

Examining the Necessity for Affirmative Action for National Minorities in Georgia

Second Interim Report
(November 20, 2006 – December 29, 2006)

From the end of November until the end of year the research team of the project “Examining the Necessity for Affirmative Action for National Minorities in Georgia” continued working on different issues related to collection, and analysis of obtained information. The questionnaires were reviewed and modified. The team communicated with partner NGO’s to prepare the visit to Samtskhe-Javakheti region, and contracted for this purpose a local coordinator. After the preparatory works for the visit were over (acquiring recorders, tapes, arranging for the hotel, etc.) the team headed to the region to conduct the fieldwork.

At the same time, researchers continued to collect information from companies in Tbilisi about employment of national minorities. We continued to focus on companies employing more than 70 people, this limit set to better safeguard against family owned businesses, and small enterprises where merit-base selection has a minor impact on recruitment. In Addition to already collected data we obtained info on 40 companies.

Several meetings were held with partner Non-Governmental Organizations: “Multiethnic Georgia” (Director Mr. Arnold Stepanian) and “Civic Integration Foundation” (Director Mr. Zaur Khalilov). Our partners provided useful information about present issues in Samtskhe-Javakheti region and helped in communication with local coordinator.

In order to make our visit to region more organized we got in touch with local Civil Forum representative, who has experience in affairs of coordinating research group’s activities in Samtskhe-Javakheti region. Our representative himself an ethnic Armenian, is a member of local NGO’s associations and has broad ties with region’s state and non-state organizations representatives that proved particularly useful during our visit.

During December 28-29, 2006, our team conducted interviews in Samtskhe-Javakheti region. The purpose of the visit was finding out the level of use of State Language among the minority as well. Through in-depth interviews the research intended to observe the knowledge of Georgian among ordinary citizens, and their attitude towards education in Georgian as well as respondents’ future employment perspectives in Georgia. The team also looked for opportunities to establish ties with local NGO representatives for future coordination. During visit we covered all our goals. 20 citizens were

interviewed, all of them parents. Half of the interviewed were female. We interviewed our respondents in Akhalkalaki (5 respondents), in village Baraleti (Akhalkalaki district) (also 5 person), and in Ninotsminda (10 respondents). Apart from in-depth interviews we also met citizens outside work environment in markets, in the streets and conversed with them about the use of Georgian language. We also met and made contacts with local NGO – representatives, though we are planning to make those contacts more comprehensive during next visits. (Some photos and a sample transcript of an interview are enclosed with the report).

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Project Director
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