



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Visit of American Chargé d'Affaires in Macedonia to the USAID Business without Borders Project**

Today, the Chargé d'Affaires from the American Embassy in Macedonia visited the USAID Business without Borders project, implemented by the Business Start-up Center (BSC) in Bitola. Business without Borders is a three-year project that works to accelerate economic growth in southern Macedonia by assisting small and medium sized enterprises. As part of the visit, Business without Borders organized a business fair featuring local companies supported by BSC.

In December 2010, USAID awarded U.S. \$1.3 million to the BSC to implement this project. Early results are promising. To date, Business without Borders has trained more than 300 participants, 160 of whom are women. Twenty-three new jobs have been created, and three new companies have been officially registered.

#### NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested over \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993 to create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.