



### Economy Events

#### TRADE FAIR OFFERS POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

The Third Annual Trade Fair opened on March 30th in Pristina and gathered manufacturers from all Kosovo. More than 30 Kosovar wood manufacturers, and plastic and aluminum producers of doors and windows displayed their products during four days of the Trade Fair. Organized by the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce, the event was assisted by USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support through the Kosovo Wood Processors Association.

The Trade Fair is becoming a tradition as well as an opportunity for many producers to display their products, and thus, their contribution to the development of the economy -- " private businesses are helping the Government of Kosovo meet the Standard on economy, and the Government will remain committed to protecting businesses from illegal competition," said Bujar Dugolli, the Minister of Trade and Industry at the opening ceremony.

Still, the low level of job opportunities remains a crucial issue to the economic development, and as Ken Yamashita USAID/Kosovo Mission Director, said at the event, "through their work, the participants of the fair are creating new jobs. Creating new jobs is more important than the Standards and the status." The fair was followed by a series of workshops/presentations on primary processing-saw milling systems facilitated by the Association of Wood Processors in cooperation with USAID's KCBS program implemented by Chemonics International.

### Dialogue and Reconciliation

#### LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The project encouraging municipalities and different ethnic groups to work together in Istog/Istok municipality commenced on April 4 with a groundbreaking ceremony of the village Health Facility in Dobrushë/Dobrusa. Residents of the village, Community Working Group representatives, Municipal officials and the Minister of Health were present at the



Workers preparing to lay foundation of the health center in Dobrushë/Dobrusa

event-- celebrating the results of cooperation between different ethnic groups in the community with local government, assisted by USAID's Municipal Infrastructure and Support Initiative (MISI).

This project joined communities and local government to address provision of easier access to health care for the residents of this remote village, many of whom are senior citizens who cannot afford to travel long distances to regional centers. Dobrushë/Dobrusa, a small village in Istog/Istok Municipality, is an example of inter-ethnic cooperation among communities living there.

"Today, I see another sign for the future - community and municipality working together, different ethnicities - Bosniacs, Albanian, Serbian, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian - working together to in solve community problems. This is how standards will be met," --Ken Yamashita, USAID Mission Director.

Through the USAID/MISI program, the community advocated for and ensured that 51, 583 euros would be available for construction of the health facility: 23, 583 euros contributed from Istog/Istok municipal budget, 28,000 euros from USAID, and 1,760 euros will be in-kind contribution of the community. MISI, a two-year project implemented by Mercy Corps is designed to assist communities and improve conditions for returns and reintegration of minorities through cooperative efforts of ethnic groups.

#### TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE-THE MISSING PART OF THE KOSOVO PUZZLE

" Transitional Justice" - better known as reconciliation in a war-torn society was the topic of a two-day workshop organized by Kosovo Documentation Institute (KODI) and the Advocacy Training Resource

Center (ATRC).

The workshop took place on April 4 - 5, in Pristina with the objective of easing the reconciliation process by introducing possible mechanisms or models toward reconciliation, and adapting them to the Kosovar environment.

The workshop is the first stage of a six-month policy study that brought together people in administrative and decision-making positions, people from all different backgrounds, diverse ethnicities, gender, and age. The workshop was comprised of lectures, discussions and brainstorming sessions designed to generate ideas for possible models. At the end of the workshop, the participants were split into groups to develop a concept paper on possible transitional justice strategies for Kosovo.

Transitional Justice is a necessary process in post-war societies in overcoming the consequences of conflicts and achieving the recuperation of the society. It includes various initiatives and processes such as independent investigative bodies, trials for crimes committed during the conflict that would be accepted by all parties, reparations and the like, all of which were absent in post-conflict Kosovo

The initiative is supported by USAID through the Kosovo NGO Advocacy Program (KNAP), a cooperative agreement with East West Management Institute (EWMI).

## Legal News

### MEASURING LEGAL PROFESSION REFORM

The Legal Profession Reform Index (LPRI) for Kosovo, a crucial indicator of the current status of the legal profession was released on March 30th, 2005. This specific edition of LPRI offers a detailed assessment of the level of legal professional development, an area USAID supports through its Legal Professional Development project implemented by the American Bar Association/ Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI).

Measuring progress toward the rule of law is difficult. Unlike other aspects of development assistance, legal reform efforts are less susceptible to measuring.

USAID has supported the development of new "assessment tools" such as LPRI to evaluate the reform process in the legal profession in Kosovo. This way, LPRI will assist the establishment of a more ethical, effective and independent legal profession, and will provide useful information to the public, local organizations, donors and implementers of legal reform programs. LPRI will also serve as a valuable resource for promoting the rule of law worldwide, at the same time empowering legal professionals to act on behalf of their professional interests and assist non-governmental organizations in supporting legal reform and engaging in grassroots advocacy efforts.

### CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT/DELAY REDUCTION IN KOSOVO'S COURTS

The National Center for States Courts (NCSC) introduced the first stage of a caseload/delay reduction program with a one-day seminar that took place on March 31st. 30 legal experts from the Department of Justice, Kosovo Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, Ministry of Public Services, Department of Judicial Administration, and OSCE participated in the seminar.

The first stage of the Caseload Management program will measure the time to disposition of closed civil and criminal cases and determine the size and age of pending caseloads in each of the 5 district courts, 5 selected municipal courts and 2 selected municipal courts. This statistical study will serve as a baseline for measuring progress in reducing backlogs and shortening case processing times and it will serve as the basis of a follow up seminar, which will establish time standards for the processing of cases as well as strategies for reducing pending caseloads.

NCSC implements USAID's Effective Judiciary and Courts System project, a crucial pillar in the development of rule of law in Kosovo.

#### Upcoming Events

- April 6, Civil Society Roundtable facilitated by USAID
- April 8, Decentralization and Kosovo, Public Discussion
- April 12, Cluster Stakeholders Meeting
- April 13, Meeting with Partners



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