



## CONFLICT MITIGATION

### Two New Projects Help Improve Living Conditions for Kosovo Serbs

Two new projects in Kosovo Serb villages, including the rehabilitation of the Kralj Milutin School in Gracanice/a, and the construction of a Playground in Dobrotin [Lipjan/Lipljan] were dedicated in June.

The projects are part of an ongoing effort to improve basic infrastructure in minority areas and facilitate community integration. USAID has been working closely with the communities to assess their needs and develop projects that have an impact on the life of residents in these villages.

"Education is key to the development of children and we are proud that we have been able to help you so you can study in better facilities", said Tina Kaidanow, Charge D'Affaires of the US Embassy in Kosovo, to the children who performed at the dedication event in Gracanice/a. The total cost of the projects dedicated was \$254,020.



Getting ready to play (from left) Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Director, Peter Duffy, Program Officer, Nenad Rasic, Minister, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

The projects are part of USAID's Community Enhancement Development Project, implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

### Road dedicated in Perceve/Percevo

Cooperation between USAID's Municipal Integration and Support Initiative (MISI) and the residents of Perceve in Kline/Klina municipality resulted in the

dedication of a road rehabilitation project on June 17.

The project was made possible through the hard work of the Community Working Group in advocating and fundraising for the rehabilitation of the road, which cost 293,911 euro.

Perceve/Percevo village, with 1,200 inhabitants, has been cooperating with MISI in prioritizing the needs of the village and articulating them to Kline/Klina municipal authorities. The successful collaboration resulted in a remarkable improvement for residents, as they have better access to markets, health facilities and schools.

USAID, through MISI, contributed 26,000 euros to the project, while the municipality and the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications supported the remainder of the cost. The Perceve/Percevo road rehabilitation project is one of six projects in Kline/Klina municipality implemented through MISI, a partnership with Mercy Corps.

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Packaging Design Competition Award Ceremony

A ceremony announcing the winners of a competition among local design firms to create new packaging designs for five local manufacturers was held on June 11.

USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support project joined with local consulting company MDA and media partner RTV21 to organize the competition. It is hoped that improved labels and in-store promotion will boost sales of these, and other, Kosovo products.

The initiative was based on lessons learned from a Packaging Design Workshop organized in November 2007 and the need for continuous improvement of packaging for Kosovo-made products. This incentive-based competition is an effective way to assist businesses to introduce new packaging designs, improve the quality and competitiveness among local design companies and increase linkages between professional designers and manufactures/producers.

The designs of participating agencies Zero Positive, Ogilvy, Molos Group, Trembelat, Init and IDEA graphic were evaluated by a panel of five international judges and

packaging design experts from the US, UK and Europe. Meanwhile, local businesses that entered their products in the competition committed to improving packaging in the future. The participating companies were Agro Product Commerce (frozen mushrooms), Magic Ice (feta cheese), Kllokoti (water), DTS (Turkish delight) and Pajtimi (juice). The winning design was that of Init for the Nora brand juice, produced by Pajtimi.

The Kosovo Cluster and Business Support Project is a four-year activity that works to stimulate economic growth in three different business clusters: livestock (including dairy, meat, animal feed, and poultry), fruits and vegetables, and construction materials.

## IMPROVING EDUCATION

### Education Partnership in Telecommunications

A project to help the University of Prishtina (UP) prepare graduates to meet workforce demands in telecommunication was launched on June 10th.

The initiative is a partnership among USAID's Higher Education for Development (HED) project, the University of Pittsburgh, and UP's Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

The project will upgrade the current UP graduate curriculum in telecommunications and introduce new courses that more effectively meet private sector needs. This will be achieved by building effective relationships among UP faculty and private industry, providing faculty members with curriculum materials and instructional expertise, developing a student internship program, and forming an Industry Advisory Council (IAC) in Kosovo that will provide critical feedback to the UP faculty on needed curriculum

development. In addition, three junior faculty members will have an opportunity to complete a Master in Telecommunications program at the University of Pittsburgh.

*"Possessing modern information and telecommunications infrastructure is critical for any country to prosper at home and to be competitive in the global economy, and education is a key factor in building a competitive workforce that can serve as a multiplier for such investments".*

*Michael Farbman,  
USAID/Kosovo Director*

## RULE OF LAW

### Understanding among Judges and Lawyers

State regulation of bench-bar activities was the topic of the first American Bar Association (ABA) "Bench-Bar Roundtable" since Kosovo's declaration of independence.

Michael Greco, former president of the ABA and participant in the first roundtable, held in December 2005, joined the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA) and Kosovo Judges Association (KJA) to speak on the topic. Greco was joined by Rexhep Haxhimusa, President of the Supreme Court and President of Kosovo Judicial Council. Mr. Haxhimusa spoke about the role of the KJA under the new Constitution of Kosovo, while the presidents of the KCA and KJA spoke about the ethical obligations of the associations' members.

The roundtables have been a regular mechanism to exchange information and address issues between lawyers and judges since 2005. The events are organized by the ABA/Rule of Law Initiative with support from USAID.

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