



### OVERCOMING THE DIVIDE

#### Multi-Ethnic Media Dialogue

USAID's Kosovo Media Assistance Program (KMAP) conducted the first of its dialogue sessions for media professionals from a range of ethnic groups in Kosovo. Editors and journalists from Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian and Roma outlets participated in the event.



Journalists during the training

The training served as basis for reinforcing cross-ethnic cooperation between journalists. Despite political differences, participants agreed that cooperation among journalists of different ethnic backgrounds is essential to preserve integrity in the media. Journalists cited cases when they shared stories, information, and quotes of people they interviewed.

"Journalists have a mission to fulfill-- to provide correct, objective and professionally produced information. To do that, they must cooperate," said Sebiha Ramaxhiku from Radio Dukagjini. She continued, "the media are a strong weapon, and in order to be successful there must be cooperation in the way reality is presented in each part of Kosovo from each community."

### BETTER INFORMED CITIZENRY

#### Improving Reporting on Courts

Twenty four journalists from different Kosovo-based media outlets attended four sessions of a Court Reporting training organized by USAID's Justice System Reform Activity.

The training, which ran during April and May, included several topics of interest to journalists covering rule of law in Kosovo. Participants exchanged ideas on the overall development of the justice system in Kosovo, as well as specific topics such as the criminal and civil procedures, legal terminology, and operations of the Kosovo Judicial Council and Judicial Inspection Unit. Of special interest to participants were sessions covering Law and Journalism - media ethics, authors' rights, writing for internet, and court reporting.

Participants included representatives of six print media outlets, six TV stations (regional and Kosovo-wide), ten regional radio stations, and two news agencies. Each of the sessions tasked the journalists with a practical exercise, which were discussed in the subsequent classes.

The trainings were highly interactive, as participants presented their work and shared their experiences with each other. At the end of the training, participants were issued certificates of appreciation.

#### Reporting on Human Trafficking

Five media stories addressing the issue of human trafficking have been chosen to receive awards by the Partnership Against Trafficking in Human Beings (PATH) program. The journalists and producers of best stories were honored at an event organized on May 10 in Pristina.

The prize-winning stories include: best television report - Bashkim Vishaj (KTV); best radio story - Vahide Morina (Blu Sky Radio); best print story - Teuta Hykolli (Kosovo Live); best investigative story - Idriz Seferi (Zeri daily); and best headline - Fitim Uka (InfoPress daily).

All five entries included interviews with former victims of trafficking to put a more human face on the problem. The five stories also reflected first-rate journalism, using multiple sources, citing NGOs and government officials, and responsibly discussing facts and statistics.

The competition followed a previous training organized for nineteen Kosovar journalists. That training, which focused on reporting about human trafficking, was organized in partnership with USAID's Kosovo Media Assistance Project. The training and contest aimed to increase Kosovars' knowledge about trafficking, its causes and consequences.

A recent survey indicated that more than 90 percent of Kosovars receive their information about trafficking from the media, highlighted the need for responsible journalism. Partnership Against Trafficking in Human Beings (PATH) is supported by USAID, and is implemented through Catholic Relief Services and Kosovo Population Foundation (KOPF).

## SPECIAL INITIATIVES

### Scholarship Opportunities for Minorities

In an effort to help minority students gain access to better education, USAID is providing a number of scholarships for students wishing to study at the American University in Kosovo (AUK).

In order to make on-campus living more appealing for potential students, AUK is remodeling some of their current faculty housing into student housing. A total of five full, four-year scholarships will be available for successful applicants.



Part of the outreach campaign for minority students

AUK staff and USAID's FORECAST staff are visiting schools throughout Kosovo to introduce eligible candidates to the opportunity. Furthermore, the visits are accompanied by a public information campaign including radio advertisements, billboards, e-mail announcements to NGO's working with minority communities, and distribution of program information by "Nasa Kuca", a minority NGO Network.

For more information about the scholarship program, please contact World Learning/Kosovo.

## PROMOTING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Promoting Kosovo's Wood Industry

From May 9 through 12, the Association of Wood Processors of Kosovo hosted "Natyra 2007", its traditional Wood Fair. Forty five local companies came out to exhibit their products, which include doors, windows, wood flooring, cabinets and furniture.

The fair was attended by the President of Kosovo, the Minister of Trade and Industry, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the Mayor of Prishtina, and others showing their support for the development of the wood products industry in Kosovo.

Local media outlets also participated in the event, interviewing producers and buyers in an effort to highlight opportunities for further expansion of the industry. This year's event saw an increase in number of exhibitors, variety of goods, and quality of products on display. The fair is also expected to generate higher revenues than last year's event.

The Association of Wood Processors of Kosovo is supported by USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support.

### Upcoming Events

**May 30, --** Tina Kaidanow, USOP Chief of Mission will dedicate the *Physiotherapy Department Rehabilitation* project in northern Mitrovica.

**May 31, --** Tina Kaidanow, US Chief of Mission will officially dedicate the *Road Rehabilitation Project* in Shterpce/Sterpce

**June 6 --** Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID Mission Director will open the *New Water System* in Runik, Skenderaj/Srbica municipality.

**June 8 -9 --** During his visit Dr. Douglas Menarchick, USAID Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia will officially open the Annex of Vica Primary School, Shterpce/Sterpce municipality, and Suhareka/Suvareka Citizens Service Center [One-stop shop].



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