

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Europe Regional
Program Title:	Social Sector Reform
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	180-0340
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$223,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,601,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,080,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2008

Summary: Continued stagnation and deterioration in key areas of human capital and social services threaten to undermine the sustainability of economic and democratic transition in certain parts of Europe. Therefore, USAID is placing increased attention on social sector issues through ongoing analytical work, technical assistance, and dissemination of best practices. These are intended to promote programs to protect vulnerable groups, especially through youth and anti-trafficking activities; improve labor market functioning, encourage education system reform, especially at the primary and secondary levels; and inform strategic approaches taken by missions to mitigate adverse social conditions and trends

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Strategic analysis, support and coordination (\$400,000 AEEB prior year recoveries) . USAID will work with U.S experts and experts within the region to carry out critical strategic analysis on social sector topics. The primary emphasis of the FY 2004 analytical program will be to identify those social sector problems that are so acute that the transition may be impeded and to recommend approaches to ameliorating such problems. An ongoing region-wide assessment to benchmark the status of social transition indicators (safety net performance, education, employment and income security, and poverty) in Europe and Eurasia will be completed. The results of this assessment will be the subject of the third regional social transition workshop and will be disseminated through the social transition website. Principal contractors include: International Science and Technology Institute (prime) and Aguirre International (sub) and others to be determined.

Strengthen and expand a regional mechanism for labor market reform (\$200,000 AEEB prior year recoveries). A regional task force approach has proven to be an effective instrument to consolidate and disseminate best practices in labor market reform in five countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Macedonia, Poland and Romania) over the last two years. Aided by a circuit rider, this mechanism was shown to be a cost effective way to build constituencies for labor market policy change, and to train a consistent cadre of labor analysts and industrial adjustment specialists in each country on job creation, data collection and project monitoring. USAID will support a two-year effort to strengthen a task force approach and to expand it to five additional CEE territories: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, and Serbia-Montenegro. Contractor/grantee to be determined.

Strengthen anti-trafficking measures (\$989,000 AEEB prior year recoveries). Trafficking in persons (TIP) has become a major social, economic and moral problem in the region. President Bush has made a major commitment to reduce TIP. USAID will support regional program to build a network of governmental and non-governmental agencies, organizations, and leaders to reduce the conditions leading to TIP, provide assistance to those who have been trafficked, and get better information on alternatives and help to those most vulnerable. Contractor/grantee to be selected.

Program Support (\$223,000 AEEB, \$12,000 AEEB carryover). Program-funded staff and related support will be funded to provide expertise for work on the social transition.

FY 2005 Program:

Strategic analysis, support and coordination (\$300,000 AEEB). Analytic work on the social sector in the region will continue and will provide strategic guidance and technical assistance to mitigate social sector problems.

Strengthen and extend a Regional Task Force (RTF) on labor market reform (\$300,000 AEEB). Under the second year of this program, the regional task force will focus on developing sustainable sources of support from participating country governments to consolidate and disseminate best practices in labor market reform, build constituencies for labor market policy change, and to train a consistent cadre of labor analysts and industrial adjustment specialists in each country on job creation, data collection and project monitoring. USAID will support an RTF to complete its work in nine CEE countries plus Kosovo. Contractor/grantee to be determined.

Strengthen anti-trafficking measures (\$300,000 AEEB). Trafficking in persons (TIP) has become a major social, economic and moral problem in the region. President Bush has made a major commitment to reduce TIP. USAID will support regional program to build a network of governmental and non-governmental agencies, organizations, and leaders to reduce the conditions leading to TIP, provide assistance to those who have been trafficked, and get better information on alternatives and help to those most vulnerable. Contractor/grantee to be selected.

Program Support (\$180,000 AEEB). Program-funded staff and related support will be funded to provide expertise for work on the social transition.

Performance and Results: The results achieved under this objective will improve sustainability of USAID's assistance in countries in Europe by helping to halt and eventually reverse the declines in social welfare experienced by citizens in the transition countries. In addition to reducing human suffering and deprivation, strategic assistance in the social sectors increases public support for reform among citizens who had been accustomed to receiving relatively comprehensive social services.

Representatives from six Europe missions (Bosnia, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, and the Regional Services Center in Budapest) attended the second social transition workshop and contributed to discussions and presentations of best practices, strengthening the basis for comparison of social indices across the region. An in depth hotspots analysis was conducted which identified vulnerabilities in countries in Europe in the areas of labor, education, and health. Moreover, the status of vulnerable and strategic groups was ascertained. Assistance was provided to Macedonia to develop an education project there which will help address ethnic tensions.