

GAGAUZIA DIALOGUE

Finding joint solutions to common issues



Parliament adopted consultation package elaborated to improve cooperation between Chisinau and Comrat

On December 29, 2022, the Parliament adopted modifications to two laws providing for mutual consultations between the Parliament and the People's Assembly of Gagauzia during the law-making process. Alongside with improved cooperation between the central and autonomy's authorities, if efficiently implemented, this will also serve as a conflict prevention mechanism between the sides. According to the provisions of the laws, Parliament will consult with the legislative body of Gagauzia on all issues related to their status of autonomy and its competences during the law-making process.

This achievement is a result of the ongoing dialogue process between the two legislative bodies within the Parliamentary Working Group on Gagauzia facilitated by CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation and funded by Sweden. The Working Group is a platform for a permanent dialogue between the Parliament and the People's Assembly of Gagauzia. It was created in 2015 and is composed of an equal number of legislators from Chisinau and Comrat.

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AND COMRAT

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PARLIAMENTARY WORKING GROUP ON GAGAUZIA NEWS

Parliamentary Working Group members improve their negotiation skills



On April 11, 2023, the Parliamentary Working Group members participated in a seminar-discussion on "How to increase the effectiveness of the negotiation process" organised by CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation within the "Gagauzia Dialogue" project funded by Sweden.

The attendees had the opportunity to get acquainted with the theories and methods of negotiation, as well as to move from theory to practice during subsequent discussions and group work. This enabled them to reflect on the dialogue process between Chisinau and Comrat in the context of their acquired knowledge.

As a result of the work done, the participants were able to identify common principles on the basis of which the dialogue between Chisinau and Comrat should continue.

From the beginning of the year, Parliamentary Working Group on Gagauzia also had a number of informal meetings to continue discussion of legal proposals and expert analysis based on the prioritized Agenda.



Secretariats of the Parliament and the People's Assembly of Gagauzia discussed strengthening cooperation



Photo credit: People's Assembly of Gagauzia

On 26-27 January, 2023, CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation organised a working visit of representatives of the Parliament Secretariat to the People's Assembly and the Executive Committee of Gagauzia.

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen cooperation between the secretariats of the two bodies and to exchange experience in analysing procedures and practices of drafting laws with a view to improving the legislative process and to support the Parliamentary Working Group on Gagauzia.

During the visit, working meetings were held with the Deputies and the Secretariat of the People's Assembly of Gagauzia, representatives of the Executive Committee of Gagauzia and other technical staff. They analysed the procedures for drafting local laws, for approving national laws, cooperation between the legislative and executive bodies of the autonomy and set up a list of draft local regulations for elaboration by the Parliamentary Working Group Secretariat.

"GAGAUZIA DIALOGUE" NEWS

CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation conducted public lectures for students at the State University of Moldova



On March 15 and April 4, 2023, representatives of CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, Steve Young, Country Manager, and Natalia Djandjgava, Project Manager, conducted public lectures for Master's Degree and graduate students of the Faculty of International Relations, Political and Administrative Studies (FRISPA). The lessons were organized in the framework of the program "Days of FRISPA Student" of the State University of Moldova.

The event was attended by students who specialize in Public Administration, European, Diplomatic and Security Studies as well as university professors and PhD students. The participants learned about CMI work related to the "Gagauzia Dialogue" project, the Parliamentary Working Group on Gagauzia and the dialogue process between Chisinau and Comrat.

"We are very grateful to have had representatives from CMI, who presented their work in Moldova. This work is one important aspect of how international organisations can assist in the successful development of multi-ethnic relations and dialogue processes, thus contributing to the promotion of good governance and ensuring social cohesion and peace in the Republic of Moldova", - stated *Valentina Teosa, university professor, PhD in political science.*



"I learned a lot about how an international organization works in peace-making field and that this work requires diplomacy and dialogue to prevent or resolve a conflict", - said a student who specializes in Diplomatic Studies.

After the presentation and open discussion, participants had a question-and-answer session. They were curious about the policy development processes, minority rights, language preservation, principles and activities of CMI as well as about project activities.

The students agreed that such lectures provide the opportunity to learn directly from the source about practical matters such as dialogue processes, methods of elaborating public policies, and about international organizations and their activities in the Republic of Moldova.



"GAGAUZIA DIALOGUE" NEWS

Gender equality in peacemaking - interview with Natalia Djandjgava

This year, the Swedish Development Cooperation Department of the Embassy of Sweden to Moldova dedicated March month to women who "move mountains" in their communities. In this context, Natalia Djandjgava, the Project Manager of the "Gagauzia Dialogue" shared her experience in the field of conflict resolution and peacemaking.

Natalia has over seventeen years of progressive professional experience with international organisations, working within the sensitive political environments of both the Transnistrian settlement process and Gagauzia Autonomy.

- Where did the love and dedication for the field in which you work come from?

- I have always believed in the just cause and good purpose of the work that I have done. That is where the passion and dedication originate from. When I see the tangible and meaningful results of my work, it keeps me fully motivated to continue. The enduring vision of CMI's founder Martti Ahtisaari that 'all conflicts can be resolved' inspires me to continue my work through contributing to a more peaceful world.

- What skills should a woman working in the field of women, peace and security have?

- I strongly believe that both women and men working in the field of women, peace and security should have the same sets of skills. Firstly, it is vital to have strong negotiation and mediation skills



which boost the ability to communicate sensitively, effectively, and creatively. Secondly, analytical skills help to delve into the understanding of the root causes of the conflict to be able to identify some potential avenues for conflict prevention and resolution."

- What are the challenges in the field of conflict resolution for a woman mediator or negotiator and how does she overcome them?

- Working in patriarchal societies can impose stereotypical attitudes towards women mediators or negotiators. To overcome these challenges, a woman needs to be both competent and professional, proactive and creative in order to demonstrate her qualified and skilled contribution to the process. Additionally, leading by example encourages other women working in the field, which results in strengthening the agency of women participating in dialogue processes.

Gagauzia Dialogue



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"Supporting institutionalized and sustainable dialogue on Gagauzia Autonomy" or "Gagauzia Dialogue" is a three-year project bringing together representatives of the government, legislators, experts and other interested parties from Chisinau, Comrat and across Moldova to find joint solutions to common issues related to the Gagauzia autonomy.

The project runs from 2022-2024, implemented by CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation and funded by Sweden.

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