



## E-Bulletin

Washington, DC

Winter 2006

[www.eurasia.org](http://www.eurasia.org)

Contents:

1. South Caucasus
2. Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova
3. Central Asia
4. Russia

### 1. South Caucasus

#### Jubilation! Localization Strategy Unveiled Regional

The Eurasia Foundation (EF) celebrated the tenth anniversary of its programs in the South Caucasus in early December. Signatory events were held in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. During the jubilee, EF's strategy for localization in the region was announced: local foundations will be created in each country, linked in a cross-border network of domestic grant-making and program-management institutions. Photo > EF Executive VP Horton Beebe-Center (right) with Director Karen Avetyan of the Armenian [GIND](#) printing house, a financially self-sustainable institution and former EF grantee. [More](#)



#### The Power of Youth

Azerbaijan—Young people aged 15-24 have been selected from five cities to launch a “Youth Bank,” which will be managed by youth-led grant-making committees. The young adults will identify development projects, allocate and manage resources and monitor the progress of their individual projects. In many respects, the initiative is a scaled-down version of EF's own grant-making cycle. With funding from the U.K.'s Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the project is based on a model first developed by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. For more information please contact [Marguerite Baker](#), EF-Azerbaijan associate country director.

***"Democracy cannot be imported from abroad or imposed from above and must be built at home, from the ground up."***

--U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan Reno Harnish, Khazar University, December 2005. [More](#)

#### Monitoring the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline

Georgia—Sixteen Georgian NGOs are monitoring the Georgian side of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. The monitors will continually assess the impact of the pipeline on social welfare and on the environment. The program is in its second phase and is part of the Pipeline Monitoring and Dialogue Initiative run by EF with financing pledged from the International Finance Corporation, United Nations Development Program and EF. David Glendening, BP foreign relations manager, said that the recommendations made by the organizations would be taken into consideration. [More](#). Reports can be downloaded from the [EF Georgia Web site](#).

**Update**—Long-time former EF civil society program officer, Anna Zhvania, has been appointed Special Advisor to the President of Georgia for Civil Integration, a newly created office in the president's administration.

## **A Better Business Environment**

Armenia—Three business support centers in the Tavush Region are providing institutional capacity building services to small and medium sized businesses. EF grantees are providing high-speed Internet access to local businesses, developing the area's first Yellow Pages and training businesses in accounting, financial management and business plan development. A key aspect of the project is facilitating access to loans from local banks. Please contact [Alisa Alaverdyan](#), EF-Armenia communications officer, for more information.

### **"EURASIA FINANCING NEW IDEAS"**

--[A1Plus Armenia News Agency](#)

**Caucasus Research Resource Centers**—The Carnegie Corporation of New York provided \$2,000,000 for a two-year renewal of its grant for the [Caucasus Research Resource Centers](#), a program managed by the Eurasia Foundation.

---

## **2. Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova**

### **Eurasia Foundation Hosts Secretariat of Anti-Corruption Alliance**

Moldova—On January 10, along with eight other NGOs, EF-Moldova founded the Alliance on Anti-Corruption, an independent body that will advise the government on anti-corruption issues. EF was tapped to host the Secretariat of the Alliance, with EF Program Officer [Veaceslav Palade](#) serving as secretary. In 2003-04, EF and Transparency International designed and implemented major anti-corruption initiatives and created anti-corruption watchdogs.

### **Eurasia and Local Government Join Forces to Solve Socio-Economic Problems**

Ukraine—EF and the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council launched a joint project to develop the region's economy. This is one of the first such initiatives jointly funded by a local government. Topics for projects were identified through an inclusive strategic planning process. "At Eurasia, we believe that working closely with local governments is one of the best ways to forward economic stability and opportunity," said Olexiy Haran, regional VP. Contact EF Communications Officer [Sarah Jewett](#) for more information.

### **EF Regional VP Haran Discusses Reform and Setback in Ukraine**

Washington, DC—Vice President Olexiy Haran discussed the status of Ukraine one year after the Orange Revolution. He addressed lawmakers at the U.S. Capitol and answered questions at Washington's National Press Club. The events were part of a series that took place in Washington, Kyiv and Warsaw, with co-funding by the Polish-American-Ukrainian Foundation and Freedom House. [More](#)

***"It is important that Ukraine be a bridge between an enlarging European Union, which it wants to join, and the post-Soviet space."***

--EF Regional VP Haran, National Press Club, Washington, DC, December 2005.

### **European Union: Read the Fine Print**

Ukraine—A new, comprehensive database of information on European integration was recently unveiled in Kyiv. The database is the first Ukrainian-language resource of its kind and contains legal, policy and business-related information about the EU, EU member states and EU candidacy. The database is available at: <http://eu-directory.ea-ua.info/>.

---

## **3. Central Asia**

### **Analysis: Kazakhstan Parliamentary Elections 2005**

Astana, Kazakhstan—EF Board Chair Sarah Carey and EF Trustees Frederick Starr and Daniel Witt were accredited international observers of the December 2005 parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan. Starr is also Chair of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute of Johns Hopkins University, and Witt is president of the International Tax and Investment Center. Despite irregularities, the delegates said the process was "a genuine competition." Click [here](#) for coverage by Kazinform.

***"The West must embrace countries making good faith efforts to hold free and fair elections, work with them patiently and tenaciously, and do so in a spirit of modesty and good will."***

--Frederick Starr and Daniel Witt, Wall Street Journal, December 2005.

## Eurasia and Microsoft Join Forces to Protect Copyright Holders

Uzbekistan—The Eurasia Foundation and Microsoft Corporation joined forces several months ago on a project to strengthen intellectual property protection in Uzbekistan. Working with the Association of International Law and the government of Uzbekistan, projects combat piracy and copyright infringement and improve legislative and administrative protection of intellectual property. "We want to help the copyright holders learn about their rights," said Dias Shukanov, business development manager at Microsoft Kazakhstan LLP. [More](#)

## Tajik Press Calls on Eurasia Foundation to Alleviate Migration Problems

Tajikistan—Writing about Russia's need for labor migrants, the Tajik press cited innovative New Eurasia Foundation programs that reduce migration problems in Russia and the region by providing comprehensive information, reference, legal and medical assistance to worker-migrants. The first stage of the program will be implemented in the near future in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. For more information, please contact [Natalie Martirosian](#), regional communications coordinator.

---

## 4. Russia

### [The New Eurasia Foundation](#)

### Peter the Great 'Salutes' Russian Social Investment

St. Petersburg was recently host to a major conference on social investment in Russia. Summarizing the event, EF Program Officer Irina Efremova-Garth said, "The speakers, including State Duma Deputy Oksana Dmitrieva and representatives from RusAI, SUAL, ASI and others, paid credit to the joint efforts of EF, FNE and the Hewlett Foundation to promote corporate social responsibility in this country. It seems that our systematic efforts and integrated approach contributed a great deal in advancing social and charitable programs designed and implemented by Russian companies." [More](#)

### Student Loans

Ditchley Park, U.K.—The introduction and development of student loan systems is a pressing issue in Russia and other CIS countries. In 1995, for example, 15 percent of Russian households paid for higher education. By 2004, the number had jumped to 60 percent. Over January 27-29, 2006, with co-organization from EF, participants from three continents convened in England to brainstorm and formulate durable ways for CIS students to finance their education. Participants introduced student loan programs currently used in other countries with proven effectiveness. [More](#)

### Vladivostok Becomes First Affiliate of the New Eurasia Foundation

The EF program in the Russia Far East is now officially part of the New Eurasia Foundation. VIP guests and local TV stations attended the launch events. For details of the launch and the Foundation's initiatives in the region, please contact [Irina Lindberg](#), director of the Far East Office. Photo > Irina Lindberg, director of the Far East office, talks with Korean Consul Dr. Oh Sung-Hwan at the Vladivostok launch ceremony. [More](#)



---

## From the President

"Wanted: A New Delivery Mechanism for International Aid" an opinion/commentary by Eurasia Foundation President Charles William Maynes (Philanthropy News Digest, 01-18-06). Click [here](#) to view the article

---

Thank you for forwarding this e-bulletin to your friends and colleagues. If you wish to send us your comments or unsubscribe, please send a message to [ebulletin@eurasia.org](mailto:ebulletin@eurasia.org). The Eurasia Foundation is a privately managed non-profit organization supported by the U.S. government and other public and private donors. Since 1992, the Eurasia Foundation has invested nearly \$275 million through more than 7,700 grants and technical assistance projects in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. This e-bulletin is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of the Eurasia Foundation and do not necessarily reflect the views of [USAID](#) or the United States Government.

