

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Macedonia
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance Reform
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	165-0200
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$10,226,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$7,968,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	2002
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2010

Summary: This program focuses on: 1) increasing citizens' participation in political and social decision-making; 2) enhancing adherence to the rule of law; and 3) improving the effectiveness and accountability of government institutions, including local governments and the Parliament.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,931,818 AEEB). USAID's new civil society strengthening project will make civil society a more effective, influential, and permanent partner alongside government and business in shaping the country's future. The project will provide direct grants to 12 to 14 Macedonian non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These "leader NGOs" will serve as mentors to smaller organizations, support them to effectively represent citizens' interests in monitoring the government, and strengthen their capacity to carry out publicly beneficial services. Principal grantee: Institute for Sustainable Communities (prime).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$711,803 AEEB). Political party assistance will focus on enhancing the transparency of the political process and accountability of political leadership. USAID will assist two to three local branches of the six major political parties to develop organizational structures and improve their operation at the grassroots level. USAID will also support the political parties at both the national and local level to develop policy analysis and research capabilities, increase responsiveness to citizens' concerns, and enhance participation by youth, women, and marginalized groups in political parties. Principal grantee: International Republican Institute (prime).

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$2,687,379 AEEB). The court modernization program will continue to work with the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary to implement the national strategy for reform of the judiciary. Assistance will focus on: a) improving the legal framework, including drafting key laws and providing training for judicial personnel in order to implement these laws; b) improving the efficiency of and public access to the courts by replicating the best practices of court administration developed by USAID pilot courts; and c) providing technical assistance to the Administrative Office of the Court Budget Council to develop its capacity to effectively manage the financial, human, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) resources of the courts. Principal contractor: DPK Consulting (prime).

Strengthen the Legislative Function/Legal Framework (\$900,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to strengthen the parliament by increasing its capacity to develop quality legislation, perform its oversight role, and involve citizens in the legislative process. Support will continue to assist Members of Parliament to represent their constituents, through the operation of constituency offices and the conduct of public hearings and town hall meetings with citizens. Principal grantee: National Democratic Institute (prime).

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$3,995,000 AEEB). USAID's Decentralization Project will provide ICT systems upgrades and direct technical assistance, so that Macedonian municipalities: a) establish adequate financial management and tax administration systems; b) increase property tax and related local tax collection rates and levels; c) regularly incorporate citizen input into public decision-making; d) implement modern urban planning systems, resulting in more

effective and transparent issuance of building permits; and e) demonstrate increasing financial independence and the capacity to influence public policy through municipal associations. Principal contractor: Development Alternatives Inc. (prime).

FY 2007 Program:

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,808,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to build the capacity of civil society organizations to represent and advocate for the interests of citizens in policy decision making and to provide publicly beneficial services that improve the lives of the citizens of Macedonia. Principal grantee: to be determined (TBD).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$500,000 AEEB). Political party assistance will continue to focus on enhancing the transparency of the political process and accountability of political leadership by strengthening the local branches and enhancing participation of youth, women, and marginalized groups. Principal grantee: TBD.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$2,614,000 AEEB). Assistance will continue to support the effectiveness and independence of the judiciary through legislative reform, implementation of best practices in the area of court administration, and training for court personnel to enhance professionalism and efficiency. Principal contractor: TBD.

Strengthen the Legislative Function/Legal Framework (\$500,000 AEEB). Work with the Parliament will focus on strengthening the committee process, developing and implementing new rules of procedure, and institutionalizing such public participation mechanisms as public hearings and constituency outreach. Principal contractor: TBD.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$2,546,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to train and prepare municipalities to assume increased responsibilities and resources under a decentralized government, and will increase citizen participation and input into the public decision-making process. Principal contractor: TBD.

Performance and Results: In November 2004, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) approved a comprehensive Judicial Sector Reform Strategy which will increase the effectiveness, transparency and independence of the Judiciary; USAID is the principal partner helping the MoJ implement this strategy. The drafting and passage in 2005 of the Law on Enforcement and the Law on Civil Procedure, facilitated by USAID, will greatly reduce the backlog of cases managed by the courts and will improve enforcement of judicial decisions, including contracts. More effective courts (36.6% reduction in cases three years or older) led to greatly improved customer satisfaction in USAID pilot courts (72% customer approval rating). USAID leads training of municipal officials across Macedonia in areas such as: finance and tax administration, urban planning, and economic development. Parliamentary committees held legislative, investigative, and oversight public hearings, providing citizens access to the legislative process and improving legislative quality. Approximately 40,000 citizens visited constituent offices of Members of Parliament. Plenary sessions and committee meetings were televised for the first time on a new Parliamentary TV channel, and all draft legislation and parliamentary debate was made available via the Internet. USAID's Civic Education program closed having successfully institutionalized a civic education curriculum in all of Macedonia's elementary schools.

The successful completion of this program would contain most of the following results: a) a balance of power and decision-making authority among the three branches of government and including civil society; b) transparency evident in all government decisions, including public disclosure of budgetary information; c) public officials being hired and promoted based on merit principles; and d) transparency and efficiency in all court cases and enforcement of decisions.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Macedonia

165-0200 Democracy and Governance Reform	AEEB
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	40,365
Expenditures	29,607
Unliquidated	10,758
Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	12,315
Expenditures	16,094
Through September 30, 2005	
Obligations	52,680
Expenditures	45,701
Unliquidated	6,979
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	10,226
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006	
Obligations	10,226
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA	
Obligations	7,968
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	70,874