



EDUCATION

New Masters Program Starting in Kosovo

A Masters of Science Program in Service Management and Infrastructure Development was launched on January 8 by the American University in Kosovo (AUK).

The seventeen-month, intensive program will increase the number of skilled interdisciplinary professionals capable of holding senior management positions in both the private and public sectors. Students will complete a set of core courses in project management, asset management, project finance, research and problem solving, and human capital development. In addition, students have the option of choosing between two concentrations: service management or energy and natural resource development, both relevant areas for economic and infrastructure development.

AUK is confident that the program will benefit not only the energy and natural resources sectors, but will also provide a pool of talent that can contribute to the growth of other key sectors, including financial services, telecommunications, and tourism. The degree is awarded by the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), and is part of a USAID- supported partnership aimed at improving the workforce in the energy and natural resource sectors. The program and the degree are fully accredited in the United States.

Former Legal Clinic Students Teach TeenLaw in Kosovo High Schools

Ten law students, graduates of the Legal Clinic at the University of Prishtina, are teaching TeenLaw at high schools in five municipalities of Kosovo. TeenLaw is a course introducing high school students to the fundamentals of Kosovo's legal system, including the structure of the court system, the role of lawyers, prosecutors, and judges in implementing the law, and principles of human rights. The course was first introduced in May 2007, and has since reached some 1,500 high school students across Kosovo.

"Having the experience of teaching TeenLaw to high school students makes me more comfortable talking in front of the public. High schools students are sometimes challenging, thus lecturing them made me understand these topics even better," says Blerina Uka. Blerina, who completed the Legal Clinic in the 2006/2007 academic year, is one of ten students chosen to volunteer teach in the high schools.

The project fills a gap in the high school curriculum, which does not cover Kosovo's judicial and legal systems. The TeenLaw and Legal Clinic projects are led by the American Bar Association/Rule of Law Initiative (ABA/ROLI), supported by USAID.

A Better School for the New Year

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" were the lyrics of a song performed by the students of Balaj/Balic on December 18.

The students were celebrating the inauguration of a renovated school in the community, recently completed with the support of USAID.



Children of Balaj/Balic school performed at the dedication of the school rehabilitation project

"Today we are happy for the investment made in this village. However, your job continues as you are to maintain the school so the municipality can invest in other needs for the residents of our municipality," said Faik Grainca, at the time mayor of Ferizaj/Urosevac. Mr. Grainca joined Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director, in unveiling a plaque commemorating the project.

The school rehabilitation project was a joint effort of Balaj community, Ferizaj/Urosevac municipality, and USAID's Municipal Integration and Support Initiative (MISI). The project included a rehabilitation of existing facilities and the construction of a new, second floor on the school. The total cost of the project was \$162,879, of which USAID contributed \$36,316, The Municipality \$115,387, and the community \$11,174. MISI is implemented in partnership with Mercy Corps.

INSTITUTIONS

Order Paper Helps Assembly

Publication of an order paper will help newly-elected Kosovo assembly members understand parliamentary and legislative processes. Though common in other parliaments, the order paper was only recently introduced in the Assembly of Kosovo.

The order paper guides the deliberations of a parliament and lists items of business currently before the body. The items are listed in several different categories according to an arrangement adopted by the parliament, and as stipulated by rules of procedure or parliamentary precedent. The order paper for the Assembly of Kosovo was adopted within the Rules of Procedure on October 12th, thus allowing for the order paper to be applicable for the last meetings of the former Assembly of Kosovo. Regular publication of the order paper will continuously inform the public and media about each step of parliamentary and legislative process.

The order paper is a result of USAID's support to the Assembly of Kosovo in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Improving Care for Victims of Trafficking

Seventy-two employees of seven shelters have completed a professional certification program aimed at improving the quality of services to victims of trafficking. The professionals, who were recognized at a ceremony on December 12th, participated in courses including "Comprehensive Professional Counseling", "Examination and Evaluation of Mental Health", "Stress and Trauma Management", and "Burnout Syndrome and Psychological Debriefing".

The effort is part of the Partnership against Trafficking in Human Beings (PATH) project, in cooperation with the Kosovo Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and Secretariat from the Office of Prime Minister/Advisory Office for Good Governance.

Participants included staff from all seven shelters, the Center for Protection of Victims and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings, the Kosovo Law Center, the Kosovo Population Foundation, IOM, Terre des Hommes, the Kosovo Police Service, the Ministry of Justice and more.

PATH is a two-year project supported by USAID and implemented by Catholic Relief Services.



January 15, Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director will visit municipalities participating in USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support Clean UP project.

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