



**Foundation for Tolerance International**  
*Preventing conflict and working towards peace and justice in Central Asia*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2008

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008



**Bishkek 2008**

# Contents:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Intruduction.....   | 3  |
| Environment.....  | 4  |
| 1. Favorable factors for realization of Foundation's programs.....  | 4  |
| 2. Conditions that impede Foundation's program realization.....   | 5  |
| Program Activity.....   | 6  |
| FTI's principles of working.....  | 6  |
| FTI's PROJECTS and PROGRAMS.....  | 7  |
| Early Warning.....  | 8  |
| Process of Peace and Development Analysis.....  | 8  |
| Early Intervention.....   | 11 |
| Increase of potential of civil society representatives and government structure on conflict transformation and consensus building.....  | 11 |
| Expansion of dialogue space for consolidation of cooperation between civil society and authority for analysis of tensions, potential risks and revelation of possible interference..... | 11 |
| Promotion of alternative sources of information in order for society to access reliable information.....  | 13 |
| Strengthening of civil society.....   | 14 |
| Assistance to provision of elections transparency.....  | 15 |
| Building of Network.....  | 16 |
| Technical projects that are aimed to reduce interethnic conflicts.....  | 17 |
| GENERAL CONCLUSION ON PROGARM ACTIVITY.....   | 17 |
| INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF FOUNDATION.....  | 18 |
| GENERAL STAFF MEETING... ..   | 18 |
| FOUNDATION MANAGEMENT BOARD .....   | 18 |
| SERVICE PROVIDED TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.....  | 19 |
| MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITIES.....   | 20 |
| External Monitoring.....  | 20 |
| Main conclusions of external evaluation.....  | 20 |
| GENERAL CONCLUSIONS ON INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF FOUNDATION.....   | 21 |
| Lessons learned/recommendations for future activity.....  | 21 |
| FTI ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.....   | 22 |
| FTI FUNDING 2008.....   | 23 |

## Introduction

Foundation for Tolerance International – is a Kyrgyz Non Governmental Organization that aims at promoting a culture of peace through the promotion of prevention and non violent resolution of conflicts in Central Asia.

The present report represents FTI's main achievements of 2008 in its program and institutional achievements.

The annual report of the Foundation is both for its internal development and for informing its external circles.

*Internal goal:* - to analyze annual program and institutional activity of the whole Foundation. Analyze how one program operates on several separate projects, what impacts have its programs on beneficiaries, what influence have internal and external factors on the effectiveness of its activity, what successes are there and what should appear as priorities in future.

This is extremely vital as the activities of the Foundation are shared and carried out by 5 different offices that are located in various regions of Kyrgyzstan. It's important that every office and every project employee will see its contribution to the program of the Foundation and will feel themselves as part of one single team that is working on attaining a single goal.

*External goal:* - To show/inform external circles on the results of the Foundation's activities, promote the image of the Foundation as a professionally working, effective and competent organization that contributes to regional cooperation through strengthening interactions between civil society and state structures, and endows into early warning and reduction of regional tensions.

"Central Asia – region of peace, development and cooperation" is a program that is being actively carried out by the Foundation.

In 2008 FTI has been supported by foreign donors such as: HIVOS, Democratic Commission under US Embassy in Kyrgyzstan, Danish Council for Refugees (DRC), UNDP Kyrgyzstan, European Commission (EC), Soros Foundation for Kyrgyzstan (SFK), Freedom House (FH).



# Environment

## 1. Favorable factors for the realization of Foundation's programs

In 2008, a law of KR "On social ordering of state" was passed in June. The main goal of this law is to resolve effectively social-economical tasks by improving the quality of provisioned social services that are financed by state budget in form of state's social order. The legal basis of state social orders' realization is set by this law. According to this law, the funding of programs (projects) within the framework of state social orders, has to be realized in the form of a grant. State social orders are going to be brought into action by invitation to tender among noncommercial organizations, which are active in the spheres defined by the Law.

This law has been perceived by the civil society as a **progressive step towards cooperation between the state and civil society institutions**. NGOs hope that such enactment will allow to raise substantially the effectiveness of social programs that are being implemented, to increase the transparency of state resource administration, to upraise civil activity of the whole population in dealing with problems of state level and local level.

**The adoption of a new edition of the Constitution of KR and a Code "On elections" of KR, which regulates the introduction of a proportional system of elections, and parliamentary elections on the basis of a party list, took place in near past. It dramatically showed the necessity for political parties' to improve their work locally, in order to draw the advantage of their program goals to the potential electorate's attention and to improve the communication between them. In this regard, regional representatives of political parties recognized the necessity to strengthen citizens' understanding of the roles and the functions of political parties. Necessity to improve self potential in public relations interested them to use services that were provided by projects of the Foundation and actively took part in projects.**

- **President's and Government's concern to Oblast Local**

**Self-government (OLSG) has increased.** Thanks to a presidential decree of KR the salaries for employees of OLSG has been raised by 300%. This should attract a lot of specialists with high potentials to OLSG and there will be stimulus for them to work there for longer period. Trainings are organized by the President's Administration and Academy of Management of KR for the heads of all oblasts and regions on the roles of regional and local bodies in oblast development. Such circumstances turned out to be beneficial to the Foundation as the state structure got interested in projects that are developed to improve the potential of OLSG employees.

- **A bill is being initiated in the parliament "On border territories of KR".** Government appears as the initiator and the developer of the bill. **In this new bill priority is given to "strengthening of border territories of KR, provision of national security, territorial integrity and inviolability of state borders".**

The necessity in enactment of a new law is due to "conditions that are formed in southern part of Kyrgyzstan where illegal settling of Kyrgyz territories by citizens of neighboring states became more frequent, and also due to outflow of local population"

Among especial remarks in the law, there is a "set of measures that are addressed to social-economical development of corresponding areas, which will rouse interest among population to live in regions". Supporting activities are provided by the government, in particular, to those citizens that are permanently living in towns, which are located in cross border areas according to class list, identified by the government.

- **Cooperation and coordination of activities** between the state structures of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have **strengthen** in such spheres as: **security, trans-border issues regulation, preserving and developing of good neighbor hooding.**

As a sample to this we can highlight the security committee heads' meeting of Batken (KR) and Ferghana (RUz) oblasts,



which took place on 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2008 in Batken city. Each side made a set of decisions that are aimed at strengthening joint attempts in counter fight religious extremism and international terrorism. Each side tuned up joint activities over regulation of trans-border issues (land-water issues) on the level of state structure figures, as well as on the level of border services, law enforcement bodies, and operational procedures that are being carried out where the corresponding situation occurs.

The meeting of intergovernmental delegations from KR and TR on 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2008 in Batken was under constant focus. The delegation consisted of: Security Council secretary Adahan Madumarov (KR), Security Council secretary Azimov Amirkul (RT), heads of state force structures of Batken oblast (KR) and Sogd oblast (RT). The main aim of the meeting was to discuss issues of cross border areas and to take effective decisions on regulation of those issues.

## 2. Conditions that have impeded Foundation's program realization.

- **Social-economical situation within the country remains under tension.** This is due to the **high level of unemployment and poverty, the high level of migration among able-bodied population to Russia and Kazakhstan, the continuous raise of food and energy prices**, as a consequence of economic and internal energetic crisis, which in its own turn demonstrates that government doesn't possess an effective social-economical anti-crisis policy. This situation has encouraged the fluctuation flow of the personnel – where the staff members that have been educated and trained within the framework of the FTI's projects (representatives of state structure, NGOs) are heading out of the region - which undermine the effectiveness in the implementation of its activity; the social context also contribute to expanding a sense of apathy and disbelieve in positive changes among the population.
- In August 2008 a law was passed by the President of KR “on amending laws of KR **“On rights of citizens to meet peacefully, without weapon, freely conduct meetings and demonstrations”**”. The law creates the conditions concerning the rules and the regulations of conducting public measurements (meetings, demonstrations etc.) and prohibits public measurements in the places that are fixed by the law. Noticeable procedure on conduction of public measurements gives local authorities a right to express disagreement to such measurements through applying to court and prohibiting it or changing conditions of its conduct when the rights and the freedom of others are being violated, threaten the public security. When this law was under discussion in parliament, some separate parts got uncertain evaluation among representatives of civil society **that were concerned with violation of citizen's rights regarding peaceful demonstrations and gatherings.**
- **Elections to local parliament** took place on 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2008 in Kyrgyzstan. Although Central Election Committee announced that the elections were held properly - with only 96

complaints -, observers (whose number exceeded 23 thousand persons) stated on a plentiful of violations during the election. **Part of the population that is in opposition** considers these elections **as held with rough violations with falsified results**. Resting upon numerous complaints about violations during election they haven't recognized the results of the local parliamentary election. Those who are discontent about elections' results demanded and keep demanding the resignation of Central Election Committee and carry out coordinial reforms of election system, to draw Central Election Committee out of the president's maintenance and to include representatives of opposition parties into the structure of the Central Election Committee.

Year of 2008 was an **important year for the country in realizing the importance of the religious sphere**. In 2008 the law **“On freedom of belief and religious organization” was under discussion**. This bill was supported by the country's religious leaders – Spiritual Administration of Kyrgyzstan's Muslims and the Russian orthodox church - that stated their support in a letter to the President. Most of the state bodies have also supported it. However the President received a strong appeal from the citizens and a petition not to sign such a bill. According to them parts of this bill **violate their freedom of expression and belief**. For instance: according to this law government has the right to interfere into internal issues of religious organizations while those religious organizations can't participate in activities of state institutions. Hence it serves as soil for conflicts in future. Government is aiming to control religious organization's activities. So far, the servants of cult have a low level of knowledge, they are passive in social life and they are cut from the population. Thus, the state should rather focus its attention on these issues than on prohibitions.

Mass Media of Kyrgyzstan, known as the most moderate in Central Asia, concerned with current situation around freedom of speech in the country. Though there still preserved conditions for Mass Media to develop, 2008 tendencies has restless contrast.

Deterioration in the sphere of electronic Mass Media, narrowing circle of alternative and oppositional media, lack of access to information, retaining penal responsibility of journalists, and also attempts of putting internet publication under control are emphasized by experts as bright indicators of main 2008 changing tendencies of media situation in Kyrgyzstan.

Increasing cases of attacks on journalists and atmosphere of impunity for crimes against journalists promotes self censorship among representatives of Mass Media. Thus journalists are avoid to highlight sharp and biting topics of political and social-economical spheres. All of these are reasons of incomplete and bias coverage of what is happening in the world and in Kyrgyzstan that leads to inferior awareness of society.

## Program Activity

Strategic directions of Foundation's activity were elaborated in December 2004 and within reporting timeframe doesn't undergo through changes.

### VISION

Central Asia – is a region of peace, cooperation and development.  
It's multicultural society with fair laws and active citizens.

### MISSION

- **Promotion of a non violent and tolerant culture**
- **Early warning and non violent conflict resolution in Central Asia**

In order to accomplish its mission, FTI is working over the establishment of an "Early Warning System" for Early Intervention, in order to prevent conflicts in their early phase before they boil over into violent clash.

**Early Warning** – is impacting onto conflict before open confrontation occurs.

FTI is carrying out the following activities within the framework of early warning:

- Conducts monitoring of conflict situations locally, using a single systematic approach.
- Analyzes the conflicts;
- Develops analytical reports based on received data
- Reports on potential tensions and "triggering mechanisms" of local violence, on figures that make the decisions in these situations and that are able to interfere into conflicts to resolve it.

**Early Intervention** – is a reaction to occurring conflict situation.

FTI is carrying out the following activities within the framework of Early Intervention:

- Creates data base with figures in the areas concerned by conflicting situations; encourages the cooperation between the parties involved, tries to build ties between the different structures of society which can be used for joint interventions later.
- Creates appropriate conditions to unite such figures and create the institutions which aim at helping the society with conflicts resolutions.
- Creates institutions (such as coordination councils, groups of mediators, initiative groups, NGO networks)

which are formed by governmental and non governmental organizations, private enterprises, international organizations, individual public leaders who are bond together by the belief in the possibility to resolve conflicts peacefully.

- Rises potential among state structures and civil society representatives on transformation of conflict, building of consensus and rises public awareness on the importance of the use of non violent methods in the resolution of conflicts.
- Expands space for dialogue used in strengthening the cooperation between civil society, authorities, law enforcement bodies, religious institutions, Mass Media, political parties to produce joint analysis of tensions, potential risks and identification of possible interventions.
- Promotes alternative sources of information where population can get reliable information from.
- Conditions being created for development of civil societies' activities
- Encourages practical salvation of problems through realization of small grants where several stakeholders of a problem are involved (technical projects, network projects)

### FTI's principles of working:

FTI's working skills with conflicts show that effectiveness of it's activity based on cooperation with organizations, state structures and bodies, and also with figures that are involved into or\and responsible for adjustment of conflicts and tensions, and interested in constructive cooperation and partnership with state bodies on all levels; development of cross-sectoral dialogue and cooperation

## FTI's PROJECTS and PROGRAMS

2008 program of FTI consisted of 10 different projects.

| №   | Name of the projects   | Aims  | Addressed Communities   | Offices through which projects are carried out |
|-----|--|---|---|--|
| 1.  | Peace and Development Analysis in Kyrgyzstan<br>Donor: UNDP.   | Develop deep and common understanding of main conflict zones and existing potentials for peace in Kyrgyzstan among all key participating actors.  | 7 oblasts of Kyrgyzstan   | 3 Regional Offices and Bishkek Office          |
| 2   | Rising of potential among OLSG and Civil Society for social-economical development<br>Donor: European Commission                                       | Improve service that is provided by local self-government (LSG) and strengthen democratic process of decision making on local levels in the following regions of Kyrgyzstan: Batken oblast (Batken and Leilek regions), Osh oblast ( Aravan regions), Jalalabad oblast (Aksy and Alabuka regions)   | - Aktam (Alabuka)<br>- Kshakasuu (Aksy)<br>- Mangyt (Aravan)<br>- Chekabad (Aravan)<br>- Suubashy (Batken)<br>- Aktatyr (Batken)<br>- Isfanar (Leilek)<br>- Jangy-jer (Leilek)  | 4 Regional Offices                             |
| 3.  | Project "Youth Development" programs "Joint Development Initiatives"<br>Donor: "Agency on International Development of US" (USAID) through Mercy Corps | Provide a sustainable economic development for youths and promote peaceful ties among various communities in the south of Kyrgyzstan.   | - Nookat Region – Karatash village, Donkyshtak Village, Eski-Nookat village, Kattatal village, Jandama village.<br>- Karasuu Regionn – Kurbankaras, Pitomnik, Oktyabr' villages and Karasuu city<br>- Aksy region – Avletim, Karasuu, Karajygach, Kyzylkol, Kyzyltuu, Jangyjol, Akjol villages. | 3 regional offices                             |
| 4.  | "Support of civil accord and regional dialogue in Aksy"<br>Donor: HIVOS  | Promote conflict level downturn and reinforcement stability in Aksy and Alabuka regions of Jalalabad oblast.  | 20 villages, 6 cross border and post conflict rural administrations of Aksy and Alabuka regions of Jalalabad oblast.  | Aksy Office                                    |
| 5.  | I choose this party because...<br>Donor: Caritas   | Promote a conscious participation of Batken oblast's population in a multiparty democracy through the support of political pluralism and dialogue between the political parties.  | Batken Oblast   | Batken Office                                  |
| 6.  | Religious tolerance – as a guarantee of stability<br>Donor: Democratic Commission of US Embassy  | Contribute to strengthen religious tolerance in Batken oblast through the promotion of public dialogue on religious pluralism and tolerance.  | Batken Oblast   | Batken Office                                  |
| 7.  | Partnership for Human Rights<br>Donor: Freedom House.  | - Create mechanisms for the institutionalization of a sustainable cooperation between government and Human Rights advocates<br>- Expand civil advocacy campaigns' and government's activities in the sphere of Human Rights on national and local levels.<br>- Improve the quality of independent analysis and incensement informational messages through Mass Media on Human Rights matters.<br>- Reform Human Rights legislature and policy through strategic directions. | Batken region   | Batken Office                                  |
| 8.  | Support of Civil societies' initiatives in transition period<br>Donor: FSK and European commission.  | Assistance in improvement of election process in KR   | Batken Oblast   | Batken Office                                  |
| 9.  | NGO network of Ferghana Valley "Dolina Mira" (Peace of Valley)<br>Donor: Danish Refugee Council  | - Contribute into early warning and the reduction of tensions in the region<br>- Assist the development of regional cooperation in Ferghana Valley through strengthening the interactions between the public institutions of the three countries.   | Ferghana Valley   | Bishkek Office                                 |
| 10. | Global Partnership for the prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC)<br>Donor: European Center for Conflict Prevention                                     | - Develop a common platform for effective actions in favor of conflict prevention on all levels: from local to global level .   | Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan<br>Uzbekistan  | Bishkek Office                                 |

## Early Warning

### Process of Peace and Development Analysis

- In 2008 FTI, in cooperation with UNDP, had organized and facilitated 7 three day workshops on “Peace and Development Analysis” (PDA) process in Kyrgyzstan. The essence of the process was to prompt the collection of information on conflict dynamics and tendencies in 7 oblasts of Kyrgyzstan. Analytical reports were elaborated after each workshop with afterward dissemination of it among all stakeholders. The initiative of PDA process was implemented by the Administration of the President.

- The Government of Kyrgyz Republic takes into consideration and uses the results of PDA process in State Development Strategy and when elaborating National Strategy on conflict prevention.

- The results of PDA process are integrated into each oblast development planning, in order to adapt those plans to the potential conflicts.

The PDA process has become a stimulating tool for joint problem analysis and for the elaboration of programs on conflict prevention, including all partners for the development at a regional and national level.

7 consultative workshops have been held in 7 oblasts of Kyrgyzstan within the reporting timeframe. All the main

actors were represented as participants of the consultation: State and business structures, civil society (NGO, political parties, Mass Media, youth, aksakals (old people), women, religious figures). The PDA process appeared to be an arena where representatives from different society’s structures could coordinate their opinion over issues of Peace and Development in the oblast.

Main results of PDA process:

- Establishment of trust among representatives of different structures.
- Discuss possible options of achieving a consensus and provide different structures with opportunity to discuss problematic issues with the help of direct collaboration.
- To help different sides to establish connections and to create their own database of contacts in order to use them in future activities.
- Give stakeholders an opportunity to coordinate their actions in order to solve concrete problems.
- To disseminate analytical reports on Peace and Development Analysis in Kyrgyzstan among figures who are actively taking part in decision making process.

### Number of participants of PDA consultative workshops

| Oblast<br>Structure | State structure | Civil society | Mass Media | Law enforcement bodies | Religious Figures | Business structure | In total   |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Batken              | 11              | 10            | 1          | 3                      | -                 | 3                  | 28         |
| Jalalabad           | 10              | 9             | 1          | 3                      | -                 | 2                  | 25         |
| Naryn               | 21              | 8             | 2          | 1                      | 1                 | -                  | 33         |
| Osh                 | 13              | 9             | 3          | 2                      | 2                 | 1                  | 30         |
| Talas               | 10              | 7             | 5          | 4                      | 1                 | -                  | 27         |
| Chui                | 15              | 10            | 1          | 3                      | 1                 | 4                  | 36         |
| Issyk Kul           | 9               | 15            | 2          | 3                      | 1                 | 1                  | 29         |
| <b>In total</b>     | <b>79</b>       | <b>68</b>     | <b>15</b>  | <b>19</b>              | <b>6</b>          | <b>11</b>          | <b>208</b> |





**Participants of PDA workshops identified the following political, economical and social obstacles, as well as obstacles related to security matters in the oblast.**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Batken Oblast</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Massive external migration of Batken citizens leads to the depopulation of border areas and causes illegal settlements of Kyrgyz territories by citizens of Tajikistan. This poses a threat to border security.</li> <li>• As land is the only source of income for a high proportion of the population in Batken oblast, the lack of irrigation water deprives greatly their income.</li> <li>• In current social-economical reality, the low level of education strongly undermines children's future.</li> <li>• Corruption among state officials as well as their incompetence generates tensions within society.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Jalalabad oblast</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corruption in state structure and society</li> <li>• Low level of legal knowledge</li> <li>• Absence of ideology and patriotism among citizens, "mankurtism"</li> <li>• Disregard of ecology</li> <li>• Incompletion of the delimitation and the demarcation of Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan borders</li> <li>• Religious conflicts</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Naryn oblast</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population's low level of trust in election institutions</li> <li>• Absence of state ideology on national unity</li> <li>• Corruption on all levels</li> <li>• Mechanisms of strategic programs' realization with absence of distinct monitoring and evaluation</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Osh oblast</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The members of the election committee have poor knowledge regarding the "Election code"</li> <li>• Gaps in the legislature that regulate the religious organizations activities; moreover population's lack of knowledge on religious matters is also a handicap.</li> <li>• The corruption in administrative structures and the absence of a political will among leaders of higher rank to fight it.</li> <li>• Absence of common national ideology</li> <li>• Frustrated civil identity leads to the division of the population</li> <li>• Feeling of insecurity among the population</li> </ul>                              |
| <b>Talas oblast</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population doubts towards the professionalism and the competence of local leaders</li> <li>• Low level of population's participation in the decision making process</li> <li>• The organization and holding of elections doesn't correspond to international standards</li> <li>• High level of corruption in all spheres of oblast's life</li> <li>• Ecological problems</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Chui oblast</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corruption in all spheres and levels of authority and administration</li> <li>• Absence of an effective HR policy in the administration</li> <li>• National programs present ineffective realization regarding the development of regions</li> <li>• Imperfection of state programs regarding agricultural reforms</li> <li>• Low level of education provided by state educational institutions</li> <li>• Unfair distribution of salary fund among budget organizations</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Issyk Kul oblast</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absence of common national ideology</li> <li>• Weak cadres on national and local levels of authority and administration</li> <li>• The population faces the lack of access to prompt and reliable information</li> <li>• Opacity concealment of information for population on privatization and selling of coastal territories</li> </ul>  |

Participants identified local tensions in the corresponding oblasts to be solved immediately. Not solving these problems may lead to social outbreaks.

| Oblasts          | Local tensions   |
|------------------|--|
| Batken oblast    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problems concerning border crossing</li> <li>• Problems concerning lack of irrigational water</li> <li>• Problems regarding Tajik citizens' illegal settlements in Batken oblast.</li> <li>• Problems concerning external migration</li> </ul>  |
| Jalalabad oblast | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ban of headscarves for girls in schools.</li> <li>• Students miss lessons to visit juma namaz (Friday prayers).</li> <li>• Juvenile delinquency.</li> <li>• Ineffective management during natural disasters.</li> <li>• Religious radicalization of Muslims.</li> </ul>   |
| Naryn oblast     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manipulation of election results by the authorities</li> <li>• Racketeering in schools</li> <li>• Conflicts regarding the burial of people that converted to other religions</li> <li>• Discontent and dissatisfaction regarding the price for coal</li> </ul>  |
| Osh oblast       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Racketeering in schools and fighting between schools</li> <li>• Unfair distribution of property in Osh city</li> <li>• Conflict between local government and religious believers</li> <li>• Conflicts between different branches of Islam</li> </ul>  |
| Talas oblast     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ineffectiveness of the coordination of the interests of the actors involved (business, Civil Society (CS), local authorities) at the local level as a consequence of local authorities' dependence on the national level in decision-making.</li> <li>• Disagreements in the sphere of mining enterprises related to ecology and lack of transparency</li> <li>• Problems connected with the election process (bribery, use of administrative resources, split into clans)</li> </ul> |
| Chui oblast      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interethnic conflicts</li> <li>• School racketeering</li> <li>• Conflict between local population, local administration and resettled population on land issues</li> <li>• Energetic crisis</li> </ul>  |
| Issyk kul oblast | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inaccessibility of coastal beaches to local population</li> <li>• School racketeering</li> <li>• Falsification of election reports during poll</li> <li>• Conflicts between different branches of Islam</li> </ul>  |



- **National Steering Committee** was created on national level in order to assist to use results of workshops when elaborating **National Strategy of a Country on conflict prevention**
- **Oblast Advisory Committees** were created under oblast administrations, where governors were appointed to be member these committees, in order to ease PDA process and to root process' results into **oblast development plans**.

**Monitoring level of social tension, development of reports and dissemination reports to figures that are make decisions.**

- In addressed rural administrations of Aksy region, which is in Jalalabad oblast, **monitoring of social tension's level** (25 monitors) took place within reporting timeframe. 487 people were inquired during monitoring (out of which 173 were women). Reports were elaborated on the results of monitorings (25 monitoring results), which were **disseminated among figures that are able to influence on solving of problems and among potential interveners**: to representatives of state structure bodies-4, to heads of rural administration-6, to heads of security agencies-1, State Committee on National security-1, NGO-4, Mass Media-1, informal leaders-1, mediators-1, In total 24 receivers. Meetings with figures that make decisions on these issues, round tables, on which problems and their solutions were discussed, were implemented on the ground of monitoring reports



## Early Intervention

**Increase the potential of civil society representatives and governmental structures on conflict transformation and consensus building.**

**Four trainings were held in Batken oblast on the following topics:**

- «**Effective communication**», «**Mediation and negotiations**», «**Interethnic conflicts management**». 69 representatives of law-enforcement bodies, governmental structures, civil society and clergy of Batken oblast took part in these trainings. One of the training's participant, the head of Administration of Interior Affairs (AIA) – 9<sup>th</sup> department (department working with civil society) subsequently organized and conducted “Conflict Analysis” training for employees of its department.
- Three trainings were conducted for representatives of local governing bodies, law-enforcement bodies, political parties and non-formal leaders of the addressed communities (67 persons among them 18 women) on the following topics: “Social partnership during conflict resolution in the provinces”, “Steps to consensus building”.

**Expand the dialogue space to strengthen the cooperation between civil society and the authorities in the analysis of tensions, potential risks and revelation of possible interference.**

- A conference was held in Batken oblast on the “**Role of society in warning and prevention of religious extremism**”. This event aims at creating relevant opportunities for open dialogues between the interested parties on religious intolerance issues, and also at elaborating recommendations for the religious extremism warning structures in Batken oblast. 200 persons took part in the conference among which were the governor of Batken oblast – Maratbek Djumabekov, akims (heads) of regions of Batken oblast, heads of Self-governing Local Bodies (SGLB), representatives of non-governmental organizations, mass media, clergy, law-enforcement and power bodies of Batken oblast. During the conference, a presentation of the religious situation - in general and in Batken oblast more precisely - was made by the representatives of the clergy, law-enforcement bodies,

civil society and representatives of south regional department of Government Committee on Religious Issues of Government of Kyrgyz Republic. Participants noted the increase of radical trend supporters caused by the complex social-economic situation, the weak potential of clergy, and the feeble normative base on fight with religious extremism.

- The conference turned into a communicative area that allowed representatives of civil society, government structures and clergy to discuss patently for the first time on one of the most actual questions when it comes to society security.
- There was a round table held in Batken oblast on the following topic: **“Role of religion in modern society”**. 30 persons in face of clergy, law-enforcement bodies, Administration of State Agency on National Security (further ASNS), state structures, civil society and mass media of Batken oblast, participated in the round table. The round table aims at creating the opportunities for a free exchange between the parties involved on the role of religion in modern society and its perspectives. It aims also at promoting the elaboration of joint proposals and recommendations in order to provide religious tolerance in the Kyrgyz Republic. **As a result four main problems were raised: a weak normative-legal base for religious organizations regulation, the spread of religious extremism, the low potential of clergy, which are able to maintain religious informing activities among local population, a feeble communication between authorities and religious figures.** Participants elaborated recommendations to solve the problems mentioned. Collected recommendations in state of minutes were sent to southern office of Government Committee on Religious Issues of Government of Kyrgyz Republic.
- During the report period 2 radio and 2 TV talk-shows were conducted on discussion and attraction public attention to the most actual problems in sphere of religious tolerance and counteraction to religious extremism. Talk-show topics: “Religious freedom: problems and perspectives”, «Will the religious freedom be limited in Republic?» and «Religious tolerance: tomorrow and today».

Listeners were mostly interested with questions related to the right of citizens for religious freedom and legislative acts that guarantee this right; a discussion on the bill “Religious freedom and religious organizations” was held. Representatives of civil society, clergy, state structures



and authorized Ombudsmen of Kyrgyz Republic in Batken oblast took part in the emission.

- Five round tables were conducted on the role and the functions of political parties in modern conditions with the participation of more than 120 representatives of political parties, youth, governing structures, mass media and NGOs in Kyzyl-Kiya, Isfana, Sulyukta, Batken cities and Kadamjai region. **The main goal of the round tables is to increase the participants’ awareness about the role and the functions of political parties in the democratic process in the country and in the world in general.**



Candidate of historical sciences, professor of Osh State University, political scientist – Abytov Baibolot and public figures – Hait Aikynov and Saiev Bolush - took part in the event as experts. As a result participants gained opportunity to discuss standing of political parties and their role in a modern society, to elaborate recommendations for central bodies of parties such as: improvement of program-analytical work, i.e. concrete plans on reducing unemployment level, consumers’ rights protection; better connection with publicity through using mass media opportunities and overall population informing concerning parties activities.

- A round table was conducted in Aksy region on the following topic: **“Joint activity is key to success”** which gathered 23 participants (16 men and 7women) from which 3 persons were representatives of local authority, 9 persons of regional NGOs , 5 persons from frontier communities and 6 of addressed rural administration. The round table aims at improving the interaction between the authorities and the non-governmental organizations of Aksy region. It aims also at detecting actual problems (that can degenerate into conflicting situations) and at planning elaboration of joint programs. There were actual problems of the region discussed during the round table: use of frontier pastures by citizens of Uzbekistan, provision citizens of a/o Koshdyobyoy and Kerben town council with irrigating water, consolidation of control of borders crossing by custom officers and border guards of Uzbekistan, inner and outer migration, provision of villages and Kerben city population with clean drinking water, crime among youths.
- A round table was conducted in Batken oblast: **“Positive and negative sides of labor migration”**, which gathered representatives of Political Parties, oblast and regional migration and business committee, IOM, ombudsmen representative from Batken oblast, head of passport-visa service of Interior Affairs Administration of Batken oblast, labor migrants, students and youths. During the

discussion, the participants learned about risks of illegal migration, negative and positive sides of labor migration were determined; moreover participants gained available information on which agency should they refer when going off in search for a living abroad.

- In order to discuss borders crossing and solution ways which citizens of Batken oblast face when crossing neighboring borders there was working meeting conducted with participation of parties representatives and state structures on following topic: "Citizens of Batken crossing borders: difficulties and ways of solution". There were more than 20 persons representing oblast states administration of Batken oblast, passport-visa of Interior Affairs Administration, Frontier service, Local Self-governing bodies (further LSGB), NGOs and mass media of Batken oblast. As a result of the working session, a range of appeals to the Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Frontier service and Batken oblast state administration were accepted.



- A working meeting was held to discuss issues on the use of pastures in Batken oblast: **"Problem of using pastures on frontier territories"**. Representatives of agrarian department, defense and law and order, workers of veterinarian service, forestry, village administration, and deputies of local council and political parties took part in the meeting. During the working session, issues of pastures use and ways to improve the existing situation were discussed. As a result of the working session, some proposals of the participants were identified on the systematization of the rules on pasturing of cattle on pastures of forestry in Batken oblast.

- There was a round tale conducted on **"Frontier problems – our problems"** in Aksy region in which 39 persons participated (7 women). Among them there were 11 representatives of frontier villages, 10 local authorities, 4 from border service, 6 mediators, 6 Uzbek citizens, 2 representatives of local NGOs.

- Goals of the round table:

- Improvement of interaction of frontier villages' citizens of Kyrgyz and Uzbek Republics.
- Improvement of interaction of frontiers citizens crossing borders.

The following questions were discussed at the round table: borders crossing, use of pastures by citizens of Kyrgyz

and Uzbek Republics and interaction of frontier villages' citizens of both Republics.

- **2 talk shows** were organized in order to provide public ground to build a constructive dialogue between authorities, political parties, leaders of civil society of Batken oblast, on actual problems related to social-economic development of the country and the region. In the course of the talk-show participants heard experts' opinion: specialists of agrarian departments of Batken oblast administration, Batken oblast Strategic Committee, politicians, concerning price increase and taken measures by state structures for the provision of commodity security in the country, particularly in Batken oblast.

- 3 round tables were organized in Batken oblast to discuss bills on "Religious freedom and religious organizations in Kyrgyz Republic" with the participation of various representatives of Batken region. Among recommendations elaborated to the given bill there was a need to point out recommendations concerning an article on "Education and religion". Thus participants have proposed:

- *to ban private religious education*
- *to increase the control of registration of religious education intuitions (madrassa );*
- *to increase control of curriculum content, teaching aid and books in religious educational institutions;*
- *Constantly increase clergy's potential in creed sphere.*

Proposals and recommendations of participants were directed to south regional department on religious affairs of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic.

**Promotion of alternative sources of information to enable the society to access reliable information.**

- During the reporting period there were 15 informational meetings conducted in Batken oblast, which gathered 1037 students of Higher Education Institutions and 10-11 grade students of middle schools of Batken oblast. The main goals of the meetings are to provide information about religious freedom rights and current religious trends of extremist doctrine. In capacity of experts, meeting



hosted workers of Administration of Interior Affairs, ASNS of Batken oblast and mosque imams. During the meetings experts presented to the participants the religious trends such as Hizb-ut-Tahrir, Vahhabism, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), "Bayat" and on illegality of activity of given religious trends' goals, structure, methods of enlistments etc.

- During the reporting period there were 22 issues of informative bulletins "Media" published that were distributed among beneficiaries and partners. 200 copies of each were issued. 4400 copies were distributed. Some information was provided about the status of disputable territories, about the political situation in the region, - in Kyrgyzstan and in Central Asia -, about the taken measures to solve problems on pages of informative bulletin.

### Strengthening of civil society

- 4 trainings here held on the "Role of NGOs in the process of decision-making at the local level" conducted for representatives of civil society from 8 targeted projects of LSGB in Batken oblast. 83 persons took part in four trainings. In the course of the training, participants got basic information about NGOs, its legal characteristics, possibility of citizens to participate in process of decision-making on local level and mechanism of cooperation of LSGB and NGOs on local level.
- In order to actively involve youth in public-political life, a competition was organized among the youths of Batken oblast called "My question to political parties". More than 70 questions were raised, mostly based on energetic resources, fuel, commodity security, borders' issues and borders' crossing. As a result, a press-conference was organized. Oblast coordinators of 7 parties took part in the press-conference on which authors of the most interesting (based on opinion of special-purpose commission) questions were able to ask it from representatives of authority.



- Participants got the opportunity to ask their questions to the representatives of parties directly involved.
- In order to inform students of Higher Education Institutions of Batken oblast about the roles and the functions of the political parties in a democratic society, a range of brain-rings was conducted, in which more than 150 students took part which highly contributed to increase their knowledge in the aforementioned topics.

- In order to increase the potential of youth in Batken oblast on advocacy, leadership, and elaboration of projects there were 3 trainings conducted on the following topics: "Realization of advocacy-campaigns", "Facilitation skill", "Elaboration of project". As a result, 68 participants gained knowledge and skills on the promotion of public interests, facilitation skill, acquired skills of audience management and elaborating projects on their own.

- For 28 youth activists of Batken oblast there was a summer camp organized and named "Youth in Politics". As a result participants gained knowledge and skills about role of political parties in public-political development of society. Participants had an opportunity to ask questions about inner organization of a party, its program documents and how a party is created. The summer camp program also included topics directed on development of leadership skills which gave participants an opportunity to strengthen their skills to manage audience and develop public speaking skills.

- "Club of young politicians" founded in Batken oblast members of which independently conduct events directed to activation of oblast youth. Thus, during the reporting period, the members of the club organized:

- **Informative meetings with students of Batken State University and Youth Committees of 9 village authorities of Batken region.** As a result more than 50 persons from number of youth and representatives of state structures got raised there awareness about possibilities and provided services of Club of Young Politicians.
- A quiz was conducted among youth of Batken city on the following topic: "Our Constitution" devoted to the Constitution day of Kyrgyz Republic.
- Club members have independently elaborated and fulfilled project "My favorite park", directed to the creation of favorable conditions for cultural rest of youth and Batken city population.
- 5 discussion meetings were organized on actual problems, which were attended by more than 90 persons. As a result participants got the opportunity to discuss and speak about their recommendations on such actual topics for youth such as: "**Crime among youth**", "**Progress of youth politics implementation**", "**Mechanism of protection of material and other rights of women**", "**How youth participates in politics?**", "**Youth dialogue-path to mutual understanding and agreement**".

- For the youth of Batken oblast a 3-days youth camp was organized on the following topic: "Tolerance and religion" where 31 students took part (Karabulak village, Batken region). In the course of the summer camp, participants gained knowledge on thematic such as human rights, - and particularly on religious freedom and how foreign countries deal with human rights, religious and conscience freedom. They also got basic knowledge on the history of traditional religions, the concept of "religious confession". A meeting was held where representatives of ASNS and professors of Batken State University of Batken oblast discussed of the activities of forbidden religious trends in Kyrgyz Republic. As meeting proceeded, participants learned about essence and activity of forbidden religious

trends, history of its emergence and structure in Kyrgyz Republic.

- In Osh oblast and Aksy region of Jalalabad oblast, the Foundation worked on youth program, which aimed to involve youth in risk group of labor activity and further usage of obtained skills for job placement in communities and abroad.

For the reporting period unemployed youths were taught professional skills (102 persons) within the following fields: sewing business, joinery, sewing of national dressing, photo saloon, car repair shop, smith craft, welding practice and bakery. 65 graduates are employed for a short-term and long-terms periods.

There were 10 trainings conducted on teaching “life skills”: Basics of business-planning, Job placement and rights of labor migrants, Conflict and me (293 participants). Work on involvement community youth leaders into the process of decision-making and teaching leadership school youth.

-A meeting was conducted for the members of youth initiative groups of 15 schools (90 students) from Osh, Jalalabad and Batken oblasts.

-11 pilot school projects were supported and implemented in the following fields:

«Organization of school library», «Issue of school newspaper», «Setup of loudspeakers in school to spread information», “Politically educated youth”.

- In order to discuss the role of women in publicly-political life of the country and also to promote the mechanism of their interests in politics a round table was organized on the following topic: “Mechanism for the promotion of women interests in politics”, which hosted more than 25 persons with women-leaders, deputies of Local Council, state structures and political parties of Batken oblast. During the round table, questions such as women participation in representative bodies, political parties and state structures, and also women interests’ promotion problems on local and national levels were discussed.
- 4 trainings were organized for the representatives of political parties conducted in Batken oblast on the following topics: Advocacy and lobbying, Effective communication, Diversity management, Basics of Conflict, negotiations and mediation. As a result, 72 representatives of political parties gained skills and knowledge on conflict warning and negotiating processes, effective methods of civic participation in process of decision-making, improvement of communication both with central bodies and potential electorate.
- In Batken oblast 2 radio-shows “Open microphone” were broadcasted. They dealt with bills on border territories and on “The rights for citizens to have peaceful meetings without weapons and to conduct free meetings and demonstrations” with the participation of political parties, lawyers and independent experts. During the programs representatives of parties got the opportunity to speak out about their positions concerning the considered bills and answer questions of radio listeners.
- In Batken oblast there were 3 discussion meetings dealing with the new edit of a Law of Kyrgyz Republic on “Political

parties”: strategy of electoral campaign, Mechanism of financing of political parties. The meetings benefited from the participation of authoritative politicians from “Polis Asia” Analytical Centre – E. Nogoibaev and M. Kazakpaev, publicly-political activists Ishenbai Abdurazakov and Djapar Birimkulov, candidate of historical science – B. Abytov, and also representatives of NGOs, Mass media and state structures. In result of the discussion participants increased their awareness and exchanged their experience on applying strategies and instruments of electorate campaign, from the side of the experts, information was provided on political parties’ sources of financing and ways of distribution it among institutional and program goals. Moreover, a discussion was held on the mechanisms of provision parties’ sustainability and an appeal was accepted with recommendations to the members of the Committee on Constitutional establishment.

### Assistance to elections transparency process

- For Batken Centre for Civil Society Support, with active assistance of trainers-contractors and NGO partners on-site 8 trainings were developed for candidates on membership in **District Election Committee** from civil society. **191 persons were trained. As a result, training participants gained knowledge on basics of electoral process, process of conducting elections** for local councils, procedures for recommending candidates to the DEC (District Election Commission), rights and obligations and role of DEC in carrying out elections to local council. As a result from Batken oblast among the trained persons, 136 persons were nominated to become members of DEC. In the given process local NGOs and Territorial Public Unions appeared to be the most active by initiating recommendation of civil society representatives with in the structure of DEC.
- The Civil Society Support Centre employees initiated the creation of a non-formal coalition from Batken oblast NGO for an effective interaction and coordination of its activity during the preparation and the monitoring of elections of local council scheduled on October 5, 2008. After corresponding negotiations, the following organizations have joined the given coalition: FTI Batken office, Public Foundation «El-site» (Kyzylkiya city), Public Foundation JR (Batken region), and Public Foundation «Leilek Daanyshmany» (Leilek region). A memorandum between



these organizations was signed, the main content was the agreement of each side on the creation of the given coalition, the acknowledgement to democratic principles, and also on the cooperation in: training of candidates for membership in DEC, recommending them into DEC's membership.

- Employees of Civil Society Support Centre, with the support of partner organizations that were included into non-formal network, and also with trainers-contractors, conducted **13 monitor visits to rural administrations of Batken oblast to prepare election process**. Employees of Oblast Local Self-governance were especially concerned by issues related to the lack of facilities for the organization of election process, and also by late funding of this process by the Central Election Committee, low interest among people to work in DEC's as there is no financial retribution for that.
- Civil Society Support Centre organized 4 round tables on the **"status of Code on elections of KR"**. The participants developed recommendations and suggestions to improve the current Code on elections within the context of past elections to local parliaments. 95 persons participated in the round tables, representing: noncommercial organization, state structures, DEC's, Oblast Election Committees (OEC), Mass Media, Political Parties, elected deputies of local parliaments and candidates that weren't elected.

Most of those who took part in the round tables believed that the election wasn't hold fairly; falsifications took [place everywhere. Eve though pro presidential political party of "Ak Jol" didn't nominee candidates from its party member's list, almost all of those who were elected were members of "Ak Jol" party or individuals that are closed to governmental position. According to the participants this is another factor of imperfectness of legislature on elections to local parliaments. In order to solve this problem, **participants suggested to nominate candidates to local parliaments by party list**, so as voters will clearly see there political adherence.

Almost every participant was concerned about poorly formed list of voters. But the participants don't see the interest of the political authority to improve the situation regarding the voter's lists; indeed a poor list of voters is a key instrument for them to manipulate the results of the elections.

Process of DEC's formation was also criticized by participants of the round tables. Law on formation of DEC's doesn't work; for instance representatives of the state structure and municipality should not exceed 1/3 of DEC's total amount, which isn't always observed. The elimination of representatives of state structure and municipality from the list of DEC's was suggested by participants. Indeed, as a way to solve this issue it was suggested to delegate this opportunity to political party representatives exclusively as they are participating in elections, and to include representatives from civil society only in cases when there is not enough candidates suggested from political parties.

#### Building of Network

- Activities aiming at **expanding local mediator's work in the addressed communities and at supporting sustainable development of networks**, were

implemented in Aksy region of Jalalabad oblast. In 2008, number of mediators working for the project of "Support of civil harmony and regional dialogue in Aksy" reached 56 persons, 9 out of which were women and 3 mediators were citizens of RU. The project contributed to mediator's promotion of potential on analysis and early warning of conflicts through trainings and experience sharing.

- FTI has become secretariat for the NGO network of Ferghana Valley "Dolina Mira", which unites 25 cross border NGOs from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. In 2008 the network implemented one of the biggest



**Consolidation project "Ferghana Valley – our common home"**. The project focused on 50 schools of cross border areas. **This project aimed at promotin the idea of peace and tolerance among school students**, through the implementation of various activities within the framework of school time table as well as outside of it. Most of the activites of this project included debates on abovementioned topics, issuing of school posters, conducting of various competitions within schools and between them, support school initiatives through small grants.

Starting from October of last year, the network begun a **program of small grants "improvement of trans border cooperation"** within which five partner projects of Tajik and Kyrgyz NGOs are being implemented: "Border – territory of cooperation", "Legal path", "Dialogue with migrant", "Youth parliament", "Labor migration in the aspect of legal information"



Network is actively working on **raising the professionalism of its members**. Within reporting timeframe network had conducted several trainings:



Elaboration and administration of projects, communicative technologies in the activities of organizations and Networks. Experience sharing was conducted between Kyrgyz and Tajik NGOs.

- FTI is a Central Asian regional coordinator of Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts. **Within framework of this network FTI disseminates information among civil sector of Central Asian region on new knowledge and ideas, based on the experience of organizations specialized in conflictology from around the world.**

#### Technical projects aimed at reducing interethnic conflicts.

As a result of the monitoring and meetings of mediators which are part of the project “Support of civil harmony and regional dialogue in Aksy”, it was revealed that technical projects needed to be implemented in order to solve problems that are able to lead into **interethnic conflicts between citizens of Kyrgyz and Uzbek ethnicities**. Thus in 2008 FTI announced a call for technical project proposals among the addressed communities on small technical projects that are aimed to solve conflict situations.

#### Selection criteria of technical projects:

1. Solving of interethnic conflict situation
2. Coverage of population that will use results of the project
3. Support of authority (input of Local Self-government, regional state administration)
4. Mobilization of communities from Kyrgyz as well as from Uzbek sides
5. Sustainability of project
6. Ecological sensitivity
7. Participation of women and youth
8. Total amount of project should not exceed 100 euros

2 projects were supported as a result of competition

**- A bridge over the mudflow diversion channel in the village of Mamai was constructed.** As a result of the mudflow in spring 2008, 39 families (citizens of Kyrgyzstan) of Mamai village were cut off from the main road. Thus they had to pass through the territory of Uzbekistan. Uzbek Border guards constantly check documents, bags and other things. Sometimes they simply confiscate personal belongings and money from people crossing the border. Cars are not allowed to pass through border. Those 39 families always refer to local NGOs, to the regional state administration and to the village administration to solve this problem. However, the problem remains unsolved, raising the potential for conflict between Kyrgyz Citizens and representatives of Uzbekistan’s border service.

**Results of the project:** Thanks to the project of building a new bridge, 39 families received access to the main road, bypassing the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This bridge cost €1582, out of this sum: €437 are the input of local population of Kyrgyzstan, €145 is the input of the local administration and HIVOS’ input was €1000.

**- A bridge that connects the cross border villages of Charbak, Gulbak of Kashkasyy village administration with Nanai village of Uzbekistan was built.** Respectively 80 and 175 families live in villages of Charbak and Gulbak. Bridges were washed down by heavy showers in spring. The bridges served as the main connector between those villages and the village of Nanai, which is the main trading partner of the two Kyrgyz villages - as Nanai residents are the main consumers of their products. With the collapse of the bridge trading ties were lost. Thus it had a large negative impact on the families’ incomes. Citizens of the Kyrgyz villages complained about it to the Kashkasuu rural administration. However, their claims were ignored and nothing was done by the authorities as they had no funding to reconstruct bridge.

**Results of the project:** thanks to the money received, a new bridge was built enabling citizens of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to cross the river.

The budget for reconstruction was €2113 of which: €309 was the input of the local population of Kyrgyzstan, €686 was the input of the local administration, €118 was the input of Uzbekistan’s Nanai village residents and HIVOS’s input was €1000.

#### GENERAL CONCLUSION ON PROGARM ACTIVITIES

- The participation of the Foundation in PDA process has boosted it’s prestige in front of state structures at a regional and national level; this process gave new expertise in methodology of facilitation of inter-sectoral meetings over coordination of opinions on analysis of Peace and Development, and in elaboration of joint plans on resolving local tensions.

Participation in PDA process positively impacted to the image of the Foundation and we got publicized in “labor market” as an organization with sufficient potential to work throughout the whole republic in the sphere of conflictology and facilitation.

- PDA process allowed FTi to evaluate political situation and potentials of conflicts to occur in Kyrgyzstan. Future strategy of FTI has been elaborated on the base of data received from PDA and future activities of FTI will cover following issues:

- Building of trust between civil society and state structure.
- Provision of conditions for coordination stakeholders’ activity in solving of a society’s problems.
- Promotion of alternative information sources for society to get access to reliable information.
- Creation and raising potential of institutions that are provisioning infrastructure of peace: coordination councils, mediators networks, NGO, associations/alliances, initiative groupings that are able to assist solving of conflicts and disputable issues.

- The Network “Dolina Mira” (Valley of peace) has successfully promoted the image of the Foundation as an organization that promotes concepts of Peace, Cooperation and Development.

- Foundation's Batken office strengthened and expanded its skills on the organization of public discussion on most topical legislatures, which also contributed to strengthen the Foundation's image as a leading NGO in the region.
- Through the realization of the project "Religious tolerance – guarantee of stability", Batken office gained practical skills on working with issues related to the promotion of religious tolerance and the prevention of religious extremism; it established and strengthened vital ties with oblast clergies, got public recognition for timely planned and realized work in this sphere.

### Lessons learnt/recommendations for future activities

- To elaborate new long-term strategic plan and program for the Foundation: to identify (horizontal and vertical) issues, the type of specialists it needs; in what directions strengthen the potential of its employees.
- There is a need to work with border issues, which is currently most likely to be escalated and where FTI feels comfortable most.
- To abstain from the implementation of infrastructure projects as the Foundation is not enough specialized in this field. It could engage other organizations to make technical interventions with specialization in this sphere.
- To elaborate practical methods for mediators in term of conflict resolution and update them with recent issues and engage them in various projects of the Foundation. To conduct activities to support sustainability of institutions created during the Foundation's activity.
- To elaborate a strategy upon the completion of projects in order to have sustainable results.

### INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF THE FOUNDATION

The organizational and institutional development of the Foundation was supported by HIVOS through the project "Sustainable democracy through strong civil society". The goal of the project is to strengthen the organizational and institutional potential of NGO (FTI) in order to assist the promotion of democratization, the political stability and security in the country.

#### Structure (see attachment)

5 offices are part of the Foundation in 2008: 1- Bishkek Head Office, 1- branch in Batken, 3-regional offices (Aksy, Osh, Leilek).  
30 persons are employed in FTI.

### GENERAL STAFF MEETING

- **28-30.01.08.** General staff meeting was held, where Foundation's problems of internal development were discussed.

#### Topics debated:

##### Change of environment

- unfavorable legislation towards NGO

- policy change of donor organizations
- decreased level of professionalism in NGO sector

### Influence of the unstable environment on organization's development

- Dissatisfaction with the results of activities due to non sustainability of project results.
- Instability of the personnel
- Inactivity of regional offices

### What changes are required?

The following changes are required to strengthen the effectiveness of the organization's activities:

- Structure of the organization should be mobile and doesn't require a lot of finance to sustain it.
- All the subdivisions of the organization should be responsible for the results of their own activity in order to create the conditions for new leaders to appear in regional subdivisions, who may initiate new ideas.

### Decisions of the General meeting

1) Regional offices will be reorganized into independent NGOs and on this base network of NGOs occurs that work with conflicts

2) NGOs that will be included into the network will aim:

- Create conditions to promote early warning programs, regulated by nonviolent means in the conflicts affecting the country/region/communities.
- Provide organization with sustainability, professionalism, competitive ability, which influences decision making when early warning and conflict resolving by nonviolent means.

### Implementation of general meeting's decision.

- Regional offices' separation into independent NGO – a process that would create new NGOs on their base - was suspended as a result of HIVOS recommendations, based on evaluation of program and organizational activity of the Foundation. Strategic planning meeting is set to be held in the beginning of 2009.

### FOUNDATION MANAGEMENT BOARD

4 management board meetings were held in 2008, where issues of program and organizational activity of FTI were considered

Management Board elaborated the following internal documents:

- Standards and formats of Foundation's communicational measurements
- Amendments to the regulations of the foundation's internal cash register
- Amendments made to the Foundation's Codes of Ethics
- Inventory of material, technical and methodical resources of Foundation

| Program questions   | Organizational questions   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration and confirmation of annual report of Foundation for the year of 2007.</li> <li>• Plan activity of Foundation for 2008</li> <li>• Consideration of quarterly reports of offices</li> <li>• Presentation of the Foundation's project proposal to the European Commission</li> <li>• Discussion of final evaluation of the Foundation's activity made by HIVOS</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on plans to raise employees' qualification</li> <li>• Discuss the time-table to realize experience sharing projects between employees of regional offices</li> <li>• Discuss topics of projects that are planned and make time-table for group meetings to elaborate the projects.</li> <li>• On distribution of FTI's regional offices' technical value belongings after separation</li> <li>• Suspension of separation process of regional offices into independent NGOs and conduct strategic planning</li> </ul> |

## RAISING POTENTIAL OF PERSONEL

- From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of March of 2008 Foundation met the organization "Alliance on peace building" (USA), which appears to be the world network of NGO on early warning of conflicts and early response. Charles Dambach – President of Alliance and Michael Lund- consultant (expert on conflictology), shared their experience on conducting conflicts joint analysis in order to give importance to early warning of conflicts and strengthening potential among local actors on building peace. Representatives of Alliance met with representatives of the state structures, civil society and international organizations for an evaluation of conflicts in Kyrgyzstan; they had sessions for the employees of the Foundation on conflicts analysis and

they had a chance to present their activities and to get recommendations from professional experts.

On 23-26 of July, staff of Foundation participated in a training of "Facilitation of Peace and Development Analysis in Kyrgyzstan". During the seminar, special attention was given to the concept of conflict understanding, peace and development and to facilitation skills of workshops on Peace and Development Analysis (PDA). Based on this knowledge a team was created for PDA workshops in Kyrgyzstan consisting of 8 persons out of 4 offices of the Foundation (4 facilitation, 1 analytic, 1 note taker, 2 logistics). During the report period FTI implemented workshops in 7 oblasts, where representatives of all structures of society and of regional and oblast level participated

### Trainings, in which FTI's staff participated in 2008.

| №  | Names of trainings  | Main considered issues   | Number of employees that had participated |
|----|---|--|---|
| 1. | Facilitation of Peace and Development Analysis process in Kyrgyzstan                                      | - Concept of understanding Peace and Development<br>- Skills of PDA facilitation<br>- Process of organizing PDA workshops  | 16 employees                              |
| 2. | Carrying out organizational audit of NGO  | - Carry out self check and external organizational audit of NGO  | 2 employees                               |
| 3. | Training for trainers   | - legal knowledge in the sphere of legal regulation and basic aspects of Oblast Local Self-governance functioning<br>- Main aspects of teaching adults   | 7 employees                               |
| 4. | Democratic leadership and work in team  | - Leadership qualities, styles of leadership, separated leadership<br>- Planning activities of NGO (goals, categorization of goals, declaration of goals, and table of gigantic steps...)<br>- Team work (quality of team, development phases, roles, and work effectiveness).   | 9 employees                               |
| 5. | Educational tour in USA with program "Overcoming of contemporary problems in Islam by professional women" | - Meeting with leaders of American secular and religious society that has played major role in the sphere of religion and solved problems in religious and nongovernmental organizations and in state structures.<br>- Meeting with formal and informal institutions that assist free religious expression and guarantee rights for believers. | 1 employee                                |

## SERVICES PROVIDED TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- 548 services were provided by Batken office to NGOs of Batken oblast. Services were provided by sending out information, giving consultations through e-mail. Topic of consultations and Information mainly concerned issues of preparing proposals, elaborating of NGO's organizational documents, strategic planning, project monitoring technologies, information on competitions, trainings, provision of data base about NGO, representative services of EFCE, public foundation "Atuul".

- Batken office provided services on conducting external organizational audit in foundation "JR" and Public Foundation "Unicad"
- Batken office also conducted a research among the citizens and the administration of Batken and Leilek regions in order to identify of the effectiveness of water user's association.
- Employees of FTI provided training services to other organizations on the following topics:
  - Building effective tidings with public
  - Administration of diversification
  - Basics of conflictology



## MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITIES

### External Monitoring

- **External evaluation of the programs and organizational activity of the Foundation for the period of 2003-2008 was conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> of May, by HIVOS.** The aims of the evaluation were: **to evaluate the development and activities of the Foundation for the last past five years in order to strengthen its organizational sustainability.** An evaluation commission gathered Foundation's member staff, representatives of communities, state structures, international organizations in Bishkek, Aksy and Batken and different partners.

### Main conclusions of external evaluation

- Early Warning System (EWS) appears to be an effective method to solve problems connected with conflicts through the collection of information on tensions, and the elaboration of analysis and recommendations in order to reduce tensions and promote early responses after warning signals are received.

-Offices in Batken, Aksy and FTI headquarter conducted prompt reacting interventions to crisis situations. This was possible because FTI has established ties with each side - civil society and law enforcement bodies - during implementation of projects.

- Within the framework of the projects of the Foundations, activities are seen on mediation and building of a space for the dialogue between representatives of civil society, local officials and/or representatives of law enforcement bodies over early warning.

- FTI has established constructive relationships with authorities on all levels that are attained during the process of cooperation. Official figures of regional, oblast and central level, that evaluators met, highly appreciated FTI's contribution into the development of the country.

- In general FTI managed to show its flexibility and ability to adaptation to rapid changing situation that are common in the country. Thus FTI acts in a relevant way in this particular context. For instance, in comparison to other organizations FTI started working in the city, in order to address urban problems – considered as a ground for potential conflicts. It balances tendency of “rural incline” where NGOs practice on experimental basis.

The evaluation mission gave recommendations to FTI on its programs and organizational activities.

- Within reporting timeframe, a **monitoring has been conducted by EU over the realization of a project “Promotion of Oblast Local Self-governance and civil society for social-economical development”**. The monitoring has been conducted by international and local experts. FTI received positive evaluation for its activity in this project. Recommendations on project by most were addressed to European partner “European perspective”. Currently, joint actions are taking place on the elaboration of monitoring mission's recommendations, which are going to be reflected in the plan and logical model of the project.
- **Caritas-France visited FTI on 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of November; they aim to monitor the project “I choose this party because...”** They had to monitor the realization track of the project. The project Manager Claire Carvino and the head of the European department of Caritas-France Genevieve Colas were members of the evaluation mission. During the monitoring evaluation mission they had a chance to visit Batken office and to meet with the beneficiaries and the partners of the project (political parties, local authorities and law enforcement bodies). As a result of their visit, representatives of Caritas-France expressed their gratitude to the Batken Branch of FTI for the well carried out project implementation and they pointed out that the project is being realized according to the agreed plan, and the activities correspond to set

objectives. In the course of the discussion, the future potential of the cooperation was discussed; the Batken Branch of FTI developed proposals and passed over to Caritas-France for consideration. The project was on early warning of religious extremism in Batken oblast. Mission expressed its interest in being involved into projects that are connected with solving cross border issues with the involvement of Tajik NGOs.

### **GENERAL CONCLUSIONS ON INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF FTI**

- In general 2008 turned out to be successful. Obstacle that threatened the integrity of FTI forced to activate its activities and to trigger the mobilization of all its resources.

Flowingly, Batken branch on its own developed three project proposals and implemented them. In 2008 FTI started the implementation of several projects where all of FTI offices were involved: Peace and Development Analysis (4 offices involved), raising potential of Oblast Local Self-governance and civil society for social-economical development (4 offices involved) Funding were received for two projects that are going to be implemented by active participation of all offices: Early Warning for Early Response (donor: MFA of Belgium) and Raising potential among representatives of Oblast Local Self-governance and nongovernmental sector in administering of conflicts. (Donor: Euroasian Fund)

Currently the initiative of FTI offices' separation suspended and Foundation keeps successfully working as a single organization.

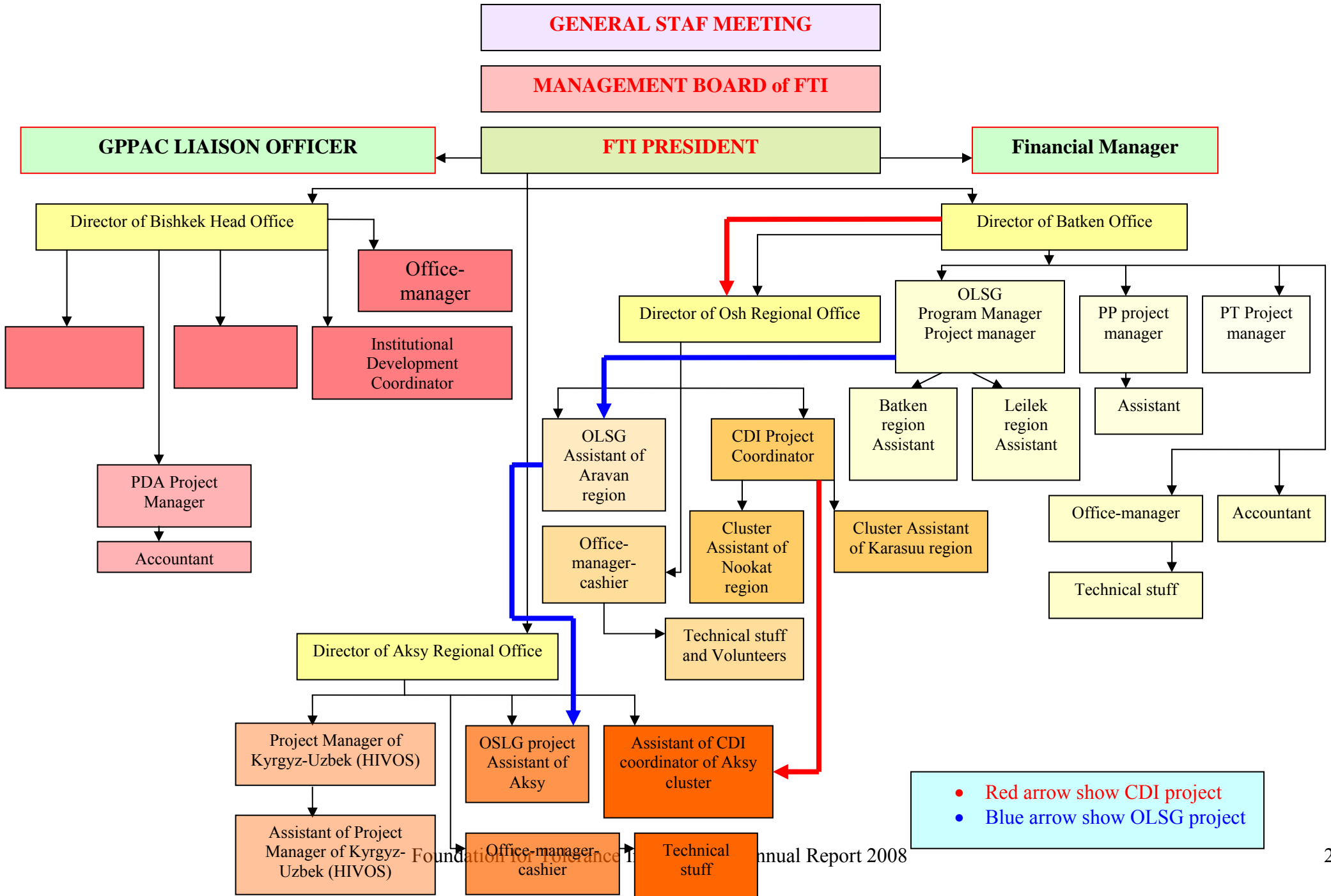
- The evaluation made by HIVOS enabled us to analyze the activities of the organization, to think about its future and to identify the priorities of the Foundation.

### **Lessons learned/recommendations for future activity**

- Elaborate HR strategy in line with the new strategy and program of FTI. To hire personnel with suitable educational background and with skills in the field of conflicts. Strengthen quality of personnel through education, raising the level of knowledge, practice, traineeship, instruction etc.
- To attract experts in order to solve conflicts that are rooted with religious issues, party building issues, Local Self-governance, legislature issues..
- When it comes to raise the potential and the knowledge of the personnel, trainings and workshops are not sufficient; arranging meetings with specialists on discussion of laws, meetings with state structures on national programs appears also as key activities.
- Act as a united organization, elaborate and launch long term projects involving as many offices and FTI's staff as it is possible.
- Strengthen realization of PR-strategy of FTI in order to promote the image of the organization and its recognition among important circles.

Pay attention to previous experience when elaborating projects with participation of international partners, and also experience of working in Central Asia. To ask for recommendations regarding partners from other organizations, when it is possible. The lack of information about international partners creates problems when it comes to work

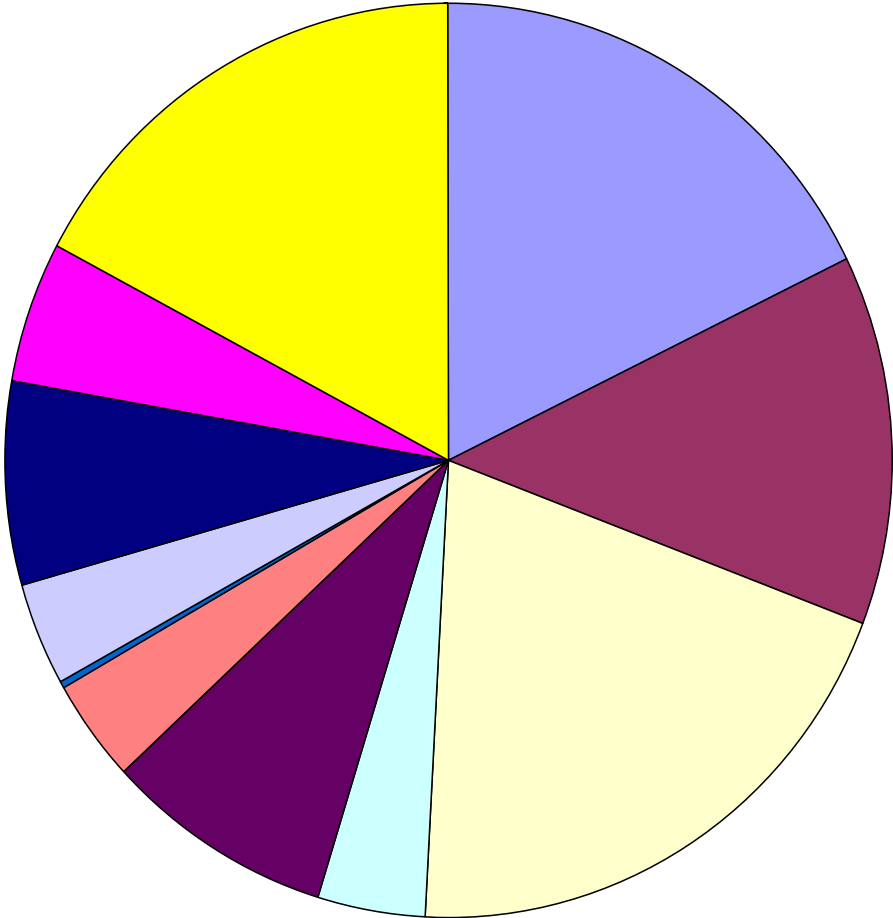
# Organizational structure of FTI



## Funding of FTI in 2008

| <b>№</b>      | <b>Name of Project</b>   | <b>Donor</b>  | <b>Amount (Euro)</b> | <b>%</b> | <b>Office</b>     |
|---------------|--|---|----------------------|----------|-------------------|
| 1.            | Peace and Development Analysis Program in Kyrgyzstan   | UNDP  | €59311               | 17,78    | Bishkek           |
| 2             | Increasing potential of LSGB (Local Self Governing Bodies) and Civil Society for social-economic development | European Commission                                   | €43726               | 13,11    | Batken            |
| 3.            | Youth Development Project of Joint Development Initiatives   | USAID(USA) through Mercy Corps                        | €67318               | 20,18    | Batken            |
| 4.            | Civil Harmony and Regional Dialogue in Aksy  | HIVOS (The Netherlands)                               | €12332               | 3,70     | Kerben            |
| 5.            | I choose this party because...   | Caritas (France)                                      | €28264               | 8,47     | Batken            |
| 6.            | Religious tolerance – Guarantee of Stability   | Embassy Democratic Commission (USA)                   | €11923               | 3,57     | Batken            |
| 7.            | Partnership for Human rights   | Freedom House (USA)                                   | €778                 | 0,23     | Batken            |
| 8.            | Support of civic initiatives during transition period  | Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan and European Commission | €11938               | 3,58     | Batken            |
| 9.            | Ferghana Valley Networking Initiative  | DRC (Dutch Refugee Council)                           | €24393               | 7,31     | Bishkek           |
| 10.           | GPPAC  | European Center for Conflict Prevention (ECCP)        | €16819               | 4,82     | Bishkek<br>Batken |
| 11            | Sustainable Democracy Through Strong Civil Society   | HIVOS (The Netherlands)                               | €57529               | 17,25    | Bishkek           |
| <b>TOTAL:</b> |  |   | <b>€334331</b>       |          |                   |

# Funding of FTI in 2008



- UNDP 17,78 %
- European Commission 13,11%
- USAID(USA) through Mercy Corps 20,18 %
- HIVOS (The Netherlands) 3,7 %
- Karitas (France) 8,47 %
- Embassy Democratic Commission (USA) 3,57 %
- Freedom House (USA) 0,23 %
- Soros Foundation –Kyrgyzstan and European Commission 3,58 %
- DRC (Dutch Refugee Council) 7,31 %
- European Center for Conflict Prevention (ECCP) 4,82 %
- HIVOS (The Netherlands) 3,7 %