



USAID | MACEDONIA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Partnerships for a Skilled Workforce

On September 29, 2010, the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Center promoted its new strategy for institutional development that will help the Center become the beacon for coordinating all major stakeholders to ensure that new vocational programs and curricula reflect the needs of Macedonia. The Center brought together 150 people to ensure their interest and commitment for harmonizing the needs of employers, employees and local and national governments as well as those seeking employment, to develop tailor-made programs that meet the need for skills and equip the workforce to keep up with the pace of change.

"Today's event is an opportunity to increase our understanding for the role that the VET Center can play – not just within the education system – but as an agent of change to support Macedonia's socio-economic development," said U.S. Embassy Chargé d' Affaires, Brian Aggeler.

This first five-year strategy created by the VET Center for its institutional development is one result of its capacity-building efforts over the past year, supported by the USAID Human and Institutional Development Program. Additionally, Center staff were trained to be stronger leaders in vocational education and training, and partnerships were emphasized as the best possible way to enhance vocational education and training in Macedonia.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Human and Institutional Development Program is a five-year program funded by USAID and implemented by World Learning. The goal of the program is to improve the performance of institutions deemed key for the future of Macedonia. In the field of education, these include the State Education Inspectorate and the Bureau for Development of Education, as well as the Vocational Education and Training Center.

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>.