

**Center for Policy Analysis  
American University of Armenia**

Completed Projects and Activities

*CPA's 1996 Guide to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia (1996, Armenian, English, and Russian editions, 96 pages):* The first convenient directory of the National Assembly including sections on legislative processes and how the Assembly works, photographs and biographical information of Assembly Members, directories of standing committees, staff, and political parties, suggestions on how citizens can communicate with the Assembly, and the first publicly available diagram of the National Assembly hall and map of electoral districts. (Funded by USIS)

*1997 CPA Directory of Print Media in the Republic of Armenia (1997, Armenian and English editions, 84 pages):* The first comprehensive information of the current print media published in Armenia including directories with in-depth information on nationwide dailies, weeklies, monthlies, and quarterlies and on regional publications and news services, and with an overview analysis of the print media in Armenia during 1996 including summary tables on number of publications by frequency, distribution of founding dates, and content type by distribution areas. (Funded by USIS)

In order to promote greater public awareness and participation in these policy areas, the books are sold to the Armenian public at below cost. At the same time, the data are provided to the public as one part of the necessary foundation for informed Armenian policy analyses and decision-making. Both books are being distributed in the United States, which provides funding for the CPA and information about Armenia to the world outside.

*Mass Media Projects:* 1) Data was collected in two separate surveys of the print media in Armenia during 1996. Research included determining which of the registered media are currently in print, the frequency and regularity of publication, and other variables, for example data on circulation, price and advertising rates, management and staff, and printing facilities. 2) Further analysis of the survey data was conducted in order to determine the amount of government subsidization employed by the print media in Armenia and to develop a typology of the nature of publications in print. 3) A content analysis was performed of Armenian daily newspapers in order to determine the newsflow of international information available to Armenian journal readers.

*Armenian National Assembly Project:* 1) Analysis was performed of the newly adopted Armenian Constitution and Parliamentary By-laws along with all legislation pertaining to the Parliament's relations with other branches of the government. 2) With the cooperation of the National Assembly itself, data was collected on the system of legislative processes and on the current membership and staff of the Parliament.

*Higher Education Projects:* 1) Data was collected and analysis was performed for the UNDP on current information resources in higher education and on how new structures of communication affect processes of internationalization in the Armenian sciences. In addition, analyses of the Armenian government's higher education policy in these spheres was performed and resulted in a co-authored chapter in the 1996 Armenia: Human Development Report. (Funded by UNDP) 2) Data was collected on the availability of scientific journals in Armenian libraries for the Open Society Institute. (Funded by OSI)

*"Analysis of General Population Household Survey Data on Education" (1996, English and Armenian, 15 pages, with figures and tables):* A summary of the analyses resulting from a general population nationwide survey of 1,000 households, conducted by the World Bank as part of its Social Assessment Health and Education Project. The main purpose of this exploratory analysis was to support the Armenian government in developing education policy by providing the first nation-wide quantitative data on the general population's access to and attitudes toward various education domains. (Funded by the World Bank)

*Development of Democratic Systems and Local Governance:* 1) Analysis was provided to the International City/County Management Association on local governance issues. 2) An analysis of communication prerequisites for political stability in Armenia was made for the UNDP and was printed in a short essay in the 1997 Armenia: Human Development Report.

*Constitutional Rights Seminar:* During the last week of August 1996, the Center sponsored a two-day Constitutional Rights Seminar for more than thirty Armenian specialists in civil and human rights. The main speaker was Judge Marilyn Kristovich of the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Papers were also presented by Justice Alvina Guyumlyan of the Armenian Constitutional Court and five well-known Armenian defense attorneys. The Center also sponsored an evening public lecture by Judge Kristovich. (Funded by USIS)

### **Current Projects and Activities**

*Providing Research Opportunities for Students:* Center projects and activities continue to provide some of the School's students and graduates with their first opportunities for hands-on participation in western-style research methodologies and analyses under the direct supervision of faculty.

*Networking:* The Center has an open door policy and requests for information from a variety of organizations and persons are constantly made to the Center's staff. It is expected that the networks and areas of cooperation will increase leading to the further integration of the Center into Armenian policy spheres.

*Military Policy Project:* 1) Research and analyses of the history of Armenian military policy is being performed, including the issues of Armenian identity and nationalism. This project will result in a forthcoming CPA book, The Armenian Military Forces in the First

Half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century (English and Armenian) and is being completed by Dr. Armen Ayvazian, the Center's first Research Fellow.

*"Proceedings of the CPA Constitutional Rights Seminar"* (forthcoming, English and Armenian): Collection of papers read during the August 1996 CPA-sponsored and USIS-funded seminar on constitutional rights with contributions from Judge Marilyn Kristovich from the California Superior Court, Justice Alvina Guyumlyan of the Armenian Constitutional Court, and Armenian lawyers in the fields of human and civil rights.

### **Activities and Projects Planned for the Immediate Future**

*Providing Research Opportunities for Students:* The Center is looking for new ways to provide regular practical research experiences for students in the School. As a pilot test, during the winter break a group of ten volunteers was selected (out of eighteen applicants) to participate in a research project that required each student to perform a part of a content analysis of Armenian newspapers for an international comparative study of newsflow in 50 countries.

*Articles in Academic Journals:* At least two articles based on data collected in the Center will be written and submitted to academic journals in the United States; the first article will focus on an analysis of the economics of the current print media in Armenia and the second planned article will be an analysis of the kinds of information about foreign events available to the Armenian public through the news.

*Survey Research:* Pending new funding by the Eurasia Foundation, the Center will perform its first survey research project, which will employ the School's students. This project will be a pilot study with the goal of acquiring funding for the establishment of a CPA Survey Research Group that will collect reliable longitudinal survey data nationwide on a variety of economic and sociopolitical measures.

*World Bank Project:* Pending funding by the World Bank, the Center and the CHSR will conduct an evaluation of the Armenian government's PAROS humanitarian assistance program. The two Centers have worked together on a previous Bank project, but on different sets of data and with separate final reports. The new project will be the first in which the Centers will conduct joint research using both Centers' resources, staff, and students in a full collaborative effort.