



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **USAID Helps Macedonia's Municipalities Provide Better Services to Citizens**

Over the last four years, all municipalities in Macedonia have improved their financial management and administration of local taxes. In fact, tax collection at the national level almost tripled from 2006 through 2010. Since 2007, the USAID Macedonia Local Government Activity (MLGA) has supported Macedonia's local governments to improve their services to citizens by enhancing municipal efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.

USAID's MLGA was instrumental in the decentralization of construction land management authority to the local level, as well as establishing the municipal credit market through development of a relevant legal framework and building municipal capacity to access credit markets for implementation of bigger capital investment projects.

"All this would not have been achieved without our partners, with whom we worked jointly and devotedly to introduce innovative and modern systems aimed at efficient and high quality provision of services for all citizens of Macedonia," said USAID MLGA Chief of Party Gjorgji Josifov, at the close out ceremony.

USAID assisted all municipalities in Macedonia by 1) supporting development of the intergovernmental finance system, 2) improving municipal financial management capacities, 3) strengthening the creditworthiness of municipalities to enable municipal infrastructure investments, 4) improving tax and fee collection at the local level, 5) helping municipalities stimulate local economic development, and 6) increasing local government transparency and accountability.

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The USAID MLGA was a \$6 million activity, implemented by Tetra Tech ARD. By building the capacity and improving the performance of key local democratic institutions, such as the Association of Units of Local Self Government (ZELS), those institutions have become more sustainable and able to continue pursuing decentralization reforms.

The American people, through USAID, have invested over \$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>.

