

*BE RESPONSIBLE!*

Annual  
Report  
and  
Program  
Overview

2011



EURASIA  
PARTNERSHIP  
FOUNDATION

# ENGAGING CITIZENS, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

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This publication is made possible by the support of the American People through the *United States Agency for International Development* (USAID), and by the *Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency* (Sida). The contents are the responsibility of Eurasia Partnership Foundation and do not necessarily represent the views of USAID, the U.S. Government, Sida or the Swedish Government.

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Transparency International (TI)  
The Civitas Foundation  
The Lodestar Foundation  
United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)  
Western Union Foundation  
World Bank (WB)



# Annual Report and Program Overview 2011

## Letter of the President

Dear Friends,

At Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF), we believe that people need to acquire the necessary skills and seize all opportunities to improve their communities, their countries, and the conflict-prone South Caucasus region as a whole. Through our work, we encourage local ownership in the processes of identifying problems, devising solutions, and establishing a positive feedback loop between responsible civic engagement and tangible improvements for the public.

We design our programs to address the root causes of the obstacles that prevent people from recognizing and addressing the problems they face in their communities. For example, after some unsuccessful attempts to give grants to think tanks to draft evidence-based public policy recommendations, we recognized that one of the underlying problems was the lack of available quantitative data from households on demographic, social, economic, and political issues. What data did exist was either unpublished or unreliable. In addition to the lack of data, researchers didn't know how to integrate the data into their research papers and policy arguments.

In response to this, and with the indispensable support from Carnegie Corporation of New York, we created three research and resource centers to re-focus the skills of social scientists in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia on quantitative research and better qualitative methods. These centers, known as the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC), also began undertaking data collection through an annual

household survey, known as the **Caucasus Barometer**. The Caucasus Barometer is widely used by researchers, academics, journalists, and analysts in writing articles and devising policy recommendations both inside and outside of the South Caucasus. We have been excited to see that in 2011, important policy debates frequently included CRRC's data as a basis for discussion.

Our data has also been tracking an important phenomenon: people working together to achieve common aims, across society. This phenomenon, known as social capital, is vital for sustaining democratic institutions and for transforming the conflicts in the South Caucasus. Using our own data, we design programs that seek to promote greater civic engagement, foster personal involvement, and engender collective responsibility. These programs range from engaging youth to improve their own communities, through supporting constructive linkages via new media across boundaries to broaden perspectives and open borders, to improving the institutional capacity of other non-governmental organizations to increase their financial stability and programmatic effectiveness. These activities are described in this 2011 Annual Report.

Responsibility to change our communities starts with each one of us. We encourage you to join us in engaging individuals and empowering communities to develop democratic institutions and promote peace and stability in the South Caucasus!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'George Zarubin'.

George Zarubin  
President



## MISSION STATEMENT:

To empower people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity, through hands-on programs, helping them to improve their communities and their own lives.



## Mandates and Programs: Be A Responsible Citizen ...

In order to facilitate stronger **EU-Armenia relations**, EPF, in cooperation with the Yerevan Press Club (YPC) disseminated Eastern Partnership (EaP)-related information among all interested parties in Armenia. As a result, the EaP weekly newsletter was launched as the blog [www.eaparmenianews.wordpress.com](http://www.eaparmenianews.wordpress.com). Issues of the newsletter are posted weekly, as well as disseminated through a mailing list to over 800 recipients. The subscription is open to the public, and the number of subscribers is growing. Twenty five issues of the EaP Armenia Newsletter were produced in 2011.

EPF's **Youth Initiatives** strengthen civic engagement among young people in the South Caucasus. Because such projects are of a cross-border nature, participants get to know groups of their peers from neighboring countries and thereby acquire cross-cultural communication skills. In 2011, EPF expanded its **Youth Bank** program in all three South Caucasus countries. Twelve more Youth Banks in eleven targeted regions have been established in Azerbaijan. The total number of beneficiaries in Armenia has now reached over a thousand. In Georgia, twelve additional YBs were launched in areas populated by ethnic minorities.

## ... & Keep Government Responsible!

In 2011 EPF continued to promote positive reforms in the area of **food safety** as part of its **Toward European Integration** program in Georgia. Through its consistent and well-informed approach, EPF made a valuable contribution toward advancing Georgia's EU integration. A significant portion of the recommendations

elaborated by EPF-led initiatives have been fulfilled by the Government of Georgia (GoG). The European Commission's decision to launch negotiations on a deep and comprehensive free trade area with Georgia, which was officially announced in December 2011, reflects the GoG's success in aligning its economic policies with those of the EU.

In 2011, EPF's **Transparency in Municipal Service Delivery** program in Azerbaijan continued to cooperate with nine partner municipalities to improve the public transparency and strategic planning capabilities of Azerbaijani local governance. EPF expanded the pool of specialists involved in the program and engaged prominent experts in the field of local governance issues. This allows EPF to extend its efforts in promoting the Municipal Performance Management System (MPMS) as a viable public service measurement tool at the national level. EPF succeeded in compiling all the contact details of all 1,718 municipalities. Moreover, EPF has an electronic version of the municipal budgets from 2005–2010 and the income and expenditures in 58 districts of Azerbaijan. EPF will be placing these resources on the program website in order to provide public access to this information.

## Be Responsible for Improved Policy Making

The Caucasus Barometer (CB), the annual survey carried out nationwide in Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, has been conducted by the **Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRRC)** since 2004. It explores the social, political, and economic dynamics in these three countries and offers comparative data on individual and household knowledge, attitudes, and practices. The Caucasus Barometer uses an identical methodological approach and survey instrument in all three countries. The collected data is open to all interested researchers and policymakers worldwide and is available for free on CRRRC's website



at: [www.crrccenters.org/caucasusbarometer/datasets/](http://www.crrccenters.org/caucasusbarometer/datasets/). The CB can also be accessed via CRRC's new **online data analysis (ODA) tool** at [www.crrc.ge/oda](http://www.crrc.ge/oda). In addition, in 2011 CRRC conducted over 15 different surveys and research projects across the South Caucasus, such as the Migration Survey in Armenia, and Cross-Border Trade in Azerbaijan.

## Take Responsibility for Constructive International Dialogue

EPF's **South Caucasus to Europe Dialogue Program** promotes international dialogue about the pressing needs of the South Caucasus countries and provides a forum for the international community to discuss cooperative solutions between the South Caucasus and Europe. Since its inception in 2008, EPF, in cooperation with the Bosch Foundation and other European partners, organized six targeted seminars in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium. In 2011, the two international events in the Hague and Brussels – *Perceptions about Georgia: Leading or Losing the Struggle for Democracy*, organized in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael and *Perceptions about Georgia: Leading or Losing the Struggle for Democracy*, organized in cooperation with the European Policy Center – brought together representatives of foreign governments, practitioners in the field, and experts in the areas of democracy, peace-building, European alignment, and the media.

With direct funding from USAID Armenia, EPF's **Armenia-Turkey Rapprochement** project focuses on building ties and developing mutual understanding between Armenian and Turkish peer groups in the non-government, media, and business sectors. In 2011 EPF held a business conference in Yerevan, with the participation of more than 60 Armenian and Turkish businessmen. Two smaller-scale business forums were also organized in Gyumri, Armenia. These events resulted in new contracts signed between Armenian and Turkish entrepreneurs, thereby paving the way for small businesses across

the border to collaborate. Most importantly, joint lobbying efforts of EPF's Armenian and Turkish partners led to the Turkish government's extending entry permits, enabling 200 Armenian transit trucks to cross the territory of Turkey.

In 2011, EPF launched the **Community Youth Peace Building through the New Media** program to promote dialogue and cooperation among young people from the South Caucasus. EPF established *young citizen journalist* groups composed of at least 20 participants, between 18 and 30, who are familiar with social networks, speak Russian and/or English, and are interested in cross-border cooperation. EPF, in collaboration with professional journalists and bloggers, delivered workshops on a variety of multimedia tools, and also hosted a joint workshop in Tbilisi for 30 trainees. Participants established groups (e.g. environmental issues, entrepreneurship, education, etc) and drafted joint projects. EPF funded 14 joint projects which are being implemented with the assistance of professional journalists. EPF facilitated one talk show on civic journalism and the role of new media in youth cooperation across divided borders.

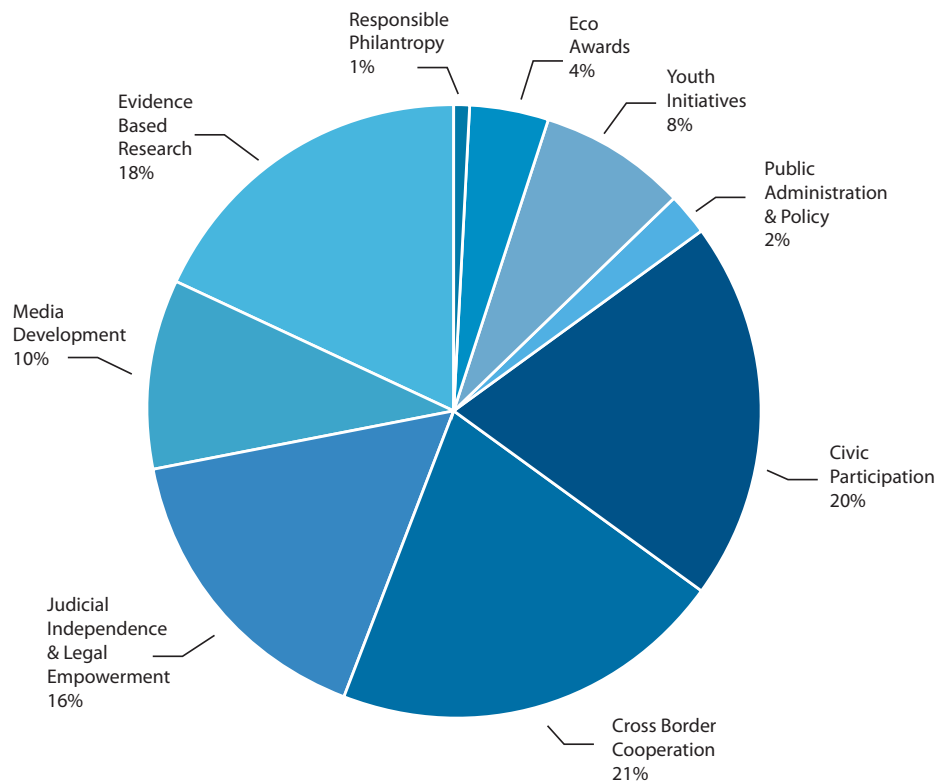
## Share Responsibility for New Ideas

In 2011, EPF continued to promote the social enterprise model among NGOs and small businesses through various joint activities. Thus, EPF and the Czech Fundraising Center (CFC) launched a project co-funded by the International Visegrad Fund to create new job opportunities for IDPs. 2011 also marked the beginning of joint efforts between EPF and Tbilisi City Hall, which strives to support potential social enterprises in the form of EPF grant support and cheap credit from a local private bank participating in the municipal program. This project has already provoked interest from Rustavi City Hall, which EPF would like to explore in 2012.

*"I was very impressed with the quality of the contributions; especially those of the Georgian participants... The orators fundamentally disagreed on many points. In the past, I have witnessed many such confrontations between opponents in other places. Frequently, these exchanges of opinion do not lead anywhere because the speakers are not willing or able to listen to each other and just try to push their own points. At this conference, however, everybody did their utmost to respond to the criticism, and tried to come up with concrete examples. Despite disagreements, they showed respect for the views of their opponents... [M]any other countries would be well advised to aspire to having such a mature political culture in which differences of opinion are dealt with in a balanced way."*

**Joost Lagendijk,**  
Former member of EU Parliament,  
senior advisor at the Istanbul  
Policy Centre, Sabanci University,  
Istanbul, seminar participant,  
column for the Turkish newspaper  
Today's Zaman, 15 May 2011

## Eurasia Partnership Foundation Program Financial Summaries\*



\*Detailed financial statements are available in the inserts



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# Armenia

C O U N T R Y   S U M M A R Y

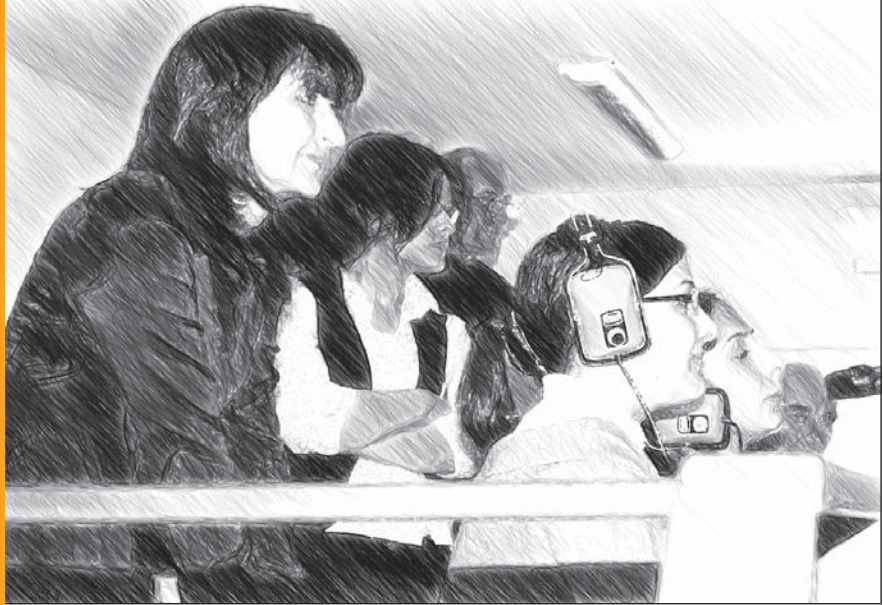
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## MISSION STATEMENT:

To empower people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity, through hands-on programs, helping them to improve their communities and their own lives.



### Freedom of Expression and “Article 27” TV Talk Show

To further promote Freedom of Expression (FoE) in Armenia, EPF produced 17 episodes of “Article 27,” a TV talk show that was broadcast on Yerkir TV. “Article 27” covered such topics as European values, anti-corruption, and Armenia-Azerbaijan and Armenia-Turkey relations, and hosted 70 participants, both from Armenia and from abroad. The aim of “Article 27” is to educate viewers on complex issues through civilized discussion with intelligent participants, accompanied by related video materials and explicit consideration of mainstream vs. alternative discourse. The average audience is 10,000 per episode. During 2011, EPF received a good deal of feedback calls from citizens, which demonstrated that “Article 27” has succeeded in identifying relevant issues of interest to society.

EPF also commissioned seven individual research studies to explore the notion of freedom of expression in classical and modern Armenian fiction. The aggregate results of the study were presented and discussed during one of the TV talk shows, as well as during a public discussion at the Yerevan State Linguistic University. In 2011, EPF provided world-class training to a select group of ten media professionals who wanted to obtain skills in effective TV anchoring. As part of the Alternative Resources in Media (ARM) program, EPF supported the “Persona Grata” Production Agency to produce a 40-minute documentary titled “Theory of Improbability.” The film focuses on the success achieved by neighbouring Georgia in building an effective, transparent, and corruption-free administrative system. The ARM program screened the documentary for a variety of audiences ranging from university faculty, students, and civil society activists, to representatives of international organizations, and the government of Armenia. The accompanying discussion on the TV talk show was viewed by 14,400 people, while EPF received 28 feedback calls from viewers. The Georgian “PIK” TV channel and the Russian “Frontline” club requested permission from the authors to broadcast the film in Georgia and Russia respectively.

### Youth Bank Committees in Armenia Engage a Broader Group of Young People

Since the beginning of 2011, each of the ten Youth Bank (YB) committees organized a meeting with community youth to introduce the EPF book “Hello Europe” and to solicit youth-led grant projects promoting European values. YB committees accomplished one general development grant cycle, and awarded 25 small grants. The implementation of the selected projects engaged 65 young people and focused on minority rights, assistance to special needs groups, introduction to the EU, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. The project is growing as more and more youth in Armenia are joining the YB movement, and in 2011 the total number of beneficiaries reached over a thousand. Most importantly, about 80% of YB members have become active users of social media tools, which further promoted their capacity to practice freedom of expression and become informed community leaders.

### Pecha Kucha Night

The concept of “Pecha Kucha Night” (PKN) was devised in Tokyo in 2003 as an event for young designers to meet, network, and show their work in public. Since then, PKN has turned into a massive celebration, with events happening in hundreds of cities around the world, inspiring creativity worldwide. Drawing its name from the Japanese term for the sound of “chit chat,” it employs a presentation format that is based on a simple idea: presenting 20 images, for 20 seconds each. It’s a format that keeps presentations concise, and moves things at a rapid pace. In 2011, EPF used the PKN format to promote its own projects, inform stakeholders, and build new partnerships.

In November 2011, EPF and the Global Political Trends Center (Turkey), in close collaboration with Vahe Balouljian and Nurten Mericer (PKN license holders in Yerevan and Istanbul





*"If the Youth Bank had not accidentally opened up a new horizon in my life, I would be lost now somewhere in Russia's construction sites as a labor migrant, and would never have been able to recognize my ability to make a change in my town and in other peoples' lives."*

**Yeghiazar Davtyan,**  
Martuni YB member and  
coordinator of InfoTun project

respectively), co-organized the "Istanbul-Yerevan, Close Creative Encounters" PKN in Yerevan. The event brought together ten speakers from Armenia and Turkey, who presented on a variety of interesting topics, such as the similarities between Armenian and Turkish cuisine and the ecological movements in both countries. This joint PKN became the first ever occasion when a PKN was successfully and innovatively used in a cross-border, peace-building context.

In December 2011, following the success of the Yerevan-Istanbul PKN, EPF used the format to present a selection of its 2011 activities to an audience of about 80 people made up of donors and grantees, colleagues and friends. The presentations focused on projects executed as part of the ARM project, the Freedom of Expression project, and Open-Door grants. Overall, EPF's implementing partners and grantees presented 14 projects. Read more in the Open-Door one-pager.

## Main Activities for 2012

In 2012, EPF will continue to support the production and consumption of alternative media content via its network of InfoTuns network as well as to provide grant support to new media outlets and individuals. EPF will also continue to support freedom of expression through the format of TV talk shows and large-scale public discussions. EPF will continue increasing the awareness of the Armenian public regarding different aspects of the EU-Armenia dialogue and EaP implementation. EPF will also continue building youth community leaders by engaging active youth in community-based and regional initiatives. EPF will continue to support the cross-border dialogue between Armenia and Turkey in the spheres of civil society, media, and business, as well as between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the sphere of youth initiatives.



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

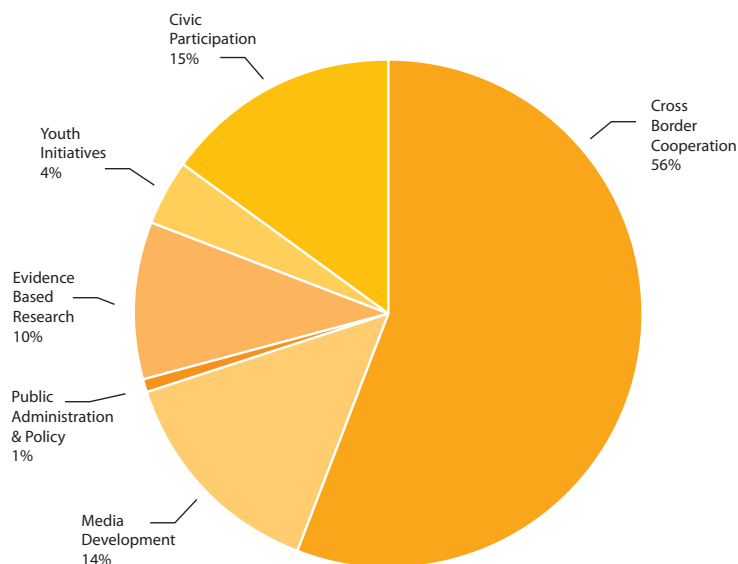
**Nouneh Sarkissyan**  
*Internews Armenia*

**Artashes Terzyan**  
*Investment Banker*

**Margarit Piliposyan**  
*Fund for Armenian Relief*

**Yeva Hyusyan**  
*Microsoft Innovation  
Center Armenia*

## Armenia Financials



### EURASIA PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION IN ARMENIA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2011	2010
Grants and contributions receivable	354,332	
Furniture and equipment including intangibles	5,976	7,425
Total non-current assets	360,308	7,425
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash in bank	263,277	873,763
Grants, contributions, and other receivables	2,530,883	3,298,385
Total current assets	2,794,160	4,172,148
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,154,468</b>	<b>\$ 4,179,573</b>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Grants payable	550,605	579,854
Deferred income/revenue	75,453	18,519
Accrued salaries and related benefits	49,169	29,154
Accrued expences and accounts payable	21,568	26,543
Total current liabilities	696,795	654,070
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	9,371	(37,294)
Temporarily restricted	2,448,302	3,562,797
Total net assets	2,457,673	3,525,503
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,154,468</b>	<b>\$ 4,179,573</b>

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*Gelman, Rosenberg, and Freedman have conducted an audit for our financial statements and have issued an unqualified opinion.*



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# Armenia

## Citizen Journalism and New Media

In 2011, EPF Armenia increased its support of citizen journalism and the use of new media in the country, and in the regions in particular. Through expanding activities of the Alternative Resources in Media (ARM) Project, EPF supported 14 innovative grant projects, established five community information-sharing hubs, known as “InfoTuns”, and conducted the first-ever Social Innovation Camp in Armenia.

### *Project Goal*

The ARM Project, launched in November 2010, aims at enhancing and improving access to pluralistic and unbiased information in Armenia via traditional and alternative media through the use of new technologies. This four-year USAID-supported project is jointly implemented by EPF, Internews Media Support NGO and the Yerevan Press Club, under the leadership of Internews (USA). The ARM Project seeks to increase alternative sources of diverse news and information through an integrated program that builds civic demand for alternative content, as well as supports its production and dissemination and enhances public advocacy on media freedom.

### *Impact in 2011*

Five InfoTuns were established in May 2011 to build a base for the spread of new media use throughout Armenia.

These InfoTuns operate under regional NGOs. With support from EPF, InfoTuns have increasingly become regional telecommunication hubs with a wide portfolio of information services. InfoTuns actively participate in new media content development through InfoTun blogs, Facebook pages, and Twitter accounts, organize frequent trainings on new media tools and media literacy, as well as filter and disseminate content through InfoTun bulletin boards and social networks.

In 2011, EPF announced the annual “New Content through New Technologies” open grant competition through the ARM Project. The goal of the competition was to promote the creation and dissemination of alternative content through the use of the latest technologies and new means of distribution. As a result of competitive selection, fourteen finalists were each awarded grants of up to USD 20,000. Successful initiatives included support to new media developments in remote regions of Armenia, promotion of multimedia citizen journalism, and the Badu.am mobile journalism platform. More details about the grant recipients can be found on the EPF website ([www.epfound.am/english/current-programs/media-programs/awarded-grants.html](http://www.epfound.am/english/current-programs/media-programs/awarded-grants.html)).

The Mardamej Social Innovation Camp (SIC) Armenia took place on November 18-20, 2011 in Tsakhkadzor. SIC is a group-thinking format created by a group of social promoters in the UK in which software developers and designers collaborate with various professionals who understand a particular social problem to build web and mobile-based solutions to meet



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*"I was a blogger for a year already, but until I met with the InfoTun people I never knew that I was a citizen journalist. Thanks to this project, I was able to make my voice heard in the major Armenian media. I got in trouble for what I wrote, and I learned to be responsible and to think independently."*

**Karine Minasyan,**  
blogger

social challenges. The Camp was organized by EPF, UNDP, and the ARM Project in cooperation with the London-based Social Innovation Camp Ltd. During the initial selection six project ideas were identified among the submitted 70 to be elaborated during the Camp. The winning project, MyTransport.am, a framework intended to help people navigate intercity travel in Armenia, received USD 4,000 in grant funds from UNDP Armenia, and two years of free hosting and internet access from internet UICOM ISP service provider.

iLike, a social networking prototype allowing people to suggest and rate local businesses and services, won the Audience Choice award. The other four teams presented projects on election-promise monitoring, a hyper-local news media outlet, the monitoring of government-run primary healthcare institutions, and a platform for linking the need for social support to philanthropic resources. Following the Camp, EPF announced a cluster grant competition to provide seed funds to the most innovative projects elaborated at Mardamej. Four projects were selected to receive funding, and will start implementing start-up initiatives in April 2012.

### **Main Activities for 2012**

In the coming year, for the first time in Armenia, an online platform for reporting and registering election violations will be launched ahead of the Armenian Parliamentary Elections in May 2012. The platform will be supported by a group of organizations, including Open Society Institute Armenia, EPF, and Transparency International. The main goal of iDitord.org is to help hold free, fair, and transparent elections in Armenia through public monitoring of the voting process. iDitord.org is based on the "Ushahidi" online tool, and will enable citizens to report fraud/violations by calling, sending text messages, photographs, and videos. EPF will continue to support the advancement of new technologies and citizen journalism in Armenia through a new round of grants to be announced within the frames of the ARM Project.

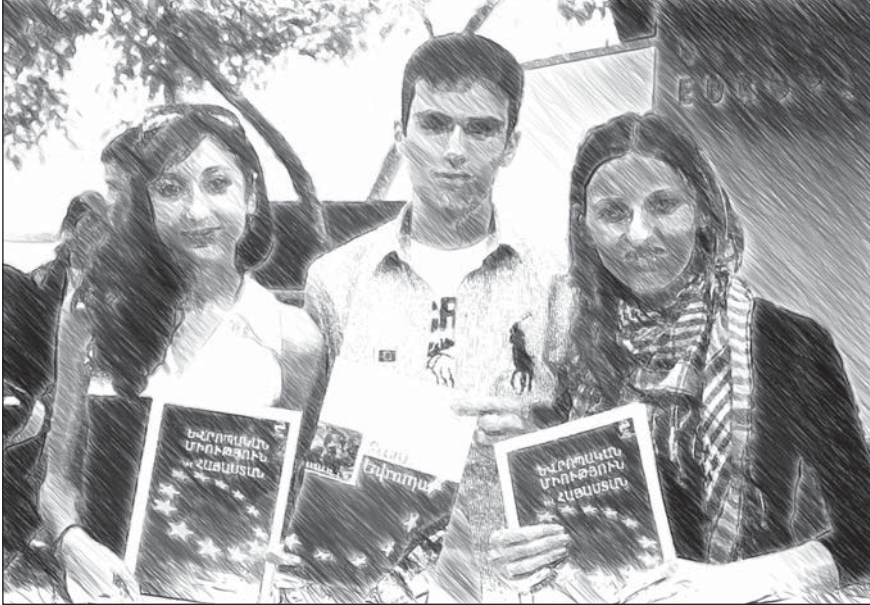
InfoTuns will continue developing new strategies to meet special educational and awareness needs in the communities through the use of creative approaches and the application of new technologies. A closed grant competition will be announced for InfoTuns promoting the institutional development of InfoTuns and the expansion of their information dissemination services.

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# Armenia

## Getting Closer to Europe

In 2011, Eurasia Partnership Foundation continued to develop the Europe Program conducting thorough research on issues related to Armenia's European integration, as well as through the production of an additional 25 issues of the Eastern Partnership Armenia Newsletter, the establishment of a state-of-the-art Translation Lab at Yerevan State Linguistic University (YSLU), and other actions.

### **Program Goal**

The Europe Program aims to contribute to the effective implementation of the Eastern Partnership in Armenia (EaP). The program works in three interconnected directions: raising public awareness of and increasing the role of civil society in the Armenia-EU dialogue, advocating for the productive implementation of obligations assumed in the framework of the EaP, and contributing to the effective implementation of higher education reform in light of the Bologna Process.

### **Impact in 2011**

Since the launch of the EaP, EPF has teamed up with a group of recognized Armenian NGOs to initiate a series of meetings, discussions, and round tables dedicated to developing different aspects of the EaP. In February 2011, EPF in cooperation with the Yerevan Press Club (YPC) refurbished the production and dissemination of EaP-related information among all interested parties in Armenia. As a result, the EaP weekly newsletter, which was initiated by the YPC in 2010,

was launched as a blog ([www.eaparmenianews.wordpress.com](http://www.eaparmenianews.wordpress.com)). The newsletter is posted weekly on the blog, as well as disseminated through a mailing list to over 800 recipients. Subscriptions are open to the public, and the number of subscribers is growing rapidly. Twenty five issues of the EaP Armenia Newsletter were produced in 2011.

In order to develop credible advocacy projects in support of the Armenia-EU dialogue, EPF supported groups of independent researchers to study issues including alternative energy, environmental governance, foreign trade, European culture, and others related to Armenia's EaP framework. Through a competitive selection process, EPF identified five groups of researchers and funded them to produce five policy papers. Three of the papers resulted in high quality policy briefs focusing on alternative energy, the need to mainstream environmental legislation, and barriers to external trade. Over 1,000 copies of these policy briefs were distributed during different public events to representatives of civil society, policy-makers, and EU and government officials. The policy briefs were praised during the Civil Society Forum (CSF) in Poznan in November 2011 and were posted on the official EaP CSF website ([www.eap-csf.eu/en/news-events/articles-analytics/research-papers-on-various-aspects-of-the-eastern-partnership-implementation-in-armenia](http://www.eap-csf.eu/en/news-events/articles-analytics/research-papers-on-various-aspects-of-the-eastern-partnership-implementation-in-armenia)).

The establishment of the YSLU state-of-the-art Translation Lab was supported by the EPF Europe Program and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)



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*"I have read very attentively the policy briefs delivered by Eurasia Partnership Foundation. We at the government pay very serious attention to the documents which come from civil society. The policy briefs are relevant to our work and help us determine the negotiation agenda and the scope of policy work. We may agree or disagree, accept the recommendations or not, but it is crucially important for us to know what the recommendations from civil society are. They impact on our thinking about the next steps. I encourage EPF and the other NGOs to continue providing us with their advice and expertise."*

**Zohrab Mnatsakanyan,**  
Deputy Foreign Minister  
for European Issues

within the framework of the Translation Lab as a Catalyst for Modernization and Reform at YSLU project. The Lab aims at boosting higher education reform at YSLU by building capacity for the innovative educational cycle based on the "IT-Translation" concept. The Lab will serve as a powerful impetus for a wide range of transformations across disciplines, as a crucial part of the university's modernization strategy.

In 2011, EPF supported the first-ever research project to focus on plagiarism in higher education, conducted by the Khachmeruk Debate Club NGO. Plagiarism among university students is rampant and also hinders the process of conforming to the requirements laid out by the Bologna process. The research revealed the primary factors contributing to plagiarism, as well as developed recommendations and suggestions for decreasing the level of plagiarism in Armenian higher education institutions. According to the research, the two major factors contributing to plagiarism are: a) the lack of a tradition of individual student work and b) the lack of awareness regarding plagiarism and the rules of academic writing. The research team recommends that universities should organize introductory lectures on plagiarism and referencing for first-year students and adopt internal regulations to punish plagiarism when it does occur. The research was followed by a number of presentations at Yerevan-based and regional universities with the participation of university students and faculty.

### **Main Activities for 2012**

EPF will continue advocating for reform in identified problem areas and working to increase the awareness and trust of Armenian society towards the Armenia-EU agenda. The Europe Program will further build the capacity of civil society to establish a functioning coalition and effectively collaborate with the Armenian government and EU structures via dialogue and sound policy advice.

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# Armenia

## Open-Door Grants

In 2011, EPF Armenia's Open-Door grant scheme worked to support innovative initiatives. Grantees became partners who helped to further promote EPF's strategy. EPF accepted Open-Door grant proposals in two categories.

### *Project Goal*

As part of the strategic partnership between EPF and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), EPF's Open-Door grant making contributed to the advancement of democracy, the promotion of European values and human rights, the establishment of freedom of media and speech, as well as to the promotion of confidence-building between Armenia and neighboring countries. By February 1, 2011, EPF had received 43 proposals, 14 of which were shortlisted, with the most innovative 11 inquiries receiving funding.

As part of the USAID-funded project Support to Armenia-Turkey Rapprochement (SATR), EPF and its SATR partners supported innovative ideas that demonstrated the potential to improve Armenia-Turkey dialogue. During 2011, EPF received about 30 inquiries and proposals, while eight of them were selected for funding by the SATR's Open-Door selection committee.

### *Impact in 2011*

In 2011, the "Achilles" Center for the Protection of Drivers' Rights NGO implemented a project that aimed to help reduce

corruption in road traffic accident investigation by introducing the three-dimensional image building "PC Crash" software. This allows high-tech independent expertise via a quick and accurate analysis of motor vehicle collisions. The project utilizes independent experts as an alternative to the services provided by the Traffic Police. This process will help reduce the risks of corruption related to the investigation and litigation of traffic accidents.

The NGO "Journalists for Human Rights" carried out civic monitoring and investigated existing human rights violations in the army. The project helped to increase public awareness of, and thus the assertion of control over, human rights violations in the Armenian military through the establishment of a professional network of human rights journalists located in different regions of Armenia and numerous publications in [www.lragir.am](http://www.lragir.am).

Continuing its support for hitherto unaddressed areas of Freedom of Expression, EPF supported the Armenian Book Center Cultural Union to launch the website [www.arteria.am](http://www.arteria.am) for the critique of art and literature. The website will serve as an interactive cultural platform, and will encourage information exchange and critical dialogue among culturally and socially active communities in Armenia.

Hemshin Armenians residing in Turkey are a unique ethnic group practicing Armenian traditions and language combined with the Islamic faith. The grantee, Inkagir Literary Club, in cooperation with its Turkish partner "Bırayşam Kültür ve

*"We are grateful to Eurasia Partnership Foundation for funding this program. As a result of this program, those families who have lost their sons to mandatory army service, the families who live in dire social conditions, received free legal consultations and were able to reach wider population by making their concerns public. These families also receive psychological support from our visits, as in many cases we were the only ones who visited them and tried to help them solve their problems."*

**Zhanna Alexanyan,**  
Chairwoman of Journalists for  
Human Rights NGO

Ekoloji Derneği," set out on an expedition to villages in the Hopa district – the primary settlement of Hemshin Armenians in Turkey – to conduct a series of interviews with the Hemshin and to collect photographic and video materials on their traditions, daily life, language, degree of integration into Turkish society, social and economic problems, and other issues. As part of the project, a set of articles based on the collected information was written in both Armenian and Turkish and published in the Armenian and Turkish media. The materials will be published on a dedicated website and distributed to the wider public on CD.

In December 2011, the grantee NGO Civic Forum together with the Yildiz Technical University from Turkey organized a workshop for students/young professionals on the environmental sustainability challenges facing the urban *built environment* for Turkish and Armenian architecture. The five-day workshop in Istanbul brought together 20 young professionals in the field of energy efficiency, as well as expert speakers from Armenia and Turkey around the issue of energy-efficient architecture. The workshop helped facilitate networking and the exchange of knowledge and expertise between the young specialists and triggered cooperation among them through the development of joint projects.

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Annual  
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Overview  
**2011**

# Azerbaijan

C O U N T R Y   S U M M A R Y

***BE RESPONSIBLE! 2011***



**EURASIA  
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## MISSION STATEMENT:

To empower people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity, through hands-on programs, helping them to improve their communities and their own lives.



## Transparency in Municipal Service Delivery Program

With the financial support of Statoil, EPF is now implementing the Transparency in Municipal Service Delivery Program in order to strengthen the institutional capacity of municipalities through the provision of training and coaching, along with technical assistance. EPF has developed the Municipal Performance Management System (MPMS) – a comprehensive set of over 100 indicators – to assess the performances and capacities of municipal structures in strategic planning and public outreach activities. The program focuses on accountability and transparency in budgetary allocations and municipal operations. Since 2006, more than 150 principal staff in 30 municipalities have undergone extensive trainings and increased their knowledge in practical measures to improve transparency in municipal activities. EPF is currently working with 10 municipalities across the country and is pushing to advocate the utilization of MPMS as a national performance measurement system. With extended financial support of Statoil and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), EPF is expanding this program with the goal of broadening this successful model of transparent municipal practices and increasing the strategic planning capacities of local governments.

In the framework of the Transparency in Municipal Service Delivery Program, and with the financial support of the Canada Fund, EPF implemented the *Gender Mainstreaming in Local Governance* project to enhance the participation of women in local self-governance and decision-making by including gender specific indicators in the MPMS. The program also established and strengthened the capacities of the Women's Chamber within the target municipalities to ensure that issues important to women are included on the local agenda.

## Youth Initiatives

### *Youth Fund*

Adapting a unique approach to local community development first used in Northern Ireland, the Azerbaijan Youth Fund program, which was launched in December 2006, is an innovative micro-grant program which provides much-needed funding to support the initiatives of young people. Over the past five years EPF has received direct funding from the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, USAID, the Lodestar Foundation, Garadagh Cement, the Government of Finland and Sida. Through the YF program, EPF has supported around 70 youth-led initiatives, such as the provision of computer skills trainings for children in orphanages, the opening of an internet café for girls, and a carpet weaving initiative, among others. Currently the program engages approximately 120 young people who comprise 21 Youth Funds in 19 regions of the country. In 2011, the program was supported by Sida and Chevron Azerbaijan.

### *Getting Involved! Program*

EPF's role as one of the major players in cross-border programs in the South Caucasus is strengthened through the engagement of young people in the regional Getting Involved Program. The Program also promotes dialogue and joint action between young people from countries divided by conflict. The number of young people willing to participate in cross-border dialogue projects increases from year to year. As the program's selection process demonstrated in March 2011, EPF received 10% more applications from young people throughout Azerbaijan. The selection process considered gender balance and equal opportunities for youth from the regions. EPF selected 10 successful candidates to participate in a series of seminars in Georgia. The first seminar was held in Tbilisi, Georgia in spring 2011. In the course of the seminar the participants learned about volunteer activities in neighbouring countries, took part in team building activities, implemented mini-actions throughout the city, discussed plans for future activities, and designed and implemented cooperative cross-border projects.



*"Taking this opportunity, I would also like to extend our acknowledgements to the EPF staff... without their valuable assistance and guidance the implementation of this project would have been much more difficult... We thank you for your long-term vision for the development of the country and hope for continued fruitful cooperation with EPF."*

**Shahla Ismayil,**  
Chairwoman, Women's Association for  
Rational Development, Azerbaijan,  
Open-Door Grantee

## Media Initiatives

### *Citizen Journalism Electronic Media (E-Media) Program*

This program focuses on improving media freedom in Azerbaijan and promoting freedom of expression by boosting the capacity of civil society to actively use e-media.

EPF has established 10 e-media groups in 10 regions of Azerbaijan, each group comprised of 30 participants. Targeted trainings were provided to the participants by prominent e-media trainers. A two-day training was organized for 20 bloggers from non-target regions. In addition, in the framework of the program [www.regiondan.info](http://www.regiondan.info), a webpage was created providing a forum for trained youth from the five target regions to publish their blog posts. The authors of the most successful and most popular blog posts were awarded various prizes. To increase the effectiveness of the trainings, EPF provided the participants with technical resources. EPF managed to raise donations from local corporations and, as a result, Bakcell Telecommunication Agency donated eight computers to the program target group in the regions of Azerbaijan.

### *Community Youth Peace Building through New Media*

The purpose of the program is to promote dialogue and cooperation among young people of the South Caucasus through the use of new media and networking. EPF established *young citizen journalist* groups composed of at least 20 participants in each country. EPF, in collaboration with professional journalists and bloggers from EPF's previous project, delivered a three-day workshop on multimedia tools for social activism, conflict transformation, cultural diversity, new interactive media, and bias-free reporting. In-country and Tbilisi meetings designed to increase participants' awareness about one another were also organized. As a result of the project, the participating youth gained skills and experience that will last beyond the life of the project.

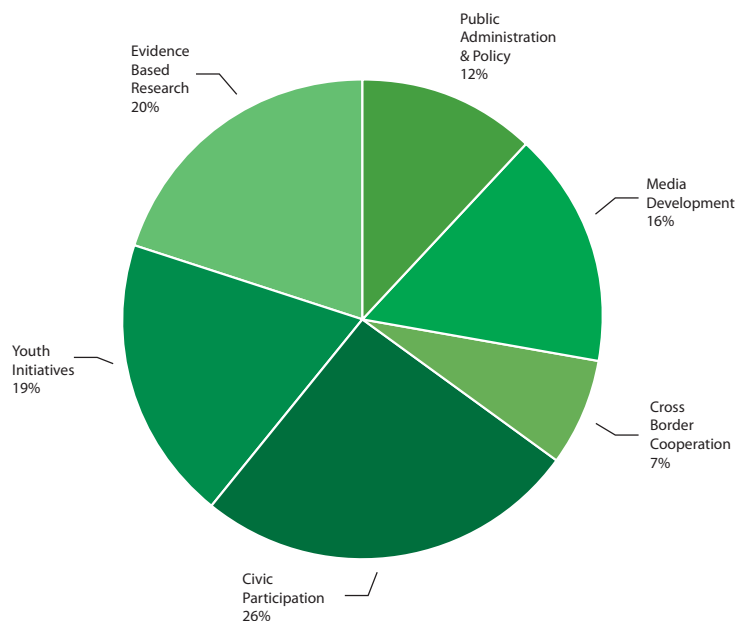
## European Integration Program

Through both the European Integration Program and through grants, EPF aims to facilitate dialogue between the government, businesses, and civil society on the most important issues related to the integration of Azerbaijan with Europe and to raise awareness of those issues. In partnership with the Azerbaijan Lawyers Confederation (ALC), EPF implemented a project on "Conformity of the Azerbaijan Draft Competition Code with the principles described in the EU's Azerbaijan Country Strategy Paper" which aimed to raise public awareness by drafting recommendations to the Competition Code and to advocate for its adoption on the national level. In order to achieve its objectives, the grantee developed strong connections with potential stakeholders from civil society, business, and government. A Position Paper drafted by a group of experts was submitted to the National Parliament. EPF organized an international conference on the topic of "The roles of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly and civil society in the European integration process." This was the first high level event where MPs and NGO representatives were brought together to discuss the process of European integration and the roles of the two institutions. As part of the European Integration Program, EPF has been working on multiple levels, including building the capacity of journalists to report on issues related to European integration and promoting collaboration with the government of Azerbaijan.

## Open-Door Grants Program

The Open-Door program is designed to support innovative projects that improve democracy, human rights, freedom of expression, and transparency and accountability in Azerbaijan. In 2011, with the financial support of Sida, EPF awarded eight projects implemented by the Women's Association for Rational Development, Independent Consumers Union, Azerbaijan Lawyers' Confederation, BUTA, Childrens' Humanitarian Foundation, Caucasus Media Investigation Center Public Union, Digital Development Public Union, Leader Women Public Union, and Umman Care for Children with Disability Public Union.

## Azerbaijan Financials



### EURASIA PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION IN AZERBAIJAN STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2011	2010
Furniture and equipment	75	151
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	316,095	785,114
Accounts receivable	3,552	11,553
Grants, contributions receivables	1,210,585	1,108,906
Prepaid expenses	15,957	12,964
Advances to employees and fellowships	1,939	446
Total current assets	1,548,128	1,918,983
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,548,203</b>	<b>\$ 1,919,134</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Grants payable	2,000	7,982
Fellowships payable		2,680
Interest due to Sida	9,216	
Interest due to MFA Norway	566	
Accrued salaries and related benefits	14,718	7,620
Accrued expenses and accounts payable	76,833	35,719
Total current liabilities	103,333	54,001
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	27,586	25,460
Temporarily restricted	1,417,284	1,839,673
Total net assets	1,444,870	1,865,133
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,548,203</b>	<b>\$ 1,919,134</b>

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*Gelman, Rosenberg, and Freedman have conducted an audit for our financial statements and have issued an unqualified opinion.*



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Communities*

# Azerbaijan

## Citizen Journalism e-Media Program

### *Project Goal*

The goal of the project is to empower, educate, and provide technical assistance to civil society and media organizations to promote independent electronic media and encourage the free flow of unbiased information in Azerbaijan by introducing alternative means of collecting and sharing information.

Since 2010, with financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EPF has been implementing the Citizen Journalism E-Media program aimed at improving media freedom in Azerbaijan and promoting freedom of expression by boosting the capacity of civil society to actively use e-media. In the framework of the program, EPF established 10 e-media groups in 10 regions of Azerbaijan, each group comprised of 30 participants. Structured trainings on understanding the role of media, journalism ethics, new media/multimedia journalism, web writing, blogging/podcasting/digital photo, audio and video editing, RSS, online interview techniques, and social media/social networking were provided to the participants by participating specialists. A two-day training was organized for 20 bloggers from non-target regions in order to extend the existing networking. In the frame of the project, EPF also introduced the social network [www.regiondan.info](http://www.regiondan.info) where young people from different regions of Azerbaijan actively write about the social problems of their communities.

Following the trainings, four competitions were held among the participants to solicit the best e-media products. The winners of the most popular posts were awarded with technical equipment (laptops, webcams, digital cameras, etc.) to support and encourage the creation of higher quality web-based articles and products. The Best E-media Products competition was also open to non-participants of the project, and as a result 15 youth from five regions were presented with awards of recognition. A day-long tour to five partner NGOs was arranged for eight young people actively involved in the social issues of their communities, to provide them with the opportunity to gain an understanding of EPF's programs and activities, meet local leaders, and hear from them about the challenges they face in their field.

### *Impact*

The project produces a two-tiered impact on independent media in Azerbaijan. Initially, the project formed a group of active citizens possessing essential skills relating to the usage of non-traditional media due to the training and education on the importance of a diverse and independent media landscape. These skills are essential as the country continues to face significant challenges on its path to democracy.

EPF created a Citizen Journalism E-media Network, bringing together people with common interests in e-media allowing them to share information and lessons learned. The target group includes civil society organisations, media representatives, community leaders, and groups in the target

*"EPF is exceptionally important for me and Channel 13. The channel started working in the framework of EPF's project with the financial support of the Norwegian Embassy... Each program on this channel is a special case in the country's internet broadcast space and a complicated project type which eventually attracted tens of thousands of people... That is why I am especially grateful to EPF for making the Channel 13 function in 2011 as well."*

**Anar Orujov,**  
Director, Caucasus Media  
Researches Center, Azerbaijan,  
Open Door Grantee

regions. All major media organisations in Azerbaijan, including Azerbaijan Media Centre and Transitions Online, have pledged their support to this project. This ensures ongoing assistance for the participants. EPF also established relations with local executive committees and government structures in the target regions ensuring the longevity of this project.

The project stressed gender balance and made sure that 40%-50% of the project participants are female. The project was open to participants of all age groups and the wide geographical scope of this project further ensured a fair representation of the Azerbaijani population.

### **Main Activities in 2012**

In 2012, EPF will arrange a conference with the participation of the program target group from the 10 regions. The conference will provide an opportunity to discuss best practices and share lessons learned. Representatives of Transition Online, Radio Liberty, Media Center, regional NGOs and the mobile operator Bakcell will be invited to the conference to allow participants to build long-term relationships with these entities to ensure continued support post project completion. EPF will conduct the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the competition "the best e-media products" in five regions of Azerbaijan. EPF will also arrange a Social Innovations Camp, conduct training on leadership and human rights, organize a photo exhibition and prepare a documentary, promoting e-media as an alternative means of collecting and sharing information.

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# Azerbaijan

## Municipal Programs

### *Project Goal*

The goal of EPF's Transparency in Municipal Service Delivery Program, supported by Statoil, is to improve public transparency and strategic planning capability of Azerbaijani municipalities through a systematic process of monitoring and the evaluation of municipal performance in local service delivery.

### *Transparency in Municipal Service Delivery*

In 2011, EPF expanded the pool of specialists involved in the program and engaged the most prominent experts in the field of local governance issues. A larger pool of experts allows EPF to extend its efforts in promoting The Municipal Performance Management System (MPMS) as a viable public service measurement tool at the national level. This also allows for the initiation of discussions with the relevant state agencies on setting the benchmarks for the set of indicators and introducing them to all municipalities across the country. EPF revised the MPMS indicators and included gender sensitive indicators to ensure that the needs of women are taken into account in municipal planning.

In spring 2011, EPF reviewed data collected from the nine partner municipalities and started the process of data verification. The EPF team of experts visited targeted municipalities in order to carry out the process of verification jointly with the representatives of partner municipalities. The verification process revealed that some information was not

accurate. The revision of the relevant documents provided accurate data for MPMS. The process of data collection/verification showed that municipalities are still lacking relevant municipal statistics, which impedes the efficiency and effectiveness of their work.

In the framework of the program, EPF issued six grants to its partner municipalities from Zagatala, Gabala, Siyazen, Salyan, Mingechevir, and Lenkaran. The proposals were selected based on the quality of the proposal design, logic, and relevance of proposed actions. These projects are intended to strengthen the strategic planning capacity of municipalities and to increase their outreach activities and consultation with their citizens.

EPF's nine partner municipalities organized and conducted a series of public hearings with the participation of their constituency. EPF participated in various activities dedicated to the discussions of municipal issues, including: a roundtable on Municipal Legislation and its development possibilities organized by the NGO Alliance on Municipal Development; a seminar on best practices in strengthening local government and good governance at the local level organized by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies; and the application of electronic management tools within municipalities organized by ERC with the financial support of GIZ, etc.

EPF succeeded in compiling contact details of all 1,718 municipalities, including the names and cell phone numbers of the chairpersons and municipal members. Moreover, EPF has



*The Municipal Performance Management System (MPMS) allows municipalities to measure socio-economic performance, and progress in the fields of social protection, social, environmental, and institutional services.*

an electronic versions of the municipal budgets (2005–2010) and income and expenditures in 58 districts of Azerbaijan. EPF will be placing these resources on the program website [www.belediyyeler.az](http://www.belediyyeler.az) in order to provide public access to this information as it is not available anywhere else. EPF is currently in the process of upgrading and redesigning the website. The updated website will serve as an online resource not only for EPF's partner municipalities but for a broader segment of municipalities and other relevant stakeholders.

### ***Gender Mainstreaming in Local Governance***

In the framework of the Transparency in Municipal Service Delivery Program, and with financial support from the Canada Fund, EPF implemented the Gender Mainstreaming in Local Governance project to enhance women's participation in local self-governance and decision-making by including gender specific indicators in the MPMS, supporting the establishment and strengthening the capacities of the Women's Chambers in the target municipalities to ensure that issues important to women are included on the local agenda.

The project was implemented in five pilot regions where EPF's Transparency in Municipal Service Delivery Program has been implemented and engaged the participating municipalities. The project's target audience included municipal staff, members of the Women's Chamber, and women of the target regions. The project was based on a comprehensive approach of raising public and municipal awareness of the roles of each side in self-governance, assessing community needs, and strengthening the capacities of the Women's Chamber in planning and running community projects.

Through the project, gender specific indicators were developed and introduced to MPMS. EPF organized a one-day training course on gender equality for 25 municipal staff members. Membership of the Women's Chambers was voted on and EPF conducted four-day training up to 50 members and other active women in the five communities. EPF funded Women's Chambers to implement five small-scale projects to improve communication and conduct needs assessments.

As a result of the project, the active women residing within the municipality territory have acquired organizational skills, the number of women participating in the decision-making process has grown, women's initiative in problem solving has been enhanced, and the population as a whole, especially women, started to take an active part in municipality activities. Moreover, these women made their voices heard to the decision-makers. The municipalities became more sensitive to the suggestions made by women for the 2012 budget and this, in turn, led to the adoption of more gender-sensitive budgets.

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# Azerbaijan

## Youth Programs

### *Azerbaijan Youth Fund*

The goal of the Azerbaijan Youth Fund Program is to create opportunities for Azerbaijani youth to participate as active citizens in social and community developments, to express themselves, and to address community problems through accountable and transparent small grants programs.

In 2011, EPF expanded its Youth Fund program. The Foundation has been implementing the program in Azerbaijan since 2005, based on a model developed in Northern Ireland. In 2011, EPF established 12 more Youth Funds in 11 target regions, reaching 20 YFs in total in Ganja, Samukh, Shamkir, Tovuz, Agstafa, Kazakh, Goranboy, Goy-gol, Mingechevir, Tartar, Barda, Agdash, Ujar, Guba, Gusar, Goranboy, Gedebe, Sheki and Gakh. Nine YFs, established in 2010 with the support of Finnish Government and now supported by Chevron, announced their first grant cycle, selected the projects for funding, and gave out grants to other youth in their communities to implement small-scale projects.

The YF program has gained wider recognition by the Government of Azerbaijan, particularly the Ministry of Youth and Sports. YF members established contacts with corporate donors, including Azericell Telecom, British-American Tobacco, and Bakcell. YFs established relationships with NGOs, civic groups, and youth activists in the regions, such as Ireli Public Union; Bridge to the Future PU, Ganja office; the Young Leaders

NGO, Qazakh Branch; UAFA-United Aid for Azerbaijan; National NGO Forum, Shamkir; Regional NGO Resource and Training Center; Ganja Community Committee of the Ministry of Youth and Sport; Young Leaders NGO, Samukh; Save the Children; Ganja branch; and the Peace Corps.

EPF created a pool of YF peer-to-peer trainers, trained by a certified trainer from the Community Foundation of Northern Ireland to expand YFs throughout Azerbaijan. These peer-to-peer trainers will conduct trainings for newly established YFs to assist them in developing professional skills such as: democratic leadership, fundraising, how to conduct needs assessments, decision-making, organizational and financial management, and evaluation and monitoring. Following the trainings the YF members will conduct needs assessments to identify pressing problems and issues within their respective communities. The priorities identified during the needs assessments will be included in the call for proposals to be managed by YFs in 2012.

### *Community Youth Peace Building through New Media*

In 2011, EPF launched the Community Youth Peace Building through New Media program to promote dialogue and cooperation among young people from the South Caucasus through use of new media and networking. EPF established young citizen journalist groups composed of at least 20 participants, who are between 18 and 30, familiar with social networks, speak Russian and/or English, and are interested in cross-border cooperation. EPF, in collaboration with



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*"The Azerbaijan Youth Fund program that supports activities important for youth provided us with the opportunity to realize our dreams and ideas. The program determined the social role of young people as independent members of society. I thank EPF's management and staff for involving us in such a project."*

**Aygun Adilqizi,**  
Youth Fund Member, Samukh,  
Azerbaijan

professional journalists and bloggers from EPF's previous project, delivered a three-day workshop on multimedia tools for social activism, conflict transformation, cultural diversity, and new interactive media and bias-free reporting. EPF also hosted a joint workshop in Tbilisi for 30 participants from among the trainees. EPF trains participants in conflict sensitivity and teambuilding to strengthen the group's identity as an informal network of citizen journalists. Participants established thematic groups (e.g. environmental issues, entrepreneurship, education, etc) and drafted joint or parallel projects. EPF funded 14 joint projects, which are being implemented with the assistance of professional journalists. EPF facilitated one talk show on the role of new media in youth cooperation across divided borders and civic journalism.

As a result of the project, participating youth gained skills and experience that will last beyond the life of the project. The in-country and Tbilisi meetings increased the participants' awareness of one another, which will influence their dialogue on bilateral issues. By collaborating together on joint projects, youth from the South Caucasus learned to work together. Since they are future decision-makers, changes in their perceptions about each other on a personal level will affect the possible "war or peace" choices they may later be involved in.

### **Getting Involved!**

In 2011, with the financial support of the Eurasia Foundation and Sida, EPF continued its Getting Involved! program, initially launched in 2009, with the aim of strengthening civic engagement among young people in the South Caucasus. The project provided young people with a unique space and an opportunity to advance personally and professionally, take responsibility for improving their communities, and develop their practical management skills. The cross-border context enabled participants to acquire cross-cultural communication skills and meet their peers from neighbouring countries. Three trainings were conducted in May, July, and November 2011 on project development, project management, and project evaluation. During a project development seminar they developed individual or cross-border projects and implemented them during the year. In November, they met again in Tbilisi to present the results, evaluate their work, and receive their certificates. Projects from three countries covered the following topics: promotion of pedestrian and driving rules in the regions, the problem of cancer diagnostics, tolerance building among different nations, online educational literature, promotion of volunteerism, trainings for young businessmen and etc. Also we had two mentoring trainings, in which the alumni become mentors for the projects of newcomers.

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## MISSION STATEMENT:

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## Engage and Monitor for Change

EPF's grantees continued to improve the quality and profile of civic monitoring actions and enhanced their institutional capacity. For example, within the scope of the Fix My Street project, implemented by Transparency International, innovative methods of online monitoring have been employed to address one of the most pressing needs of Tbilisi residents. Specifically, grantee-adapted open-source software was used to create a website ([www.chemikucha.ge](http://www.chemikucha.ge)), so that with just a few clicks, citizens are able to report problems with the local municipal infrastructure directly to the city government and then monitor the response. The grantee's successful collaboration with Tbilisi City Hall ensured that 809 of the 1,220 reported Tbilisi Street problems have already been fixed. The website was mentioned during a hearing of the US House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs during a discussion on the State of Democracy and Freedom in Eastern Europe on July 26, 2011. In his testimony, Stephen B. Nix, the Director of the Eurasia Division of the International Republican Institute, highlighted the website as a positive sign of CSO-government collaboration in Georgia ([www.foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing\\_notice.asp?id=1333](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1333)).

## European Integration

Through research, monitoring, and advocacy activities, the Program succeeded in promoting legislative and policy reforms that remove obstacles to Georgia's becoming more closely integrated with the EU, including the development of trade relationships with its European neighbors. As in previous years, EPF continued to support monitoring of both the ENP AP implementation by the GoG and the preparatory process for launching the DCFTA negotiations, advocating for closer harmony with EU policies. Reports commissioned by EPF for a group of experts to review the steps taken by the GoG on trade-related issues within the framework of the ENP and DCFTA preconditions were published and widely publicized. Despite critical nature of the findings, the GoG representatives expressed their appreciation for the objectivity and professionalism of the reports, and the usefulness of the recommendations developed

through this exercise. EPF is happy to report that a significant number of the recommendations have already been fulfilled by the GoG, which is one of the reasons for the EC's decision to launch negotiations with Georgia upon the conclusion of the DCFTA (announced in December 2011).

## Philanthropy, Social Investment, and Entrepreneurship

EPF continued to promote the social enterprise model among NGOs and small businesses through various joint activities with partners. In 2011, EPF and the Czech Fundraising Center (CFC) launched a project co-funded by the International Visegrad Fund to create new job opportunities for IDPs through building the entrepreneurial capacities of local NGOs, CBOs, and community leaders working with IDPs. Seventeen local CSOs participated in a social enterprise development training, of which eight participated in a study visit to the Czech Republic and four received grant support to develop social enterprises. As a result, around 30 IDPs will be employed in four SEs.

2011 marked the beginning of a joint program supported by EPF and Tbilisi City Hall, which envisions providing support to potential social enterprises in the form of a grant from EPF and cheap credit from a local private bank participating in the municipality's special program. This is another way in which EPF strives to foster greater awareness of SE among various stakeholders. The partnership with Tbilisi City Hall has led to discussions with Rustavi City Hall, which is eager to develop a concrete mechanism for cooperation with EPF. Successful cooperation with these self-governing cities will go a long way toward advocating for the SE concept on the national level.

## Community Empowerment through Youth Initiatives

To increase volunteerism, community activism, and civic responsibility among young people, EPF doubled the reach of its Youth Integration Program to twenty four Youth Banks (YB).





The program is now able to contribute to the integration of ethnic minority groups in the country's social, economic, and political life, as well as support young people from the country's more remote, underserved municipalities to get involved in civic and community activism.

In 2011, the Youth Banks awarded 79 small grants to youth-led initiatives and mobilized more than 500 volunteers from all age groups. In addition, nineteen YB members organized community development activities outside of YB funding cycles. For example, Talaveri YB members organized an essay contest, during which Talaveri Public School students were challenged to write essays on how they would contribute to the development of their community. Chokhatauri YB mobilized local community members to organize a charity action to collect food and clothes for the socially disadvantaged youth residing in Chokhatauri area.

## Open-Door

In 2011, EPF awarded nine Open-Door grants and managed eleven previously awarded grants, in order to support innovative local initiatives that contribute to increased civic engagement in social, economic, and political events. EPF grantees engaged in innovative practices and introduced innovative concepts, methods, and approaches, which have been or have the potential to be replicated throughout the country. For example, the Georgian Association of Autism, one of the beneficiaries of the grantee NDOBA, replicated the latter's participatory civic monitoring and advocacy method to promote an improved legislative and policy framework with regard to people living with autism. Similarly, the method of using joint business ventures and shop tours to promote confidence building between the war-separated ethnic Abkhazians, Ossetians, and Georgians, employed by the Association for Peaceful and Business Caucasus, has been replicated in a larger project funded within UNDP's Coberm program.

## Civic Initiative for an Independent Judiciary

In 2011, EPF led the effort to establish the Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary, which now unites 30 CSOs, business and professional associations, and media outlets. The Coalition has already developed its general action plan, set up working groups, and organized public forums on some of the most salient issues facing Georgian society and the judicial system. Each forum gathered high-ranking representatives from all three branches of government, the donor community, and civil society to discuss such issues as photo, video, and audio recording of court proceedings, access to judicial decisions and court information, as well as the appointment, promotion, transfer, and disciplinary responsibility of judges. These forums provided an excellent opportunity for court representatives and Coalition members to engage in a dialogue and discuss the issues surrounding judicial independence and court transparency. As a result of these efforts and other follow-up discussions and gatherings, several changes have been affected in the relevant legislation, which should make courts more open by allowing the uniform application of audio-recording rules and empower judges through the improved implementation of existing disciplinary rules.

EPF also awarded advocacy and legal aid grants to qualified local CSOs, to foster public advocacy and to ensure that all segments of the population are provided equal access to justice through free legal consultation and representation from qualified lawyers. As a result, thirteen CSOs were awarded around USD 980,000 to advocate for positive changes and provide services to the indigent. The grantees work across Georgia from Tbilisi to Batumi, Kutaisi, and mountainous Racha-Lechkhumi to provide free legal aid to those in need, as well as to advocate for better implementation of laws and improved commercial law practices. Eleven of the grantees requested EPF's assistance in developing their institutional capacity through the latter's Organizational Development Initiative, which is based on the Eurasia Foundation's proprietary CMI tool that EPF adapted to the Georgian context.

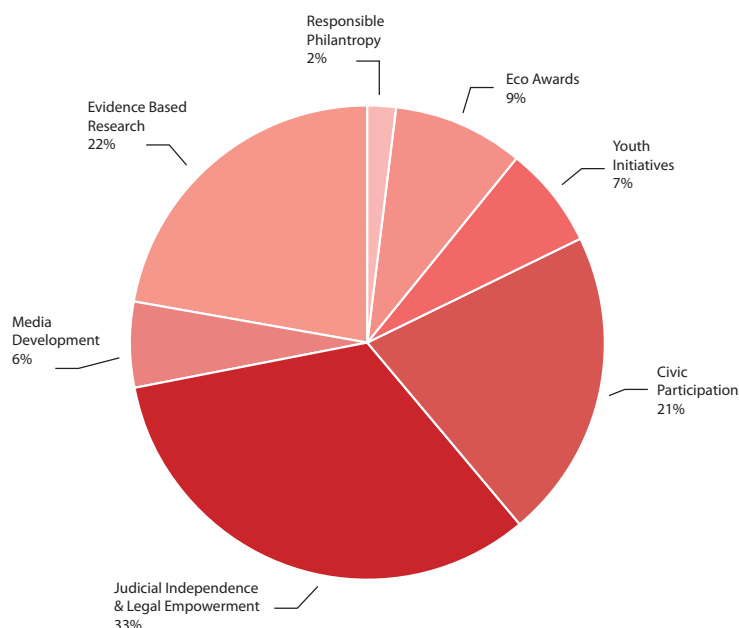


*"Knowing that the poor state of Tbilisi's infrastructure is a top concern of residents, we adapted open-source software to create [www.chemikucha.ge](http://www.chemikucha.ge). Now with just a few clicks, citizens report problems with local municipal infrastructure directly to the city government and are able to monitor the response. We worked with the Tbilisi Mayor's Office to ensure that reports would be read and already almost 400 reported problems with Tbilisi streets have been fixed."*

**Nutsa Tughushi,**  
Webmaster of  
[www.chemikucha.ge](http://www.chemikucha.ge),  
Transparency International  
Georgia

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## Georgia Financials



## COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

EURASIA PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION IN GEORGIA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011		
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2011	2010
Grants and contributions receivable	491,066	
Furniture and equipment including intangibles	5,520	8,932
Total non-current assets	496,586	8,932
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	1,390,701	2,540,571
Accounts receivable	27,103	30,853
Grants, contributions, and other receivables	1,420,964	1,878,379
Prepaid expenses	10,156	16,075
Total current assets	2,848,924	4,465,878
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,345,510</b>	<b>\$ 4,474,810</b>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Grants payable	983,238	306,311
Deferred revenue	9,642	52,909
Interest due to Sida	42,921	25,081
Accrued expenses and accounts payable	110,809	63,154
Total current liabilities	1,146,610	447,455
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	229,455	19,553
Temporarily restricted	1,969,445	4,007,802
Total net assets	2,198,900	4,027,355
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,345,510</b>	<b>\$ 4,474,810</b>

*Gelman, Rosenberg, and Freedman have conducted an audit for our financial statements and have issued an unqualified opinion.*



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# Georgia

## Engage and Monitor for Change

### *Program Goal*

EPF's Engage and Monitor for Change Program fosters the active and informed participation of Georgian community groups, CSOs, and media outlets in the political and economic decision-making in their regions by building capacity among civic groups, encouraging the monitoring and evaluation of policy reforms and facilitating public discussions, debates, and network-building.

### *Impact in 2011*

EPF's grant-making continued to enhance the civic engagement and integration of vulnerable groups in various parts of Georgia. It supported regional CSOs in fostering participatory civic monitoring and advocacy by galvanizing grassroots community groups and ensuring close cooperation with the local media. EPF's grantees succeeded in creating a representative public forum for discussing various government initiatives, such as the rural assistance program, safe school system, affordable health insurance scheme, etc. In addition, EPF's strategy for building the capacity of newly established CSOs by awarding them small development grants resulted in both the institutional strengthening of beneficiary CSOs and addressing some of longstanding community problems.

Thus, one of the small grant recipients, the Ozurgeti-based Union for the Democratic Development of Georgia (UDDG)

consolidated the monitoring and advocacy efforts of local community groups in six underserved villages in the Ozurgeti and Chokhatauri municipalities to ensure that local budget allocations from the rural assistance program are not dictated from above and are in line with the actual needs of these communities. One of the areas of UDDG's advocacy campaign covers the fair and transparent implementation and delivery of locally funded social assistance. To achieve this goal, the grantee engaged community leaders from six target villages to identify salient issues and conduct the necessary advocacy before local authorities. As a result of these efforts, three of the identified issues (new bridge construction, repair of a previously impassable local road, and repair of the local water supply and sewage system) were successfully resolved by the authorities and the trained civic leaders continue their efforts to effect positive change. In addition, the grantee advocated for the creation of the citizens' advisory assembly *Darbazi*, so that local civil society representatives could engage with the Ozurgeti municipal council. Composed of representatives of local CSOs, community groups, the media, and local authorities, *Darbazi* has become an effective instrument for constant citizen engagement in and public oversight of the policy-making process. While the trainings in participatory civic monitoring and advocacy have been instrumental in creating the push for *Darbazi*, the UDDG could not have achieved these positive results without a close partnership with other local CSOs and media outlets. Thus, journalists from the newspaper *Guria News* participated in each monitoring campaign and provided

*"The project implemented in our village by the Union for the Democratic Development of Georgia empowered us to raise some of the most long-standing problems with the local government. Once community members succeeded in making their voices heard by the local government, they eagerly volunteered to solve the detected problems. This has not happened in our village before."*

**Koba Tsertsvadze,**  
community leader in  
Tkhinvali village of  
Ozurgeti municipality

constant coverage of the findings, as well as of the grantee's advocacy efforts. As a result of project-related activities, ten local community activists from the targeted villages have been trained and empowered to advocate for citizens' interests and needs, which has contributed to the positioning of the grantee as an experienced resource for grassroots CSOs.

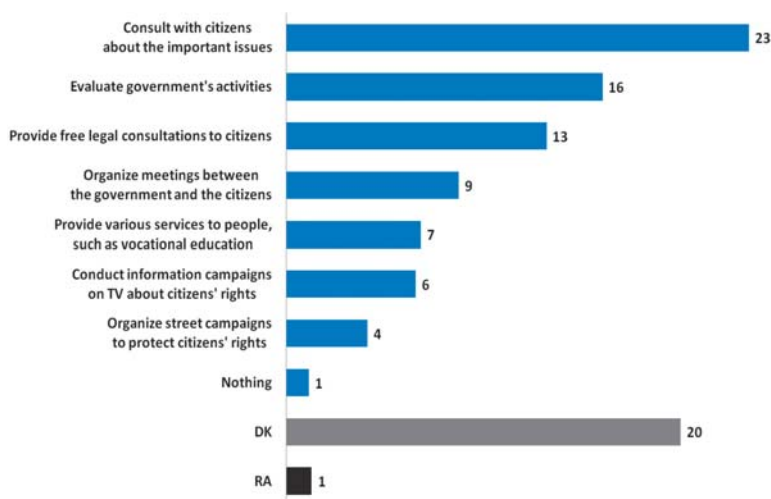
### **Main Activities in 2012**

In 2012, EPF will continue to conduct ToTs for interested and promising community leaders, to support more local CSOs in building their institutional capacity and promote the public's engagement in improving their communities and their lives. EPF will also continue to award small grants to grassroots civic groups in the regions to develop their institutional capacity and engage them in resolving salient local issues. At the same time, more advanced CSOs will benefit from grant competitions in support of high-profile participatory civic monitoring. As in previous years, EPF will continue its efforts to bolster linkages among civic monitoring practitioners and improve their dialogue with policy-makers through roundtable discussions, workshops, and the civic monitoring blog on the EPF website.

EPF will strengthen the impact of the Engage and Monitor for Change Program by enhancing the capacity of Georgian CSOs to tap into the resource of volunteerism and institutionalize volunteer work. EPF will contribute to the creation of a legislative and policy framework that enables volunteerism by engaging civic actors in the discussion and by developing legislative and policy recommendations.

### **EPF/CRRC Caucasus Barometer Data 2011**

**F13. What should NGOs in Georgia do in the first place? (%)**



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## European Integration

### *Program Goal*

EPF's European Integration Program promotes civic participation in the process of Georgia's integration into the European Union (EU). Activities in this Program monitor the integration process, advocate for reforms, and raise public awareness on European integration issues.

### *Impact in 2011*

As during the previous years, EPF continued to monitor the implementation of the European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan (ENP AP). The reports commissioned by EPF for a group of experts to review the steps taken by the Government of Georgia (GoG) on a number of trade related issues (e.g. preparations for the commencement of negotiations with the EU on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), investment policy, public procurement, the sanitary and phytosanitary fields, intellectual property rights, and customs procedures) was published and widely publicized. Despite its critique of many GoG policies, the reports were positively assessed by government representatives, as they felt that the reports were both comprehensive and unbiased.

To increase public awareness of EU-Georgia cooperation and to promote more issue-based discussions on European integration issues, EPF supported specialized weekly talk-shows prepared by the Georgian Public Broadcaster and Radio Green Wave.

These shows regularly gathered representatives from the GoG, civil society, the media, and the diplomatic missions in Georgia, and many of the shows' participants expressed their special appreciation that such professional debates were being conducted on important themes. The shows largely contributed to fostering constructive dialogue among all stakeholders and a participatory policy-making process.

In September 2011, the GoG submitted to Parliament a package of changes and amendments to the existing food safety and consumer rights legislation. To advocate for the conformity of the proposed changes with European standards and to strike a proper balance between consumer protection and business interests, EPF formed a working group comprised of representatives of relevant CSOs and field experts, all acting on a voluntary basis, to assess the proposed legislation, develop recommendations, and engage in extensive discussions with the Office of the Prime Minister and Parliament. As a result of these efforts and a media campaign, a significant portion of the proposed recommendations were accepted by the GoG.

EPF continued its active engagement in promoting improved consumer protection and positive reforms in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary control, to ensure Georgia's adherence to European standards, as articulated in the ENP AP. To do so, EPF advocated for timely introduction of food safety regulations by the authorities and supported activities to empower citizens to protect their consumer rights. Thus, EPF provided grant

*"www.momxmarebeli.ge  
is the most useful site,"*

**Sofia Konjaria,**  
Facebook comment

*"I'm so happy that  
I found this site,"*

**Tamta Grdzlishvili,**  
Facebook comment

support to the Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSR DG) to create a consumer assistance service and a searchable online database for analyzing reported violations, while at the same time conducting a targeted public awareness raising campaign on consumer rights and food safety issues. The project attracted much interest from the public, which translated into 87,000 page loads and 22,000 unique visitors to the project webpage [www.momxmarebeli.ge](http://www.momxmarebeli.ge) in just five months. The project revealed 21 cases of violations of food safety standards and product falsification, information about which was made public through 65 newspaper articles and TV/radio stories, which were developed by media outlets outside the project-supported media coverage. As a result of these efforts, seven food enterprises revised their practices to better comply with food safety standards. Some of the steps undertaken include the introduction of hygiene rules, the indication of the date of production on food products, and the removal of unsafe food from the distribution chain.

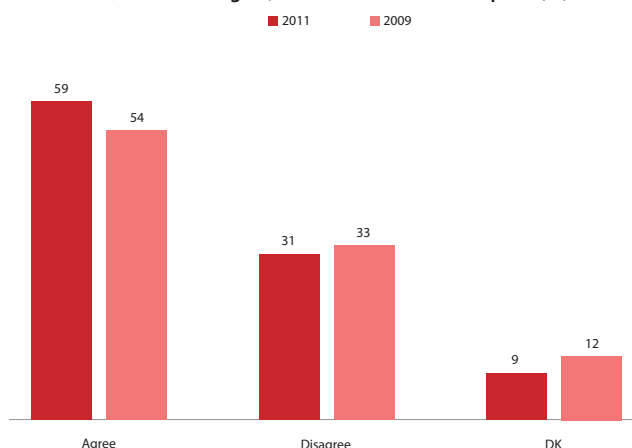
### **Main Activities for 2012**

In 2012, EPF will continue to provide support to activate consumers in defending their rights, thereby encouraging an improved food safety situation in Georgia. EPF will also continue its advocacy campaign concerning food safety and consumer rights legislation, to promote their harmonization with European standards. As part of these efforts, EPF will conduct annual assessments of the ENP AP implementation, with a specific focus on economic issues and food safety regulation. To increase coverage of these and other European integration issues, EPF will support the development of TV talk-shows and encourage its grantees to wage targeted public awareness-raising campaigns.

### **EPF/CRRC Survey Report 2011**

#### **Knowledge & Attitudes toward the EU in Georgia:**

Q32. I am Georgian, and therefore I am European (%)



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# Georgia

## Social Enterprise

### *Program Goal*

EPF's Social Enterprise Program promotes the development of social enterprises, as a viable business model that operates primarily with social objectives as the "bottom line" and which reinvests profits back into the social objectives of the business.

### *Impact 2011*

As during the previous years, EPF continued to promote the social enterprise model among NGOs and small businesses through various joint activities with partners. Thus, EPF and the Czech Fundraising Center (CFC) launched a project co-funded by the International Visegrad Fund to create new job opportunities for IDPs through building the entrepreneurial capacities of local NGOs, CBOs, and community leaders working with IDPs.

- The partners conducted training on social enterprise development for those interested and qualified CSOs that work with IDPs or on IDP issues. These organizations were then invited to compete in EPF's social enterprise grant competition, designed to allow the training participants to apply their theoretical knowledge in practice by setting up and administering their own social enterprise. The best four among the eight submitted social enterprise projects

were identified with support from an expert committee. It is expected that these social enterprises will initially employ at least twenty IDPs, while at the same time contributing to the long-term sustainability of the grantee organizations.

- All eight applicants to the EPF's social enterprise grant competition were given the chance to participate in a two-week-long study visit to the Visegrad countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia). The study visit gave the participants insight into the real-life examples of social enterprises in four countries and the ability to glean a better understanding of the challenges that are to be expected as they move forward with their plans.
- Through the support provided by EPF, the social enterprise developed by the Abkhazian Blind and Deaf Union Hera has already begun recording audio books, ranging from poetry to fairytales. The CDs, which will be labeled in Braille for the blind and visually impaired, will be available in bookstores throughout the country starting from spring 2012. As a result of this social enterprise, the Union Hera will contribute to its mission of providing help to the blind and visually impaired by improving their access to information and education, while at the same time generating income to sustain the organization's activities and to remunerate the grantee's staff, mostly comprised of IDPs from Abkhazia.



*"The knowledge gained during the training and the study visit has been immensely valuable for our organizations and our beneficiaries, as we were introduced to the principles of developing a successful social enterprise and the various ways in which social enterprise can benefit socially vulnerable groups, especially the disabled, which is relevant to fulfilling the mission of our organization."*

**Boris Shkriabai,**  
the Abkhazian Blind and  
Deaf Union Hera

- Another EPF grantee, the Coalition for IDP's Rights, has started to implement a project that aims at fostering social integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) through introduction of social enterprise as a viable model for community mobilization and sustainable income generation. As part of the project, the grantee established a local crafts workshop in Tserovani IDP settlement, where it provides internship and training opportunities to IDP women, so that they learn how to produce and market national crafts (e.g. unique table cloths, scarves, bags, belts, etc.). As a result, six families residing in the Tserovani IDP settlement will improve their socio-economic standing and become better integrated into the society. Others will be supported to start their own enterprises, utilizing the knowledge gained and skills acquired during the trainings provided by the grantee and its partner organization, the International Arts Center Istorali.
- 2011 marked the beginning of joint efforts of EPF and Tbilisi City Hall, which strives to support potential social enterprises in the form of grant support from EPF and cheap credit from a local private bank participating in the municipality's special program. Despite being in a nascent stage, the cooperation has already provoked interest from Rustavi City Hall, which EPF would like to explore and institutionalize in 2012.

### **Main Activities for 2012**

In 2012, EPF will implement activities focusing on public awareness and the promotion of the social enterprise concept. One of the important target groups for these activities will be business and economics students from universities located in Tbilisi. To raise the awareness of future managers and business owners about social enterprise, EPF and its local partners will organize an inter-university competition, as a result of which the winning team will get a chance to receive funds to implement a social enterprise project developed within the framework of the competition. All projects within the competition will be developed in cooperation with the CSO that is trying to set up a social enterprise, giving the students a chance to practically apply their theoretical knowledge and in the process contribute to the long-term sustainability of Georgia's non-governmental sector. At the same time, EPF is working closely with the local business community to find ways to involve them in this process.

During the upcoming year, EPF will also work closely with Tbilisi and Rustavi City Halls to create an effective and efficient mechanism for supporting social entrepreneurs from these cities.

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## Youth Integration

### *Program Goal*

EPF's Youth Integration Program encourages young people aged 16 to 21 to increase opportunities for volunteerism and civic activism among other young people in their respective communities.

### *Impact in 2011*

To increase volunteerism, community activism, and civic responsibility among young people, EPF decided to build on the success of its Youth Bank (YB) Program and to launch an additional twelve Youth Banks in areas populated by ethnic minority groups to support their integration in the country's social, economic, and political life. New Youth Banks were also established in the country's more remote, underserved municipalities to help young people to get involved in civic and community activism. As a result, the YB Program currently covers the following towns and communities: Akhmeta, Dedoplistskaro, Rustavi, Gardabani, Marneuli, Talaveri, Bolnisi, Sadakhlo, Gori, Tserovani, Akhaltsikhe, Aspindza, Ninotsminda, Akhalkhalaki, Zugdidi, Khobi, Martvili, Khoni, Tkibuli, Chokhatauri, Lanchkhuti, Batumi, Khulo, and Becho (Svaneti). As a result, EPF doubled its reach and now operates YBs in 24 municipalities in Georgia.

The Youth Bank experience offers YB members and grantees a unique opportunity to self-determine and empowers them to strive for the fulfillment of their rights. This is particularly

important for young women, especially those who reside in the regions and minority populated areas where women and girls are afforded fewer opportunities than men and boys. The issue of gender equality is addressed throughout the Youth Bank Program, which includes gender awareness trainings for YB members and their grantees, so that the youngsters start thinking about challenging the dominant gender paradigms within their society. It is notable that after their YB experience many of the YB's female members report improved self-confidence as viable members of their communities, where unspoken gender norms shape the lifestyle of women and create obstacles to access resources, engage in their communities, and take control of their own lives.

One of the many successful examples of the Program's impact on young women is the Talaveri Youth Bank, located in a remote village in the Bolnisi municipality, which is inhabited mainly by ethnic Azeris. Tunzala Mamedova (16), one of the members of the Talaveri YB, was a shy, quiet young woman, when recruited to participate in the program. However, through the Youth Bank experience, Tunzala was able to grow into a leadership role, planning and implementing YB activities with her peers from Talaveri. A year after being recruited to the Program, Tunzala gave an interview for the TV Company PIK, during which she talked about the projects implemented by the Youth Bank, as well as about her plans for the future. She noted that, as a result of her Youth Bank experience, she decided to build a career as the head of a private company and to experience a different life than her mother or grandmother did before her.

*"Many useful activities have been implemented with the assistance of the Youth Bank in our small town. Young people became more active and everyone around is happy because of this. I do not recall so many community-wide activities in our small community. When one observes these children, one feels the need to go out there and assist others without any reward."*

**Tea Lekashvili,**  
Dedoplistskaro resident

### **Youth Bank in numbers in 2011:**

**79** youth-led initiatives, administering a total of GEL 63,404.6 for small grants community improvement projects.

**584** volunteers (recorded) contributed to the YB projects.

**19** Youth Bank members organized community development activities outside of Youth Bank funding.

**5** municipalities made in-kind or financial contribution to the Youth Bank funded projects.

### **Getting Involved! Program**

In 2011, EPF successfully completed the Getting Involved! project implemented in cooperation with Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg (THK). The project aimed at strengthening civic participation among young people from the South Caucasus and promoting confidence-building among youth across borders. Thirty participants from Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan participated in the project design, management, and evaluation seminars, and then designed and implemented twelve projects (including three cross-border initiatives) focused on conflict resolution and confidence-building. 2011 marked the first time for the duration of the project, when Armenian and Azeri youth worked together to implement projects. Prior to the end of the program, the alumni created a forum and are now working directly with THK local representative to promote youth empowerment in the South Caucasus region.

### **Main Activities for 2012**

In 2012, EPF plans to continue its work with all the existing Youth Banks, as well as to expand the program's activities to Abkhazia and Turkey, so that the model of youth empowerment and peace-building is spread throughout the South Caucasus region. EPF will also put more emphasis on engagement in youth policy-making.

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## Cross-Border

### Community Youth Peace Building through New Media

#### *Project Goal*

To promote dialogue and cooperation among young people from Armenia and Azerbaijan through use of new media and networking.

#### *Impact in 2011*

EPF offices in Armenia and Azerbaijan conducted a meeting of a group of 30 Armenian and Azerbaijani youth to discuss joint project ideas. The pool of 14 pilot projects supported by EPF included a joint flash mob, two Armenian-Azerbaijani cartoons, two bilateral video conferences, a virtual Armenian-Azerbaijani choir, a blog featuring narratives by Armenian-Azerbaijani women, and others. In Armenia, the project branched out in publicity as EPF produced and broadcast two TV talk shows and held four public discussions. Each of the TV talk shows had a viewership of about 20,000 people throughout Armenia and generated several dozens of feedback calls from TV viewers. These publicity efforts made it possible to open up a wide public discussion of a number of difficult and taboo issues related to Armenia-Azerbaijan relations between representatives of both the liberal and conservative segments of the society.

### Support to Armenia-Turkey Rapprochement (SATR)

#### *Project Goal*

To support Armenia-Turkey rapprochement through the development of new business partnerships and regional professional networks, the engagement of civil society in alliance-building to further contribute to Armenia-Turkey normalization, and the support of government and non-government efforts toward rapprochement through research.

The USAID-funded SATR project is implemented by a consortium consisting of EPF, the International Center for Human Development, the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia (UMBA), and the Yerevan Press Club with Turkish partners Global Political Trends Center, Anadolu Kültür, the Turkish-Armenian Business Development Council (TABDC), Gaya, and others.

#### *Impact in 2011*

Despite the political standstill in the official relations between Armenia and Turkey, EPF and its Armenian and Turkish partners contributed to sustaining the momentum and maintaining the cross-border dialogue at the business and civil society levels. The topic of Armenia-Turkey relations and the importance of rapprochement continued to remain under the spotlight for sizeable Armenian and Turkish audiences through the



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*"Our crew consisted of people motivated by culture, the arts, aesthetics, innovation, and creativity. We were impressed to see the giant showcase of Armenian written culture in Matenadaran. We blended our souls with art in the Parajanov Museum. We felt the spirit of the city in the streets of Yerevan. We socialized with new Armenian friends. We ran across very familiar flavors while tasting Armenian dishes. And we witnessed an incredible Pecha Kucha Night connecting the two cities... It was an unforgettable experience!"*

**Deniz N. Urgan,**  
Customer Relations Coordinator,  
34solo  
(Istanbul, Turkey)

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broadcast of TV talk shows and reports in various Turkish and Armenian media outlets.

To support business cooperation between Armenia and Turkey, EPF's partner UMBA held a business conference in Yerevan, with the participation of 65 Armenian and Turkish businessmen. Two smaller-scale business forums were organized in Gyumri. These events resulted in new contracts signed between Armenian and Turkish entrepreneurs, thereby paving the way for small businesses across the border to collaborate with each other. Most importantly, the joint lobbying efforts of UMBA and TABDC led to the Turkish government's extending entry permits, enabling up to 200 Armenian transit trucks to cross the territory of Turkey as of January 31, 2012.

To increase balanced mutual media coverage, EPF hosted a crew from CNN Turk: the visit resulted in four Armenia-related reports about different aspects of life in Armenia, including human stories broadcast on CNN Turk and placed on their website. EPF produced and broadcast five TV talk shows focusing on various aspects of Armenia-Turkey relations on the Yerikr Media TV channel.

In 2011, EPF also supported various initiatives to promote cultural dialogue between Armenia and Turkey, such as a Yerevan-Istanbul "Pecha Kucha Night" (PKN) event titled "Close Creative Encounters" in Yerevan, the Armenian-Turkish Cinema Platform, and production of two documentaries together with Anadolu Kültür (Turkey) on the commemoration of April 24 events in Armenia and Turkey – "Uncle Garabed" by Çiğdem Mater and "Rigid Taboo" by Lilit Gasparyan.

## Europe Program

### *Program Goal*

To contribute to the enhancement of EU-South Caucasus relations, through raising awareness and facilitating dialogue between government, businesses, and civil society.

### *Impact in 2011*

In 2011, EPF successfully promoted positive reforms in the area of food safety as part of its Toward European Integration Program. In September 2011, the Government of Georgia (GoG) submitted a package of changes and amendments to the existing food safety and consumer rights legislation to the Parliament. To advocate for conformity of the proposed changes with European standards and to strike a proper balance between consumer protection and business interests, EPF formed a working group comprised of representatives of relevant CSOs and field experts, all acting on a volunteer basis, to assess the proposed legislation, develop recommendations, and engage in extensive discussions with the Office of the Prime Minister and the Parliament. As a result of these efforts and a media campaign, a significant portion of the proposed recommendations were accepted by the GoG.



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# Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC)

The mission of CRRC is to strengthen social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus by creating a regional network of sustainable, university-oriented institutions. To achieve this mission, CRRC pursues three core objectives:

- Strengthening local human capacity in social science research
- Increasing dialogue and collaboration between social science researchers and policy practitioners in the South Caucasus
- Increasing the accessibility of high-quality research resources

## Major Programs

### *Caucasus Barometer*

The collection of accurate empirical data is a critically important foundation for social research. In the South Caucasus, however, reliable, up-to-date, and accessible data on social, political, and economic issues are often in short supply. CRRC's priority is to provide and maintain access to reliable data, focusing on a wide range of demographic, social, economic, and political variables related to the South Caucasus.

In 2004, CRRC began a coordinated data collection effort, The Caucasus Barometer (until 2010, known as The Data Initiative), to obtain comparable data on household composition, social

and political attitudes, and practices across the South Caucasus. The 2004 survey was carried out only in the three capital cities; the 2005 survey also included one region in each country. Since 2006, the survey has been carried out based on a representative nationwide sample excluding territories affected by military conflicts.

The Caucasus Barometer (CB) survey runs annually in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia based on the same methodological approach and the same survey instrument. From the very beginning, the data collected by CRRC was meant to be open to all interested researchers and/or policymakers both from the region and from other parts of the world. The CB is available for free on CRRC's website at [www.crrccenters.org/caucasusbarometer/datasets/](http://www.crrccenters.org/caucasusbarometer/datasets/).

The CB can also be accessed via CRRC's new **online data analysis (ODA) tool** at [www.crrc.ge/oda](http://www.crrc.ge/oda).

### *Online Data Analysis (ODA)*

The CRRC office has created a new and exciting Online Data Analysis (ODA) tool. The ODA enables users to easily access survey data and obtain data online without the use of a statistical program such as SPSS or STATA.

The ODA is extremely user-friendly. With one click you can choose a survey question of interest and receive both a figure and a frequency table. Charts can be exported and downloaded in accessible formats (pdf, jpeg, png, svg) and tables in Excel format.



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Support of country's membership in NATO (%)  
(CB 2011)



The 2008, 2009, and 2010 Caucasus Barometer surveys in Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan are currently available, as well as the 2009 and 2011 Media and EU surveys in Georgia. New CRRC datasets are regularly added to the ODA.

### *CRRC's Junior Research Fellowship Program*

The CRRC Junior Research Fellowship Program in Georgia and Azerbaijan is for local social science-oriented youth who are selected through a competitive process to undergo nine months of rigorous trainings. Junior Fellows gain first-hand experience in using statistical software (SPSS and STATA), writing well in English, designing high caliber questionnaires, conducting surveys and focus groups, as well as other elements of social science research. CRRC Armenia maintains its highly successful research fellowship format, which focuses on independent research and public policy publications.

### *CRRC's International Fellowship program*

The program is for international researchers interested in academic or original public-policy research. This fellowship gives outstanding international researchers the opportunity to be hosted at a CRRC local office, gain experience in the field and use high caliber survey data from the region in their own work. Most international fellows analyze policy-relevant issues in economics, sociology, demography, and other social science fields.

### *Library and Trainings*

CRRC aims to modernize the skill sets of local researchers. Thus, CRRC provides trainings on various social science research methodologies, public policy and data analysis, as well as a wide range of other relevant topics. Roundtables, seminars, and public lectures are regularly organized to stimulate debate of key public policy issues.

In addition, each CRRC office has a library that is available to the public. These libraries provide free access to over 1,500 (in each country) titles in English and Russian and printed materials in local languages. These include textbooks, reference materials, and journals in economics, sociology, demography, and public policy. CRRC has a complete catalog of its current holdings which allows users to access its collections through the CRRC website. The libraries are open on working days and serve users working in the field of social sciences.

### *Other highlights:*

In addition to the CB, CRRC conducted over 15 different surveys and research projects for various organizations in Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan in 2011. Please see a list of projects at [www.crrccenters.org/activities/research/](http://www.crrccenters.org/activities/research/).

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A large, solid blue abstract shape that curves from the top right towards the bottom left, occupying the right half of the page.

Engaging  
Citizens,  
Empowering  
Communities



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For more information about the Eurasia Foundation Network, please visit <http://www.eurasia.org/>

