

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Belarus
<b>Program Title:</b>	Citizen Participation in Democratic Practices
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	113-0210
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$3,960,000 FSA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$3,696,000 FSA
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$3,960,000 FSA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1999
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2005

**Summary:** The USAID program in Belarus aims to increase citizen participation in civil society, strengthen democratic political processes, and develop independent media.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

**FY 2005 Program:** Strengthen Civil Society (\$3,410,000 FSA, \$1,073,000 FSA carryover, \$73,000 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will advance civil society development by supporting community initiatives and building capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). More than 10 NGOs will receive training in governance, volunteer recruitment, fundraising, and public advocacy. Principal contractor: to be determined (TBD).

The Community Connections program will enhance Belarusians' leadership role, contribute to economic and democratic reform, and promote mutual understanding through exposure to U.S. society. Approximately 40 entrepreneurs, local government officials, legal professionals, and NGO leaders will attend U.S. training programs tailored to their professional or business interests. Principal contractor: TBD.

Necessarily adopting a long-term view and working within a challenging environment, USAID will continue to provide assistance in political party-building, campaign planning and management, media relations, and coalition building skills. Activities will include legal education seminars, professional advancement, and legal community action teams. Assistance will focus on legal services, support independent media's coverage, and provide independent outlets with pro bono electronic services and journalists' professional training. The program will also enhance Belarusians' ability to advocate for the respect of individual citizens' rights.

USAID will continue to promote human rights and justice by training local lawyers, activists, NGOs, and citizens. Legal Advice Centers (LACs) will improve legal accountability through improved case preparation and lobbying techniques. USAID will fund program administration and development costs, including conducting assessment of the current democracy and governance portfolio. Principal contractors/grantees: Counterpart Alliance for Partnership, National Democratic Institute, International Republican Institute, International Research and Exchanges Board, American Bar Association/Central East European Law Initiative(all prime).

Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$800,000 FSA carryover). Funds will establish an HIV/AIDS monitoring and evaluation system, ensure civil society organizations' participation in the program's implementation, and provide anti-retroviral (ARV) drug treatment. Principal grantees: World Health Organization (prime), United Nations AIDS program (prime).

Reduce Trafficking in Persons (\$300,000 FSA, \$700,000 FSA carryover). This new project will reduce trafficking of women under the age of 25 and prevent re-trafficking of returnees. It reflects the National Security Presidential Directive on Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP). USAID provides capacity development services to local NGOs to support TIP activities. Principal grantee: International Organization for Migration (prime).

Improve Private Sector Growth (\$250,000 FSA, \$1,050,000 FSA carryover). The new Economic Education project will provide unbiased economic information through economic education and accounting training. The project will bring financial reporting in compliance with international standards. USAID will expand micro and small enterprise (MSE) lending operations, providing support for developing MSE loan procedures and practices for two private partner banks. The Eurasia Foundation small grants program will promote private enterprise and civil society development. Principal contractors/grantees: Development Alternatives Inc., the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Eurasia Foundation (all prime).

**FY 2006 Program:** Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,710,000 FSA). USAID will expand the community improvement program through NGO development and grant management. The Community Connections program will contribute to Belarusian economic and democratic reform and to promote mutual understanding through exposure to U.S. society and contacts with Americans. Approximately 20 entrepreneurs, local government officials, legal professionals, NGO leaders, and other professionals from Belarus will attend training program in the U.S. tailored to their professional or business interests.

USAID will also continue a long-term capacity building program for pro-democracy parties with the focus on internal governance, party building, and membership recruitment and retention.

USAID will provide basic support to offer Belarusians a progressive, public voice and maintain the skills of non-state media owners, publishers, managers, and journalists.

The program will enhance the Belarusians' ability to have the government respect individual citizens' rights. Activities will include legal education seminars, professional advancement, and legal community action teams. Same implementers as above.

Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$500,000 FSA). Funds will ensure CSOs' participation in the country program's implementation and provide anti-retro viral drug treatment. Same implementer as above.

Reduce Trafficking in Persons (\$500,000 FSA). Preventing trafficking will meet U.S. foreign policy priorities and contribute to strengthening citizens' democratic decision-making practices as well as NGOs' capacity for working on TIP prevention. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD.

Improve Private Sector Growth (\$250,000 FSA). USAID will support economic policy dialogues for providing unbiased economic information through economic education and accounting training. The Eurasia Foundation small-grants program will promote private enterprise and civil society development. Same implementers as above.

**Performance and Results:** In FY 2004, USAID supported grassroots development initiatives through working with 24 communities, involving 1.5 million people and 59 CSOs. Half of the more than 100 initiatives have accomplished their tasks successfully, which has led to long-term improvements in the communities. USAID supported an extensive training program, cross-border study tours, exchanges for community leaders, a women's and youth empowerment program, as well as regular information exchange through websites and publications. School for managers helped business, local government, and CSO leaders to maintain a dialogue and develop cooperation. This year, the LACs provided more than 3,000 consultations on legal matters. LAC lawyers filed 157 cases on behalf of their clients. They conducted 46 legal education seminars for about 1,500 people. Several LAC clients have been reinstated in their jobs, and a number of appeals related to community problems have been resolved. Positive trends in political party development can be directly attributed to USAID. With USAID support, independent newspapers continued publication of quality articles on major socio-political topics, thus providing an alternative voice.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

**Belarus**

113-0210 Citizen Participation in Democratic Practices	ESF	FSA
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>		
Obligations	163	32,156
Expenditures	163	27,321
Unliquidated	0	4,835
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>		
Obligations	300	2,574
Expenditures	232	4,349
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>		
Obligations	463	34,730
Expenditures	395	31,670
Unliquidated	68	3,060
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	3,696
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	3,960
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>		
Obligations	0	7,656
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	3,960
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	463	46,346