

Success Story: Developing Policy Analysis Curricula for Academics and Professionals

Lack of policy analysis skills, both from the governmental and research community, has been highlighted by the local research community itself as one of the major barriers to developing coherent policies across the South Caucasus. A recent Counterpart International study commissioned by USAID in Azerbaijan noted with regard to analysis conducted by local researchers “the clarity of the problem definition is often problematic, the level of analysis basic, and statistical analysis either absent or very limited.”

In response to the lack of policy analysis skills, CRRC-Azerbaijan has completed the development of a unique training package *Policy Analysis and Communication (PAC)* – the first training module in Azerbaijan available in Azerbaijani, Russian and English and featuring an online distance learning component. The curriculum builds on eight interactive sessions and various hands-on exercises, specifically tailored to equip analysts in the South Caucasus with the essential skills to handle policy analysis confidently and effectively.

Combining the approaches of three renowned professors of public policy, the module consists of problem analysis, solution analysis and effective policy paper writing components. Online readings, forums, exercises and certification tools ensure effective interaction between the trainers and participants both before and after a three-day live session.

Already the course has been adopted by several organizations including Oxfam’s Baku office and the Economic Research Center. The PAC training was also delivered to representatives of top environmental NGOs from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia working within the [South Caucasus Cooperation Program’s](#) ENP Policy Research project. Similar training is increasingly being demanded by national government agencies such as the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and the Ministry of Public Health in Azerbaijan.



The development of *PAC* is part of larger training program in the South Caucasus aimed at providing the research, NGO and government community up-to date research skills. CRRC is currently working to create more stable training mechanisms that involve online training both before and after face-to-face meetings for a wide range of topics. This gives trainees more contact with the material and ensures a higher degree of success with the material.

In 2006 alone, CRRC carried out 48 regional and local methodological trainings with the 463 participants across the South Caucasus.