Social **L**egacy **P**rogram (SLP):

Transparent Education Network (TEN)

Program Update: Armenia

TEN
Transparent Education Network

March 2010

Project Overview

The USAID Eastern Europe & Eurasia Social Legacy Program (SLP) reaches out to youth and other vulnerable groups in the Europe and Eurasia region, giving them the tools they need to become local leaders and promote social change. SLP is implemented by Education Development Center (EDC) through EQUIP3 — a USAID-funded mechanism focused on youth development. SLP is implementing three components in the E&E region: 1) Anti-corruption in Education in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Macedonia; 2) Disabilities in Armenia and Georgia; and 3) Workforce Development in Kosovo and Montenegro.

The SLP **Anti-Corruption** component has developed the Transparent Education Network (TEN) aimed at: (a) raising awareness about corruption in education and its impact on society; (b) strengthening local capacity to analyze effects of corruption in education at individual and school levels; and (c) promote a culture of transparency and accountability in secondary- and tertiary-level schools.

SLP-TEN Activities in Armenia.

Small Grants to Raise Youth Awareness on Corruption in Education

In recent months, NGOC awarded four anti-corruption youth-focused NGOs in Vanadzor with small grants to advance various anticorruption initiatives and raise awareness on issues related to corruption. The grants enabled NGOs to organize and fund a wide array of innovative events that drew hundreds of youth together. Through this targeted approach, the youth were provided with a safe environment to not only discuss and learn about the impact of corruption in education, but also to share ideas about how to reduce corruption.

To maximize the number and type of youth who benefited from these initiatives, NGOs employed different approaches to raise awareness about the negative impact of corruption. In some cases, NGOs first administered surveys to assess the extent to which the youth understood anti-corruption legislation, and then developed informative booklets and posters which were publically displayed. To further equip the youth with up to date information, representatives from various Higher Education Institutions student councils organized conferences, debates and round-table discussions that focused on the RA Criminal Code and corresponding legal sanctions. One NGO sponsored a live radio broadcast which allowed for a lively exchange of experiences, best practices and concerns. There were also theatrical performances as well as concerts which featured local celebrities who joined efforts to advocate against corruption.

"Say NO to corruption" concert organized by anti-corruption youth focused NGO in Vanadzor, Selen.

A small play staged to show consequences of corruption organized by YMCA

The Transparent Education Network (TEN) brings together key individuals and organizations from the Europe and Eurasia region to foster peer-to-peer collaboration and dialogue and share lessons learned, best practices, challenges, and knowledge / resources relevant for understanding and addressing the issues related to corruption in education.

EDC is working with various organizations to implement project activities with youth including: 1) **NGO Center (NGOC)** in Armenia; 2) **YUVA Humanitarian Center (YUVA)** in Azerbaijan; and 3) **Youth Educational Forum (YEF)** in Macedonia.