



INVESTING IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Training Program Recognizes Participants

138 civil servants, lawyers, judges, and civil society representatives were honored at USAID's annual Participant Training Program award ceremony.

"All of you, regardless of the Government agency, NGO, or business that you represent, will play a critical role in the progress Kosovo makes toward becoming a prosperous, democratic, and multi-ethnic society. I encourage you to make the most of it by sharing what you've learned with your colleagues and by continuously looking for new ways to apply your knowledge to your work," said Tina Kaidanow, US Office Pristina Chief of Mission. Hashim Thaçi, Prime Minister of Kosovo, also spoke at the event.



Participants of the Youth Securing the Future study tour to US- From left -- Dardane Ceku, Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID Director, Adnan Hasi, CRS, Tina Kaidanow USOP CoM, Alban Mehmeti, Hashim Thaci, Prime Minister of Kosovo, and Rabiye Korenica

The 138 awardees participated in study tours and workshops in a wide array of technical fields, including judicial reform, business development, budgetary policy, media, and others.

The ceremony also recognized 24 Kosovo citizens who have served as computer and English language

instructors in seven schools and one Community Center as part of USAID's effort to bridge the divide between young Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs.

To date, more than 600 Kosovars have participated in the Participant Training Program, implemented for USAID by World Learning.

RULE OF LAW

Kosovars Start Training Program in Legislative Drafting

A year-long training program developed by USAID's Justice Support Program will strengthen legislative drafting capacity within the Ministry of Justice and the Kosovo Judicial Council as part of USAID's efforts to strengthen rule of law in Kosovo.

The first two of 14 modules of the "Legislative Drafting Skills and Techniques" program were completed at the beginning of March. Each module addresses a specific aspect of legislative drafting, a skill that uses highly specialized legal writing and analytical thinking to prepare well-reasoned and clear laws and regulations.

The program covers issues and best-practices throughout the legislative process, from policy development, drafting, rule-making, through implementation. The training program is attracting interest of other governmental agencies that recognize the need for good legislative drafting skills in order to fulfill their responsibilities, including Kosovo Legal Aid and the Legal Office of the Assembly.

The Legal Office of the Assembly has expressed interest in sending legislative committee staff to future training modules. The legal drafting training program is implemented for USAID by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in cooperation with its local partner, European Centre-Kosovo (EC-K).

Progress Reported within the Chamber of Advocates

An Organizational Assessment Report published in January by the American Bar Association/Rule of Law Initiative (ABA/ROLI) provided evidence that the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates' (KCA) is making progress toward becoming a sustainable and relevant organization.

The report highlighted KCA's achievements in areas such as administration and project design implementation. These are important factors as KCA seeks to implement more programs, particularly with regard to the professional development of members.

The assessment concluded that KCA leadership is committed to trying to improve the position of lawyers in society and tackling the big issues confronting the profession.

ABA/ROLI has been working closely with Kosovo Chamber of Advocates for the past nine years, with support from USAID

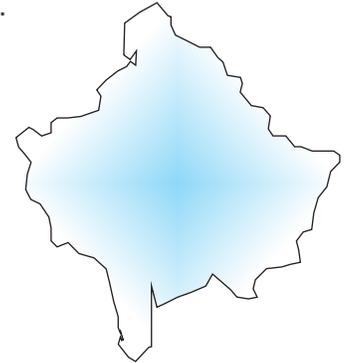
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT

Promoting Local Government Reform

The Association of Municipalities of Kosovo (AMK) held its third assembly and elected a new board on February 27. Bajram Rexhepi, former Prime Minister of Kosovo and current mayor of Mitrovica, was elected President of the AMK board.

The AMK plays an important role in improving local governance and promoting civic participation. AMK also serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among municipalities. "With the implementation of recently-enacted local government reforms in Kosovo, the role of the Association in promoting good governance and advocating for the interests of Kosovo's municipalities will become even more important," said USAID/Kosovo Mission Director Michael Farbman at the event.

AMK works closely with USAID's Kosovo Municipalities Initiative.



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