

The Challenge

USAID's goals are to ensure that Bulgaria accedes to the European Union, remains a dependable ally, and continues to play a stabilizing role in the region. The greatest threat to Bulgaria in achieving these goals lies in its weak judicial institutions, widespread corruption, a burdensome regulatory environment, a need for stronger local institutions, and rising ethnic tensions. With 2006 as the last year of funding and the impending phase-out of U.S. development assistance to Bulgaria, USAID's program will help improve the professionalism of the judicial branch, assist in legislative reforms that will improve delivery of justice, develop transparent methods for public procurement and public institutions, improve the legal/regulatory business environment to attract investments, encourage the growth of small and medium enterprises, promote fiscal decentralization, encourage greater ethnic tolerance, and strengthen local non-governmental organizations and their capacity to raise funds.

Objectives, Sectors and Workforce

Mission Director: Michael Fritz

MCA Status: Currently Not Eligible

PEPFAR Focus Country: No

Provided or Received Services From Other Missions: Received

Program Budget (Appropriations by Objective)

	FY 2004 (\$000)	FY 2005 (\$000)	FY 2006 (\$000)	FY 2007 (\$000)	Percent Change FY 04-07	2005 SO Performance Score		Direct SO Admin. Cost Ratio
183-0130 Private Sector Development	8,221	7,320	4,820	0	N/A	1.04	Met	0.08
183-0220 Rule of Law	5,744	7,050	5,495	0	N/A	0.99	Met	0.10
183-0230 Local Governance	4,850	4,885	3,260	0	N/A	0.88	Not Met	0.10
183-0420 Cross-Cutting Programs	3,344	3,525	2,898	0	N/A			0.18
Transfer to Other US Government Agency	5,410	4,470	3,327	0	N/A			
Country Total	27,569	27,250	19,800	0	-100.0%			

Program Budget (Appropriations by Account)

	FY 2004 (\$000)	FY 2005 (\$000)	FY 2006 (\$000)	FY 2007 (\$000)	Percent Change FY 04-07
Asst. for E. Europe and the Baltic States	27,569	27,250	19,800	0	N/A
Total	27,569	27,250	19,800	0	-100.0%

Program Budget by Sector and Account

	FY 2004 (\$000)	FY 2005 (\$000)	FY 2006 (\$000)	FY 2007 (\$000)	Percent Change FY 04-07
Agriculture and Environment AEEB	1,901	2,561	836	0	N/A
Higher Education & Training AEEB	1,300	1,900	1,200	0	N/A
Economic Growth AEEB	8,890	7,496	6,270	0	N/A
Human Rights AEEB	0	200	145	0	N/A
Democracy and Governance AEEB	13,595	13,943	11,120	0	N/A
Conflict Management / Humanitarian Assistance AEEB	900	1,150	229	0	N/A
Family Planning / Reproductive Health AEEB	983	0	0	0	N/A
Total	27,569	27,250	19,800	0	-100.0%

Workforce

	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	Percent Change FY 04-07
US Direct Hires	3	4	4	4	33.3%
US Non Direct Hires	2	4	5	4	100.0%
Foreign Nationals	27	25	25	25	-7.4%
Total	32	33	34	33	3.1%

Operating Expense

	FY 2004 (\$000)	FY 2005 (\$000)	FY 2006 (\$000)	FY 2007 (\$000)	Percent Change FY 04-07
Salaries and benefits	632	647	499	622	-1.6%
Travel	110	101	117	33	-70.0%
Transportation of things	43	66	42	0	N/A
Rent	144	82	33	38	-73.6%
Security	0	0	0	0	N/A
Equipment	127	2	2	0	N/A
ICASS - Operating Expense only	149	244	310	325	118.1%
Other Operating Expense	182	180	197	182	0.0%
Total OE Budget	1,387	1,322	1,200	1,200	-13.5%
US direct hire salary and benefits	381	420	493	547	43.6%
Program Funded Administrative Expenses				618	
Country Total Administrative Budget				2,365	
Percent of Bureau OE Total				3.1%	

Mission Summary

FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
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Program per US Direct Hire (\$000)	9,190	6,813	4,950	0
Program per All US (\$000)	5,514	3,406	2,200	0
Program per Position (\$000)	862	826	582	0
Operating Expense as % of Program Funding				N/A
Program Funded Admin Expense as % of Total Admin				26.1%
Total Admin Expense as % of Program Funding				N/A

Other Major Donors:

Bilateral: Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom

Multilateral: European Union, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and United Nations Development Program

Bulgaria PROGRAM SUMMARY

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Current	FY 2007 Request
Asst. for E. Europe and the Baltic States	27,569	27,250	19,800	0
Total Program Funds	27,569	27,250	19,800	0

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY				
183-0130 Private Sector Development				
AEEB	8,221	7,320	4,820	0
183-0220 Rule of Law				
AEEB	5,744	7,050	5,495	0
183-0230 Local Governance				
AEEB	4,850	4,885	3,260	0
183-0420 Cross-Cutting Programs				
AEEB	3,344	3,525	2,898	0
TRANSFER				
AEEB	5,410	4,470	3,327	0

Mission Director,
Michael Fritz

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Bulgaria
Program Title:	Private Sector Development
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	183-0130
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$4,820,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$467,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	1992
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID economic assistance covers a broad range of activities aimed at fostering a competitive, transparent, and business-friendly environment that is conducive to investments, private sector growth and job creation. USAID will help make the business climate more supportive of private sector development through support of commercial law reform and improved regulation of privatized energy distribution and generation facilities. Private sector competitiveness is addressed through assistance in business and trade capacity building, streamlining economic policies, and strengthening public-private dialogue. USAID initiatives target creating employment opportunities by bridging the gap between the supply and demand of labor. USAID activities focus on improving access to financial resources, while ensuring the soundness and stability of the financial sector.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment: (\$1,450,000 AEEB). USAID will provide assistance in streamlining commercial legislation primarily pertaining to company registration. Efforts to improve the system of judgment enforcement will include: technical assistance (TA) and training to the Ministry of Justice to effectively exercise its supervisory role over private enforcement agents; TA to the chamber of private enforcement agents to develop budget and management skills; and TA and training to build skills in the private enforcement agents' profession. USAID will fund an advocacy campaign for the passage of a critical law transferring the system of business registration from the courts to a user-friendly administrative agency. USAID will assist three commercial mediation centers by helping to prepare business plans and training trainers in commercial mediation. Four USAID-developed commercial law courses (collateral law, company law, alternative dispute resolution, and corporate governance) will become sustainable through their integration into the curriculum of the National Institute of Justice, the Attorneys Training Center and other local institutions. Over one hundred judges and lawyers will benefit from these training events in FY 2006.

Using bilateral funds to supplement a USAID regional energy program, the Mission will enhance the capacity of the State Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (SEWRC) to regulate the energy sector. Activities include, but are not limited to, funding SEWRC membership in the energy regulators regional association, and SEWRC participation in association meetings in such areas as licensing/competition and tariff/pricing. Through exchange of visits and internships under a partnership between SEWRC and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, the SEWRC will acquire additional technical expertise in setting rates and tariffs and valuing plant and equipment in the water sector to support it with its newly-assigned responsibilities for the water sector. Principal contractors and grantees: Bearing Point (prime), National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (prime).

Improve Private Sector Competitiveness: (\$1,736,000 AEEB, \$366,561 AEEB carryover). USAID will support small and medium enterprise (SME) development through TA and trade and finance facilitation to private companies and local SME consulting firms in key sectors: information technology (IT), tourism, food and agriculture, and apparel. Four resident American volunteers will work with local consulting firms and associations to help them improve the quality of services. At least five publicity and/or investment events will be organized throughout the year in priority sectors to help attract investment. USAID will

conduct a public awareness campaign targeting SMEs to create awareness of the implications of new regulations and tax regimes. USAID will provide technical advisory support to the Economic Growth Council and the Invest Bulgaria Agency regarding effective licensing regimes.

USAID will work with 180 schools to implement entrepreneurship training. At least 100 student-operated mini-companies will be mentored to develop entrepreneurial expertise among youth. Institution strengthening support to the Business for Education Foundation will ensure the sustainability of a USAID-supported network of Career Development Centers in Bulgarian universities and vocational schools. USAID will fund the Stevens Institute of Technology Master of Science in Information Systems program at Sofia University to develop management skills in information technology leaders. Principal contractors and grantees: Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (prime), Junior Achievement Bulgaria (prime), Stevens University, (prime).

Strengthen the Financial Services Sector and Increase Access to Capital: (\$1,634,310 AEEB, \$100,000 AEEB carryover). USAID will assist the Bulgarian National Bank and the Financial Supervision Commission to finalize anti-money laundering manuals as well as provide on-the-job training for more than one hundred regulators. To develop supervisory approaches for the conglomerate institutions in the financial market, USAID will use TA for: drafting conglomerates legislation, preparing agreements between bank and non-bank regulatory bodies and joint training initiatives. Significant attention will be devoted to raising general public awareness of new financial products as well as consumer protection safeguards. At least four financial sector educational events will be organized for judges aimed at enhancing judges' knowledge of the financial sector, including regulatory aspects.

Pending regional approval, USAID will co-fund a Global Development Alliance (GDA) for a wind farm project to provide clean energy for Bulgarians and support investment by an American company. Another potential GDA will create a country-wide microfinance network for Roma entrepreneurs. Principal contractors and grantees: Emerging Markets Group (prime), EnCon Services International (prime), TBD.

FY 2007 Program:

FY 2006 is the final year of appropriation for activities under this objective.

Performance and Results: In FY 2005 USAID assistance helped remove impediments to the improvement of the business environment through passage of a law fundamentally reforming the grossly ineffective judgments enforcement system. An effective alternative to the cumbersome judicial process was launched through USAID-supported commercial mediation centers. USAID support in developing energy sector secondary legislation and regulatory framework was critical for the restructuring of the Bulgarian energy sector. This work continued the privatization of the electricity generation facilities and leads the way to a competitive energy market. USAID graduated its successful pension reform program leaving a legacy of a three-pillar (mandatory public, mandatory private, and voluntary private) pension system to provide better retirement income for future generations. Through USAID technical assistance to regulatory institutions, the financial sector operates under solid rules and regulations consistent with international practices.

Upon close-out of this strategic objective, USAID anticipates that Bulgaria will have a sound legal and regulatory framework that will stimulate investment and increase the competitiveness of the country's economy. USAID support will leave the country with a safe and stable financial sector capable of efficiently mobilizing capital for economic growth and job creation.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bulgaria

183-0130 Private Sector Development	AEEB	DA	DCA	ESF
Through September 30, 2004				
Obligations	88,976	4,620	1,875	2,120
Expenditures	83,143	4,597	998	2,120
Unliquidated	5,833	23	877	0
Fiscal Year 2005				
Obligations	6,667	0	0	0
Expenditures	6,007	0	0	0
Through September 30, 2005				
Obligations	95,643	4,620	1,875	2,120
Expenditures	89,150	4,597	998	2,120
Unliquidated	6,493	23	877	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds				
Obligations	467	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA				
Obligations	4,820	0	0	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006				
Obligations	5,287	0	0	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA				
Obligations	0	0	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	100,930	4,620	1,875	2,120

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Bulgaria
Program Title:	Rule of Law
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	183-0220
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$5,495,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,333,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	1999
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: Bulgaria must implement reforms related to administering justice and reducing corruption or risk delayed European Union (EU) accession date. While Bulgaria made notable progress with its legislative agenda to comply with EU requirements, implementation remains an issue. Thus, rule of law is the top priority for USAID with focus on judicial reform, anti-corruption efforts and anti-trafficking. USAID provides a mix of technical assistance (TA), training, grants and information technology equipment to make court administration/case management more effective, transparent and accountable, improve the legal professionalism of magistrates, court staff and private attorneys, and strengthen the Government of Bulgaria's (GOB) institutional capacity to prevent corruption, enhance transparency and reduce human trafficking.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Promote And Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$1,350,000 AEEB, \$650,000 AEEB carryover). During FY 2006, USAID will provide TA and training to staff at the National Audit Office (NAO), the Public Procurement Agency (PPA), the Internal Control Directorate in the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works to improve internal controls and procurement procedures. USAID will promote the Public Procurement Register through a public awareness campaign targeting the private sector. USAID will also provide specialized training to build the capacity of the PPA, and will target ministries, oversight bodies, and business associations to monitor public procurement. USAID will also address high level corruption by providing TA to the NAO to develop a web-based public register disclosing the assets of high ranking government officials.

USAID will provide training and TA to the NAO to establish an integrated framework to build internal control and audit capacity in target ministries and oversight bodies. USAID will assist in preparing audit reports at participating Ministries to assist in the development of implementation experience in internal controls and provide oversight for procurement and various accounting activities. These units will provide methodological guidelines to ensure a system of checks and balances in budget spending units.

The Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) will focus on developing the capacity of a national ombudsman by drafting administrative regulations to facilitate implementation of responsibilities associated with the office. CSD will provide specific policy reform recommendations to the GOB to assist in developing anti-corruption and good governance measures. Principal contractor and grantee: DPK International (prime) and the Center for the Study of Democracy (prime).

Reduce Trafficking In Persons (\$145,000 AEEB, \$600,000 AEEB carryover). USAID will support anti-trafficking efforts in conjunction with other USG programs. USAID will provide TA, training and capacity building to the national and local Commissions for Combating Human Trafficking. Efforts are underway to identify additional anti-trafficking activities to fill critical gaps that are not being addressed by other donors. Principal partner: International Organization for Migration (prime).

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$4,000,000 AEEB, \$83,010 AEEB carryover). As perhaps the weakest component of the judicial sector, the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) is a major focus of USAID

assistance. Through the use of study tours for stakeholders in the reform effort, USAID will build the SJC's capacity to oversee court administration; develop a program-based budget in an independent, transparent and objective manner; adopt needed standards for court administration and judicial recruitment/promotion; and serve as the national court administration office. USAID will support 22 model courts with the implementation of their court improvement plans so as to increase their effectiveness, transparency and independence. By providing software, hardware and technical support, USAID will provide assistance for courthouse automation, and public access. An additional component of the court improvement plans focuses on improving bench-bar relations which will also aid in improving court performance. The best practices pioneered in the court improvement plans used by the model courts will provide guidance for formulating new court standards. USAID will also provide approximately 50 grants to local non-governmental organizations to support judicial reform efforts with courts at the local level.

USAID will assist the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to improve its capacity to function as a training institution for magistrates and court clerks. In FY 2006, a class of 50 incoming judges will attend the NIJ's six month training program. A continuing needs assessment will also identify courses and training programs that will be developed. One thousand judges, court clerks and administrators will receive specialized training. USAID will work closely with the Ministry of Justice to produce amendments to the legal education act to require that law faculties include clinical education in their curricula and thus ensure the sustainability of the USAID's efforts in this area. USAID will support the development of the new civil procedure code or possible revisions to the current one to reduce case delay and expedite resolution of the backlog of court cases. In addition, amendments to the Judicial System Act and possible new implementing regulations will be pursued. Principal grantees: East West Management Institute (prime) and ABA/CEELI (prime).

FY 2007 Program:

FY 2006 is the final year of appropriation for activities under this objective.

Performance and Results: A major USAID achievement in Bulgaria was the establishment of the National Institute of Justice. The Institute delivered almost 8,500 training days in FY 2005. Other achievements made with USAID support include: 1) amendments to the judicial system act pertaining to the appointment and promotion of magistrates and the establishment of the court administrator's position; 2) the attorneys' act, which mandates a rigorous professional qualification exam, continuing legal education, and a modern ethics code; 3) legal clinical education was institutionalized; 4) the Mediation Act established the legal basis for court-referred mediation, a national register of mediators, an ethics code, qualification standards for mediators, and several mediation centers began operations; 5) launching of the GOB's web-based public procurement register; and 6) passage of amendments increasing the NAO's authority to audit political parties' finances and publicize information on the income of high ranking officials.

By program's end, USAID seeks to institutionalize the concepts of integrity, accountability, independence, and proficiency within all aspects of the judicial system with the long-term goal of significantly reducing corruption, incompetence and delay in legal practice. The financial and programmatic sustainability of the NIJ will be good and the reforms instituted by the model courts and bar councils will be firmly in place.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bulgaria

183-0220 Rule of Law	AEEB
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	21,258
Expenditures	13,717
Unliquidated	7,541
Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	6,313
Expenditures	6,629
Through September 30, 2005	
Obligations	27,571
Expenditures	20,346
Unliquidated	7,225
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	1,333
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	5,495
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006	
Obligations	6,828
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA	
Obligations	0
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	34,399

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Bulgaria
Program Title:	Local Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	183-0230
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$3,260,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$102,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	1995
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID promotes more effective and accountable local governance in Bulgaria by directly supporting democratic local governments and decentralization through: technical assistance and training to the central and local governments; grants to indigenous local government support organizations; and, twinning partnerships between U.S. and Bulgarian cities. These efforts are complemented by community-level activities aimed at: 1) providing increased opportunities for ethnic minorities and encouraging greater ethnic and religious tolerance; and 2) strengthening civil society by establishing community foundations, social enterprises, and promoting social contracting.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Mitigate Conflict and Support Peace (\$229,070 AEEB). The ethnic integration program will continue funding local mediation centers and projects in 10 towns with significant minority populations to address economic, education, and social issues of Roma and Bulgarian Muslims. USAID will increase its efforts to train Roma and Muslim leaders and to promote inter-ethnic tolerance by conducting a number of national and regional events focused on disseminating best practices of ethnic integration already implemented at the community level. Principal grantee: Partners Bulgaria Foundation (prime).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$600,000 AEEB). The Community Funds program will consolidate its assistance to the existing community foundations and social enterprises by providing matching funds for their community initiatives. An expanded social contracting procedure allowing municipalities to contract out to indigenous non-governmental organizations for provision of social services will be implemented in seven new municipalities. Additionally, small-scale community initiatives developed by Peace Corps volunteers will receive support. Principal grantees and agencies: Counterpart International (prime) and Peace Corps (prime).

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$2,431,000 AEEB, \$102,440 AEEB carryover). USAID will consolidate its work on fiscal decentralization to ensure sustainability of the reforms through drafting legislation and regulations as well as ensuring their effective implementation through practical training for municipal officials. USAID's legislative efforts will target a Constitutional amendment to allow municipalities to set their own local tax rates. The issue of municipal insolvency is also another legislative priority. USAID will complete technical assistance to indigenous local government support organizations. These organizations will serve as USAID "legacies" to build the capacity of municipalities to successfully advocate for and implement greater fiscal autonomy after USAID graduation. The local government portfolio will also focus on the replication of successfully implemented management practices during earlier program phases with support from "legacy" organizations such as the National Association of Municipalities of Bulgaria and the Foundation for Local Government Reform (a think tank and training institution). Principal contractors and grantees: Research Triangle Institute (prime), International City/County Management Association (prime), National Association of Municipalities (prime), Foundation for Local Government Reform (prime), and several regional associations of municipalities (subs).

FY 2007 Program:

FY 2006 is the final year of appropriation for activities under this objective.

Performance and Results: In FY 2005, the local government system continued to become stronger at both the policy and local capacity levels. Progress at the national level was most significant in relation to infrastructure finance with the adoption of the Municipal Debt Act, which provides a consolidated and clear framework for municipal borrowing, including a reasonable debt ceiling for long-term debt and transparent borrowing procedures. USAID provided considerable assistance at all stages of the legislative drafting process, and the Act received strong support from the investor community. Another important development was a \$15 million loan portfolio guarantee agreement for municipal infrastructure projects signed between USAID and HVB Bank Biochim, the fourth largest bank in Bulgaria. This is the first USAID Development Credit Authority agreement totally dedicated to Bulgarian municipalities. USAID's program has increased the level of domestic and foreign investment in the assisted Bulgarian municipalities resulting in new jobs and improved infrastructure. The position of a local economic development (LED) specialist, previously unknown in Bulgaria, has been created in 16 municipalities and a dedicated LED department has been established in 13 additional municipalities, leading to a pro-active approach to LED in the communities. On the civil society side, USAID-assisted community foundations moved closer to sustainability by demonstrating capacity to raise local funds. The growing financial and in-kind contributions from individual and corporate donors (\$250,573 in FY 2005 vs. \$177,873 in FY 2004) demonstrate an increased interest in local philanthropy.

USAID has established a new community-level model of inter-ethnic tolerance involving a wide-range of local stakeholders. This new model resolves conflicts through the local community, which has altered traditional attitudes and prompted a search for alternative avenues for ethnic reconciliation. As a result, new mediation centers were established in four towns. These new centers, along with three existing ones, provided 181 mediation services during 2005, with 47% of the cases resulting in full agreement and 23% partial agreement. One example of the reconciliation work the centers provide was in the town of Dupnitsa, where the center successfully applied a collaborative approach to resolving critical long-term problems with unpaid electricity bills in the Roma neighborhood. Also during FY 2005, 162 ethnic minority representatives (Roma and Muslim) completed comprehensive leadership training and 42 participants passed the exam for trainers and were certified. This training improved the capacity of Roma and Muslim leaders to address community issues and participate in the political process. In 2005, the program also registered 89 sustained jobs in three towns and 143 new jobs created by the supported micro-businesses in four other towns.

By the end of its assistance, USAID hopes to have institutionalized all of these activities through enabling legislation (decentralization), actual practice (local economic development and transparency of municipal decision-making), and legacy mechanisms (community funds, social enterprises, new social contracting procedures). USAID expects that local governments will be fiscally independent enough to develop and implement solutions to local challenges in a responsive, effective, and transparent manner.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bulgaria

183-0230 Local Governance	AEEB
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	43,956
Expenditures	39,312
Unliquidated	4,644
Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	4,783
Expenditures	5,438
Through September 30, 2005	
Obligations	48,739
Expenditures	44,750
Unliquidated	3,989
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	102
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	3,260
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006	
Obligations	3,362
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA	
Obligations	0
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	52,101

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Bulgaria
Program Title:	Cross-Cutting Programs
Pillar:	No pillar info
Strategic Objective:	183-0420
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$2,898,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,152,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	1991
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: The Program Support objective funds programs that support USAID's whole portfolio and special initiatives. Areas of focus include media freedom, technical and vocational education, and higher education through the American University of Bulgaria.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom Of Information (\$105,000 AEEB).

USAID will continue advocacy and public awareness efforts in key areas of reform specifically ethnic integration, anti-trafficking, and judicial reform. This program will continue to produce the anti-corruption TV show Na Chisto. Through its Media Development program, USAID will give exposure to prominent national and local Roma local leaders, journalists, and professionals to promote a positive image of Roma in an effort to counter the increasing level of inflammatory anti-Roma rhetoric. While the training of journalists will continue within this program, the number of journalists trained will be reduced in reflection of the growing maturity of broadcast journalism within Bulgaria. The strengthening of the institutional capacity of the Broadcast Training Center to ensure its sustainability beyond USAID assistance is a priority. Principal grantee: Broadcast Training Center (prime).

Improve Quality of Workforce through Vocational/Technical Education (\$1,200,000 AEEB, \$297,943 AEEB prior year recoveries). During FY 2006, USAID will continue to fund U.S.-based, in-country, and third-country training opportunities for Bulgarian officials, non-governmental organizations, and entrepreneurs with increased focus on in-country and third-country trainings. USAID will train approximately 300 individuals through this program. Participant training resources will also be used to support the local partner entities through tailored human capacity, furthering the impact of ongoing USAID programs. Principal contractor: World Learning (prime)

Increase Capacity of Higher Education to Contribute to Development (\$200,000 AEEB carryover).

USAID will conduct a financial assessment of the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG), a key recipient of significant USAID funding since 1991. This assessment will focus on the management and operations systems at AUBG. The result of this review will be that AUBG, USAID and other stakeholders will be able to measure AUBG's progress towards financial sustainability and ultimately, long-term viability. Equally important, it will enable stakeholders to identify areas where AUBG needs assistance and subsequently to target assistance more effectively. Beyond the improved effectiveness of operations achieved by implementing suggested refinements, AUBG will also be better-positioned to request assistance from other donors by having a better understanding of its needs. Principal contractor: to be determined (TBD).

Program Support (\$1,592,730 AEEB, \$422,000 AEEB carryover). This activity will continue to be the major support vehicle for program activities, staff, and logistics. Program Development and Support resources will be used for program-related audits, studies, final assessments, and close-out evaluations, as well as for activities in support of selected partner organizations and legacies. These legacies will institutionalize or seek to further the goals of USAID programming after the Mission closes in 2008. These funds will also support staff critical to manage and oversee USAID programs. Various contractors and grantees.

Provide Emergency Assistance (\$250,000 AEEB carryover). Assistance for flood-affected areas will help address key equipment needs of schools and kindergartens and needs for food and winter heating of affected communities, and accelerate the process by which lives of the most affected population begin to return to normal. Principal grantee: CARE International.

FY 2007 Program:

FY 2006 is the final year of appropriation for activities under this objective.

Performance and Results: Program support activities complement all objectives within the USAID's program, with development of human capacity as a major theme. As a direct result of the participant training initiative, Bulgarian leaders and professionals are better-equipped with skills and practical knowledge necessary to support the transition processes in the country. Additionally, the Program Development and Support (PDS) activity contributes to the full spectrum of USAID programs by ensuring resources and information for their smooth progress. PDS funding enables the Mission to accurately and objectively assess the impact of USAID programs in Bulgaria.

At the time of graduation from USAID assistance, USAID expects to have developed legacy institutions such as the American University in Bulgaria and the Broadcast Training Center. These institutions will be capable of continuing USAID's tradition of developing human capacity in all sectors of society even after USAID closes its doors in 2008.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bulgaria

183-0420 Cross-Cutting Programs	AEEB	ESF
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	30,912	25,000
Expenditures	27,983	25,000
Unliquidated	2,929	0
Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	2,922	0
Expenditures	4,927	0
Through September 30, 2005		
Obligations	33,834	25,000
Expenditures	32,910	25,000
Unliquidated	924	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	1,152	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	2,898	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006		
Obligations	4,050	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA		
Obligations	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	37,884	25,000