



PROMOTING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Third Annual Career Fair

Career fairs, a new concept in Kosovo, are gaining popularity as a way of introducing jobseekers to potential employers. The third annual Career Fair, held on April 27, provided further evidence of this trend as an increasing number of employers and job seekers participated in the events.

"Career fairs help establish new relationships between employers and jobseekers, bring openness and transparency to the hiring process; emphasize principles of merit rather than pre-existing connections and "who you know", and match employer needs with qualified employees. These practices should be integrated into Kosovar hiring practices to create a more level playing field and competitive labor market," said Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director at the opening ceremony.

Organized by the American Chamber of Commerce, the fair brought together some 19 companies, and 800 eligible jobseekers. Whereas last year's fair helped approximately 100 candidates make contact with their future employers, this year's event is expected to increase the number of candidates that will find jobs.

RULE OF LAW

Reducing the Case Backlog

Cooperation among the Postal and Telecommunication Authority of Kosovo (PTK) and seven municipal courts has resulted in resolution of some 8,300 backlogged cases since January 2007.

The execution of the cases, some of which date back to 1999, has helped PTK collect 1.4 million. The company highlighted increasing capacity of the courts as a reason for this momentum. "PTK's purpose is to dispose of a large number of cases this year, and there is an increasing trust in the efficiency of the courts," the company stated in a press release. The company aims to resolve an additional 29,000 backlogged cases by the end of the year.

Municipal courts participating in the effort were supported by USAID's Justice System Reform Activity, implemented by the National Center for State Courts.

Lessons Learned: Backlog Reduction in the Pilot Courts

The execution of civil cases remains a challenge to the judiciary in Kosovo. Currently, one-third of all pending cases in the Municipal Courts are civil cases. Some of these have been lingering in the court system for more than two years.

To address this issue, USAID's Justice System Reform Activity organized a one day roundtable entitled "Lessons Learned: Backlog Reduction in the Pilot Courts". The roundtable included representatives from eight Municipal Courts that have been participating in a year-long pilot project aimed at clearing backlogged cases and reducing delays in case processing.



Lessons Learned: Backlog reduction in the Pilot Courts
One of five sessions of the

At the event, each pilot court made a presentation on their experience in the project, focusing on lessons learned, achievements, and challenges. Participants also discussed common issues, such as gathering baseline data and indicators to measure progress toward reducing civil execution backlog, reporting requirements of the Statistics Division of the Kosovo Judicial Council, and time standards for case disposal.

The roundtable helped court personnel come to consensus on best approaches to clearing backlogged cases and reduce case processing time. The Justice System Reform Activity is implemented by National Center for State Courts.

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS

Joining Forces for the Kamenicë/a Fire Brigade

USAID's Local Government Initiative (LGI) and US troops in Kosovo are helping the Fire Brigade of Kamenicë/a municipality better respond to emergencies. The support includes USAID-financed radio equipment and US KFOR-financed firefighting uniforms.

Kamenice/a municipality suffers from numerous forest fires, road accidents and health emergencies. The remote villages and mountainous terrain make radio communication an imperative tool for effective operations. The equipment, which was turned over to the Municipality on May 3rd, includes handsets for each firefighter, a unit in each vehicle, and a base dispatch station which will enable the Fire Brigade to communicate with the police department, their base station, and other emergency response operations.

LGI and US KFOR collaborated with the Ministry of Local Government Administration, the Municipality of Kamenice/Kamenica and the Ministry of Interior in undertaking the project.

HEALTH INITIATIVES

For healthier babies

New and expecting mothers throughout Kosovo have a new place to go for specialized health services. Antenatal Care rooms, located in six regional Family Medicine Centers, are offering care using inter-

nationally-recognized methods for mothers during pregnancy and after birth.

"The antenatal care services help address the risks during the pregnancy and the project will help us expand the necessary care needed", says Dr. Drita Lumi, coordinator of the training for Ferizaj/Urosevac Municipality. As part of the Alliance for Healthy Newborns project, the training addresses the needs of primary health care centers in treating their patients during crucial months of pregnancy and helps reduce the risks that affect mortality of mothers and newborns.

This professional development program is implemented in partnership with Ministry of Health (MOH), the Centre for Development of Family Medicine (CDFM) and Dartmouth Medical School.

In addition to the introduction of antenatal care within primary care services, the Alliance works to improve the quality of maternal and infant care through the provision of training, equipment, and other resources in the obstetric and neonatal departments at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK).

Upcoming Events

May 14, -- Tina Kaidanow, US Cheif of Mission is the guest speaker at the Party Training Academy.

May 17, --Dr. Michael Farberman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director will visit Ferizaj/Urosevac.

May 25, -- USAID will inaugurate two infrastructure projects in Pejë/Pec municipalaity.

May 25, -- Official opening of the Pejë/Pec Citizens Service Center [One-stop shop]



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