

# International Centre for Democratic Transition

## 2012 Activity Report

### Introduction

Following the path of previous, successful years, ICDT has been an active player in the international non-governmental area even in the year 2012. Our list of projects show an impressive variation be it the focus, the topic, or geographical area. Besides organizing conferences on serious and relevant topics, such as the future of Afghanistan after 2014 or the commemoration of Raoul Wallenberg, ICDT has also aimed to be operative in Tunisia and especially in Moldova through various on-site development projects, or trainings organized in Hungary. ICDT has also continued to participate in the work and activities of the relatively young organization, the Community of Democracies. Last but not least, an initial pilot phase of the ambitious One World Learning project has been implemented with promising results.

### Projects

#### **Afghanistan After ISAF**

In order to reflect to the Second Bonn Conference held in December 2011 and the so-called *inteqal* (transition) process in general, ICDT organized the roundtable discussion titled “Afghanistan After ISAF” on January 27, 2012 in Budapest. The aim of the event was to bring together security sector, development aid experts and strategic planners from some of the partner countries with significant presence in Afghanistan along with NGO representatives and key figures from the country to a workshop that discusses a possible strategy for the post-2014 period in the international community’s activities. Besides featuring high-level speakers, including current and former official representatives from Afghanistan, NATO member and partner countries and the EU, the main achievement of the event was the fact that almost all countries with relevant presence in Afghanistan were represented at the roundtable and were engaged in the discussions that followed the keynote speeches.

The policy paper concluding the conference is available at:

<http://www.icdt.hu/documents/publications/Afghanistan-After-ISAF-Policy-Paper.pdf>

#### **One World Learning (OWL)**

Based on the Millennium Development Goals, the OWL project is aimed to provide opportunities for secondary school students in developed and developing countries and deepen their knowledge of foreign cultures and universal development issues, and to establish lasting international relationships. The quite unconventional face-to-face, real time conversations using Cisco equipment were conducted between the students of the Magnet High School in Kenya and the Berzsényi Dániel Secondary School

in Budapest during the pilot phase. Eighteen students and two teachers participated in an introductory session and three 2-hour teleclasses. The objective of the pilot project was to determine the feasibility of the project concept. By building upon this experience, we aim to continue the OWL project with an extensive series of thematized sessions, involving further students.

The OWL Booklet is available at: [http://www.icdt.hu/documents/projects/OWL\\_booklet\\_2012.pdf](http://www.icdt.hu/documents/projects/OWL_booklet_2012.pdf)

### **Cross-River Development**

The goal of the project was to improve the development of the conflict-shattered Transnistria region by providing training for governmental and non-governmental organizations and representatives of local authorities and presenting a relevant European model of regional development through good examples. Through the co-operative work of ICDT and its main partner, the Moldovan Foreign Policy Association, the beneficiary parties participated in workshops, trainings, and a field trip to Hungary that resulted in the elaboration of 3 regional development plans by the participants themselves. Long-term effects of the project are expected to be: increasing the economic development of the most stranded region, and local knowledge; boosting the integration process and decreasing security risks by enhancing trust; and developing social, cultural and economic relations.

### **Conference on Democracy and Human Rights (CODE) 2012**

A common initiative of the ICDT and the Tom Lantos Institute is to continue the new series of annual conferences titled CODE dealing with the most important issues of democracy and human rights. In the framework of the Wallenberg Year, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, the Raoul Wallenberg Association and the Holocaust Memorial Centre, the CODE 2012, organized on June 28 in Budapest, was partly devoted to commemorate Raoul Wallenberg. Several distinguished speakers gave lectures on the life work of the philanthropist, while other sessions covered current issues, like the human rights situation in the neighbourhood of the European Union, prejudices and conflict prevention, the different aspects of handling diversity in an increasingly diverse and multicultural world, as well as the future role of Europe in democracy promotion. In the closing panel outstanding personalities presented how they envisage the world in the next 20 years.

The booklet of the conference is available at: <http://www.icdt.hu/documents/projects/CODE2012-booklet-EN.pdf>

### **Promoting Moldova's EU Aspirations**

The ICDT has long been carrying out a successful activity in the Eastern European region, especially in Moldova. This ambitious project with a well-designed strategy aims at contributing to the reform of the country's Ministry of Internal Affairs, police and border forces, and at addressing certain aspects of the conflict in Transnistria. In addition, it aims at assisting the Moldovan government and the Ministry of Defence in reviewing the National Security Strategy and in preparing the National Military Strategy and its supporting documents. The key activities to reach the project's objectives have been: 1. organizing workshops including representatives of relevant ministries and the civil society, along with study trips and site visits of international experts; 2. holding discussions and negotiations with

representatives of ministries and the civil society and providing advocacy, as well as drafting lists of recommendations based on these activities.

### **Capacity Building in the Dniester/Nistru Euroregion**

Based on a feasibility study prepared by the ICDT in 2010, the Centre also assisted in launching the Dniester/Nistru Euroregion, involving various districts of Ukraine, Moldova and the Transnistrian region. To provide further support for the Euroregion in the years 2012 and 2013, the ICDT is providing technical assistance in the institutional development of the organisation through on-site trainings for the operational and administrative staff of the Coordination Centre and the Board of the Euroregion. The aim is to equip them with experience, capabilities and competencies to develop their own projects, and thus, in an indirect way, support the whole population of the Euroregion.

### **Immersion Program for Tunisian Political Activists in Hungary**

The ICDT organized a study trip for leading Tunisian politicians between September 9-15 in Budapest, in cooperation with the International Republican Institute (IRI) and the Central European University. During their one week long visit to Hungary, the delegates of the Tunisian political parties took part in academic sessions every morning, while in the afternoon they met key figures of the Hungarian democratic transition, including representatives of the economic sector and non-governmental organizations and got acquainted with various types of organizations through site visits. The project was implemented in the framework and according to the guidelines of IRI's Rising Stars program, to ensure the leaders of new democracies are fully equipped with skills in effective democratic governance before they take office.

### **Main donors in 2012**

Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Helen Bader Foundation

NATO Public Diplomacy Division

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

International Visegrad Fund

International Republican Institute

Government of Finland

Slovak Atlantic Commission

MOL

### **Partners in 2012**

Tom Lantos Institute

Hungarian Institute for International Affairs

Central European University

Cisco Hungary

Foreign Policy Association

NGO Interaction

Faluműhely Alapítvány

Raoul Wallenberg Association

Holocaust Memorial Centre