

ACTIVITY BRIEF

The Balkan Trust for Democracy

The Ljubljana Agenda



The European Movement in Serbia, in partnership with a coalition of six other leading civil society organizations from the Balkans, organized a series of local, national, and regional debates to raise the issue of advancing EU enlargement efforts within and towards the Western Balkans during the Slovenian presidency.

The project culminated with an international conference of regional civic, intellectual, and political leaders that led to the creation of the Ljubljana Agenda.

Founding Partners:

USAID, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, C.S. Mott Foundation

Geographic Targets:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia. BTM is also active in Moldova (non-USAID funds)

Project Duration:

2003-2013

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Activity Background

The Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTM) is a 10-year grant-making initiative to support good governance in Southeastern Europe. BTM supports civic groups, indigenous NGOs, local and regional governments, think tanks, educational institutions, and media outlets that promote democracy and good governance throughout the region.

Based in Belgrade, BTM was created through founding contributions from USAID, the Charles S. Mott Foundation, and the German Marshall Fund. The Trust has grown with contributions from the Swedish, Dutch, Danish, Greek and Czech governments, the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, the Tipping Point Foundation (Bulgaria), the Italian Foundation Compagnia di San Paolo, and the Robert Bosch Foundation.

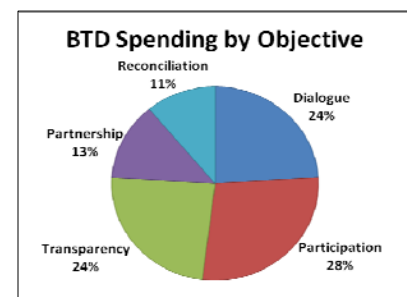
Core Interventions

- (1) **Linking Citizens with Government:** Small grant support to improve the quality of governance in the region by engaging citizens with local, regional and national government officials – deepening the dialogue between citizens and their elected leaders; assist NGOs in monitoring government activities and promoting transparency of government institutions; and improve citizens' understanding of their rights and responsibilities – strengthening participation in the democratic process.
- (2) **Cooperation & Collaboration:** Fosters reconciliation and partnerships within countries, across borders and region-wide among civic organizations, policy institutes, governmental entities, and other organizations – essential to promote the political, social, and economic development necessary to ensure long-term stability in Southeastern Europe.
- (3) **Policy Influencing:** Through presentations to and discussions with high-level government officials and structures, BTM promotes policy dialogue to accelerate the region's integration into Euro Atlantic structures and raise the profile of the Balkan region.

Activity Results

- (1) Since its inception, BTM has expanded its public-private transatlantic partnership from about \$25 million to approximately \$34 million with pledges from additional donors.

- (2) As of May 31, 2009, BTM had invested more than \$18 million in approximately 661 projects across the region, including \$3.3 million toward 121 projects in FY 2009. The breakdown by program objective is shown in the chart:



- (3) Through BTM's efforts, 97 policy papers were published and 66 policy recommendations were delivered to decision makers at the state and local level, directly resulting in 7 laws being published.