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PRESS RELEASE

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USAIDs Launches Business Without Borders

Today, USAID launched Business Without Borders, a three-year project to accelerate growth in southern Macedonia. The project will assist small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) as generators of economic growth and development. It will help existing companies to further develop, as well as unemployed and potential entrepreneurs to find employment and to realize their ideas by opening their own businesses.

"The small enterprises we support through this assistance are expected to create 250 new jobs, partially targeting populations that have more difficulty prospering on the labor market, such as women and youth," said USAID Mission Director Robert Wuertz.

USAID awarded U.S. \$1.2 million to the Foundation Business Start-up Center (BSC) Bitola to implement this project. Business Without Borders will facilitate the start-up and legal registration of 100 new SMEs and support the growth of 120 existing SMEs. It will work to improve the regional framework of SME development, involving partners such as the University of Bitola and the Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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>.

The Foundation Business Start-up Center Bitola was established in 2007 to assist new businesses in the Pelagonija region.