



USAID Assistant Administrator Inaugurates a CSC

During his stay in Kosovo, Dr. Douglas Menarchik, Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia, officially inaugurated a Citizens Service Center, also known as one-stop shop, in Suhareka/Suvareka. Dr. Menarchik was accompanied by Aziz Lila, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA), Dr. Michael Farbman USAID/Kosovo Director and Sali Asllanaj, President of the Municipal Assembly.



Menarchik joined by Deputy Minister of MLGA to unveil the plaque

Citizen's Service Centers (CSC) are designed to streamline the delivery of many municipal services to citizens, which to date have been provided through the Intake Office and Municipal Directorates. The centers are also used to gather general complaints about city services, so they can be addressed in a thorough and comprehensive manner.

This CSC will also host a Business Support Center (BSC) and Youth Center. This is a unique arrangement, and an example of good cooperation between these segments of the Suhareka/Suvareka community. The BSC aims to promote local businesses, improve services to the business community, and better represent the business community's concerns to the municipal assembly and others.

Total cost for the Citizens Service Center and Business Support Center was \$300,000, of which USAID contributed \$150,000, the Municipality \$120,000 and MLGA \$30,000. USAID support was provided through the Local Government Initiative, implemented by Research Triangle Institute.

CONFLICT MITIGATION

Youth Advocacy + Business Support = A Cleaner Mitrovica

A dual-language public awareness campaign about recycling-- AMBALAZHET TEPRICA JUAJ RECIKLIMI YNË, or VAS VISAK PET AMABALAZA NASA RECIKLAZA is becoming a connector in the divided city of Mitrovica.

The two-month campaign has managed to connect two non-governmental organizations, two businesses, and two youth groups from two parts of the city; each of them with one goal: a cleaner city. The effort was initiated by two women's NGOs, Mundësia in the south and Women's Business Association in the north, who provided training to twenty-four secondary school students on the importance of recycling, how to recycle efficiently, and how to encourage more participation in recycling efforts.

Additional components, including a media campaign and distribution of educational materials, have helped expand the reach of this message.

"By getting the senior students to train younger children, this campaign becomes a true student enterprise. It is an opportunity to show that you as individuals can make a difference in your community. Your contribution will lead to a cleaner environment. It is in your hands to decide in what kind of an environment you and your friends will live in tomorrow" said Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID Mission Director, who participated at ceremony honoring students participating in the program.

The activity is supported by USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support project and Kosovo Civil Society Project.

School Day in Vica

June 8th will be remembered as School Day in Vica, Shtërpçe/Sterpçe municipality, following the official opening of a new school building by Dr. Douglas Menarchik, Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia.

Students showed their appreciation for USAID support by treating Dr. Menarchik to a festival of song and dance. Mr. Menarchik called upon the residents of the mixed community of Vica to continue their work.



Vica: Children carried balloons to make the event more colorful

"You, as students - study hard; and you, as parents - help educate your children to become responsible citizens in a peaceful and democratic Kosovo".

The school construction is part of USAID's Municipal Integration and Support Initiative (MISI) project, implemented by Mercy Corps.

RULE OF LAW AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Women in Law in Kosovo

Martha Barnett, former president of the American Bar Association, shared her experiences with law students at a Women in Law in Kosovo conference, held on June 12th in Pristina.

Speaking about her experience as a lawyer in the US, Barnett underscored the progress women have made in the legal profession over the past three decades. "In the last decades, considerable progress has been shown in the U.S. with regard to the role of women in the legal profession, but it is not too long a time ago when the US had the same situation as Kosovo is now," she said. She urged her fellow panelists and the law school students to establish a network of women lawyers to create a means for better and broader communication.

The one-day event offered a forum to discuss obstacles and challenges for women in the legal sector, and was a unique opportunity for law students and recent

graduates to learn about the challenges of and opportunities for women in the legal sector in Kosovo and the assistance they can receive as they enter the legal profession. The conference was organized by the Committee for Gender and Minorities of the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA) and the ABA /Rule of Law Initiative.

The Role of Bench and Bar Organizations

Critical issues facing the Kosovo judicial system were discussed during the Role of Bench and Bar Organizations Conference, organized in Pristina on June 13.

Fatmir Sejdiu, President of Kosovo, opened the conference. "The judicial system is one of the most challenging, yet important, areas in which proper institutions are required to accomplish our goal of building a democratic society", said President Sejdiu in his opening remarks.

The conference was the culmination of a series of bench-and-bar roundtables organized by ABA/Rule of Law Initiative with its partners, the Kosovo Judges Association (KJA) and Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA). The roundtables provided a forum for judges and lawyers to discuss common issues of concern and to agree on conclusions and recommendations on how to strengthen the legal system in Kosovo. Dr. Michael Farbman, Director of USAID/Kosovo, joined Mr. Sejdiu in praising the work of the participants. "The work and dedication of these organizations have contributed to improving the legal profession and judiciary. While the individual work of each is very important, their cooperative work together will further strengthen the legal community in Kosovo", said Dr. Michael Farbman.

Upcoming Events

June 26 -- Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID Mission Director, along with Minister for Communities and Returns, and Minister for Local Government Administration will honor the best performing MISI municipalities.

June 28 -- Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID Mission Director will honor 15 interns in the Ministry of Justice, part of USAID's FORECAST project.

July 9-- Groundbreaking ceremony for the north Mitrovica Public Library and dedication of the Water System Project in Banjske/a, Zvecan municipality.

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