



### WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

#### USAID Dedicates Two Projects in Kosovo Serb Villages

The end of April and beginning of May saw the dedication of two new USAID infrastructure projects. A new sports field in Panqell/Pancello (Kamenice/a municipality) and an asphalted road in Grace (Vushtrri/Vucitrn municipality) hosted dedication events with USAID/Kosovo Mission Director Michael Farbman. The projects are part of an ongoing effort to improve basic infrastructure needs in minority areas, facilitating community integration.

"Roads link people, and this road project has strengthened linkages among residents of Grace," Farbman said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony in Grace/Gracke, where a road was asphalted. "By working together, and resourcefully, you have made this road an example of the future integration your community may yet achieve. It can serve as a model for other communities."



Left to right: Bajram Mulaku, Mayor of Vushtrri/Vucitrn, Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director and Ljubomir Djordjevic, Gracke/Grace Community Representative at the Grace Road Asphalting ribbon-cutting ceremony

The total cost of the projects dedicated was \$86,593. The projects are part of USAID's Municipal Integration and Support Initiative (MISI), a project implemented in partnership with Mercy Corps

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

#### Gjilan/Gnjilane Industrial Park Gains 24/7 Electricity and Increases Production

USAID assisted 24 companies in the Gjilan/Gnjilane Industrial Park to obtain improved access to a reliable power supply. As of May 8, these companies estimated that production would increase by 30% as a result of USAID assistance to intervene on behalf of this local business community.

This is a dramatic improvement compared to 2006, when the companies located in the park faced significant losses due to the lack of electricity. At that time, the park was served by a 10 kV line, which also provided electricity to households in several neighboring villages. Since these household customers had not paid their bills, the Kosovo Energy Company (KEK) placed all customers served by the line in Group "C," which received the greatest cuts in electricity during power shortages. Consequently, the businesses suffered and faced reduced profitability.

The KCBS project took action to facilitate an agreement between representatives of the companies located in the Industrial Park and KEK. Under this agreement, the companies agreed to contribute approximately €17,000 for the hook-up of a 10 kV line from the industrial park to a substation, while KEK agreed to energize a nearby 35 kV power line to supply the substation. The initiative faced a few more challenges which were later resolved through close cooperation with USAID's KEK Network and Supply Project. Finally, KEK invested €16,000 to carry the 35 kV line and KCBS coordinated the payment of all overdue debts to KEK of the industrialists, as well as collecting the three-month advance payments (the precondition for getting 24/7 supply).

In 2007, sales by the 17 largest producers in the industrial park were just over €6 million. Now as a result of a more reliable power supply, the businesses estimate that production will increase 30%, valued at €1.3 million, and employment will increase 20%, adding 23 workers. In addition, KEK's cash flow benefits from receiving advance payments of €20,000. The initiative demonstrates the mutual economic benefits to Kosovo's business community and to the profitability of KEK when KEK supplies 24/7 power to a large group of consumers willing to pay for electricity usage in advance. The KCBS project is implemented by Chemonics International.

## Trademark Protection and Enforcement Increases

Protecting and enforcing trademarks will be easier for Kosovo as a new law has entered into force. To ensure that this law is understood and enforced, USAID's Economic Management for Stability and Growth (EMSG) project trained Kosovo judges on Trademark Protection and Enforcement on April 25 and 26. The course included a detailed presentation on how the Kosovo law complies with international and European standards. Participants were primarily judges who will be using the new law in their daily work.

Utilizing a state-of-the-art adult learning methodology, the trainers focused on the role of trademarks within a large system of intellectual property rights, the interpretation of international and EU instruments relating to trademarks, the limitations to trademarks and their application, the enforcement of trademark rights through licensing agreements, remedies for a violation of a trademark, cyber-squatting and other ways of applying the new law.

This training is part of series of USAID training sessions on core commercial laws designed to improve the environment in which Kosovo businesses function. It also focuses on capacity-building for improving future economic growth and stability to foster a durable economic foundation for future growth. The training series will focus on the legal community in Kosovo and will be carried out in cooperation with the Kosovo Judicial Institute and the Chamber of Advocates. The presentations will also be repeated for the business community and students.

USAID's Economic Management for Stability and Growth is a three-year activity implemented by BearingPoint.

## RULE OF LAW

### Raising Public's Awareness of Judicial System

To educate citizens on the role and function of the judiciary, USAID/Kosovo's Justice Support Project produced three TV Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to increase public understanding of the administration of justice and citizen's access to justice.

The PSAs will be broadcast regularly on television throughout Kosovo to help encourage a culture of the rule of law with equal access for all communities. The PSAs are on judicial reform and modernization, including the establishment of the judiciary as an independent branch of government, and focus on judicial independence, access to justice, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. The PSAs convey the message that judicial institutions are available to all citizens of Kosovo, without regard to ethnicity or national origin, race, religion, or gender.



Few of the scenes were shot downtown capital of Kosovo, Pristina. PSAs will air on television stations in Albanian and Serbian language.

More than 30 broadcast and judicial professionals were involved in the production. In addition, students from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts joined the production crew, giving the students a chance to practice their craft. More than 80 extras were involved, including featured extras from Kosovo Roma and Serbs from Gracanica. Several scenes were filmed on location in Pristina, in Skenderbeg Square and in front of the National Theater. Other scenes were filmed in the Institute of Albanology and the Pristina University Faculty of Law. The PSAs will air on television stations in Albanian and Serbian languages. The USAID program will expand its public awareness of the judiciary through the development of a television mini-series. The Justice Support Project is implemented by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).

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