



USAID | MACEDONIA

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

2009



The annual expo of the Association of Units of Self-government (ZELS), an organization supported by USAID, has become a major cultural, economic and political event in Macedonia.

USAID Selected Results 1993-2007 Democracy and Governance

- Trained over 3,000 election monitors
- Contributed to free and fair elections in '02, '03, '04 and '05
- Helped to develop and implement the National Anti-corruption Strategy
- Helped to establish the Macedonian Institute for Media (MIM)
- Supported new Laws on Courts, Enforcement and Judicial Council
- Automated court budget systems
- Reduced civil case backlog by 58 percent in assisted courts
- Supported the implementation of a key population census in 2002
- Helped to design the legal framework for government decentralization
- Modernized 84 municipalities

OVERVIEW

The Republic of Macedonia separated peacefully from Yugoslavia in 1991 but has not yet completed the political and economic reforms required for European integration. USAID supported Macedonia in its implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, which brought the 2001 ethnic conflict to an end, by helping to enact the legal framework for decentralization, by supporting peaceful and fair parliamentary elections, and by facilitating an accurate and widely accepted national census. As the country moves forward, USAID's democracy assistance focuses increasingly on helping Macedonia to prepare for European Union (EU) and NATO accession.

PROGRAMS

MACEDONIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY

The Local Government Activity provides technical assistance, training and systems support to Macedonian sub-national governments. This includes fiscal and budget management, local revenue raising, community participation, and planning and development of local government associations. The project prioritizes fiscal decentralization, including the development of the necessary planning, management and accounting skills to allow Macedonian municipalities to access private credit markets and achieve EU standards.

JUDICIAL REFORM IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

The Judicial Reform Implementation Project provides technical and material assistance to the Ministry of Justice, the Administrative Office of the Court Budget Council, the Academy for Training of Judges and Public Prosecutors, the Supreme Court, and subordinate courts in Macedonia. The project develops the judiciary into a stronger, more effective and independent branch of government. It increases citizen trust in the judicial system, introduces modern court administration practices, and strengthens local capacity to improve court organization and performance.

CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING PROJECT

The Civil Society Strengthening Project is making Macedonia's civil society a more effective, influential and permanent partner alongside government and businesses. The project works with 17 Leader NGOs to implement local partnership, advocacy and anti-corruption initiatives in a variety of fields and geographic areas. The program improves the legal framework, introduces new models for generating resources and promoting philanthropy, and fosters volunteerism within the sector.



USAID Civil Society Strengthening Project empowers Macedonian citizens to participate in economic and political processes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Democracy Office Director
Kenneth Lizzio
Tel: 011-389-2-310 2000

Local address:
USAID/Macedonia
U.S Embassy, Samoilova 21,
1000 Skopje
Republic of Macedonia

Lauren Russell
Desk Officer for Macedonia
Tel: 202-712-4873

<http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Parliamentary Development Project increases the accountability of elected officials, strengthens their ability to represent the public, engages minorities in the political process, ensures the integrity of the election process, and supports the development of political parties. The project provides technical assistance, training and operational support to the Macedonian National Assembly to introduce and improve practices such as public hearings, legislative review and legislative research.

POLITICAL PARTIES SUPPORT PROJECT

The Political Party Support Project strengthens the internal democratic practices of political parties and encourages meaningful dialogue between the leadership of the parties and their constituencies. The project is strengthening party organizations at the local level to enhance their ability to serve as advocates of local issues and to foster increased reliance by political parties on issue-based politics and political communications.

HOPE FELLOWSHIP PROJECT

The regional Hope Fellowship Program offers training in leadership, communications, management, advocacy, anti-corruption and youth issues. The Fellowship develops the capacity of women leaders of all ethnic backgrounds and encourages women business owners to take relevant training. The program also targets youth through special youth-oriented curriculum, and works with men to build their support for the advancement of women.

HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Human and Institutional Development (HID) Program conducts organizational performance assessments of key Macedonian institutions, followed by targeted interventions to improve their effectiveness. The HID Program was instrumental in the development of the Government's National Anti-corruption Strategy, as well as the comprehensive performance management system to monitor its implementation. The program works with such organizations as the Ministry of Justice, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, the State Education Inspectorate, and the Bureau for Development of Education. The project also provides training and technical assistance in the key sectors targeted by USAID – economy, democracy and education.