



## Monthly Bulletin

May 2011

### New activities/projects:

- USAID is reviewing concept papers for potential additional funding from USAID/Washington in the following areas: water, climate change, microenterprise development, and women & peace building.
- USAID is also reviewing concept papers for the new Youth Leadership program.
- USAID's Civic Advocacy Partnership Project is supporting the Association Info House and Cure to promote an Intervention Fund aimed at increased employment of women.
- The Justice Sector Development Project will support NGOs to carry out advocacy for increased transparency and accountability of the judiciary, as well as legislative and policy reform efforts.

### Peace Nominations

Network for Building Peace ([www.mreza-mira.net](http://www.mreza-mira.net)), an organization supported by USAID's Choosing Peace Together project, was recently nominated by a fellow Women's NGO for the prestigious John Humphreys Award, as well as an Award for Outstanding Leadership. Results will be known this summer.

### BUILDING INTERNAL AUDITING CAPACITIES:

USAID and the Internal Audit Institute of BiH signed a Letter of Intent for Co-operation under the USAID Partnership for Advancing Reform in the Economy (PARE) Project. The Letter of Intent builds on the USAID partnership with the Internal Audit Institute to assist public enterprises in strengthening internal auditing capabilities. This project helps develop policies, procedures, and professional standards that will enable the Institute to assist public sector institutions in meeting their strategic goals. USAID's PARE project strengthens the regulatory framework for the financial service sector, as well as the financial administration of public resources, and improves the enabling environment for private-sector investment and growth.



*USAID Director Allan Reed congratulates the President of the Internal Audit Institute*

Financial econometrics workshop: Partnership for Advancing Reforms in the Economy (PARE) Project also organized a workshop on financial econometrics for representatives from government financial institutions and the private sector. The workshop covered important topics in financial econometrics that are relevant for market risk assessment, such as empirical characteristics of financial time series, basic estimation techniques, linear time series modeling, volatility modeling, and forecasting. The participants learned about econometric models for analyzing financial time series and modern methods for market



risk measurement. The models and methods were illustrated using actual financial data, with an emphasis on the calculation of value at risk and related regulatory and economic capital for market risk. The workshop provided the participants with a deeper understanding of the development approach of internal risk assessments.

Training on corruption in public procurement: USAID supported the local NGO Tender to conduct a series of trainings on corruption in public procurement. The participants included journalists and representatives from political parties, municipalities, public contracting authorities and several ministries. This NGO advocates for more efficient and transparent changes within the Public Procurement Law.

### BOOSTING CIVIL SOCIETY:

USAID's new program "Engaging Civil Society in the Constitutional Reform", implemented by Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG), started a civil society assessment to: (1) analyze the strengths and weaknesses of existing civil society organizations and coalitions working on issues of legislative and constitutional reform, and (2) identify the ability of civil society to work together, develop proposals, and effectively engage the government.





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### YouthBanks activities

⇒ USAID’s “Peacing the future together-YouthBanks Program” implemented by Mozaik Foundation received 180 project proposals from youth groups. Board members of ten Youth Banks made preliminary selection of the strongest proposals. All of the projects include significant cost share from the communities.



⇒ At the beginning of June, Mozaik Foundation will sign contracts with non-formal youth groups for 135 projects in the amount of 225,784 KM.

### Cross sector cooperation

The Machine Tool Technology Center ([www.mttc.ba](http://www.mttc.ba)) in Gračanica and ARTECO Wood Technology Center in Tešanj started important cross sectoral and international cooperation. MTTC uses high tech scanning and modeling equipment for the development of 3D furniture models, and recently started working with German manufacturers.

3D models will also be used by ARTECO for the development of prototypes for solid wood furniture production. Both Centers were created with assistance from the Excellence in Innovation (EI) Project.

### TOURISM:

Training of lifeguards: Fostering Interventions for Rapid Market Advancement (FIRMA) Project recently organized a round of trainings for more than 100 lifeguards. These people are expected to obtain seasonal jobs in companies managing either swimming pools or open water activities such as rafting, kayaking, or diving. After completing the training, successful participants will receive an official lifeguard certificate from the International Life Saving Federation. The trainings will be conducted at 7 locations in BiH: Banja Luka, Bihać, Jajce, Foča, Sarajevo, Mostar and Neum.

Publication about the Una River: FIRMA Project supported the publication of a book on the *Una River and Its Surroundings*, as well as the creation of a bilingual web site which will contain all information from the book.

Improved bicycle routes: In cooperation with Green Tour Company, FIRMA supported an activity which documented data on existing bicycle routes in the Pliva Vrbas region, identified new trails and routes, and produced and installed signage along the new routes. This activity will greatly enhance tourism offerings in and around Banja Luka, Šipovo, Mrkonjić Grad and Jajce.

### SME COMPETITIVENESS:

A joint exhibition of BiH metal companies at the Hannover Messe 2011 trade show in Germany produced concrete business results. Inox Ajanović of Tešanj was one of six companies that participated in the Hannover fair exhibition. Their participation was supported by FIRMA. The company signed a preliminary contract with a British manufacturer of luxury automobiles to provide decorative car grilles. Inox Ajanović will also begin producing metal parts for a German manufacturer of designer doors for luxury cars. Despite the economic crisis, the company's exports in 2011 increased by as much as 170%.



ARTECO Wood Technology Center, created through USAID’s Excellence in Innovation (EI) project, made an important step into the exclusive segment of the EU’s high end furniture design market. ARTECO was recently commissioned by Conran, a London-based furniture distributor, to develop a table prototype that will be included in their upcoming collections. The anticipated high volume table production orders represent an excellent opportunity for ARTECO to help BiH SMEs to position themselves as trusted production contractors for EU clients. USAID’s Excellence in Innovation project is co-funded by USAID and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition to supporting ARTECO, Excellence in Innovation also supports technology and innovation for the design of machine tools, as well as for tourism promotion.



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### Strengthening Independent Media in BiH

⇒ Strengthening Independent Media in BiH (SIM) Project selected two people from BiH for this year's Summer Institute. The Summer Institute will focus on media governance and strategic communication in conflict and post-conflict environments (including Sudan, Somalia and BiH). In addition to the core topics, such as media and economic/social development, freedom of information, internet regulation and convergence, part of the course will be devoted to new developments in comparative approaches to regulation.

⇒ SIM project also chose four candidates to attend Central European University's two-week summer school for the civic media fellowship program. This program aims to produce compelling projects which raise the level of public policy discourse in BiH.

### Transparent public procurement training for NGOs and politicians

The NGO *Tender* carried out USAID-funded training forums on public procurement for journalists, political parties, representatives of municipalities, public contracting authorities and the ministries. *Tender* is a leading watch-dog organization in the public procurement sector. This NGO advocates for changes within the Public Procurement Law that will increase efficiency and transparency within this area.

### INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARENESS IN BiH:

The USAID Enterprise Energy Efficiency (3E) Project recently signed a Letter of Commitment with Caritas Switzerland on an energy efficiency project. This project will provide energy efficient renovation for 20 houses: 10 in Sarajevo and 10 in Tuzla. The houses were identified by Caritas and the Center for Ecology and Environment Tuzla (CEETZ). USAID 3E will contribute up to \$25,000, and Caritas and the home owners will contribute up to \$125,000. As energy use is reduced, utility bills for heating, electricity and water will greatly be reduced (it is estimated that heating costs will decrease by 25%). Energy efficiency measures are relatively easy to put into effect, and the costs will be recovered in a short period of time.

Partnership with the Japanese Embassy: The Japanese Embassy expressed interest in cooperating with 3E on energy efficiency projects in Tuzla, Zenica and Prijedor.

Development Credit Authority: The first loan under the DCA guarantee facility was approved by Raiffeisen Bank for energy efficient equipment. This equipment will automatically control the pump-produced flow rate in water pipelines to be consistent with changes in consumption.



### CONFERENCE PROMOTES GENDER EQUALITY IN BiH:

Government representatives and business leaders gathered in Sarajevo for a conference on "Gender Mainstreaming in Economic Growth" to discuss gender equality in economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The conference was aimed at raising awareness of the need to incorporate women and men equally in the private sector. Many organizations, institutions and businesses in BiH do not yet mainstream gender in their policies and work. The well-attended sessions produced a list of concrete activities which will address obstacles to gender mainstreaming and help link gender equality to economic growth in order to recommend changes in BiH policies and laws. The conference was supported by USAID and the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida) Fostering Interventions for Rapid Market Advancement (FIRMA) Project and implemented in cooperation with the BiH Agency for Gender Equality and the BiH Foreign Trade Chamber.

### DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

Governance Accountability Project (GAP) finished selection of 18 capital projects (CIP) in eight partner municipalities. Capital projects are an important component of GAP. The transparent selection procedure allows the communities to work together to prioritize their needs. For many BiH communities, roads, flood control, playgrounds and sports facilities for youth are identified as the most important projects in need of improvement.



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**Justice sector**

⇒ The Justice Sector Development Project (JSDP) trained members of the Working Group on Improving Exam Processes for Judges' and Prosecutors' Positions and 27 domestic experts on the methodology of composing written tests and questions. Thanks to this technical assistance, domestic experts will be able to create a database of 3,000 questions and answers.

⇒ JSDP organized the 5th Meeting of the Working Group on Establishing Case Processing Timeframes for Courts and Prosecutors Offices.

⇒ NGO Plava Sfera and the Association of Mediators in BiH, in partnership with USAID's JSDP, organized a roundtable at the Chamber of Commerce of Sarajevo Canton where they presented the testing results of the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in utility cases conducted in April and May 2011. It was the first time mediation was used in resolution of utility cases in BiH, and the results showed an impressive rate (50%) of resolved cases with settlement agreement.

**STRENGTHENING CITIZENS:**

Governance Accountability Project (GAP) participated in the 3rd Congress on Local Self-Government in the RS. GAP's Fiscal and Policy Advisor informed the mayors of GAP initiatives in the preparation of the Draft Code in Inter-Governmental Relations in the RS. GAP members also presented planned activities and a timeline for preparation of the draft. GAP pointed out the necessity of mayors to fully support services and local personnel in their local communities to actively participate in the Working Group meetings on the Draft Code.



*GAP Advisor addresses participants at the Third RS LSG Congress*

**PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING:**

With support of the USAID Parliament Strengthening Project (PSP), the highest parliamentary body of the country, the BiH Parliamentary Assembly (BiHPA) in Sarajevo became the most visited institution in BiH. "We recently achieved a record of 17 visits per month for a total of more than 900 visitors from all over BiH and also abroad," said Zlatko Vukmirović, the Head of BiHPA's PR Department. Such a visible boost is a direct result of highly improved PR work through the BiHPA's Visitors Center that was funded by PSP. Djordje Radanović from the Center for Affirmation of Youth at Šekovići stressed that the visitor program particularly helps citizens learn more about parliamentary life and the most efficient ways of advocating and influencing the society in a modern democracy.



Strengthening Oversight in the FBiH Parliament: In order to increase the FBiH Parliament's capacity to conduct oversight on human rights issues, USAID PSP co-sponsored a public hearing on the Council of National Minorities in the Federation of BiH Parliament. The Council is a parliamentary body which oversees implementation of the Law on National Minorities, and therefore serves as an essential guarantor of human rights in the Federation. Members of the Council made detailed presentations on several of the challenges it faces to an audience of more than 60 people, including 17 MPs and many media representatives. "The support of the USAID PSP was crucial to us, and we believe that the FBiH Parliament will have much better understanding for our work and needs in the future," said Hidajeta Redzic, a member of the Council and moderator of the meeting.





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**USAID anniversaries**

- **June 9**, Brcko – Celebration of the 50th/15th USAID anniversary event in the American Corner in Brcko District.
- **June 22, Tuzla** - Celebration of the 50th/15th anniversary event in the American Corner in Tuzla



**Youth against human rights violation**

⇒ Choosing Peace Together (CPT) project held a public speaking event for associations of victims. In a safe environment, representatives of NGOs and associations of victims were able to speak about their experiences from the war, but also about their current work in building peace. CPT has trained 32 members from associations of victims, and now they are sharing their stories in safe environment. The CPT project will organize more than 60 “speaking out” events in schools, municipalities and local communities.

⇒ CPT project will organize two Peace Camps, in Sarajevo and Mostar, with trainers from two national peace organizations. The main objective of this initiative is to promote the role of young people as positive actors of change in peace building processes and to strengthen the role of young people in speaking up against human rights violations.

**Activities for the next month**

- **June 1**, Bihac – FIRMA will participate in the Una Sana Economic Development Conference.
- **June 1 – 14**, Novi Grad, Kozarska Dubica, Srbac, Doboj Jug, Kotor Varos, Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje, Novi Travnik, Sipovo, Zavidovici and Zepce - YouthBanks Program will sign contracts with youth groups.
- **June 3**, Sarajevo – JSDP’s Justice Network members will present the UN’s Council for Human Rights Universal Periodic Review monitoring report at the "Human Rights and Judiciary in BiH" Conference.
- **June 03 and 06**, Banja Luka and Tuzla – FIRMA is organizing a series of info sessions about EU standards for metal, wood and tourism companies.
- **June 7**, Banja Luka, Šipovo, Mrkonjić Grad and Jajce – FIRMA will promote Vrbas Cycling Tour in Pliva Vrbas region. .
- **June 9-11**, Neum - Annual conference for judges on corruption and organized crime (supported by JSDP).
- **Mid-June**, Sarajevo - Choosing Peace Together will announce a call for proposals up to 2,000 KM for associations of victims.
- **June 14-15**, Bjeljina - 3rd JSDP Meeting of establishing a model prosecutor initiative and European standards timeframe.
- **Mid-June**, on-line - Choosing Peace Together will open a peace building school through on-line forums.
- **June 16-17**, Sarajevo - Training by an international expert on writing strategic policy analysis for the Forum for Joint Policy (funded through JSDP).
- **June 17**, Sarajevo - FIRMA will organize the first meeting for the establishment of the BiH Innovation Support Network (ISN) to support development of innovation and to improve linkages between research and development institutions and the private sector.
- **June 20 – July 1**, Budapest (Hungary) - Four BiH fellows will participate, as part of the SIM Civic Media Fellowship program, at the Central European University Summer School in Budapest.
- **June 21**, Sekovici – Opening of a greenhouse at the old military barrack through Mozaik Foundation.
- **June 22**, Tuzla – Enterprise Energy Efficiency (3E) project is organizing an all-day energy efficiency workshop on the first day of the ENERGA event in Tuzla.
- **June 24**, Bratunac – USAID, through the Nansen Dialog Center project, will participate in the Raspberry Fair opening ceremony.
- **June 27-July 1**, - Mostar, Banja Luka and Sarajevo – Communication Regulatory Agency in BiH will organize workshops on “Misuse of Freedom of Speech in BiH Media”.