



Monthly Bulletin

April 2011

Donor Meeting on Youth

On April 27, USAID hosted the second Donor Meeting on Youth. The informal group shared information and updates on donors' plans for new youth programming. British Embassy did a read-out on its recent assessment on the status of citizens' participation in decision-making in BiH. The next donor meeting on youth will take place in early July; the agenda will address private sector involvement in promoting youth issues and youth development.

Commemorate USAID's 15 years in BiH and the Agency's 50 years in existence

USAID hosted a 50th/15th anniversary event in the American Corner in Zenica on Tuesday, April 26. This was the first event in a series of anniversary events that will happen throughout the year. The event included a photo exhibit of USAID's 15 years in BiH, a short video on USAID's work in BiH, presentations by American and Bosnian USAID staff and beneficiaries, and a reception.

"Our assistance program aims to help BiH on the road to Euro-Atlantic integration. We believe BiH is on the right path, and we are confident our programs will help achieve this goal," said USAID Mission Director Allan Reed. The event received excellent press coverage.



CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT TO BiH FINANCIAL REGULATORS:

Eight members of financial regulatory agencies in BiH received certificates of achievement from USAID for their participation in the Strengthening Financial Regulation Study Tour to the United States. USAID's Partnership for Advancing Reforms in the Economy (PARE) project organized a study trip to Washington, D.C. and New York for a delegation of financial regulators from BiH. This delegation included senior-level officials from banking agencies of the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska, the Central Bank of BiH, the Deposit Insurance Agency of BiH, and the Insurance Agency of BiH.



"This trip is a continuation of a ten-year successful relationship between the Deposit Insurance Agency of BiH and USAID. Over these ten years, we made great progress in advancing basic principles of a modern financial system and financial sector regulation." Director of the Deposit Insurance Agency of BiH, Mr. Josip Nevjestic

INTER-ETHNIC and YOUTH:

New project: On April 19, USAID started a new project, "Youth Building Futures in the Brčko District" (funding is through USAID/Washington). The project will bring together 300 young Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats to work on community projects, while learning skills for responsible citizenship, productive employment, and healthy family life. The project funding is \$974,589 and duration is until April 2013.

Workshops: USAID's "YouthBanks" project has held 48 workshops on how to mobilize local resources. Nearly 1,000 youth from 10 municipalities took part in these workshops. The YouthBanks project brings together mixed ethnic youth groups to participate as active citizens in their multi-ethnic communities. Through community-based reconciliation, social cohesion will strengthen and social capital will increase.



Training in Zepce

SUPPORT TO WOOD AND METAL INDUSTRIES:

Participation in international trade shows: FIRMA project was supporting visits to two international trade shows. In the wood sector, nine furniture exporters were attending the High Spring Market in North Carolina, USA. In the metal sector, seven BiH fabricated metal product manufacturers were exhibiting a joint stand at the Hannover Messe Industrial Technology show, the largest of its kind in Europe. This is the first time these BiH firms participated in these trade shows.

FIRMA and Swiss promotion agency collaboration: Representatives from Switzerland for this import promotion agency were in country and met with FIRMA project to review previous collaboration and plans for future. SIP-PO's main value to FIRMA is attracting Swiss and German buyers to visit BiH wood and metal sector at those shows, and to help identify buyers for B2B we sponsor in BiH.



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Developing Local Communities



The Governance Accountability Program (GAP) completed capital improvement plan projects in Cazin (FBiH) and Ribnik (RS). The completed projects include tree road-paving projects and one water supply project. The total value of the projects is \$420,000. The Municipal contribution was \$240,000, which is over 50% cost-share. A total of 80,000 residents were assisted by these projects. GAP is a major partnership between USAID, the Swedish Sida and Embassy of Netherlands, with all tree donors contributing \$10 million each to the USAID-managed program.

GAP also opened the reconstructed municipal building in Livno:



Before...



...and after!

AGRICULTURAL:

Training for dairy farmers: In collaboration with the RS Agency for Extension Services, FARMA project finalized winter schools for dairy farmers in the RS. Farmers had an opportunity to learn about proper animal feeding, milk quality regulations, construction of barns and animal holds, reproduction of dairy herds, and topics on compliance with EU standards. The trainings presented the new RS Rulebook on Agricultural Subsidies to the farmers. FARMA also finalized four-month training sessions on business planning (202 commercial farmers and processors were trained) and farm record keeping for 318 farmers in 13 cities in BiH. This program helps agricultural producers and processors to learn the advantages of a well written business plan, to better understand financial statements and the requirements of banks, and to independently write a business plan and loan application.

Training for the spring season: The REGA project (Rural Employment Generation Activity) trained farmers on how to take soil samples for analysis and how to prepare plots for the spring planting season (which starts in May). REGA also trained farmers on “Good Agricultural Practice” standards, and the importance of correct use of pesticides in accordance with EU regulations and standards. At the end of April, 365 farmers received fertilization plans and disease protection plan for soft fruits.

Financial lecture on agricultural insurance: FARMA organized a lecture on “Financial Services in Support of Agricultural Development in BiH” in Banja Luka at the Chamber of Commerce of RS. The event provided representatives of 40 commercial and governmental organizations with information on insurance of receivables and factoring, agricultural insurance, and the \$52 million DCA (Development Credit Authority) program, which is jointly supported by USAID, Swedish Sida and three commercial banks in BiH.

MEDIA:

Panel on journalist education: USAID’s project through the local Media Centar Sarajevo organized a panel discussion on *Young and (un)educated journalists in BiH and the region*. Good-quality education is one of the most important pillars of a strong media that serves as the watchdog in the society. Unfortunately in Bosnia, there is no clear strategy for proper education of journalists and media professionals. 50-70% of journalists in Bosnia lack adequate education and training, such as a university degree. The goal of this debate is to start the discussion and initiative for development of a strategy for journalist’s education.

Training and Internships: USAID supported Media Centar Sarajevo’s Student Training and Internship Program, which trained twelve 3rd-5th year students from Tuzla, Mostar, Banja Luka and Sarajevo universities. After the training, the students do an internship at an online media web outlet throughout the country.

PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING:

USAID and the German Konrad Adenauer Stiftung collaborated to assist the BiH Parliamentary Assembly in organizing a series of seminars on BiH accession into EU. USAID’s parliamentary project also organized a study tour April 27-28 to the Croatian Parliament for five members of the Secretariat of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly. The visit introduced the BiH Secretariat leadership to legislative procedures of the Croatian Parliament for efficient deliberations and adoption of legislation required for the EU accession process.



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Transparent public procurement training for NGOs and politicians

The NGO *Tender* carried out USAID-funded training forums on public procurement for different groups. These public forum provides BiH citizens with relevant knowledge on the public sector’s main weaknesses, potential area of corruption, and possibilities for improvements. The trainings targeted students (to educate them about the public procurement rules and at public universities), journalists (how to investigate and report on corruption in public procurement), and politicians. *Tender* is a leading watch-dog organization in the public procurement sector.

USAID boosts NGOs advocacy

USAID’s Civic Advocacy Partnership Project (CAPP), implemented through Center for Civic Initiative, started a series of meetings with local NGOs in six major cities of BiH to explain the small grants program. The small grants program covers advocacy, watch-dog and policy development grants under several areas, including anticorruption activities, unemployment of marginalized groups, public funds spending and youth.

Gratitude to the USAID

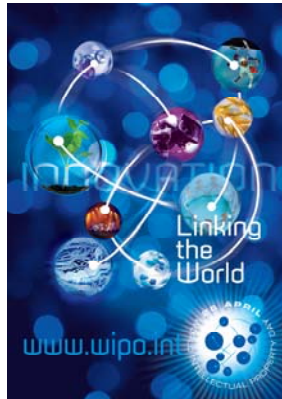
In the last issue of a specialized magazine “Apotekar” (The Pharmaceuticals) there was an article about anti counterfeit medicaments campaign in which special gratitude is expressed to US Embassy and USAID’s Intellectual Property Rights project.

INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARENESS IN BiH:

USAID’s Enterprise Energy Efficiency (3E) project presented their goals and achievements at Sarajevo’s Building and Reconstruction Fair. The goal of the fair was to raise awareness in the general public on the benefits of efficient energy consumption and the importance of using energy efficient materials in the building industry. Special accent was put on partners in small and medium enterprise (SME) area, energy audits, economic and financial analysis of EE projects, so as future and possible 3e initiative—Multimedia Centre for Energy efficiency.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS DAY:



To mark World Intellectual Property Day on April 26, USAID’s Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) project collaborated with the Institute for Intellectual Property BiH to raise awareness on IPR issues. Efforts included placing web banners, developed by the World Intellectual Property Organization, at several BiH web portals and portals of partnering institutions. Marking IPR day seeks to increase public understanding of what intellectual property really means, and to demonstrate how IPR fosters not only music, arts and entertainments, but also all the products and technological innovations that help to shape our world.

Activities for the next month

- **Beginning of May** - Mozaik Foundation will organize three one-day “Youth leadership” trainings for 39 board members of YouthBanks in Doboj, Kotor Varos, Novi Grad and Kozarska Dubica.
- **May 3** - Sarajevo, Bihac, Banja Luka, Doboj, Brcko, Tuzla, Bijeljina, Vitez, Pale, Mostar, Zenica, Travnik and Ljubuski – Media Centar Sarajevo will organize public events to mark Days of BiH Journalism/Media Freedom Day. This will promote quality journalism and respect for ethical principles, and will underline the importance of free and independent media.
- **May 4-5**, Sarajevo - Sustainable Interventions to Combat Trafficking in Persons (SUSTAIN) project will organize seminars for members of regional groups that monitor the implementation of anti-trafficking protocols and procedures throughout the country.
- **May 5**, Banja Luka – Your visit to the Regional Resettlement Center for Discharged Soldiers in Banja Luka.



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Justice sector

The Justice Sector Development Project trained NGOs and professional associations to improve staff skills (communication, leadership, conflict resolution, consensus building). Increased skills and professional behavior will improve NGO's effectiveness as advocates of change. In partnership with Human Rights Office Tuzla and in collaboration with the FBIH Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Center, JSDP also provided training to 70 judges and prosecutors on the draft Law on Juvenile Justice. Finally, JSDP provided a two-day training to its partner NGOs and other grantees on monitoring of justice sector institutions.

Tourism development

USAID's Excellence in Innovation project helped the E-biz center "Exploring Bosnia Herzegovina" with marketing and sales in the U.S. of a specialty rafting tour in Bosnia. This eight day tour will feature spectacular wild water rafting on three rivers: Neretva, Vrbas and Tara. The tour is marketed in cooperation with OARS, the largest adventure rafting tour operator in the U.S. The Excellence in Innovation project is jointly funded by USAID and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

New Strategy

On April 21, USAID did a DVC presentation of our draft strategy or "CDCS" (Country Development Cooperation Strategy) to Washington. The E&E Bureau Deputy Assistant Administrator chaired the DVC meeting, and participants from Washington included USAID/Washington Bureaus, State EUR and EUR/ACE. ECON participated from the Embassy. E&E is collecting questions, comments and issues from Washington participants in order to develop an Issues Paper for USAID/Bosnia to address.

- **May 5**, Belgrade, Serbia - FARMA group will attend the conference "Serbian Berry Industry-Time for Change". The conference will present the results of the berry market research in the Russian Federation as well as recommendations for possible improvement of sales to such dynamic markets.
- **May 6**, Sarajevo - Signing of the Letter of Intent between USAID and the Internal Audit Institute of BiH for assistance through USAID's PARE project.
- **May 12-13**, Sarajevo – In cooperation with the Agency for Gender Equality in BiH and the BiH Foreign Trade Chamber, the FIRMA project will hold a conference on "Gender Mainstreaming in Economic Growth".
- **May 13**, Sarajevo – FARMA project will organize a seminar on EU certification schemes in coordination with the BiH Food Safety Agency.
- **May 14 – 21**, Modrica/Srbac – FARMA trainings for beekeepers as part of a series of 30 trainings in modern beekeeping techniques, bees' health, prevention of diseases, and organic beekeeping.
- **Mid May** – FARMA trainings for farmers on production of vegetables in greenhouses and on growing technology and production of berries in preparation for the new agricultural season.
- **Mid May**, Tuzla – USAID will coordinate with UNDP and GIZ to participate in Tuzla's four-day fair energy fair.
- **Mid May**, various locations –Arteco, e-biz center in wood technology, will launch a major marketing campaign to market its services to Bosnian SMEs from the wood sector.

Miscellaneous

- **End of May, beginning of June**, Brcko — Next celebration 50th/15th anniversary event in the American Corner in Brcko District.

