

South Caucasus

August 2005

CONTENTS

[EF Armenia](#)

[NGOs to Develop Methods for Alternative Dispute Resolution Competition Announced to Support Inter-Municipal Cooperation](#)
[New Foundation Supports Community-Based Organizations in Shirak](#)

[EF Azerbaijan](#)

[Monitoring of Elections-Related Media Coverage](#)
[EF Azerbaijan Launches Rural Green Tourism Initiative](#)
[Crafts Information Resource Center Opens in Baku](#)

[EF Georgia](#)

[Open School Network Workshop](#)
[Pipeline Monitoring and Dialogue Initiative Updates](#)
[Winning Contracts Signed in Tourism Logo, Film and Map Competitions](#)

[South Caucasus Cooperation Program](#)

[South Caucasus Film Commission Web Site Launched](#)
[Art Caucasus 2005](#)

[Caucasus Research Resource Centers](#)

[Research Presentation: The Role of Ethics in Economic Behavior](#)
[Training on Application of Econometric Models in E-Views](#)

EF Armenia

NGOS TO DEVELOP METHODS FOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In July, EF Armenia awarded approximately \$70,000 to three local organizations for the advancement of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms in Armenia. Professional ADR mechanisms will provide businesses with a range of arbitration services, accelerating the conflict resolution process for businesses and easing the caseload of the country's fledgling court system. For more information, please contact EF Armenia office at eurasia@eurasia.am or visit our Web site at www.eurasia.am.

[◀Back to Top](#)

COMPETITION ANNOUNCED TO IMPROVE INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

In July, EF Armenia announced a competition for improving inter-municipal networks and cooperation. The competition aims to provide more efficient delivery of public services through combined efforts, resources and experience. For the full announcement and related documents, please contact the EF Armenia office at eurasia@eurasia.am or visit the EF Armenia website: www.eurasia.am.

[◀Back to Top](#)

NEW FOUNDATION SUPPORTS COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN SHIRAK

In July, EF Armenia grantee Meghvik Children and Youth Education Center NGO announced a new foundation, established through a grant from EF. The new foundation will support community-based organizations in the Shirak region. The foundation will allocate funds to support a variety of community projects in Shirak. For more information, please contact Yulia Antonyan: yulia@eurasia.am.

[◀Back to Top](#)

EF Azerbaijan

MONITORING OF ELECTIONS-RELATED MEDIA COVERAGE

With funding from EF Azerbaijan, the Nadjaf Nadjafov Fund is conducting a media monitoring project that aims to support free and fair media coverage of the November parliamentary elections. The Nadjaf Nadjafov Fund will conduct independent monitoring of election coverage in television, radio and print media prior to and following the elections. The project includes daily analysis of elections-related print, television and radio media coverage throughout Azerbaijan. For more information, contact Kazim Guliyev: kazim@efazerbaijan.org.

[◀Back to Top](#)

EF AZERBAIJAN LAUNCHES RURAL GREEN TOURISM INITIATIVE

In July, EF Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Tourism launched a new program to foster rural micro-enterprise development in the regions of Azerbaijan with a focus on developing rural green tourism services. Two

awards totalling \$50,000 were made to EF's local partners, AgroMeslehet and Azerbaijan Business Development Agency (ABD) to support activities within the program. Rural green tourism provides alternative business opportunities to rural communities and has the potential to lead to new jobs and economic diversification. The current initiative follows a pilot program completed earlier this year in the Lenkoran region. For more information, please contact Shamil Gadirov: shamil@efazerbaijan.org.

[◀Back to Top](#)

CRAFTS INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER OPENS IN BAKU

The Igbal Foundation recently established a crafts information center in Baku, which provides access to markets for Azerbaijani decorative and applied art handicrafts. In addition to offering information for tourists and consumers, the center provides legal and business consultations to craftmakers interested in marketing their work. For more information, contact Shamil Gadirov: shamil@efazerbaijan.org.

[◀Back to Top](#)

EF Georgia

OPEN SCHOOL NETWORK WORKSHOP

On June 26, EF Georgia grantee Open School Network, an organization committed to creating strong networks of independent secondary schools in Georgia, held a meeting to develop a participatory management body for Georgia's secondary schools. Beginning with only seven schools last year, at least 40 schools attended the meeting hoping to join the network. For more information on the program, contact zaal@eurasia.org.ge.

[◀Back to Top](#)

PIPELINE MONITORING AND DIALOGUE INITIATIVE UPDATES

In July, the Pipeline Monitoring and Dialogue Initiative presented its preliminary findings to BP. In preparation for the second phase of PMDI, which will launch either in September or October, a series of interest group trainings will be held in mid-August. PMDI is funded jointly by BP, UNDP, IFC and EF. The program is run by EF Georgia and BP and includes monitoring of the SC and BTC pipelines. For more information, see the EF Georgia Web site at www.eurasia.org.ge or contact Gia Bakradze: gia@eurasia.org.ge.

[◀Back to Top](#)

WINNING CONTRACTS SIGNED IN TOURISM LOGO, FILM AND MAP COMPETITIONS

This week EF Georgia signed contracts with the winners of three competitions held this year as a part of EF's Branding Georgia program, carried out in partnership with the State Department of Tourism and Resorts. Winners were awarded contracts to produce a film promoting tourism in Georgia, a logo for Georgia and a tourist map of the country. All of the materials will be completed by September. EF Georgia is currently holding a tender to conduct background research for a Tbilisi travel information center. For more information, contact Ani Jobava: ani@eurasia.org.ge.

[◀Back to Top](#)

South Caucasus Cooperation Program

SOUTH CAUCASUS FILM COMMISSION WEB SITE LAUNCHED

The South Caucasus Audio-Visual Network recently published a guide and a Web site that aim to attract investors interested in producing films in the South Caucasus. Part of an SCCP-funded project, the guide and Web site include a database of film locations and production services available in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia as well as general information about each of the three countries. For more information, see the Caucasus Film Commission Web site at www.cfc.org.ge or contact Lela Ksovreli at: lela@eurasia.org.ge.

[◀Back to Top](#)

ART CAUCASUS 2005

This month, SCCP awarded three grants to support "Art Caucasus 2005," a regional art exhibition that will be held in October in Tbilisi. The first annual South Caucasus Art Expo, supported by SCCP among a number of other donors in 2004, was highly successful. Fifty-four galleries and art centers representing nearly 600 artists presented more than 1,300 works of art. Nearly 16,000 visitors attended the event and 142 items (valued at over \$10,000) were sold. For more information, please visit the Art Caucasus 2004 official Web site at www.artcaucasus.org or contact Lela Ksovreli at:

lela@eurasia.org.ge

[◀Back to Top](#)

Caucasus Research Resource Centers

RESEARCH PRESENTATION: ROLE OF ETHICS IN ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR

On August 3, CRRC hosted a presentation, "The Role of Ethics in the Economic Behavior of Azerbaijani Businessmen," given by Fuad Aliyev, a researcher from the Azerbaijani Ministry of Economic Development. Mr. Aliyev's research was financed through a CRRC fellowship earlier this year. For more information, please contact Samir Murshudov at samir@crcc.az.

[◀Back to Top](#)

TRAINING ON APPLICATION OF ECONOMETRIC MODELS IN E-VIEWS

From July 25 to August 5, CRRC-Armenia hosted a training on the Application of Econometric Models in E-Views. The training was conducted by Hayk Barseghyan, an MA student in international economics at Suffolk University. The training covered methods of building and analyzing econometric models and the use of E-Views in this process. For more information, please visit the CRRC Web site at www.crcc.am.

[◀Back to Top](#)

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