



CONFLICT MITIGATION

Two New Projects in North from the American People

Residents of Zubin Potok gathered to celebrate the opening of their newly-rehabilitated Town Hall building at an opening ceremony on February 1st. The day also marked the finalization of another project in this municipality - the rehabilitation of the road linking the center of town with the highway. Both projects were selected as community priorities by the municipal leaders and community groups.



Youth of Zubin Potok entertaining the guests at the opening ceremony of the Old Town Hall building

"US Government is proud to have contributed over \$175,000 dollars to this effort, a significant amount of funding and a symbol of our desire to help all the people of Kosovo, north and south, east and west, enjoy a better life. There will be more such projects in Zubin Potok and elsewhere in the northern municipalities, as well as in Serb-majority areas in southern Kosovo," said Tina Kaidanow, US Chief of Mission, who joined Slavisa Radosavljevic, the mayor of Zubin Potok in unveiling a plaque at the Town Hall.

The project is a part of the Community Enhancement and Development Program (CED), a USAID initiative implemented in partnership with International Organization for Migration. CED helps improve living and working conditions in North Mitrovica and Zubin Potok through specific community infrastructure upgrades. The total cost for the rehabilitation of the old Town Hall building and the road and sidewalks was \$176,856.

INSTITUTION BUILDING

Bringing Dynamic Achievements

18 of 77 participants of the USAID supported Professional Development Program (PDP), conducted at the American University of Kosovo were honored with Special Achievement Awards by Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director.

"The results of "before" and "after" are quite visible," said Shkendije Himaj, one of the participants in her speech and continued, "we are all witness, of what is available in Kosovo in terms of education...you are exposed to text-book concepts. Therefore, my sincere compliments go to USAID for having identified this need and, more importantly, taking actions to meet this need."

The USAID-sponsored Professional Development Program (PDP) is designed to provide professional development skills relevant to Public Administrators. Course content includes oral speaking, writing, management skills, critical thinking, decision making, and others. In October 2006, the program created a Judges Think Tank and Executive Development Program, a special 12-week leadership program that deals with real-world government problems specifically identified in Kosovo. As a result of the Executive Development Program, participants proposed and implemented organizational changes in their departments. The program has been praised by the leadership of every governmental organization represented in the PDP. It has brought about dynamic achievements toward increased capacity for leadership throughout the Kosovo government.

The PDP is part of USAID's Economic Development Project, implemented by BearingPoint.

Improving the Skills through Hands-on Training

In January, three more groups of Kosovar leaders attended hands-on training activities specifically tailored for their respective area of interest.

Training events including TV production for journalists from two private Kosovo-wide TV stations; team formation and leadership skills development for civil servants of the Ministry of Justice; and a Cash Integration and Debt Management training for staff at the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

The three trainings are part of the Participant Training Program, a three year activity designed to provide targeted, short-term training and study tours that supplement USAID's strategic objectives. To date, some 450 Kosovars have participated in the Participant Training Program. The Participant Training Program is implemented by World Learning

DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Memorandum of Understanding strengthens cooperation

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina and the ABA/CEELI Rule of Law Initiative strengthens cooperation in implementing two activities: a legal clinic and a legal methodology course. Both initiatives are being implemented at the Law Faculty.

Legal clinics are designed to teach law students practical skills that will prepare them for practicing law. The Legal Clinic provides a combination of in-class lectures, assignments and practical experiences with legal professionals including lawyers, judges and prosecutors. Course and practical work involves experiences in legal research and analysis; identifying factual and legal issues; problem solving; interviewing and counseling clients; and formulating relevant legal theories.

In addition, the Law Faculty and local judicial institutions involved in implementation of the curriculum and teaching methodology reform program signed a separate MoU, which serves as a general framework for cooperation between partners. Representatives of the Kosovo Supreme Court, Kosovo Judges Association, Kosovo Chamber of Advocates, Pristina Municipal and District Courts and the Kosovo Public Prosecutorial Office were present and participated in the ceremony. Their attendance reinforced the institutions' commitment to cooperation with the Law Faculty in jointly implementing the legal clinic course, launched for the first time by the ABA Rule of Law Initiative in October 2005, and also the recently established legal methodology course.

The courses are part of USAID supported Increasing Capacity of Legal Professionals, a project implemented in partnership with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Developing Managerial Skills through Hope Fellowships

A new phase of the USAID-supported Hope Fellowship Program started with the launch of a management training program in the end of January.

The training program includes a series of courses aimed at building leadership and strategic thinking skills among government, civil society, and private sector leaders. The first course focused on managing people and organizations. The training developed a sense of cooperation among participants through team-based learning approaches, which contributes to the Hope Fellowship Program's goal of establishing a Kosovo Leadership Program learning community among program alumni.

Furthermore, through separate sessions with the facilitators, Mrs. Myesere Hoxha-Lamaxhema, Mr. Seremb Gjergji and Dr Karin Wahl-Jorgensen, the group gained more knowledge on the history of management, basic managerial functions, roles and skills. During the course the participants had the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills in the areas of individual and interpersonal processes in the organization and organizational processes and characteristics.

The National Albanian American Council has been implementing the Hope Fellowship program in Kosovo since 2001. The project has been developing leadership and managerial skills of high-level officials, particularly women, in government and civil society.

Upcoming Events

February 22, -- Partnership Against Human Trafficking supported by USAID will present their findings on Kosovars attitude and behaviour toward trafficking of Human Beings.

February 27 -- Supported by USAID, Freedom House will sign grant agreements with NGO's from Rahovec/Orahova, Gjilan/Gnjiane, Mitrovice/a, and Pristina to facilitate a Kosovo wide dialogue.



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