



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Cooperation Office
South Caucasus

Capacity Building in International Relations (CABIR)



Project title

Capacity Building in International Relations (CABIR)

General information

Region: South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)
Duration: March 1, 2011-February 28, 2014
Budget: CHF 1'805'000

Project partners

- Implementing partner: Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (GIIDS)- Geneva
- Institutional partner: Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Project objectives

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen and improve the human resources capacities of public institutions in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in the field of international relations to increase the accountability and transparency in the management of public affairs and to improve access to information as well as to support the capacity building of local non-governmental actors. The project works towards the following objectives:

- To increase the knowledge of civil servants in the field of regional and international affairs with the aim to improve their daily work performance.
- To further develop and strengthen the leadership capabilities of civil servants.
- To identify a more sustainable institutional outline for the alumni councils in 3 countries in order to be able to help trained civil servants recycle their knowledge and further advance and share it.

Background

CABIR project was initiated in 2001 as a response to the needs of the governments of the 3 South Caucasus countries of better prepared public servants able to perform their functions in the new political, social and economic realities. Up to present CABIR continues to support human resources capacity building in international affairs for the public institutions of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The project fosters good diplomatic relationships between Switzerland and the three countries and promotes exchanges among civil servants and linkages with the Swiss institutions and administration. Since the beginning of the project, the courses were held in such topics as International Law, International Economics and Negotiation Techniques, International Trade Policy and World Trade Organization, International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

Project activities

The project works towards the improvement of the professional skills of civil servants in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia for the benefits of their employer and contributes to the more effective participation and better representation of their governments at the regional and international arena. The trainings include such topics as: peace and security, conflict resolution, migration and displaced persons, human rights, environment, economic development, regional integration, etc.

The project activities include:

- Organization of 18 tailor-made national training programs in international governance, which respond to the needs of national governments and focus on country specific issues.
- Organization of 3 regional training programs in international governance, which provide further capacity building to the civil servants at regional level.
- Organization of 3 Swiss Leadership Award the objective of which is to reward and acknowledge outstanding professional leadership, to foster a process of self-awareness among CABIR Alumni and to encourage committed officials who are working in a volatile and difficult environment.
- Further development and identification of a suitable institutional outline of the existing CABIR alumni network to reinforce its sustainability

Expected results

- A total of 420 civil servants trained in regional and international affairs.
- Some 27 individuals trained in leadership skills and have higher awareness of leadership potential and effects.
- The three alumni networks have developed activities to foster recycling and sharing of alumni knowledge
- The three alumni networks have identified their institutional outline, established a mission statement, have schemes in place to make the best of their regional roots.
- The three alumni networks are run entirely by local staff with strong capacities in marketing, fundraising and strategy development.



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