

The European Union's Phare and Tacis Democracy Programme

Compendium of Ad-hoc Projects 1993-1997



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Foreword

This compendium of projects financed under the Ad-hoc project facility of the Phare and Tacis Democracy Programme presents an important strand of the European Union's support for human rights and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe, the New Independent States and Mongolia. It completes the trio of publications on the projects supported by the Democracy Programme; previous compendia have covered the micro-projects and NGO projects.

The Phare and Tacis Democracy Programme aims to promote the use of democratic principles and procedures in different spheres of society such as Parliament, Government, administration, the media and professional groups and associations, in particular through access to training and technical assistance. Launched by the European Union in 1992, the Programme has made a significant impact on the development of democracy and the diffusion of democratic principles in the countries concerned.

The Phare and Tacis Democracy Programme initially financed NGO projects selected through a call for proposals and micro-projects chosen and supervised by Delegations of the European Commission. Realising that these two instruments missed out key fields of support in terms of its overall strategy for assisting the transition process, the Commission introduced a third strand to the Democracy Programme.

Ad-hoc projects have been initiated principally by the European Commission, where the subject matter, such as electoral process, required a focused and timely response. Particularly urgent needs, thrown up by rapidly changing political or human rights situations, have also been addressed through this approach.

1993-97 was a key period for democratisation. The projects in this compendium contributed in a real way to improving the quality of the transition and thus to the building of societies which carry the best guarantee of peace and prosperity in Europe. Now the Commission is, with support from the European Parliament in particular, re-orienting its operations in the field of democratisation and human rights to achieve improved coherence in its strategy and standardised management of the different budget lines for human rights and democratisation.

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Introduction

The Phare and Tacis Democracy Programme was launched by the European Union in 1992 to help promote democratic societies in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the New Independent States and Mongolia.

The Phare programme covers the countries of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The Tacis programme covers Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Phare and Tacis are the names of the European Union's initiatives which support the development of harmonious and prosperous economic and political links between the European Union and the above partner countries, through the provision of financial support and grants to support the process of transformation to market economies and democratic societies.

The Democracy Programme forms part of the European Democracy Initiative of the European Parliament. Its general objective is to promote the concept of democratic society governed by the rule of law in the Phare and Tacis countries. In particular it aims to support:

- increased knowledge of democratic practices at local and national levels,
- the work of non-governmental organisations which promote pluralist democratic societies,
- the transfer of specific expertise and technical skills concerning democracy and the rule of law to professional groups and associations in these countries.

To achieve its objectives, the Phare and Tacis Democracy Programme provided three types of support during the period 1993-97:

1. **Macro projects**, which involve West-East partnerships between non-governmental and non-profit making bodies. They can receive a financial contribution from the European Commission of 80% of their total budgets, to a maximum of 200,000 ECU.

2. **Micro projects** are small projects managed through the European Commission Delegations. They aim to promote local action and management experience by small groups and organisation. Project promoters must be based in one of the Phare or Tacis countries. The budget of these projects varies between 3,000 and 10,000 ECU.

3. **Ad-hoc projects**. This type of project was initiated in 1993 for Tacis and in 1994 for Phare countries. Projects were proposed by the European Commission in response to the perceived political requirements or to the evolving human rights and civil society situation in the region and to complement the activities undertaken by the macro- and micro-projects.

Ad-hoc projects may be horizontal, covering several countries, or may concern unforeseen needs where a prompt response is required, such as in the field of support for a fair electoral process, independent and pluralistic media or issues relating to aspects of human rights, such as minority rights. The programme may cover up to 100% of total project costs.

Contractors are selected by the Commission from experienced public bodies, international organisations and non-governmental organisations working in the fields of human rights, democratic institution building and pluralism.

This Compendium presents brief details of the Tacis and Phare Ad-hoc projects financed since 1993. Some projects are ongoing and final reports are not available for all the projects listed.

Given the different needs of the countries and regions concerned, the objectives and spheres of activity of the Tacis Ad-hoc and Phare Ad-hoc projects are not identical, and they are therefore presented separately in the Compendium. A short introduction is given before each section.

Tacis Ad-hoc projects

The Tacis Ad-hoc facility provides the European Commission with an instrument for its foreign relations in the field of strengthening a more plural society in the New Independent States. Through the Ad-hoc projects, the European Commission co-operates with authorities at central and local levels and intervenes in areas which reflect the priorities of the European institutions and the international or regional organisations involved in the relevant sector.

The support is often urgent, in response to issues related to the political situation in the country or countries concerned. Initiatives which are considered to be important in enhancing the democratic process in the region are mainly in the fields of electoral process, freedom of the media and support for democratic institutions. The technical support unit for the Tacis Democracy Programme in Moscow is involved in the identification of many Ad-hoc proposals.

A number of Ad-hoc projects, mainly concerning democracy and legal reform, are carried out within the framework of a co-operation agreement between the European Union and the Council of Europe. A further series of projects, involving monitoring of the media coverage of elections in the New Independent States, has been managed by the European Institute for the Media. Other issues addressed by the Tacis Ad-hoc projects include legal reform and law institutions, independence of the media, civic and human rights education and election monitoring.

Since its launch in 1993, the Tacis Ad-hoc facility has provided support totalling nearly 11.7 MECU.

A breakdown of the Tacis Ad-hoc projects by principal theme and country is given in the following table (note: some projects are covered by more than one contract):

	Parliamentary practice	Law & reform	Media & journalism	Civic & human rights education	Election media monitoring	Electoral process	Total
Armenia	2				1		3
Azerbaijan					1		1
Belarus	1		1		2		4
Georgia					1	1	2
Kazakhstan							
Kyrgyzstan							
Moldova		1			1		2
Mongolia							
Russian Federation	1	2	1	3	2	5	14
Tajikistan							
Turkmenistan							
Ukraine	1	1			1	1	4
Uzbekistan		2					2
CIS					1		1
Total N° of projects	5	6	2	3	10	7	33

Parliamentary Practice

Pericles - training members of the Ukrainian parliament

Title: Ukrainian Parliamentary Training Project
- the Pericles Programme

Budget years: 1993, 1994 & 1995

Service contracts: WW.93. 05/08. 01/B007 & 95-5084

Budget: ECU 295,098 & ECU 949,340

Contractor: Europresse
Avenue Pierre Ier de Serbie, 16
F-75116 Paris

Tel: +33 1 47 20 62 81

Fax: +33 1 47 23 57 17

Beneficiary country: Ukraine



Benefiting from two substantial grants by the Ad-hoc facility, the Pericles Programme has provided Ukrainian members of parliament with practical experience of parliamentary life in a democracy. Launched as a pilot action by the Paris-based organisation Europresse in late 1994, the programme initially organised a series of nine-day training sessions at the Assemblée Nationale in Paris for 30 newly-elected members of the Ukrainian parliament. Each session was targeted at a particular committee of the Ukrainian parliament: budgets, finance and economic policy. Expert discussions and meetings at relevant institutions were organised. The most successful components were the face-to-face meetings between MPs from the two countries and the opportunities to see at close-hand how Committees of the French parliament and the Banque de France examine issues such as currency management, economic crime and privatisation, of key importance to Ukraine's development.

Following this successful pilot action, a more substantial follow-up programme was organised, aiming to give a critical mass of Ukrainian MPs practical experience in parliamentary practice. In order to broaden the scope of the experiences, Europresse teamed up with the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft in Germany, the Hansard Society in the UK and the Royal Institute of International Relations in Belgium to arrange a series of 17 eight-day training sessions in four countries. These took place throughout 1996: six were held in Paris, three in Brussels, and four each in Bonn and London.

The Pericles programme has contributed to the strengthening of the multi-party system in the Ukraine, particularly through the debates within the groups during their training visits. One-third of the Ukrainian parliament - comprising 17 of its 24 committees - now has direct experience of how members of Western European parliaments handle the task of law-making, and have taken home a new idea of what their profession means.

Young Russian MPs learn about democracy

Title: Training Young Parliamentarians for Democracy / Developing Democratic Culture and Political Practices: a Training Program for Russian Federal and Regional Legislators

Budget years: 1994 & 1995

Service contracts: 95-5005 & 96-5053

Budget: ECU 231,670 & ECU 298,920

Contractor: Moscow School of Political Studies
Kutuzovski Prospekt 4/2, apt. 353
121248 Moscow, Russia

Tel: +7 095 243 17 56

Fax: +7 095 940 28 06

Beneficiary country: Russia



Young members of the Russian parliamentary system, between 25 and 35 years old, had the opportunity to learn more about democratic government through this Ad-hoc supported project.

During the first phase, from 1995 to early 1996, 35 elected members of the federal Duma and Council and the local parliament in Psovk participated in four training courses covering politics, economics, mass media, national relations and federal structures. Three of the eight-day-long courses were held in Russia. For the fourth study period the participants travelled to Madrid and Barcelona, to learn from the relatively recent Spanish experience of the transition from an authoritarian to a democratic regime. By an appropriate coincidence, the seminar took place on the 20th anniversary of Franco's death.

Following the 1995-96 training, the Moscow School of Political Studies received a further Ad-hoc grant to extend its training programme to more young members of the federal and local parliaments. Run during 1996 and 1997, the programme included four intensive seminars, three of them in Russia, two near Moscow and one in Biisk in the Altai region.

Learning from election experience in Belarus

Title: Pre-electoral training seminar in Minsk
Budget year: 1995
Service contract: 95-5024
Budget: ECU 49,390
Contractor: Institut de Recherches Comparatives sur les Institutions et le Droit, Université de Paris 1 et CNRS
 27, rue Paul Bert
 F-94204 Ivry-sur-Seine
 Tel: +33 1 49 60 40 20
 Fax: +33 1 46 71 12 73
Beneficiary country: Belarus



The first free general election in independent Belarus was called for May 14 1995. This Ad-hoc supported project aimed to remedy the lack of experience of democratic politics by delivering basic training in electoral politics to people from the various political movements and human rights organisations. The main subjects to be covered were the role of electoral law, campaigning and the use of mass media, which would enable the Belarussians to undertake their own monitoring of the conduct of the election.

However as the election neared, the political situation proved to be very tense. Moreover the strict terms of the election law prohibited candidates or parties receiving any sort of assistance, and the seminar could have fallen foul of this provision, if held before the election. It would also have been impossible to obtain a balanced representation of the various parties. The training seminar was therefore postponed to after the elections. In the meantime, an analysis of Belarussian election law was prepared for the use of election observers. The two-day training seminar, held on October 2-3 1995, was attended by some 40 people, from the Central Electoral Commission, Supreme Soviet, ministries, academia and the press. Covering methods of voting and counting, election finance and control, the seminar drew on experiences of Western European systems as well of the recent elections in Russia, the Ukraine and Armenia.

Supporting Armenia's move towards democracy

Title: Parliamentary elections in Armenia
Budget year: 1995
Service contract: 95-5059
Budget: ECU 41,178
Contractor: Institut de Recherches Comparatives sur les Institutions et le Droit, Université de Paris 1 et CNRS
 27, rue Paul Bert
 F-94204 Ivry-sur-Seine
 Tel: +33 1 46 700243
 Fax: +33 1 46 71 12 73
Beneficiary country: Armenia



The first multi-party parliamentary election in Armenia was held on July 5 1995. This project aimed to provide useful guidance to the election candidates and the Central Electoral Commission, through the organisation of two seminars, production of information materials and support to the Electoral Commission.

Experts from France and Britain wrote a 16-page brochure, giving the candidates information on the electoral process: the electoral system, the right to vote, the procedures, counting and control systems. It was translated into Armenian and distributed to each candidate. A computer and copier were also provided for the Central Electoral Commission.

The first seminar, aimed at election candidates, was unsuccessful as no candidates attended. A subsequent seminar, held on 22nd-23rd June, was more successful. It was organised for members of the Central Electoral Commission, and covered the relationship between the electoral system and the party political system, the parliamentary profession, the electoral campaign, the voting process and the counting methodology.

Training for the Armenian National Assembly

Title: Training Programme for the Members and Personnel of the Armenian National Assembly
Budget year: 1996
Service contract: 97-0011
Budget: ECU 199,335
Contractor: International Institute for Democracy
 Palais de l'Europe
 F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
 Tel: +33 3 88 41 25 41
 Fax: +33 3 88 41 37 75
Beneficiary country: Armenia



Armenia's democracy is fragile. Following the parliamentary elections of July 5 1995, a presidential election was held on September 22 1996, but the results caused riots because of opposition claims of electoral irregularities and denial of access to the media.

The International Institute for Democracy, set up in 1989 by the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, felt that one of the most effective ways of strengthening democratic institutions - in particular the rights of opposition - was to share the experience of other parliaments with colleagues in Armenia. It joined forces with the Amsterdam-based East-West Parliamentary Practice Project to conduct three 3-day seminars in Yerevan, followed by a visit to parliaments abroad. Highly-qualified practitioners from all over Eastern, Central and Western Europe, either current members of national parliaments or parliamentary officials, have provided their expertise. Run during 1997, the seminars covered the role of parliament in a democracy and legislative and budgetary procedures. Documents translated into Armenian provide additional information. The project also enables Armenian members of parliament and their assistants to gain direct experience of democratic practice through visits to three national parliaments as well as the European Parliament.

Law and Reform

Training the judiciary in Uzbekistan

Title: Methodius: Training programme to Support the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession in Uzbekistan

Budget year: 1996

Service contract: 96-5597

Budget: ECU 199,800

Contractor: Institute for European Policy
KUL - Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
E. Van Evenstraat 2b
B-3000 Leuven
Tel: +32 16 32 31 43
Fax: +32 16 32 31 44

Beneficiary country: Uzbekistan



Due for completion in 1998, this project assists three institutions in Uzbekistan which offer training in law, but are poorly equipped and have out-of-date libraries. The primary focus of the project is to strengthen the country's capacity to apply the rule of law by helping the State Institute of Law, which has over 3,000 full- and part-time students following basic legal studies, to develop a comprehensive training programme. Curricula will be reviewed and adapted, seminars organised and a database established. Also supported are the Institute for In-Service Training, which delivers 500 one-month courses each year, and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy.

The project beneficiaries are law students, members of the judiciary and future senior government administrators. A participatory approach is being taken, and care is being taken to involve the beneficiaries in the design of the programme, so that it is sustainable. The various legal professions are represented on the steering committee, along with a Western adviser. The network thus created will be better able to transfer new knowledge and skills throughout the country.

Support for the Constitutional Court in Tashkent

Title: Support for the Constitutional Court in Tashkent

Budget year: 1996

Service contract: 96-5596

Budget: ECU 189,290

Contractor: Centre of European Constitutional Law
Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos
Foundation
33 Epanissou Street
GR - 112 57 Athens
Tel: +30 1 82 26 392
Fax: +30 1 82 22 117

Beneficiary country: Uzbekistan



This project aimed to assist the staff of Uzbekistan's Constitutional Court, established in 1995, to carry out its role effectively and independently of political pressure. Due for completion at the end of 1997, the project engaged a short-term expert from Greece to provide technical advice to members of the Constitutional Court in Tashkent and to potential users such as advocates.

Assisted by a local legal assistant and a database expert, the work of the expert focused on:

- Help in drafting, implementing and publishing the rules of the Court;
- A review of the Court's development, assessment of current needs and materials available, and identification of useful European resources;
- Advice to the Court staff on the practice and procedures followed in comparable courts in the EU;
- Organisation of three seminars, covering operating models for constitutional courts, the administration of a constitutional court, and the role of the Administrative Court in protecting citizens against acts of maladministration.

A database expert also visited Tashkent to install computers and software, set up a Russian-language database of relevant legal materials and train Court officials in its use.

Designing human rights law for St. Petersburg

Title: Development of a Draft Regional Law on the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) in St Petersburg

Budget year: 1996

Service contract: 97-0018

Budget: ECU 143,550

Contractor: St Petersburg Humanity and Political Studies Centre "Strategy"
Izmailovski Prospekt 14
198005 St Petersburg, Russia
Tel/fax: +7 812 112 66 12

Beneficiary country: Russia



Although the Russian constitution requires the Duma to appoint a Human Rights Commissioner, legislation for this does not yet exist. Nor have corresponding regional institutions been established, despite attempts by St Petersburg's city council to appoint such an official on a temporary basis. This project, undertaken in 1997, brings together human rights NGOs and official bodies to fill this institutional void.

In order to draft a text for the new law, the project aimed to carry out an analysis of the human rights situation and of the activities of official bodies working in this area. This drew on relevant experience in Sweden and Finland via a study visit by six Russian experts. A training seminar and a conference of officials and experts provided opportunities for refining the draft law, which could then be presented to the St Petersburg Legal Assembly for eventual adoption.

The plan is to distribute the analysis and proposals across Russia in the form of a brochure, and make available the final text of the law as a model for use by other regions. The project thus aims to create a new type of legal base in Russia, which will strengthen civil society.

Joint Programme of the European Commission and Council of Europe

Contractor: Council of Europe
Directorate of Political Affairs
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
Tel: +33 3 88 41 20 73
Fax: +33 3 88 41 27 95

On 16th June 1987 the European Union and the Council of Europe signed a Co-operation Arrangement covering, among other topics, co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The focus of this co-operation is strengthening democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law. Since 1995, this co-operation has provided the framework for a series of Joint Programmes between the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe, initially in Russia and Ukraine and more recently also in Moldova. A specific aim of this co-operation is to help the three countries meet the commitments they made when they were admitted to the Council of Europe, in particular the ratification of the European Convention on Human Rights.

For each Joint Programme, the Tacis Democracy programme has agreed conventions with the Council of Europe whereby it finances half the cost of certain actions. Five Joint Programmes have been signed so far.

Law and local government reform in Ukraine

Title: Joint Programme between the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe for legal system reform, local government reform and the transformation of the law enforcement system in Ukraine

Budget year: 1995 & 1996

Service contract: 95-5082 & 97-0035

Budget: ECU 420,000 & ECU 524,000

Beneficiary country: Ukraine



Two conventions have been signed covering a Joint Programme in the Ukraine, aiming to strengthen democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law. Its work builds upon the provisions of the new Ukrainian constitution, in particular the sections on human rights, the judicial system, public prosecution and local government. It aims to assist the Ukraine to fulfil its commitments as a member of the Council of Europe by strengthening the independence of the judiciary and the role of the Ministry of Justice, and promoting a system of administrative law which upholds individual rights.

The first convention covered a two-year period from the date of the Ukraine's accession to the Council of Europe on November 9th 1995, and provided for Tacis support to the following actions, most of which were completed in the first year:

- Strengthening the role of the Ministry of Justice: a training course for ministry staff, a seminar for legal professionals, study visits to the UK and Germany for Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court officials, a needs assessment and a questionnaire on the publication of laws, plus further seminars, visits and expert consultancies;
- Drawing up a system of administrative law: an assessment of the situation, a workshop on the protection of the individual and an information seminar for legal professionals;

- Drafting the constitution and the electoral law and reviewing the penal code, a study visit to Germany in connection with a review of the civil code, and development of Ukrainian legislation and practice to ensure compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights.

A second convention, for an 18-month period from February 1997, covered similar themes and activities, and also included training for local government officials and elected representatives, and further work on the reform of law enforcement, including, for the first time, juvenile delinquency. Individual actions include:

- An expert opinion and workshop on the draft law on state service for the execution of sentences;
- Expert opinions by joint working groups on the judicial system and on the system of administrative law, and two seminars on the independence of judges;
- Two further study visits on administrative law, a seminar and expert opinion on legal ethics, and help in developing curricula in legal training;
- A substantial programme of expert opinions, seminars, workshops, study visits and help in adapting legislation to the European Convention on Human Rights;
- Expertise and seminars regarding the institution of an ombudsman;
- Seminars on the implementation of European penal and civil law conventions;
- Study visits and training sessions for local government trainers and management training for local government officials;
- A working group on the reform of the system of pre-trial investigation, and an assessment workshop on the training of police and public investigators;
- Intensive training courses for prison staff and training officers and an expert group on prison administration;
- A needs assessment, study visits and seminars on the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Strengthening democracy and law reform in Russia

Title: Joint Programme between the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe for strengthening of the federal structure, introduction of human rights protection mechanisms and legal system reform in the Russian Federation

Budget year: 1995 & 1996

Service contracts: 95-5100 & 97-0034

Budget: ECU 580,000 & ECU 1,182,000

Beneficiary country: Russia



Two conventions of the Joint Programme concern the strengthening of the federal structure, introduction of human rights protection and legal system reform in Russia.

The first convention covered a two-year period from the date of Russia's accession to the Council of Europe on February 28 1996, and provided Tacis support in the following areas:

- **Federal structures:** a series of 10 regional seminars on various aspects of the federal model were organised. Topics included taxation, the division of powers and the hierarchy of legislation, international relations and federal models in general. A study visit was also organised to examine the French administrative system.
- **Local government:** a number of activities were organised, including expert visits and views on local government legislation, a colloquium on the supervision of local government, study visits for MPs and central government officials to Denmark and Austria, a seminar on local finance, and a study visit to Spain by representatives of the Union of Small Towns.
- **Legal education:** a seminar was held on the competencies and functioning of ministries of justice in European countries and a study visit organised to Paris.

A second convention, for a period of two years from February 1997, provided Tacis support for the organisation of conferences, seminars, study visits and expert advice in the fields of : constitutional reform to create democratic institutions and an effective local government system; human rights institutions; prison reform and crime prevention; and legislative reform. Again the aim was to bring Russia's laws and systems in line with the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Legal reform and independent media in Moldova

Title: Joint Programme between the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe for legal reform and promotion of independent media in Moldova

Budget year: 1996

Service contract: 97-0317

Budget: ECU 148,000

Beneficiary country: Moldova



This convention of the Joint Programme concerns the republic of Moldova, which joined the Council of Europe in July 1995. It focuses on the legal system and the media. Running for a period of 21 months to the end of March 1999, the convention provides for Tacis support to the following actions:

- Help in setting up a training centre for magistrates, including study visits for trainers to France, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands;
- Expert seminars on the draft criminal code, the draft code of criminal procedure and the bill on the Ministry of Justice;
- Improvements in the prison service training system;
- Information seminars on aspects of media in a democratic society (journalists' rights, access to information, press and broadcasting regulation, the media and elections).

Journalism

Young Russian journalists learn an international perspective

Title: Training Course of International Journalism in Russia

Budget year: 1996

Service contract: 95-5595

Budget: ECU 199,785

Contractor: Fondazione per la Pace e la Cooperazione Internazionale "Alcide de Gasperi"

Via della Scrofa 64

I - 00186 Rome

Tel: +39 6 6880 17 34

Fax: +39 6 6880 17 45

Beneficiary country: Russia



Targeted at journalists who can become agents of change in post-Soviet society, this Ad-hoc supported project aims to acquaint 30 young Russian journalists with the development of an independent quality press and modern communications technologies. Involving an intensive course in Moscow and a two-week work placement for each participant in Belgium, the Netherlands or Italy, the project runs for 14 months to the spring of 1998. Course topics cover politics, economics, international law, foreign affairs, communications, mass media management and ethics.

Partners in the project are the De Gasperi Foundation of Rome, the Department of Journalism of Moscow State University and the Netherlands Atlantic Committee. Izvestia and RAI are also collaborating in course delivery. The participating journalists are between 25 and 35 years old, have a good command of English, and work for a local newspaper, radio or television station

Promoting independent media in Belarus

Title: Promotion of Independent Media in Belarus

Budget year: 1996

Service contract: 97-0190

Budget: ECU 136,341

Contractor: FOJO - Institutet för Fortbildning av Journalister

Norra Vågen 42, boks 622

S - 391 26 Kalmar

Tel: +46 480 446 400

Fax: +46 480 446 420

Beneficiary country: Belarus



The transition process in Belarus has been particularly uncertain, and there have been many reverses in the progress towards democracy. As a result of this, the democracy programme had a particularly important role to play. In 1997 it was decided that a high proportion of the mainstream Tacis Programme should be devoted to support for democracy and in particular for the media. This project, due to be completed at the end of 1998, aims to strengthen the independent media in Belarus. Organised in response to requests from media managers and journalists in the country, the project involves the delivery of training to over 100 journalists, newsroom managers and media managers/editors-in-chief from across the country. Run by FOJO, Sweden's Institute for Further Education of Journalists, the project also involves the newly-formed Belarussian Association of Journalists (BAJ).

The training seminars will focus on: the role of the journalist in democratic processes; freedom of the press and press laws; the development of local media markets; presentation techniques and modern newspaper design; media ethics; research, criticism and protection of sources; news reporting and reportage, investigative reporting; economic and political reporting; editorial techniques and layout; newsroom organisations and management; media marketing and personal planning. A longer-term aim of the project is to support the establishment of training facilities in Belarus, allowing future training to be organised and delivered locally.

Civic and Human Rights Education

School for democracy in Russia

Title: School for Democracy
Budget year: 1994
Service contract: 95-5013
Budget: ECU 152,920
Contractor: Academy of the Urban Environment
 Krymsky Vol. 8, Entrance 4
 RU-117049 Moscow
Tel: +7 095 230 05 02
Fax: +7 095 135 53 83
Beneficiary country: Russia



The aim of this project was to promote more effective local government, by running a training course for a group of nearly 30 candidates for election to the city and district councils in Moscow and Vladimir. The 40-week course was run during 1995 and 1996 by the Academy of the Urban Environment in Moscow and the Mayor's Office Evening School. The programme comprised a weekly workshop held in the morning, and a weekly guest lecture or seminar in the evening. The morning sessions covered economic, social and environmental policy issues. Academics and practitioners, both Russian and Western, delivered the evening sessions, which covered subjects such as the political structure of urban management, neighbourhood revitalisation, the legal framework of reform, overcoming the passivity of the electorate and game theory. Training materials, including a handbook and a video, were also produced for wider distribution.

The course has set a precedent, and following the media coverage it gained is likely to be repeated or imitated in several other regions and countries. Its success led to the establishment of a permanent School of Municipal Policies in Moscow.

Russian educators learn about democracy

Title: Human Rights Education in Russia
Budget year: 1994
Service contract: 95-5031
Budget: ECU 261,308
Contractor: Moscow School of Human Rights
 Luchnikov Lane 4, apt. 5
 RU-103982 Moscow
Tel/fax: +7 095 474 94 24
Beneficiary country: Russia



Providing teachers with information on human rights and democracy was the main focus of this project, which ran from June 1995 to early in 1998. The project activities include preparation of teaching material from kindergarten to secondary level, publication of 10,000 copies of a textbook for teachers on human rights and use of the book to retrain secondary teachers in the Moscow region. The aim is also to conduct experiments in democratic self-management in three schools, run two training sessions for social science teachers from all over Russia, organised three one-week study visits to the EU for members of the Russian team, and publish a quarterly newsletter. The project is managed by The Moscow School of Human Rights, which developed out of the Moscow Regional Advanced Training Institute, the originators of this project. In the longer term, it is intended that the teaching materials should be used throughout the Russian Federation by the Ministry of Education.

Radio Russia spreads the message about democracy

Title: Civic Education
Budget year: 1994
Service contract: 95-5067
Budget: ECU 179,415
Contractor: Human Rights Education
 Mali Karetni 12
 RU-103051 Moscow
Tel: +7 095 455 91 56
Fax: +7 095 973 20 94
Beneficiary countries: Russia and New Independent States



This Ad-hoc supported project created a series of 20 radio programmes on basic democratic principles, broadcast once a week on Radio Russia and reaching an audience throughout the country. A repeat series further spread the message. A companion series of five 50-page booklets, containing source documents and interviews with prominent personalities, was prepared and distributed in a print-run of 10,000 across the New Independent States to schools, NGOs, parliaments and interested members of the audience. Themes covered were the structure of the state, human rights, law and order, and political life and civil society. The project ran during 1995 and 1996.

Election Media Monitoring

Contractor: EIM - European Institute
for the Media e. V.
Kaistrasse 13
D-40221 Düsseldorf
Tel: +49 211 901 04-0
Fax: +49 211 901 04-56

A series of ten Tacis contracts with the Düsseldorf-based European Institute for the Media (EIM) concerned monitoring of the media coverage of elections in the ex-Soviet republics.

During 1993, 1994 and 1995, nine moderate-sized projects allowed EIM monitors to observe and report on the media coverage of elections in the ex-Soviet republics. Work took place in seven countries: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova as well as Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, covering presidential and parliamentary elections as well as one referendum.

Through its experiences, the EIM has developed a four-stranded methodology for monitoring media coverage of elections, which comprises analyses of the legal framework within which the media operate, of the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the media coverage given and of complaints made. Monitoring missions typically start three weeks before polling day, and conclude with a press conference, held immediately after the poll, at which the results of the monitoring are announced. The written report, including specific recommendations, is then translated into the language of the country concerned and distributed internationally. During the missions, the EIM's external monitors work with local partners so as to build local capacity.

Following these individual contracts, the European Commission realised that a more complete and timely support could be provided through a framework contract which allowed for activities between elections and for more rapid start-up when snap elections were called. Covering 1996-1997, the framework contract placed more emphasis on support for the development of democratic media institutions, for instance through providing training for journalists, and enabled the establishment of the Media Monitoring and Assistance Unit (MMAU) as part of the East-West Programme of the EIM.

December 1993: monitoring media coverage of elections in Russia

Title: Media coverage monitoring for the parliamentary elections in Russia
Budget year: 1993
Service contract: WW. 93. 05/08. 01/B008
Budget: ECU 200,000
Beneficiary country: Russia



The Russian elections of December 12 1993 followed a period of violent confrontation between executive and legislature. To be seen as legitimate, it was vital that the media should cover them fairly, and should be clearly seen to do so. During this 10-week project, the EIM set up a Media Monitoring Unit, which worked closely with the EU Observer Centre serving the election monitors. Its tasks were to assess the legal framework within which the media were reporting the election process and evaluate the independence and fairness of the actual election coverage. A team of nine experts and support staff operated over the three-week period leading up to the elections. They not only covered Moscow, but also St Petersburg, Rostov-on-Don, Kazan, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk and Khabarovsk/Vladivostok.

To maximise the visibility of the elections and the monitoring being carried out, the team held press conferences and issued press releases. In response to requests from the electoral authorities, government officials and journalists, the project also published a handbook on *Media and Elections*, which presents a comparison of how election coverage is regulated and carried out in six countries, along with a checklist and recommendations.

February 1994: media monitoring of Moldova's first parliamentary elections

Title: Media monitoring and training: election in Moldova
 Budget year: 1993
 Service contract: WW. 93. 05/08. 01/B002
 Budget: ECU 43,330
 Beneficiary country: Moldova



Moldova held its first parliamentary elections since independence on February 27 1994 and, on March 6, held a referendum on the contentious issues of relations with Russia and Romania, the rights of minorities and territorial integrity. The situation was difficult, with some minority groups calling for independence or devolution.

With its first Tacis Ad-hoc contract, the EIM undertook a two-week mission to Moldova to monitor the media during the election period. The aim was to encourage free and fair conduct and to gain a better understanding of the political situation. A Media and Elections Handbook was written, translated and published. The knowledge and experience of the EIM monitors allowed them to play a wider role public relations role on behalf of the EU, and they also set up a training course for Moldovan journalists to build a monitoring capacity in the country.

March and June 1994: Media monitoring and training in Ukraine

Title: Media monitoring and training for the parliamentary and presidential elections in Ukraine
 Budget year: 1993
 Service contract: WW. 93. 05/08. 01/B003
 Budget: ECU 349,212
 Beneficiary country: Ukraine



Ukraine held its first post-independence elections in the first half of 1994. The stakes were high: apart from an economic crisis, it faced unresolved questions of regionalisation and of control of the ex-Soviet military bases and nuclear weapons on its territory. Enabling the electorate to make an informed choice was crucial. This one-year project aimed to determine the degree of adherence to recognised journalistic standards of objectivity, fairness, balance, access and right of reply, and also to help the media improve its professionalism. Activities included monitoring of the parliamentary elections of March 27; providing advice and training to build a local monitoring capacity; and monitoring of the presidential elections on June 26. A training video was also produced, the seminar proceedings were published in Ukrainian, Russian and English, and the bimonthly Ukrainian Media Bulletin was launched to create a permanent link between Ukrainian and Western media professionals.

June 1994: media monitoring of elections in Belarus

Title: Media monitoring for the presidential elections in Belarus
 Budget year: 1993
 Service contract: WW. 93. 05/08. 01/B006
 Budget: ECU 36,464
 Beneficiary country: Belarus



On June 23 1994 Belarus's first ever presidential elections took place. Progress towards democracy and a market economy had been particularly slow, and power was still effectively concentrated in the hands of the ex-Soviet nomenklatura. A monitoring mission was therefore arranged. An international eye on the media was intended to persuade the government to reduce the pressure it put on journalists. The aim of this three-month project was to introduce basic concepts of a democratic media and to better understand the country's political make-up. The activities started on June 9, two weeks before polling day, and followed the established pattern: an assessment of the legal framework within which the media operate, a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the election coverage, and a study of the complaints made. Both Belarussian and Russian media were monitored, with the practical help of the Mass Media Centre in Minsk.

March 1995: monitoring the parliamentary elections in Belarus

Title: Media monitoring for the presidential elections in Belarus
 Budget year: 1994
 Service contract: 95-5007
 Budget: ECU 33,500
 Beneficiary country: Belarus



The Belarussian Supreme Soviet was the last parliament in Central and Eastern Europe to have been elected under the communist system, and its term expired in March 1995. However a number of factors were impeding reform. The new electoral law allowed workers in state enterprises to nominate candidates, but did not extend this right to other social organisations. Combined with voter apathy, the result seemed likely to favour the status quo and augment the president's power. State influence on the media had become more subtle, but no less pervasive.

This four-month monitoring mission aimed both to measure the campaign against international norms and support the growth of an independent media. The work included assessment of the legal framework, quantitative and qualitative analysis of the coverage, and analysis of the complaints made. These were preceded by the commissioning of background studies, and followed, on the day after the election, by a press conference. The overall conclusions were that the main media remained under state influence, resulting in a pronounced bias towards the presidential viewpoint.

July 1995: monitoring the coverage of Armenia's elections

Title: Media monitoring for the parliamentary elections in Armenia
 Budget year: 1994
 Service contract: 95-5011
 Budget: ECU 69,500
 Beneficiary country: Armenia



The Armenian parliament's mandate expired on May 20 1995, and elections were called for July 5 along with a referendum on the adoption of a new constitution. The situation was difficult, with economic problems arising from the conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh, resources in short supply and violent attacks on media offices and staff. A more wide-ranging project than normal was required. Undertaken over seven months in 1995, it aimed to encourage transparency in the election process, and also to counter the disillusionment of the electorate and strengthen popular trust in democratic institutions. The monitoring of the campaign was preceded by a phase of research and consultancy. The research provided detailed information to brief the international election observer team. The consultancy component comprised a seminar for 40 regulators and journalists, with the aim of producing a code of ethics for the media. This objective was achieved, and an independent Press Club of Armenia was founded. Media coverage of the election campaign was, however, not even-handed, and showed overwhelming pro-government bias. The electorate had to decide on complex issues - the adoption of a new constitution - without the benefit of balanced information.

November 1995: media monitoring of elections in Georgia

Title: Media monitoring of the presidential and parliamentary elections in Georgia
 Budget year: 1994
 Service contract: 95-5074
 Budget: ECU 54,231
 Beneficiary country: Georgia



Georgia held presidential and parliamentary elections on November 5 1995, under the new constitution adopted the previous August. The first such elections since the breakaway of the province of Abkhazia in October 1993, they were held in an unstable political situation. Three politicians had been assassinated, and the government had lost control of some areas of the country to paramilitary forces. Russia, which had mediated in the war, had a major influence.

Economic collapse meant that media operated in a situation of shortages, high prices for imported newsprint and difficulties in printing and distribution. Some independent media offices were fire-bombed and editorial staff physically attacked.

The three-month EIM mission had two tasks. First, to research the media situation in Georgia, and produce briefing material for the 75 international election observers. Then, during the fortnight leading up to polling day, it monitored the media coverage. Remarkably, its report was positive, highlighting the diversity of opinion presented and the emergence of a pluralist media. Understandably perhaps, the main problem appeared to be self-censorship by apprehensive editorial staff.

November 1995: media coverage of elections in Azerbaijan

Title: Media monitoring for the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan
 Budget year: 1994
 Service contract: 95-5073
 Budget: ECU 52,471
 Beneficiary country: Azerbaijan



On November 12 1995 Azerbaijan held parliamentary elections together with a referendum on a new constitution in an atmosphere of economic hardship and fragile peace following the war with Armenia over Nagorno Karabakh. President Geidar Aliev had resorted to repressive means to suppress opposition and the media were being harassed.

A two-stage project, carried out over three months at the end of 1995, was proposed by the EIM, comprising a research phase followed by media monitoring. Background papers were compiled on media regulation, the relationship between the government and the media, the legal framework for the elections and the political situation in general, and these were used to brief the international team of election observers. The monitoring, carried out over the three weeks leading up to polling day, followed the established procedure: assessment of the legal framework, quantitative and qualitative analysis of coverage and analysis of complaints. With the exception of the state printing press, some improvements in access to the media were made, but media coverage of the proposed new constitution was minimal.

December 1995: monitoring media coverage of Russia's parliamentary elections

Title: Media monitoring of the parliamentary elections in Russia
 Budget year: 1994
 Service contract: 95-5075
 Budget: ECU 99,714
 Beneficiary country: Russia



The elections to the Russian Duma in December 1995 took place under conditions of relative normality. However, the media situation was complicated, with a proliferation of commercial television channels, many used by their private owners as vehicles of propaganda, and state attempts to curb criticism, for instance of its policy in Chechnya.

This three-month monitoring mission at the end of 1995 performed two functions. First was the monitoring and analysis of media coverage of the electoral campaign. Secondly, the EIM collaborated with domestic and international organisations to establish a pro-active independent source of information. The main partners were the Russian Mass Media Research Centre, the Russian-American Press and Information Centre and Postfactum Newsagency.

The monitoring showed that the campaign was generally well prepared and calm, and took place within a well-regulated media scene.

Supporting the media in CIS states

Title: CIS Media Monitoring and Assistance Unit
 Budget year: 1995
 Service contract: 96-5005
 Budget: ECU 793,228
 Beneficiary countries: New Independent States



The EIM's experiences of media monitoring in the ex-Soviet republics between 1992 and 1995 had highlighted a number of structural problems in their media sectors. Governmental control and pressure and bias by private media owners is still rife. And within the media industry itself, journalists have little concept of impartiality or of investigative reporting, allowing politicians to expound their positions unchallenged. A coherent infrastructure of media regulation and of professional standards, ethics and training is absent.

In November 1995 a two-year framework contract was signed by the Tacis Ad-hoc programme to enable the EIM to establish a Media Monitoring and Assistance Unit. The aims were: to act as a channel of communication between the EU and media professionals in the CIS; to promote democratic forms of media regulation and ethics; to feed back information and recommendations to the European Union; and, during elections, to provide international observers with in-depth information. The Unit is based at EIM headquarters in Düsseldorf, with regional centres in Moscow and Kiev. Four elections were monitored during 1996 - the Russian, Armenian and Moldovan presidential elections and the Belarussian referendum - and the longer time available for preparation led to good results. No elections took place in 1997, but other activities were undertaken. A network of correspondents in 10 republics has been set up and a conference on the future of public broadcasting in the Russian Federation was held in February 1997. A book on the Media in the CIS was published, and support was provided for the publi-

cation of two reviews, Sreda in Russia and the Ukrainian Media Bulletin, which also covers Moldova and Belarus. Journalists have also been trained, and advice given on media legislation. There were also fact-finding missions in the Transcaucasus and in Central Asia, with the eventual aim of setting up a third regional office in Almaty.

Electoral Process

As a complement to the monitoring of the media coverage of the elections in the ex-CIS states, a number of additional Ad-hoc projects were initiated to create the conditions under which fair elections could be held. Two of the projects, in Georgia and the Russian republic of Chechnya, provided direct support to the governmental authorities responsible for overseeing the elections, which have typically been under-funded and were operating under confused constitutional conditions. In some cases, very basic items of equipment such as ballot boxes were lacking. The others, in Russia and the Ukraine, provided information and logistical support for observers from foreign parliaments.

December 1993: observing the Russian parliamentary elections

Title: European Union Observers' Centre
(Russian parliamentary elections,
December 1993)

Budget year: 1993

Service contract: WW. 93. 05/08. 01/B009

Budget: ECU 346,000

Contractor: AEC - Association Européenne pour la
Coopération

Avenue de Beaulieu 5

B-1160 Brussels

Tel: +32 2 299 11 11

Fax: +32 2 296 11 53

Beneficiary country: Russia



The purpose of this two-month project was to provide support to the European Union Observer Centre (EUOC), established to monitor the Russian elections for the State Duma and the Council of the Federal State Assembly on December 11 and 12 1993. The project provided equipment and staff for the Centre, and assistance and support to the election observers from the European Union institutions and Member States. The EUOC was managed by a long-term expert at the Tacis Co-ordination Unit in Moscow, in collaboration with the Presidency of the European Union Council and the EC's Moscow Delegation.

The EUOC housed four staff from the Belgian EU Presidency, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Tacis Programme respectively, along with six back-up staff. As a joint action, the Centre's tasks were to co-ordinate the observers from the EU, to carry out on-site co-ordination with other international organisations and NGOs, and to liaise with the Russian authorities to ease the observers' work and to ensure an even spread geographical of observers. In addition to those forming part of the missions organised by other international organisations, 98 parliamentarians and 93 experts were involved in observing the election in 39 regions. Once the voting was over, the EUOC collected some 70 reports from the observer teams, debriefed them and prepared an in-depth analysis covering 25 regions of Russia. This showed that, despite many localised failings in procedures, there was no systematic abuse, and the elections were free and fair.

March and June 1994: co-ordinating centre for election monitoring in Ukraine

Title: Monitoring of the Parliamentary elections
in Ukraine: organisation of the Observer
Co-ordination Centre, Kiev

Budget year: 1993

Service contract: WW.93. 05/08. 01/B005

Budget: ECU 51,600

Contractor: Pickard Consulting

c/o PRP Services

Cedar House

UK-Alton ST10 4BQ

Tel/fax: +44 1538 702 097

Beneficiary country: Ukraine



This Tacis Ad-hoc supported project involved establishing a co-ordination centre for observers of the Ukrainian parliamentary elections of 1994. Some 131 observers were present from 31 countries and international organisations. The five-week project provided a Western expert to help the observers from the European Parliament, to co-ordinate the work of those from EU member states and international organisations (CSCE, Council of Europe and others) and to liaise with the Ukrainian authorities, notably the Central Electoral Commission. Logistical support was provided, including two local secretaries, premises, communications equipment, office supplies and two vehicles. The project dovetailed with the media monitoring being carried out by the European Institute for the Media.

The European Union Observer Co-ordination Centre operated in Kiev city centre on March 21. It prepared an information package, maps, checklists and a list of "constituencies to watch" for the observers, and copied and distributed the observers' guidebook which had been written by the EU delegation. The observers were allocated to constituencies throughout the country, and assisted with accreditation, accommodation and transport.

November 1995: advising the Central Election Commission of Georgia

Title: Support for the parliamentary elections in Georgia: adviser to the Central Election Commission

Budget year: 1994

Service contract: 95-5065

Budget: ECU 95,000

Contractor: Association Européenne pour la Coopération

Avenue de Beaulieu 5

B-1160 Brussels

Tel: +32 2 299 11 11

Fax: +32 2 296 11 53

Beneficiary country: Georgia



President Shevardnadze of Georgia requested assistance in preparing the parliamentary elections held in Georgia on November 5 1995. Given the civil unrest in the country, the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland was identified as qualified for the task. During the four-months leading up to the election and based in Tbilisi, he gave advice on drafting the election regulations and setting up the electoral machinery, and produced a poll workers' handbook, which was published in Georgian, Russian and English. He also held two 3-day training seminars for 36 poll workers from the regional offices. A lack of basic equipment hampered the work of the Central Election Commission. The adviser therefore intervened at a high level with the government and with outside donors in order to ensure that the basic infrastructure was in place for the election. The adviser's work contributed to proper elections being held in 75 of the 85 districts of Georgia, and produced recommendations for further support in relation to the media and political system.

December 1995: support to Russian parliamentary elections

Title: Monitoring Russian parliamentary elections - planning visit

Budget year: 1995

Service contract: WW.9501/0401/B051

Budget: ECU 62,374

Contractor: ABI - Arnold Bergstraesser Institut

Windausstrasse 16

D-79110 Freiburg

Tel: +49 761 850 91

Fax: +49 761 892 967

Beneficiary country: Russia

The second set of Russian parliamentary elections since the constitutional reform of December 1993 took place on December 17 1995. The immediate response to a request from the Russian Central Electoral Commission for EU support in monitoring the elections was the organisation of a four-week mission by nine experts in September 1995 to prepare an action plan for the support. The tasks of the experts were to prepare a realistic work plan and budget for the EU Election Unit in Moscow and plan the process of co-ordination and assistance to the Organisation for Co-operation and Security (OSCE) and ODIRH during the elections. An assessment was also made of what sort of technical assistance should be given to the Central Electoral Commission regarding media use and voter education, and to provide advice on the best form of support for future elections, such as the presidential election in June 1996.

Title: Russian parliamentary elections - support to the European Union Electoral Unit

Budget year: 1995

Service contract: 95-5081

Budget: ECU 349,733

Contractor: Crown Agents for Overseas Governments

and Administrations

St Nicholas House

UK- Sutton SM1 1EL

Tel: +44 181 770 09 56

Fax: +44 181 643 33 11

Beneficiary country: Russia



On the basis of the assessments and plans of this expert mission, a further project was initiated to provide logistical support to the European Union Election Unit (EUEU), which was the base for the election observers sent from EU institutions and Member States. The support included the provision of seven advisers for a seven-week period from November 15 1995, covering expertise in observer deployment, election law and complaints procedure, election methodology and analysis, computer security, statistics, and voter and civic education. Office facilities, interpreters, transport and secretaries were also provided, along with short-term technical assistance to the Russian Central Electoral Commission. A video was also produced.

June 1996: support for monitoring Russia's presidential elections

Title: Support for the Monitoring of the Russian Presidential Elections (June-July 1996)
Budget year: 1996
Service contract: 96-0572
Budget: ECU 294,665
Contractor: Electoral Reform International Services Ltd
 6 Chancel Street
 UK-London SE1 0UU
 Tel: +44 171 620 37 94
 Fax: +44 171 928 43 66
Beneficiary country: Russia



Russia's first free presidential elections were held in June and July 1996, and the EU, the OSCE and other organisations were invited by Russian's Central Electoral Commission to monitor them. The five main aims of the ten-week observer mission were to: promote voter confidence in the country's electoral process; deter mal-practice by election officials; bring international attention to the outcome; produce recommendations for future improvements in the process; and enhance relations between the countries involved.

The project supported the establishment of the European Union Election Unit (EUEU), which provided facilities for the 244 election observers from EU countries. It was staffed by three EU experts (specialists in election law and administration, electronic data processing and statistics respectively) with local support staff (a local logistics officer, two secretaries, and interpreter and two drivers). In addition two staff were seconded to the OSCE/ODIHR Election Unit in Moscow to deal with observer deployment and regional co-ordination. Activities of the EUEU included the provision of information and briefings to observers and analysis of the conduct and results of the election. Whilst considerable progress had been made in election law since the previous elections in 1991, the observer mission made a number of recommendations for further improvements.

January 1997: practical support to Chechnya's elections

Title: Support to the 1997 elections in Chechnya
Budget year: 1996
Service contract: 96-5617
Budget: ECU 100,000
Contractor: OSCE - Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
 Kärntner Ring 5-7
 A-1010 Vienna
 Tel: +43 1 514 36 0
 Fax: +43 1 514 36 99
Beneficiary country: Russian republic of Chechnya



The civil war in the republic of Chechnya had left 120,000 dead and the country devastated. To establish the legitimacy of the provisional government, and to allow the peace process to continue, both parliamentary and presidential elections were called at short notice for January 27 1997. This Tacis project assisted the OSCE, which had been instrumental in brokering the peace agreement of August 1996, to supply basic necessities such as ballot papers, ballot boxes and indelible ink, as well as covering transport, office equipment and telecommunications costs. Thirteen candidates stood for the presidency and 766 stood for the 63 parliamentary seats. The OSCE followed the registration of candidates and the campaign. With the support of the Russian Federation, it then deployed 72 observers across the republic whom visited the majority of the 437 polling stations, and attended a representative sample of counts. The elections were declared "exemplary and free", and some experienced observers rated them as the best they had ever seen.

Phare Ad-hoc projects

The Ad-hoc project facility of the Phare Democracy Programme developed differently from the Tacis Ad-hoc facility. Launched in 1994, its objective is to promote and prioritise projects dealing with special areas of policy or actions that are not usually funded under the micro and macro projects facilities. The aim of the Phare Ad-hoc facility is to address in a broader and more intensive way certain issues that require special attention. In general, Phare Ad-hoc projects are horizontal in their activities, dealing with many countries of the region, and are managed through non-governmental organisations.

The budget of the Phare Ad-hoc programme is currently 10% of the total budget of the Phare Democracy Programme. Since 1994, 3.35 MECU have been disbursed to Phare Ad-hoc projects.

A breakdown of the Phare Ad-hoc projects by country and principal theme is given in the following table. Note that most projects cover several countries*.

	Minority rights	Media	Conflict prevention	Women's rights and representation	Anti-corruption	Human rights & peace	Total
Total N° of contracts	4	3	1	2	2	2	
Albania	1		1				2
Bosnia-Herzegovina						2	2
Bulgaria	3			1			4
Czech Republic	1			1	1		3
Estonia			1				1
FYROM	1		1				2
Hungary	2			1	1		4
Latvia			1	1			2
Lithuania				1			1
Poland	2			2	1		5
Romania	2	1	1	1	1		6
Slovakia	3			1	1		5
Slovenia				1			1
All Phare countries	1	2			1		4

Minority rights

Promoting Roma rights and education

Title: Roma Rights and Education Programme
 Budget year: 1994
 Contract N°: 95-0656
 Budget: ECU 219,000
 Contractor: Minority Rights Group
 379 Brixton Road
 UK-London SW9 7DE
 Tel: +44 171 978 94 98
 Fax: +44 171 738 62 65
 Beneficiary countries: Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia

This Ad-hoc project, managed by the Minority Rights Group (MRG), focused on the rights and education of the Roma communities in Bulgaria, Poland and Slovakia. Undertaken over 15 months during 1995 and 1996, the project had four principal components.

Firstly, in Poland, existing international legal instruments on Roma rights, particularly concerning education, were examined and the findings published in the form of a guide by the Polish project partners.

Secondly, a mobile training centre was established in Eastern Slovakia to help meet the educational needs of Roma in the region. Both adults and children were targeted, and the centre was successful in reaching Roma women for the training. This component of the project has built on examples of good educational practice in the European Union, initiated training of trainers and developed appropriate training resources with the Roma partners in the region.

The third component, in Bulgaria, focused on the introduction of inter-cultural education into the formal education system. Links were made with Roma organisations and the Roma community in order to clarify their requirements in terms of education policy. The project activities, which included training courses and workshops, produced an outline of a broadly-based curriculum, drafted policy guidelines for schools and identified educational materials for and about the Roma. The Bulgarian partners then produced teaching materials and a syllabus for primary schools. The teaching materials include profiles of Roma culture, music and folklore aimed at school children from all backgrounds. With the agreement of the Ministry of Education these materials are now in use in Bulgarian schools.

The fourth component of the project enabled the London office of MRG to liaise with existing NGO networks on minorities in the CEEC region and to co-operate with other Phare projects working on issues relating to the situation of Roma people. MRG also enriched the project with materials and examples of good practice from the Member States of the European Union..

Supporting self-help by Roma communities

Title: Regional Roma Programme
 Budget year: 1994
 Contract N°: 95-0652.00
 Budget: ECU 350,000
 Contractor: Autonomia Alapítvány
 Budakeszi út 55/D.P/7.V.2
 H-1021 Budapest
 Tel: +36 1 393 09 37
 Tel/Fax: +36 1 200 87 84
 Beneficiary countries: Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia

The objective of this project was to re-inforce the self-help initiatives of Roma communities in Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia by providing training, communication and legal defence services. Managed by the Hungarian Foundation for Self-Reliance, the project had three principal components.

The first involved a leadership and management training programme for members of Roma organisations and elected Roma members of local and regional governments. The training addressed one of the most urgent needs of the Roma community - learning the skills of managing an organisation as well as a micro-enterprise. The programme had excellent results such as: the establishment of a network of young Romas committed to work with their community in Bulgaria; the setting up of a new professional organisation for Roma entrepreneurs in Hungary; and the growth of a new type of Roma activist - better educated and thus able to bring a more rational understanding to the "gypsy question" in Romania.

The second component involved the creation of, and support to existing, legal aid bureaux for ethnic minorities in the region. The already functioning Hungarian and Bulgarian offices assisted in the start-up, organisation and staff training of the Romanian and Slovak bureaux. These legal defence bureaux run advice and aid services for the Roma community and organise seminars

for Roma activists and volunteers, in cases of infringements of human and civil rights, discrimination and racially motivated attacks on the Roma.

The third component, involving Roma radio training, experienced some delays but was eventually completed successfully. The training focused in particular on the development of future radio programmes, whose content would be designed in collaboration with professionals from the Roma community.

Cooperation on national minorities in the CEECs

Title: Minorities in Central European Countries
 Budget year: 1995
 Contract N°: 96-0361
 Budget: ECU 180,200
 Contractor: Council of Europe
 Avenue de l'Europe
 F-67075 Strasbourg, Cedex
 Tel: +33 88 41 20 73
 Fax: +33 88 41 27 46
 Beneficiary countries: All PHARE and some TACIS countries

The objective of this Joint Programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe was to facilitate structured cooperation between the various Governmental Offices for National Minorities in CEE countries. Carried out over 18 months in 1996 and 1997, the activities were organised under two main strands.

One strand involved a series of study visits promoting an exchange of experience and technical expertise between countries where Offices for National Minorities have already been set up and function. Visits were also arranged between those CEE countries that are in the process of setting up similar structures for National Minorities.

The second strand involved the organisation of thematic regional seminars for all participating CEECs, in Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, etc. These seminars examined the issues affecting minorities in the region and the methods and measures used by National Offices to deal with them. Issues covered included the development of an effective education system for minorities, the introduction of European legal instruments into the legal systems of the CEECs and participation in local decision-making. The project concluded with a final conference in Skopje in December 1997.



Training to defend Roma rights in the CEECs

Title: European Roma Rights Centre
 Budget year: 1996
 Contract N°: 97-0334
 Budget: 299,280 ECU
 Contractor: Dimitrina Petrova
 European Roma Rights Centre
 P.O.Box 10/24
 H-1525 Budapest 114, Hungary
 Tel: +361 327 98 77
 Fax: +361 138 37 27
 Beneficiary countries: Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, FYROM

The legal defence of the rights of Romas is the focus of this Ad-hoc project. Starting in September 1997, the fifteen-month project is managed by the Budapest-based European Roma Rights Centre, which will act as a legal resource centre for victims of human rights violations.

The project programme includes the provision of long-term training over a 12-month period for lawyers and activists involved in the legal defence of Romas as well as on-the-job training on specific issues, such as civil rights litigation. Other activities include: three seminars on legal defence strategy for Roma rights; a series of internships, each lasting three months for about 12 people at the Centre; and assisted litigation as a type of legal apprenticeship to carry out test case litigation as a challenge to discriminatory laws and practices. The project will conclude with the publication of educational materials relevant to the defence of Roma rights.



Media

Training for CEE journalists

Title: On-the-Job Training Project
 Budget year: 1994
 Contract N°: 95-0654
 Budget: ECU 440,000
 Contractor: Inter-Press Service
 Via Panisperna, 207
 I-00184 Rome
 Tel: +39 6 485 692
 Fax: +39 6 481 78 7

Beneficiary countries: All PHARE countries



The aims of this fifteen-month project were to develop a pluralistic and committed network of CEE journalists and media organisations and to strengthen the professional reporting capacities of CEE journalists, through the provision of on-the-job training. Managed by the Inter-Press Service (IPS), the training was organised in four components. On-the-job training during one week was organised for 33 print and broadcast journalists from CEE countries. The training covered democratic practices and principles, reporting and writing, newspaper design, editing and communications technology.

Further one-week individual training was provided for 22 journalists on the theoretical aspects of democracy and press freedom. 20 journalists spent one week in IPS offices in Geneva, Madrid, Rome or Vienna to gain practical experience in reporting and editing skills, techniques in writing news reports, coverage of special events etc.

32 CEE journalists followed a distance-learning programme of 10 months duration. They were provided with exercise-orientated writing tasks, including the production of at least one topical story each week. Trainers based at the different regional centres of IPS edited the texts and provided immediate feedback on the materials produced by CEE journalists.

To promote co-operation among print media, news agencies and broadcasting organisations in the region, a CEE-Media Pool was created, which produced and distributed around 400 articles during the project. In addition, a short training of trainers course was run for a number of journalists already been trained by the project who had demonstrated the ability to pass on and multiply the effects of their own training. The project concluded with an evaluation workshop for CEE media executives.

Media and democracy in the CEECs

Title: Media for Democracy in CEECs
 Budget year: 1995
 Contract N°: 95-0655.00
 Budget: ECU 300,000
 Contractor: International Federation of Journalists
 Rue Royale, 266
 B -1210 Brussels
 Tel: +32 2 223 22 65
 Fax: +32 2 219 29 76

Beneficiary countries: All PHARE countries



This project, managed by the International Federation of Journalists, provided training and professional assistance to the print and broadcast media in CEE countries during a 15-month period in 1995 and 1996. The project was aimed at three different targets: public broadcasting stations in the CEECs; newspaper and advertising management in the Baltics; and journalists involved in election coverage in Poland and Romania.

The public sector broadcasting component included two sub-regional seminars organised for 35 representatives of broadcasting stations; five from each of the seven participating countries (Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania). Topics included current legal and financial structures of broadcasting and strategies to defend editorial independence.

For newspaper and advertising management in the Baltics, a seminar, visits and consultancy support were organised, covering such topics as advertising in a free market compared to a transforming economy, different types of advertising, setting up advertising and personnel management departments, planning and marketing. 10 professionals from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania participated in this component.

The election education programme was centred on the general elections of 1995 in Poland and 1996 in Romania and included the legal framework determining journalistic work, the training of journalists in election coverage and public awareness-raising about the role of the media in reporting elections. Participating journalists from the EU and CEECs prepared an election coverage handbook, specifically designed for the sub-region which was published in English and then translated into Polish and Romanian.

Media monitoring of elections in Romania

Title: Media Coverage Monitoring in Romania
Budget year: 1995
Contract N°: 96-384
Budget: ECU 94,073
Contractor: European Institute for the Media e.V.
 Koistrasse 13
 D-40221 Düsseldorf
 Tel: +49 211 90 104-0
 Fax: +49 211 90 104-56

Beneficiary countries: Romania

Managed by the European Institute of the Media (EIM), the aim of this project was to monitor the coverage by the media of the Romanian general elections which took place in November 1996. The methodology for the media monitoring followed that developed by EIM for the ex-CIS republics (see Election Monitoring section in Tacis Ad-hoc project descriptions): assessment of the legal framework within which the media operate; quantitative and qualitative analysis of media performance in relation to the recognised norms of democratic process and electoral procedures; and a study of complaints made.

During the eight-month project, EIM's local partners carried out a one-week monitoring of the selected media outlets every month. These included national public television and radio channels, major private electronic media and print outlets in Bucharest as well as in a number of selected cities in the country. Pre-election activities included a round-table discussion with Romanian journalists and European Union media experts, which aimed to provide a preliminary assessment of the current situation. In the final stage of the project, local monitors and western experts conducted a three-week monitoring exercise in Bucharest and some regional cities.

Conflict prevention**Preventing ethnic conflict**

Title: Ethnic Conflict Prevention
Budget year: 1995
Contract N°: 96-0383
Budget: ECU 196,573
Contractor: Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations
 Prinsessegracht 22
 NL-2514 AP The Hague
 Tel: +31 70 363 60 33
 Fax: +31 70 363 59 10

Beneficiary countries: Albania, Estonia, FYROM, Latvia, Romania

This project marks the beginning of cooperation between PHARE and the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations, on behalf of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The 14-month project carried out during 1996 and 1997 aimed to meet high-priority needs identified by the High Commissioner in the area of ethnic conflict prevention in the CEECs. The activities included seminars, round-table discussions and training workshops. A region-wide two-day seminar on minority education issues took place in Vienna in November 1996 with 23 participants from the Ministry of Education and minority groups. Topics included educational resources, curriculum development, bilingualism and access to public and private education.

In December 1996 a round-table discussion took place in Lund, Sweden, on inter-ethnic relations in Estonia. 40 participants were expected to attend. The four main topics under consideration were: education, language policy issues, citizenship and dialogue mechanisms on minorities. Also part of the project, a training course for civil servants from Macedonian local authorities took place in April 1997 in Skopje. The project also sought to deal with other pressing needs arising from the High Commissioner's work on short-term conflict prevention, by responding on a case-by-case basis.

Women's rights and representation

Training women as decision-takers

Title: Project Parity
 Budget year: 1995
 Contract N°: 96-0368
 Budget: 350,000 ECU
 Contractor: Project Parity
 46 Portland Place
 UK-London W1N 3DG
 Tel: +44 171 631 15 45
 Fax: +44 171 631 15 44

Beneficiary countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary,
 Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania,
 Slovakia and Slovenia

The purpose of this project is to increase the participation of CEE women in decision-making in politics and public life. To achieve this objective, Project Parity is organising a series of training workshops for women in the region. The workshops address how to get more women elected and appointed, by developing skills and confidence and providing access to information and networks. The programme will help to empower groups of women and assist them to take part in decision-making in local and national politics and in public life. Over the 27-month duration of the project, a total of fifteen workshops, each lasting two or three days and involving around 35 women, will be organised in nine countries; Bulgaria, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania and Latvia. The project will conclude early in 1998 with a regional seminar aiming to take stock of the situation of women in decision-making in the region and to identify the next steps to be taken.

Combating the traffic in women

Title: Foundation against Trafficking in Women
 Budget year: 1996
 Contract N°: 96-060301
 Budget: 100,000 ECU
 Contractor: Fundacja La Strada
 Aleja Armii Ludowej 6/104
 PL-Warsaw 00-571
 Tel/fax: +48 22 621 57 53

Beneficiary country: Poland

One of the ugliest aspects of the openness of Eastern and Central Europe to the West is the increase in the trafficking of women. Young women living in poverty or with low education are particularly at risk. In Poland, a foundation has recently been established to help protect such women and to reduce the trafficking in women. Founded in 1996, La Strada aims to expose the traffic in women as a violation of human rights. It provides information and assistance and advocates the rights of women. Many women at risk are not easily reached through the printed media, as La Strada's previous experience has shown. This Phare Ad-hoc project allows La Strada to create a new information and prevention campaign aimed at school and university students, unemployed and low-paid women and young women from the western border areas of Poland. Carried out between January and June 1998, the project will involve a substantial media campaign targeted at people who can influence the trafficking, including politicians, school teachers, church officials, labour offices, embassies and border agencies. A video will be produced and distributed, and public and private television channels approached to broadcast programmes on the issue. Additional training and support will be given to NGOs and to school, church and other groups who have contact with women at risk, to enable them to pass on the messages about the rights of women and the risks of trafficking.

Anti-corruption

Tackling corruption in the public sector

Title: National Strategies Against Corruption
 Budget year: 1994
 Contract N°: 95-065.00
 Budget: 47,976 ECU
 Contractor: Transparency International
 Heylstrasse
 D -10825 Berlin
 Tel: +49 30 787 59 08
 Fax: +49 30 787 57 07

Beneficiary countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia

This project, initiated and managed by Transparency International, aimed to contribute to the development of coherent national strategies for containing corruption in the public sector. A particular emphasis was placed on public procurement and privatisation and the development and strengthening of relevant institutions, laws and regulatory practices. Participating in the nine-month project were the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Activities included a series of investigative missions to the participating countries, with the aim of sensitising the governmental and NGO sectors to the problems of misuse of public power for private profit. Meetings with key staff members of different ministries, business leaders from the public and private sectors and leading personalities of civil society took place. These meetings explored the most effective methods of fighting corruption in the CEECs. The project served to sensitise the CEE partners to the problems of corruption and engaged them in a structured and systematic dialogue on the issue. It has also contributed to the establishment of national Transparency International chapters in Hungary and Poland.



Corruption and organised crime in states in transition

Title: Corruption and organised crime in states in transition
 Budget year: 1995
 Contract N°: 96-0558
 Budget: ECU 176,880
 Contractor: Council of Europe
 Avenue de l'Europe
 F-67075 Strasbourg, Cedex
 Tel: +33 88 41 20 00 / 31 71
 Fax: +33 88 41 27 94

Beneficiary countries: All PHARE and some TACIS countries

This joint project between the European Commission and the Council of Europe's OCTOPUS project aimed to assess the problem and scale of corruption and organised crime in the CEECs. In particular, it studied what (if any) legal measures have been taken by the governments of the participating CEECs and assessed their effectiveness in the fight against corruption. The 21-month project, carried out during 1996 and 1997, involved close co-operation with relevant CEE bodies involved in fighting corruption, in particular the Ministries of Interior and Justice and the Prosecutor General's Offices.

Initially, a questionnaire was drawn up and sent to all participating parties to collect information on what legal measures for fighting corruption have already been taken in the countries concerned. The findings of the survey were presented to senior officials of CEE authorities and to Western European anti-corruption experts at a regional working meeting in December 1996 in Sofia. Regional and country-specific priorities were identified and measures for legislative action were proposed. In the following 12-month period, the Council of Europe and its experts provided technical expertise to assist the drafting and implementation of anti-corruption legislation in the CEECs.

Partners from CEECs have also participated in study visits to other CEE and EU countries, in order to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations proposed by the project and the identification of potential obstacles. At the end of the project, all parties will present their evaluation of the projects' impact and compile recommendations for future action in the region.



Human rights and peace

Strengthening the powers of Ombudsmen in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Title: Support for the institutions of ombudsmen
 Budget year: 1996
 Contract N°: 96-1133
 Budget: 357,838 ECU
 Contractor: Ombudsmen of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina
 Pehlivanusa 3/11
 Sarajevo
 Beneficiary country: Bosnia-Herzegovina

Started in January 1997, this two-year project supports the institutional strengthening of the Ombudsman Federation in Bosnia-Herzegovina by ensuring that adequate resources are available for them to perform their difficult tasks in the context of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Three Ombudsmen have been appointed to undertake the casework in Sarajevo; it is anticipated that there will be over 3000 complaints per year, particularly from refugees and displaced persons returning to their homelands.

An important part of this project is the creation of local offices in Travnik, Gorazde and Orasje, providing the infrastructure for the assistants of the appointed Ombudsmen. It is anticipated that each of these offices will handle some 2000 clients per year.

The project will also organise regular "round-table" discussions on the current state of human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina, covering such issues as the position of minorities, the problems of returning refugees, the effects of the Dayton Peace Agreement and the development of democratic relations in the post-war period. A regular Bulletin will provide information on the project's progress.

Promoting human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Title: Human rights education and training in Bosnia-Herzegovina
 Budget year: 1996
 Contract N°: 97-0396
 Budget: 182,900 ECU
 Contractor: Council of Europe
 Av. de l'Europe
 F-67075 Strasbourg, Cedex
 Tel: +33 88 41 20 00
 Fax: +33 88 41 27 94

This joint initiative between the European Commission and the Council of Europe aims to promote human rights and the process of democratisation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The 18-month project provides in-service teacher training to 500 teachers in human rights and democratic citizenship. In parallel, the European Convention on Human Rights and a series of materials on human rights will be produced in English, French, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian.

A network of Bosnian schools will be created to help develop and test the materials, and to twin with schools in Western Europe. The activities will be carried out in close co-operation with the Education Authorities, the CIVITAS network, UNESCO and the OSCE.

The project will conclude with a three-day conference for policy-makers and cantonal authorities on the issues of educational policies, federalism in education and the role of citizenship education as part of the reform process.

For more information on Human Rights and Democratisation activities of the European Commission, contact:

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Directorate-General I.A

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Europe and the New Independent States,
Common Foreign and Security Policy,
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