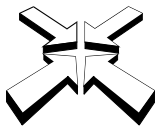


CONSTITUTIONAL & LEGAL POLICY INSTITUTE



11 Nádor utca, 1051 Budapest, Hungary
Tel.: (361) 327 3102 Fax: (361) 327 3103
Web address: <http://www.osi.hu/colpi>

in cooperation with



**CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT &
COOPERATION –
CENTER FOR PLURALISM - GEORGIA**

37 Tabukashvili Str. Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel./fax (995 32) 922157
e-mail: cdc@access.sanet.ge

“UNITY IN DIVERSITY”

**National Language Policies, Europeans Standards and the
Elimination of Discrimination against Minorities in the Caucasus**

Regional Seminar – Agenda

July 28 – July 1, 2002

Tbilisi, Hotel “Sympatia” conference room

Thursday, 27 June – Arrival of participants

Friday, 28 June - The Situations and Problems of Minorities and Language in the Caucasus

09:30 Official opening:
Words of welcome:
Mr. Paata Zakareishvili (Georgia)
Mariana Berbec, COLPI/OSI (Hungary)
Introduction of participants and experts
Introduction of the working agenda

Moderator: Paata Zakareishvili (Georgia)

10:00 SESSION I. Situation of Minorities and the Use of Minority Languages in the Caucasus – NGO point of view: Country reports presentation:

Report on Armenia. Reporter: _____ (10 – 15 min.)
Report on Azerbaijan. Reporter: _____ (10 – 15 min.)
Report on Georgia. Reporter: _____ (10 – 15 min.)
Report on South Russia. Reporter: _____ (10 15 min.)

Co-moderators: Paata Zakareishvili (Georgia) and Dr. Fernand de Varennes, Murdoch Law School (Australia)

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee Break

11:20 National Legislation and the Linguistic Rights of Minorities – Governments point of view: Country reports presentation.

Report on Armenia. Reporter _____ (10 – 15 min.)
Report on Azerbaijan. Reporter _____ (10 – 15 min.)
Report on Georgia. Reporter _____ (10 – 15 min.)
Report on South Russia . Reporter _____ (10 – 15 min.)

Discussion Period

Co-moderators: Paata Zakareishvili (Georgia) and Dr. Fernand de Varennes, Murdoch Law School (Australia)

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 SESSION II. Integration, Promotion of National Language, and the Use of Minority Languages:

Accommodating linguistic and cultural diversity: examples of good practices in Western Europe (Sud Tyrol in Italy, Catalonia in Spain, and Northern Ireland)

Speaker: Donall O’Riagain, independent consultant, former Director, European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages (Ireland)

Moderator: Alexander Ossipov (Russia)

15:00 Discussion and Debate on the Situation in the Caucasus

16:00 – 16:20 Coffee Break

16:20 Discussion continued

19:00 *Dinner and official reception in the Reception Room at hotel “Sympatia” – folk music ...*

Saturday, June 29 - Language Policies and International and European Standards

09:30 SESSION III. International and European Mechanisms and Standards in the Area of Language Policies and the Rights of Minorities:

United Nations, UNESCO, Council of Europe and the European Union approaches – Speaker: Mr. Donall O’Riagain (Ireland)

United Nations Instruments – Speaker: Dr. Fernand de Varennes (Australia)

Council of Europe, Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities - Speaker: Mr. Boris Tsilevich (Latvia)

Moderator: Alexander Ossipov (Russia)

10:40 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 SESSION III continued, followed by discussion

13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch Break*

14:30 SESSION IV. OSCE Standards and Commitments on the Rights of National Minorities, including Linguistic Rights:

OSCE Human Dimension, Oslo Recommendations on the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities, the Hague and Lund Recommendations – Speaker: Dr. Fernand de Varennes

OSCE Mechanisms and Activities – Speaker: Mr. Boris Tsilevich

16:00 – 16:20 *Coffee Break*

16:20 SESSION V. Non-Discrimination in European and international law and national language policies:

Non-discrimination in language policies, state education, public administration: the significance and effects of recent international and European decisions - Speaker: Dr. Fernand de Varennes, Australia

Discussion

Moderator: Mr. Donall O’Riagain

19:00 *Dinner at hotel “Sympatia” conference room*

Sunday, 30 June – Improving the Protection and Integration of National Minorities

09:30 SESSION VI. Application of International and European Standards: Hypothetical cases.

Participants are divided into four groups. Each group receives one hypothetical case and should analyze it and prepare ‘recommendations’ for solving the case by applying the international and European standards examined on Saturday. Each group will prepare ‘Recommendations’ based mainly on the standards in

- (a) non-discrimination;
- (b) the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities in the areas of public services, public education, and private use of minority languages;
- (c) the examples of good practice in accommodating linguistic and cultural diversity.

Moderators for groups: Fernand de Varennes, Donall O’Riagain, Boris Tsilevich,
Aleksandr Osipov

10:40 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 SESSION VI continued – Discussion on the ‘Recommendations’ prepared by each group:

Moderator: Boris Tsilevich

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 SESSION VII. Applying international and European Standards in the Caucasus:

Participants are asked to review the country reports presented during the first day and to identify from these reports, as well as from the experience learned during preparing ‘recommendations’, the main areas where international and European standards could/should be applied/improved for each country:

- 1. Armenia
- 2. Azerbaijan

16:00 - 16:20 Coffee Break

16:20 SESSION VII continued. The review and identification of problem areas for improvement in:

- 1. Georgia
- 2. South Russia

Moderator: Mr. Paata Zakareishvili (Georgia), Dr. Fernand de Varennes (Australia)

19:00 Dinner at hotel “Sympatia” conference room

Monday, 1 July – Discussion about the Practice in the Caucasus and Recommendations to Improve the Situation of Linguistic Minorities

09:30 SESSION VIII. Possibility for a Dialog and Cooperation between State/Regional Authorities and NGOs Promoting Minority Rights:

Participants are divided into four working groups according to their country to debate and prepare concrete recommendations to be undertaken to improve dialogue and cooperation between the state authorities and civil society. Each group also has to underline the reasons of proposing recommendations and the potential outcome and impact of these recommendations on the situation of minorities in their country. The debate also should take into account the role of such dialogue for improving the current situation.

Moderators: Dr Fernand de Varennes, Boris Tsilevich, Aleksandr Ossipov, Paata Zakareishvili

10: 40 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 Group discussion continued

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 SESSION VIII continued: Group presentations
One representative from each group will present the ‘Recommendations’ identified during the debate in the group. Each country has 10 minutes for each presentation.

1. Armenia
2. Azerbaijan
3. Georgia
4. South Russia

Discussion and Q&A

Moderators: Boris Tsilevich, Alexandr Ossipov

16:00 Overview of the Seminar, Closing Comments and Recommendations

Moderators: Dr Fernand de Varennes, Boris Tsilevich

16:45 Official Closing

Paata Zakareishvili, Dr. Fernand de Varennes, Mariana Berbec, Nino Khalandarishvili

Tbilisi city tour

20:00 *Official closing dinner at a national restaurant with national music*

Tuesday, 2 July – Departure of participants