



USAID Mission in Kosovo

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YOUTH AND UNEMPLOYMENT

In an effort to address key issues that contributed to the March events, REA Prishtina, a local NGO, organized a roundtable discussion on Youth and Unemployment. The roundtable solicited input from institutions and organizations that have been dealing with the topic, and it aimed at building an understanding among decision-making bodies on the issue as well as develop concrete recommendations on dealing with it.



Participants of the "Youth and Unemployment" roundtable.

"Our goal is to develop a healthy and a fruitful way, for a substantial consensus among Kosovo Government, United Nations Mission in Kosovo and civil society in order to prevent another violent event taking place in Kosovo", said Ahmet Jetullahu, Director of REA Prishtina in his welcome speech. This roundtable followed the one on Local Economic Development organized by REA Prishtina earlier, and supported by USAID through Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project (KNAP).

WOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION FORMED

On January 05, wood processors from all over Kosovo met in Pristina to form an association that will improve conditions and methods in wood processing, as well as to advance employment opportunities in the industry. The Kosovo Wood Processors Association (KWPA) will assist its members to produce higher quality wood products and improve forestry management in Kosovo. KWPA has a permanent board that will develop and work on an action plan for 2005, which will include techniques to increase competitiveness, and to improve quality control systems and market chain linkages (the connections between lumber producers and manufacturers of finished furniture, windows, doors, cabinets and other wood products). Association members believe that these actions will result in increased employment in the Kosovo wood-processing sector. The event was organized with support from USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support project implemented through Chemonics International.

COMPLEMENTING LEGAL EDUCATION AT THE LAW FACULTY

Legal education aimed at increasing the capacity of the broader legal community to understand and utilize the new market-oriented economic/commercial legislation continues. USAID consultants continue their formal legal education activities at the Law Faculty of the University of Pristina by presenting "Advanced Contemporary Business Law and Commercial Transactions." This is a full semester course, which started on October 2004 and ends in March 2005. There are about 25 students participating in this course, and at its completion, a certificate of participation will be given to them.

LEGAL CLINIC FOR LAW STUDENTS ESTABLISHED

A Memorandum of Understanding establishing a Legal Clinic at the Faculty of Law of University of Prishtina was signed on December 16. The Legal Clinic is a result of the efforts of the Faculty of Law to provide practical skills for law students in the field of law, an initiative supported by USAID through American Bar Association/Central and Eastern Eurasia Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI).

“Law Faculty is grateful for the support given through the Legal Clinic by international organizations and that the Law Faculty would work to make the project a success”, said Beqir Sadikaj Dean of Law Faculty in University of Prishtina.

The initiative aims to augment the curriculum of the Pristina Faculty of Law, which has traditionally focused on legal theory, rather than practical legal skills. The project involves students in their last year of studies, and will include work in the offices of private lawyers and prosecutors, in addition to courtrooms. The students will be expected to learn practical aspects of civil law and criminal law to better prepare for practicing law in their communities. The Kosovo Chamber of Advocates, Kosovo Judges Association, Kosovo Supreme Court, Kosovo Municipal and District Court, and the Public Prosecutor's Office will provide a panel of qualified members from which the Clinic Coordinator will select interested and enthusiastic lawyers, judges and prosecutors to help supervise individual student casework.

NEWLY ELECTED KOSOVO ASSEMBLY LEARNS MORE ABOUT USAID IN KOSOVO

On December 10, newly elected members of Kosovo's Assembly were introduced to USAID activities in Kosovo since 1999. David Leong, Deputy Director of the USAID Mission in Kosovo, made the presentation to Parliamentarians on how USAID's program have evolved in Kosovo. Mr. Leong also described USAID's five-year strategy, and the partners USAID works with.

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