

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Macedonia
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance Reform
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	165-0200
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$11,750,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$10,000,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2002
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's democracy and governance program focuses on 1) increasing citizens' participation in political and social decision-making; 2) enhancing adherence to the rule of law; 3) improving the effectiveness and accountability of local government; and, 4) increasing confidence in government institutions and political processes.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Civil Society Strengthening (\$4,900,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to strengthen a core group of policy-oriented NGOs and will help citizens address community problems. A new activity will be designed to continue supporting the development of civil society in Macedonia. It will build upon the assistance currently provided by the Community Self Help Initiative and the Democracy Network Program. Assistance will also continue to help the federation of trade unions in Macedonia become a modern union that can better represent member interests in a market economy. Media assistance will strengthen the legal and regulatory environment, the effectiveness of key media associations, and the professionalism and management skills of journalists and media managers. The civic education program will be institutionalized by developing standards to make it one of three required subjects in elementary schools, as well as by introducing the curriculum at the four pedagogical faculties in Macedonia. Program implementers are: Institute for Sustainable Communities (prime), Louis Berger Group (prime), American Center for International Labor Solidarity (prime), and International Research and Exchanges Board (prime).

Improving the Efficiency of the Courts and Independence of the Judiciary (\$2,400,000 AEEB). USAID will continue building the capacity of key legal associations and institutions to represent the interests of the profession and advocate for legal reform. With the passage of the Court Budget Law in September 2003, USAID will focus its assistance in the coming year on establishing an Administrative Office of the courts to manage the budget process. Assistance to improve the efficiency of the courts will also intensify, as the improved administrative and managerial methodologies, facilities, and information technology solutions introduced in the seven pilot courts are disseminated to other trial courts in the country. Program implementers are: American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (prime), and DPK Consulting (prime).

Building the Capacity of Local Government (\$2,000,000 AEEB). The Local Government Program will continue working on the decentralization process, specifically on the implementation of the Law on Local Self Government as well as the passage and implementation of the Law on Local Government Financing. Subsequently, assistance will focus on building local government capability to carry out newly-devolved responsibilities. Program implementer is Development Alternatives, Inc. (prime).

Increasing Trust in Political Institutions and Processes (\$2,450,000 AEEB). Parliamentary assistance continues by improving the operation of the plenary sessions and commissions; strengthening the accountability to the public, and oversight of government of parliament; developing non-partisan,

professional staff who are able to contribute to the legislative process in a structured, reliable manner; and increasing the ability of parliamentarians to represent the interest of citizens. With presidential and local elections scheduled for 2004, focus on election law reform, election administration reform, voter education, and poll worker education will intensify. Political party assistance will continue for internal party development and training emerging leaders. USAID will provide the State Statistical Office with assistance to disseminate and publish the 2002 census results. Program implementers are: International Foundation for Election Systems (prime), National Democratic Institute (prime), International Republican Institute (prime), U.S. Census Bureau (prime).

FY 2005 Program:

Civil Society Strengthening (\$3,500,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to develop civil society organizations and community groups, and to support the reforms underway within the labor unions.

Improving the Efficiency of the Courts and the Independence of the Judiciary (\$3,000,000 AEEB). Assistance will continue to improve the administration of the courts at all levels, and the efficiency and functioning of the courts at the trial level will continue, as will assistance for improving the system of judicial education.

Implementing Decentralization (\$3,000,000 AEEB). A new local government activity will assist municipal governments as they assume increased administrative and fiscal responsibilities, and participatory methods of governance.

Increasing Trust in Political Institutions and Processes (\$500,000 AEEB). Parliamentary assistance to enhance the functioning of the parliament and the ability of parliamentarians to reach out to constituents will continue. Political party assistance will concentrate on building the capacity of local branches and on strengthening youth and women organizations of the key political parties.

Performance and Results: USAID assistance has funded 79 local community projects and 27 NGO projects providing support for victims of HIV/AIDS and human trafficking, as well as addressing topics such as local economic development, youth employment, gender integration, and ethnic cooperation. USAID supported the draft Broadcast Law which has been submitted for governmental review and will improve the environment for private media. Civic education is being taught in all kindergarten and grades one through six in Macedonia, and efforts to institutionalize this curriculum are well underway. With USAID assistance, the trade unions were successful in re-establishing the social dialogue process, which includes representatives from government, employers, and trade unions. The unions were also able to get a commitment from the Government to sign the International Labor Organization (ILO) convention on social dialogue, which will commit the social partners to dialogue on social and economic issues. The independent court budget law was passed, providing the judiciary with increased control over their budget. This represents a major step for judicial independence. The law on municipal finance was prepared with USAID assistance. Four pilot municipalities have been supported to improve their property tax administration. The Mayors' Association has formed a Training Coordination Unit in response to municipal training needs. Strategic and action plans on Local Economic Development were completed in 13 municipalities. With USAID assistance, 40 constituent offices have been opened by Members of Parliament around the country, providing an avenue for regular communication between citizens and their elected officials.