

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Albania
<b>Program Title:</b>	Rule of Law
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	182-0220
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$1,900,000 AEEB
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$250,000 AEEB
<b>Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:</b>	\$1,535,000 AEEB
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1992
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2007

**Summary:** The USAID rule of law program has an anticorruption focus. The program aims to strengthen audit and accountability mechanisms and foster judicial integrity, increasing public confidence in justice administration. USAID does this through direct assistance to selected governmental and nongovernmental bodies that can have an impact on corruption.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2006 Program:

Promote and Support Anticorruption Reforms (\$1,300,000 AEEB). USAID will give technical assistance and training to audit institutions to increase their performance and compliance with anticorruption laws. USAID will train staff of the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets (HIDAA) as well as staff from other relevant agencies implementing asset disclosure and conflict of interest laws. USAID will continue to assist the government bodies charged with inspecting and supervising the judiciary. USAID will help the Albanian bar association create a disciplinary mechanism to regulate and sanction unethical behavior of lawyers. USAID will also provide support for legislative reform, and help the Citizens Advocacy Office (CAO), a watchdog non-governmental organization, sustain its offices in Tirana and Durres and expand to two more cities. USAID will support the Albanian Media Council, a new association of journalists and media owners, as a means of promoting professional ethics among journalists. Principal contractors/grantees: Casals and Associates (prime), East West Management Institute, Institute for Policy and Legal Studies, CAO, and Albanian Media Institute (subs).

Strengthen the Legislative Function/Legal Framework (\$600,000 AEEB, \$100,000 AEEB carryover, \$150,000 AEEB prior year recoveries). USAID will assist and train the Ombudsman and other government bodies charged with the implementation of the freedom of information law and administrative procedure code. USAID will also help journalists prepare a press law, draft a code of ethics, and assist with creating a self-regulatory body to oversee implementation of the code. Finally, USAID will give technical assistance and training for the implementation of Intellectual Property (IP) laws to lawyers, judges, and prosecutors to increase their knowledge on IP. Principal contractors/grantees: Casals and Associates (prime), East West Management Institute, Institute for Policy and Legal Studies, CAO, and Albanian Media Institute (subs).

#### FY 2007 Program:

Promote And Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$1,035,000 AEEB). The activities funded in FY 2006 will continue to receive support in FY 2007. Technical, financial and training efforts will enable HIDAA to bring forward cases of fraudulent asset declarations, enable the judicial inspectorates and the chambers of advocates to bring forward cases of unethical behavior of judges and lawyers in order to make the political and judicial systems accountable for their actions. Contractors/grantees: to be determined (TBD).

Strengthen the Legislative Function/Legal Framework (\$500,000 AEEB). The activities funded in FY 2006 will continue to receive support in FY 2007. USAID will continue to assist and train the Ombudsman and other government bodies charged with the implementation of the freedom of information law and administrative procedure code. USAID will also continue to assist with the implementation of the press law and the journalists' code of ethics, once they are approved. Finally, USAID will continue to give

technical assistance and training for the implementation of IP laws to lawyers, judges and prosecutors to increase their knowledge on IP. Contractors/grantees: TBD.

**Performance and Results:** USAID's activities contributed to increased public awareness and public pressure against corrupt practices in the government. HIDAA, the asset disclosure agency, achieved a filing compliance of 99%. As a result of audits, five public officials were dismissed for conflicts of interest, two were prosecuted and one put in prison for fraudulent disclosures. A conflict of interest law was approved with USAID assistance which is expected to increase the performance of HIDAA in detecting corruption in public officials. In close cooperation with the Ombudsman a model COI regulation has been prepared which will be recommended to every government body for adoption for proper implementation of the Freedom of Information Law. The National Chamber of Advocates has adopted a code of ethics for lawyers and is setting up a system for its implementation.

By program completion, Albania should have made progress in fighting corruption. The Government of Albania inspectorates currently receiving USAID assistance, moreover, should have a track record of officials investigated and sanctioned for corrupt practices. Civic watchdog organizations should have become more influential and successful in monitoring the public sector operations. Albanian legal and judicial institutions should have become measurably more transparent and accountable.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Albania

182-0220 Rule of Law	<b>AEEB</b>
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>	
Obligations	9,348
Expenditures	6,632
Unliquidated	2,716
<b>Fiscal Year 2005</b>	
Obligations	2,100
Expenditures	1,920
<b>Through September 30, 2005</b>	
Obligations	11,448
Expenditures	8,552
Unliquidated	2,896
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>	
Obligations	250
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>	
Obligations	1,900
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006</b>	
Obligations	2,150
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA</b>	
Obligations	1,535
Future Obligations	2,200
Est. Total Cost	17,333