



USAID | MACEDONIA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2010

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PRESS RELEASE

First Career Counselors Certified in Macedonia

Twenty-eight professional consultants have been awarded certificates as Global Career Development Facilitators (GCDF) from the Center for Credentialing & Education, Inc (CCE). This is the first group of professional Career Counselors trained and certified in Macedonia in accordance with GCDF standards.

"This first generation of professional Career Counselors will be able to provide professional advice and guide students in choosing a career that is right for them, in keeping with their talents and interests as well as the most current demands of the Macedonian economy," said Michael Fritz, USAID Mission Director.

The USAID Competitiveness Project organized this first GCDF training course in Macedonia. Participants included university career counselors, career coaches, job search facilitators, employment/placement specialists, and human resources and career development coordinators.

"The Ministry of Education and Science will continue the cooperation with USAID and will actively support the work of the career counselors as well as the Association of Counselors of Macedonia. Through career counseling students are better equipped to manage their careers, and become more competitive on the labor market" said Nikola Todorov, Minister of Education and Science.

The newly established National Association of Certified Career Counselors was also promoted at the certification ceremony. This professional association, a result of the GCDF initiative, will encourage recognition of career counseling as an official profession in Macedonia.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

GCDF is an international professional career counseling certificate issued by the Center for Credentialing & Education, Inc (CCE) - corporate affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC®), a leader in the professional credentialing field. The Program is currently being implemented in over 40 countries including, the USA, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Germany, Greece, Japan, Romania, New Zealand, South Korea, Turkey and Portugal among others.

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.