

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Albania
<b>Program Title:</b>	Rule of Law
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	182-0220
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$2,200,000 AEEB
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$599,000 AEEB
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$2,200,000 AEEB
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 1992
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2006

**Summary:** USAID's Rule of Law program promotes civil society participation and a strengthened judicial system through support to: the School of Magistrates; the National Judicial Conference; the Chancellery (Court Clerks); pilot court administration reform efforts in selected courts of first instance; judicial organizations within the Ministry of Justice; the Albanian civil society coalition against corruption; and the Citizens Advocacy Office.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Strengthen rule of law (\$2,200,000 AEEB). This program will strengthen the implementation and enforcement of current enabling legislation and codes of ethics to mitigate corruption throughout the public sector. Training, technical assistance and small grants will be utilized to: continue assistance to the Albanian Coalition Against Corruption (ACAC) and the Citizen's Advocacy Office (CAO); create a viable and sustainable "fourth estate"; continue enforcement of the legislation protecting International Property Rights, especially in regard to the TV media; create and maintain synergy with local governance efforts; resolve the roles and responsibilities of the judicial inspectorates within the Ministry of Justice and the High Council of Justice; work directly with the GoA's recently formed High Inspectorate on the Declaration and Audit of Assets (HIDAA) in the fight against corruption; support judges and chancellors' associations with binding codes of ethics; and strengthen the enforcement of judicial judgments. Competition to be carried out-no contractors currently identified.

Funds will be obligated to the previously notified Albania Pilot Court Administration Reform Program. Contractor: East West Management Institute (prime) (\$599,000 AEEB carryover).

#### FY 2005 Program:

Strengthen rule of law (\$2,200,000 AEEB). The activities above will continue to receive support. Efforts are planned to bring the ACAC and CAO to self-sustaining status. The HIDAA will bring forward its first cases of alleged fraud in the declaration of assets.

**Performance and Results:** The rule of law (ROL) in Albania continues to be hampered by inefficiency, incompetence, and corruption. USAID's ROL program works toward gradual improvement in the efficiency and competence of the judiciary and a reduction in corruption/trafficking. Four classes have now graduated from the School of Magistrates which brings newly, and properly, trained prosecutors and judges into the system. Ongoing professional training for sitting judges continues thereby improving their abilities in specific elements of the law, such as family code, anti-trafficking, money-laundering, and intellectual property rights.

Public support of anti-corruption efforts continues. Within 22 months of formation, the CAO received 1,800 cases. The CAO is now offering free legal representation to the victims of human trafficking who have been repatriated to Albania. The Prosecutor General continues to pursue all cases forwarded to his office by the CAO. The weekly call-in TV program on corruption sponsored by ACAC and hosted by the CAO

enjoys the highest viewership in its time slot (7:00 a.m. Mondays). The bi-weekly TV program modeled on "60 Minutes" also enjoys peak viewership in its time slot (7:00 p.m. every other Tuesday). After material gathered by ACAC was made public, two judges were removed from the bench because of corrupt practices.

The challenge at this point lies in making the judicial and political systems accountable for their actions. USAID's program is aimed at addressing this challenge over time at a pace that the Albanian court system can absorb. USAID-sponsored efforts were instrumental in the drafting and passage of the legislation on the Declaration of Assets by Public Officials. The HIDAA and its authority to bring to prosecution those alleged to have filed a fraudulent declaration are a direct result of this legislation. It remains to be determined how actively the GoA will support this institution, as corruption is seen as endemic and pervasive throughout the political elite and power-brokers. Lack of political will to counter corruption remains a substantial obstacle. New and "clean" political leadership is required.