



## Director's Message

*Apparently, the process of building Armenia-Turkey relations has never been stopped either by Turkey or Armenia. Indeed, mutual blames, "torpedo" preconditions, manoeuvring and speculations are not symptoms of the impending "death" of the rapprochement process. Those are rather clear signs that Armenia-Turkey rapprochement process is on the top political agenda of both leaderships. Meanwhile, the direct interaction process has transformed into other forms and dimensions pointing to a fairly viable process. By signing the protocols the parties, mediators and supporters have opened a Pandora's box, and the larger political process became irreversible. Moreover, since Zurich the issue of Armenia-Turkey rapprochement has become an indispensable part of the international agenda, particularly thanks to the US efforts and Barak Obama and Hillary Clinton personally. Not surprisingly, on May 19, 2011 the US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon stated that the USA will continue to encourage normalization between Turkey and Armenia. Indeed, supporting dialogue between the two states was clearly relevant a year ago, but it is becoming increasingly more relevant while the process is dynamically transforming in the current stage and will keep transforming further.*

*Obviously, both direct and facilitated interaction between decision shapers in Armenia and Turkey has been drastically limited at both sides by top political leaderships at the current stage of development of Armenia-Turkey relations. Such evaluation may lead some stakeholders to believe that supporting dialogue between the states is not feasible. However, such a conclusion is deceptive and not relevant to the current developments for at least two major reasons. Firstly, such an approach could be perceived by all key stakeholders as a misleading signal and ambiguous evaluation of the current transformations of the political process, its capacity to evolve further and the needs to enhance the process by improving the environment in which it evolves. The risk of such an outcome is highly probable and its harmful impact is quite critical. Secondly, the current transformation of the process summoned challenges resulting from the above mentioned limited interaction and subsequent realities. Addressing these emerging challenges is even more important and relevant at this stage of transformation of the process, than it once was, earlier in the days of the so-called "dynamic environment of rapprochement process opening vibrant opportunities for intervention".*

*So, what are the critical challenges for the political process of the Armenia-Turkey rapprochement resulting from the fact that both direct and facilitated interactions between the key decision and policy shapers are extremely limited at both sides?*

*Most importantly, in this new reality the key decision and policy shapers can hardly gain the knowledge of mutual interests, benefits, details and peculiarities of the rapprochement. They simply have opportunities almost no to learn, comprehend and use such practical and critical knowledge. Before the latest transformation of the political process, the key decision and policy shapers were able to get such in-depth knowledge mostly through effective*

**T**he ICHD Quarterly Newsletter is published since Spring 2010. The Newsletter is intended to improve our communications with partners in civil society, government and development community in Armenia and abroad. We hope that the Newsletter will help you stay informed about our activities and gain a better understanding of who we are and what we do.

*tive communication, interaction and mutual learning. The recent transformations closed the communication channels and made mutual learning almost impossible at the current stage. The current reality of "non-learning" may further lead to unsolicited transformations of the rapprochement process into a rather superficial and populist political process at both ends.*

*At the early stage of the process - in "good and dynamic times" - the rapprochement process and its success have been mostly perceived as dependant primarily on political will. The details of the effective process such as sector-specific concerns of both parties, an evidence-based policy shaping process, traps into which the rapprochement process could fall in technically and politically on its road, policy research and analysis, policy communication instruments effective for the rapprochement process, designing inclusive process and extending its ownership have hardly been duly appreciated.*

*At the current stage of the rapprochement process, when the sole political will proved to be insufficient to drive the rapprochement to a meaningfully successful harbour, these details are implicitly needed to back up the political process and to mitigate the above-mentioned risks of stochastic shift of the process towards a lasting populist scenario. Such a conclusion has been proved both implicitly and explicitly during the Town Hall Meeting discussions organized recently by ICHD in Armenia and Turkey. Limited interaction and little mutual learning process dramatically restrict opportunities for key decision shapers to elaborate the above mentioned details to a meaningful extent.*

*In a nutshell, after opening the Pandora's box while lacking a toolbox enabling the primary stakeholders to handle and manage the process effectively, and considering the fact that the box may not be closed as it was once and the challenges summoned may not disappear, the parties need adequate tools to facilitate a mutual learning process as a core of the dialogue at this stage. At the current stage to a certain extent such a learning process is actually the very environment of the dialogue itself. Creating learning tools would substantially improve the environment for the dialogue and would support the effective transformations of the political process further.*

**Tevan Poghosyan**  
**ICHD Executive Director**

# Project Highlights

## Supporting Government to Formulate National Plan of Action on Migration Management

ICHD in consortium with international and local organizations including OSCE Mission to Yerevan, UNHCR/Armenia, People in Need (PIN/Czech Republic), as well as State Migration Service (SMS) of the Ministry of Territorial Administration of the RA (MTA) supports the Government of Armenia in drafting National Plan of Action on the Implementation of the Concept on Migration Management Policy of the Republic of Armenia (NPA) since February 2011.

The first discussion of the NPA was held on February 15 with the participation of ICHD expert team and representatives of the State Migration Service. The first draft of the NPA will be presented in mid-June, 2011. Meanwhile, ICHD will coordinate the process with the working group experts through regular meetings.

## Assistance to Returnees

Since July 2010, ICHD in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of the Netherlands implements a project on providing post-arrival assistance to Armenian returnees from the Netherlands to support their further reintegration in the society. The project is funded by the European C.

During the first quarter of 2011, within the project framework two returnees were accepted in Armenia and provided with post arrival assistance.

## Analyzing the Demographic Policy of the Republic of Armenia

ICHD experts have conducted research to find out whether the demographic policy of the Republic of Armenia is thoroughly reflected in the annual draft budget for 2011. The analysis attempts to reveal whether the objectives and financial and non-financial outcome indicators in the programs of the draft budget are in compliance with the provisions of RA Demographic Policy Strategy Paper.

## Assistance to Refugee Women in Armenia

ICHD continues its advocacy for gender-sensitive policy making and in mid-February ICHD hosted UNHCR Associate Programme officer Mr. Alessandro Nobile and Ms. Roza Minasyan, field assistant, to discuss opportunities for cooperation, and in particular to identify development needs of refugee women and possible mechanisms to support them.

ICHD team conducted a series of individual and group interviews with officials at the State Migration Service (STS) of the Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia (MTA); representatives of local NGOs of refugees and ones active in lobbying for refugee issues; trainers who have delivered training to groups of refugee women on issues of gender equality and gender-based violence; ICHD partners in the consortium of local NGOs combating GBV in Armenia; and rep-

resentatives of UNHCR/Armenia. A focus group was held with the representatives of refugee organizations including "Unity" («Միասնություն»), "Swallow" («Ծիծեռնակ»), "Alarm" («Ահազան») NGOs, "Agrarian" Union of Refugees and refugee women.

## Promoting Armenian-Turkish Rapprochement

USAID and the Consortium Members support Armenia-Turkey rapprochement by facilitating engagement between civil society groups, establishment and development of business partnerships and regional professional networks, and enhanced understanding between the people, in order to promote peace and economic integration in the region. Several actions have been undertaken towards meeting this goal.

One of the significant actions was the off-the-record discussion "Armenian-Turkish relations: windows of possibilities" held at ICHD on 25 January, 2011. Thirty representatives of the government, civil society institutions and think tanks, private businesses and development partners participated in the discussion. The results of the discussion were consolidated in the subsequent policy brief.

On January 26 the heads of Consortium partners that had signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on Regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations (ICHD, UMBA, EPF and YPC) met with Armenian foreign policy state officials to discuss the rapprochement project.

On 4 February representatives of ICHD and its partner, the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV), participated in a videoconference in the framework of the Armenian-Turkish rapprochement project. The participants discussed the plan of activities for the first semester of 2011. The second videoconference on March 25 focused on the issue of how policy alternatives generated by think tanks affect real foreign policies on Armenia-Turkey relations. The videoconference was organized in the framework of the USAID funded project "Support to Armenia-Turkey Rapprochement" implemented by the Consortium of local organizations.

In between the two videoconferences, on February 24 ICHD organized another Town Hall Meeting (THM) with the participation of over fifty experts and young leaders. The THM focused



Consortium members at a videoconference on Armenia-Turkey rapprochement organized by the ICHD and TESEV. March 2011. Yerevan.

on the issue of regulations necessary for the development of Armenia-Turkey relations.

In March the representatives of Consortium partners and USAID/Armenia Activity Manager Ms. Anahit Khachatryan discussed the first quarter of the project implementation, highlighting the practical issues of cooperation for the second quarter, as well as the mechanisms promoting civil society initiatives through open grants mechanism.

***THMs on Armenia-Turkey relations in Turkey***

Within the effort of Armenia-Turkey rapprochement ICHD partner think tank in Turkey, GAYA, has implemented three THMs on legal, business and political issues related to Armenia-Turkey rapprochement.

Over 120 experts representing various state, civil society and business institutions were involved in planning the THMs. The first discussion focusing on business issues was held in Kastamonu province, on March 3. The legal issues of the relations between the two countries were discussed in Mardin Province, at Artuklu University, on March 5, and finally, the political relations were the focus of the THM in Ankara, Mamak Vocational School, on March 15. About 70 participants attended each THM and the THM implementation team recorded about 150-180 opinions and ideas of participants at each meeting.

The participants have been asked to fill in questionnaires for further analysis of opinion change resulted through the THM discussion process. GAYA submitted the results of the survey to ICHD, which ICHD experts analyzed in parallel with the Armenian THM results on identical issues. The comparative analysis of the survey outputs gives policy makers a chance to understand the difference of attitudes in Armenia and Turkey, as well as the priorities in the issues regarding Armenia-Turkey relations as perceived by the participants. In addition, the survey attempts to assess the impact of THM discussion on participants.

**Building Local Capacities and Promoting Leadership**

***Conflict Transformation Skills for Young Leaders***

Twelve young leaders from Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh have been trained by ICHD in the framework of the initiative Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh (EPNK), which is a partnership of European NGOs working to enact initiatives which will cumulatively contribute to the peaceful settlement over Nagorno-Karabakh. The training was held in Vanadzor, on February 12-13, 2011. It aimed at developing the skills of young leaders in conflict transformation, creating a common vision and thus contributing to peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The trainees also gained skills in planning and implementing cross-border joint or cumulative peacebuilding activities aimed at promoting peaceful resolution of the NK conflict at societal level.

***Awareness Raising Meetings with Youth on EU and EU-Armenia Relations***

During February-March, 2011 in the frames of AEPLAC Phase

V project ICHD experts met with the youth in Gavar, Ijevan, Vanadzor, Gyumri, Yeghegnazdor, Kapan, Sisian and Goris. The aim of the meetings was to identify the information needs of regional youth on the EU and EU-Armenia relations, as well as to analyze this information gap. During the meetings the ICHD trainers presented the current status of the Armenia-EU relations, the prospect in the future, education and training opportunities in Europe for Armenian youth, the visa facilitation process, community development and other issues. In addition, in some of the cities a videoconference was organized with Alexei Sekarev, the AEPLAC Team Leader.



ICHD trainers conducting awareness raising meeting with young people in Ijevan. February 2011. Yerevan.

***Conference on Participatory European Integration***

On March 25, 2011 the Armenian-European Policy and Legal Advice Centre (AEPLAC) in cooperation with the EU Advisory Group to the Republic of Armenia and the International Center for Human Development organized a conference on participatory European integration. The conference served as a platform ensuring the participation of civil society organizations (CSO) in the advancement of the process of Armenia's European integration, in cooperation with the government, the parliament and the European integration state coordination bodies of Armenia. With the intensification of Armenian-European relations in the current Eastern Partnership framework, the participation of different stakeholders is constantly growing. Civil society is represented in the decision making process both at the legislative and executive levels. The coordination between



H.E. Mr. Raul de Luzenberger addresses European integration issues at ICHD's conference. March 2011. Yerevan.

representative bodies of CSOs, however, still needs to be reinforced to promote a better dialogue not only between the civil society and relevant state bodies, but also among civil society organizations themselves.



## ICHD in the Media

PanArmenian Net published the statement of the ICHD Executive Director Tevan Poghosyan at the Yerevan-Moscow TV space bridge, where he notes that if a war broke out in the Karabakh conflict zone, it will differ from that of the 1990s. Hostilities will involve not only the contact line of the armed forces, but also cities such as Baku and Gyanja. He was also interviewed by Lragir.am on regional security, NATO-Armenia cooperation issues and Armenia's prospective on NATO membership. At the interview to Armedia.am Mr. Poghosyan shared his impressions on his visit to Baku. The trip was made in the framework of the Regional Seminar "Structured Dialogue on the involvement of civil society and local authorities in EC Development Cooperation", from 9-10 February. 2011.

### *Euroforum Berlin 2011*

Www.euroforum-eastwest.org reports that six young Armenians represented ICHD in Euroforum Berlin on February 25-March 06, 2011 in Berlin, Germany. Euroforum Berlin brought together 40 young people representing eight NGOs and countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belarus, France, Spain, Germany and Poland. This was the seventh encounter of Euroforum East/West Network supported by the EU Youth in Action Program.

### *Meeting with PACE Co-Rapporteurs*

News. Am and Azatutyun.am report that John Prescott (United Kingdom, SOC) and Axel Fischer (Germany, EPP/CD), co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia, have met with civil society representatives during their fact-finding visit to Yerevan on 16 March, to which ICHD's Vahan Asatryan participated as well. In his speech the ICHD representative focused on the social and political transformations in Armenia in the past years.

### *ICHD Executive at the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum*

On February 1-3, 2011 the ICHD Executive participated in the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Steering Committee meeting in Brussels in the capacity of the Coordinator of the Working Group 4 (WG4): Contacts between people. The strategies for the EaP development for the upcoming year, as well as the gaps and success of the previous year's activities were discussed during the meeting. In the framework of the CSF Mr. Poghosyan held meetings with the President of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) Ms. Mercedes Bresso on 1 February and Commissioner Mr. Stefan Fuele on February 3.

### More about ICHD ▶

Established in March 2000 in Yerevan, the International Center for Human Development (ICHD or the Center) is a leading think tank in the South Caucasus that brings together a team of highly-qualified analysts and researchers with strong academic background and substantial experience in both public and private sectors committed to professional excellence and ethics. We cultivate a culture of inclusive policy making process, develop and introduce innovative instruments effective in the regional, national and local policy environments.

ICHD provides quality advice, policy analysis and development services to our stakeholders including government, civil society, the private sector and development partners, creating innovative policy communication tools and promoting adaptive environment for dialogue. We also champion development and introduction of new technologies used for effective participation of citizens in decision-making. Over the past decade ICHD became a center of excellence and knowledge in a broader region and internationally recognized as a credible and attractive partner.

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