



**USAID**  
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**SERBIA**

## PRESS RELEASE

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Hal Lipper, +381-11 306-4919, +381-65 504-6308

E-mail: [hlipper@usaid.gov](mailto:hlipper@usaid.gov)

Jelena Popovic, +381-11 306-4966,

+381-65 306-6750

E-mail: [jpopovic@usaid.gov](mailto:jpopovic@usaid.gov)

### **USAID CELEBRATES A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP WITH SERBIA AND A HALF CENTURY OF ASSISTANCE WORLDWIDE**

**NOVI SAD (March 26, 2012)** – The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) today celebrated a decade of development efforts in Serbia and a half century of service worldwide with a reception in Novi Sad’s Petrovaradin Fortress.

“During the past decade, USAID has been working in partnership with Serbians to strengthen the economy, streamline Serbia’s courts and government offices, and revitalize its communities,” said U.S. Ambassador Mary Burce Warlick, speaking to a crowd of government officials, business owners, USAID beneficiaries, and non-governmental organization leaders.

“Over \$660 million of the \$810 million the U.S. Government has invested in programs in Serbia during the past 10 years has been through USAID,” Warlick said. “In addition to encouraging investment, creating jobs, and enabling exports, USAID has empowered Serbia’s media and citizen’s groups, and is ensuring that all its citizens benefit from its democratic society.”

Since 1961, USAID – the U.S. Government’s primary development agency – has been helping countries recover from disaster, escape from poverty, and engage in democratic reforms. The agency was founded by U.S. President John F. Kennedy on November 3, 1961.

“Today we are marking more than 10 years of USAID’s efforts in Serbia and 50 years of USAID helping people all over the world,” said USAID Mission Director Susan K. Fritz. “We are celebrating our successful partnerships with the Government of Serbia, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and the Serbian people.”

In Serbia, USAID was instrumental in the recent launch of Novi Sad’s municipal bond offering, the first of its kind in the nation. It helped rebuild the banking system. It was instrumental in the establishment of 32 municipal Citizen Assistance Centers, “one-stop shops” for citizens to quickly obtain construction permits. USAID has also advocated for the adoption of laws and policies that have strengthened the judiciary and the government; and it has worked to ensure that women, youth, and ethnic minorities are part of Serbia’s political process.

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***Since 2001 USAID has invested more than \$662.5 million in Serbia to stimulate economic growth, strengthen the justice system, and promote good governance.  
For more information about USAID, visit <http://serbia.usaid.gov>.***