



### CONFLICT MITIGATION

#### Stop the Discrimination

Under the "Stop the Discrimination" slogan the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), in cooperation with the Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo, organized several anti-discrimination activities on May 24th and 25th.

Activities were part of a public awareness campaign to draw attention to discrimination in Kosovo. Activities included, NISMA IME (My Initiative) a one day action-downtown Pristina where activists discussed the consequences of discrimination with citizens; exhibition of previously selected artworks, including drawings, paintings and computer - designed graphics, completed during "What does discrimination mean to you?" competition; and a party that brought together youth engaged in the campaign.

The campaign is lead by a Non-Discrimination Team, who is meeting with representatives of schools, local authorities, civil society groups and the media. Non-Discrimination Team is part of Youth Initiative for Human Rights established to work on the issue of discrimination. The team is also distributing "STOP Discrimination" flyers, posters and stickers to these stakeholders and the wider public.

These activities of YIHR are supported by USAID through the Kosovo Community Reconciliation Program, a partnership with Freedom House.

#### Improving Community Infrastructure

Two new, USAID-funded infrastructure projects were dedicated on May 30 and 31, part of ongoing efforts to address the basic infrastructure needs in minority areas.

Tina Kaidanow, United States Office in Pristina Chief of Mission, visited the projects and met with local community members to discuss their work, challenges, and other needs. The projects included the rehabilitation of the Physiotherapy Department of the Mitrovicë/a Regional Hospital, and construction of a road in Verbishticë/Verbistica, Shtërpce/Sterpce municipality.

"Today's success is really a joint effort. Like the many assistance projects we have dedicated over the past year in northern Kosovo, adding up to almost \$1 million in total funding, we could not have begun this project without your community identifying its priorities and then working with us to ensure its swift and efficient completion," said Kaidanow in her address to the medical staff at the Physiotherapy Department of the regional Hospital in Mitrovicë/a.

The total cost of the two projects was \$105,496. The projects were implemented in partnership with Mercy Corps and the International Organization for Migration.

#### Drinking Water for Villages of Skenderaj/Srbica

On June 6th residents of Skenderaj/Srbica celebrated a water system construction project that brought water to remote villages of this municipality.

"Many of you, being farmers, know best the importance of water resources during a dry summer. I hope that this project will mean a better life for all living in your community," said Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director, after water was released from a nearby tap.



June 6, drinking water in Runik/Rudnik at a local fountain.  
Photo: Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director

Students, municipal employees, teachers and others participated in the inauguration of this \$180,000 project.

The project rehabilitated the water reservoir in Runik/Rudnik, replaced 5450 meter of pipe, and rehabilitated the water system network in Runik/Rudnik and Vitak.

As a result of the initiative, four more villages, with more than 10,000 residents, now have drinking water in their households. The project was implemented through USAID's Municipal Integration and Support Initiative, in partnership with Mercy Corps.

## RULE OF LAW

### Interactive Faculty Training at the University of Pristina

Furthering reforms in the University of Pristina Faculty of Law, which continues to follow socialist-era curriculum, has been a challenge to USAID and Rule of Law partners.

Therefore, on May 14th, the ABA/Rule of Law initiative organized two workshops to address key aspects of the challenge. One workshop addressed methods for calculating course credits in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).



ABA Rule of Law Initiative staff and the trainer discuss methods of calculating course credits for the Law Faculty with lecturers, and faculty administrators

The second workshop focused on interactive teaching methods. In both cases participants, including lecturers at the Faculty of Law, were introduced to new techniques to apply in their daily work.

The workshops are part of a series organized by the ABA/Rule of Law initiative and taught by Professor Mary P. Treuthart. Professor Treuthart launched the series when she was in Pristina last year teaching a new course, Legal Methodology.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Post Privatization Survey

The results of a Post Privatization Survey examining fifty small and medium privatized enterprises were released on May 31st.

The survey showed that, on average, revenues in the recently privatized companies had increased by a multiple of seven since their privatization. Planned investment into the capital infrastructure of the companies is more than 450,000. A considerable number of new jobs were created. "A real progress in the private sector in Kosovo" claimed Ahmet Shala, Deputy Managing Director for Kosovo Trust Agency (KTA). While Kirk Adams, Director of Privatization at the Kosovo Trust Agency, qualified the privatization programme as an essential first step to develop the private sector. According to Adams, the freeing of social assets into the private sector led to a significant growth of exports in the past three years. "The economy has been unleashed and the privatisation process played a big role in that," Adams said.

He noted that not every new company had been a success, but overall the results were very positive. "Most credit goes to the people of Kosovo, whose entrepreneurial spirit helped the companies to develop."

The companies examined were privatised in the past two years and the buyers of the companies were not subject to special conditions. Therefore, they could freely decide how to use the property.

### Upcoming Events

**June 12** -- Tina Kaidanow, US Chief of Mission will address Women in Law, an experience sharing conference organized by USAID implementing partner ABA/Rule of Law Initiative.

**June 12** -- Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID Mission Director issued Certificates of Training Completion to 24 students of secondary schools in Mitrovicë/a participants of a Recycling Campaign in Mitrovicë/a town.

**June 18--** Dr. Michael Farbman will officially open Gjakovë/Djakovica Citizens Service Center [One-stop shop].

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