

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Serbia
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	169-0200
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$15,000,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,317,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$15,000,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2003
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2005

Summary: USAID's democracy and governance program in Serbia promotes more effective, responsive, and accountable democratic institutions through grants, exchanges, and technical assistance to: non-governmental organizations (NGOs), independent media, trade unions, and international organizations engaged in anti-trafficking programs; technical assistance to democratically-oriented parties, parliament, and selected government institutions; and training and technical assistance to support a more democratic, and a better-trained and managed legal system.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Civil society (\$4,856,000 AEEB) and Anti-trafficking (\$300,000 AEEB). Assistance to NGOs includes grants that support the advancement of legal reform, policy dialogue, citizen participation, human rights initiatives, truth and reconciliation, Serbia's reintegration into the Balkans and movement towards Europe, and service-provision to boost NGO sector capacity. Regional and U.S.-based exchanges for both NGOs and government institutions complement these grants. American volunteers provide capacity-building services to NGOs and selected government counterparts. USAID also supports efforts to improve the legal and regulatory framework for NGO operations. Independent trade unions assistance transfers skills to unions to engage in a dialogue with government and business on economic reform issues, drafting and contributing to legislation, improving service to members, increasing women and youth representation, and reaching out to other unions to magnify labor's voice. Media activities include training to build a more professional cadre of journalists and media managers, equipment grants and/or consultancies for selected outlets, grant support for quality local production, assistance to municipal media in preparing for privatization, support to media associations in better serving their membership, a live satellite feed of the Hague proceedings, and support to a rotating group of Serbian journalists covering the trials. Current anti-trafficking efforts support return/reintegration services for victims, public information campaigns, and efforts to increase data collection and transfer anti-trafficking knowledge and experience within the region. Implementing partners include Freedom House, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and other anti-trafficking implementers to be selected.

Political Process (\$2,844,000 AEEB). USAID partners assist democratically-oriented political parties in improving internal communications and organization, utilizing volunteers effectively, crafting and communicating policy messages, increasing women and youth representation, developing campaign plans, mobilizing voters, and working effectively with the press. Work with parties ceases 30 days prior to any major election in accordance with USAID policy. Partners also work with selected ministries and local government, to reinforce the notion of governing more effectively and communicating with citizens. Emphasis is also placed on parliamentary development, including caucus and committee strengthening, building staff capacity, strengthening legislative review, and developing effective oversight of the security sector. The Centre for Free Elections and Democracy (CeSID), the domestic monitoring NGO, receives assistance to boost its organizational capacity, diversify its funding base, and implement monitoring

programs. Support is provided for non-partisan get-out-the-vote efforts as well. Implementing partners include the International Republican Institute (IRI) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Rule of law (\$7,000,000 AEEB, \$1,317,000 AEEB carryover). Ongoing assistance focuses on building a more effective judiciary through technical assistance and grants to Serbia's independent judges' association; continuing legal education through bar associations; providing support to associations of prosecutors, magistrates, and young lawyers; assisting in the provision of legal aid to redress human rights violations; and support for increasing government and NGO capacity to address domestic violence issues. A separate but critical ongoing activity is preparing Serbia's Special Court for Organized Crime and War Crimes to hold the Djindjic assassination conspiracy trials and other high-profile cases through donations of courtroom and office equipment and training for judges, prosecutors, and court staff. This activity is coordinated with other USG assistance providers through an Embassy-chaired Rule-of-Law working group. A major new rule of law activity will be initiated in 2004 and will focus on increasing efficiency in other civil/criminal courts, improving legal education, and further boosting judicial training capacity. This new activity will be coordinated with a planned commercial court reform program implemented under USAID Serbia's economic growth objective. Implementing partners include the American Bar Association (ABA/CEELI), the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), and other partners to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

Civil Society (\$4,000,000 AEEB); Political Process (\$4,000,000 AEEB); and, Rule of Law (\$7,000,000 AEEB). The activities referenced above, with the exception of USAID's planned three-year rule of law activity, end in March-April 2005. Extended programs or new activities that support these goals will be put in place early in 2005, pending planned democracy and governance (DG), NGO, and media assessments. Implementers are as stated above, minus the NCSC Special Court activity, which ends in 2004. New partners may be added.

Performance and Results: This program is helping multiple, critical civil society organizations and government institutions better serve citizens at a time when democratic development in Serbia is facing severe tests. The assassination of the Prime Minister in March 2003 set off 10 months of political upheaval and accelerated the demise of the democratic governing coalition, which led to the dissolution of Parliament in November. There are critical major organized crime and domestic war crimes trials set to start in the beginning of 2004. USAID-supported democracy and governance results in 2003 include civil society campaigns that resulted in productive collaboration with government on the passage of a federal decree on conscientious objection, a draft freedom of information act, and the initiation of meaningful dialogue with the Ministry of Interior on police reform. Media support helped B92 realize its national expansion plans - the station now covers all major municipal markets and has a modern, well-designed studio facility. USAID support was instrumental in the establishment of an investigative reporting training program that has trained eight journalists monthly, created a web-based forum for exchange of information on regional anti-corruption efforts, and trained reporters to cover trafficking stories. Political process activities have helped lend stability to Serbia's chaotic political scene over the past year in their emphasis on helping democratically oriented parties develop more effective organizational structures, better gauge citizen concerns, and mobilize both volunteers and voters. Rule of law achievements include the delivery, currently in process, of \$800,000 worth of courtroom and office equipment to support the operations of Serbia's newly-established Special Court for Organized Crime and War Crimes, and training activities conducted for trial participants and court staff on all aspects of handling complex, high-profile, high-security cases. By program completion, NGOs, trade unions, and independent media will have increased citizen engagement in all aspects of the policy process, contributed to resolving lingering sources of conflict, pushed or partnered with government to move needed reforms ahead, and moved further down the path towards sustainable NGO operations. Democratically-oriented political parties will respond better to citizen concerns, mount campaigns more effectively, govern themselves more democratically, and function more effectively within parliament and within selected ministries. Human capacity in the judiciary and legal profession more broadly will increase, and a critical number of efficiently-functioning courts will lead the way for the court system at large.