



Foundation For Tolerance International

Preventing conflict and working towards peace and justice in Central Asia



Annual Report 2006



**Foundation for Tolerance International
Manaschy Sagynbaya 264, #27
Bishkek**

**Kyrgyz Republic
Central Asia**

Tel: (+996 312) 64-43-60, 64-46-58

Fax: (+996 312) 64-44-63

E-mail: fti@fti.kg

www.fti.org.kg



Contents

Introduction	3
Political Situation in Kyrgyzstan in 2006	4-5
Program Activities	6
I. Prevention and Peaceful Resolution of Interethnic Conflicts in the Ferghana Valley	8
II. Expansion of the room for Dialogue and Promotion of a Culture of Non-Violence between Civil Society and the State Bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic	13
III. Global and Regional Networks Initiatives	19
General Conclusions on Program Activities	21
Internal Organization of the Foundation	23
Monitoring and Evaluation of the Organization's Activities	26
General Conclusions regarding the Internal Organization of FTI	26
Appendix: Structure of FTI	28

Introduction

Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI) was founded as part of the UNHCR Conflict Transformation and Teaching Tolerance Project in March 1996 in accordance with the UNHCR violent conflict prevention strategy. FTI was officially registered as a non-governmental organization in 1998 with the mission to “promote a culture of nonviolence and tolerance; and prevent and nonviolently resolve interethnic conflicts in Central Asia”.

Today FTI is one of the largest Ferghana Valley NGOs and actively implements the program “Central Asia as a Region of Peace, Development and Cooperation”. This Program is supported by a range of international donors including HIVOS (The Netherlands), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, USAID, Counterpart Consortium, SOROS Foundation, the Democracy Commission under the U.S. Embassy in Kyrgyz Republic, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Danish Institute for Human Rights, UNDP, OSCE, and other prominent international organizations.

VISION

Central Asia is a peaceful region of cooperation and development.
It is a multicultural democratic society with just laws and an active civil society.

MISSION

- **Promotion of a culture of non-violence and tolerance in Central Asia;**
- **Prevention and non-violent resolution of conflicts in Central Asia.**

FTI carries out this mission by:

- ⇒ promoting a culture of non-violence and tolerance in Central Asia;
- ⇒ analyzing, researching and monitoring conflicts at various levels;
- ⇒ conducting negotiation, consensus-building and mediation between conflicting parties;
- ⇒ strengthening and expanding regional networks of civil society organizations and mediators;
- ⇒ Strengthening the capacity of civil society and the state structures for conflict transformation and consensus building;
- ⇒ expanding spaces for dialogue to enhance cooperation between civil society, the authorities, law enforcement bodies, religious institutions, the media, political parties and the parliament;
- ⇒ advocacy and lobbying on issues of conflict and peace.

Political Situation in Kyrgyzstan in 2006

Despite the statements of the country's leadership, **2006 has not been a time of stabilization and large-scale reforms** capable of fundamentally changing the political landscape of Kyrgyzstan. The tightly corporate character of the March 2005 revolution clearly brought advantages to only a limited group of individuals. Disappointment is the direct result of this, as both ordinary citizens expecting quick improvements in their situation and many of the 'fathers' of the revolution have not seen the realization of their ambitious dreams. As a result, the relationship crisis within the highest political ranks has come out into the open, taking the form of a confrontation between the legislative and executive branches of power, with the participation of the most active members of civil society.

November Events 2006

What happened?

On 2 November in Bishkek the opposition movement 'For Reforms' started a non-stop demonstration.

What were their demands?

The opposition made 11 demands to the President and Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, including:

- to bring before Parliament within 10 days a Constitutional Act, prepared at the first post-revolution Constitutional Conference (in July 2005);
- to form a coalition Government of the Peoples' Trust;
- for President Bakiev to recall a veto on the creation of a public TV station on the premises of the Kyrgyz TV-Radio company and sign it within 10 days;
- for President Bakiev to remove all his relatives from high government posts;
- to remove from the agenda questions about joining the HIPC program and transferring energy companies.



What were the consequences?

On 9 November, under pressure from the opposition and in a situation of political crisis, a New Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic was passed, which contained several contradictions and shortcomings. **The November edition of the Constitution was passed** with the aim of preventing an escalation of social tension. It was a compromise decision.

In December the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic resigned. The resignation of the Parliament intensified both the difficult socio-political and socio-economic situation in the country. Ideas concerning the dissolution of parliament and holding of early parliamentary elections started to be actively advanced in society. At the same time no laws relating to the new Constitution, such as an Election Code, a law on political parties or a law on government, had yet been brought in.

In connection with the resignation of Parliament problems arose relating to the formation of the Government in agreement with the November Constitution, and about the competence of the Parliament to take decisions. In order to avoid an escalation of political tensions capable of splitting the country in two, a **different version of the Constitution** was prepared, which was **passed on 30 December 2006**. MPs had no choice but to sign this edition and debates about the legitimacy of the Constitution continue.

Political Situation in Kyrgyzstan in 2006

On 6 January, 2006 in Bishkek representatives of non-governmental organizations and political parties signed a document **creating the People's Coalition of Democratic Forces (NKDS)**. The new opposition block included the most influential and powerful parties and non-governmental organizations in the country. All those joining the NKDS expressed their dissatisfaction with the post-revolutionary politics of the government. In particular, they were dissatisfied with the actions of the President, Kurmanbek Bakiev.

In the spring of 2006 the government voiced thoughts about Kyrgyzstan joining the HIPC program (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries debt relief initiative of the World Bank). Kyrgyzstan was faced with another dilemma: whether to join the HIPC program and pay off its debts that way or not. In Kyrgyz society active debates took place, and on the streets of the capital there were demonstrations. Society was divided on this question, but the presence of very different interpretations of the conditions of HIPC demonstrated the **presence of an information vacuum** amongst the general population.

Favorable Factors for Program Realization

The stormy political events were positive to the extent that they provoked a broad **discussion in society about the path of development for Kyrgyzstan**. It became obvious that there is a need for the organization of special spaces for dialogue so that these questions can be discussed within the framework of civil society.

In February changes to the laws **“On local self-governance bodies and local state administrations”** and **“On the status of members of local parliaments”** were passed. This led to a decentralization of power, bringing it closer to the people through the development of self-governance bodies. In particular it is hoped that this will lead to the development of joint interest and responsibility at the level of local communities. The course and realization of reforms in the country depends on the extent to which people are prepared not only to independently determine their affairs, but also to exercise control over the activities of higher standing officials.

In May a decree was signed on strengthening **mutual cooperation between state structures, self-governance bodies and civil society**. The intention is that an integrated system of developing and taking decisions on questions of

state governance and local self-government will be created. The introduction of standards of public politics should allow the interests of all interested levels of society to be taken into consideration.

The events of recent years have clearly demonstrated the need to discuss **mechanisms for state support of the “third sector”**. One such mechanism being considered is the introduction of a “state social order”, an initiative of the government to rework the legal basis for state support of the non-commercial sector by creating special instruments for state funding. This has been an important and timely step. A working group was established and a draft law prepared. Public discussions were held in order to draw up further recommendations and suggestions.

Challenges to Program Realization

The **policy of the authorities in relation to non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**, which until now has been relatively liberal, **shows a tendency towards stricter controls**. One example of this is that many directors of NGOs which took part in the November demonstrations have been called up to explain the activities of their organizations to the state security services.

The state campaign against the non-governmental sector in Uzbekistan **reduces the ability of Uzbek NGOs to actively participate in regional projects and networks**.

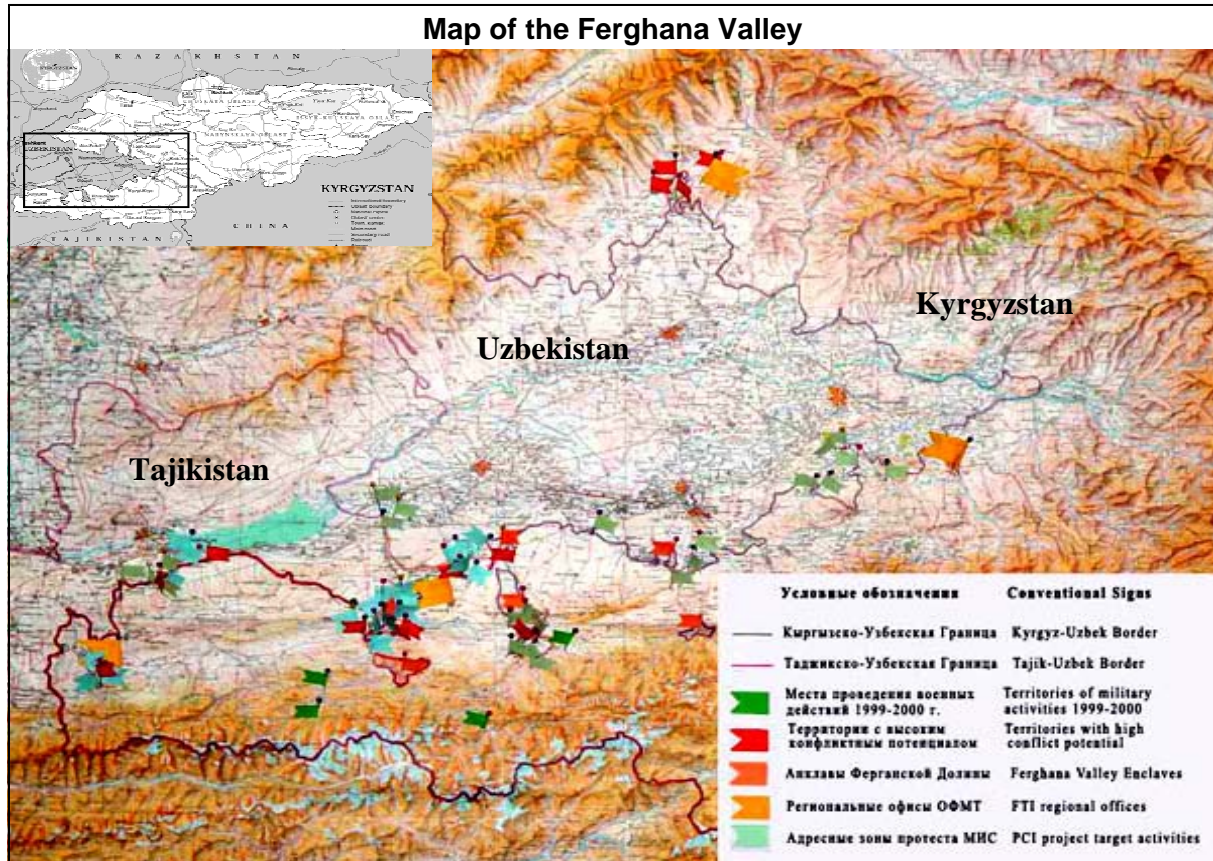
The unregulated migration processes in border regions **aggravate interethnic relations, increase conflict potential and serve as a destabilising factor in the region**. The current state Migration Policy Concept up to 2010 does not cover all the relevant problems and questions and fails to take into consideration the specific geographical and social features of such migration.

Migration and the **flow of professionals away from the regions** has created problems in realizing projects that are reliant on close cooperation with the state structures, due to a lack of specialists in the relevant bodies.

The rate of project activities in 2006 has decreased due to the difficult political situation. Since the March 2005 revolution **local authorities have been forced to manage current problems**, rather than working on long-term activities such as attracting investment and improving development.

Program Activities

The main target areas of Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI) are in the south of the country, in the **Ferghana Valley**. In the most part these areas include Kyrgyz communities situated along the borders with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, and also communities in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan situated along the Kyrgyz border. FTI is able to work in the border zones of neighbouring republics thanks to its links with partner Tajik and Uzbek NGOs, and also through two network projects.



One project, “Early Warning for Violence Prevention” works not only in the south of Kyrgyzstan, but also in the north, **covering all of the country’s seven provinces**.

New Stakeholders

Taking into consideration the unstable political situation in the country and with the aim of effectively fulfilling the mission of the organization, **in 2006 FTI broadened its activities and began to work with new stakeholders**, on whom the stabilization or destabilization of the country depends.

This includes the **Parliament**, which in line with the new Constitution gained much more power; the **political parties**, which will also play a leading role within the framework of the new Constitution; and in particular the **local self-governance bodies**, as it is these organs that should help citizens become aware that democracy is a social partnership, a form of personal participation of each individual in the affairs and concerns of his community.

Work on the reform of the law enforcement agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic, which is a priority for state and society, also remains a focus of FTI’s activities. FTI is a member of the Commission for Reform of the Law Enforcement Agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Working Methods

Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI) works with conflicts in order to **reduce the level of violence expressed in people's behavior and relationships** to each other in a variety of contexts, i.e. in circumstances that encourage violence.

In order to **prevent violent behavior** FTI's Program contains the following components:

- *monitoring conflict situations* and distributing reports to interested people so that competent institutions (authorities, NGOs, international organizations, community leaders and influential people) can timely and effectively intervene in order to resolve conflicts;
- *capacity building of civil society*, both at a local and regional level, with the aim of improving its ability to competently and effectively intervene in crisis situations;
- *mediation and negotiation work*, training local mediators and representatives of state structures in non-violent methods of conflict resolution.

FTI pays a lot of attention to the less obvious and **hidden aspects of violence present in relationships** through the following activities:

- *organization of social, cultural and sport*

events, and creation of joint working groups, aimed at the elimination of negative perceptions and relations between different ethnic groups;

- *facilitating dialogue between the authorities, law enforcement agencies and civil society*, when negative, suspicious relations between these structures arise. The creation of contacts and personal relationships between people in different organizations encourages them to work together in crisis situations.

FTI also works with violence in context by addressing problems such as border problems, the dissemination of incorrect information or a lack of information, corruption and inappropriate application of laws. Work on these aspects is carried out by means of:

- dialogue with the authorities with the aim of achieving positive changes;
- distribution of information at social meetings and via the media;
- monitoring border posts and customs controls;
- lobbying and conducting advocacy campaigns;
- mobilization of allies and creation of groups and organizations of like-minded people.

Program Directions

Within the framework of its program activities FTI carried out **eleven projects in 2006**. The projects followed three program directions:

I. Prevention and peaceful resolution of interethnic conflicts in the Ferghana Valley;

II. Expansion of room for dialogue and promotion of a culture of nonviolence between civil society and state bodies;

III. Global and regional network initiatives.

I. Prevention and Peaceful Resolution of Interethnic Conflicts in the Ferghana Valley

Three projects working in the Kyrgyz-Tajik and Kyrgyz-Uzbek border territories were aimed at:

- ▶ Strengthening the capacity of communities to resolve conflicts by peaceful methods at the local and regional levels;
- ▶ Reducing the risk of escalation of conflicts triggered by shortages of natural resources by mobilizing the communities and enhancing the ties between the population in border areas and between ethnic groups from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in the Ferghana Valley;
- ▶ Facilitating cooperation and the development of constructive dialogue between cross-border communities;
- ▶ Strengthening the involvement of local communities in the decision making process affecting the socio-economic situation in the regions;
- ▶ Providing assistance in legalizing the status of illegal migrants and individuals without citizenship, and preventing the growth of illegal migration of citizens of Tajikistan into Kyrgyzstan.
- ▶ Increasing the involvement of youth in improving interethnic relations between border communities.

Names of projects and donors	Number of communities covered by the project	Partners
Support of Civil Accord and Regional Dialogue in Aksy Donor: HIVOS (Netherlands)	Kyrgyzstan: six rural administration areas of Aksy and Alabun districts of Jalalabad province	
Regional Dialogue and Development Donor: The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Kyrgyzstan: village councils of Aksai, Aktatir and Samarkandek, Batken district Tajikistan: jamoats (rural administrations) Chrku, Vorukh, Surkh of Isfara district	Tajikistan: NGO Ittifok, Women's World Uzbekistan: NGO Demtalim
Peaceful Communities Initiatives Donor: USAID through Mercy Corps	Kyrgyzstan: three village councils	Mercy Corps, village councils of Aktash, Kashkakishtak, Barpi

Monitoring the level of Social Tension

20 organizations in Aksy district, potential interveners capable of influencing the resolution of problems, received monitoring reports on the level of social tension in the target rural administration areas of the project. These reports led to:

- ▶ An increase in the civic activity of the population (mediators, informal community leaders and other interested parties) in lobbying the interests of the population;
- ▶ Attracted the attention of the provincial authorities (province administration, provincial Department of Interior) to the need to resolve acute problems causing tension.

Recommendations from the monitoring reports enabled local authorities to hold a range of

events, which helped resolve problems in the district:

- ▶ The population in the target areas (about 300 individuals) received information about cooperating with the police in the fight against crime;
- ▶ Written agreements were established between rural administration areas on the borders of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan concerning the communal use of pastures and easing the process of customs checks when crossing the border to sell produce at markets;
- ▶ The level of rent for pastures and payment mechanisms were determined;
- ▶ The number of traders from Uzbekistan increased, enabling prices for everyday goods to be lowered;
- ▶ The population in the target areas received the agreed volume of water for irrigation.

Training in Non-Violent Conflict Resolution

Trainings were conducted with representatives of the local authorities, law enforcement agencies, political parties and informal leaders to increase their level of knowledge and thus the possibilities for mutual cooperation in the prevention and non-violent resolution of conflicts.

Eleven seminars were held on the themes of conflict transformation, mediation and negotiation, monitoring and analysing problems, social partnership, project development, team building and management of multiethnic relations. Altogether 220 people took part in the seminars. Participants sent appeals to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, K. Bakiev, Prime Minister, F. Kulov, and speaker of the Jorgush Kenesh (Parliament) M. Sultanov requesting assistance in speeding up the process of the demilitarisation and demarcation of the state borders of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Tajikistan.

Information Campaign

A large-scale information campaign was conducted to increase the knowledge of local residents about:

- ▶ the status of disputed territories;
- ▶ the rules and norms of pasture use;
- ▶ border crossing procedures;
- ▶ the political situation in Kyrgyzstan, the HIPC program, presidential and parliamentary forms of governance.



Activities aimed at improving the level of information available to the population included explanatory work, broadcasting TV/ radio role-plays (x3) and talk-shows (x2), distribution of booklets and brochures (2960 copies), and of monitoring reports on the conflict situation in the region (19 reports), the installation of information panels (x4), the organization of roundtables and forums (x4) and open days for legal queries (183 attendees).

Increasing Dialogue

Project activities **broadened the space for dialogue** between representatives of civil society and state structures.

Forums of women mediators were held in Batken (Kyrgyz Republic) and Isfara (Tajikistan) with the aim of planning mechanisms for mutual cooperation and producing recommendations on the development of cross-border cooperation in the social-cultural and economic spheres for representatives of the state and business structures, associations of businesswomen and local self-governance bodies .

Three roundtables were organized on the theme of **“Cooperation of all parties in maintaining**

stability in Batken oblast”. Representatives of political parties, law enforcement agencies, local authorities, NGOs and the media participated in these discussions. As a result a joint action plan for securing political stability in the region was prepared.

Three roundtables were organised to allow **discussion of the additions and changes to the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic**. NGO leaders, members of political parties, the authorities, law enforcement agencies and media took part. Participants had the opportunity to express their opinions about the proposed changes and additions to the Constitution, and also to voice their visions for the Constitution. The resulting recommendations of citizens were sent to the Constitutional Conference of the Kyrgyz Republic for consideration.

In Aksy rayon three **meetings were organised with MPs A. Beknazarov and R. Mamirov**. As a result an agreement on regular meetings between the population and the MPs' assistants was reached. Since September the project has held monthly meetings with the MPs' assistants, where problems of social tension in the region and ways and mechanisms for cooperating to resolve existing problems are discussed.

Capacity Building of Local Institutions

Project activities enabled the creation and **strengthening of local institutions** with the aim of establishing dialogue and development at the community and cross-community levels. A universal educational program of trainings, roundtables, exchange visits and consultations carried out within the framework of FTI's projects has produced its results.

In Aksy rayon a **Network of Mediators** is functioning, which has grown to include 29 individuals (there were 21 mediators in the first stage of the project). These individuals carry out mediation work, enabling the resolution of various problems causing conflicts.

A **cross-border network of female mediators** from Batken (Kyrgyzstan) and Isfara (Tajikistan) districts has been created to further strengthen dialogue, good neighbourly relations and negotiation and mediation activities in the border territories of the two countries. Two national centres under the Department of Women's and Family Affairs have been established at the provincial and district level of state administration in both countries in order to facilitate coordination of the activities of the network of mediators.

On the initiative of the female mediators and using their available resources, two joint events were organised: an exhibition of national folk dishes from the Ferghana Valley, and joint celebrations of the Spring festival of Noorus.

Conflicts over the Use of Pastures and Water: Learning to Solve Problems Independently

In Batken province **initiative groups** were created, which prepared three project proposals concerning the problems of the joint use of pastures and water resources in the border communities of Batken (Kyrgyzstan) and Isfara (Tajikistan) districts. These projects were then financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the following achievements were made:

Concerning the problem of the joint use of pastures: A mutual agreement was reached between the village councils of Samarkandek, Aktatir and Aksai of Batken district and the forestry commission of Batken district concerning the borders of grazing and non-grazing pastures.

Concerning the problem of the use of water resources:

Three agreements were reached between the district water boards of Batken (Kyrgyzstan) and Isfara (Tajikistan):

- Agreement to provide irrigation water from the river Isfarink for the villages Min-Oruk, Koshtash (Kyrgyzstan) and Surkh, Chorku (Tajikistan);
- Agreement between Isfara Town Water Board and Batken District Water Board to provide water to the villages of Aktatir,

Samarkandek and Aksai (Kyrgyzstan) from the canal "Machai" (Tajikistan);

- Agreement of both sides on joint monthly metering checks by the water boards of Batken and Isfara districts.

In addition, leaders of the communities of Todzhikon (Tajikistan) and Aksai (Kyrgyzstan) successfully put into practice the knowledge and skills they had gained. They independently realised a joint project to reduce tension and strengthen good neighbourly relations in the villages of Somoniyon-Koktash and Tazhikon-Aksai, financed by SDC.



Consultations for Migrants

Practical work was carried out to provide assistance to migrants and individuals without citizenship, helping them with the process of legalizing their status. Through the distribution of information and consultations the project aimed to help prevent the growth of illegal migration, particularly of citizens of Tajikistan into Kyrgyzstan.

Within the framework of the project 14 working meetings and six informational-explanatory meetings were held with residents of border villages and village councils of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The aim was to develop recommendations and proposals for solving the problems of citizenship and migration. More than 30 individual consultations were also held. As a result 95 migrants successfully legalized their stay on the territory of Zhanzher and Kulundin village councils (they received temporary registration) and another three individuals prepared and submitted their documents changing their citizenship.

Activating Youth

In order to engage youth in improving interethnic relations between border communities, strengthen the role of Youth Initiative groups and develop leadership qualities, the following events were held:

- ▶ Summer youth camps teaching peacebuilding, leadership and tolerance;
- ▶ Games and events focused on the fight against corruption;
- ▶ Sport activities;
- ▶ Media projects.



Difficulties Encountered and Lessons Learnt

In the course of realizing projects aimed at "Prevention and Non-Violent Resolution of Interethnic Conflicts in the Ferghana Valley," the following problems arose and lessons were learnt from the experience:

- ▶ Few of the trained mediators are actively carrying out mediation work. One reason for this passivity is a lack of motivation on the part of the mediators.
- ▶ The weak potential of local leaders to work with vertical conflicts. Representatives of civil society have little experience of lobbying their interests in the provincial legislatures and lack knowledge of government policies that are the root causes of many conflicts.
- ▶ Difficulties in working on cross-border projects were caused by administrative barriers created by the relative state bodies of the neighbouring republics. These affected the ability of beneficiaries to participate in project events.
- ▶ Monitoring conflicts demonstrated the level of interethnic tension in the region, which is intensified by the difficult political situation and the increasing poverty of the population.
- ▶ The constant change in officials working in the state structures interferes with the effective realization of project activities. New officials lack experience, particularly in cooperative work with international projects and programs.
- ▶ The leadership of local state authorities is often afraid to take independent decisions or sign agreements without the permission of higher bodies.
- ▶ The low level of participation of women in the process of developing cross-border dialogue remains a current problem.

Recommendations for Future Action

Taking into consideration the results achieved, a foundation has been created for the work of new projects which enable the cooperative resolution of many border problems of an economic and social character. It is worth developing the successes achieved and consolidating the mutual cooperation with representatives of the state and business associations.

- ▶ It is imperative to **pay more attention to work with initiative groups, mediator networks, the creation of women's networks**, etc. These structures are at the development stage and the enthusiasm of members of such institutions needs both moral and material support.
- ▶ To develop media links in order to create a **broader discussion of questions and problems concerning the border communities**.
- ▶ To develop an educational program for mediators in order to give them knowledge and **skills for working with vertical conflicts and conducting advocacy campaigns**.
- ▶ To develop **mechanisms to motivate local mediators** to play a key role in preventing local conflicts.
- ▶ To develop a program for the exchange of experiences between mediators working in different projects in different regions.
- ▶ **To build connections** with programs of other organizations working on similar activities.
- ▶ To strengthen the work directed at **improving interethnic tolerance** between different ethnic groups.
- ▶ To **strengthen the participation of women** in the development of cross-border dialogue.



II. Expansion of the room for Dialogue and Promotion of a Culture of Non-Violence between Civil Society and the State Bodies of Kyrgyz Republic

Six projects were aimed at:

- ▶ Developing the capacity of the social and political system in Kyrgyzstan to resolve conflicts and contribute to the regulation and transformation of intensive internal conflicts by non-violent means;
- ▶ Strengthening the understanding of citizens of Batken province of the role and function of political parties in multiparty democracy, capacity building with political parties in the areas of internal party management and strategic planning (developing programs, fundraising, PR, regional representation), creating the conditions for citizens of Batken province to have effective contacts with the political parties;
- ▶ Strengthening the accountability and transparency of local self-governance bodies in Osh and Batken provinces by building the capacity of these bodies;
- ▶ Supporting initiatives of civil society in lobbying and promoting their interests.

Names of projects and donors	Number of communities covered by the projects	Partners
Early Warning for Violence Prevention Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium	Seven provinces of Kyrgyzstan	
I choose this party because... Donor: Caritas, France	Batken province	NDI Kadamzhai, Kizil-Kia IRI
Strengthening the role of local self-governance bodies and holding budget hearings Donor: USAID	Two village councils in Karasuu district, Osh province	Mercy Corps, Department of organizational work and local self-governance of Osh provincial administration
Accountability and Transparency of Local Self-governance Bodies Donor: SOROS Kyrgyzstan	Two village councils in Batken district	Batken district financial department
Democracy in Remote Places Donor: SOROS Kyrgyzstan	Three village councils in Leilek district, Batken province	Leilek district administration, the district Kenesh (parliament), target village councils
Center for Civil Society Support Donor: USAID	Batken province	Information Centers NDI Kadamzha, Kizil-Kia, Sulokt; Public association Counterpart-Sheriktesh

Supporting Multi-Party Democracy

A “**House of Political Parties**” has been created in the Batken branch office of FTI. This is a resource center for representatives of political parties and an information center for citizens interested in questions of multi-party democracy. At the center clients can use technical resources, literature, access the internet, and organize meetings, roundtables, debates and party meetings. The Center had

more than 200 visitors between October 2006 and 1 January 2007 (representatives of political parties, youth and ordinary citizens of Batken district).

A guide to “Political Parties in Batken Province” was prepared for publication. This includes all political parties working in Batken province, with information about their leaders, size, party profiles, main program aims and contact details. It contains information about 10 political parties represented in Batken province.

Supporting Multi-Party Democracy

A **Young Politicians' Club** was created with the aim of motivating young people to get involved in the decision-making process. At the present time there are 25 regular members of the club. They organized **meetings between representatives of political parties and students** in higher education institutes. As a result of these meetings young people learnt about the activities of the political parties in Batken province, and also discussed the most pressing current problems in the area. Club members are themselves regular participants in events held by the political parties. This included taking part in preparing three appeals of the political parties between September and December 2006 relating to the socio-political situation in the country.

In order to **build the capacity of regional branches of the political parties**, three trainings were organized related to improving internal party management, fundraising and promoting the interests of citizens. More than 50 people from regional branches of the political parties took part in these trainings, as well as members of the Young Politician's Club.

Three round tables were organized to **inform people about the new edition of the Constitution** of the Kyrgyz Republic, to analyze

the activities of political parties and discuss future prospects for the development of regional branches of the political parties.

Citizens were given the opportunity to discuss and express their opinions about the most important socio-political questions and events in the country by participation in a **TV talk show with the themes "What form of government does Kyrgyzstan need?" and "Should Kyrgyzstan join the HIPC program?"**. Thirty-two people took part in the show, which was organized together with Batken RTV. During the talk show participants discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each of the three forms of governance relevant to Kyrgyzstan, and the positive and negative aspects of joining the HIPC program.

A **discussion forum** on the theme of "The political situation in the country: commentaries and proposals" was held. **Representatives of the following political parties took part:** "My country", "Fatherland", "New Kyrgyzstan", the Liberal-progressive party, and leaders of the Young Politician's club. During the forum questions were discussed about the current political situation in the country, the dismissal of the President that was being called for, the role and position of political parties in that process and possible ways to resolve the situation.



Supporting Civil Society

The Center for Civil Society Support provided consultations for 525 clients (NGO representatives, state structures) on the following topics: developing projects, creating business plans, developing strategic plans, forming social partnerships, registering an NGO, conducting a combined estimate of community needs, and legal questions. Another 368 clients received technical support from the Center for Civil Society Support.

Seminars were held for more than 70 representatives of NGOs, initiative groups, state structures and the business sector, providing trainings in fundraising, PR, developing network activities and strategic planning. As a result, three NGOs (the organizations Baar, Ayalzat and Omur bulagi) developed strategic plans and the Association of Zhamaats (local administrations) of Kara-bak village council, Batken district was created.

The staff of Batken office was involved in administering grants from the Association of Centers for Civil Society Support as part of the **grant program “Supporting community activities” with a focus on advocacy**. In the framework of this grant program seven NGO projects were supported by a total sum of \$15,484. Projects included protecting the rights of students, consumers of electricity and land users; providing the population with medical insurance; provision of land plots for families living in areas threatened by mountain floods, and strengthening the advocacy skills of high school students. As a result:

- ▶ In the framework of the project “Zhivaya kaplya” (Living Drop) of NGO Oluya pirim twelve honored blood donors in Batken district received benefits in the form of free public transport, 50% reduction in land taxes and free hospital treatment;
- ▶ As part of the project “Land rights” of the initiative group Dostuk, appeals were prepared and sent to Karak-Bak village council, Batken district and the allocation of land plots in less dangerous territories for 14 families living in dangerous areas achieved;
- ▶ As part of the project “My Right” the organization Nurelyet lead an **advocacy campaign against the coercive use of students’ physical labor** in agricultural work and during the time of mass political protests, in which the administrations forced students

to participate. An appeal about the problem was sent to the governor of Batken province and the rector of Batken University, asking them to take appropriate measures to stop this. As a result, the Academic Council of Batken University took the decision to forbid any forced labor from student during their studies. The same document also states that students should only attend mass meetings or ceremonies on a voluntary basis.



Advocacy campaigns were conducted concerning the statement of the Minister of Justice regarding checks on the activities of NGOs, as well as a discussion of the statement of the Ombudsman about the introduction of changes to the law “On non-commercial organizations,” which seriously limited the activities of NGOs. Discussions were held about the proposed law “On state social order”, the proposed Constitution, and different forms of governance in which 100 individuals took part. These included representatives of NGOs, state structures, law enforcement authorities and the media from Batken province. As a result of these advocacy campaigns the following was achieved:

- ▶ Appeals from the NGOs in Batken province were developed and sent to the Kyrgyz President and the Minister of Justice about controls on the activities of NGOs and the necessity of recalling his statement. It was pointed out that the initiative of the Ombudsman should be ignored as it infringed upon the constitutional rights of the citizens of Kyrgyzstan.
- ▶ Five amendments to the law “On state social order” were discussed and submitted to the working group dealing with this.
- ▶ As a result of a roundtable more than 15 recommendations and proposals from citizens regarding constitutional changes were developed and submitted for consideration.

Strengthening the Accountability and Transparency of Local Self-Governance Bodies

406 representatives of the local Keneshes (parliaments), rural administrations, civil society and informal institutions underwent training. Participants gained both theoretical and practical knowledge in the areas of advocacy and the basics of local self-governance bodies. They learnt the rules for creating, approving and using local budgets, the principles of public politics and management of diversity in multi-ethnic communities, and also gained practical ideas for involving citizens in the management of public affairs.

Practical trainings on conducting public budget hearings were held with the accounting departments of the rural administrations, the MPs' budget working group and economists of the local parliaments, including experts from the financial structures at the district and provincial level. As a result, the aim of improving the budget policies of local self-governance bodies was furthered by the introduction of regulations

Early Warning for Violence Prevention

The Early Warning for Violence Prevention Project **constantly gathers information** from parties directly involved in conflict situations and permanently **monitors conflict dynamics** in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Project examines the results of the monitoring and publishes analysis and recommendations in Weekly Bulletins, which are disseminated to interested parties. The Project published 26 issues of the bulletin in 2006, which **were disseminated to 1,360 readers** from civil society, state structures, law enforcement agencies and international organizations.

The Weekly Bulletin consists of the following components:

- ▶ **Weekly Review** of violent/potentially violent situations, protest actions, provocative public statements, and official letters and complaints addressed to the Government.
- ▶ **Analysis of conflicts**, the potential for escalation and the possibility of violence. Analysis includes facts, issues and trigger mechanisms, parties to the conflict, dynamics of the conflict, and prognosis.
- ▶ **Recommendations** for direct intervention and political and legal changes, suggesting strategic moments for intervention in the

“On public audits” in the target village councils. These regulate procedures for public hearings on the most crucial questions of socio-economic development.

Eleven public hearings were held regarding the creation of rural administration budgets for 2007 and the use of budgets in 2006. These attracted a large group of the population (902 individuals). Representatives of influential institutions, NGOs, activists and ordinary citizens had the opportunity to express their opinions and suggestions on the financial documents of the local self-governance bodies.



conflict situation.

- ▶ **References to relevant laws**, organizations and agencies that may render technical and/or consultative assistance.
- ▶ Brief **updates** on the events, incidents and conflict situations mentioned in previous Bulletins.
- ▶ **Information about conflict resolution** addressing questions of who, how and when conflicts have been resolved. This helps evaluate the responses of the government and law enforcement agencies, and is an example for other potential interveners.

Many government officials perceive the Bulletin as a form of outside control over their activities. It is **an instrument to ensure transparency** in the actions of government and law enforcement agencies. The perception that both negative and positive details of activities related to conflicts could be published motivates government officials to correct their actions.

A National Coordination Council and Regional Coordination Councils in all provinces have been created. These bodies cooperate with each other and make up the **National Network of Interveners** – individuals with the necessary skills, experience, authority and resources to effectively intervene in conflicts with the aim of resolving them peacefully.

Specific Nature of the Conflicts in Kyrgyzstan in 2006 as noted by the Project “Early Warning for Violence Prevention”

Political conflicts:

1. Evolution of protest actions against the state authorities: Political forces use different methods, including sieges lasting many days and efforts to put pressure on Kyrgyz TV and Radio campaigns and the Bishkek city administration.
2. The majority of participants in political protest actions are from the Bishkek suburbs and neighboring districts.
3. The demands of leaders and participants are different, but they have some common demands which form a backbone of arguments to be used in future protest actions.
4. None of the conflict parties has a clear and well-defined strategy for action should the conflict escalate, and the conflict sides often act randomly.
5. If political actions cease to be non-violent, the situation threatens to become a confrontation between the South and North of the country.
6. Submission of demands on which one side insists (e.g. dismissal of the President) deprives the other side of any motives for implementing other demands.
7. The lack of obvious results from the compromise achieved in November makes some people think that peaceful methods of political struggle were in vain.
8. A lack of well-qualified and professional mediators and a change of a venue at the last moment results in reducing the possibilities for successful negotiations.
9. Unresolved problems of a non-political nature may result in attracting additional people to take part in political protest actions, and those from the provinces are often later reflected in Bishkek.
10. Lack of support from political forces and a desire to attract public attention often leads participants in some protest actions to resort violent actions (e.g. demonstrations against HIPC).

Economic conflicts:

1. Real steps undertaken by the leadership of administrative agencies to solve the economic problems of participants in protest actions considerably reduces the potential for violence.
2. The lack of a stable and coordinated policy between various government structures reduces effectiveness in solving economic problems.
3. The lack of an adequate number of competing large-scale national enterprises for agricultural processing makes the existing enterprises more dependent on goods produced by foreign enterprises, causing a corresponding increase in the potential for violence.
4. Economic conflicts that directly affect the interests of owners may cause an increase in the potential for violence, particularly if the law enforcement agencies are involved without a court decision, and likewise where decisions of government agencies contradict each other.
5. Economic conflicts characterized by the involvement of corporate and/or other interests of officers of the national government agencies on one side, and a large amount of people on another side, may escalate and be expressed publicly.

Border conflicts:

1. Residents of border settlements in the south of the Kyrgyz Republic generally dislike the presence of border checkpoints between states, as such checkpoints make normal life more difficult for the local population, especially in an economic sense.
2. Intervention at the highest levels helps to resolve border conflicts (for example, negotiations between the Kyrgyz President Bakiev and the Tajik President Rahmonov over conflicts in Aizhigitov).
3. Restrictive measures accompanied by an explanation to the population of the neighboring state for the actions usually results in pressure from the population on their own border checkpoint, which in turn may lead to the removal of the border checkpoint and a reduction in the potential for violence on the border.
4. In response to the establishment of a border checkpoint by a neighboring state, residents of the border villages of the Kyrgyz Republic are inclined to demand that the local administration establishes a similar checkpoint on the Kyrgyz side of the border.

Difficulties Encountered and Lessons Learnt

During the implementation of projects aimed at expanding the room for dialogue and promoting a culture of nonviolence between civil society and the state bodies of Kyrgyz Republic some challenges arose and the following lessons were learnt:

- ▶ Participation of beneficiaries in national advocacy campaigns increased their ability to freely share experiences, openly express their opinions and develop constructive dialogue, which in turn allowed them to lobby their own interests and express their civil positions.
- ▶ Work in the communities shows that in many cases the real resolution of conflicts depends on the effectiveness of interaction with district, provincial and national power institutions. Practice has shown that neither representatives of civil society nor representatives of the government structures have adequate experience of such interaction.
- ▶ Representatives of government administrations lack adequate knowledge and experience in the use of non-violent methods of conflict resolution.
- ▶ The capacity of representatives of political parties in the regions is low. Even the political parties that have officially registered branches in the regions are aware that these branches are often completely inactive. According to them they '*are only registered in the name of the party but do not do any work*'. Many of the regional members don't even know the program of their party. Local representatives of political parties demonstrated low self-appraisal and no confidence in the possibilities for real cooperation with civil society and government structures.
- ▶ The growth of public and political conflicts, including those with potential for violence, is reflected in the importance given to the concrete outputs of FTI (ongoing monitoring, analysis and development of prognosis and recommendations) by government agencies and other interested entities. Readers of the Weekly Bulletin of FTI admit that the information, consultative and analytical material it provides is only available within the framework of that document.

Recommendations for Future Action

- ▶ To develop a culture of cooperation between all structures of society for effective and timely conflict resolution.
- ▶ To attract representatives of the central political party management to implement regional activities and increase public awareness.
- ▶ To conduct explanatory work with the local population and popularize advocacy (its advantages, benefits, results and effectiveness).
- ▶ To introduce procedures and public policy mechanisms into the process of problem resolution and decision making at all levels.

III. Global and Regional Networks Initiatives

Since 2003, FTI has been performing the function of Regional Coordinator in Central Asia for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC). It is also an initiator and a member of the Coordination Council of the Ferghana Valley Network of NGOs called “Dolina Mira” (Valley of Peace).

These projects are aimed at:

- ▶ Promoting a culture of non-violent conflict resolution and cooperation between civil society, government structures and UN agencies in conflict resolution;
- ▶ Developing mechanisms to coordinate the efforts of various organizations to find joint solutions to problems and construct a platform for regional cooperation;
- ▶ Implementing regional projects with partners.

Name of the Projects and Donors	Geographic area	Partners – Network members
Central Asian regional initiator of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC) Donor: European Center for Conflict Prevention (ECCP), the Netherlands	Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan	15 regions worldwide
Network of Ferghana Valley NGOs “Dolina Mira” (Valley of Peace). Donors: Danish Refugee Council - for institutional development of the Network International Organization for Migration – for small grants for Network members	Kyrgyzstan: Jalalabad, Osh and Batken provinces Uzbekistan: Ferghana, Namangan and Andijan provinces Tajikistan: Sogd province	30 NGOs from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict

GPPAC process in Central Asia led to the adoption of a Central Asian Action Agenda, which was presented at a UN conference organized in New York in 2005 and contributed (together with the 14 other GPPAC regions) to the development of the GPPAC Global Action Agenda. In March 2006, the GPPAC Central Asian Working Group met in Bishkek to discuss and adjust the Regional Action Agenda and Work Plan. 12 NGO representatives from across the region participated and each national delegation informed the participants about the situation in their respective countries. In view of the changing regional context, priority activities for the years 2006-2007 were developed and a new strategy for effective implementation decided upon.

The need to build additional capacity in the structure and internal organization of the

Central Asian network, in order to enhance its influence and effectiveness, was identified as a pressing need. Taking this conclusion into account, the ECCP was able to secure funding for 2007 from the Irish Aid agency to provide for a Liaison Officer based at the Regional Secretariat (FTI, Bishkek).

Development of Cross-border Cooperation in the Ferghana Valley

In 2006 the “Dolina Mira” (Valley of Peace) network worked on the small grants program “Assistance in the development of cross-border cooperation in the Ferghana Valley-II” and implemented 7 partner projects in which 17 NGOs from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated.

- ▶ A campaign for the **development of legal competence** amongst the population, students, entrepreneurs, labor migrants and individuals without citizenship was conducted in the border communities of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, in relation to issues such as border crossings, and the export and import of goods.

Development of Cross-border Cooperation in the Ferghana Valley

As part of this: 73 workshops were conducted for 1,691 persons, 1,209 consultations were provided and 9,550 booklets were disseminated. 9 TV programs and 3 videos were produced and broadcast, 6 radio programs on legal topics were presented, allowing residents of the Ferghana Valley to participate in discussions of legal acts regulating the processes of border crossing and the export and import of goods through the borders of the Ferghana Valley.

- ▶ Residents of border villages were **informed** about the rules for border crossing, checkpoint requirements and regulations on the export/import of goods. They have put this knowledge into practice, making the process of crossing the border less volatile;
- ▶ **Working groups on the resolution of disputed issues** related to border crossing were established in the focus communities;
- ▶ **Raising the awareness of representatives of the border guard services of the problems for the local residents who have to cross the borders** led to readiness on the part of these services to cooperate in



- ▶ the resolution of border problems;
- ▶ During project implementation a written statement from citizens on violations of the rules for border crossing was issued and appropriate measures were taken, **increasing the confidence of the local population that problems can be resolved through their own positive actions**;
- ▶ Within the framework of the projects the management of the border control services commented on the different interpretations of articles of the Customs Code and Intergovernmental Agreement, and moved towards **establishing common rules for border crossings and the import of goods**.

Difficulties Encountered and Lessons Learnt

- ▶ Disputes around the activities of the "Dolina Mira" network appeared in the electronic media (on the site Info.uz) where an Uzbek journalist **blamed the Network for unlawful espionage activities**. This threatened the whole organization and in particular members of the network in Uzbekistan. After the publication of this article the Uzbek partners significantly reduced their project activities.
- ▶ Not all NGOs that are members of the Network have equal technical capacities. Some of them **are located in the remote border districts** and have no access to Internet or telephone networks and therefore partners had difficulties with communication.
- ▶ Individuals carrying out the small grants projects had difficulties with the development of reports and analysis of the activities undertaken **because they lack experience and knowledge in developing analytical documents**.
- ▶ The value of global network activities is not always well understood at the local and regional level and this is a problem for GPPAC in Central Asia. The new Regional Liaison Officer will help to change this situation.

Recommendations for Future Action

- ▶ To develop a **wider PR campaign** about activities of the networks to avoid misunderstandings.
- ▶ To increase the **involvement of women** in order to achieve project objectives, i.e. developing the leadership potential of women from the Ferghana Valley.
- ▶ To **coordinate FTI activities with activities of other organizations/networks** working in the same fields.
- ▶ To **develop the potential** of public associations and provide them with effective instruments to protect and lobby their interests.
- ▶ To work in a way that will help to **maintain cross-border contacts on the level of civil society**, despite the unstable political situation in the Ferghana Valley and the loss of contacts between states at the government level.
- ▶ To **support Uzbek partners** and ensure as far as possible conditions for them to conduct their work in safety.

General Conclusions on Program Activities

2006 was not an easy year for Kyrgyzstan, marked as it has been by a series of political events. In line with its mission FTI **swiftly and effectively reacted** to the changes by planning and implementing the **necessary activities and projects**.

The last year has brought new challenges and trials to Kyrgyzstan which have tested the civil maturity of the non-governmental sector, including the Foundation for Tolerance International. FTI was forced to express and publicly announce its positions, and cooperate with other organizations on some of the key issues related to the development of Kyrgyzstan in order to support civil control over the state authorities.

Public and political processes in Kyrgyzstan revealed the appropriateness of the directions of FTI's work. They demonstrated the **necessity for early warning and non-violent resolution of conflicts, the need to enlarge the space for constructive dialogue** between civil society and the state authorities, as well as the importance of establishing trust between the different sectors.

FTI has **contributed to the stabilization of life in the country** by insisting on compromises and demonstrating the importance of dialogue and common sense. Thanks to our activities the space for freedom has been enlarged, and we have contributed to the ability of citizens in our target areas to take the initiative and participate in the solution of state problems.

FTI worked on the development of **links between different social groups and political movements to reduce social, professional and bureaucratic barriers** that prevent communication and may lead to conflicts.

Activities of FTI contributed to the **rise of new leaders**, as we provided them with opportunities to show and develop their leadership skills and abilities.

Activities of FTI also promoted the **development of alternative points of view** on important problems and helped these opinions be voiced and heard by the public.

The analysis and monitoring of conflict potential previously intended for internal use is nowadays disseminated amongst other NGOs, international organizations and government structures to **provide incentives and stimulate all stakeholders to become interested in the solution of problems**.

General Conclusions on Program Activities

FTI has now completed the implementation of all infrastructure development and technical projects and is focused on the implementation of projects aimed at **intervention in conflict situations to enable their peaceful resolution**.

FTI worked more on the development and capacity building of local communities and NGOs to help the population **find their own solutions to conflicts**. Local people often have no experience of decision making and do not know what alternatives are available and what agencies to turn to. The key role of FTI is to **provide information, methodological support and assistance in establishing necessary contacts**.

FTI gained valuable **experience in the establishment of networks and strengthening partnerships between representatives of civil society, government structures** and international organizations.

FTI is able to **rapidly react** to various types of problems as and when necessary thanks to its ability to **address different institutions using contacts** which have been established as a result of long-term fruitful work with various structures in society.

FTI is **well known at different levels** because of its regular contact with different structures within the framework of the whole set of program activities.

FTI should **play an important role in the resolution of the escalating conflict between the population and government agencies**. FTI staff members have strong skills in consensus building and good relations both with the population and representatives of the government structures. However, the organization should avoid the risk of becoming too involved in political conflicts, and remember that the role of FTI lies in mediation. The openness of both the population and the state authorities for dialogue within FTI's activities should not be compromised.

If the Foundation plans to work and **influence politicians and policy development in the Ferghana Valley** it should work on the context, the environment which increases the potential for violence. Therefore, it is necessary to work on the capacity building of staff, particularly improving skills in leading advocacy campaigns and the development of analytical thinking.



Internal Organization of the Foundation

Six FTI offices functioned in 2006: Bishkek head office, branch office in Batken, three regional offices (Aksy, Osh and Leilek), and the 'Early Warning' project office in Bishkek. Batken office is an official branch of FTI and the director of the Batken office manages Leilek and Osh regional offices as well as the Batken office. Aksy office and the 'Early Warning' project office are under the direct management of Bishkek head office. Bishkek head office is the office coordinating and supporting the whole program of FTI (for full structure of the organization: see appendix). In 2006 FTI employed 42 staff, including 19 women.

International Volunteers

During 2006, FTI's work was supported by two international volunteers. **Joseph Six Cayaban Mariano** from the USA/Phillipines was a volunteer at Bishkek Head Office from February through August 2006. Six conducted English lessons for FTI staff and provided information and communication technology assistance. He conducted trainings on specific programs; and set up "Skype" to improve communication and coordination between the Bishkek head office and the 4 regional offices. **Heloise Heyer** from France joined FTI as a volunteer from August through December 2006. Heloise contributed to the establishment of communication with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), and together with the regional offices worked on the development of new project proposals. The international volunteers

in 2006 have developed a "Donors and Contacts Database". Both volunteers have offered programmatic and communications support to FTI, assisting with external communication with donors, international partners and volunteers; redesigning the website to improve presentation and readability; preparing "success stories", and reviewing other documents for language and programmatic content (in English).

General FTI Staff Meetings

Two general FTI staff meetings were held in 2006, giving staff of the 6 FTI offices the opportunities to:

- ▶ discuss changes in the external environment, analyze the activities of the organization, plan strategically and adapt plans to changing circumstances;
- ▶ determine the role and position of FTI during various political events;
- ▶ exchange opinions and lessons learnt during the project implementation period;
- ▶ discuss the results of the evaluation of the project Support of Civil Accord and Regional Dialogue in Aksy and staff assessments conducted in Aksy and Osh offices.

General FTI staff meetings united the staff, improved communication between the offices, allowed for the exchange of experiences, and united the program and projects. These meetings were facilitated by the members of the FTI Management Board.

FTI Management Board

According to the Charter and Regulations, the FTI Management Board is the highest executive authority of the organization. The Board consists of seven members: five office directors and two members elected at the general staff meeting. The structure helps to effectively allocate duties and responsibilities between the members of the Board and improve the process of decision-making and communication between offices. The main functions of the Board are collective decision-making and control over the implementation of plans and long-term development the organization. Four sessions of the Board were conducted in 2006, where the following issues relating to various aspects of the program and organization activities of FTI were considered:

Program issues	Organizational issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the implementation of the strategic plan for 2005-2008 and a plan of activities for 2006; • Planning for 2006; • Analysis of dates and deadline for implementation of FTI projects; • Discussion of the results of the evaluation of the Project "Support of Civil Accord and Regional Dialogue in Aksy" (HIVOS); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of the issues concerning the election of an additional person to the Board; • Sessions to develop the professional skills of Board members; • Improvement of working conditions in Osh regional office and discussion of its status (the issue of registration of Osh regional office as Osh branch of FTI);

Program issues	Organizational issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of staff assessments from the Aksy and Osh regional offices; • Analysis and development of recommendations for the process of project evaluations and staff assessments; • Discussion of the participation of FTI in the exhibition of NGOs in Bishkek; • Preparation for the general staff meeting of FTI; • Discussion of the decisions made during the general meeting; • Discussion of project proposals for planned projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel issues; • Discussion of the regulations on work with partners, volunteers and induction of new staff; • Discussion of the necessity to change/ update Management Board Regulations; • Analysis of activities undertaken and decisions made by the Board in 2006.

Achievements in the Work of the Board Members

Members of the Board developed the following Strategic documents and Regulations:

- ▶ conducted an analysis of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Foundation;
- ▶ developed the annual Work Plan of the Foundation for 2006;
- ▶ conducted a constant analysis of the implementation of these plans;
- ▶ developed plans for the development of professional skills of FTI staff for 2006 at the level of the Organization and regional offices;
- ▶ developed the annual report of FTI for 2005 and presented it to donors;
- ▶ developed a strategy for work with partners and volunteers;
- ▶ developed regulations for the employment and induction of new employees into the organization;
- ▶ developed regulations on the FTI staff assessments;
- ▶ developed a Program memory of FTI's activities in 2006;

- ▶ developed a document for the 'Cycle of development and approval of FTI project applications'.

The Board conducted work on the development and approval of project proposals on behalf of FTI. The mechanism for preparing new project proposals and applications for donors is as follows:

- ▶ the Board determines what project proposals should be developed according to the Program of the Foundation;
- ▶ the Board defines working groups which develop project proposals and applications;
- ▶ draft project proposals are sent to members of the Board by e-mail;
- ▶ after recommendations have been received the working groups develop the final versions of the project proposals and present them to the relevant donors on behalf of FTI.

As a result of this work FTI received approval from donors for the implementation of the following 4 projects in 2006:

- ▶ 'I choose this party because...' (Caritas,

On the basis of a decision taken by Board members, FTI participated in an exhibition of NGOs in Kyrgyzstan together with 50 other Kyrgyz NGOs. They attracted the attention of the public, representatives of government structures, local administrations, business communities and the media to their organizations, activities and achievements. Members of the Board prepared a presentation of the most successful projects of FTI, success stories and the annual report. In a competition amongst the NGOs, FTI won first place in the category: 'The best success story of 2006'.



- ▶ France)
- ▶ ‘Democracy in Remote Areas’ (Soros-Kyrgyzstan)
- ▶ ‘The Early Warning for Violence Prevention – Phase II’ (Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Belgium)
- ▶ ‘Strengthening the role of local self-government bodies and conducting budgetary hearings’ (USAID)

Planned Projects

At present FTI is searching for support to implement **planned projects** in the following directions:

- ▶ Reduction of the level of illegal migration;
- ▶ Increasing transparency and accountability of government authorities;
- ▶ Increasing the legal consciousness of the border communities and improving dialogue between civil society and government authorities;
- ▶ Reducing corruption in education institutions;
- ▶ Researching the reasons for the growth of religious extremism and promoting religious tolerance;
- ▶ Increasing the potential of women-leaders in the field of prevention and nonviolent conflict resolution;
- ▶ Establishing an ‘Institute towards Consensus-building’ to facilitate constructive dialogue between contending parties in the current context of political instability in Kyrgyzstan.
- ▶ Supporting its involvement in regional network activities.

Professional Development of FTI Staff

This is carried out on two levels:

First level – Bishkek office conducts work at the level of the organisation.

- ▶ Providing **operational information for the regional offices on current themes from the media and literature** related to the program directions. The FTI offices were provided with literature on politics, work with political parties, reference books and other literature. Free access to literature from

international organizations has been organized, including SOROS, IFES, INTRAC and the American Embassy.

- ▶ **Consultations and internal trainings** take place (for example, in Batken and Osh working meetings on writing project proposals were conducted, and as a result six project proposals were prepared, of which two received funding). Work is coordinated on the writing of analytical documents of FTI – all internal documents are prepared by staff in different offices in consultation with the Bishkek office.
- ▶ The **training and the participation of staff** in various events organised by other organizations is coordinated. In this way in 2006 FTI staff undertook training by organizations such as Soros-Kyrgyzstan, Conflict management Group (USA), Association of Scientific-Technical Intellectuals (Tajikistan), “Change” (Kyrgyzstan), Center for Public Technology (Kyrgyzstan), Institute of Cultural Links (Tajikistan), OSCE – Bishkek, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Counterpart International, the Association of Civil Society Support Centers, and Urban Institute Bishkek.
- ▶ **Organizing trainings for all FTI staff.** In 2006 the following trainings were held: “Problem-solving workshops – Effective Mediation” and “Working with sources when collecting information: what should you pay attention to?”. These trainings were lead by FTI staff.
- ▶ **Organizing exchanges of experience.** In 2006 staff from the Batken and Leilek offices spent time in the Aksy office as part of such an exchange.

Second level – regional office level

- ▶ **Directors of the regional offices** determine the training needs of their staff, put together plans for increasing the qualifications of office staff, hold mini-trainings and discussions of relevant literature, and assess the future training needs in relation to office development and planned projects.

Services Provided to Other Organizations

FTI staff offer services to other organizations. In 2006 the following work was conducted:

1. Conducting sociological surveys to evaluate the state of infrastructure and the quality of services provided by the local self-governance bodies and municipal service departments.
2. Conducting trainings (on strategic planning, PR and networking) and carrying out evaluations for other NGOs.
3. Facilitating public hearings on the “Reform of the law enforcement agencies”
4. Providing legal consultations to NGOs and local self-governance bodies.
5. Assisting the Small Arms Survey, Geneva, in the writing a report on firearms in Kyrgyzstan.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Organization's Activities

Internal Monitoring

The Management Board of FTI conducted a general evaluation of the activities and organizational potential of the Aksy office, an intermediate evaluation of the Project "Support of Civil Accord and Regional Dialogue in Aksy", and staff assessments of Aksy and Osh offices. The evaluations were conducted by three members of the Management Board from 23-27 May, 2006. The results of the evaluations were considered at a Management Board Meeting and the general staff meeting. Staff of the regional offices received recommendations and advice on how to improve their work and activities. Twice (in September and December) decisions were taken by the Management Board relating to improving the effectiveness of the project "Support of Civil Accord and Regional Dialogue in Aksy" and the activities of Aksy and Osh offices.

External Monitoring

Evaluation of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict:

A case study report on the GPPAC regional process in Central Asia was carried out in the framework of a Network Strengthening Review

conducted for GPPAC as a whole. The research methodology included a background desk study, a survey sent to people involved in GPPAC in Central Asia and interviews held with Kyrgyz, Tajik, Uzbek and Kazakh representatives of NGOs, international organizations and government institutions that have been directly or indirectly involved in GPPAC in Central Asia.

The evaluation report highlights important benefits of GPPAC in Central Asia, as well as difficulties and challenges facing the network. The difficult political environment in the region, and the lack of funds impeding the organization of regular meetings and activities were identified as the main problems hindering the realization of the full potential of GPPAC in Central Asia. Moreover, Central Asian NGOs did not have a culture of cooperating with government and each other. Thanks to GPPAC however, they are beginning to think more in terms of partnership and are seeing more opportunities for complementary work and cooperation. Multilateral contacts have been established with governments and international organizations, most notably with the UN. GPPAC has also enabled the exchange of experience within the region and with other regions, and has enhanced the sense of solidarity at the regional level.

General Conclusions regarding the Internal Organization of FTI

- ▶ Staff need to gain quality skills in conducting advocacy campaigns. Good lobbying work is directly dependent on personal qualities and the ability to create and work in networks, and also requires sound knowledge of the political processes and judicial procedures. Such training should become a priority for improving the professional qualifications of staff.
- ▶ In the first 6 months of 2006, FTI completed its activities within the long-term projects "Regional Dialogue and Development" (7 years) and "Peaceful Communities Initiatives" (2.5 years) and Center for Civil Society Support (6 years). Following this, staff in three regional offices (Leilek, Osh and part of Batken office) were left without work until new projects were started in these offices. FTI needs to actively conduct work to find donors and develop a strategy for the sustainability of the organization, in order to keep experienced and qualified staff members.
- ▶ In order to effectively use its accumulated knowledge and experience, FTI should work on its sustainability and continuity as an organization and on project succession, so that planned projects build on the experience and successes of completed projects.

Relations with HIVOS

Starting from 2006, Dutch non-governmental organization HIVOS has been supporting the organizational and institutional development of FTI, including the general staff meetings, Management Board meetings, evaluations of projects and employees, exchanges of experiences between offices, trainings for all staff members of the organization, and conflict intervention activities. This support is necessary for a large organization in which 42 staff members are employed, with six offices operating at a large distance from one another, and carrying out different projects within the framework of one program. **In order to be a more effective the organization should function as a whole.** In 2006 FTI carried out eleven projects financed by eight different donors, and HIVOS was the only one to support institutional development (general staff meetings, Management Board meetings), to take care of strengthening the organization as a whole (trainings, exchanges of experience) and support the development of program activities (evaluation of projects and program). Other donors only finance activities of specific projects.

FTI presents HIVOS with the Annual Report covering the whole program of FTI. The Annual Report is an important document **for staff**, allowing them to see the broader picture of the organization's work; **for the management**, as a good instrument for evaluating the program and considering future work on problems, and **for donors** to see the results of the work of the projects within the overall FTI program.

FTI FUNDS IN 2006

	Project Title	Donor	Sum (EUR)	%	Office
1	Civil accord and regional dialogue in Aksy	HIVOS	74677	25,70	Bishkek
2	Ferghana Valley Network Initiative Dolina Mira	DRC	31989	11,01	Bishkek
3	GPPAC CA Working Meeting in Bishkek	ECCP	5400	1,86	Bishkek
4	Early Warning for Violence Prevention	OSCE	20234	6,96	Bishkek
5	Early Warning for Violence Prevention	UNDP	19978	6,87	Bishkek
6	Early Warning for Violence Prevention	Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	44595	15,35	Bishkek
7	Regional Dialogue and Development	SDC	42779	14,72	Batken
8	Institutional Grant	ACSC	5932	2,04	Batken
9	Democracy in remote areas	SOROS	9940	3,42	Batken
10	PCI	Mercy Co	20724	7,13	Batken
11	I choose this party because...		14365	4,94	Batken
12	TOTAL		290613	100,00	

FTI FUNDS IN 2006

