



USAID | MACEDONIA
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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Funds First Teacher Training on Assistive Technology

Today, USAID's Equal Access for Equal Opportunities project launched the first teacher training on assistive technology use in primary education at the "Jan Amos Komenski" primary school in Skopje. The school was the first of twenty to receive a donation of assistive devices which make access to information technology easier for students with special educational needs.

"Through our Equal Access for Equal Opportunities project, we will provide assistive peripheral devices and software to 20 selected primary schools throughout Macedonia. In addition, we will train more than 200 teachers and 100 school pedagogues or psychologists, as well as school administrators and parents in the use and benefits of assistive technology. We encourage schools to use this technology in their daily work with children with special educational needs" stated USAID Macedonia Mission Director Robert Wuertz

The Minister of Information Society and Administration Ivo Ivanovski welcomed the training and stressed that USAID's initiative greatly enhances the government's "Computer for Every Child" project and the implementation of the new National Strategy for e-Inclusion 2011-2015. Mayor Stevce Jakimovski expressed his pride that two primary schools from the Municipality of Karpos will be part of the project and serve as a model of inclusive schools. The Municipality, he commented, will closely follow and support the project's implementation.

The USAID Equal Access for Equal Opportunities project aims to improve the quality of education for students with special educational needs through the use of assistive technology in the mainstream school system. USAID has invested 200 thousand dollars to support the project.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The association "Open the Windows" is dedicated to promoting access to information technology for individuals with disabilities, enabling them to fully exploit their abilities. For details, please visit: (www.openthewindows.org).

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>.