



### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

#### A Better Place to Live

**M**en wearing orange uniforms have been circling around the town of Skenderaj/Srbica transforming it into a more beautiful place to live. The activity is part of a USAID initiative to assist in cleaning up some of the most garbage-ridden municipalities in Kosovo and generate short-term jobs in areas with high unemployment. The initiative started with Skenderaj/Srbica municipality late October and expanded to include Mitrovica and Vushtrri/Vucitrn.



Clean up of Skenderaj/Srbica

"This is the best project that has ever happened in Skenderaj", said a resident as the clean up of the river bed was ongoing. Skenderaj/Srbica has a lot of street garbage and one of the highest unemployment rates in Kosovo.

According to Rasim Mlinaku, environment inspector with the municipality of Vushtrri/Vucitrn, the initiative was more than welcome. "Had it not been for the project, there would have been some serious flooding as the river waters backed up," said Mr. Mlinaku.

The clean-up initiative is being implemented in cooperation with USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support Project.

#### Extending the Life of Local Products

**D**r. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director, joined Husnija Beskovic, President of the Association of Fruit Farmers of Bllagaje (UVB), at the opening of a refrigerated storage chamber in Bllagaje, Peja/Pec municipality.

The chamber will help extend the life of fruit collected by members of the association. Longer fruit life enables farmers to command better prices for their products and engage in trade later in the season, thereby increasing incomes. Apples are the main product of this Kosovo Bosniak community.

Supported by USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support project, members of this association were able to convert four rooms into a large refrigerated room capable of storing apples at or near zero degrees Centigrade. Technical assistance and training will also help farmers retain product quality at a high-level until April or May, when they can take advantage of higher market prices.

### HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

#### Small Steps for Bigger Changes

**T**hirty nine participants of a USAID-sponsored summer workshop held in cooperation with the University of Prishtina (UP) were honored at a ceremony held on November 7th. The workshop explored challenges in upgrading UP's administrative systems and processes, modernizing its management systems, and ultimately improving the quality of teaching and the learning experience for the students in this University.

"Quality requirements will be systematically built into the University's structure, its procedures and its curriculum. All these process improvements will lead to greater accountability and integrity in the educational experience for faculty, administrators and students alike," said Dr. Michael Farbman, Director



Dr. Michael Farbman joins Rector Enver Hasani in handing out the certificates to University staff and lecturers

for USAID/Kosovo in his greeting remarks on November 8. Farbman joined Enver Hasani, Rector of University of Prishtina, in handing certificates to the participants of the course.

During the workshop, participants developed an approach, methodology, and action plan for improving University performance, starting with the central administration. The initiative is supported through USAID's Focusing on Results Enhancing Capacity Across Sectors in Transition (FORECAST) implemented through World Learning.

### Building a Civil Service

“ It was an honor and privilege to be part of the Professional Development Program” said Ruzhdi Zeqiri, graduate of the Professional Development Program (PDP).

Ruzhdi was one of the 51 civil servants recognized at a ceremony honoring graduates of the Professional Development Program (PDP) and Leadership Development Program (LDP) on November 21st in Pristina.

Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director, presented the graduates certificates of program completion. "Kosovo's future is in the hands of people like you - skilled professionals who are able to apply their acquired skills to create a more efficient, effective, and transparent public sector. There is no doubt that enhancing management and leadership skills will greatly benefit your professional career, your institutions, and ultimately Kosovo," said Dr. Farbman.

The program consists of two phases, the PDP and LDP, and was designed specifically for the needs of mid-level and senior management of Kosovo public sector institutions. The Professional Development Program focuses on professional and public administration skills, while the Leadership Program further enhances these skill. Both programs utilized Kosovo-specific case studies to engage participants in class discussion and problem-solving exercises.

This seven-month program was funded by USAID and implemented by Bearing Point.

### Upcoming Events

**December 18** - Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID Director will attend the dedication of a school project in Ferizaj/Urosevac municipality.



U.S. Agency for International Development  
Arbëria (Dragodan), Ismail Qemali st., nr. 1  
Phone: ++ 381 38 243 673  
Fax: ++ 381 38 249 493  
For more information visit [www.usaid.gov/missions/kosovo](http://www.usaid.gov/missions/kosovo) and [www.pristina.usmission.gov](http://www.pristina.usmission.gov) or contact us at [kosovousaidinfo@usaid.gov](mailto:kosovousaidinfo@usaid.gov)