



Inside IRIS Georgia

For more information about IRIS Georgia activities, please contact us at:

7 Radiani Street
Tbilisi 0179, Georgia
Tel/Fax: (995 32) 913378,
913379, 224020
E-mail: office@iris.ge
Web: www.iris.ge

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Inside IRIS Georgia is a monthly newsletter published by IRIS Georgia, a USAID contractor implementing the Rule of Law Program in Georgia.

IRIS Georgia is a satellite office of the IRIS Center at the University of Maryland. IRIS is an internationally-recognized source of research and advisory expertise for addressing economic growth and governance issues in transition and developing countries. See the Web site at <http://www.iris.umd.edu> for more information.

New publication from IRIS Georgia



IRIS Georgia completed translation and publication

of Herman Schwartz's book "The Struggle for Constitutional Justice in Post-Communist Europe" in Georgian language. In his book professor Schwartz gives analysis of systems of constitutional justice in Eastern European countries.

The author's knowledge of the subject needs no justification because he

personally was involved in developing constitutional justice systems in these countries as well as in Georgia.

IRIS printed 1,000 copies and will be distributing them free of charge among libraries, NGOs, courts, public institutions, lawyers and to interested readers.

UNAG's conference to mark project completion

On September 10-12, IRIS grantee, the UN Association of Georgia (UNAG), held a conference to mark the completion of its IRIS-funded project, "Facilitation of the Implementation of the Freedom of Information Chapter of the General Administrative Code in

Administrative Agencies."

The conference was attended by representatives of government and municipal agencies and NGO sector. At the conference, UNAG presented results of the project in the form of an annual report and other publications including model

documents, posters, calendar and leaflets. In addition, UNAG recognized 11 representatives from public agencies, NGOs and the media, who were announced as winners of UNAG's competition on compliance with FOI provisions.

Guidebook on licensing published



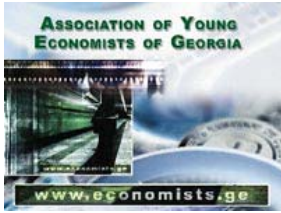
The Association of Young Economists of Georgia (AYEG) published a guidebook titled *How to Obtain a License or*

Permit for the Manufacturing of Food and Tobacco Products. The guidebook provides a detailed description of all procedures for obtaining a license/permit by manufacturers of food and tobacco products.

AYEG produced 2,000 copies and is distributing

them free of charge. It quickly gained popularity among business people and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Georgia, which requested significant number of additional copies. Due to such high demand, AYEG is planning to publish more copies of the guidebook.

Featuring IRIS grantee Association of Young Economists of Georgia



AYEG is launching its website in near future

The Association of Young Economists of Georgia (AYEG) is currently implementing the IRIS-funded “Licensing and Permit Implementation Project.” The latter is a follow-up of the previous project on the development of licensing system, which was done in 2002.

The goal of the Licensing and Permit Implementation Project is to bring the procedures of licensing agencies in conformity with the General Administrative Code and new legislative requirements. The project also aims to provide necessary information for entrepreneurs.

The first stage of the project involves

implementation of the new system of licensing, as regulated by the new laws, in the following areas:

- Food products and tobacco manufacturing;
- Medical and pharmacy;
- Veterinary services.

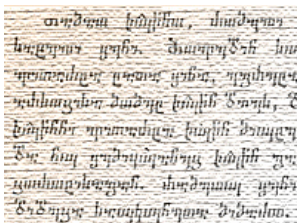
AYEG designs and publishes guides intended for entrepreneurs for the each of above listed areas. AYEG also conducts workshops/conferences involving the project work group and representatives of IRIS Georgia and licensing agencies.

The aim of the workshops /meetings is to inform representatives of licensing agencies about legal requirements for

issuing licenses/permits and to develop licensing guidebooks. The guidebook “How to Obtain a License or Permit for the Manufacturing of Food and Tobacco Products” already attracted great interest on the part of business people and government agencies.

During the next stage, AYEG will organize meetings/conferences for target groups to present the guide and the procedures for obtaining licenses and permits. AYEG will also conduct evaluations of already performed activities (desk research).

New grants program highlights a link between Georgian culture and human rights



Georgian culture offers plenty of examples of respect for human rights

IRIS Georgia has begun autumn with a new grants program, which highlights aspects of Georgian culture echoed by the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. “Human Rights are Part of Georgian Culture” is the theme for five grant projects to Georgian

NGOs.

The grantees, through film, radio, and original art media, will explore the coincidence of ideals in Georgian history and literature with what are quickly becoming universal human rights values.

The grants were awarded to the International Center for Civil Culture (ICCC) and Radio Green Wave for broadcasting countrywide radio

programs and clips, to the Pluralism Center for publishing online and book articles and producing a film, to organization Alfami for arranging artistic exhibitions and producing a film and video, and to Ozurgeti Young Teachers Union for organizing literary and artistic competitions and dramatic and photographic exhibitions.

Legal aid expert Joe Dailing shares expertise on IRIS project



Joe Dailing

A critical part of the IRIS Georgia's Work Plan is to assist local NGOs in providing free legal consultations and representation for victims of police abuse, domestic violence, discrimination on the basis of religion, language or nationality, and for the disabled and underprivileged. One of the components of this task is to assist these organizations in improving their methods of work and maximizing their effectiveness.

For that purpose, as a result of discussions with IRIS grantees GYLA, Article 42 and the Liberty Institute, IRIS Georgia decided to hire an experienced legal aid manager Mr. Joseph A. Dailing to work with these organizations in improving their internal management and case management systems, to conduct trainings for the lawyers involved in the legal aid projects of IRIS Georgia grantees, and to train their managerial and support staff.

For the past twenty-eight years, Mr. Dailing has been involved in the administration of legal aid programs for the poor. In the role of Executive Director of Prairie State

Legal Services, Inc., he has been able to shape and guide the development of two different legal aid programs to meet the unique needs of low-income clients through the work and cooperation of attorneys and client board members, staff attorneys, paralegals and support staff. Through involvement with the organized bar, Mr. Dailing has tried to represent the needs of low-income clients to the organized bar and mobilize its resources to help meet the needs of these clients in Illinois.

Mr. Dailing arrived in Georgia in the beginning of September and his visit will last until the beginning of November. In the past

three weeks, an assessment of the present case management structures of GYLA, Article 42 and Liberty Institute has been conducted through interviews and reviews of written materials as well as on-site visits to observe the actual operations in Tbilisi and regions. Tentative recommendations for GYLA, Article 42 and Liberty have been developed based on the above-mentioned assessment of current management systems of these organizations and extensive review of relevant delivery and internal management and case management systems in the United States.

IRIS Georgia's checklists

IRIS Georgia designed two checklists for public servants, which provide step-by-step description of the requirements for enacting administrative acts and decrees, as established by the General Administrative Code of Georgia. The two lists include one for enacting administrative acts and another for enacting administrative decrees. The purpose of the checklists is to assist public servants in observing the requirements for enacting administrative acts and

decrees in accordance with the General Administrative Code of Georgia.

The checklists will be distributed to administrative agencies free of charge. They are also available for download from IRIS Georgia Web site at: <http://www.iris.ge/en/resources.html> > Research Papers and Guides.

GYLA helps local residents to obtain identity cards

During a mobile legal aid visit to Dedoplistskaro region in June 2003, representatives of GYLA discovered that in order to obtain an identity card, local residents had to pay from 28 to 45 lari, instead of statutory fee of 2.50 lari.

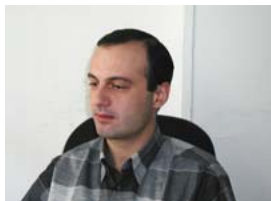
In July GYLA arranged a meeting with staff from the local passport registration agency. Meanwhile, with the help of GYLA, ten local residents applied to the agency for identity cards. GYLA also designed and

distributed brief guidelines for obtaining an identity card.

Due to GYLA's efforts, the local population learned about the statutory procedures and fees for obtaining an identity card. As a result, the passport registration agency had to abandon the corrupt practice of charging an extra fee for their service. This is another modest step in the fight against corruption and protection of human rights.

Introducing IRIS Georgia staff

Zurab Marakvelidze, Staff Attorney



Zurab Marakvelidze

Zurab provides legal advice on drafting legislation, Georgian Constitutional and Administrative law. He also participates in activities aiming at implementation of the General Administrative Code in ministries.

Zurab has a law degree from Tbilisi State

University. He has served in high-level government positions and in the NGO sector, including as Head of Legal Department of the Parliament, Parliamentary Secretary to the President of Georgia, Head of the Law Enforcement Department of the National Security Council, and Deputy Chairman of the Georgian

Young Lawyers' Association.

A native Georgian, Zurab speaks Russian and English.

IRIS Georgia's calendar of events – October 2003

Date	Events
Oct 2	GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to Tkviavi
Oct 3	GYLA's town hall meeting in Akhalsamgori on social benefits and land law GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to Bokhvauri
Oct 6, 7	GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visits to IDP community and Tsotskhnari
Oct 8	GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to Shemokmedi and Radiosadguri
Oct 9	GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to Bredza GYLA's town hall meeting in Ozurgeti self-government & Telavi (on the rights of conscripts)
Oct 10, 13, 15	GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to Mekvena, Akhalsopeli and Zemosandraki GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visits to IDP community and Martkopi GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visits to Laituri and Alvani
Oct 16	GYLA's town hall meeting in Dvabzu self-government on freedom of information GYLA's town hall meeting with teachers/students of School No. 5 of Telavi on human rights GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to Jinvali Liberty Institute's roundtable discussion in Poti on freedom of expression
Oct 17	GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to Gvishtibi GYLA's town hall meeting with teachers of Kaspi on guardianship
Oct 20	GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to IDP community AYEG's workshop in Bakuriani on the licensing of veterinary services (through Oct 24)
Oct 21	GYLA's roundtable discussion in Gori on domestic violence and gender GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to Akhalsopeli Liberty Institute's roundtable discussion in Rustavi on human rights and civil activism
Oct 22, 23	GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visits to Makvaneti and Djartali GYLA's town hall meeting in Natanebi on self-government and public assembly
Oct 25	Liberty Institute's press club session in Tbilisi
Oct 27	GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to Likhauri Internews's 9th documentary aired on Rustavi 2 TV channel
Oct 28	GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to Kvareli region
Oct 30, 31	GYLA's mobile legal aid clinic visit to Mataani GYLA's town hall meeting in Tskaltubo on human rights

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