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International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES)

Final Project Report

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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**Civic Education Teacher's Training
Seminar in Nukus, Karakalpakstan (in English)**

Civic Education Teacher's Training Seminar in Nukus, Republic of Karakalpakstan.

November 27 – 28, 1999.

Prepared by Marat Bigaliev, IFES/Kazakhstan Project Coordinator

International Foundation for Election Systems in close cooperation with the Ministry of National Education (MNE) of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and NGO "Renaissance" conducted a highly successful CE training teacher's seminar in Nukus on November 27 – 28, 1999. In addition to 34 teachers from every school in Nukus, participants included officials from the MNE, the Institute of Teachers' Professional skills Improvement, City Department of National Education as well as a member from local CE NGO "Aral Dialog" and journalists. The purpose of the training seminar was to introduce teachers and officials with the IFES CE materials, get reaction to the structure of the course and materials, and familiarize them with the kinds of student group exercises. Prior to the seminar all attendees received a package of handouts, which included a CE textbook, anthology and teachers' manual in Russian and Kazakh languages. The Kazakh materials were useful for the Karakalpak speaking schools, because of both languages are very similar. The attendees were allowed to talk not only in Russian, but also in Karakalpak and Uzbek.

Marat Bigaliev, IFES/Kazakhstan Project Coordinator, presented opening remarks, welcomed participants to the seminar and introduced the course outline. He, also, briefly, highlighted the CE curriculum development project in Kazakhstan. Lola Maksudova, IFES Project Coordinator/Uzbekistan, continued the seminar with a discussion of "What is Democracy and How Does it Work?" On the next session all attendees were divided into three groups with the purpose of reviewing different chapters of the textbook, anthology and teachers manual for the discussions session. IFES asked teachers to skip reviewing the topic "October 1999 elections" and some themes have been developed from the manual and related to the Kazakhstani electoral system. After the break, there were presentations made by individual groups analyzing course materials. Among the pluses of the materials, there were use value and timeliness of the themes, enough facts and examples from the worldwide information as well as enough interactive methods and practical exercises from the manual. There were also some negative opinions among which "the style and lay out of the textbook and readings that the textbook is more preferable for the institute or university level". This session will help IFES to continue working on additions to the current textbook and teachers manual that has been presented first time to the educators. The first day was closed with an explanation of the next day's program and election simulation exercise.

The second day was devoted for the election topics and for introducing teachers with the kinds of student group exercises and students mock elections. Marat Bigaliev began the second day with an introduction to the election systems. He introduced the majority, the proportional and the mixed election systems using practical examples and facts.

The following topics “Introduction of Elements of a Campaign”, and “Role of parties, including message, connecting with voters, distribute and discuss polling date” were covered next by Mr. Svetlana Eselbaeva, Director of the Center for Support of Democracy, which is the lead IFES’ NGO in Kazakhstan. In addition to that, Svetlana Eselbaeva provided the audience with the information on role of NGOs, press and voters on elections.

Prior to the next breakout group session, Marat Bigaliev explained a program of the student excesses and provided the attendees with the polling date information to be used by each groups. The rest day’s activities consisted of each group’s developed party themes, message, platform and other election techniques for targeting voters. There were three parties: “Green Party”, “Farmers for Progress” and “Women’s’ Party”. In addition to the CE materials, all attendees have been used the ACE “Voter Education” book in Russian, which has been distributing on the second day. The exercises allowed teachers to learn and use in practice a variety of methods, techniques and forms of how to work with students and conduct mock political party building and elections. There were some interesting minutes, when teachers used national and cultural folklore in local languages while the presentations. At the conclusion of the seminar, IFES team highlighted the pluses and minuses of each party’s presentation and discussed lessons leaned during the sample exercise and how to methodologically approach student group role-playing as mandated in the course outline.

All participants expressed their thankfulness and great gratitude for the work of IFES team. The seminar was closed with the presentation to each participant of a certificate of achievement.

According to the evaluation results, 68% of attendees answered as “very good” with respect to the form of the seminar, 31% - satisfied and 0,8% - unsatisfied. 71% of respondents answered “Very good” with respect to the materials and theory; and 29% were satisfied. Needs to be mentioned that people in Nukus do not have enough informational dates and the IFES materials are very useful.

The results of the evaluation forms, pictures and videocassettes as well as presentation materials in English version will be forwarded to IFES/DC by the regular DHL.

One highlight of the seminar were several meetings with Mr. Igilik Kosmagambetov, the Deputy Head of the Institute of Teachers’ Professional skills Improvement, Mrs. Khalima Dzhaksylykova, the specialist from the Ministry of National Education and Mrs. Gulnara Dosymova, NGO “Renaissance”, where IFES team had an opportunity to discuss IFES materials and the possibility of joint efforts on CE sphere.

The key person from the MNO to work with IFES is Igilik Kosmagambetov, who is the former Minister of Ministry of National Education of Karakalpakstan. At the same time, Igilik Kosmagambetov is the Acting Director of the “Progress for Education” Foundation

under the Ministry of National Education. The Foundation is dealing with the new concepts in education and supports talented students. He has a experience of the translation the main course "Human and Society" from Russian into Karakalpak.

Igilik Kosmagambetov has a great interest on IFES pilot course and expressed a gratitude to IFES on behalf of the Ministry. Unfortunately, the current Minister Mr. Sultanov was not able to attend the event due to travelling. As Igilik Kosmagambetov mentioned that they would like to work further with IFES on adding local dates and adapting materials for Uzbekistan, translation them into Karakalpak language and introducing the course as pilot supplementary course in each secondary school in Nukus.

Taking into consideration the forthcoming parliamentary elections in December, 1999 and the presidential election on January 2000 in Uzbekistan, and also, the youth apathy on election participation, Igilik Kosmagambetov is going to work with teachers to conduct the mock student elections among schools in Nukus.