



**CENTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL ARMENIA**



**“NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION RESOURCE
CENTER” AND
“PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND PARTICIPATION
AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL”
PROJECTS’ REPORT**



**Swiss Agency for
Development and Cooperation**



United States Embassy in Armenia

PROJECT GOALS AND PHASES

The **National Anti-Corruption Resource Center** Project (NACRC) implemented by the Center for Regional Development (CRD) representing the international anticorruption movement “Transparency International” in Armenia, was funded by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency. The objective of the Project was providing information to the representatives of government bodies, civil society and mass media on the anticorruption reforms in Armenia, as well as the local and international experience in the struggle against corruption, and organize a variety of activities to build the public monitoring capacity, including training and pilot monitoring for groups of local activists.

The Project was implemented in two phases: from November 2002 till October 2004, and from November 2004 till November 2005. In Phase 1, the following persons were selected from the regional partner organizations in Aragatsotn, Lori, Tavoush, Vayots Dzor and Siunik Marzes of Armenia as NACRC representatives in the Marzes:

- Mr. Gevorg Yeghiazaryan, representing the Center for Public Dialog and Initiative in Ashtarak;
- Ms. Irina Hakobyan, representing the Armenian Constitutional Rights Protection Center in Vanadzor;
- Mr. Vahe Mardanyan, representing the Ijevan branch office of the Community of Finance Officers of Armenia, who was replaced by Mr. Arman Gevorgyan in Phase 2 of the Project;
- Ms. Ruzanna Ghazaryan, representing the “Work and Fatherland” NGO in Vaiq; and
- Mr. Artashes Torozyan, representing the Teachers’ Union in Goris.

Libraries were founded in the mentioned towns and a computer and relevant literature were transferred to each one of the representation Units of the NACRC.

The Project named **Promoting Transparency and Participation at Local Government Level** was funded by the United States Embassy in Armenia. It was implemented from March through November 2005 and was combined with the **National Anti-Corruption Resource Center** Project. The objective of the **Promoting Transparency and Participation at Local Government Level** Project was to contribute to the improvement of transparency and participation at the level of local self-government bodies.

The aforementioned Projects were carried out by means of data collection and analysis, through organization of public opinion surveys, discussions with the focus groups, training sessions, consultations and monitoring activities. The Projects’ implementation is represented below on a monthly basis. Publications and photographs depicting the Projects’ activities, as well as other relevant materials are represented in the Attachments.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

November-December 2004

A number of preparatory activities were carried out by the CRD management, including the assessment of the previous 2-year phase of the NACRC implementation. The NACRC staff continued working on the needs assessment for the library visitors and public opinion survey on delivery of local services. Updating of the CRD library and website, as well as of the libraries at the NACRC Units continued along with the dissemination of corresponding materials, monitoring

of the mass media publications and installation of corruption-related materials and annotations on the CRD website.

January 2005

The Project staff developed the methodologies for the phone survey, including the samples and questions. The purpose of the survey was to detect the quality of public services in the communities of Ashtarak, Goris, Vaiq, Ijevan and Vanadzor, and accordingly monitor the services that provoke most discontent. It was necessary to discover the incidence of complaints about services forwarded to the municipalities and the attitude the City Hall manifests with regards to the citizens and their complaints.

The survey was conducted during the period of 21-31 January by the NACRC representatives in Ashtarak, Goris, Vaiq and Vanadzor. The survey in Ijevan was conducted by one of the CRD employees due to the temporary absence of the NACRC representative. 200 citizens were inquired in every town, accordingly the total number of the inquired amounted to 1000. The survey in the town of Ashtarak had to be reiterated due to certain technical errors. In Ashtarak, Ijevan and Vaiq garbage collection was named as a major problem, while in Vanadzor people complained about sanitation and water supply, and in Goris dissatisfaction was caused by the health services, though garbage removal was categorized as the second major problem both in Vanadzor and Goris. To ensure the integrity of the monitoring process, garbage collection service was chosen to be the object of a pilot public monitoring.

February 2005

The CRD employees conducted an analysis of the phone survey results (for more information see Attachment 2). Meetings were arranged with N. Kiurinyan and L. Hovhannisyan from Urban Institute/USAID Project on Local Government to exchange information. During the meeting the current Urban Institute operations in the area of garbage removal in the towns of Ijevan and Vanadzor were presented. A meeting was also held at the CRD office with A. Vermishyan, the President of the “Burg” NGO that carried out a number of garbage removal improvement operations in the town of Ijevan. Upon the recommendation of A. Manukyan, an expert from the Yerevan GTZ Coordination Office, a meeting was arranged with S. Srabyan, the Head of the Utility Department of the Ministry of Urban Planning and Construction, who conveyed information about the activities accomplished by the above Ministry in the area of garbage removal and presented two manuals titled “Consultancy on the Development of Strategic Policies for Integrated Projects of Solid Waste Management in Ararat and Vayots Dzor Marzes” and “Waste Management Policies”.

The NACRC representatives in Ashtarak, Goris, Vaiq, Ijevan and Vanadzor simultaneously assembled information about the garbage collection operations in their communities (contact numbers of the municipality departments responsible for waste removal, the names of the appropriate service providers, their staffing, machinery and its status, schedule of the waste removing vehicles, as well as information about the level of fee collections from the residents carried out either by the municipal utility departments or the service providers, as well as the amount of revenues and expenditures of the latter). The purpose of amassing this information along with other objectives was to find out how transparently the service providers and responsible local government bodies operate and to what extent the service quality is dependent upon the fee collections from the residents.

March 2005

In March, along with the NACRC Project, the **Promoting Transparency and Participation at Local Government Level** Project commenced. The Project involved most of the NACRC employees. Within the scope of this new Project the indicators of public participation and monitoring were developed along with the development and testing of the methodologies, selection criteria and questions for phone survey to be carried out by the regional representatives of the NACRC. Within the framework of the newly commenced and the NACRC Projects a training was devised for NGOs, mass media representatives and active citizens on “Public Monitoring: Theory and Practice” to be carried out during the period of 21-29 March in the towns of Ashtarak, Vanadzor and Goris. However, the training was adjourned because of the unfavorable weather conditions.

The Mayors of Ashtarak, Ijevan, Vanadzor, Vaiq and Goris were referred notifications about the commencement of the Projects’ activities with a request to provide information about the transfers provided by the City Hall for garbage collection and sanitary purification, the size of the monthly payments, and the monthly expenditures of the organizations involved in garbage removal.

April 2005

Within the scope of the new Project, within the period of 3-15 March the NACRC representatives in Ashtarak, Ijevan, Vanadzor, Vaiq and Goris conducted phone surveys for 200 residents in each of selected communities to reveal the transparency of the operation of the local government bodies and assess public participation at community level. In addition, the survey was designated to determine what was the source and the extent of public awareness about the decisions of the local government bodies, the public hearings organized by the local government bodies and, if the level of public awareness was low, to find out what was the main reason for that (for more information about the results of the survey see Attachment 3).

In parallel with the survey, during the period of 2-14 April the CRD employees organized discussions with the focus groups in the aforementioned cities to assess the transparency of the local government bodies and the level of public participation. With the exception of the city of Vanadzor, in each city a discussion was held with the focus groups of active citizens and NGOs. In the city of Vanadzor three service providers were involved in garbage removal, accordingly the focus group discussions with the active citizens counted to three, and with NGOs – to one. The lists of participants of the focus group discussions are presented in Attachment 4. The purpose of the focus group discussions was to reveal before the participants the results of the phone surveys, determine the causes of the current situation and propose possible solutions to improve the latter. In addition, it had to be determined what criteria should be used to monitor the garbage removal process.

In the meantime, the CRD employees had a number of meetings with the heads of the utility departments of the local government bodies and the directors of the service providing companies involved in garbage collection in the aforementioned communities, in order to represent the Projects’ goals and to discuss the possible cooperation prospects.

May 2005

Training sessions were held in Goris on May 2-3 (for participants from Goris and Vaiq), in Vanadzor on May 6-7 (for participants from Vanadzor and Ijevan) and in Ashtarak on May 10 for local NGOs, journalists and active citizens to introduce a topic “Public Monitoring: Theory and Practice” (for more information about the agenda and the list of participants for each training see Attachment 5). Through the course of the training session working groups were formed, which

submitted recommendations on the monitoring and other activities and developed a timetable of operations. This was followed by an operational meeting between the CRD staff and NACRC Units' representatives in Yerevan. During that convention the joint workplan for both Projects was discussed and the commencement date was determined. Also, a decision was made to implement the operations listed below (the missing name of a specific community indicates that the operation should be carried out in all five communities):

1. Installation of a “phone hotline” for garbage removal issues (three times a week for two hours daily);
2. Photo and visual observations for the competition “Clean Yard” (in two or three blocks);
3. Obtaining information on the revenues and expenses of relevant service providers;
4. Specification and oversight of the schedule of the waste removing vehicles;
5. Organization of a Best Script Contest for the film on the situation with garbage collection;
6. Development and dissemination of an information booklet;
7. Participation in the sessions of the Community Councils (Avagani);
8. Organization of public hearings;
9. Cooperation with the mass media in the form of live broadcasts and telecasts (with the exception of the towns of Ashtarak and Vaiq, where no local TV companies function);
10. Organization of ‘subbotniks’ (Ijevan, Goris), cleaning of historic monuments (Ashtarak, Goris);
11. Organization of a Best Essay Contest in schools (Goris);
12. Promoting Goris-Vien (sister-cities) cooperation on the given issue (Goris);
13. Organization of class trainings in kindergartens and elementary schools (Ijevan).

At the end of May responsibilities were allocated among the members of the monitoring working groups, in all cities the mass media transmitted announcements about the “phone hotline” and the Best Script Contest. Apart from that, in the schools of Goris announcements were made about the Best Essay Contest, establishing a deadline for submission on May 21. On May 23 a ‘subbotnik’ was organized in Goris in the vicinity of historic monuments. The competition “Clean Yard” commenced on May 25 and the first photographic observations were made.

The first photographic observation in Vaiq was conducted on May 25. On the same date the NACRC representative in Vanadzor and a CRD employee discussed with the management of the “Lori TV” and “Interkap” TV companies possibilities of the broadcasting of announcements and the film. The first photographic observation was conducted on that day. In Ashtarak the first photographic observation commenced on May 27, and in Ijevan – on May 30.

June 2005

Photographic observations continued in **Ashtarak**. Each week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the “telephone hotline” was activated from 11:00 to 14:00. Five telephone calls were received. The report on revenues and expenditures was received from the municipality. Throughout the month, the local “Ashtarak” newspaper continued publication of the announcements about the activation of the “hotline” and the Best Script Contest for the film. In addition, the schedule of the garbage removing vehicles was received. The initial copy of the booklet sketch was referred to the CRD office.

In **Vanadzor** the “hotline” operated from 16:00 to 18:00 every week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Five telephone calls were received during that period. Throughout the month announcements were transmitted over the local TV and radio stations, four reportages were published in the local “Vanatur” newspaper. Weekly photographic observations were carried out in a number of selected communities, and three scripts for the film were received.

In **Ijevan**, a discussion on the subject of waste removal was arranged on June 8 in the office of NGO “Huisi Kamurj”, with participation of the CRD representative. Among the partakers were G. Belbulyan, the Head of the Utility Department of the Ijevan Municipality; S. Chibukhchyan, Director of the “Bardi” CJSC; representatives of NGOs both involved and not involved in the Project; active young people, as well as the shooting team from “Ijevan” Studio. The dispute was taped and transmitted over the local TV channel. On the next day a meeting took place in the NACRC Unit with participation of the involved NGOs and active citizens to discuss the operations accomplished during June and the plans for July.

On June 9, a meeting took place with G. Belbulyan and S. Chibukhchyan to clarify the issues regarding the schedule of the garbage removal vehicles. Another meeting was arranged with Mayor V. Nersisyan. A number of Projects activities issues were discussed in the course of that meeting, including the participation of the Mayor, the Head of the Utility Department and the CJSC Director in the forthcoming activities. The Mayor expressed his willingness to cooperate with the Projects’ teams. On the same day another encounter took place with the editors of the local newspapers “*Tavoush*” and “*Ijevan*”. A mutual agreement was arrived at about the periodic publication of the Projects-related materials.

Jointly with the CRD representatives, the data base for the “hotline” was developed. The City Hall provided the map of the city, with the help of which the visits of the garbage removing trucks were outlined and adjusted on each street, jointly with the corresponding employees from municipal departments. Photographic observations were carried out on the 15th and 30th of June. The City Hall provided information on revenues and expenses. On June 16 an operational meeting was convened for the participants to discuss the observation mechanism for the Clean Yard Contest. Inspections for the Clean Yard Contest were carried out on the 17th and 30th of June. On June 17, upon the request of the NACRC Ijevan representative, the CRD employees prepared an observation list for the Clean Yard Contest and sent to all NACRC representatives.

On June 22, a meeting of the Avagani took place at the Municipality with participation of the CRD representative and the Projects’ participants. Throughout the month of June each week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the hotline was activated from 16:00 to 18:00. Twelve telephone calls were received. To stimulate the incoming telephone calls, flyers were made and distributed among the residents during the photographic observations and inspections for the Clean Yard Contest. Two scripts for the Best Script Contest were received. Two initial copies of the booklet sketch were sent to the CRD office.

In **Vaiq**, the local newspaper “*Aspect*” publicized announcements about the “telephone hotline” and the Best Script Contest on June 5. Given the fact that no calls were received by the hotline throughout the entire month, it was decided to intensify the process by making information flyers and distributing them among the population during and after the observations. The first Clean Yard Contest inspection was made on June 30 and the flyers about the “hotline” were disseminated. On June 15 and 30 regular photographic observations and inspections for the Clean Yard Contest were carried out. The working group held two meetings.

In June, the NACRC representative faced a number of problems while trying to obtain information about revenues and expenses of the service providing company. For several times the representative tried to arrange for a meeting with the Director of the “Sanmakrum yev Barekargum” (Sanitary Cleaning and Improvement) CJSC, but with no avail. Eventually, when the meeting took place, the Director refused to provide any financial information with an excuse that it was a matter of commercial confidentiality. As for the schedules of the garbage removal vehicles, the Director promised to provide them but did not keep his word. Therefore, the NACRC employee was compelled to superintend the weekly visits of garbage trucks on her own.

On June 30, the NACRC Unit representative and the CRD employee had a meeting with the Mayor, where the latter promised that the Director of the abovementioned CJSC would provide all necessary information.

In **Goris**, each week throughout the month of June, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the “hotline” was activated from 16:00 to 18:00. Five calls were recorded. To intensify the process, it was decided to make information flyers and distribute them among the residents, as well as to advertise announcements about the “hotline” and the Best Script Contest in the local “*Usutsich*” newspaper and via “Last” TV channel.

No inspections for the Clean Yard Contest were carried out during June. The schedule of the waste removal vehicles was not verified with the service provider, and no activities were carried out to monitor the visits of the garbage trucks. Photographic observations were conducted twice during the month, however not in the formerly selected parts of the city, but in three districts only. For the students of the 7th and 9th classes a Best Essay Contest was organized with the headline “Clean Goris”.

July 2005

In **Ashtarak**, the hotline operated three times a week from 11:00 to 14:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. No calls were recorded. On 7-8 of July the NACRC representative visited Yerevan to take part in the workshop “Introducing the Polish System of Counteracting Corruption”, organized by CRD and Polish-Czech-Slovak “Solidarity” Foundation (for more information about the workshop agenda in Attachment 6). The monthly information on revenues and expenses was received from the Ashtarak Municipality. On July 15 and 30 photographic observations were carried out, along with the monitoring of the garbage truck visits. The working group held a meeting on July 26.

In **Vanadzor**, the hotline operated three times a week from 16:00 to 18:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the month of July. Twelve calls were recorded. On 7-8 of July the NACRC representative visited Yerevan to attend the abovementioned workshop “Introducing the Polish System of Counteracting Corruption”. Announcements about the “telephone hotline” and the Clean Yard Contest were advertised in the local “*Vanatur*” and “*Vanadzorian Khechankar*” newspapers. Photographic observations were carried out on a weekly basis. Upon the initiative of the working group members L. Sargisyan (a reporter from “Lori TV” channel) and A. Matinyan a screening was arranged. During the month three applications were received for the Clean Yard Contest. Effective July 15, in nine blocks of the city monitoring of the garbage trucks was carried out. Three photographic reportages were published in the local “*Vanatur*” weekly.

Negotiations were held with the Vanadzor municipal office on public hearings. On July 11, the members of the working group participated in the Avagani session. A corresponding request was forwarded to the City Hall to obtain the minutes of the session. On July 13, the Municipality provided the CRD office with information about the revenues and expenses for the period January-June 2005.

In **Ijevan**, a meeting of the working group members was held on July 5. On 7-8 of July the NACRC representative visited Yerevan to take part in the workshop “Introducing the Polish System of Counteracting Corruption”. The “hotline” operated three times a week from 16:00 to 18:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Five calls were recorded. On July 15 and 30 photographic observations were carried out along with the inspections for the Clean Yard Contest. Effective July, monitoring of the garbage truck operations was carried out on four streets of the city.

On July 14, a class workshop was conducted on the subject of the Ecosystem in the summer camp organized by the “Kanach Tavoush” NGO of Ijevan. On July 20, a discussion was held on the subject of Transparency Enhancement at Local Government Bodies in the office of the NGO “Huisi Kamurj”, with participation of the working group members, other NGO representatives and active young citizens. On July 26, another dispute was organized at the Tourism and Business Information Center to discuss “The Role and Operation of NGOs”. The discussion was transmitted over the local TV channel, articles and photographs were published in the local “Tavoush” and “Ijevan” newspapers.

On July 28, a public hearing was held at the Municipality hall on the subject of “Cleanliness of the City and Garbage Disposal” with participation of 40 people, including the Mayor, the Head of the Utility Department of the Municipality, the inspector of the “Bardi” CJSC, an inspector from the Tavoush Regional Ecological Office, a physician from the Ijevan Epidemiological Center and the CRD representative.

In **Vaiq** no calls were recorded through the “telephone hotline”, therefore residents were distributed flyers advertising the latter. On 7-8 of July the NACRC representative visited Yerevan to participate in the workshop “Introducing the Polish System of Counteracting Corruption”. On July 15 and 31 photographic observations were carried out along with the weekly inspections of the garbage removal truck visits. Observations for the Clean Yard Contest were carried out on the 15th and 31st of July.

On July 25 a request was forwarded to the Municipality on participation in the Avagani session. A gathering was organized to host the students of the city. On July 29 a public hearing was held dedicated to the issue of waste removal. Sixteen of the invited 45 citizens were in attendance, including the CRD employee. After the public discussions, the Director of the “Sanmakrum yev Barekargum” (Sanitary Cleaning and Improvement) CJSC presented approximate data about revenues and expenses.

In **Goris**, the hotline operated three times a week from 16:00 to 18:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Seven calls were recorded in July. On 7-8 of July the NACRC representative visited Yerevan to participate in the workshop “Introducing the Polish System of Counteracting Corruption”. Within the scope of Goris-Vien cooperation a meeting was organized on July 21 and a preliminary agreement was arrived at about further collaboration between two sister-cities.

During the month of July two photographic observations were carried out, the results of the “Clean Goris” Best Essay Contest were summarized and prizes awarded for the best six students. Summaries of those Essays were published in the local newspaper “Usutsich”. On July 19 the members of the working group participated in the Avagani meeting. A number of issues related to the garbage collection were discussed, including the issue of holding a public hearing devoted to those issues.

The schedules of the garbage disposal trucks were verified and weekly inspections of their visits were carried out. On July 15 and 30 inspections for the Clean Yard Contest were carried out. In four blocks of the city the members of the working group recorded the residents’ concerns with regard to garbage removal. In order to obtain information about revenues and expenses, the NACRC representative turned to the Municipality for a number of times, and although no refusal was issued, no information was delivered either. An initial copy of the booklet sketch was referred to the CRD office.

August 2005

In response to the Best Script Contest announcement for the film under the Projects in all five cities, the CRD office received three scripts from Vanadzor and two - from Ijevan. The scripts, however, were not accepted as they did not meet certain selection criteria and the CRD management had to apply to the “Versus” studio with an offer to write a script and shoot a film.

In **Ashtarak** the “hotline” recorded two calls. Two photographic observations were carried out on August 18 and 28. The Municipality provided information about the subsidies issued to the “Ashtarak Utility Service” OJSC. A meeting was arranged with the “Zartonk” Consultancy Center for Women and Youth. Among the issues discussed was the sanitization of the Kasakh River canyon on the International Youth Day. The young people of Ashtarak accomplished the aforementioned cleaning activities on August 12. The local “*Kantegh*” newspaper published an article on the status of waste removal activities in the town.

For the purpose of conducting observations of the construction and renovation activities, letters were forwarded to G. Melikyan, the Head of the Ashtarak Department of ARMENTEL Joint Venture CJSC and R. Hairapetyan, the Director of the Aragatsotn Branch of “Armrusgasprom” company, requesting information about the responsible parties, the timeframes and funding sources of the improvement activities in the streets after construction operations. The response came only from G. Melikyan who was advising to refer the issue to the executive body of the company. The recommendation was followed but no response was received whatsoever.

In order to attend the Avagani session, the NACRC representative tried to verify with the Avagani member A. Azizyan the schedule of the meetings, but found out that the meetings had already taken place on the so-called “on paper” basis.

In **Vanadzor** the “telephone hotline” recorded six calls. The issues raised were covered by the “Lori TV” channel and the local “*Vanatur*” weekly by the members of the working group. All the newspapers in the city placed advertisements about the forthcoming public hearing. The public hearing took place in the Municipality on August 26, with participation of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, nearly all the Department Heads of the City Hall and around 70 citizens. On the same day the members of the working group attended the Avagani session. The CRD employee was present at the public hearing and at the Avagani meeting likewise.

In August photographic observations were carried out. Four members of the working group conducted video observations in different parts of the city. Within the framework of the Clean Yard Contest three yards were inspected along with the visits of the garbage disposal trucks. The “*Vanatur*” weekly issued a series of reportages. Informative materials were published in the “*Lori Marz*” and reportage in “*Kaghakatsiakan Nakhadzernutiun*” weekly newspapers. Similarly, reportages were transmitted through the MIG Media Holding and “Lori TV” companies.

In **Ijevan** the “hotline” recorded six calls. Meetings with the members of the working group took place on the 3rd and 25th of August. During the second discussion the CRD representative was in attendance. Photographic observations were carried out on August 15 and 30. On August 15 and 30 inspections within the framework of the Clean Yard Contest were carried out, weekly monitoring of the garbage removal trucks was conducted.

On August 10, “Huisi Kamurj” NGO hosted a polemics dedicated to the discussion of the “Anti-corruption Strategy Adopted by the Armenian Government and Promotion of Public Awareness on Its Implementation”. Twenty participants attended the discussion, including the members of the working group, representatives from the Municipality and other NGOs, young people and

reporters. The materials and photographs of the discussion were provided to the local “*Tavoush*” and “*Ijevan*” newspapers. The City Hall provided information on revenues and expenses on August 18.

In **Vaiq** the “hotline” recorded no calls. Photographic observations were carried out on August 15 and 31. The work of the garbage disposal trucks was watched on a weekly basis. Within the scope of the Clean Yard Contest, on August 15 and 31 the yards of 27 multi-apartment buildings were inspected. The residents were distributed flyers advertising the “telephone hotline”. No publications were issued since the editorial staff of the local “*Aspect*” newspaper was away for vacation. The Avagani session scheduled for August did not take place.

In **Goris** the “hotline” recorded three calls. Photographic observations were carried out on August 15 and 30. Within the framework of the Clean Yard Contest two yards were inspected along with the weekly oversight of the garbage disposal truck visits. The local “*Azg*” newspaper published an article about the “Clean Goris” cooperation of the local NGOs initiated within the scope of the Projects. Under the “Goris-Vien” cooperation program a delegation from Vien attended Goris, following which visit a letter was received proposing to continue the “Clean Goris” project and to submit the budget for 2005-2006.

September 2005

The film shooting activities were continued by “Versus” studio. In the meantime, the CRD office published “Let’s Keep Our City Clean” booklet that contained the results of the surveys conducted in all five communities on the quality of local services, as well as the contacts of the municipal departments responsible for garbage removal, the service providers and the service tariffs in each town, and the information desk telephone numbers functioning in those cities (for more details see Attachment 7). The booklet was printed in 2.500 copies by the “Antares” company and handed over to each NACRC representative in 500 copies to be distributed among the population free of charge.

A decision was made to conduct a pilot monitoring of the local government body elections in the city of Vanadzor.

In **Ashtarak** the NACRC representative obtained information about the revenues and expenses from the Ashtarak Utility Service OJSC. A letter was received in response to the one referred to R. Hairapetyan, the Director of the Aragatsotn Branch of “Armrusgazprom” company. The booklet “Let’s Keep Our City Clean” was distributed among the population.

Three city blocks were observed where the garbage is mainly tossed and never removed. Two photographic observations were carried out, in the result of which it was discovered that garbage removal does not take place in accordance with a clear-cut schedule: during the pre-election period the streets and trashcans in the central part of the city are cleaned, while those in the peripheries remain untouched. The same refers to the adjacent territories.

In Vanadzor the “hotline” recorded three calls, among which a specific issue on garbage removal was proposed and conveyed to the members of the working group and the service providers. Photographic observations were carried out in six blocks of the city. Inspections under the Clean Yard Contest continued with three nominated yards. At nine spots located in eight communities of the city the scheduled visits of the garbage disposal trucks were observed. The booklet “Let’s Keep Our City Clean” was distributed among the population. The “*Vanatur*” and “*Kaghakatsiakan Nakhadzernutiun*” weekly newspapers published announcements, reportages and informative materials about the progress of the Projects.

The CRD team developed the methodologies for the elections monitoring, and organized the training in Yerevan for representatives of four local NGOs. Later, at the NACRC Unit a group of active citizens was formed to assist the NGO representatives with the monitoring of the Mayor's pre-election campaign and the actual elections.

In **Ijevan** two photographic observations were carried out, inspections under the Clean Yard Contest continued and the booklet "Let's Keep Our City Clean" was distributed among the population. A weekly monitoring of the garbage truck visits was conducted, and information about the revenues and expenses of the service provider obtained. On September 7 a discussion with the young people was organized. On September 28 the Best Essay Contest commenced. On September 30 the class training at the elementary schools was conducted. On September 19 the City Hall provided information on their revenues and expenses.

In **Vaiq**, photographic observations of three polluted spots were carried out on September 15 and 30. The monitoring of the garbage removal trucks was carried out through telephone inquiries of the residents of four city blocks, four times throughout the month, at the end of each week. Within the scope of the Clean Yard Contest, on September 15 and 30 the Yards of 27 multi-apartment buildings were inspected. The residents were distributed booklets "Let's Keep Our City Clean".

In **Goris** the "hotline" recorded seven calls. Two photographic observations were carried out in six pre-selected areas of the city. A public hearing was organized where the CRD representative was in attendance. A meeting took place with a representative of the mass media. Within the scope of the Clean Yard Contest, two yards were inspected. The weekly monitoring the garbage truck operations continued with participation of the citizens.

October 2005

The "Versus" studio completed the film and presented to the CRD office. With a request of free of charge demonstration of the film, the CRD office turned to "H1" TV channel, "H2" TV channel, "Shant", "Yerkir Media", "Shoghakat" and "Kentron" TV channels. On October 17 "Yerkir Media" started to show the film, transmitting it once a day. "Shoghakat" TV channel screened the film throughout the period of 7-30 October, twice a day. The "H2" agreed to transmit the film only for payment, and "Kentron" refused to broadcast it.

In **Ijevan**, upon the initiative of the NACRC representative and with the assistance of the Utility Department of Municipality and the "Bardi" CJSC, a 'subbotnik' was organized where around 2.500 people were partaking.

In **Vanadzor**, monitoring of the Mayor's election campaign and the actual elections was carried out. The CRD team summarized the results of the monitoring of the Vanadzor Mayor's elections and published them (for more information see Attachment 8).

In all five communities the Projects' activities were summarized and the winners of the Clean Yard Contest were identified. As a result of the Clean Yard observations in **Vaiq**, the selected winner was the yard of the building at 4 Shahumyan Street. In **Goris** the winner was the yard at 13 Narekatsi Street, in **Ijevan** – the one at Ankakhutian Street, and in **Vanadzor** – the one at 12 Sukhumi Street. Given the fact that the observations were unable to identify the winner in **Ashtarak**, it was decided that a trashcan be installed in the City Hall backyard as a measure of encouragement.

"Yerkir Media" TV channel continued the broadcasting of the film until November 30, the "H1" TV channel transmitted it throughout the period of 1-15 November, 2-3 times a day, and "Shant" TV channel broadcasted it from the 8th of November till the 8th of December, twice a day.

In November, three NACRC representatives (namely, Gevorg Yeghiazaryan from Ashtarak, Arman Gevorgyan from Ijevan and Artashes Torozyan from Goris) took part in the study tour to Poland, within the frameworks of the “No Corruption. Civic Control of Local Authorities” Project funded by the British Embassies in Warsaw and Yerevan through the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office under the Global Opportunities Fund, and implemented by CRD and Polish-Czech-Slovak “Solidarity” Foundation.

In November, through the efforts of all NACRC representatives, final presentations were organized for both **National Anti-Corruption Resource Center** and **Promoting Transparency and Participation at Local Government Level** Projects. Certificates of Participation and Awards were accorded to the active participants (for the agenda and the lists of participants see Attachment 9). At the final presentations in each town the results of the Vanadzor Mayor's elections monitoring were also presented.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the **National Anti-Corruption Resource Center** and **Promoting Transparency and Participation at Local Government Level** Projects demonstrated that the level of public awareness in Marzes concerning activities of the local government bodies, as well as the level of their participation in community-related decision making is quite low. In the meantime, the operation of the local government bodies is not transparent and often times the Avagani sessions are not even convened, but simply recorded “on paper”. The community residents in their majority are not involved in the public hearings that the local government bodies hardly ever organize.

Citizens' awareness of the local service delivery (e.g. on the service providers and the responsible local government bodies, service fees, etc.), as well as their interest in monitoring of service provision and their willingness to seek ways to improve the situation are just as low. One of the major reasons of low activism of residents is that they do not normally pay the service and thus people try to avoid any encounters with the service providers and/or responsible local officials.

In combination with the scarcity of subsidies from the state budget, the insolvency of customers creates severe financial adversity with service providers that leads, in its turn, to insufficiency of funds for the purchase of new technologies and, subsequently, affects the quality of service. In addition to that, there is no proper management within the service provider offices.

Throughout the Projects, the residents demonstrated an extremely shallow sense of ownership in terms of cleaning their yards and surrounding areas, as people disposed their garbage wherever possible. Moreover, the citizens failed to develop any practical skills for collective action to resolve the garbage collection problems in their neighborhood.

The aforementioned problems are certainly hard to completely resolve through the efforts of a single NGO or a single community. A single community could contribute to the improvement of service quality, whereas a single NGO could, for instance, achieve a certain increase in the level of the fee collections through a wide public awareness campaign. Nevertheless, national approach would be required with investment of adequate financial and human resources.

It is worthy mentioning however that in the course of implementation of both Projects the CRD team succeeded in increasing the public awareness among the residents: around 1500 people turned to the NACRC representatives in Marzes in order to obtain specific materials and literature, to raise community-specific issues or to receive consultancy. The “telephone hotline” recorded a total of about 150 calls. Booklets were distributed among the population to increase the

level of public awareness regarding the garbage collection in their communities. The shooting of the “Let’s Live Clean” film was initiated and broadcast over three TV channels.

The NACRC representatives organized ‘subbotniks’ in the target communities. For 3-4 months the citizens of Ashtarak, Vanadzor, Ijevan, Vaiq and Goris took part in the Clean Yard Contest, meaning that they were supposed to keep the Yard clean wherever they lived.

Both community and private organizations involved in garbage disposal cooperated with the local NACRC Units by providing information about their operations (revenues and expenses, availability of machinery, schedule of garbage removal trucks, etc.), which laid a ground for more transparency of their operations.

And finally, the local government bodies accepted the proposals made by local NGOs about organizing the Avagani sessions and public hearings. The cooperation with the local government bodies had a beneficial impact on the holding the Avagani sessions or/and public hearings on a more frequent basis, as well as on the formation of public demand for such. In five communities of Armenia groups of local activists were formed ready for further collective action. The activists participated at the training and acquired adequate expertise through implementing pilot monitoring. Therefore, they will be able to monitor the functions of the local government bodies and demand more transparency and participation at local level even after the completion of the presented Projects.

ATTACHMENTS

“Public Monitoring: Theory and Practice” 2-day Training for NGOs, Journalists and Active Citizens



*Trainings for Syunik and Vayots Dzor Marzes' representatives
Goris, May 2, 2005*



*Trainings for Lori and Tavush Marzes' representatives
Vanadzor, May 6, 2005*



*Trainings for Aragatsotn Marz representatives
Ashtarak, May 10, 2005*



Photo Observations



August 15, 2005



September 30, 2005

Vaiq



September 15, 2005



August 15, 2005

Goris



July 18, 2005



July 28, 2005

Ashtarak



August 30, 2005



September 15, 2005

Ijevan



July 18, 2005



July 23, 2005

Vanadzor

**Public Hearings
August 26, 2005
Ijevan, Tavush Marz**



Final Presentation of Projects



Vanadzor, November 5, 2005



Goris, November 8, 2005



Vaiq, November 9, 2005





Ijevan, November 11, 2005



Ashtarak, November 11, 2005.



As a result of "Clean Yard" activity in Ashtarak no winner was selected and place the garbage tank was decided to place in the backyard of municipality building

Phone Survey on Public Services

A telephone survey was conducted in April 2005 by representatives of the National Anti-Corruption Resource Center in Ashtarak, Goris, Vaiq, Ijevan and Vanadzor involving 200 respondents in each of these cities. The objective of the survey was to evaluate the quality of provision of public services and to monitor the services that received the highest number of negative votes in the given community. Another objective was to review the frequency of public services related applications to the City Halls, the level of processing of these applications and attitude towards the applicants.

The survey involved 1000 respondents in total, 28,2% of which were men and 71,8% were women. Respondents mainly belonged to "21 - 40" and "41 - 60" age groups (42,6% and 40,6% respectively). 12,1% of the respondents were "above 61" and 4,7% were "below 20". 43,9% of the respondents had higher education, 28% had vocational education and 28% had secondary education. 24,9% were budget employees 23% were unemployed, 15,8% were housewives, 11,6% were pensioners, 8,3% were employees of private businesses and students, 4,4% were NGO members and 3,7% were businessmen.

The respondents of the survey had to answer the following questions:

1. Are you satisfied with the quality of public services (e.g. health, education, social insurance, water supply and sewerage, garbage disposal, etc)? (1. "Yes", 2. "No").
2. If "No", then what public service are you dissatisfied with?
3. What requests did you make to the City Hall?
4. What obstacles did you encounter during processing of your request in the City Hall?

72,2% of the respondents were dissatisfied with the quality of public services. Dissatisfaction was best indicated in Ashtarak (94%) and least expressed in Ijevan (56,5%). Respondents in all communities except for Vanadzor (where water supply and sewerage rank first) and Ijevan (healthcare) presented garbage disposal as the key problem. Therefore this service was selected to ensure the uniformity of monitoring process.

Respondents to the survey almost never apply (72,6%) to the City Hall with their complaints. People generally apply to settle their employment problems, for financial assistance, land lease issues and sometimes to obtain a reference letter or welfare benefits, etc. No or very few complaints regarding the objects of discontent are filed. Ashtarak rated the first on complaints related to water supply and sewerage (3,5%), whereas the total share of respondents who were dissatisfied with this service amounted to 18,35%. In other communities, requests and complaints regarding water supply, garbage disposal or healthcare made only 1%-2%.

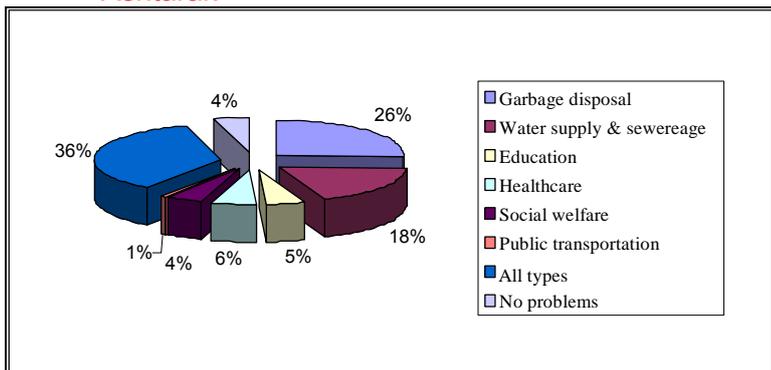
36,86% of requests made to the City Halls where rejected, 32,5% where accepted, 27,7% are still processed with delays or suspended without any rejection notification.

Question 1. Satisfaction (answer "Yes") or dissatisfaction (answer "No") of the respondents with the quality of public services.

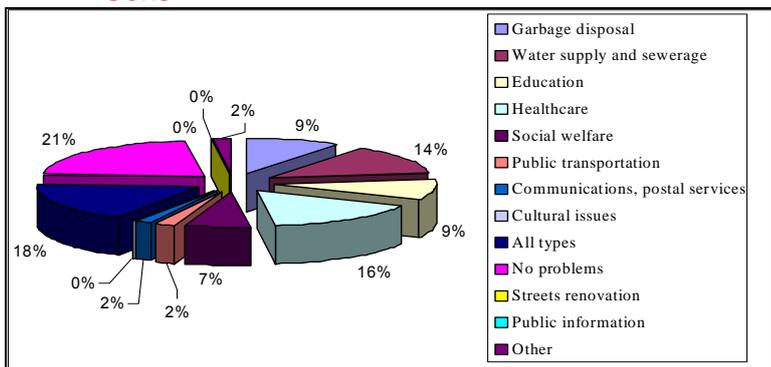
	Asht.	%	Goris	%	Vaiq	%	Ijev.	%	Van.	%	Total	%
Yes	12	6	57	28,5	73	36,5	87	43,5	49	24,5	278	27,8
No	188	94	143	71,5	127	63,5	113	56,5	151	75,5	722	72,2
Tot.	200	100	200	100	200	100	200	100	200	100	1000	100

Question 2. Types of negatively rated public services.

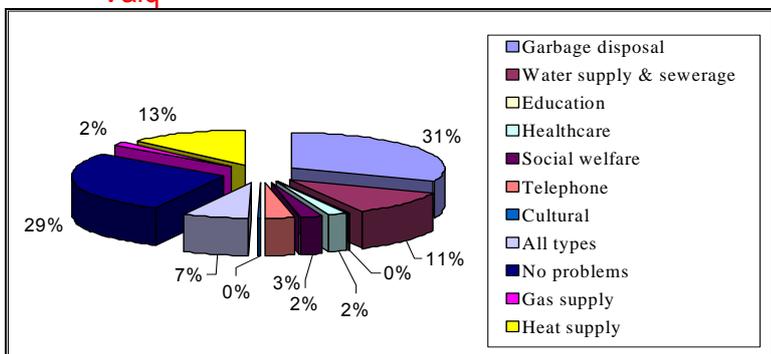
Ashtarak



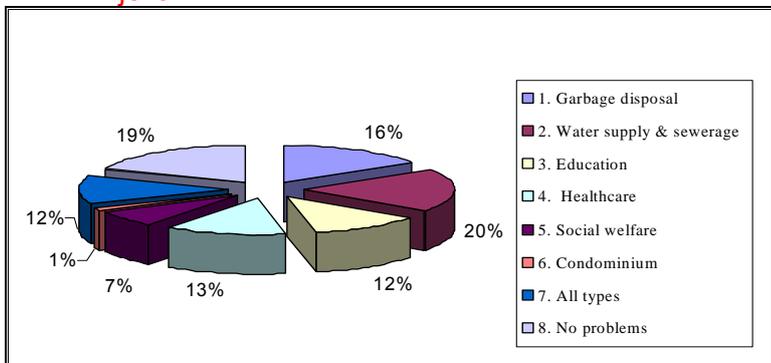
Goris



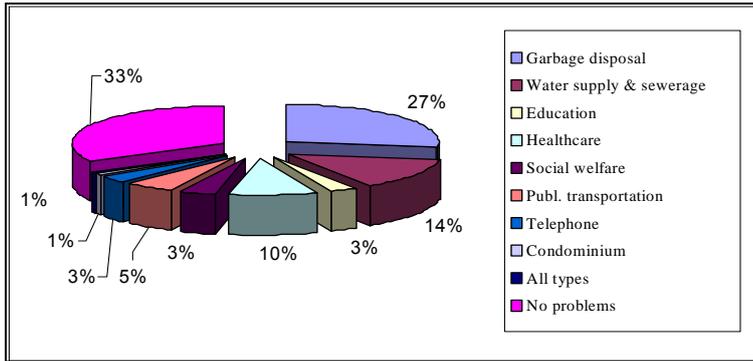
Vaiq



Ijevan

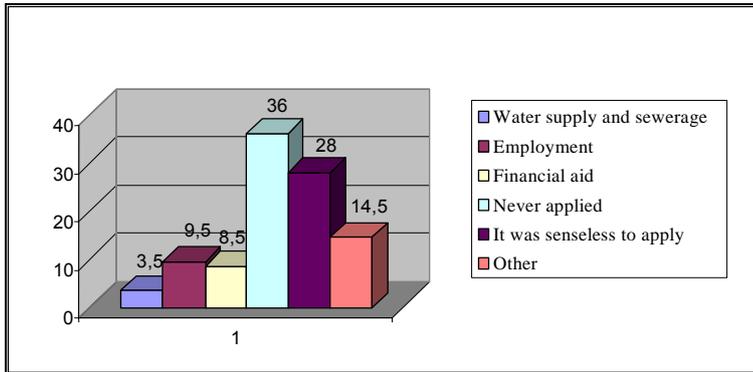


Vanadzor

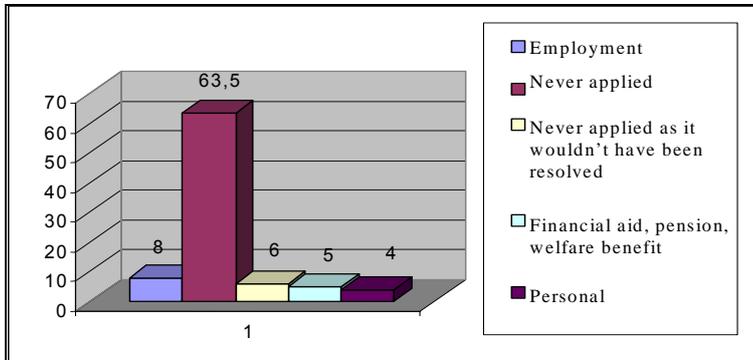


Question 3. Reasons for applying or not applying to the City Hall

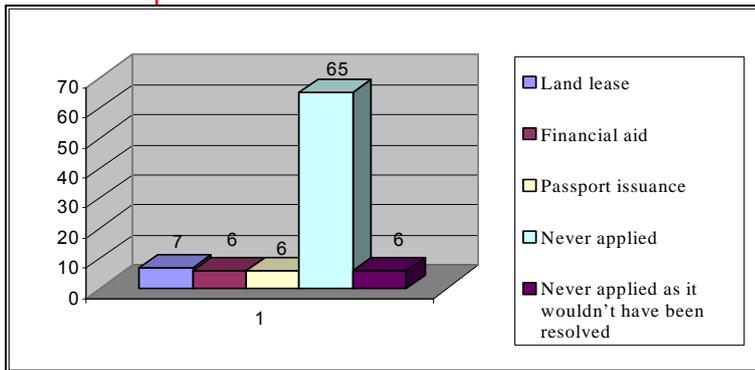
Ashtarak



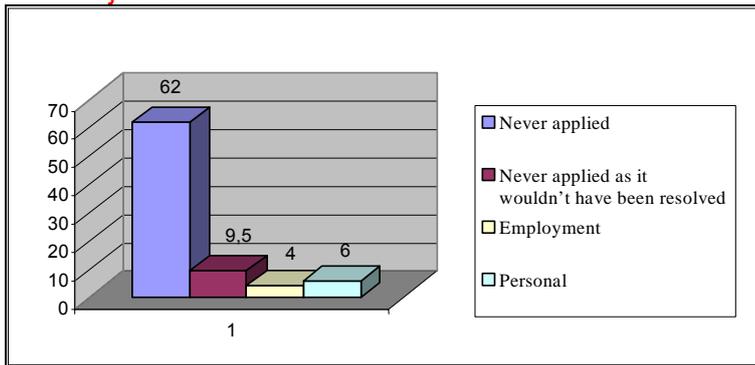
Goris



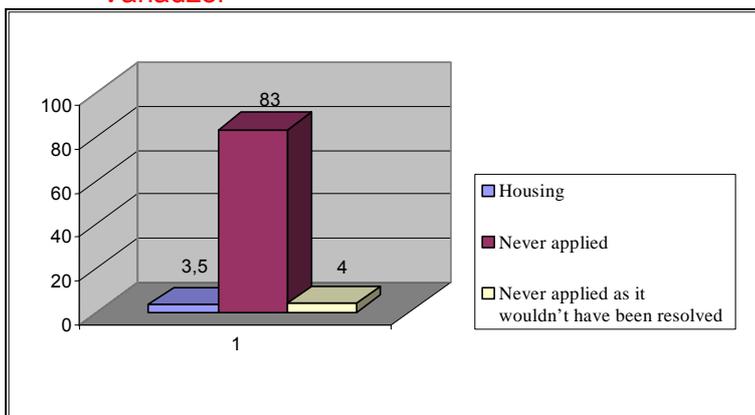
Vaiq



Ijevan

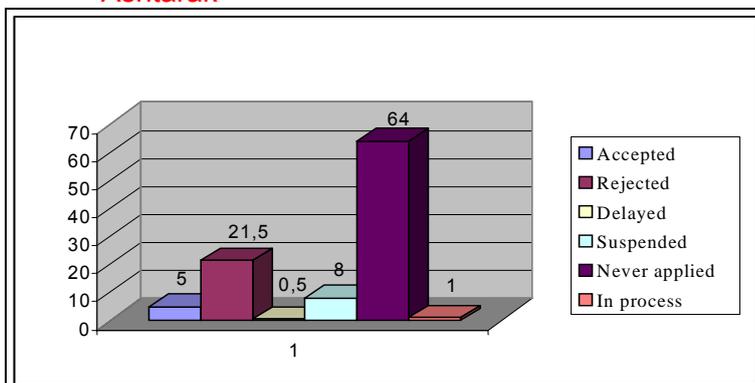


Vanadzor

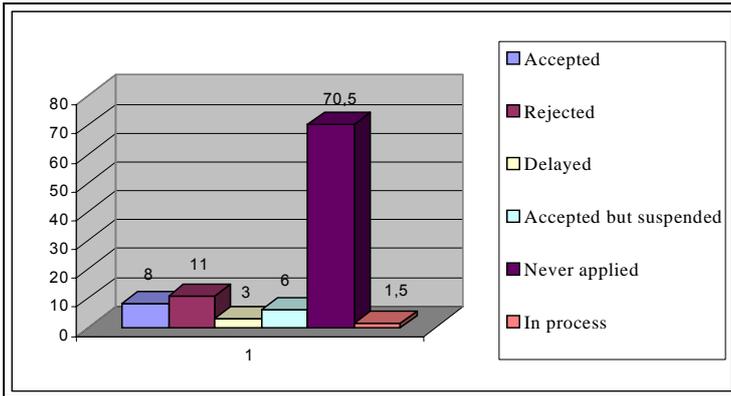


Question 4. Obstacles encountered in the City Hall

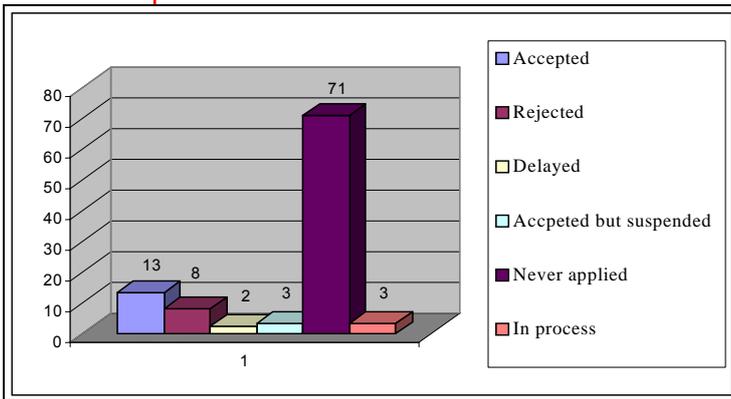
Ashtarak



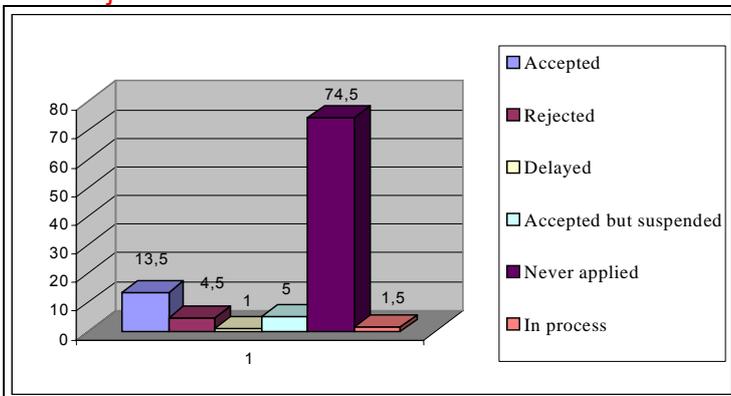
Goris



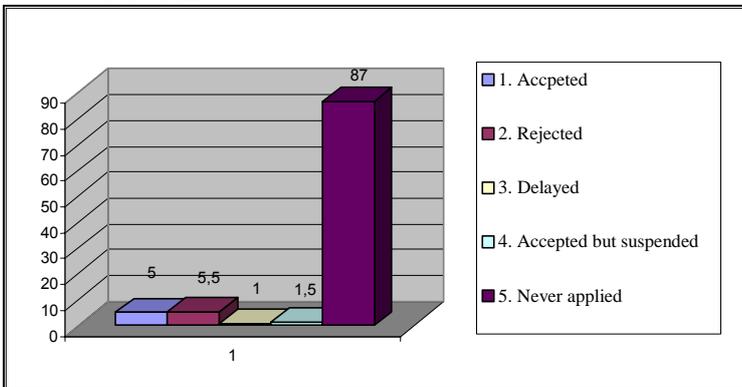
Vaiq



Ijevan



Vanadzor



Attachment 3

Phone Survey on Public Participation

A telephone survey was conducted in April 2005 by representatives of the National Anti-Corruption Resource Center in Ashtarak, Goris, Vaiq, Ijevan and Vanadzor involving 200 respondents in each of these cities. The objective of the survey was to evaluate the level of transparency of local government bodies and the extent of public participation in local governance. The survey was aimed at finding out the level and the sources of public awareness of the decisions taken by local government bodies, and whether people attend the sessions of the Community Council of Elderly and public hearings arranged by local government bodies. And if the level of public involvement in these issues is low, then what are the main reasons behind that.

The survey involved 1000 respondents in total, 32,7% of which were men and 67,3% were women. Respondents mainly belonged to "21 - 40" and "41 - 60" age groups (44,6% and 38,9% respectively). 10,2% of the respondents were "above 61" and 6,3% were "below 20". 38% of the respondents had higher education, 33% had vocational education and 28% had secondary education. 22,3% were unemployed, 17,4% were budget employees, 15,1% were housewives, 14,1% were employees of private businesses, 10,3% were pensioners, 9% were NGO members, 7,3% were students and 4,5% were businessmen.

The respondents of the survey had to answer the following questions:

1. Are you aware of the decisions taken by local government?
2. If yes, specify the sources.
3. If no, give the reasons.
4. Did you ever attend any public hearing arranged by your municipality?
5. If yes, specify the issues presented.
6. If no, give the reasons.
7. Did you ever attend any sessions of the Community Council of Elderly?
8. If yes, specify the issues presented.
9. If no, give the reasons.

22% of the respondents proved awareness of the decisions of their local governments. Lack of information was more than obvious in Vaiq (95,5%) and Ashtarak (93,5). Decisions of local governments are most widely publicized in Goris and Ijevan (36% and 35% respectively). The principal sources of information concerning the decisions of local government bodies are press and television, in particular local television. Out of the cities involved, only Vaiq had a different picture, where the small number of respondents who proved awareness of the decisions (1,5%), obtained this information through their contacts in the city administration. The reason behind this is that Vaiq is not a regional center and there is only one newspaper published there. However, in Ashtarak, which is a regional center, only 6,5% – 7% were informed of the decisions, half of which obtained information from the media.

The most common response given as a clarification for the lack of information on the decisions of local governments was "Didn't take any interest" (45% of all respondents). Responses like "I am not sure they will provide me with information" (17,4% of all respondents) and "I don't know who and how I should apply to" (12,4% of all respondents) were also frequent. Besides, the last two response options were almost entirely neglected in Ijevan (0,1% and 0,2% respectively): the citizens of Ijevan know better who should they apply to for information on the decisions and have reliance in the bodies that take these decisions. Nevertheless, they have the highest level of passivity (59%).

The situation with the second group of questions included in the questionnaire is even graver. Only 24 respondents out of 1000 (2,4%) attended the hearings (none in Vaiq). The agenda of those hearings included domestic issues, environment protection, communal

services as well as issues regarding the three-year community development plan (in Goris). The reasons for non-attendance were demonstrated by the respondents in the following responses: "I was not aware" (40,6% of all respondents), "I was not interested" (38,6%) and "There are no public hearings at all" (15%).

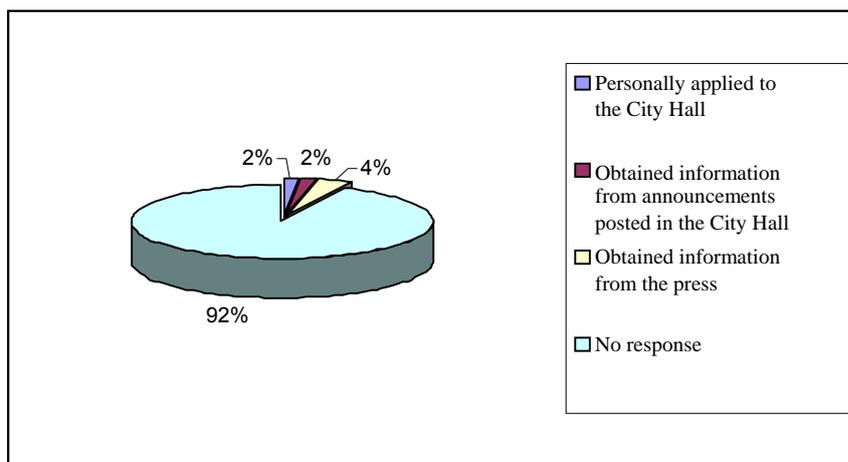
The situation with the questions covering attendance of sessions of the Community Councils of Elder is quite similar. Only 19 respondents attended the sittings (1,9%). 50,5% of the respondents did not take any interest in these sittings, a smaller group of 27,9% was not aware when these sittings took place and an even smaller group of 12,9% believed that the sittings were closed, and only 3,3% suggested that no sitting ever took place. Issues discussed at sessions of the Community Council of Elderly included the three-year community development plan, social conditions of the population, land privatization and other issues.

Question1. Awareness ("Yes") and unawareness ("No") of the decisions taken by local government bodies

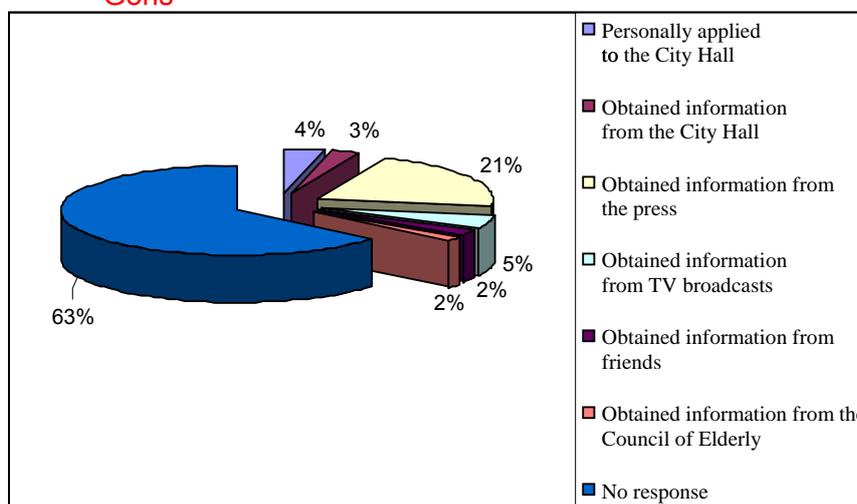
	Asht.	%	Goris	%	Vaiq	%	Ijev.	%	Van.	%	Total	%
Yes	13	6,5	72	36	9	4,5	70	35	56	28	220	22
No	187	93,5	128	64	191	95,5	130	65	144	72	780	78
Tot.	200	100	200	100	200	100	200	100	200	100	1000	100

Question2. Awareness ("Yes") or unawareness ("No") of the decisions of local government bodies

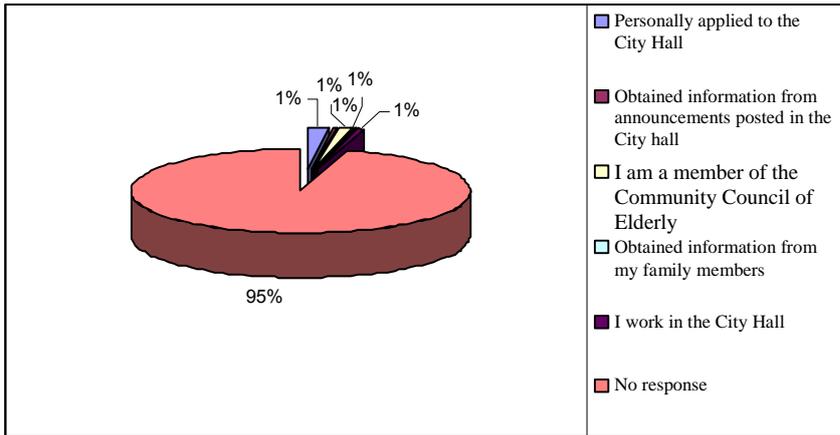
Ashtarak



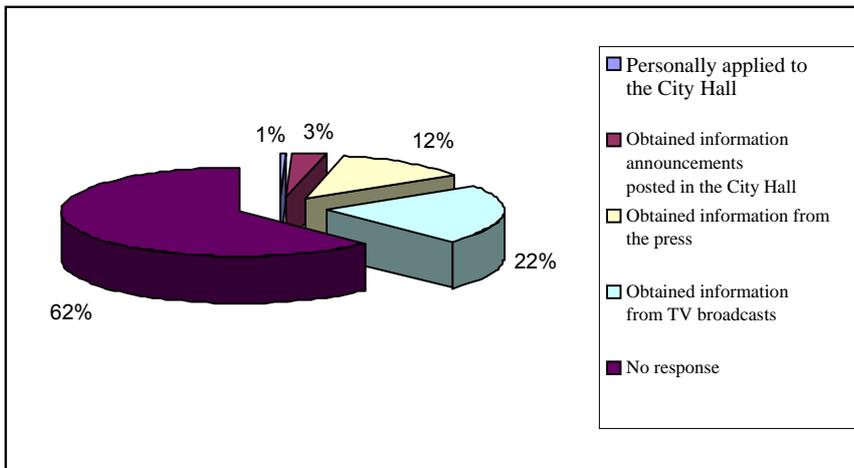
Goris



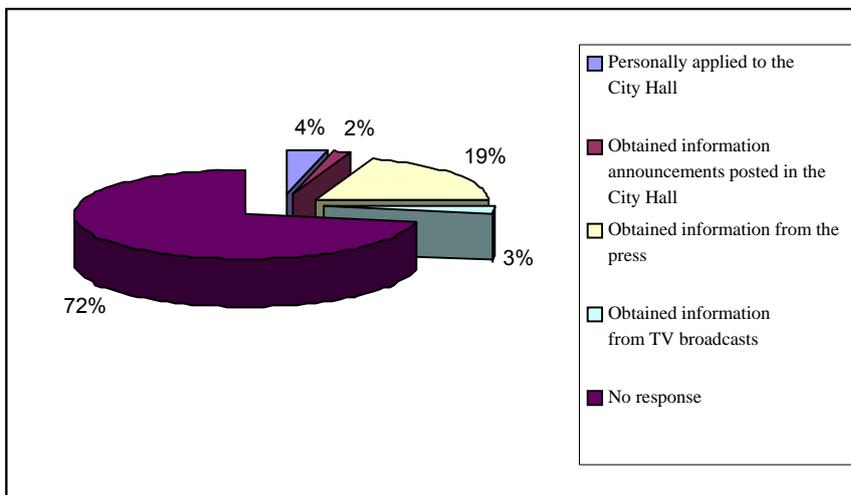
Vaiq



Ijevan

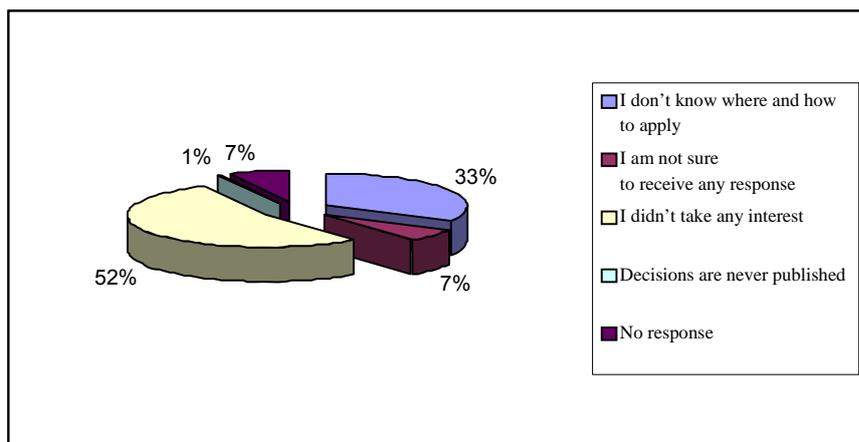


Vanadzor

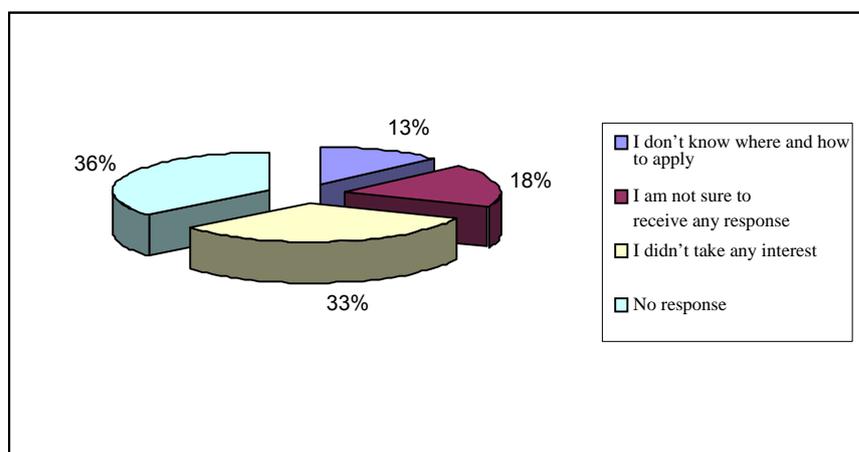


Question 3. Reasons behind unawareness of the decisions of local government bodies

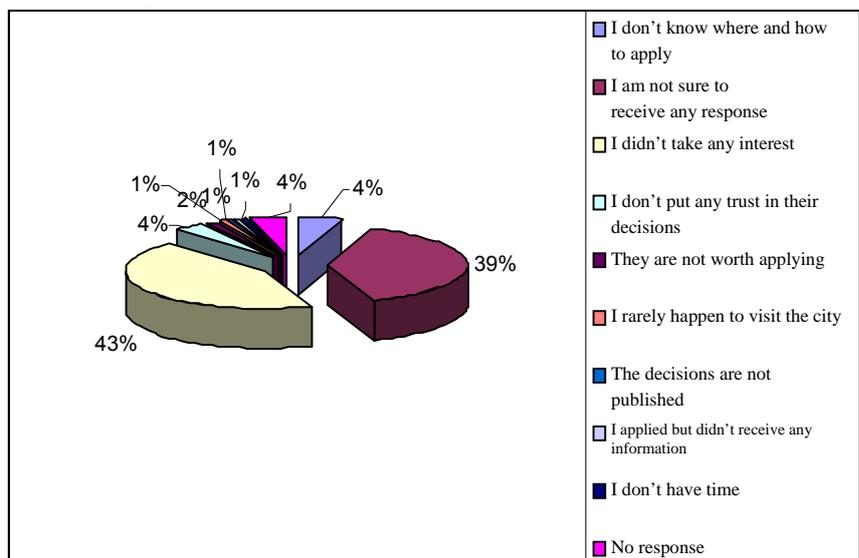
Ashtarak



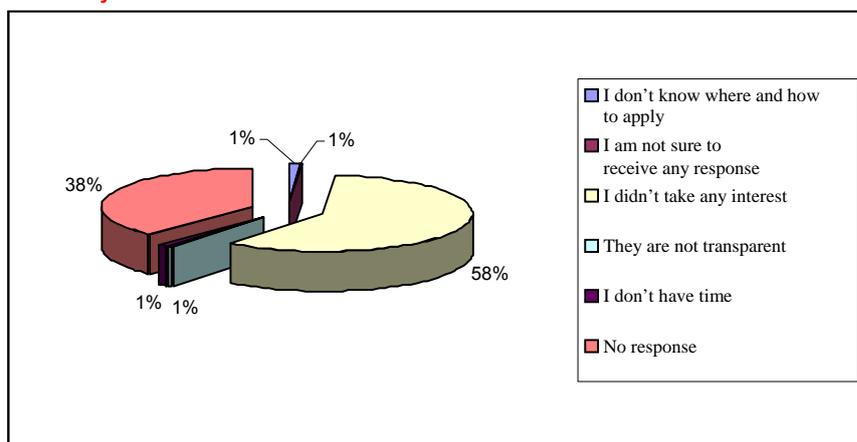
Goris



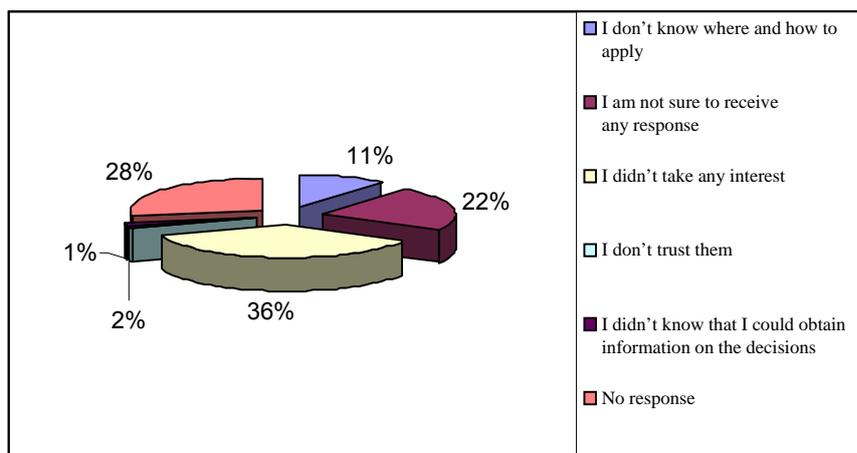
Vaiq



Ijevan



Vanadzor



Question 4. Attendance of public hearings arranged by the City Hall

Ashtarak

	Number	%
Yes	1	0,5
No	199	99,5
Total	200	100

Goris

	Number	%
Yes	9	4,5
No	191	95,5
Total	200	100

Vaiq

	Number	%
Yes	0	0
No	200	100
Total	200	100

Ijevan

	Number	%
Yes	11	5,5
No	189	94,5
Total	200	100

Vanadzor

	Number	%
Yes	3	1,5
No	197	98,5
Total	200	100

Question 5. *Issues discussed at the public hearings arranged by the City Hall (those attended by the respondents)*

Ashtarak

	Number	%
Social conditions of pensioners	1	0,5
No response	199	99,5
Total	200	100

Goris

	Number	%
Poverty reduction strategy	3	1,5
Streets improvement	2	1
Three-year community development plan	4	2
No response	191	95,5
Total	200	100

Vaiq

	Number	%
No response	200	100
Total	200	100

Ijevan

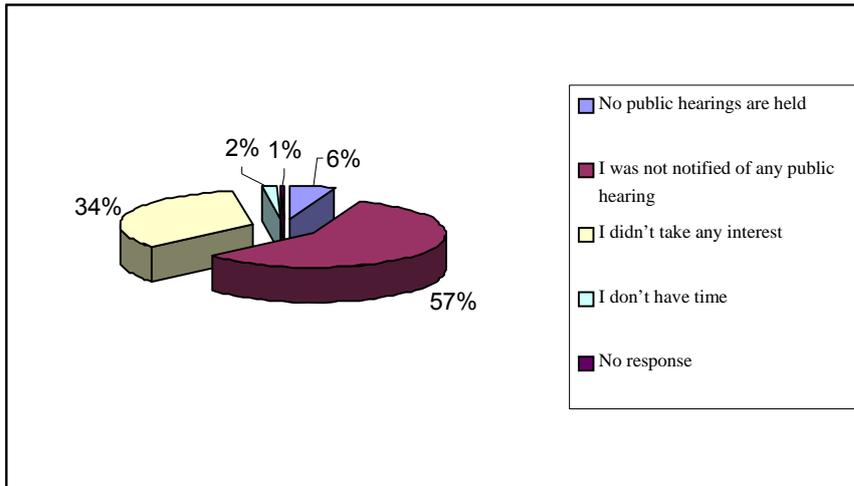
	Number	%
Environment protection	2	1
Garbage removal	2	1
Communal services	7	3,5
No response	189	94,5
Total	200	100

Vanadzor

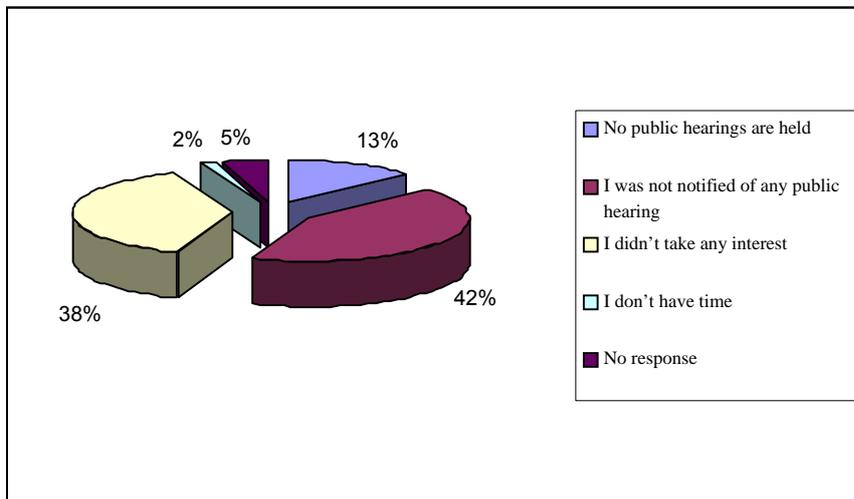
	Number	%
Environment protection	2	1
Mayor's report	1	0,5
No response	197	98,5
Total	200	100

Question 6. Reasons behind non-attendance of public hearings arranged by the City Hall

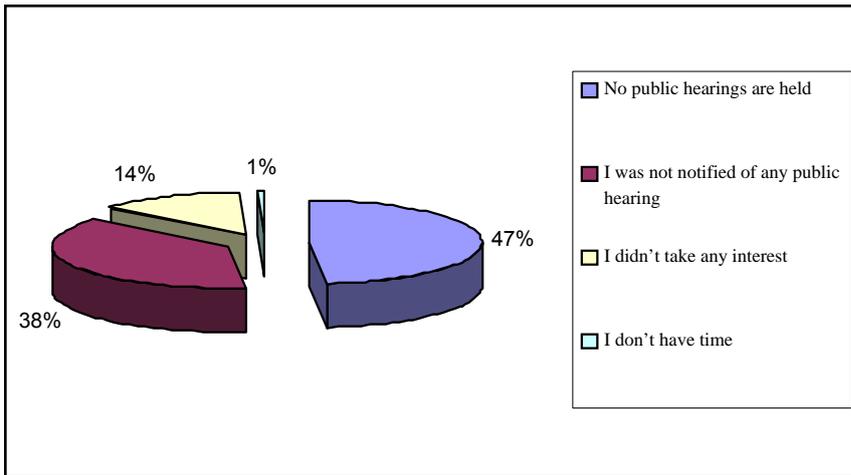
Ashtarak



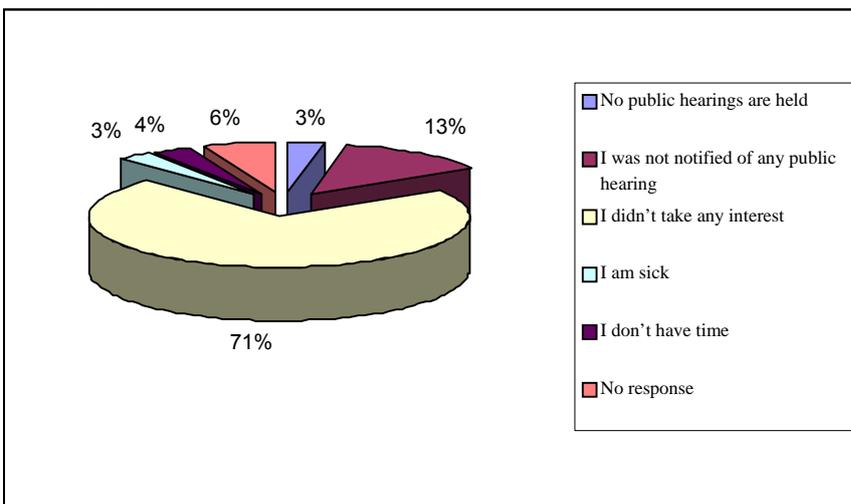
Goris



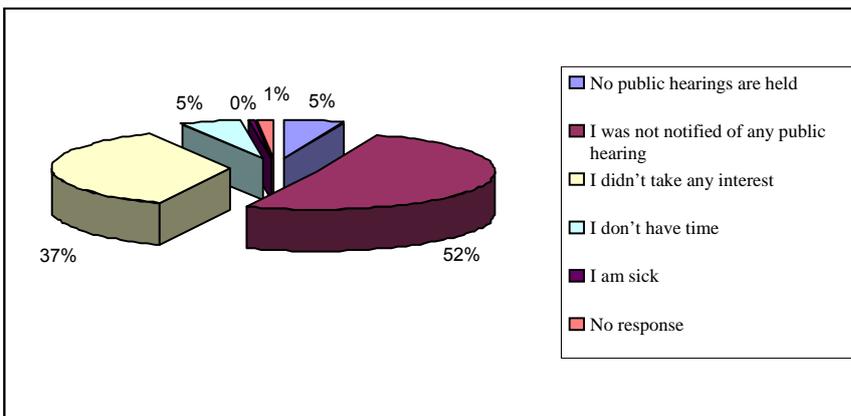
Vaiq



Ijevan



Vanadzor



Question 7. Attendance of sessions of the Community Council of Elderly (“Yes”, “No”)

Ashtarak

	Number	%
Yes	1	0,5
No	199	99,5
Total	200	100

Goris

	Number	%
Yes	5	2,5
No	195	97,5
Total	200	100

Vaiq

	Number	%
Yes	0	0
No	200	100
Total	200	100

Ijevan

	Number	%
Yes	7	3,5
No	193	96,5
Total	200	100

Vanadzor

	Number	%
Yes	6	3
No	194	97
Total	200	100

Question 8. *Issues discussed at the sessions of the Community Council of Elderly (those attended by the respondents)*

Ashtarak

	Number	%
Election related issues	1	0,5
No response	199	99,5
Total	200	100

Goris

	Number	%
Three-year community development plan	4	2
Educational and cultural development issues	1	0,5
No response	195	97,5
Total	200	100

Vaiq

	Number	%
No response	200	100
Total	200	100

Ijevan

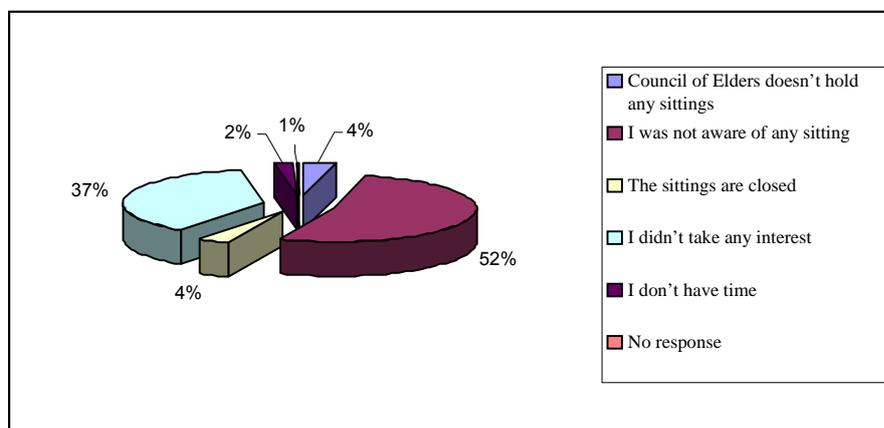
	Number	%
Land realization	1	0,5
Land privatization	1	0,5
Communal improvements	1	0,5
Social conditions of population	4	2
No response	193	96,5
Total	200	100

Vanadzor

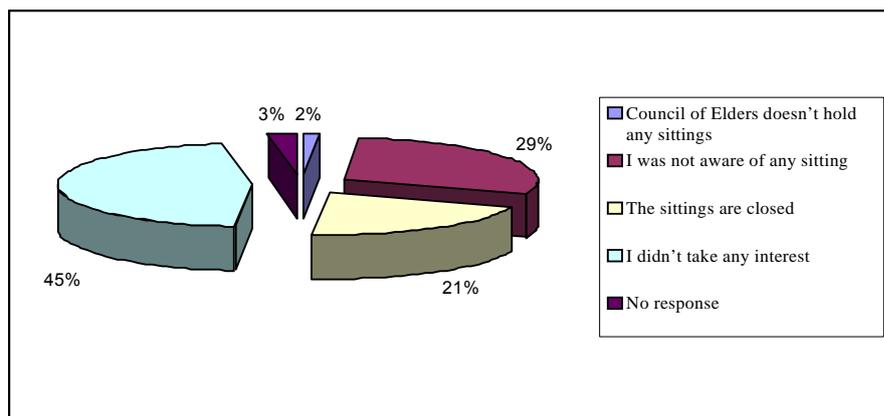
	Number	%
Land realization	4	2
Land privatization	3	1,5
No response	193	96,5
Total	200	100

Question 9. Reasons behind non-attendance of the sessions of the Community Council of Elderly

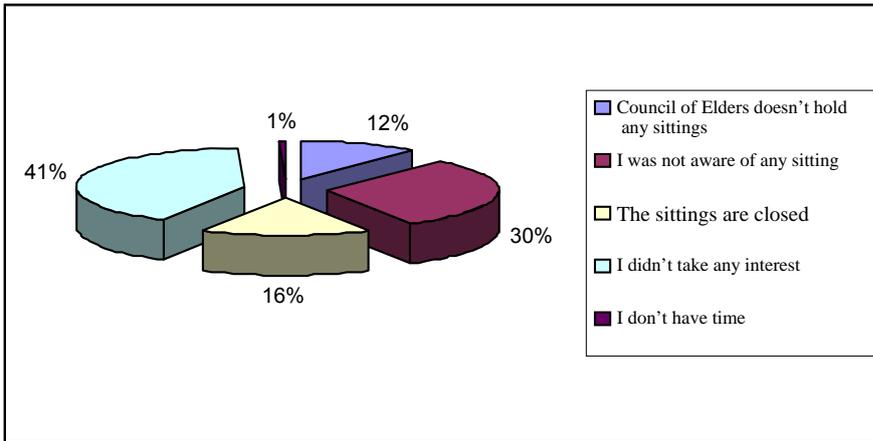
Ashtarak



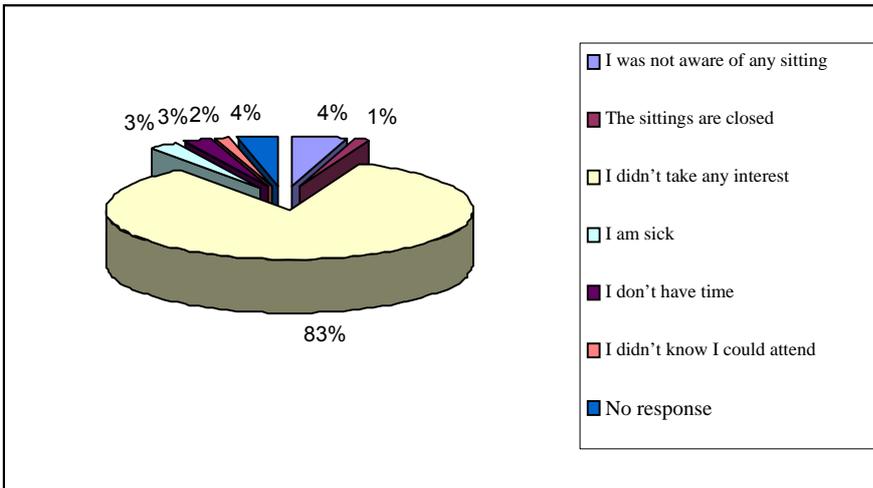
Goris



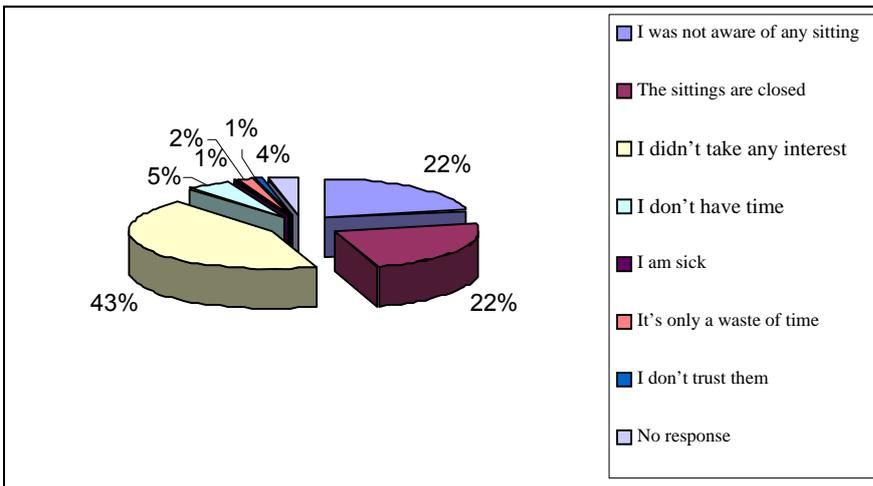
Vaiq



Ijevan



Vanadzor



Focus Group Discussions

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

GORIS

Representatives of NGOs

1. Artashes Torozyan, Teachers' Union of Goris
2. Anna Avetisyan, Teachers' Union of Goris
3. Surik Mkrtchyan, Avagani member of Goris
4. Arthur Vadazaryan, New Horizons
5. Ruzana Torozyan, Healthy generation of Mountaineers
6. Gegham Ayavzyan, Association of Young Lawyers of Armenia, Syunik Branch
7. Edgar Dudrunts, Goris Union of Youth
8. Aram Musakhanyan, Civic Education Center of Syunik
9. Vardik Dadunts, New Skylines
10. Yuri Petrosyan, The Armenian Center of Human Rights Protection after A.Sakharov, Syunik office
11. Sevada Khodjabaghyan, English Teaching Center of Goris

Active citizens

1. Flora Torozyan
2. Gayane Aghabekyan
3. Anahit Adunts
4. Albert Dingchyan
5. David Babaghanyan
6. Zhirayr Martirosyan
7. Yevgenia Khalafyan
8. Armine Hovhakimyan

VAIQ

Representatives of NGOs

1. Ruzan Ghazaryan, Work and Fatherland
2. Gevorg Gevorgyan, Red Cross
3. Seda Khachatryan, Technical Club
4. Sirak Miqaelyan, Green Vaiq
5. Garegin Safaryan, Hujs-98, Vaiq office
6. Nune Petrosyan, "Martiros" charity organization
7. Bakhshi Margaryan, ARH Union

Active citizens

1. Anahit Ayvazyan
2. Seda Babayan
3. Aram Aramyan
4. Asya Margaryan
5. Karen Stepanyan
6. Anush Azatyan
7. Mekhak Arsenyan

VANADZOR

Representatives of NGOs

1. Haykuhi Harutyunyan, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, Vanadzor Branch
2. Hrant Aylvazyan, Skauts Union of Vanadzor
3. Gohar Petrosyan, Lusastgh
4. Armen Matinyan, "New Generation" Pan-Armenian Union
5. Anna Sargsyan, "LIAR" social center
6. Gayane Akulyan, Milenium
7. Narine Ghazaryan, Crossroads
8. Kamo Yeganyan, Arajntac
9. Arthur Ghazinyan, Dashing
10. Arpine Hakobyan, NGO Training Center

Active citizens

1. Tatev Shahverdyan
2. Aida Petrosyan
3. Lusine Akhmakhchyan
4. Karen Badeyan
5. Lilit Gharibyan
6. Lusine Balyan
7. Aram Zurabyan
8. Mher Martirosyan
9. Hamlet Baltachyan
10. Gohar Qochinyan
11. Edita Avetyan
12. Elina Ghazaryan
13. Hermine Gasparyan
14. Astghik Harutyunyan
15. Liana Virabyan
16. Nvard Arakelyan
17. Ashot Aslanyan
18. Arayik Papikyan
19. Rudik Afitsaryan
20. Hayk Khachatryan
21. Kristine Mamulyan
22. Khachik Gevorgyan
23. Svetlana Khachatryan
24. Gagik Torosyan
25. Diana Ter-Stepanyan

ASHTARAK

Representatives of NGOs

1. Gevorg Yeghiazaryan, Center for Public Dialogue and Initiative, Aragatsotn Branch
2. Anahit Tadevosyan, NGO Forum of Aragatsotn Marz
3. Varduhi Gevorgyan, Leadership Women Union
4. Anahit Gevorgyan, AKDK
5. Artsvik Zhamkochyan, Vernatun
6. Satik Hovsepyan, ASHTKA
7. Heghine Abgaryan, Palitra
8. Julietta Grigoryan, AKVM
9. Lilit Ghazakhetsyan, "Zartokn" Center
10. Edgar Jazyan, Center for Public Initiatives
11. Anjela Hovhannisyan, Tsitsernak
12. Mariana Ghukasyan, Shoghakn
13. Avik Azizyan, Avagani member

Active citizens

1. Armen Aristakesyan
2. Arsen Grigoryan
3. Artak Verdoyan
4. Heriqnaz Veliqyan
5. Satenik Galstyan
6. Gayane Yeghunyan
7. Hasmik Shughyan
8. Nune Antonyan
9. Anahit Tovmasyan
10. Marine Atomyan
11. Tamara Ianoyan

IJEVAN

Representatives of NGOs

1. Gayane Hambardzumyan, Representative of Ombudsman Office in Ijevan
2. Vahe Mailyan, Young Tavush
3. Tatevik Stepanyan, Red Cross Union
4. Stella Avagyan, Women's Rights Protection Center
5. Khachik Saribekyan, Red Cross Union
6. Hayk Mardanyan, YKH
7. Andranik Simonyan, Nvachum
8. Samvel Ulikhanyan, Ulikhanyan Brothers

Active citizens

1. Yelena Semyorikna
2. Karine Khachatryan
3. Javahir Norikyan
4. David Mayilyan
5. Armen Saribekyan
6. Edgar Qamalyan
7. Karen Dilbaryan
8. Hermine Chapukhyan
9. Tsoghik Markosyan

**“Public Monitoring: Theory and Practice”
2-day Training for NGOs, Journalists and Active Citizens**

**May 2-3, 2005
Goris**

A g e n d a

Day 1

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 11:00-11:30 | Anti-Corruption Strategy Program of RA
<i>Varuzhan Hochtanyan, CRD/TI Armenia expert</i> |
| 11:30-12:00 | Questions and answers, discussion |
| 12:00-12:30 | Practice of Investigative Journalism
<i>Sara Petrosyan, “Investigative Journalists” NGO</i> |
| 12:30-13:00 | Questions and answers, discussions |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00-14:30 | Participatory Monitoring: Theory and Practice
<i>Varuzhan Hochtanyan, CRD/TI Armenia expert</i> |
| 14:30 -15:15 | Questions and answers, discussion |
| 15:15-15:45 | Coffee break |
| 15:45-16:15 | Presentation of the phone survey and focus group discussion results
<i>Karine Gharibyan and Vakhtang Siradeghyan, CRD/TI Armenia facilitators</i> |
| 16:15-16:45 | Questions and answers, comments |

Day 2

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 10:00-11:30 | Taking practical steps to monitor local services and promote public participation in local decision making
<i>Karine Gharibyan and Vakhtang Siradeghyan, CRD/TI Armenia facilitators</i> |
| 11:30-12:00 | Brunch |
| 12:00-14:00 | Making action plans for each participating city
<i>Karine Gharibyan and Vakhtang Siradeghyan, CRD/TI Armenia facilitators</i> |

List of Participants

Syunik Marz

1. Marat Dadunts, "Advocacy Resource Center" NGO
2. Ruzanna Torozyan, "Teacher's Union of Goris" NGO
3. Gegham Ayvazyan, Association of Young Lawyers of Armenia, Syunik Branch
4. Zhirayr Martirosyan, "Artists of Goris" NGO
5. Karine Avetisyan, "Partnership ARC" NGO
6. Elmira Balasanyan, "Happy Journey" NGO
7. Vardik Dadunts, "New Skylines" NGO
8. Andranik Harutyunyan, "The Armenian Center of Human Rights Protection after A.Sakharov", Syunik office
9. Varuzhan Avanesyan, "Teachers' Union of Sisian" NGO
10. Edik Dodrunts, "Youth Union of Goris" NGO
11. Magda Gevorgyan, "Teachers' of Kapan" NGO
12. Aram Musakhanyan, "Human Development Center of Syunik" NGO
13. Lilit Ghazaryan, "Zangezur" newspaper
14. Nelli Ghushunts, "Usutsich" newspaper
15. Razmela Vanesyan, "Last" TV channel

Vayots Dzori Marz

1. Lusine Abrahamyan, „Syunik” NGO
2. Shirak Miqaelyan, "Union of Greens' of Armenia" NGO
3. Nune Petrosyan, "Martiros" NGO
4. Almast Safaryan, "Huys -98" NGO
5. Arsen Vardanyan, "Aksel" NGO
6. Vardan Stepanyan, "Future of Vayq" NGO
7. Aram Hovsepyan, "Center for Information Technologies Development of Vayq" NGO
8. Liana Eghiazaryan, "Aspekt" newspaper
9. Hasmik Hovhannisyan, "Aspekt" newspaper
10. Artur Buniatyan, "Vayods Dzor" newspaper
11. Svetlana Dovlatyan, "Vardadzor" newspaper
12. Nara Harutyunyan, "Agrolratu" newspaper

May 6-7, 2005
Vanadzor

A g e n d a

Day 1

- 11:00-11:30 Anti-Corruption Strategy Program of RA
Varuzhan Hochtanyan, CRD/TI Armenia expert
- 11:30-12:00 Questions and answers, discussion
- 12:00-12:30 Practice of Investigative Journalism
Edik Baghdasaryan, "Investigative Journalists" NGO
- 12:30-13:00 Questions and answers, discussions
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-14:30 Participatory Monitoring: Theory and Practice
Varuzhan Hochtanyan, CRD/TI Armenia expert
- 14:30 -15:15 Questions and answers, discussion
- 15:15-15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45-16:15 Presentation of the phone survey and focus group discussion results
Karine Gharibyan and Vakhtang Siradeghyan, CRD/TI Armenia facilitators
- 16:15-16:45 Questions and answers, comments

Day 2

- 10:00-11:30 Taking practical steps to monitor local services and promote public participation in local decision making
Karine Gharibyan and Vakhtang Siradeghyan, CRD/TI Armenia facilitators
- 11:30-12:00 Brunch
- 12:00-14:00 Making action plans for each participating city
Karine Gharibyan and Vakhtang Siradeghyan, CRD/TI Armenia facilitators

List of Participants

Lori marz

1. Manana Amyan, "Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, Vanadzor Branch" NGO
2. Hrant Ayvazyan, "Skauts of Armenia"
3. Nune Pepanyan, "Lusastgh" NGO
4. Armen Matinyan, Pan-Armenian "New generation" Youth Union
5. Hovhannes Nikoghosyan, "Trichq" NGO
6. Tatev Matinyan, "Professionals for Public Community" NGO
7. Narine Ghazaryan, "Crossroads" NGO
8. Narine Bulghadaryan, Media Club of Vanadzor
9. Vahagn Antonyan, "Armenpress" newsagency
10. Tatev Shahverdyan, active citizen
11. Aida Petrosyan, active citizen
12. Lusine Balyan, active citizen
13. Lusine Aqmaqchyan, active citizen

Tavush marz

1. Manush Maralchyan, "Young Tavush" NGO
2. Artush Amiryan, "Bridge of Hope" NGO
3. Andranik Simonyan, "Challenge" NGO
4. Meri Tukhikyan, "Green Tavush" NGO
5. Samvel Ulikhanyan, "Ulikhanyan Brothers" NGO
6. Stella Avagyan, "Women's Rights Center" NGO
7. Nara Khachikyan, Young Red Cross Representative Office
8. Gayane Hambarzumyan, Ombudsman's Representative Office in Tavush
9. Naira Gevorgyan, "Tavush" newspaper
10. Tatevik Nazinyan, "Ijevan" newspaper
11. Davit Majilyan, active citizen
12. Tsoghik Martosyan, active citizen
13. Karen Dilbaryan, active citizen

May 10-11, 2005

Ashtarak

A g e n d a

Day 1

- 11:00-11:30 Anti-Corruption Strategy Program of RA
Varuzhan Hochtanyan, CRD/TI Armenia expert
- 11:30-12:00 Questions and answers, discussion
- 12:00-12:30 Practice of Investigative Journalism
Kristine Barseghyan, "Investigative Journalists" NGO
- 12:30-13:00 Questions and answers, discussions
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-14:30 Participatory Monitoring: Theory and Practice
Varuzhan Hochtanyan, CRD/TI Armenia expert
- 14:30 -15:15 Questions and answers, discussion
- 15:15-15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45-16:15 Presentation of the phone survey and focus group discussion results
Karine Gharibyan and Vakhtang Siradeghyan, CRD/TI Armenia facilitators
- 16:15-16:45 Questions and answers, comments

Day 2

- 10:00-11:30 Taking practical steps to monitor local services and promote public participation in local decision making
Karine Gharibyan and Vakhtang Siradeghyan, CRD/TI Armenia facilitators
- 11:30-12:00 Brunch
- 12:00-14:00 Making action plans for each participating city
Karine Gharibyan and Vakhtang Siradeghyan, CRD/TI Armenia facilitators

List of Participants

Aragatsotn Marz

1. Marine Shahazizyan, NGO Forum of Aragatsotn Marz
2. Lilit Ghazakhetsyan, "Zartonk" NGO
3. Anahit Gevorgyan, "Center for Women's and Children Rights Protection" NGO
4. Varduhi Gevorgyan, "Leadership Women Center" NGO
5. Heghine Abgaryan, "Palitra" social-pension NGO
6. Artsvik Zhankozhyan, "Vernatun" NGO
7. Gayane Danielyan, "Regional Association of Ashtarak Women" NGO
8. Tamara Janoyan, "Hidden Garden" NGO
9. Angela Hovhannisyan, "Tsitsernak" NGO
10. Julietta Grigoryan, "Union of Worriers and Women Veterans" NGO
11. Gayane Petrosyan, Aragatsotn Press Club
12. Avik Azizyan, Avagani member
13. Norayr Grigoryan, "Ashtarak" newspaper
14. Vardevan Grigoryan, "Aragats Ashkharh" newspaper
15. Satenik Zoryan, "Armenpress" newsagency
16. Zhenya Bryan, journalist
17. Norik Donaghchyan, journalist
18. Arsen Grigoryan, active citizen
19. Gayane Yeghoyan, active citizen
20. Anahit Tovmasyan, active citizen

Attachment 6



CENTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL ARMENIA



POLISH – CZECH – SLOVAK
SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION



WORKSHOP

“INTRODUCING THE POLISH SYSTEM OF COUNTERACTING CORRUPTION”

Golden Tulip Yerevan Hotel
July 7 – 8, 2005

“No Corruption. Civic Control of Local Authorities” Project funded by the British Embassies in Warsaw and Yerevan through the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office under the Global Opportunities Fund, Re-Uniting Europe Programme

Participation of regional NGO representatives is supported within “National Anti-Corruption Resource Center” project funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

AGENDA

July 7, 2005		
09.45 -10.00	Registration	
10.00 - 10.15	Welcoming Remarks and Introduction of the Project	<u>Speakers:</u> Ms. Amalia Kostanyan , CRD/TI Armenia, and Ms. Sarah Murrell , British Embassy
10.15 - 10.45	Presentation: “Local Government System in Poland”	<u>Speaker:</u> Mr. Adam Kwiatkowski , City District Council, Praga Południe, Warsaw
10.45 - 11.15	Questions and Answers	
11.15 - 11.45	Coffee Break	<u>Location:</u> Winter Garden
11.45 - 12.15	Presentation: “Perception of Corruption in Poland: Research Data”	<u>Speaker:</u> Dr. Cezary Trutkowski , University of Warsaw
12.15 - 12.45	Presentation: “Corruption in Armenia – Overview of Key Issues”	<u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Amalia Kostanyan , CRD/TI Armenia
12.45 - 13.15	Questions and Answers	
13.15 - 14.15	Lunch	<u>Location:</u> Restaurant “Rossini”
14.15 - 15.00	Panel Discussion: “Common Problems and Countries’ Specifics”	<u>Moderators:</u> Dr. Cezary Trutkowski , University of Warsaw Ms. Amalia Kostanyan , CRD/TI Armenia

15.00 - 15.30	Presentation: "Preventing Corruption in Poland : Legal Framework"	<u>Speaker:</u> Mr. Adam Kwiatkowski, City District Council, Praga Południe, Warsaw
15.30 - 16.00	Questions and Answers//Comments	
16.00 - 16.15	Coffee Break	<u>Location:</u> Winter Garden
16.15 - 16.45	Presentation: "Preventing Corruption in Poland : Activities of Non-Governmental Institutions"	<u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Grażyna Kopińska, Stefan Batory Foundation
16.45 - 17.15	Questions and Answers/Comments	
19.00 - 20.30	Dinner	Location: TBA
July 8, 2005		
10.00 - 10.30	Presentation: "Preventing Corruption in the Polish Local Government System"	<u>Speaker:</u> Mr. Adam Kwiatkowski, City District Council, Praga Południe, Warsaw
10.30 - 11.00	Presentation: "Preventing Corruption in Poland: Experience of the Stefan Batory Foundation Anti-Corruption Program"	<u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Grażyna Kopińska, Stefan Batory Foundation
11.00 - 11.30	Questions and Answers/Comments	
11.30 - 12.00	Coffee Break	<u>Location:</u> Winter Garden
12.00 - 12.30	Presentation: "Public Campaign "Transparent Poland"	<u>Speaker:</u> Dr. Cezary Trutkowski, University of Warsaw
12.30 - 13.00	Presentation: "Demanding More Transparency and Participation at Municipal Level: CRD/TI Armenia Experience"	<u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Sona Ayvazyan, CRD/TI Armenia
13.00 - 13.30	Questions and Answers/Comments	
13.30 - 14.30	Lunch	<u>Location:</u> Restaurant "Rossini"
14.30 - 15.30	2 Group Discussions: "Applying the Polish Practice to the Armenian Reality"	<u>Moderators:</u> 2 Speakers for Each Group
15.30 - 16.00	Feedback from the Group Discussions	Group Representatives
16.00 - 16.30	Final Discussion and Wrap-up	<u>Moderators:</u> Mr. Adam Kwiatkowski, City District Council, Praga Południe, Warsaw Ms. Grażyna Kopińska, Stefan Batory Foundation

**Աղբահանությանը
վերաբերող հարցերով դիմել՝**

Արագածոտնի մարզ, ք. Աշտարակ
Քաղաքապետարանի կոմունալ
տնտեսության բաժնի պետ
Պետրոս Զոհրաբյան հեռ. 3-18-70
"Աշտարակի կոմունալ տնտեսություն" ԲԲԸ տնօրեն
Ռաֆիկ Մարտիրոսյան, հեռ. 3-31-80

Լոռու մարզ, ք. Վանաձոր
Քաղաքապետարանի կոմունալ
տնտեսության բաժնի պետ
Լյուվա Կարապետյան, հեռ. 4-03-97, 4-67-49
"Բէնեմէլստ" ՍՊԸ նախագահ
Բելա Շահբազյան, հեռ. 4-68-03, 4-34-18
"Սանաշխատանք" ԱՍ տնօրեն
Վարչամ Մկրտչյան, հեռ. 091 21-27-70
"Վանասան" ՍՊԸ տնօրեն
Արտյոմ Դավանյան, հեռ. 2-28-76

Սյունիքի մարզ, ք. Գորիս
Քաղաքապետարանի կոմունալ
տնտեսության բաժնի պետ
Էրիկ Խաչատրյան, հեռ. 2-56-96
բաժնի մասնագետ
Նելսոն Միրաքյան, հեռ. 2-56-96
"Գորիս ՏՆՏ" ՓԲԸ տնօրեն
Սեյրան Գևորգյան, հեռ. 2-21-43, 2-64-39

Տավուշի մարզ, ք. Իջևան
Քաղաքապետարանի կոմունալ
տնտեսության բաժնի պետ
Գառնիկ Բլբուլյան, հեռ. 3-46-84
"Բարդի" ՓԲԸ տնօրեն
Սամվել Չիրուխչյան, հեռ. 3-10-30

Վայոց Ձորի մարզ, ք. Վայք
Քաղաքապետարանի կոմունալ տնտեսության
բաժնի պատասխանատու
Համլետ Խաչատրյան, հեռ. 2-15-79
"Վայքի սանմաքրում և կանաչապատում"
ՓԲԸ տնօրեն
Հովհաննես Մուշկամբարյան, հեռ.՝ 2-15-79

Ի գիտություն քաղաքացիների՝

- Աղբահանության ծառայության սակագինը յուրաքանչյուր անձի համար սահմանված է՝
 - ք.Աշտարակ - 100 դրամ.
 - ք.Վայք - 100 դրամ.
 - ք.Գորիս - 50 դրամ.
 - ք.Իջևան - 50 դրամ.
 - ք.Վանաձոր.
 - բազմաբնակարանային շենքեր - 50 դրամ,
 - մասնավոր տներ - 60 դրամ:

- Աղբահանության ծառայությունից օգտվելու համար դուք պետք է կնքեք ծառայության մատուցման պայմանագիր աղբահանություն իրականացնող կազմակերպության հետ:

- Պայմանագրային պարտավորությունների խախտման դեպքում կարող եք դիմել առաջին ատյանի դատարան:



Տարածաշրջանային զարգացման կենտրոն
Թրանսփարենսի Ինթերնեշնլ Ղայաստան



**ՄԱՔՈՒՐ ՊՍՎԵՆՔ
ԵՐԻ ԲԱՂՍՔԸ**

Ղասցե. Նալբանդյան 5, սենյակ 35 և 38,
Երևան 375010, Ղայաստան
Ղեռ. (374 10) 585 578, 528 914
Ֆաքս. (374 10) 585 578
Էլ.-փոստ. crd@transparency.am
Ինտերնետ կայք. www.transparency.am

ԱՄՆ դեսպանատուն



Շվեյցարիայի զարգացման և
համագործակցության գործակալություն





2004-2005 թ. Տարածաշրջանային զարգացման կենտրոն/Թրանսփարենսի Ինթերնեշնլ հայաստանյան մասնաճյուղի կողմից իրականացվում են "Հակակոռուպցիոն տեղեկատվական կենտրոն" "Թափանցիկության և մասնակցության խթանումը տեղական ինքնակառավարման մարմիններում" ծրագրերը:

Ծրագրերի նպատակը քաղաքացիներին կոռուպցիային առնչվող հարցերի վերաբերյալ իրազեկելն է և հասարակական վերահսկողական հմտություններ զարգացնելը տեղական ինքնակառավարման մակարդակում թափանցիկությունը և մասնակցությունը խթանելու համար:

2005 թ. փետրվարին ծրագրերի շրջանակում Հայաստանի Արագածոտն (ք.Աշտարակ), Լոռի (ք.Վանաձոր), Սյունիք (ք. Գորիս), Վայոց Ձոր (ք. Վայք) և Տավուշ (ք. Իջևան) մարզերում անց է կացվել հեռախոսային հարցում պարզելու հանրային ծառայությունների մատուցման որակը և առավել դժգոհություն հարուցող ծառայությունները:

Ըստ այդմ ծառայությունների որակից դժգոհություն է հայտնել հարցման 1000 մասնակիցների 72,2%-ը: Հարցվողների մեծամասնությունը որպես հիմնախնդիր մատնանշել է աղբահանությունը, չնայած վերջիններս իրենց դժգոհության հարցով քաղաքապետարան համարյա չեն դիմում (72,6%):

Քաղաքապետարաններում դիմումների 36,86%-ը մերժվել է, 32,5%-ը ընթացք է տրվել, իսկ 27,7%-ի հարցով գործընթացը կամ ձգձգվել և կամ էլ պաշտոնական մերժման բացակայության պայմաններում ոչինչ չի արվել:

Հարցման արդյունքների համաձայն տեղական իշխանությունների որոշումներին ծանոթ էին հարցման մասնակիցների ընդամենը 22%-ը: Տեղական որոշումների վերաբերյալ տեղեկացվածության աղբյուր են հանդիսանում հիմնականում մամուլն ու հեռուստատեսությունը, հատկապես՝ տեղականը:

Տեղական իշխանությունների որոշումների վերաբերյալ տեղեկացվածության բացակայությունը մեկնաբանելու հարցին հիմնականում տրվել է «չեմ հետաքրքրվել» պատասխանը (բոլոր հարցվածների 45%-ը): Բավական մեծ ցուցանիշներ են գրանցել «վստահ չեմ, որ կպատասխանեն» (հարցվածների 17,4%) և «չգիտեմ, թե ում և ինչպես դիմեմ» (12,4%) տարբերակները:

Ընդամենը 24 (2,4%) անձ է մասնակցել հանրային լուսնների: Լուսններին չմասնակցելու պատճառաբանությունը ցուցադրում է հետևյալ պատկերը՝ «տեղյակ չեմ եղել» (բոլոր հարցվածների 40,6%), «չեմ հետաքրքրվել» (38,6%) և «հանրային լուսններ տեղի չեն ունենում» (15%):

Ավագանու նիստերին մասնակցել է միայն 19 մարդ (1,9%): Հարցվողների 50,5%-ը չի հետաքրքրվում ավագանու նիստերով, ավելի պակաս մասը՝ 27,9%-ը տեղյակ չէ դրանց ացկացման վերաբերյալ, դրանից էլ ավելի պակաս մասը՝ 12,9%-ը կարծում է, որ դրանք դեմփակ են, և միայն 3,3%-ը ենթադրում է, որ ավագանու նիստեր տեղի չեն ունենում:

Ս.թ. մայիսից նշված քաղաքներում սկսվել են վերապատրաստումներ և փորձնական մոնիտորինգ (դիտարկում): Դիտարկումներն իրականացվում են նշված հինգ քաղաքներում ստեղծված աշխատանքային խմբերի կողմից: Դիտարկման ընթացքում իրականացվում են հետևյալ գործողությունները՝ տեղեկատու հեռախոսի ապահովում

- ֆոտոդիտարկումներ
- տեսադիտարկումներ
- աղբատար մեքենաների
- այցերի ժամանակացույցի դիտարկում
- դիտարկման արդյունքների լուսաբանում:

Ծրագրի ընթացքում իրականացվել են նաև՝

- հանրային լուսններ
- "մաքուր բակ" ակցիա / մրցույթ
- մասնակցություն ավագանու նիստերին
- դասընթացներ հասարակական կազմակերպությունների, լրագրողների և բնակիչների համար:
- դիտարկման արդյունքների հրապարակում և ներկայացում:

Ամեն երկուշաբթի, չորեքշաբթի և ուրբաթ օրերին գործում է տեղեկատու հեռախոս.

Արագածոտնի մարզ, ք. Աշտարակ
 Դեռ. 3 62 76
 Ժամը 12.00 -14.00
 Գևորգ Եղիազարյան

Լոռու մարզ, ք. Վանաձոր
 Դեռ. 2 29 67
 Ժամը 16.00 -18.00
 Իրինա Հակոբյան

Սյունիքի մարզ, ք. Գորիս
 Դեռ. 2 40 00, 2 23 19
 Ժամը 16.00 - 18.00
 Արտաշես Տոռոզյան

Վայոց Ձորի մարզ, ք. Վայք
 Դեռ. 2 11 90
 Ժամը 16.00 -18.00
 Ռուզան Ղազարյան

Տավուշի մարզ, ք. Իջևան
 Դեռ. 3 56 46
 Ժամը 16.00 -18.00
 Արման Գևորգյան

VANADZOR MAYOR ELECTIONS MONITORING 2005

MONITORING METHODOLOGY

During the period of August-October, 2005 Center for Regional Development /Transparency International Armenia within “National Anti-Corruption Resource Center” project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation conducted monitoring of the Mayoral elections in the city of Vanadzor. The focus of monitoring was the administrative resources along with its constituent elements, i.e. instances of Use of institutional, financial and media resources.

Use of the institutional resource has been considered in terms of conducting pre-election campaign in favor of a particular candidate or supporting a particular candidate in any manner by central government or community bodies or their functionaries during the performance of their official duties. Additionally, the Monitoring Group has reviewed the instances of utilizing public premises and hallways, office equipment and office vehicles, organization of pre-ballot activities with participation of the employees of central government or community institutions, use of government or community activities for pre-election campaign and so forth.

In order to identify the instances of **use of financial resource**, occurrences of utilization of state or community instruments have been considered, such as allocation of funds from state-owned or community-owned companies in favor of a particular candidate, bribing of the members of district or precinct electoral commissions and voters, payments to the electorate without indemnity or on preferential terms or assurances of such and so on.

Deliberation of the **use of the mass media resources** involved the incidence of discrimination against any particular candidate through the Vanadzor print media or broadcasts.

During the period of August-September 2005, the project experts developed the methodologies for monitoring and the package of relevant documentation. The methodologies were based on the methodologies developed by the Russian Transparency International-R Center for Anticorruption Research and Initiative for the 2003 Russian Federation State Duma elections to identify the incidence of administrative resource abuse. Furthermore, references have also been made to the “Monitoring Election Campaign Finance” publication of the Open Society Justice Initiative for non government organizations.

During the next phase of the project, with participation of the representatives from Vanadzor non governmental organizations (NGO), the mass media (MM) and individual highly active citizens, a Monitoring Group was formed, the members of which had an opportunity to attend a training session organized in Yerevan on September 6, 2005.

On September 24-25, 2005 the Monitoring Group members presented proposals of cooperation to Mr. Minas Sayadyan, the Chairman of the District Electoral Commission No. 30 of the Republic of Armenia, and to the election campaign headquarters of three candidates to the Mayor’s office, namely Mr. Samvel Darbinyan, the incumbent Mayor, Mr. Gagik Hovsepyan, an entrepreneur, and Mr. Andranik Ghukasyan, the First Secretary of the City Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia. According to the Monitoring Group, the cooperation proposal was unambiguously accepted by the Chairman of the District Electoral Commission No. 30. In the meantime, the Chairman refused to furnish the Declarations of Income and Assets of the

candidates by saying that they contained confidential information that was not to be publicized under law.¹

In the election campaign headquarters of one of the candidates, the incumbent Mayor Mr. Samvel Darbinyan, the Monitoring Group's cooperation proposal was accepted with enthusiasm. The other candidate, Gagik Hovsepyan, demonstrated distrust to the proposition although accepted it. No complications occurred with the third candidate. The candidates agreed to provide information to the Monitoring Group members on the timetable of the pre-election campaign activities. The activities associated with the candidates' pre-election campaigns were reviewed on a daily basis along with their coverage in the national and local ("*Loru Marz*", "*Bazum*", "*Vanatur*", "*Vanadzorian Khechankar-Vanadzor Kaleidoscope*", "*and Kaghakatsiakan Nakhadzernutiun-Civil Initiative*") print media. Furthermore, the coverage by local TV and radio companies ("*Lori TV*", "*VABA*", "*MIG TV*" and "*MIG FM*") was also reviewed along with the reports on the voting process to reveal instances of legislation violations. Subsequently, for the assessment of the election expenditures by the candidates, the tariffs and duration of the election-related transmissions on the TV and radio were adjusted along with the publication costs of booklets and fliers, billboard preparation and installation.

There was another significant circumstance: despite the fact that Article 18.7 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia prohibits promising of material goods or services by candidates, none of the candidates had refrained from such promises during their meetings with the constituency. This is the reason why such appearances were never recorded in the list of violations. If there were one or two exceptions, they were made with consideration of the size of the amount promised to individual voters in association with specific issues.

During the week following the voting date (16 October, 2005), telephone inquiries were made among the residents of all Vanadzor districts. The purpose of that survey was to reveal the motivation of the electorate in voting for this or that candidate, disclose the instances of bribing and the influence thereof on the voting results.

The Monitoring Group organized interviews with the candidates or the heads of their election campaign headquarters, with central government and community functionaries and individual residents of the city of Vanadzor.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CANDIDATES' PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS OPERATION

In the beginning of the election campaign, Mr. Tigran Kocharyan, the Head of the central electoral headquarters of the candidate for the Mayor's office S. Darbinyan, made a statement, during an interview with the Monitoring Group, that on the day of commencement of the elections campaign, 27 September, 2005, a fund was created, an account was opened at "Ardshininvest" Bank and around 1 million 200 thousand AMD was transferred onto the account. The amount was to be used primarily on booklets and posters, as well as on the arrangement of the election campaign. According to Mr. T. Kocharyan, the activities of the 29 election campaign headquarters and 3 sub-headquarters founded by candidate S. Darbinyan was anchored on voluntary principles. After the elections, the possible financial losses of the team members would be compensated.

However, according to the information acquired independently by the Monitoring Group, the election campaign headquarters of candidate Darbinyan had been formed since 15 September,

¹ There is a reference in the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Declaration of Property and Income by the RoA Government Executives", according to which only specific information is not subject to publication, but not the entire document.

with 10-15 employees in each headquarter. The employees had been paid a two-month salary in advance at a rate of 20 thousand AMD per month².

The employees of candidate Darbinyan's election campaign headquarters had been building up information and data about the precise number of residents and their needs. This process had continued until 14 October, 2005. A major part of the socially disadvantaged people had forwarded their letters to the Mayor. As of 9 October, 2005, similar letters had been referred to the election campaign headquarters of the other candidate, Mr. G. Hovsepyan. According to the head of his election campaign headquarters, Mr. Felix Movsisyan, the number of such letters amounted to 800. Both candidates had assured the applicants that their letters would be reviewed after the elections. However, as mentioned above, Article 18.7 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia prohibits promising by the candidates of material goods or services. The applicants that had submitted letters about their health problems were issued coupons at the election campaign headquarters of candidate Darbinyan allowing them to receive medication free of charge at the drugstores.

As indicated by the Monitoring Group, 12 of the Municipality employees had taken their annual vacations to support the elections campaign of the incumbent Mayor. In this particular case, the word of law (RoA Electoral Code, Article 18.4.1) prohibiting state government or community bodies or their functionaries getting involved in any election campaign during the performance of their work duties, had been preserved. Nonetheless, the other competitor candidates were deprived of such opportunity.

In an interview with the Monitoring Group, the head of candidate Hovsepyan's election campaign headquarters Mr. Felix Movsisyan notified the interviewer that one of the adherents of their candidate had been kidnapped by candidate Darbinyan's cousin with the nickname of "Kaghtsrik" (Sweetie). However, fearing further complications, the kidnapped person had avoided referring the case to law enforcement bodies (record of the interview available).

According to Mr. F. Movsisyan, relinquishing to political pressure, eight election campaign headquarters of candidate Hovsepyan had been closed. However, two of them located in the central part of the city were later reopened, following solicitation from the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia and Mr. K. Harutyunyan, the Head of the Vanadzor Subdivision of the Military Police of the RoA Ministry of Defense.

As indicated by Mr. F. Movsisyan during the same interview, their team had made footage of the moment of bribe distribution at candidate Darbinyan's election campaign headquarters located in the ground floor of a residential building at 82 Vardanants Street. Detecting the opponents, candidate Darbinyan's panic stricken team members had started the vehicle and escaped, hitting one of the recording team members (incidentally, the same building was accommodating one of candidate Hovsepyan's election campaign headquarters that was closed and later reopened).

Several days prior to the elections, the Monitoring Group was made aware that a woman in the "domik" neighborhood was collecting requests and drafting lists of the persons who were to be distributed election bribes on the day of voting by candidate Hovsepyan. However, no money was later provided.

As witnessed by a certain Anna, a resident of Vanadzor's Bazum district, on the day of the voting candidate Hovsepyan's adherents had distributed election bribes in 3000 AMD from the building of the "Catex" company located in their district. A similar amount had been offered to Anna as well.

According to other sources of information, on October 15 around 9 p.m. a young lady named Rouzan and two gentlemen had distributed cash among the residents of the "domik"

² These costs were not included in the total costs incurred by candidate Darbinyan, since the exact number of the hired persons was unknown, as you would expect.

neighborhood on behalf of candidate Darbinyan. The amount per person was in the range of 1000-1500 AMD.

Additionally, the Monitoring Group was informed that on behalf of candidate Darbinyan cash (in 2000 AMD) had been distributed in all apartments of a building, behind school No. 4 at Lazyan Street. The amount per person was larger in the so-called 3rd district – 3000-5000 AMD. Cash was also shared out in a building with 18 porches at Moskovian Street, in the professors' building in Vanadzor's Dimats district and in the Kuirer (Blinds) neighborhood, specifically in one of the residential buildings located in the so-called "hollow with lots of stores". A female resident of the Banyo Street townhouses had received her share of cash from the building of "Lori" TV studio. Cash had also been distributed in a number of other districts of the city of Vanadzor, namely Bazum, Khandak, Kimiagortsner, etc.

Numerous families residing at Lazyan and Nersisyan Streets had been told "not to leave their apartments until candidate Darbinyan's adherents had brought in the money". As witnessed by one of the employees of Vanadzor Electric Network, the director of which was supporting candidate Darbinyan, certain peoples' meter readings for electric energy had been reduced to zero, despite the fact that no payments were made.

In the building of the shoe factory at Nezhdeh Street, passports were collected by candidate Darbinyan.

The person in charge of Vanadzor Military Registration and Enlistment Office had convened his staff and informed them that per Serge Sargisyan's order they had to vote for candidate Darbinyan, otherwise they would lose their jobs.

According to one of the employees of "Lori" TV studio, 10-15 minutes following the broadcasting of Z. Malumyan's (from candidate Hovsepyan's team) address on TV, several people from the Security Service had arrived at the studio, made a recording of Malumyan's speech and left forthwith. This phenomenon could not be considered an apparent breach of law, but it was a perceptible attempt to exercise pressure on the competitor's supporter.

As witnessed by the Monitoring Group, after candidate Hovsepyan's meeting with the staff of Vanadzor Polyclinic No. 1, the chief medical officer had called another meeting with the staff and told the following: "Whatever we said in the presence of Hovsepyan is insignificant. We must all vote for candidate Darbinyan". A large number of budgetary organization employees (Vanadzor State Pedagogical Institute, the Vanadzor Regional Library, Vanadzor schools No. 5, 17, 19, 20) recounted that during the election campaign a lot of pressure had been imposed on them by the Marzpet and the directors of their institutions to promote and vote for candidate Darbinyan. The directors of budgetary institutions had also made attempts to obstruct candidate Hovsepyan's meetings at their organizations. A similar occurrence was registered at the Vanadzor State Pedagogical Institute.

In the presence of the Monitoring Group representative, a lady named Arevik, working at the branch office of candidate Hovsepyan's central electoral headquarters, had burst into tears recalling how a stranger had called her over the phone and threatened, ordering to close the office and leave immediately (recording available).

DESCRIPTION OF PROMOTIONAL ADS AND PUBLICATIONS

Candidate S. Darbinyan has made two audiocassettes, worth 30 thousand AMD, which were broadcast by the "MIG" radio company with a total duration of 292 minutes on air. The candidate has paid 8. 176.000 AMD for the broadcast. Additionally, three videotapes have been made, worth 90 thousand AMD, which were telecast by the "MIG" TV Company with a total duration of 256 minutes, along with other chargeable promotional materials, and the candidate has paid 1.314.300 AMD. The broadcasts over the "LORI" TV Company have lasted 1005 minutes and

have been paid for 5.427.000 AMD. A 16-minute film on Vanadzor has been made by "LORI" TV Company, which in fact was promoting the current Mayor and his activity and cost him 50 thousand AMD. Candidate S. Darbinyan has made 4 live appearances on "MIG" TV (387.500 AMD) and "LORI" TV (1.010.000 AMD). ALM TV channel transmitted a 36-minute public notice and a number of chargeable programs that cost the candidate 972.000 AMD.

Candidate S. Darbinyan has assembled two large promotional panels (manufacturing cost him 84,600 AMD), which were later installed in the central part of the city of Vanadzor (installation for a one-month period cost 81,000 AMD). For 100.000 AMD a thousand copies of A-3 format color poster were printed along with 2 versions of information booklets (280.000 AMD).

A color-printed brochure named "Six Years Later" and recounting about the Vanadzor Mayor's 6-year work was published at "Lousabats" publishers in 200 copies. However, according to the information received by the Monitoring Group, the number of published copies was 1000, i.e. five times more. The Monitoring Group acquired a copy of the aforementioned brochure to reveal that it did not indicate the name of the publishing house, its address, telephone number and circulation/number of printed copies. If the brochure were printed in 200 copies, then the publishing costs would amount to 180.000 AMD (this figure was included in the total cost calculation), but if the number of printed copies were 1000, then the expenses would have gone up to 240.000 AMD.

In overall calculation, candidate S. Darbinyan's costs totaled to 18.182.400 AMD.

Candidate G. Hovsepyan has made two films with duration of 18 minutes (55.000 AMD) and 5 minutes (70.000 AMD). The pictures were shown on three Vanadzor TV channels and two national ones: "H-2" and "ALM".

"LORI" TV Company has broadcast three live TV programs with a total duration of 200 minutes, which cost candidate G. Hovsepyan 930.000 AMD. Additionally, a 70-minute TV debate with candidate S. Darbinyan has been arranged costs 490.000 AMD. Apart from that, "LORI" TV Company has aired various programs with total duration of 721 minutes that were paid for 3.893.400 AMD. The TV programs broadcast over "MIG" TV have lasted 323 minutes and have cost 1.259.700 AMD. Radio "MIG" has broadcast 9 announcements, 10 seconds each, and has charged 280.000 AMD for 1.5 minute. "VABA" TV has charged 1.840.000 AMD for 472 minutes of transmission, and "ALM" TV channel has charged 2.322.000 AMD for 86 minutes of broadcasting.

Candidate G. Hovsepyan has printed 2500 copies of A-3 format posters (162.000 AMD) and 150 copies of A-2 format posters (40.000 AMD). Apart from that, 5000 copies of a booklet have been printed at a cost of 300.000 AMD, along with some 8000 copies of memos that have cost 60.000 AMD. In overall calculation, candidate G. Hovsepyan's costs totaled to 11.702.900 AMD.

Candidate A. Ghukasyan, nominated for the community head's position by the Communist Party of Armenia, has had a 30-minute live program on "LORI" TV and has paid 150.000 AMD. In the meantime, A. Ghukasyan has made two videotapes paying 30.000 AMD for the first one that lasts 30 seconds and 35.000 AMD for the second tape that lasts 3 minutes. For the transmission of the aforementioned tapes "LORI" TV has charged only 162.000 AMD, which, according to the Monitoring Group, is a favorable discount made specifically for this particular candidate.

As stated by candidate Ghukasyan, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia has allocated around 600-700 US dollars for the election campaign, however no funds have been opened whatsoever. According to the observations of the Monitoring Group, candidate Ghukasyan has paid 10.000 AMD for 100 copies of an A-3 format color poster and 90.000 AMD for 1000 copies of a booklet. The Communist Party of Armenia has printed and provided to the candidate free of charge 1500 copies of an information bulletin. In overall calculation, candidate A. Ghukasyan's costs totaled to 477.000 AMD.

VIOLATIONS DETECTED IN THE COURSE OF PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

On 23 September, 2005, the “Vanadzor Days” festivities began, to continue during the successive days through 1 October, 2005 inclusive. These celebrations were no doubt a valuable contribution to the election campaign of the incumbent Mayor, Mr. S. Darbinyan, while the other two candidates for the Mayor’s office were not privileged with such a beneficial opportunity. Monitoring of the election campaign started on 24 September, and the election campaign officially commenced on 27 September, 2005.

On 24 September, 2005, the museum of Stepan Zoryan (an institution under community subordination) hosted a literary soiree titled “From Zoryan till...”, with participation of the city art critics. Candidate S. Darbinyan, the incumbent Mayor of Vanadzor, did not take part in the event, and though the election campaign had not officially commenced, Mr. Gagik Aghababyan, the Head of the Municipality Department of Education and Culture who was on a vacation and Mr. Razmik Poghosyan, the director of the museum, presented addresses in favor of candidate Darbinyan. This episode was recorded and transmitted on the local “MIG” TV channel, due to which this illegal campaign acquired a larger scale.

On Saturday, 1 October, 2005, at a number of city sites and the newly built swimming pool, the “Vanadzor Days” festival hosted Mr. Andranik Margaryan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Arsen Darbinyan, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Armenia, some of the deputies to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Dipak Vohra, the ex-ambassador of India to Armenia, Mr. Henrik Kochinyan, the Lori Marzpet, Reverend Sepouh Bishop Chuljyan, the head of the Gougarats Diocese and Mr. S. Darbinyan, the candidate for the Vanadzor Mayor’s office. Despite the fact that no election related speeches were pronounced, during the firework that same night a documentary film was demonstrated, made by the “LORI” TV company and titled “Our City”, which in the perspective of the Monitoring Group representatives was an obscure promotion. The events of the day were covered by the entire local mass media, while the other candidates, as mentioned before, could not afford such form of promotion.

On 4 October, 2005, a meeting took place at the Vanadzor Painting Museum, at which candidate Darbinyan learnt that painter Mariam was in need of around 2000-3000 US dollars for the renovation of her studio and promised to help (Mariam had previously addressed the same issue to the Department of Architecture and Civil Construction of the Municipality and had been refused assistance). These kinds of promises are forbidden by Article 18.7 of the Armenian Electoral Code.

On 7 October, the Vanadzor School No. 100 was celebrating its 100th anniversary. Among other guests the festivity hosted Mr. Arsen Darbinyan, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Armenia (principal Tamara Saghatelyan’s spouse), the Lori Marzpet, Reverend Vahan Priest Azaryan, Mr. Minas Sayadyan, the Chairman of the District Electoral Commission No. 30 of the Republic of Armenia, employees of Lori Marzpetaran and Vanadzor Municipality, school principals.

On Saturday, 8 October, candidate Darbinyan had a meeting with the faculty and the students of Vanadzor State Pedagogical Institute, with participation of the Lori Marzpet, the Chairman of the District Electoral Commission No. 30 of the Republic of Armenia, the Marzpet’s advisor and employees of Vanadzor Municipality. The Lori Marzpet declared that since it was not a working day, he had the right to lead the election campaign, especially with consideration of the fact that candidate Darbinyan was the head of the municipal structure of the Republican Party and he himself was directing the marz division of the same political party. The Lori Marzpet thought he was provided such an opportunity by Article 18.4.1 of the RoA Electoral Code, particularly the phrase that read “...during the performance of their work duties”. However, the attendance of the Chairman of the District Electoral Commission No. 30 could not be explained in this situation, since such conduct is forbidden by Article 18.4.5 of the same Electoral Code.

On 10 October, candidate Darbinyan attended at the consecration and installation ceremony of the crosses and the bell of the newly constructed St. Grigor Narekatsi church (St. Gregory of Narek), the sea of the bishop. The ceremony hosted a large number of clerics, Reverend Sepouh Bishop Chuljyan, the head of the Gougarats Diocese, the Lori Marzpet, employees of Lori Marzpetaran and Vanadzor Municipality. Candidate Darbinyan, who is also the director of the construction company that built the church, was appointed godfather. The other two candidates for the Mayor's office were not partaking in the ceremony.

On 14 October, a two-hour concert took place at the Haik Square, which, according to Mr. Gagik Aghababyan, the Head of the Municipality Department of Education and Culture, had nothing to do with the elections. It was rather a prior arrangement with some guest performers from Yerevan, who had decided to perform their concert on October 14, since the city celebration festivities were still going on and that date was the last day permitted by Article 18.5 of the RoA Electoral Code for the elections. This concert would be considered the culmination of candidate Darbinyan's election campaign if it were not for another event: on the night of the same day candidate Darbinyan convened another election related meeting at the Music College of the City of Vanadzor named after M. Tavrizyan, this time with the members of the Communist Party of Armenia. Among the participants and spokesmen were Mr. Aram Kocharyan, the vice chairman of the RoA Social Security State Fund and Mr. David Petrosyan, the community head of the Nor Nork district of the city of Yerevan: an episode which is in infringement of Article 18.4.1 of the RoA Electoral Code.

On 15 October, the employees of candidate Darbinyan's election campaign headquarters distributed memos to the residents, despite the fact that according to Article 18.5 of the RoA Electoral Code they had no right to do so. Later that night, after 19:00 hours, the election campaign headquarters received instructions to give out money to vulnerable families at a rate of 1.000-2.000 AMD for each vote. In the central part of the city the amount received by each family, regardless of the number of family members, varied in the range of 8.000-15.000 AMD per vote. The headquarters employees escorted by the candidate's authorized persons started distributing the money. Around 11 p.m., when they realized that they were running short of time, the headquarters employees started calling people's apartments and inviting them to the election campaign headquarters to get their monetary aid. Pursuant to the observations of the Monitoring Group, this process went on till 1 o'clock in the morning and continued through the following day, although not so intensively.

On the balloting day, 16 October, 2005, the employees of candidate Darbinyan's elections campaign headquarters, per the observation of the Monitoring Group, started inviting the people gathered around the headquarters in and told them to encourage their neighbors to sell their votes. On the date of voting there were even instances when votes were sold for 1 bottle of vodka. Incidentally, during the second half of the balloting day people took money from both candidates, Darbinyan and Hovsepyan.

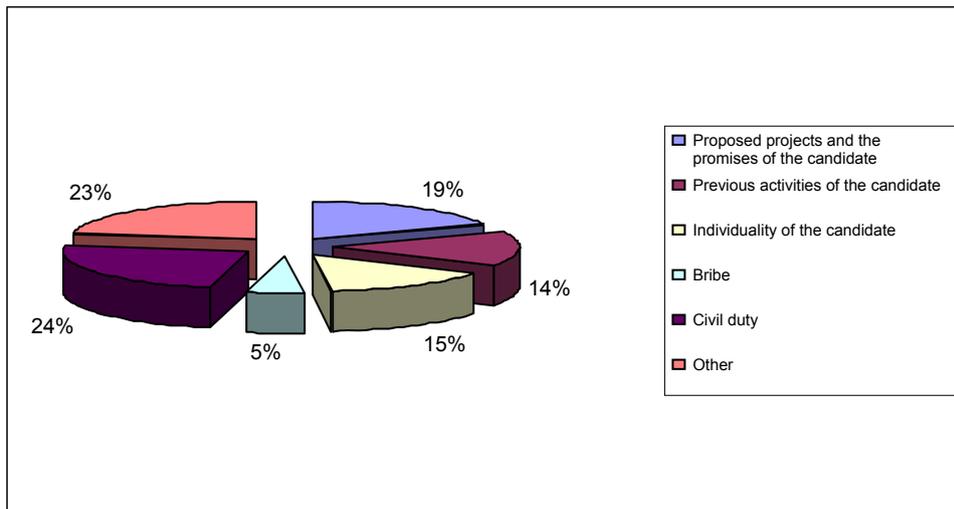
RESULTS OF THE PHONE SURVEY

406 people participated in the telephone inquiry, with 24.6% of male interviewees and 75.4% female, within the age groups of 21-40 and 41-60 (42.4% and 33.0% respectively). 36.7% of the interviewees were with higher education, 36.2% had secondary education and 27.1% had vocational school education. 23.9% of the interviewees were housewives, 19.0% were unemployed, 18.2% were retired, 17.7% represented private business and 15.0 represented government and budgetary organization employees and other layers of society.

According to the results of the survey, only 74.1% of the interviewees had taken part in the elections. 18.7% had made their choice relying on the candidate's programs and promises, 14.5% had voted based on the candidate's previous activity, the choice of 15% of the interviewees had been conditional upon the candidate's personality and 5% had received

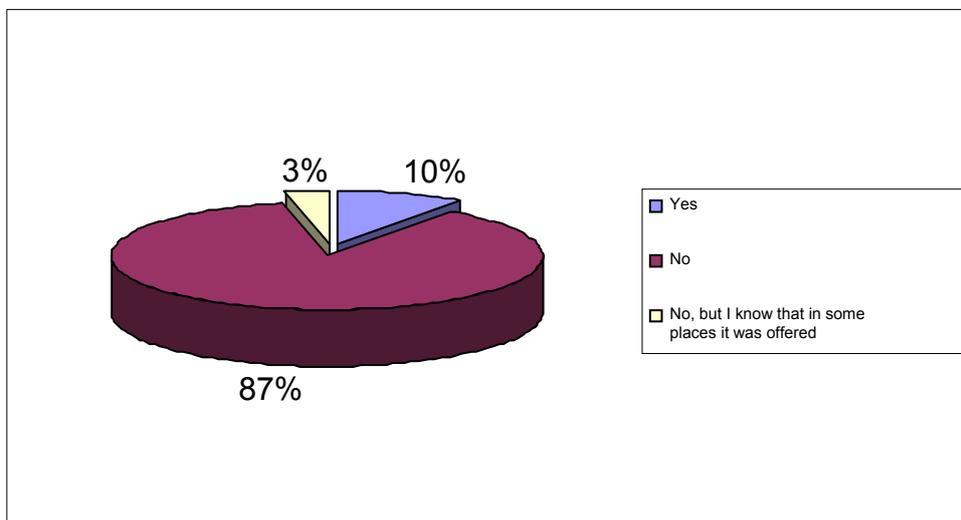
election bribes to vote. 24.1% of the interviewees were reluctant to disclose their motives and stated that they had merely accomplished their civil duty.

Question 2. *What was your preference determined by?*



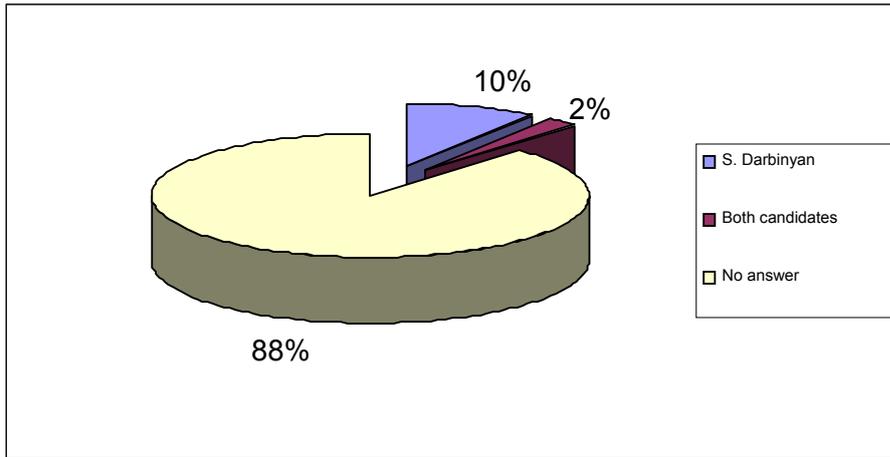
25.9% of the interviewees did not take part in the ballots. 38.7% of those survey participants explained their behavior by their lack of interest, 21.7% had no trust in either of the candidates, 17.9% were not present for various circumstantial reasons (sickness or absence from town), 12.3% did not have passports or valid registration, and 8.5% did not vote due to different inaccuracies in the list of constituency.

Question 3. *Were you offered a bribe during the election campaign?*



The survey revealed that 9.6% of the interviewees had been offered election bribes and 3.2% were aware of such bribes. 79.6% of the last group (or 10% of the total number of the interviewed) was confident that the election bribes had been given out by candidate S. Darbinyan's team, and 20.4% believed that both candidates, namely S. Darbinyan and G. Hovsepyan were involved. The election bribes offered by the candidates were mainly in cash.

Question 4. *You were offered a bribe (support) to vote for whom?*



CONCLUSION

During the elections of the Mayor of the city of Vanadzor, different instances of Use of the administrative resource and its constituent parts (institutional, financial and mass media) were monitored. The monitoring revealed that for the most part during the Vanadzor elections the institutional resource had been abused, as opposed to the financial resource, which was less frequently exploited. As for the third resource, the mass media, there were only minor instances of misuse, since the privately owned local television companies had tried to demonstrate evenhanded approach to all the candidates. Even when discounts were offered to a candidate, it was not the incumbent Mayor (who controls the administrative resource), but the representative of the Communist Party of Armenia.

As expected, the incumbent Mayor had abused the institutional resource. A vivid illustration of the said behavior was, first of all, the celebration of “Vanadzor Day”, which started on 23 September and went on through 1 October inclusive, not to mention the concert that was performed on 1 October. In this particular case three violations were made: first of all, the festivities had witnessed election campaign appearances in favor of the current Mayor when such actions were not to begin until the legitimate campaign commencement date, i.e. 27 September, 2005. Secondly, the festivities continued for 9 days with each appropriate occasion being used for election campaign. And thirdly, official bodies were carrying out the campaign.

The second undisputable case of institutional resource misuse was the organized vacation leave of the 12 Municipality employees and their immediate involvement in the election campaign activities. It is evident that the remaining two candidates were not in such privileged position.

Pressure was exercised in both state and community subordination institutions to make people vote for the incumbent Mayor of Vanadzor including, as per the observations of the Monitoring Group, in educational facilities and even the Military Registration and Enlistment Office. In the meantime, as stated above, upon military solicitation two of the election campaign headquarters of candidate G. Hovsepyan were reopened.

A typical example of financial resource misuse was the series of activities in celebration of the “Vanadzor Day”, since if it weren’t for that festival; the candidate would have to invest substantial resources to organize the same kind of activities.

As for the funds spent by the candidates (18.2 million AMD by candidate S. Darbinyan; 11.7 million AMD by candidate G. Hovsepyan; and 0.5 million AMD by candidate A. Ghukasyan), the existing Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia does not institute any upper threshold for the

funds established by the candidates during the election campaign for the community leader's position. Therefore, from the point of view of the law, it is not significant how much this or that candidate spent on his/her campaign. A different issue is the fact that according to the Monitoring Group's observations, the real costs incurred by the candidates were no doubt greater than the ones that will be presented by the candidates before the District Electoral Commission. The fact that candidate A. Ghukasyan never established an election campaign fund can be considered a violation of Article 128.2 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia.

When the "*Vanatur*" regional weekly turned to the chairman of the District Electoral Commission No. 30 requesting information about the candidates' election campaign costs, the response arrived that those documents "were already sent to the archive". In the meantime, Article 25.11 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia requires that the candidates submit to the District Electoral Commission their declarations on the use of the election campaign fund no later than 15 days following the conclusion of the balloting. Within 3 days the District Electoral Commission is required to refer those documents to the Control and Oversight Service of the Central Electoral Commission to be publicized in established procedure. Given the above, it could be assumed that with the elections carried out on 16 October, 2005, the candidates' declarations should not have been "sent to the archive", but to the contrary, should be presented before the public in the near future. This circumstance also testifies to the so-called "willingness" of the Armenian official bodies to work transparently.

A new approach during the Vanadzor Mayor's elections had been the initiative of candidate G. Hovsepyan to organize a television debate with candidate Darbinyan. Sadly however, according to the comments of the Monitoring Group, the debate had disappointed the Vanadzor audience: instead of discussing major problems in the city's life and proposing their perspectives on their solution, the candidates had sprung into a heated argument with mutual offenses and resentment. Realizing the gravity of the situation, candidate S. Darbinyan had made an appearance on TV on the next day and publicly apologized for his and his colleague's reprehensible conduct and the failed debate.

As opposed to the aforementioned, no new approach had been detected by the Monitoring Group in offering election bribes to the constituency by different candidates and in exercising pressure on competitor candidates and their teams. The phenomenon, in fact, is common not only for Vanadzor, but for Armenia in general. The fact that only 10% of the interviewed mentioned that they had been offered election bribes speaks for itself: people are anxious and intimidated. Bribe offering during this particular election process was public and freely available, and no one ever made an attempt to repress the process – neither the electoral commissions nor the law enforcement bodies. If offering election bribes occurs everywhere and goes unpunished along with other infractions of the election procedure, as observed by the mass media and a number of non government organizations, then this will deteriorate the elections system and turn that highly important mechanism of democracy into mere simulation. The citizens of the country will become highly skeptical in estimating the significance of their vote not only in elections of government officials, but also in the upcoming referendum on constitutional amendments.

**“National Anti-Corruption Resource Center” and
“Promoting Transparency and Participation at Local Government
Level” Projects**

FINAL PRESENTATION

Vanadzor, November 5, 2005

Agenda

14.45 - 15.00	<i>Registration</i>	
15.00-15.05	Welcoming Remarks	KARINE GHARIBYAN Center for Regional Development / Transparency International Armenia, Coordinator of Monitoring Group
15.05-15.20	Final Presentation of “National Anti-Corruption Resource Center” and “Promoting Transparency and Participation at Local Government Level” Projects	IRINA HAKOBYAN Representative of NACRC Unit in Lori Marz
15.20-15.40	Presentation of Results of Vanadzor 2005 Mayor Elections	KARINE GHARIBYAN Center for Regional Development / Transparency International Armenia, Coordinator of Monitoring Group
15.40-16.00	Certification of Monitoring Group	K.GHARIBYAN I.HAKOBYAN
16.00-17.00	Q@A / Discussions	
17.00-17.30	Fourchette	

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Vanadzor, Lori
November 5, 2005

1. Khoren Gasparyan, Adviser to Vanadzor Mayor
2. Lyova Karapetyan, Head of Communal and General service of Vanadzor Municipality
3. Ashot Hakobyan, Chairman of ACRPC
4. Karine Ghukasyan, President of "Healthy Life" NGO
5. Anna Sargsyan, Member of "Liar" NGO
6. Hrant Ayvazyan, President of "Lori Development Center" NGO
7. Nune Pepanyan, President of "Lusastgh" NGO
8. Armen Matinyan, President of "New Generation" pan-Armenian youth NGO
9. Narine Ghazaryan, President of "Crossroads" NGO
10. Kamo Yeganyan, President of "Progress" NGO
11. Armen Sakhlyan, President of "Lori TV" channel
12. Lusine Sargsyan, Journalist of "Lori TV" channel
13. Manana Amyan, Journalist of "Political Initiatives" periodical
14. Manvel Mikoyan, Chief editor of "Lori Marz" official newspaper
15. Haykaz Simikyan, Editor of "Vanadzor Mosaic" weekly
16. Samvel Harutyunyan, President of "MIG" media holding
17. Suren Arsenyan, Journalist of National Radio
18. Tatev Shahverdyan, active citizen
19. Aida Petrosyan, active citizen

FINAL PRESENTATION

Goris, November 8, 2005

Agenda

14.45-15.00	<i>Registration</i>	
15.00-15.05	Welcoming Remarks	KARINE GHARIBYAN Center for Regional Development / Transparency International Armenia, Coordinator of Monitoring Group
15.05-15.20	Final Presentation of “National Anti-Corruption Resource Center” and “Promoting Transparency and Participation at Local Government Level” Projects	ARTASHES TOROZYAN Representative of NACRC Unit in Syunik Marz
15.20-15.40	Presentation of Results of Vanadzor 2005 Mayor Elections	KARINE GHARIBYAN Center for Regional Development / Transparency International Armenia, Coordinator of Monitoring Group
15.40-16.00	Certification of Monitoring Group	K.GHARIBYAN A.TOROZYAN
16.00-17.00	Q@A / Discussions	
17.00-17.30	Fourchette	

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Goris, Syunik
November 8, 2005

1. Nelson Voskanyan, Mayor of Goris City
2. Karen Ter-Mkrtchyan, Deputy Mayor of Goris City
3. Nelson Hovsepyan, Representative of Goris Municipality Communal-General Service
4. Seyran Gevorgyan, Executive Director of “Goris TNT” CJSC
5. Jeff Berg, Volunteer of Red Cross
6. Artashes Torozyan, President of Goris Teachers’ Union NGO
7. Anna Avetisyan, Assistant of Goris Teachers’ Union NGO
8. Armine Hovakimyan, Representative of “Perass” ecological NGO
9. Gegham Ayvazyan, Syunik Marz Representative of “Young Lawyers’ Association of Armenia”
10. Lena Hovsepyan, President of “Goris’ Housladies” NGO
11. Varduhi Dadunts, President of “Arqayadustr Parvana” NGO
12. Arpine Baghdasaryan, Representative of “Civic Education Center of Goris” NGO
13. Aram Musakhanyan, Representative of “Civic Education Center of Goris” NGO
14. Sevada Khojabaghyan, Representative of “English Teaching Center of Goris” NGO
15. Zhirair Martirosyan, President of “Goris Creators” NGO
16. Ruzanna Torozyan, President of “Healthy Generation of Mountaineers” NGO
17. Kristine Sargsyan, Representative of “Gea” ecological NGO
18. Andranik Harutyunyan, Lawyer of Human Rights Protection Center, Syunik Branch
19. Hamlet Harutyunyan, President of “Boomerang” NGO
20. Yeugeniya Khalafyan, Teacher of Kindergarten No.5
21. Greta Grigoryan, Editor of “Zangezour” newspaper
22. Arthur Vardanyan, Representative of “New Horizons” newspaper
23. Nelly Dushunts, Journalist of “Usutsich” newspaper
24. Susanna Isajanyan, Journalist of “Hzor Syunik” newspaper
25. Razmela Avanesyan, Journalist of “Last” TV channel
26. Lilit Mkrtchyan, volunteer
27. Flora Torozyan, Member of Goris Community
28. Anna Arzumanyan, Pupil of secondary school No.2
29. Mariam Balasanyan, Pupil of secondary school No.6

FINAL PRESENTATION

Vaiq, November 9, 2005

Agenda

13.45-14.00	<i>Registration</i>	
14.00-14.05	Welcoming Remarks	KARINE GHARIBYAN Center for Regional Development / Transparency International Armenia, Coordinator of Monitoring Group
14.05-14.20	Final Presentation of “National Anti-Corruption Resource Center” and “Promoting Transparency and Participation at Local Government Level” Projects	RUZAN GHAZARYAN Representative of NACRC Unit in Vayots Dzor Marz
14.20-14.40	Presentation of Results of Vanadzor 2005 Mayor Elections	KARINE GHARIBYAN Center for Regional Development / Transparency International Armenia, Coordinator of Monitoring Group
14.40-15.00	Certification of Monitoring Group	K.GHARIBYAN R.GHAZARYAN
15.00-16.00	Q@A / Discussions	
16.00-16.30	Fourchette	

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Vaiq, Vayots Dzor
November 9, 2005**

1. Taro Avetyan, Mayor of Vaiq City
2. Vigen Gasparyan, Deputy Mayor of Vaiq City
3. Aram Grigoryan, Head of Regional Administration Department of Vayots Dzor Marzpetaran
4. Gevorg Margaryan, Architect of Vaiq City
5. Hamlet Khachatryan, Head of Communal Department of Vaiq Municipality
6. David Minasyan, Avagani Member
7. Nune Petrosyan, Avagani Member
8. Hovik Mushkambaryan, Avagani Member, Director of "Sanmaqrum ev Barekargum" CJSC
9. Ruzan Ghazaryan, President of "Work and Fatherland" NGO
10. Shirak Miqaelyan, President of "Greens of Vaiq" NGO
11. Armine Safaryan, President of "Huis-98" NGO
12. Arsen Vardanyan, President of "Aksel" NGO
13. Gayane Petrosyan, President of "Vayots' Future" NGO
14. Aram Hovsepyan, President of "Information Technologies Supporting Center of Vaiq" NGO
15. Gevorg Gevorgyan, Head of Armenian Red Cross Branch Office in Vaiq
16. Valya Khachatryan, President of "Physical-technical Club of Vaiq" NGO
17. Samvel Mnatsakanyan, Director of Employment Center
18. Hasmik Hovhannisyan, Chief Editor of "Aspekt" newspaper
19. Vardush Tunyan, Principal of Secondary School No.1
20. Slavik Atanakinyan, Principal of Secondary School No.2
21. Ofik Ghazaryan, Principal of Kindergarten No.2
22. Abov Buniatyan, Director of Gymnasium
23. Arusik Sayadyan, Doctor of Clinical Center
24. Hovsep Zakaryan, Lawyer, Community Member
25. Artak Gabrielyan, Representative of Small Business
26. Aram Aramyan, Community Member
27. Seda Babayan, Community Member
28. Anahit Ayvazyan, Community Member
29. Mamikon Hovhannisyan, Community Member
30. Karen Stepanyan, Community Member
31. Vardan Hambardzumyan, Community Member

FINAL PRESENTATION

Ashtarak, November 11, 2005

Agenda

14.00-14.15	<i>Registration</i>	
14.15-14.25	Welcoming Remarks	NARA ARZUMANYAN Center for Regional Development / Transparency International Armenia, Public Awareness Specialist
14.20-14.40	Final Presentation of “National Anti-Corruption Resource Center” and “Promoting Transparency and Participation at Local Government Level” Projects	GEVORG YEGHIAZARYAN Representative of NACRC Unit in Aragatsotn Marz
14.40-15.00	Presentation of Results of Vanadzor 2005 Mayor Elections	VAKHTANG SIRADEGHYAN Center for Regional Development / Transparency International Armenia, Coordinator of Monitoring Group / Media Specialist
15.00-15.20	Certification of Monitoring Group	N.ARZUMANYAN G.YEGHIAZARYAN
15.20-16.20	Q@A / Discussions	
16.20-17.30	Fourchette	

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ashtarak, Aragatsotn November 11, 2005

1. Hrachya Khachatryan, Deputy Mayor of Ashtarak Municipality
2. Gagik Shahazizyan, Deputy Mayor of Ashtarak Municipality
3. Rushan Mkrtchyan, Deputy Mayor of Ashtarak Municipality
4. Dmitri Martirosyan, Adviser to Mayor of Ashtarak
5. Gevorg Yeghiazaryan, Head of Staff of Ashtarak Municipality
6. Hovhannes Balayan, Head of Department of Municipality
7. Petros Zohrabyan, Head of Department of Municipality
8. Satenik Zoryan, Head of Media Department of Territorial Administration
9. Zohrab Gevorgyan, Specialist of the Municipality
10. Yeghish Hovhannisyan, Director of Garbage Collecting Service
11. Marine Shahazizyan, Chairwoman of NGO Forum of Aragatsotn Marz
12. Gayane Danielyan, Representative of "Regional Association of Ashtarak Women" NGO
13. Satenik Hovsepyan, Executive Director of "Regional Association of Ashtarak Women" NGO
14. Gayane Petrosyan, President of Aragatsotn Press Club
15. Anjela Hovhannisyan, President of "Tsitsernak" NGO
16. Ararat Gapoyan, President of "Aragats" NGO
17. Vardazar Manoyan, "Palitra" social-pension NGO
18. Fenya Tevanyan, President of Public Initiative Center
19. Marine Atomya, Representative of E-Governance System Representation in Aragatsotn Marz
20. Nina Ghazaryan, Principal of secondary school after M. Shahazizyan
21. Avik Azizyan, Former member of Avagani
22. Nazeli Davtyan, Member of Anti-corruption team
23. Zhenya Bryan, journalist
24. Norayr Ghonaghchyan, journalist

FINAL PRESENTATION

Ijevan, November 11, 2005

Agenda

15.00-15.15	<i>Registration</i>	
15.15-15.20	Welcoming Remarks	KARINE GHARIBYAN Center for Regional Development / Transparency International Armenia, Coordinator of Monitoring Group
15.20-15.40	Final Presentation of “National Anti-Corruption Resource Center” and “Promoting Transparency and Participation at Local Government Level” Projects	ARMAN GEVORGYAN Representative of NACRC Unit in Tavush Marz
15.40-16.00	Presentation of Results of Vanadzor 2005 Mayor Elections	KARINE GHARIBYAN Center for Regional Development / Transparency International Armenia, Coordinator of Monitoring Group
16.00-16.20	Certification of Monitoring Group	K.GHARIBYAN A.GEVORGYAN
16.20-17.00	Q@A / Discussions	
17.00-17.30	Fourchette	

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ijevan, Tavush
November 11, 2005

1. Varuzhan Nersisyan, Mayor of Ijevan City
2. Garnik Blbulyan, Director of "Bardi" CJSC
3. Arman Gevorgyan, Representative of National Anti-Corruption Resource Center in Tavush Marz
4. Lia Nerkararyan, Assistant to Representative of National Anti-Corruption Resource Center in Tavush Marz
5. Hayk Mardanyan, Representative of Red Cross
6. Stella Avagyan, President of "Women's Rights Center" NGO
7. Artush Amiryan, Representative of "Bridge of Hope" NGO
8. Manush Maralchyan, Representative of "Young Tavush" NGO
9. Meri Tukhikyan, Representative of "Green Tavush" NGO
10. Andranik Simonyan, "Challenge" NGO
11. Samvel Ulikhanyan, "Ulikhanyan Brothers" NGO
12. Nara Khachikyan, Young Red Cross Representative Office
13. Gayane Hambardzumyan, Ombudsman's Representative Office in Tavush
14. Naira Gevorgyan, "Tavush" newspaper
15. Tatevik Nazinyan, "Ijevan" newspaper
16. Davit Majilyan, active citizen
17. Tsoghik Martosyan, active citizen
18. Karen Dilbaryan, active citizen