

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Bulgaria
<b>Program Title:</b>	Rule of Law
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	183-0220
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$7,050,000 AEEB
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$596,000 AEEB
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$7,900,000 AEEB
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1999
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2007

**Summary:** Rule of Law is the centerpiece of USAID assistance to Bulgaria and includes: justice sector reform, anti-corruption efforts, and anti-trafficking activities. Training, technical assistance, grants, and information technology (IT) equipment are provided to: make court administration/case management more effective and faster; improve legal professionalism of magistrates; court staff and private attorneys; implement legal/policy reform concerning the judiciary and the Bar; strengthen the GOB's institutional capacity to prevent corruption and enhance transparency and accountability, especially in the area of government audit, internal controls, and public procurement; and reduce human trafficking.

### **Inputs, Outputs, Activities:**

**FY 2005 Program:** Improve Justice Sector/ Legal Framework (\$4,600,000 AEEB, \$196,000 AEEB carryover). USAID will support the development of the new Civil Procedure Code and possible revisions of the current one. Through technical assistance and training the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) will strengthen its institutional capacity to manage increased court administration and budget responsibilities in an independent, transparent, and objective manner. USAID will continue to assist the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) improve its capacity to function as a sustainable training institution for judges and court clerks. NIJ's curriculum will expand to address the insufficient skills and knowledge of Bulgarian judges about the challenges imposed by the European Union (EU) accession requirements. USAID will maintain its technical assistance to the already established 21 Model Courts and Courts in Partnership and will add five more courts to the program. USAID will provide grants to local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to improve the flow of information on judicial reform issues.

During the last year of funding for the attorneys' professional development, USAID will focus on consolidating its successes and leaving viable institutions and systems. USAID will help the Supreme Bar Council (SBC) develop the bar examination and related licensing procedures stipulated in the new Attorneys Act. The Continuing Legal Education (CLE) will be institutionalized in a national structure. The Attorneys Training Center will become a sustainable institution by offering preparatory courses for the Bar Exam and CLE programs. Supported by USAID, the SBC and the Model Local Bar Councils will develop a Code of Ethics for Attorneys to promote understanding of legal ethics among legal professionals and strengthen disciplinary procedures. Grants to Rousse University Law Faculty and two new legal clinics will promote clinical legal education and will provide access to legal services among disadvantaged groups. The Mediation Act will be implemented, and the National Mediation Register and sustainable mediation centers will be established. Principal Contractors and Grantees include: East West Management Institute (EWMI) (prime); American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) (prime); National Institute of Justice (NIJ); International Center for Not for Profit Law (ICNL) and Checci International; local NGOs (subs).

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$2,250,000 AEEB). USAID will provide technical assistance to the National Audit Office (NAO), the Public Procurement Agency (PPA), and the Public Internal Financial Control Agency (PIFCA) for the development of: a Public Procurement

Register, a Standard Procurement Vocabulary, procurement notices and methodological guidelines. Training programs will improve the capacity of central level procurement and audit entities and business associations. As a result, NAO auditors will be able to detect fraud and procurement embezzlement and develop standards for audits of political parties' finances. USAID will help four ministries and their internal audit units to institutionalize components of the new procurement legislation and will facilitate the dialogue and policy interaction among all players of Bulgaria's complex internal control and auditing system in an effort to streamline it. A small grants mechanism will support civil society projects in the areas of public procurement and internal control, as well as some civil investigations of corruption allegations. Coalition 2000 will work with the Office of National Ombudsman and assist the Ministry of Education institute anti-corruption courses in secondary schools and universities. Principal Contractor and Grantees include: DPK Consulting (prime), Center for the Study of Democracy, local NGOs (subs).

Reduce Trafficking in Persons (\$200,000 AEEB, \$400,000 AEEB carryover). USAID will provide technical assistance, training, and capacity building to the Bulgarian entities responsible for the implementation of anti-trafficking legislation on national and local levels, including a pilot witness protection program. Principal Grantee: International Organization on Migration (prime).

**FY 2006 Program:** Improve Justice Sector / Legal Framework (\$5,500,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to support the institutional strengthening of two key entities in the justice sector: the SJC to improve its administrative capacity to manage the increased court administration and budget responsibilities; and the NIJ to serve as a training institution and resource center for the judiciary by focusing on CLE for judges and court clerks. The program for the implementation of court improvement plans will reach 30 Model Courts and Courts in Partnership, five of which will participate for the first time. Legislative and policy initiatives aimed at reducing case delays will continue. USAID will support 30 civil society organizations dealing with advocacy and public awareness in the rule of law area and will define the legacy mechanisms that will function after graduation from USG assistance. Principal Contractors and Grantees include: East West Management Institute (EWMI) (prime); National Institute of Justice (NIJ); International Center for Not for Profit Law (ICNL) and Checchi International; local NGOs (subs).

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$2,200,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to support: governmental and public entities and business associations sustain reform efforts in Bulgaria's internal control and public procurement systems; and the public policy reform efforts and anti-corruption activities of local NGOs. Same implementers as above.

Reduce Trafficking in Persons (\$200,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to support the Bulgarian entities dealing with anti-trafficking on national and local levels. Same implementer as above.

**Performance and Results:** USAID's major achievement in the justice sector is the establishment of the National Institute of Justice - officially inaugurated and functioning. In addition, the past year saw important legislative changes: 1) the amendments to the Judicial System Act define clear rules for the appointment and promotion of magistrates and the establishment of the court administrator's position; 2) the Attorneys Act mandates a rigorous professional qualification exam, continuing legal education, a modern Code of Ethics, and permits the creation of law firms; 3) the Mediation Act establishes the legal basis for court-referred mediation, a national register of mediators, a Code of Ethics, and qualification standards for mediators. Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index slightly improved in 2004, reflecting some of the measures to reduce administrative corruption and to prevent fraud. A new Public Procurement Law was passed, implementing regulations were developed, and a Public Procurement Agency was established. This completes the legislative and institutional infrastructure to effectively regulate Bulgaria's public procurement process. The Parliament passed sweeping changes to the Law on Political Parties banning anonymous donations, regulating the use of non-financial donations, and stipulating a stronger role for the National Audit Office to audit political parties' finances.

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 eradicating corruption, incompetence and delay in legal practice. Moreover, the public will recognize the efforts of the assisted institutions to operate in a more honest, transparent, accountable, and predictable way.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

**Bulgaria**

183-0220 Rule of Law	<b>AEEB</b>
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>	
Obligations	14,355
Expenditures	9,485
Unliquidated	4,870
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>	
Obligations	6,148
Expenditures	4,231
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>	
Obligations	20,503
Expenditures	13,716
Unliquidated	6,787
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>	
Obligations	596
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>	
Obligations	7,050
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>	
Obligations	7,646
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>	

Obligations	7,900
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	36,049

