



**REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER  
REGIONAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

U.S. Agency for International Development  
Szabadság tér 7-9, Bank Center  
1944 Budapest, Hungary

**Main Telephone: +36-1-475-4604**  
**Regional Program Office: +36-1-475-4022**  
**Main Fax: +36-1-302-0693**

USAID’s Regional Services Center (RSC) located in Budapest, Hungary, plays an indispensable role in the successful operations of over \$350 million in new annual funding for programs in Europe and Eurasia. The overall goal for United States Government assistance in this region is peace, stability, integration into Europe, and the emergence of market-oriented democracies that support the fight against global terrorism.

Since September 2002, the RSC has also been responsible for regional activities that represent \$37 million in funding. These activities currently focus on four areas of regional cross-border relevance: Regional Cooperation and Reconciliation, Local Government Reform, NGO and Civil Society Strengthening, and Social Services. Lessons learned from USAID graduate countries in Eastern Europe have demonstrated that these issues endure even after other goals of the post-communist transition have been attained. A decentralized management structure reinforces RSC’s commitment to complement programs of bilateral missions and supports effective collaboration between USAID partners and donor coordination in the field.

**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION BY PROGRAM CLUSTER**

MAP CODE:



- former socialist countries
- countries who participated or are participating in regional project now with non-USAID funds
- countries participating in USAID regional project

**REGIONAL COOPERATION AND RECONCILIATION**

**Implementing Partners**






Headquarters in Serbia.  
Participants: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia.


End date: 2013

**Balkan Trust for Democracy:** With the contribution of €10 million, USAID is one of the founding contributors to a \$29 million endowment for small grants to local entities to promote democracy and good governance in Southeast Europe. This unique public-private partnership with the GMF and the Charles S. Mott Foundation, is growing with new contributions from the Dutch and Greek governments, the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Through its grant-making activities, the Trust supports community development, policy changes, reconciliation initiatives, and region-wide efforts to build networks that improve regional cooperation and stability.

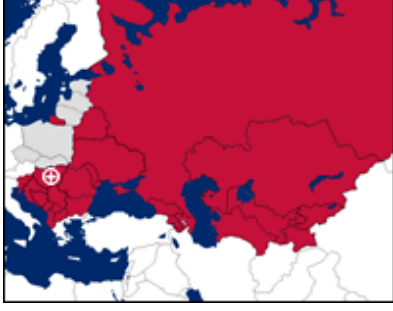
<http://www.gmfus.org/balkantrust>

German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)

 <p>Headquarters in Greece. Participants: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia.</p> <p>End date: May 2007.</p>	<p><b>History and Reconciliation in Southeastern Europe:</b> The CDRSEE, based in Thessaloniki, Greece and registered in the Netherlands, is implementing activities to improve cross-border and inter-ethnic relations in the Balkans. To promote mutual understanding in the region, modern history materials were created to supplement existing texts used by school teachers in eight Balkan countries. Four workbooks were developed by a committee of scholars and history teachers from throughout the Balkans. These history workbooks are published in English and in Serbian; further translations depend on funding. In cooperation with European Commission and USAID, CDRSEE is also implementing a lustration project that aims to increase access to state archives by enhancing lustration legislation and practice. CDRSEE is also working with youth on reconciling for the future through internet and workshops to develop a cross-border activity.</p> <p><a href="http://www.cdsee.org">http://www.cdsee.org</a></p>	<p>Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in SEE (CDRSEE)</p>
 <p>Headquarters in San Francisco. Participants: Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia.</p> <p>End date: May 2007.</p>	<p><b>Roma Integration Program (RSP):</b> This \$2.8 million, four-year regional program in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia aims to expand access to services and leadership opportunities for Roma at the community level and to contribute to a change in perception of Roma through public awareness programs to counter discrimination. The program also aims to produce models of integration that can be replicated in communities within the three countries with possible implementation in other countries with Roma populations and USAID Missions. The project also supports national roundtables with policymakers on specific issues to address discrimination.</p> <p><a href="http://www.partnersglobal.org">http://www.partnersglobal.org</a></p>	<p>Partners for Democratic Change (PDC)</p>
 <p>Headquarters in Kosovo. Participants: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, and</p>	<p><b>Stability Pact Working Table I: Strengthening Local Government (Cross-Border Cooperation and Reconciliation – CBCR):</b> CBCR is a \$1.5 million three-year program (\$1.18 million through USAID from the Department of State and \$336.5 thousand in cost-share from Catholic Relief Services) that advances inter-ethnic reconciliation and local democracy in targeted border areas of Southeastern Europe. In each of the pilot pairs of communities, Catholic Relief Services funds projects that are implemented jointly by a multi-ethnic cross-border committee consisting of civil society, business, and local government actors from both sides of the border. In addition to managing these sub grants, CRS mentors and trains participants in communication and conflict</p>	<p>Catholic Relief Services (CRS)</p>

<p>Serbia.</p> <p>End date: December 2006.</p>	<p>mitigation skills to ensure success as they cope with the challenges of renewing cooperation for the first time since the hostilities of the last decade.</p> <p><a href="http://www.catholicrelief.org">www.catholicrelief.org</a></p>	
 <p>Headquarters in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Participants: Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, with linkages to Moldova.</p> <p>End date: December 2006.</p>	<p><b>Stability Pact Working Table III: (Support for Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative [SPAI]: Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (RSLO):</b> SPAI's aim is to foster more effective implementation of anti-corruption reforms. The mandate of SPAI's RSLO is to be a center of excellence for anti-corruption in Southeastern Europe. It also serves as a clearinghouse of information on anticorruption legislation, best practices, ongoing and potential projects and experts. From its regional base in Sarajevo, RSLO also coordinates training, public-awareness campaigns and regional meetings for SPAI partners. Through a three-year, \$1.14 million award, ABA/CEELI provides technical and financial assistance to the RSLO during its early operational phase.</p> <p><a href="http://www.abanet.org/ceeli/home.html">www.abanet.org/ceeli/home.html</a> and <a href="http://www.spai-rslo.org">www.spai-rslo.org</a></p>	<p>American Bar Association/ Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative ABA/CEELI</p>

<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM</b>		<b>Implementing Partners</b>
--------------------------------	--	------------------------------

 <p>Headquarters in Hungary. Participants: all countries in Southeastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia have participated in policy forums.</p> <p>End date: December 2006.</p>	<p><b>Fiscal Decentralization Initiative (FDI):</b> The Fiscal Decentralization Initiative (FDI) is a regional demand-driven undertaking involving a consortium of donors (World Bank, OECD, UNDP, USAID, OSI/LGI, and Council of Europe). FDI does policy analysis and organizes forums in Southeastern Europe that facilitate the transfer of regional experience and best practices in implementing fiscal decentralization, at the same time building a dialogue between national and local governments and NGOs. In the Caucasus and Central Asia, FDI forums build on the experiences of CEE and SEE to raise policy awareness and build capacity for successful decentralization.</p> <p><a href="http://www.lgi.osi.hu/fdi">http://www.lgi.osi.hu/fdi</a> and <a href="http://www.decentralization.org">http://www.decentralization.org</a></p>	<p>OSI/ Budapest Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative</p>
--	---	--



Headquarters in Hungary.  
 Participants: Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan.

End date: December 2006.

**Local Government Information Network (LOGIN):** The LOGIN Network, jointly sponsored and supported by USAID, UNDP, OSI, World Bank and Council of Europe, is an internet-based clearinghouse for local government information. Partnering with an anchor organization in each country in its network, LOGIN disseminates information from a database of over 8000 documents in 13 languages organized in 33 topic areas. Through its database, training and ongoing assistance of the regional office in Budapest and the local network anchors, LOGIN promotes the professional development of local government officials and staff throughout the region. The LOGIN network includes the countries listed with more countries coming online soon. All Central European anchors in EU member states have continued to be active members of LOGIN, financing the cost of maintaining this service themselves after donor funding ceased.  
<http://www.logincee.org>

OSI/  
 Budapest

**Implementing Partners**

**NGO AND CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING**



Headquarters in Romania with support from Bosnia and Herzegovina.  
 Participants: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

End date: December 2006.

**Labor Union Education Network:** This program promotes multi-national cooperation among Balkan labor activists by bringing together leaders and staff of unions for a series of roundtables, follow-up consultations, and leadership exchanges. Major Western European labor unions as well as international labor organizations are involved, with the aim of promoting integration of Balkan unions into the greater European and world labor community. This program increases knowledge of unions about privatization and economic and political decision making.  
[www.seelabored.org](http://www.seelabored.org)

American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS)



Headquarters in Hungary.  
 Participants: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Serbia, as well as regional activities with all SEE countries and best practices shared with all NIS, CEE and non-presence countries. ECNL also works actively in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia.

End date: September 2007.

**NGO Legal Reform:** Since 1994, the NGO Legal Reform Initiative has worked to develop an enabling legal environment that promotes sustainability of the NGO sector in Central and Eastern Europe. A favorable legal and regulatory environment is critical to the sustainability of the NGO sector, which in turn provides an institutionalized means for citizens to participate in political and economic decision-making. ICNL’s current focus is on NGO registration laws, tax reform and financial viability, NGO public image, and NGO-government partnerships, with a heavy emphasis on sharing lessons with NIS countries. Contributions to the regional cooperative agreement from USAID Missions Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria and Serbia allow ICNL to work on the most important legislative drafting, implementation and capacity-building issues within a given country. In addition, ICNL has established a regional European affiliate – the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL) – a true USAID legacy. ECNL will carry forward ICNL’s mission of promoting a supportive legal environment for civil society, with a continuing focus on Central and Eastern Europe.  
<http://www.icnl.org> and [www.ecnl.org.hu](http://www.ecnl.org.hu)

International Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ICNL) and European Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ECNL)



Headquarters in Hungary.  
 Participants: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia, with linkages to Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

**Regional NGO Networking:** While many countries of Central and Eastern Europe are beginning to enjoy the fruits of a long struggle with post-Communist transition, reform has yet to take hold in other corners of the region. Stability in the Visegrád group and the Baltic States continues to attract foreign investment and encourage steady economic growth. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland have taken their seats on the North Atlantic Council, and the promise of further NATO and EU enlargement offers the genuine prospect of European integration to many more. Meanwhile, in many of the other countries, particularly in Southeast Europe, government corruption continues to undermine the rule of law, the democratic process is far from fair, and the slow progress of state building continues to threaten regional stability. To overcome this mixed picture of change, Freedom House’s Regional Networking Project (RNP) supports cross-border collaboration and joint projects between Central and Eastern European NGOs. RNP operates on the premise that transitional progress in the region must come from within the former Communist countries themselves, particularly among non-governmental civic and

Freedom House



<p>End date: September 2006.</p>	<p>policy actors. Through direct financial assistance, regional exchanges and other focused training initiatives targeted at civic activist organizations and policy-oriented think tanks, RNP encourages NGO-led initiatives that join civic activism and policy advocacy efforts across borders.</p> <p><a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org">http://www.freedomhouse.org</a></p>	
<p><b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b></p>		<p><b>Implementing Partners</b></p>
<div data-bbox="155 499 548 814" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Headquarters in Romania. Participating countries: Romania, Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>End date: September 2007.</p>	<p><b>Networking for Mobility:</b> This activity aims to create a regional solution to the overwhelming need for affordable wheelchairs and to promote the improvement of the quality of life and integration of the disabled in Southeastern Europe. Building on its 10 years of experience in Romania, Motivation Romania Foundation will establish a wheelchair production, distribution, and training network through which low-cost and efficient wheelchairs can be distributed in Southeastern Europe. MRF consolidated and expanded its services within Romania through the construction of a small-scale production facility to increase both the quality and quantity of its production and has expanded its model to Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to enhancing access to wheelchairs customized for mobility and independence in the region, MRF seeks to facilitate the integration of the wheelchair users in their communities through education, peer group training, advocacy, and networking.</p> <p><a href="http://www.motivation.ro">www.motivation.ro</a></p>	<p>Motivation Romania Foundation (MRF)</p>

Updated 12/27/2006