30 participants. Workshop will be facilitate by foreign experts and aims familiarize the members of parliament and

local self government with all aspects of the phenomena of human trafficking in order to build their knowledge and capacity concerning combating trafficking in human beings.

- Meeting with local authority to discuss issues related to the different projects still wasn't organised, due to the optimisation process. As the process is already completed, hope meeting will be organised during current week.

3. Future plans

- Development of project for private donor
- Development of activity plan for Women's rights project funded by Lichtenstein
- Preparation of the meeting with local authorities
- Meeting in Tbilisi at CoE office to discuss details on trafficking project
- To complete re-registration process
- Opening bank account.

Monthly Report №06/07



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

From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Executive Director

Subject: Monthly Report 01-30/06/2007

Date: 2 July, 2007

1. Local Situation Review

Unfortunately, I have to start this report with unpleasant information: today, by Constitutional Security Department were arrested representatives of City Mayor Office, City Council and municipal units, 24 people total. They are claimed in plundering and deprecation of state property and exaggeration of their official duties and responsibilities. Particularly, the issue is stated about allocated state budget amount of GEL 600.000 expenditure for roofs rehabilitation activities of multi-storey buildings.

2. Implemented Activities

- On June 12-14, ALDA and "Stability Pact for SE Europe", Thessaloniki office organized three-day seminar in Thessaloniki, Greece within "Youth the Right Direction" project. As I have reported in my previous monthly report, it is three-year project with 11 LDAs involved and LDA Georgia is among them. The proposal aims at enhancing the promotion and visibility of the Youth programme in South Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and Caucasus (Georgia).

The overall objective is to allow young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies, focusing on training of multipliers and on the development of networks and partnerships.

The proposal combines co-operation, training and information aspects, through the implementation of different actions: information seminars, setting-up of specialized info-points, web-site and newsletters, youth ambassadors groups, trainings of peer educators (multipliers), job shadowing, trainings on EVS, itinerant crossing youth fair and the setting-up of 4 different networks of stakeholders working in the field of youth in SEE and in Georgia.

15 participants from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Georgia, Italy and Serbia were greeted by His Excellency Orfano, Greek Minister of Sport and Mr Karakostanoglu, Head of Stability Pact Thessaloniki Office. The participants were trained on project drafting, setting up youth information points, networking and youth in action programme.

Tariel Meskhi, Kutaisi City Council member, Irina Tkeshelashvili, the head of NGO "Youth for Civic Development" and Joseph Khakhaleishvili, LDA Georgia Executive Director participated in the above-mentioned seminar from Kutaisi. I would like to admit that seminar was organized on a high level (in the way that ALDA is usually practicing it) and I should highlight the non-traditional format of seminar and professional and skilful facilitators.

The first step of the project will be to set up information points for youth where they will be able to receive full information about students exchange programs, grant programs,

possibilities for studying abroad and many other activities and possibilities that European institutions implement for young people.

This visit was also broadcasted through local TV. From our side, we would like to ask the Agency members to be actively involved in the project. For running phase there is venue searching activities undertaking for information points. In addition, for complete functioning of the office we need office equipment and furniture. I am confident that with joint efforts we will be able to solve these issues in positive way.

- On June 28-29 in Kutaisi training on "Human Trafficking for Sexual and Labour Exploitation" was organized by the Office of the Special Representative of the Council of Europe Secretary General in Georgia, Council of Europe Information Office in Georgia (IOCE), Legal Task Force (LTF) and Local Democracy Agency-Georgia (LDA). In the training sessions participated the members of Parliament of Georgia and local Self Government, representatives from Ministries of Interior and Education. The goal of the training was to familiarize the members of parliament and local self-government with all aspects of the phenomena of human trafficking in order to build their knowledge and capacity concerning combating trafficking in human beings. The report about this training will be provided later.
- I would like to inform you that starting from today the Agency starts implementation of two new projects. The projects were identified together with local authority. One project is about to train government, municipal units, non-governmental organizations and media in public relations. The project will last 8 months and is guided by invited experts who will conduct 12 trainings. Additionally, in the frames of the project, the printed material will be prepared.
The duration of the second project is same, 8 months and aims to conduct trainings on women's rights. The target audience will be the same but representatives from schools will be added. The printed material will be prepared and project advertisement organized. Iliko Natsvaladze was elected as a coordinator/expert for projects.
- Now regarding registration process: as I have reported previously, in terms to comply and fulfill the process of registration of the agency's governing board, I have received necessary information from 6 members of governing board. We are still in need to receive information from representatives of Newport, Nantes and Strasbourg. Here, I would like to add that non governmental organizations represented in governing boards are Newport-Kutaisi Association, GYLA and NALAG.
- On June 26, I have met with Mr. Pascal L'Huillier, the representative of International Relations Department of Lyons. As you are aware ALDA carries negotiations with Lyons to make them to join LDA Georgia as a member. We used the chance that was related to their visit to Kutaisi and provided them with the information about Agency activities and its future plans. Mr. L'Huillier expressed his interest towards the activities undertaken by the Agency and Association and pointed that after returning back to Lyons he will provide the relevant organizations with the information and the he will consider an issue of membership of Lyons under discussion.

3. Future Plans:

- To continue working on new office search
- Completion of governing board registration
- Presentation of new projects
- Searching of new office for information points

Monthly Report №/07/07



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

From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Delegate

Subject: July Monthly Report

Date: 31 July 2007

1. Local situation review:

It is quiet and tranquil situation in the town. National Unified Entrance Examinations are over and students are waiting for their expected results. They say, the tests used this year are more difficult than a year before, however, everybody expects their results with hope.

Last month city budget was increased by GEL 200.000 and it was conditioned by increasing tax for Gaming Industry business and from privatization of some state property/belongings. Using these funds, City Council funded different type of cultural activities.

This year youth of Georgia were presented by one more gift from President of Georgia. Besides of traditional Patriot Camps and Students Vocational Jobs, there was Excursion Program added. Throughout the country, this program funds a visit of children to Choloqi (Adjara A.R.) in the theme park opened last year.

It is very hot in Kutaisi. The temperature is high and majority of citizens already left the city to escape from the heat.

Last news, United Kingdom has a new HM ambassador in Georgia Mr. Denis Keefe.

2. Implemented Activities

- As I have reported previously, from the month of July the Agency started implementation of two projects. There were meetings organized in the City Council and Mayors Office, also with Educational Resource Centre representatives in order to review the projects and agree on our future activities. Mrs. Marina Tsirekidze and Mr. Merab Meshveliani, the City Council members justified their willingness to organize and ensure the venues for conducting trainings and selecting participants. Mr. Lado Pataridze, the head of Kutaisi Resource Centre also confirmed his participation in the project for newly elected school directors and showed his will to support the project implementation process. The press-release and the part of training materials are ready and now we are in the process of working on the trainings' schedule. The Memorandum is already prepared and it will be signed by project participant parties. Because of the fact that majority of citizens are out of the city, it was decided the official presentation of the project to be held in September.
- As you are aware of, in June 2007, in Kutaisi there was the training held dedicated to a topic of Human Trafficking for Sexual and Labour Exploitation which was organized by the Office of the Special Representative of the Council of Europe Secretary General in

Georgia, the Council of Europe Information Office in Georgia, the Legal Task Force and the Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia). The financial report was already submitted to Council of Europe, Strasbourg Office. (Report on training is attached).

- The Agency continues working on the project "Youth the Right Direction". At this phase the main activity is to set up and organize informational point locally. That was the key subject of discussions at the meetings with Taniel Meskhi (City Council member, who participated in Thessaloniki meeting) and Giorgi Oniani, the Rector of Kutaisi Akaki Tsereteli University. As Mr. Oniani mentioned he is ready to supply space for info-point in the building of Kutaisi Technical University. I am using the chance and saying thanks to Mr. Oniani for his support in this matter. As for furniture and technical equipment that we need for info-point, I have addressed this issue by delivering official letters to different international organizations and embassies. I truly believe this question will be settled positively in the nearest future (see attached the copy of the letter).
- GYLA Kutaisi Office completed its work on the new project, which aims to conduct trainings in Imereti region about women's rights. In this project those students will be involved, who were trained in the frame of the project "Students for Women's Rights" funded by ALDA. It will increase the sustainability of the project and grow the students' skills. In August 2007, the project will be submitted to ALDA.
- At the beginning of July, there was telephone conversation held with Tanya Hannemann, who is City of Strasbourg's representative in the field of relationships with the Agency. She provided me with information about a grant program planned by the Ministry of External Affairs of France in September. The one of the component of the program is to fund international projects. Hence it follows that, there is an idea coming from Strasbourg and Nantes to submit the joint project, which is to be implemented in Imereti Region, or in Kutaisi. Supposedly, the topic will be to conduct trainings in public relation for local self-government. After publishing grant requirements we will start project preparation activities in intensive manner.
- On July 26, in the Hall of Mayor's Office there was a meeting held between Eurasian Foundation and local NGO representatives. The Foundation representatives had shared about information about implemented projects and presented grant contest on "Trainings for Owners of Small Tourist Business" I would like to ask ALDA and Agency members: to search for expert or organization who is involved and occupied in tourism management/business sphere and who will be interested to participate in the project and eager to work in Georgia. Nowadays, in our country we lack for specialists and experts in tourism management field and it is clearly reflected in our tourism business. In other field, which is under requirements of the proposal, it possibly enables us to involve local experts. On the question above I have interacted with Chiara Valdesolo, (Monfalcone representative with Agency relations). Monfalcone has a good experience to manage and implement the projects related to the tourism development. Chiara expressed his interest and readiness to work on this question. Total grant amount is USD 25,000. Proposal submission deadline is the 3rd of September.
- Now regarding registration. The process is still stopped, because we missing information from Nantes about governing board member. Using this opportunity, I would like once again ask for representative from Nantes, to provide with information about their city representative in the Agency governing board.

3. Future Plans

- Ongoing activities to receive new office premises
- Finishing governing board registration process
- Continue info point set up process
- Preparing trainings material and handbook

N.B. Dear agency members, from August 1 to 13, I am on vacation. You can contact Thea Nutsubidze, my assistant on the office phone: +995 331 5 15 51 or contact me on my mobile: +995 99 91 21 91.

Monthly Report № 08/07



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

From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Delegate

Subject: August Monthly Report

Date: 31 August 2007

1. Local situation review:

It is quite calm situation in the town. National Unified Entrance Examinations are over and from 40 000 entrants, only 15 000 of them became students. Town residents are slowly returning back to the town and the town itself gets prepared for traditional cultural events for the month of September.

2. Implemented Activities

- As I have reported in July Monthly Report I was on vacation from August 1-15. After returning back to the office there were “Youth, Music and Caucasus” project preparation activities completed and it was submitted to Open Society Institute Office in Georgia. In the project the Agency has the following partners and supporters: Local Self-Government, State Department of Youth Affairs, European Movement in Armenia, Democratic Reforms Society in Azerbaijan, and Council of Europe Informational Office in Georgia. The project is about to arrange summer point for gathering of 30 young musicians in Vartsikhe patriotic camp in June 2008. I would like to use the chance and convey my thanks to everyone who served to support this project. We expect final answer about project to receive presumably at the end of November.
- On August 20, we have received information from Martial Paris, ALDA Regional Manager about workshop on urban transport development in Plock, Warsaw. The meeting is organized by different international organizations. After carrying on negotiations with them, two participants from Kutaisi will participate in the meeting for September 16-21: Mr. Ando Losaberidze- Head of Financial and Audit Committee, City Council and Mr. Zurab Nikolaishvili – Senior Specialist in local Transport Department. All charges for visit will be covered by Poland side. I am pretty sure that participation in the above-mentioned meeting will serve to develop links and share experience with representatives of leading European countries.
- In the framework of Women’s Rights and Public Relations projects couple of meetings were arranged with the senior staff of local municipal units. There were projects presentations done and presumable schedules for seminars worked out. Also, I had a meeting with Mr. Lado Pataridze, Head of Kutaisi Resource Centre, who expressed his interest towards newly elected school directors’ participation in the project and announced his full support. The first seminars will be conducted in September.
- GYLA Kutaisi Office completed its work on the new project, which aims to conduct trainings in Imereti region about women’s rights. In this project there will be involved those students who received training in the frame of the project “Students for Women’s

Rights” funded by ALDA. It will increase the sustainability of the project and increase students’ skills. Project covers all municipal units in Imereti region and its duration is 12 month. The project was already sent to ALDA and in the nearest future it will be submitted to donor.

- In August the meeting was held with Niko Kachkachishvili, Kutaisi City Mayor. The main topic of the meeting was office space allocation to the Agency. Considering current situation, the decision was made which stipulates that after completing rehabilitation activities on the fourth floor of the City Mayor Office, the Agency will be supplied by one room on the fourth floor. Concerning this issue, the Agency has received official letter signed by George Kurashvili, Head of City Mayor Administration.

3. Future Plans

- Presentation of new projects
- Finishing governing board registration process
- info point set up process
- Meeting arrangement related to Agency establishment one-year anniversary
- Continuation of interaction with the Center for Effective Governance System and Territorial Arrangement Reforms on preparation of joint project.

Monthly Report 09/07



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

From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Delegate

Subject: September Monthly Report

Date: 3 October 2007

1. Local situation review

- On September 27, Mr. Niko Kachkachishvili, the Kutaisi City Mayor made an announcement about his resignation. He was the sixth Mayor of the City who left his position after the Rose Revolution. The vice-mayor Mr. Giga Shushania was appointed to be an Acting City Mayor.
- September 27 is a day when Sokhumi fell. 14 years have passed since the day when Georgian Armed Forces left Sokhumi, the Capital of Abkhazia.

2. Implemented Activities

- On September 8 2007, one year has passed since the Agency was established in Kutaisi. Dedicating to this date, on September 12 in Okros Chardakhi Kings' Residence, the Local Democracy Agency Georgia has organized a meeting presenting the report for its one-year activities and made presentation of three new projects: 1. Exchanges of best practices on women's rights in Georgia; 2. Institutions of local self-government and mass media in people's service - basics of public relations; 3. Youth: the right direction. Almost 50 guests attended the meeting. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the City Council, the Mayor's Office, Educational Resource Centre and the Agency in support of the implementation and participation of the above listed projects. The same day, through the local TV was aired the 30 minutes program with detailed presentation about the Agency and Association on their activities and future plans.
- As I reported in the previous Monthly Report we have received information from Martial Paris, ALDA Regional Manager about a workshop on urban transport development in Plock, Poland. With a support of the Agency, two persons from Kutaisi participated in the meeting: Mr. Ando Losaberidze-Head of Financial and Audit Committee, City Council and Mr. Zurab Nikolaishvili – Senior Specialist at Mayor's Transport Department. As they have mentioned, the workshop was very interesting. The meeting was held with Plock government representatives related to the future relationship of two cities. The visit was broadcasted through the local TV on September 28. This is the third case, when local self-government representatives attend meetings organized abroad with the support of the ALDA and the Agency.
- On September 26 in GYLA Kutaisi Office there was the last imitated trial held in the frames of the "Students for Women's Rights" project. Judges roles were played by the guests themselves. The trial was very interesting – ...judges announced a verdict of.... The invited guests received brochures with a final report of the project. After the imitated trial process, the project participants' award ceremony was held: students received certificates and gifts. The overall project was evaluated positively and the participants wished the continuation of the project and expansion of it in Imereti Region. The above-mentioned event was broadcasted by regional mass media. The final report will be prepared till October 10.

- Now regarding the new projects: considering the current situation in the country, also the Mayor's resignation, caused some drawling of the seminar starting process. New schedule was agreed between all the participant bodies and it will start from October 9.
- On September 27 we had a guest in the Agency. His name is Willie Schumann who, by instruction of ALDA, makes screen shots and plots about LDAs. The aim of his visit was to gather information and collect video material about LDAs. In spite of the fact, that we had only one day to work, we managed to record 6 interviews – 3 in Kutaisi and 3 in Tbilisi, also made locality imprinting of some historical and modern districts of Tbilisi. We expect a final version of the film to be ready by the end of the year.
- During this month, I had a couple of meetings with Mr. Bill Krause, Head of Urban Institute Representation in Georgia (UI), with Mr. Igor Gaon, the Special Representative of the Council of Europe Secretary General in Georgia and Mr. David Melua Director of NALAG. The topic of the first meeting was the UI participation in the "Youth the Right Direction" project. Mr. Krause expressed his sincere interest towards the project and in the case if local self-government participates in the project and supplies the info-point with an office space, the UI is ready to support it by delivering some necessary inventory items and technical equipment.
- Now about the meeting with Mr. Gaon: he was regretful while mentioning that despite the promise he made before, there were some objective type of reasons that caused no delivery of used office equipment and furniture to LDA Georgia. However we have good information to deliver: it is possibility that we will be partners with World Vision in the CoE funded trafficking project. It is still in the review phase and final decisions are to be made at the end of October.
- During meeting with David Melua we agreed on the involvement of LDA Georgia in the implementation of "European Local Democracy Week" in Georgia 15-19 October 2007. Particularly together with Kutaisi City Council we should organize the meeting of local self-government with population and excursion of pupils from local schools to City council building. On 16th we will participate in the official reception in Tbilisi and on 19th may be all participants will meet with President Saakashvili.

3. Future plans

- Implementation of "Womens Rights" and "Public Relations" projects
- Meetings with CoE Tbilisi office and World Vision representatives regarding new project
- Selection of 10 young people, who will receive information about "Youth the Right Direction" and "Youth in Action" programs.
- Starting preparation for 3rd Partners Meeting.
- Meetings with SIDA and British Embassy

Monthly Report # 10/07



To: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)
Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) members
From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Georgia Executive Director
Subject: October Monthly Report
Date: 6 November 2007

1. Local situation review:

- On October 16th Kutaisi City Council elected a new Mayor of Kutaisi, Mr. Nugzar Shamugia, who is the 7th Mayor of the City for the past 3 years. He is from Kutaisi, he worked as a Director of Kutaisi Truck Factory and is known to be a good manager. We hope that he will demonstrate his skills to implement many activities for our city.
- The newly elected Mayor's first working day started with some problems because on the **October 12** there was a big fire in the center of the city and many buildings were burnt. The fire lasted for hours because the local firemen could not manage to extinguish it. Fortunately, nobody was harmed but the loss in local currency is Ten Million (GEL 10,000 000).
- On October 31st, Mikheil Saakashvili, the President of Georgia visited our city. He took part in a Presentation of Kutaisi Center Rehabilitation Project. It concerns local city center rehabilitation and reconstruction activities with Thirty Million GEL (30, 000 000) made available from the State Budget for these purpose. However, the city will need a greater amount because of the rebuilding costs of the burnt buildings. The project is estimated to be completed by Autumn 2008.
- On November 2nd 2007, in Tbilisi, in front of the Parliament of Georgia building, United Opposition parties with a gathered crowd estimated to be 70 000 in total number started a meeting which currently has ongoing repercussions. They have 4 major demands:
 - 1) to have Parliamentary Elections in Spring 2008 instead of Autumn 2008 (based on new amendments the Parliament of Georgia prolonged its status for 8 months);
 - 2) To include representatives of the opposition on the Election Committees;
 - 3) To amend the Election Law
 - 4) To release the prisoners of conscience.

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On 4th November, after 2 days of silence, the President of Georgia commented on the demands of the meeting and highlighted that there were no grounds for panic, the stated demands were unacceptable and he is not going to make any changes or amendments in this regards.

The leaders of the opposition met with Mr. Terry Devis, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe who visited Georgia during this time. They also met with representatives of different diplomatic corps in Georgia. However, the opposition continues and from Monday they plan to hold peaceful actions which will take place outside different state buildings in Tbilisi. We will see how the situation develops, recognizing that Georgia is facing a political crisis.

2. Implemented activities

- The projects on Womens Rights and Public Relations are ongoing. In October we conducted 5 training sessions. At the beginning there were fewer participants attending the training sessions than was initially planned for but after changing the way the sessions were run, the number of attendants increased. They said that after the training they have a different and real understanding about womens rights, violence, trafficking, etc. They are very pleased that they were given the opportunity to attend these sessions.
- On October 15th within the framework of “European Local Democracy Week” (ELDW) and together with local self-government there was a meeting organized between representatives of local authorities (Head of City Council, the Vice-Mayor and City Council members) and non-governmental organizations. The meeting itself was very interesting, there was an exchange of information identifying problems which need more attention and joint attempts to resolve them. Local authorities were officially invited to take part in monthly NGO meetings. They accepted and I think this type of meeting will be held in an organised and formal manner but with no specific future dates being made.
- On the same day school children visited the administration building. They were able to see the offices of the Governor, the Mayor, and the Head of City Council. They received information about the workings and format of different governmental bodies. They were hosted by Amiran Khvadagiani, the Head of City Council. In his office he had an interesting discussion with schoolchildren. This lasted for an hour and Mr. Khvadagiani was asked many interesting questions. At the end of the meeting the schoolchildren seemed to be very happy because they had received much information about activities implemented by local government and the style they work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the local City Council and personally Mr. Khvadagiani for taking part in the European Local Democracy Week. Local TV and media broadcasted this event.
- In October, the Agency worked on preparation for new projects. In the Soros Foundation Georgia Office, under the Organizations Coalition Institutional Development there were applications for new submissions.
 1. The Agency and Kutaisi-Newport Association submitted a joint project which aims to organize English and French Language Learning Courses for 50 state government officials.
 2. We also made a request for office equipment and if successful we can use this equipment for the “Youth - the Right Direction” project. This project will be a continuation of the training courses which we have conducted for local state officials.
- We had a meeting with the Governor of the Region and his Deputy. During the meeting we discussed the proposal about training of regional state officials in public relations, budget and conflict management issues. Maybe we will plan to organize the visit of representatives of district municipalities in Strasbourg, the partner city of the Agency. The State Governor expressed his full support in this which enables us to start preparations together with Strasbourg, which will be responsible for submitting it to the Ministry of External Affaires of France.
- In co-operation with the Center for Effective Governance, System and Territorial Arrangement Reforms, we prepared a joint project that plans to conduct a baseline survey in the country in order to identify the need of local government for training on Human Resorces and the issue of technical problems. Many local and international organizations work with self-government bodies but there is no updated information about what type of assistance they need. That’s why with the initiative of the Center together with the Agency participation the project proposal was prepared and submitted to the American organization National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

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- On October 25th in Tbilisi, at the the Agency’s request a meeting was held in the British Embassy with David Gail, the new political advisor for the Ambassador. I presented information about LDA and ALDA and their activities, also I informed him that Newport City Council in South Wales is the Lead Partner of the Agency. His feedback on the provided information was very positive and he expressed his interest. I presented the “Youth - the Right Direction” project and he mentioned that he will contact the British Council to seek support for this project. At the end of the meeting he said that he will support the LDA and its activities within the possibilities of the Embassy and under its Mandate.

3. Future Plans

- To continue working on the new projects with Strasbourg and GYLA
- To choose the participants for “Youth the Right Direction” Project
- To take part in the LDA Delegates Meeting organized in Priedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina) for November 27-28



Monthly Report # 11/07

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

From: J. Khakhaleishvili, LDA Delegate

Subject: November Monthly Report

Date: 4 December 2007

1. Local situation review

- As I have reported in my October Monthly Report the beginning of November was quite sharp and tensed from political point of view, which was ended by announcement of State of Emergency and appointment of new presidential elections. On November 25 the President Saakashvili has resigned based on provisions in the Constitution and it is the second time when in the course of last four years Nino Burjanadze, the Parliament Chairperson is the Acting President. The State of Emergency was cancelled but "Imedi TV" is still closed. Up to now there are 21 presidential candidates registered and it seems that Georgian population will have a wide range of choice to make for January 5. As for Kutaisi, it is a quite calm situation in the city. The rehabilitation activities have started in the center of the town. Today, in the frames of his election campaign Mikheil Saakashvili, as one of the presidential candidates will visit our city. He will make introduction of his election pledges and the program and also, he will evaluate the ongoing processes in the city.

2. Implemented Activities

- In November the training courses on "Women's Rights" and "Basics of Public Relations" were continued. Just to mention that after appointment of presidential elections the number of attendants was quite decreased. Local self-government members have excuse and explain it as they have big workload and it points out their involvement in the pre-election campaign. My point is that it will be better the course of trainings to continue from the second half of January. It will give us chance to conduct trainings in a complete manner. With all ensuing consequences I propose it to ALDA and to the donor.
- On November 12-18 in Helsingor, Denmark there was training conducted about European Citizenship. The training was organized by EU and through the competitive selection process there were 28 representatives selected from 15 countries, the ones who already have experience in working on youth projects. The training was facilitated by 3 trainers from EU. There was experience sharing and exchange made during the training sessions. The last two days were about joint projects preparation. The Agency prepared a joint project together with Hungarian, Armenian and Estonian participants. The project is about youth exchanges and it aims to conduct a visit of young musicians to Kutaisi. The project will be submitted by "Addetur Foundation", the Hungarian Organization but the project will be implemented and hosted by LDA Georgia. The project submission deadline is February 1, 2008.

- On November 29-30 Thea Nutsubidze, the Assistant of LDA Georgia Executive Director participated in the “Georgian Youth Organizations Forum” organized by European Commission Representation in Georgia, Tbilisi. The 40 representatives from youth organizations took part in this meeting. The first day was named as NGO Market and each representative per organization made presentation about his/her organization. LDA Georgia projects presentation was also made and it attracted participants' most attention and revealed their increased interest towards the agency. On the second day there was “Youth in Action” project discussed in details. There were preliminary discussions made with different NGOs about some coalition projects. It will give us opportunity to prepare more projects of different diversity.
- On November 27-28, in Prijedor, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the LDA Georgia Executive Director participated in the meeting organized by ALDA. During the meeting many interesting issues were discussed about future plans and joint projects of ALDA and LDAs. Mrs. Antonella Valmorbidia, the Executive Director of ALDA marked that, it is important that LDAs must draw their attention to their self-development and as a local NGO to strengthen their role and to work hard to prepare more and more projects with different partner organizations. During the meeting the issue of roles and responsibilities of partner cities was discussed. It is also important as it supports to initiate and prepare new projects locally. The role of partner cities is quite big as they are much more experienced and they possess with relevant resources. During the meeting, one more potential project implementation possibility was pointed out, in particular, it is GYLA’s new proposal about women’s rights with possible partnership of LDA Sisak in Croatia. There will be consultations held in December in terms to reach a final decision.
- In November, the Agency continued its cooperation with Strasbourg and ALDA to draft a new project and to submit it to the Ministry of Foreign Affaires of France. The project will last for one year and it aims to conduct exchange visits of Kutaisi and Strasbourg local self-government representatives in terms to adhere and share European experience and support the development of local democracy in Kutaisi and to get prepared for future partnership activities. The project draft will be completed for December 15 and we will have a final answer for February, next year.
- In November, within the frames of the Organizations Coalition Institutional Development RFA, announced by the Soros Foundation Georgia Office, the Agency and Kutaisi-Newport Association submitted a joint project which aims to organize English and French Language Learning Courses for local self-government officials. The office equipments requested in the proposal, will be also used in the “Youth the Right Direction” Project and for the information points. The project itself will be the logical continuation of the training courses which we conduct for local state officials.

3. Future Plans

- Continue to work with Strasbourg
 - Continue to work with GYLA
 - Continue to work with the Hungarian partner
- To select participants for “Youth the Right Direction” project