



INSTITUTION STRENGTHENING

Understanding Commercial Law

Three judges from Kosovo's Commercial Court, including the President of the Kosovo Commercial Court participated in a study tour in the USA from July 22 - 30.

The tour gave the judges hands-on knowledge about government contracts, bankruptcy, trade, arbitration and tax at both the trial and appellate level. It also helped them gain an understanding of the importance of rules of procedure and evidence in the resolution of commercial cases.

During their stay in the US, the group visited the Administrative Office of US Courts in Washington DC, the US Court of International Trade in New York, the US Court of Claims in Washington DC, and the US Bankruptcy Court in New York.

The study tour was designed as a joint effort between USAID's Economic Development Initiative and Participant Training Program.

Preparing for Daily News

Four TV news editors from KTV and RTV 21, Kosovo's leading private TV stations attended a job shadowing program from July 24 - August 6 at the ITV Yorkshire TV station in Leeds, England.

Participants were placed in a newsroom to learn professional TV news program production techniques and to observe the development and production of ITV's regular news bulletins, lunchtime news program and the evening news magazine. In addition, participants spent a day at the BBC in Leeds, home of BBC Radio Leeds and the BBC's regional evening program.

The program was organized by USAID's Media Assistance Project in cooperation with Participants Training Program.



Mr. Agim Krasniqi, acting Permanent Secretary, MFE, interviewed by Beth Voorhees of WV Public Radio, NPR affiliate

Kosovo's Budget Department through Training Gains New Skills

Eight staff members from the Department of Budget and Treasury of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), participated in a training on performance and program budgeting.

As part of the training, the group visited municipal and state budget organizations in West Virginia and federal budget organizations (the Office of Budget Management and Congressional Budget Office) in Washington, DC, to learn more about measuring and prioritizing the economic and social benefits of activities, and expenditures.

This US-based training program was organized by USAID's Economic Development Initiative and Participant Training Program.

CONFLICT MITIGATION

New Project Addressing Specific Needs in North Mitrovica

USAID/Kosovo has initiated several small infrastructure projects to address the needs of Kosovars in the north of Kosovo. The projects target specific infrastructure needs of the residents of Leposaviq/c, Zubin Potok, Zveqan/Zvecan, and North Mitrovica.

In partnership with Mercy Corps (MCI) and International Organization for Migration (IOM), small projects including reconstruction of two roads, one in Zveqan/Zvecan and one in Leposaviq/c.

“Kosovo Realities”

After the successful launch of the Kosovo Team Reporting (KTR) documentaries, USAID's Support to Peace and Stability Initiative is continuing with "Kosovo Realities", a TV Magazine series produced by multi-ethnic teams of journalists.



Members of KTR discuss upcoming projects

Each episode of the series will introduce different or similar perspectives of Kosovo communities toward one issue. The production of TV magazine started officially with a workshop held in Pristina on August 2-3, which focused on the content of the series, as well as the role of KTR journalists in fostering inter-ethnic communications.

“Kosovo Realities” will include nine episodes from August - December by six participating TV stations, as well as Kosovo-wide stations. The series are a follow up of the previous activity that brought together six regional TV stations in three documentary teams of Albanian Kosovar and Serbian Kosovar TV stations. The teams worked on local level bringing two parts of Kosovo communities in one.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

New opportunities for young Kosovars

The second generation of the Kosovo American Education Fund (KAEF) fellows were honored at a reception marking their departure to the United States. Eight successful young Kosovars will be placed in schools throughout the US to continue their higher education.

The fellows will join (nine) selected last year, who will now enter their second year of study. Fortuna Haxhikadrija, one of the first generation fellows studying journalism at Duke University says "the experience I gained from these studies is very valuable for my future." KAEF, an endowment administered by American Councils and established by USAID provides scholarships to emerging Kosovo leaders for master's studies in the U.S. KAEF aims to support Kosovo's long-term development by enhancing the qualifications of professionals.

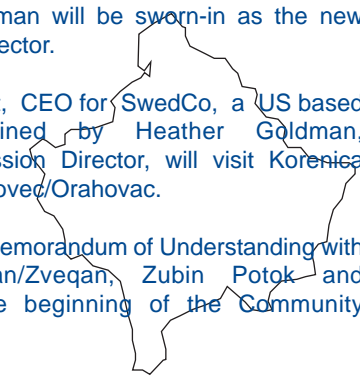
The 7.8 million dollars fund is the first of this kind in Kosovo and was created with funds from the sale of American Bank in Kosovo, which was established by USAID. The main areas of study have to do with the economic development of Kosovo as well as public administration, justice, and economy.

Upcoming Events

August 21, Michael Farbman will be sworn-in as the new USAID/Kosovo Mission Director.

August 23, Gerald Perlot, CEO for SwedCo, a US based wood manufacturer joined by Heather Goldman, USAID/Kosovo Acting Mission Director, will visit Korenica wood manufacturer in Rahovec/Orahovac.

August 24, USAID signs Memorandum of Understanding with municipalities of Zvecan/Zveqan, Zubin Potok and Leposavic/q, marking the beginning of the Community Mobilization Initiative.



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