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Social Legacy Program (SLP) Transparent Education Network (TEN) Program Update: Azerbaijan



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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.



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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 Azerbaijan

Since February 2009, EDC is working with Azerbaijan-based YUVA Humanitarian Center to increase awareness and strengthen the role of youth to address corruption in education in the Caucasian country. SLP-TEN activities to promote transparency in higher education are building on existing efforts by student groups campaigning for integrity in universities.

SLP-TEN activities during the first few weeks of implementation have focused on building the network of youth interested in these issues. To accomplish that, the project conducted focus group discussions and meetings with students to openly discuss concerns related to corruption in education, particularly as they relate to bribery—which is among the corrupt practices that students are more exposed to. The general opinion was that corruption was part of daily life in Azerbaijan and that students partake in corrupt activities partly because they see that others are doing it, thus, becoming a vicious cycle. In the discussions, youth participants expressed their interest to be part of the TEN as a way to begin to addressing these systemic issues starting with individual actions and most immediate circles and expanding outward.

SLP-TEN capitalized on the focus groups and discussion forums to educate youth with general information about corruption in education—causes and effects, the various forms of corruption, and most importantly how we can begin to address corruption.



SLP-TEN Youth Participants Engaged in Focus Group Activities at a Youth Activity Support Center in Baku

