

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Kosovo
Program Title:	Democratic Institutions
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	167-0220
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$7,375,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,117,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$7,847,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: USAID supports the strengthening of Kosovo's executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government at a time when its future political status is being discussed. As the United Nations (UN) begins to draw down its presence in Kosovo, a new Ministry of Justice is being formed. USAID is part of the planning for this new Ministry, as well as in the transformation of how Kosovo's judiciary, central assembly, and electoral systems operate.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Promote and Support Credible Elections Processes (\$900,000 AEEB, \$600,000 AEEB carryover). USAID will initiate an activity to support the successful transition of election administration responsibilities from international to Kosovar institutions and improve the underlying legal framework for the electoral system. Principal grantee: IFES.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$1,100,000 AEEB). USAID's assistance to Kosovo's political parties will continue to build the parties' capacities to better represent their constituencies. At the same time, it will focus more sharply on the role the parties play in Kosovo's Assembly. This will include more effective law making, better oversight of policy implementation by the executive branch, and improved constituency relations and representation by members of the assembly. Principal grantee: National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$5,375,000 AEEB, \$516,963 AEEB carryover). At the request of the UN and Kosovo's Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG), USAID will play a key role in establishing the new organizations that will administer Kosovo's evolving justice system: a Ministry of Justice and the Kosovo Judicial Council. Experienced advisors will be placed in these institutions to assist with start-up operations in critical areas such as staffing, management, budgeting, and other organizational matters. USAID assistance will extend to the court system itself, through the provision of assistance in court recording, better case-flow management, record-keeping, and archives across all courts. To alleviate the serious backlog of cases that currently exists, USAID will provide technical assistance to shift notary services and legal disputes over property and utility payments away from the mainstream courts, establish mediation services, and consolidate the courts themselves. In cooperation with the European Union, USAID will help develop a computerized information system for managing work flow in the courts. USAID will assist with the transition of an inspection and audit function, currently part of the UN administration, to the new Kosovo Judicial Council to investigate complaints resulting from misconduct or conflict of interest, and in the vetting and reappointment of judges to the courts. USAID's support to two professional associations, one representing lawyers, the other, judges, will improve the legal profession through continuing legal education, applied research, ethics training and standards for professional conduct. Assistance will be supplied to improve the criminal law and legal ethics curricula taught at the University of Pristina's Law School. Principal contractor: National Center for State Courts (NCSC); Principal Grantee: American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI).

FY 2007 Program:

Promote and Support Credible Elections Processes (\$950,000 AEEB). USAID's support will continue through expected elections in 2007, improving the electoral legal framework and policies, rule-making, and procedures to administer Kosovo's new electoral system. Principal grantee: IFES.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$850,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to build capacity of the central assembly, its members, committees, staff, and political party groups by providing assistance with organizational assessments, planning, policy expertise, internal management and rule making. Principal grantee: National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$6,047,000 AEEB). USAID assistance will increasingly focus on assisting the Ministry of Justice and the Kosovo Judicial Council, and helping implement agreed-upon changes to the court system itself while ensuring local ownership to make the changes take root. USAID will continue assistance to the inspection and audit function of the new Kosovo Judicial Council. USAID's support to two legal professional associations will begin to phase out as other donors are following on USAID assistance and the associations have grown substantially. Assistance to improve criminal law and legal ethics will continue, supplemented by a clinical training program at the University's law school. Principal contractor: National Center for State Courts (NCSC); Principal grantee: American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI).

Performance and Results: During FY 2005, two crucial and complex pieces of legislation covering courts and prosecution were drafted with USAID assistance, enabling better management of the judiciary including re-structuring of the courts. Another element of USAID's assistance was the modernization of the courts, including installation of ten audio recording units in five pilot locations including municipal and district courts, and the prosecutor's office. The equipment enables transcripts of court sessions to be prepared, a new requirement called for in the adopted Code of Criminal Procedure. To use the equipment, 116 judges, court recorders and staff from the Kosovo Department of Judicial Administration were trained in audio recording systems and procedures. The success of this endeavor was such that the Kosovo Government decided to purchase from its own funds identical recording equipment and outfit every court with it.

To address the lack of opportunities for enhancement of law students' practical skills, USAID helped establish a pilot legal clinic program within the University of Prishtina Law School which provides hands-on experience to law students. A parallel graduate apprenticeship, helped place more than 100 law graduates in courts and offices of attorneys. Further, to advance the professional skills of Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA) members, USAID organized a series of continuing legal education courses that increased the preparedness of lawyers for the landmark changes taking place in the legal system: 265 members, or some 70% of KCA membership, participated in this training. On another front, Kosovo's political parties, with USAID's help, started using research and polling data for making timely policy and strategic decisions, an important step in making the central Assembly more responsive to the voting public.

By the end of the program, it is anticipated that important reforms to Kosovar political processes will have been enacted. Kosovo will have a set of capable election administration bodies that implement a credible election system. Political parties will interact more with their constituents, and will better represent citizen interests. In addition, Kosovo will have two new institutions, the Ministry of Justice and the Kosovo Judicial Council, an independent body to manage an independent judiciary, both of which USAID will have helped establish. A fully operational judicial system, acting in accordance with the best international standards, should be realized.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Kosovo

167-0220 Democratic Institutions	AEEB
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	5,450
Expenditures	1,533
Unliquidated	3,917
Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	6,197
Expenditures	4,484
Through September 30, 2005	
Obligations	11,647
Expenditures	6,017
Unliquidated	5,630
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	1,117
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	7,375
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006	
Obligations	8,492
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA	
Obligations	7,847
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	27,986