

Organization: AURUM LLC
Project Title: Web Design and Desktop Publishing Studio
Award Amount: \$10,841

To create a web design & desktop publishing training studio and new-business incubator for twenty interested and selected youth in Ganja City. In addition to professional high-tech design training, participants will be exposed to principles of business management including innovative approaches to customer service, needs assessment, and service delivery. Additionally, delegates will receive practical experience through the centre leading to employment opportunities either with the studio itself, another regional employer, or sole proprietorship.

Organization: Buta Children Humanitarian Foundation
Project Title: Promote Decentralized Financial Management of Secondary Schools in Azerbaijan
Award Amount: \$31,460

To support the educational reform process in Azerbaijan through promoting transparency of school budgets and increasing citizen involvement in budgetary formation and monitoring, raising public awareness among the general public, and improving capacity of schools to define spending priorities for local school budgets. Implementing organization will organize a series of trainings, seminars and round-table discussions for school administrators, parents and students to jointly develop legal and policy recommendations for public involvement and transparency in the governance and management of school financial resources. The project will also facilitate and strengthen School Councils and Parent Committees in the 14 targeted schools of the Ali-Bayramli Region which received financial autonomy through the World Bank/Ministry of Education school reform program. What is more, the project will also conduct an informational web-based portal sharing news about education-related programs implemented throughout Azerbaijan by local schools and various organizations.

Organization: "Uluchay" Charitable Society
Project Title: Youth Business Initiatives
Award Amount: \$12,580

To support the development of youth entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan through an approach integrating entrepreneurial skills training, practical business experience, and support of business plan initiation. Grantee will organize a series of eleven trainings and round-table discussions on entrepreneurship issues for twenty-five young people between the ages of 18-30 in Sheki. Following instruction, a business plan competition will be held among the trained young people with the pre-eminent five proposals being awarded material and further technical support. In addition to the trainings, workshops, and business plan competition, detailed programmatic information will be widely distributed through a monthly bulletin. It is anticipated that as a result of the project, five businesses will be established by youths creating a more vibrant entrepreneurial environment for young people in Sheki and a potential model program for other communities in Azerbaijan.

Organization: Internews Azerbaijan
Project Title: Workshop at the Crossroads (Phase Two)
Award Amount: \$39,673

To promote ideals of common humanity and tolerance among the youth and wider viewing public of the South Caucasus countries through strengthening mutual understanding and sustained collaboration among young journalists and film directors from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The project is a follow-up activity proposed by the same partnership group, and it will further strengthen the established region-wide mechanism that enables young journalists and film directors to undertake joint creative work. This year the project partners will select 10 young media professionals from each South Caucasus country to take part in the project. The multi-national group of 30 journalists and film

directors will form 15 two-country production teams each comprising one lead and one assistant participant. Under the guidance of the partner organizations, the participants will have a chance to review and accept the project's code of ethics, take master classes, and produce from 15 to 21 documentaries promoting the ideals of compassion, humanity, and tolerance. The project partners will ensure a more extensive publicity campaign for the project throughout the region, which will culminate with the second South Caucasus documentary film festival in Tbilisi in which the best films will be selected by an independent jury. This will also include broadcasting the best documentaries in the air of select national TV channels, and a series of stakeholder discussions in each country. The project will further stimulate people-to-people diplomacy and public dialogue in the South Caucasus region.

Organization: Marketing Specialists of Azerbaijan
Project Title: Caucasus Export Catalogue
Award Amount: \$4,105

The proposed linkage grant will contribute to the economic development of the countries of the South Caucasus by developing the capacity of local businesses to export goods and services. The partners will focus on promoting locally produced goods and services through the development of quality print, electronic, and web-based versions of a South Caucasus Export Catalogue. The catalogue will feature comprehensive information on producers and service providers located in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia and will be distributed through embassies, consulates, and large importing-exporting organizations in foreign countries. The successfully implemented project will support the establishment of new cross-border business links both within and outside the South Caucasus region.

Organization: Youth for Development NGO
Project Title: Town Hall Meetings: Skills Transfer (Phase One)
Award Amount: \$20,906

The project will contribute to improved public policy making in the South Caucasus through the use of the Town Hall Meeting (THM) system, which has already been tested and implemented in Armenia. The Project's partners will develop multi-language support for the computer-based elements of the system, and the Armenian partner will train their Azerbaijani and Georgian counterparts on related facilitation and system implementation skills. After completing the skills and system transfer, the partners will jointly implement a pilot demonstration of the THM system in Georgia. EF-SCCP anticipates collaborating with the OSCE's Environmental Security Initiative (ENVSEC) to implement an environment-related THM project in all three countries. More broadly, EF-SCCP expects the project to increase the level of the public participation in the decision-making processes in the South Caucasus.

Organization: Leader Women Social Union
Project Title: Increasing the electoral activity of ethnic women
Award Amount: \$ 10, 000 (Norwegian Embassy Small Grants Program)

To increase voter participation in the upcoming presidential elections slated for October 2008. Project implementer will encourage active participation among ethnic women residing in Khizi, Lerik and Balakan regions of Azerbaijan in the upcoming presidential elections through the conduct of election-oriented seminars and training sessions. It is expected that successful implementation of this project will persuade all diverse members of society to more actively participate in civic activities and educate women in the target regions about practical aspects of the voting process. What is more, project implementer will conduct round tables with participation from training participants, local government and municipal representatives and publish educational information to increase public awareness on election issues.

Organization: Azerbaijan National Committee of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly
Ganja branch
Project Title: Enlightening voters of Ganja and Kalbacar regions and encouraging them for active participation in Presidential elections
Award Amount: \$ 14, 995 (Norwegian Embassy Small Grants Program)

To promote increased participation of citizens in the 2008 Presidential elections in Azerbaijan. Project implementer aims to address the problem of access to electoral information of internally displaced people from Kalbacar settled in Ganja and encourage them to actively participate in the upcoming Presidential elections set for October 2008. Through a series of seminars and publications, project implementer will inform the target group on changes to election code while introducing them to modern election technologies and guidelines for participation. Project implementer will also monitor and compare voter lists in constituencies and polling stations with electronic versions found on the official website of the Central Election Committee to verify registration and identify potential discrepancies. What is more, two programs on the local television channel Kapaz TV will be broadcast on the topics addressed in the project to multiply the outcome of the project.

Organization: Bridge to the Future Youth Social Union
Project Title: The Youth Voice is the Voice of the Future
Award Amount: \$13, 000 (Norwegian Embassy Small Grants Program)

To increase civic activism and combat voter apathy among young people in five regions of Azerbaijan by encouraging youth to participate in the upcoming Presidential elections through a coordinated "bike action." This project will utilize the upcoming presidential election as a catalyst to stimulate interest in civic education among young citizens in rural areas of Azerbaijan by delivering day training sessions about the principles of democratic elections and voters' rights – by bicycle. These informational sessions will be conducted by the 10 trained and motivated young participants of bike action and cover Gazakh, Agstafa, Tovuz, Shemkir and Ganja regions. Subsequently, a press conference on the results achieved of informational sessions through bike action will be held in Ganja with participation of representatives of mass media, NGO community, and relevant government structures.

Organization: Sumgayit Experts Union "Potential"
Project Title: "Promoting Housewives and Disabled Women's Active Participation in Presidential Elections"
Award Amount: \$11, 000 (Norwegian Embassy Small Grants Program)

To increase voter participation among marginalized women in the upcoming presidential elections slated for October 2008 by conducting a voter educational campaign. Project implementer will organize public meetings specifically targeting marginalized women – herein housewives and those with disabilities – in Sumgait with the assistance of several municipal block committees and the Sumgait branch of the Society of Disabled Women. Project implementer will also arrange training sessions for Sumgait-area NGOs engaged in women's issues to help them develop local capacity to encourage active female participation in the election, publish educational booklets, and provide free legal advice on elections-related violence.