



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ACTIVITY BRIEF

The Balkan Trust for Democracy

USAID

Regional Services Center



More than 55 cyclists help to launch the Via Pacis Pannoniae greenway along the Danube River between Vojvodina in Serbia, and Slavonia in Croatia. BTD provided funding to local organization Green Network to develop this cross-border cultural heritage trail that protects the natural environment while also stimulating economic development and regional cooperation.

Partners:

The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Geographic Targets:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia.
Moldova (non-USAID funds)

Project Duration:

2003-2013

Contact Information:

Monique Nowicki, CTO
Ivan Vejvoda, Executive Director of The Balkan Trust for Democracy
www.gmfus.org/balkantrust

U.S. Agency for International
Development

Activity Background

The Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD) is a 10-year grant-making initiative to support good governance in Southeastern Europe. BTD supports civic groups, indigenous NGOs, local and regional governments, think tanks, educational institutions, and media outlets that promote democracy and good governance throughout the region.

Based in Belgrade, BTD was created through founding contributions from USAID, the Charles S. Mott Foundation, and the German Marshall Fund. The Trust is growing with new contributions from the Dutch and Greek governments, the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Core Interventions

- (1) Giving grants to local and national organizations working to improve citizen engagement with government, monitoring of government performance, and improving citizens' understanding of their rights and responsibilities;
- (2) Supporting sub-national and trans-Balkan collaboration among governments, NGOs, civic initiatives, and other institutions working to improve understanding and cooperation throughout the region;
- (3) Strengthening democratic political institutions in individual countries;
- (4) Advancing cross-border cooperation to promote the region-wide political, social, and economic development necessary to ensure long-term stability in Southeastern Europe.

Activity Results

(1) Since its inception, the BTD has expanded its public-private transatlantic partnership from about \$25 million to approximately \$30 million with pledges from additional donors. Recent contributors include the Tipping Point Foundation (Bulgaria) and the Italian Foundation Compagnia di San Paolo.

(2) Since June 2005, BTD has provided \$4.4 million in support for 156 projects, bringing the total amount of grant assistance since 2003 to over \$8 million for over 350 projects. Almost one-third of these funds have supported cross-border projects. The breakdown by program objective is shown below:

