

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Romania
Program Title:	Improved Local Democratic Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	186-0230
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$5,500,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$781,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	1998
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID's democracy program builds a stronger, more sustainable civil society, increases the accountability of politicians, creates a more independent, efficient judiciary, improves judicial capacity to deal with domestic violence, and improves local democratic governance.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,850,000 AEEB, \$347,462 AEEB carryover, \$328,000 AEEB prior-year recoveries). USAID will provide a combination of tailored training and technical assistance and targeted grants to help 28 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) design business plans, strengthen their boards of directors, develop their constituent bases, recruit volunteers, and launch fundraising activities. We will also help intermediary support organizations expand and provide new services to local NGOs. This assistance will foster coalitions to help 30 NGOs advocate for their members' concerns. Building on lessons learned, USAID will support eight partnerships between local NGOs, U.S. and regional organizations, the private sector, and the Romanian Government. USAID anticipates awarding 33 sub-grants and will help 15 community NGOs monitor elected officials and stimulate dialogue between NGOs and party branches. Principal contractors/grantees: World Learning, National Democratic Institute (NDI) and International Republican Institute (IRI) (primes).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$500,000 AEEB). USAID will help three political parties become better representatives of citizens' interests. USAID will also expand its assistance to three parties in continuing outreach through their members of parliament and local constituent offices. Twenty party branches will receive training in communicating with citizens and civil society, and in advocating for national policy reform. An activity broadening public debate on the electoral code and on the implications of various proposed reforms will also be carried out. Additional activities will focus on the youth wings of at least three political parties and will provide technical assistance to help parties craft messages targeting the needs of youth. Principal grantees: NDI and IRI (primes).

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$450,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to help the Superior Council of Magistrates develop transparent procedures to evaluate judicial performance, as well as develop and disseminate disciplinary jurisprudence. USAID will work with the authorities and NGOs to improve the legal framework for dealing with domestic violence. The rule of law program will help the National Institute of Magistrates and the National School of Clerks develop curricula on best practices in family law. Principal grantee: American Bar Association (ABA/CEELI) (prime).

Strengthen the Legislative Function/Legal Framework (\$700,000 AEEB). USAID will assess the needs of members of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies and support seminars on civic outreach, public image, and constituency services. The program will improve the communication between constituents and MPs in 15 cities. USAID will help three NGOs in monitoring parliamentary performance. The support will include the publication and distribution of a guidebook that will inform citizens of the organization of parliament, legislative processes, and how to interact with MPs. USAID will fund work with two parliamentary committees to improve their public outreach and public participation. USAID will help fund a collegiate parliamentary internship program. Principal grantees: NDI and IRI (primes).

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,000,000 AEEB, \$106,000 AEEB prior year recoveries). USAID will provide technical assistance on city management and governance to four municipalities. USAID will work with the Ministry of Administration and Interior to refine and implement legislation that enhances decentralization and local government in Romania. The program will help two local government associations lobby for key reforms that will have nationwide impact. Principal contractor: Planning and Development Collaborative International (prime).

FY 2007 Program:

FY 2006 is the final year of appropriation for activities under this objective.

Performance and Results: USAID-assisted NGOs lobbied locally-elected officials in 16 municipalities for reforms that address citizen concerns, such as domestic violence, health services and environmental protection. The local government program improved local government performance in five municipalities, strengthening city management, improving municipal finance, reducing traffic congestion and establishing citizen information centers. USAID also provided consultation to the central government on five laws concerning local public finance and administration, the status of prefects, civil service and decentralization. By bringing national and local officials together with Romanian think tanks, the program helped officials reach consensus on the legislative package going to the Parliament. USAID provided elections assistance by increasing the dialogue between civic groups and political parties, training campaign managers, identifying the needs of voters and encouraging them to vote. The rule of law program helped the Superior Council of Magistrates adopt codes of ethics for magistrates and court staff. USAID launched a new program to increase the representativeness of Parliament by working with its caucuses to assess party branches and constituent offices, and enable them to better respond to their constituents' needs. By the end of USAID assistance in 2008, 48 NGOs will be financially sustainable, NGO coalitions will have pursued 15 policy initiatives through sustained advocacy, increased and more predictable local revenues and effective community consultations will improve public services, six parliamentary committees will be holding public hearings, the Superior Council of Magistrates will have the capacity to evaluate magistrates using objective criteria and transparent procedures, and judges and court staff will handle family cases professionally, within a streamlined legal framework.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Romania

186-0230 Improved Local Democratic Governance	AEEB
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	39,755
Expenditures	33,235
Unliquidated	6,520
Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	6,881
Expenditures	6,228
Through September 30, 2005	
Obligations	46,636
Expenditures	39,463
Unliquidated	7,173
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	781
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	5,500
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006	
Obligations	6,281
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA	
Obligations	0
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	52,917