



## EDUCATION

### The Center for Energy and Natural Resource Development

**K**osovo's economic development rests, to a large extent, upon development of its energy resources. Therefore, channeling investment into the energy and mining sectors will be important for Kosovo's future. A Memorandum of Understanding signed on March 16th marks the beginning of the Center for Energy and Natural Resource Development (CERN), which will help Kosovo's institutions address the need to improve the energy sector and attract investment.

The USAID-supported Center is a result of a partnership between the U.S.-based Rochester Institute for Technology (RIT) and the American University in Kosovo, and is designed to accelerate the transfer of skills and knowledge required to develop local capacity in the energy and natural resource sectors.



Left to right - Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director, Et'hem Ceku, Minister of Energy and Mines, and Pranvera Dobruna - Kryeziu, KEK, sign the MOU for the Energy Center

The Center will deliver education programs in energy and natural resource management and policy, support workshops for high-level management and policy-makers, and develop in-house research capacity.

Thus it will serve as a place to exchange ideas and information among academics, practitioners, and government officials on emerging issues related to energy and natural resources management.

"Thanks to the American Taxpayers, Kosovo will be able for the first time to address the issue of the energy sector itself," said Mr. Et'hem Ceku, Minister in the Ministry of Energy and Mines, who signed the MOU along with Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director, Ms. Pranvera Dobruna-Kryeziu, General Director for Kosovo Energy Cooperation, Konrad Wudtke, representative of the Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals.

Through a grant of \$400,000, USAID hopes to ensure that Kosovo has the human capacity needed to spur innovation and support entrepreneurship in this important sector. RIT is providing more than \$1.3 million in contributions to the program (in both cash and in-kind contributions) and the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) has pledged more than \$800,000 in support.

### Partnerships for Education

**A** launch event held on March 12th marked the beginning of a new partnership between Arizona State University (ASU) and the University of Prishtina (UP). Supported by USAID, the "Partnership for Accountancy Education at University of Prishtina" aims to reform accountancy education at Kosovo's largest university.

Through a grant of \$370,174, the partnership between the participating universities will help UP develop a baccalaureate in accounting that meets international standards and prepare a new generation of Kosovar instructors to lead implementation of the degree program.

"The U.S. Government recognizes that accounting is crucial to the development of Kosovo's emerging economy," said Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director at the event, who continued " ... as [accountancy] enables better measurement of performance of Kosovar companies, and helps produce financial statements understandable to potential investors and banks, enabling them to attract investment and gain additional access to finance. Finally, we are convinced that greater understanding and implementation of sound accounting practices will help deter corruption."

During a one-year stay at ASU, visiting scholars will prepare the syllabi for courses they will be teaching upon their return to Kosovo. The courses will be developed in cooperation with the Society of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Kosovo, another partner in the project.

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Improving the Sheep Industry

**T**wo truckloads of lamb from Kosovo were transported to Bosnia, as part of an agreement between Lijanovici, a renowned meat products factory in Bosnia and Delfin, a Kosovo-based producer.

The export was made possible after months of coordination between the companies and the governments of Kosovo and Bosnia, to remove all obstacles for export. USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support (KCBS) project involvement was crucial in changing the procedures for live lamb export to Bosnia, as well as finding the markets by linking domestic and foreign companies. The first truckload with 400 lambs from six sheep farmers, in two collection centers in Kaçanik and Lipjan/Lipljan, was worth 25,000 euro to Kosovar farmers.

In order to meet the requirements of the buyers, the KCBS project has been working with farmers to revitalize the sheep industry through trainings and interventions in the three basic sheep farmer income sources of meat, milk and wool. Also, the project has introduced improved practices in feed rations, pasture management and herd health to farmers throughout Kosovo.

Though it has a small domestic market for lamb, Kosovo has the potential and tradition for producing lambs for export to regional and EU countries. Lamb meat produced in Kosovo was formerly marketed in ex-Yugoslavia republics (Slovenia, Croatia, and Macedonia) and EU countries, mainly Italy and Greece.

## SPECIAL INITIATIVES

### We for Ourselves

**N**e për Ne [We for Ourselves], the first organization by and for people with developmental disabilities in Kosovo, introduced its activities on March 15th in Pristina.

The event followed a series of intense activities that Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) organized during a one week visit of Ms. Tia Nelis and Mr. Chester Finn, renowned disability advocates from the US.

The activities included three one-day training workshops for people with developmental disabilities, their parents, students of psychology at University of Prishtina, and service providers from the institutional and community-based settings. Training workshops addressed the importance of empowering people with developmental disabilities towards their independence and self advocacy, and encouraged their participation in civil society and policy-making.



The poster that "Ne Per Ne" uses in their daily work

"We for Ourselves" currently has 45 active members and aims to address common needs through establishment of support groups and the promotion of rights of people with developmental disabilities in Kosovo.

To help the newly-established organization achieve these goals, Ms. Nelis and Mr. Finn presented donations from the "Self- Advocacy Association" of New York, as well as supporters in Alabama and Illinois. MDRI's Initiative for Inclusion is supported by USAID.

### Upcoming Events

**March 21, --** Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director will speak at the Marketing and Linkages Conference organized by USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support project, implemented by Chemionics Int.

**April 3 --** Dedication of the rehabilitation of the Secondary School in Mitrovica N, part of USAID supported Community Enhancement Development Project, implemented by International Organization for Migration.

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