



NEWSLETTER

DEMOCRACY STARTS WITH YOU!

IMPROVING CIVIC PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE
FROM MINORITY AND RURAL AREAS IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS REGION



1ST EDITION
February 2011

Democracy Starts With You!-Improving Civic Participation of Youth from Minority and Rural Areas of the South Caucasus Region.

Simulation Exercises on Political Participation, Representation and Decision Making Process Taking Place in 60 Public Schools of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

WWW.DSWY.EU



Around 1200 pupils were engaged in civic participation simulations in 60 Armenian, Azerbaijani and Georgian schools. 30 11th-grade pupils from each participating school simulated the process of political participation, representation and decision making during four days. The Simulation games were run by 180 trained teachers involved in "Democracy starts with you!" project. Meetings with representatives of youth wing members of governmental and oppositional political parties, well-known

journalists and visits to city municipalities in regions and administrative districts in the capital had its positive influence as it was very important for pupils to get in touch with politically active citizens. The main slogan of the projects **"Democracy has to be experienced; it cannot be learnt from books only!"** proved to have direct impact on the project development. Local media was actively covering ongoing processes in schools. Several local broadcasting companies covered the activity as well as some newspaper articles were specially dedicated to the importance of this initiative for local youth. Public outreach was broader than initially expected.

The simulation games provided the environment where a group of decision makers tested different approaches to a particular problem and used the environment to come to a specific set of quality decisions. For additional information please visit our web site: www.dswy.eu

First Gathering of Teachers Association- "Teachers for Civic Education"- Held in Batumi, Georgia

On 25-26 February 2011 first gathering of the association of teachers took place in Batumi, Georgia. 30 elected teachers from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia were participating in the process of sharing teaching experience and providing further recommendations while planning upcoming teachers' trainings. Dr. Giorgi Gakheladze, Dr. Richard Giragosian and Mrs. Aybaniz Mammadova were invited as local experts. Dr. Gakheladze spoke about importance of civic education in democratization process of the country and gave a short overview of significant researches of Georgian scholars in this regard. He pointed out a number of recently pub-



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lished books as well as internet resources available not only in Georgian, but also in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Dr. Gakheladze prepared numerous handouts that were translated into relevant languages and provided it to the teachers.

One elected teacher per country made a short presentation about process and outcome of conducted democracy simulation exercises in their country. They stressed out the different approaches and methodology they used while conducting the four day simulation games. This part of the program was especially interesting for the whole group as it was the first time when teachers from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia were meeting each other and they were eager to know how their colleagues from other countries were involved in the project. For additional information please visit our web site: www.dswy.eu

Website: DSWY.EU Re-lounged!

“Democracy Starts With You!” lounged a new web site on the occasion of the Gathering of Teachers Association. The new web site offers multiple functions, including the [INTRANET](#) that allows the registered teachers to download necessary materials on Civic Education and interact with other teachers involved in the project. Please check our new web site on: www.dswy.eu

DSWY is now on Facebook!



www.facebook.com/Democracy_starts_with_you

“Democracy Starts With You!” is now on “Facebook”. Through facebook we keep networking with young people and teachers involved in the project. We keep them updated about the planned activities and post useful sources. Here you can find the photos and videos as well as media covering about our project activities. Just click “Like” and join us!

