

USAID/Bulgaria List of Legacy Organizations (February 2008)

Governing Justly and Democratically.....	2
American University in Bulgaria, The (AUBG).....	2
Association of Community Funds in Bulgaria (ACFB).....	3
Association of Danube River Municipalities (ADRM).....	4
Association of Rhodope Municipalities (ARM).....	5
Association of South-West Municipalities.....	6
Broadcast Training Center Foundation (BTC) - ProMedia	7
Bulgarian Association for Alternative Dispute Resolution (BAADR).....	8
Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law (BCNL).....	9
Bulgarian Institute for Legal Reform Initiatives (BILI)	10
Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD).....	11
Foundation for Local Government Reform (FLGR).....	13
Legal Clinic with Angel Kunchev University, Rousse.....	15
Legal Clinic with St. Kiril and Methodiy University, Veliko Tarnovo.....	15
Legal Clinic with Varna Free University “Chernorizetz Hrabur”.....	15
Legal Clinic with University for National and World Economy, Sofia.....	15
Legal Clinic with the Free University, Bourgas.....	15
National Institute of Justice (NIJ).....	16
National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB).....	17
National Association “Legal Initiative for Local Government”	18
Program for the Development of the Judicial System (PDJS).....	19
Regional Association of Municipalities Hebar (RAM Hebar).....	20
Regional Association of Municipalities Maritza (RAM Maritza).....	21
Regional Association of Municipalities Trakia (RAM Trakia).....	22
Regional Association of Municipalities Yantra (RAM Yantra).....	23
Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities.....	26
Economic Development.....	27
America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF)	27
Association of Career Counselors.....	29
Authentic Bulgaria Association.....	30
Bulgarian American Credit Bank (BACB)	31
Bulgarian Association of Dairy Processors.....	32
Bulgarian Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIAB).....	33
Business Center Serdon.....	34
Business Foundation for Education (BFE).....	35
Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development (CEED).....	36
EnEffect.....	37
Institute of Market Economics (IME).....	38
Junior Achievement Bulgaria (JAB) Foundation.....	39
Nachala.....	41
Professional Association of Mediators in Bulgaria.....	42
Public Computer and Communication Centers (PC3) Telecenters Association.....	43
Public Procurement National Institute	44
Ustoi	45
VOCA Consult.....	46

Governing Justly and Democratically

Name of Organization:	American University in Bulgaria, The (AUBG)
Key Personnel:	Dr. David Huwiler, President
Office Address:	1, Georgi Izmirliiev Sq. Blagoevgrad 2700, Bulgaria
Contact Information:	Tel.: (+359 73) 888 199, 885 542, 885 543 Fax: (+359 73) 888 344 E-mail: development@aubg.bg Website: www.aubg.bg
Purpose/Mission:	The American University in Bulgaria educates future leaders committed to serving the needs of the region by promoting the values of an open, democratic society.
Work with USG:	AUBG is a four-year, liberal arts undergraduate educational institution located in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. AUBG was founded with the technical expertise of the University of Maine, strong financial support by USAID and the Open Society Institute, and the cooperation of the Bulgarian Government at the local, regional, and national levels. The University opened in September 1991 with a first-year class of 208 students and 16 full-time faculty members and has grown steadily since that time. In 2005 enrollment reached 950 students with about 50 full-time faculty members. More than 2,000 students graduated from AUBG between 1995 and 2007 from 29 different countries. Since its founding, the American University in Bulgaria has benefited from almost \$60 million in U.S. assistance including more than \$8 million in grants under the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program. As the first American university established in Eastern Europe, AUBG has become a beacon of American ideas and practices in education. USAID contributions have aided AUBG to become the best private educational institution in the region. The University has Full Independent Accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and Accreditation by the Bulgarian National Accreditation Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation.
Current Areas of Activity:	AUBG continues to provide a high-quality liberal arts education to a growing student body. The latest financial reports of the University show they are moving towards financial sustainability. The main thrust of AUBG efforts is in the College of Liberal Arts in Blagoevgrad. Continuing education programs are offered in AUBG's Elieff Center based in Sofia. Among the most popular are the Executive Masters of Business Administration Program and those offered by the Center for European Programs. The Elieff Center offers a perfect setting for business meetings, conferences, and special events and is an important revenue generating facility of the University.

Name of**Organization:**

Association of Community Funds in Bulgaria (ACFB)

Key Personnel:

Mr. Plamen Burzashki, Chair of the Managing Board
Dr. Daniela Dimitrova, Executive Director

Office Address:

14, Graf Ignatiev Str.
Stara Zagora 6000, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel./Fax: (+359 42) 602 155
E-mail: office@fund-sz.org
Website: www.acfb-bg.org

Purpose/Mission:

The Association supports the development of community philanthropy by promoting the community foundation concept and building the capacity of existing and emerging community foundations throughout Bulgaria. ACFB works to improve the legal environment for community foundation and philanthropy development; creates partnerships between national corporate donors who want to give locally and the community foundations; provides members with guidance, training, and technical assistance and updates on national and international events affecting their development; and identifies and supports new initiatives for community foundation development in Bulgaria.

Work with USG:

The Association of Community Funds arose from the USAID-funded Community Fund and Social Enterprise Program of Counterpart International – Bulgaria (October 2001-September 2006).

Current Areas of Activity:

Coordinates support provided to community foundations, specifically:

- Develops, introduces and supports member compliance with national standards on community foundations;
 - Partners with other national philanthropic organizations to improve the legal environment for philanthropy in Bulgaria;
 - Researches and analyzes the existing conditions for developing permanent funds (endowment) and assists its members in developing a strategy for endowment building as a way of achieving sustainability.
-

Name of Organization:

Association of Danube River Municipalities (ADRM)

Key Personnel:

Ms. Mariana Pavlova-Kondrova, Executive Director

Office Address:23, Bulgaria Blvd.
Belene 5930, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 658) 22 940
E-mail: adrm_danube@abv.bg
Website: www.adodunav.org**Purpose/Mission:**

The Association of Danube River Municipalities (ADRM), established in 1992, is a voluntary entity of municipalities from the Danube region, created to represent the interests of its members before the central government. All 36 municipalities in the Bulgarian Danube region are members of the ADRM (according to the organization's charter, only municipalities with an outlet on the Danube River or their neighbor municipalities may apply for membership). ADRM collaborates with Bulgarian and foreign organizations working to develop civil society by cooperating with and supporting strong and responsible local self-government, with the aim of developing long-term strategies and programs for the stable development of towns and villages in the region and enhancing of cross border cooperation.

Work with USG:

ADRM has a strong track record of successfully implemented USAID grants in the period 1997-2006. The grants aimed to strengthen ADRM's capacity as an effective membership-based organization providing technical assistance and services to member-municipalities on a variety of municipal development issues.

Current Areas of Activity:

Trans-border Cooperation Projects with Romanian and Hungarian Local Government Authorities, Local Economic Development, Sustainable Development of Danube River Regions, and Enhancing Citizen Participation.

Name of**Organization:**

Association of Rhodope Municipalities (ARM)

Key Personnel:

Ms. Zlatka Nikolova, Executive Director

Office Address:14, Bulgaria Blvd.
Smolyan 4700, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 301) 62 056
E-mail: arm@arm-bg.org
Website: www.arm-bg.org**Purpose/Mission:**

The Association of Rhodope Municipalities (ARM) was founded in 1992 by six municipalities from Central Rhodope region. It is a non-profit organization uniting 22 member-municipalities located in 4 administrative regions: Batak, Bratzigovo, Rakitovo, Velingrad, Septemvri, Strelcha, Assenovgrad, Rodopi, Luki, Banite, Borino, Devin, Dospat, Zlatograd, Madan, Nedelino, Rudozem, Smolyan, Chepelare, Kirkovo, Kurdzhali, Momchilgrad.

Work with USG:

ARM has a very strong track record of successfully implemented USAID grants in the period 1997-2006. The grants aimed to strengthen ARM's capacity as an effective membership-based organization providing technical assistance and services to member-municipalities on a variety of municipal development issues.

Current Areas of Activity:

Trans-border Cooperation Projects with Greek Local Government Authorities, Tourism and Local Economic Development, Environmental Protection, Enhancing Citizen Participation, and Youth Activities.

Name of**Organization:**

Association of South-West Municipalities

Key Personnel:

Ms. Lyubitzza Tomova, Executive Director

Office Address:23, Todor Alexandrov Str., office 32
Blagoevgrad 2700, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 73) 882 275
E-mail: office@aswm.net
Website: www.aswm.net**Purpose/Mission:**

The Association of South-West Municipalities is a non-governmental association registered in 2000. The association represents the common interests of member-municipalities at national and regional levels; coordinates joint action among members on a variety of local issues; and promotes local government reform.

The following 23 municipalities participate in ASWM: Bansko, Belitsa, Blagoevgrad, Botevgrad, Garmen, Gorna Malina, Gotse Delchev, Kocherinovo, Kostinbrod, Kresna, Petrich, Razlog, Rila, Samokov, Sandanski, Satovcha, Svoege, Simitli, Slivnitsa, Strumyani, Treklyano, Hadjidimovo and Yakoruda.

Work with USG:

USAID provided technical assistance to the association for the start-up of its operations and later awarded a grant for its advocacy and capacity-building activities.

Current Areas of Activity:

Trans-border Cooperation Projects with Macedonian and Greek Local Government Authorities, Local Government Transparency and Accountability, and Enhancing Citizen Participation.

Name of**Organization:**

Broadcast Training Center Foundation (BTC) - ProMedia

Key Personnel:

Mr. Petko Georgiev, CEO

Office Address:3, Sv. Ekaterina Str., Pavlovo
Sofia 1618, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 2) 955 58 84
E-mail: petkog@btcpromedia.org
Website: www.btcpromedia.org**Purpose/Mission:**

BTC promotes the development of independent media in Bulgaria by training journalists, providing consultancy and training to media and civil society organizations, and supporting the transparency of the reform in Bulgaria through producing a weekly investigative program.

Work with USG:

BTC is a direct result of long-term USG efforts to promote independent media in Bulgaria and to train a cadre of responsible journalists. BTC ProMedia was founded in 1997 by the U.S. NGO IREX. BTC implemented USAID's Professional Media program, which contributed significantly to the development of independent media in Bulgaria. It has also worked closely with other USAID counterparts in priority areas such as rule of law, anti-corruption, judicial reform, ethnic integration, and local government and provided media advocacy support to the whole range of USAID reform activities in Bulgaria.

USAID supported the Center in working with TV journalists from the country and the region and producing two highly visible TV shows: Na Chisto (Clean Slate), a nationwide investigative journalism weekly program with 20% audience share, and Faces, which provides positive examples of ethnic integration and tolerance. A total of 162 Na Chisto episodes have aired since the start of the program, investigating corruption and abuse of power at every level of national, regional, and local government, judiciary, and other public institutions. The show is watched by over 400,000 viewers on a regular basis. The program helps build public support for increased transparency and accountability of public institutions. A number of programs have prompted action against corrupt officials.

Current Areas of Activity:

BTC ProMedia is the most important TV producer of investigative journalism programs in Bulgaria. Its strategy is based on high quality independent television production, professional media training, media advocacy, investigative journalism, and the provision of social PR services to public institutions and non-governmental organizations. BTC ProMedia is now an independent NGO recognized for the highest standards in professional television training. It is an important component of the Bulgarian media community, and is governed by a dedicated management board of respected Bulgarian media professionals.

Name of**Organization:**

Bulgarian Association for Alternative Dispute Resolution (BAADR)

Key Personnel:

Ms. Zoya Gerassimova, Chair of the Board, mediator
Ms. Tanya Milanova, Member of the Board, mediator

Office Address:

152, 6 September Blvd., fl. 2, office 204
Plovdiv 4000, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel./Fax: (+359 32) 62 33 51
E-mail: office@baadr.com
Website: <http://www.baadr.com>

Purpose/Mission:

BAADR was established with USAID assistance in 2002 by sixteen lawyers from Plovdiv and Assenovgrad and is one of the strongest and most active mediation centers in Bulgaria. In addition to offering mediation services, BAADR operates as one of the leading training organizations for new mediators. To date, BAADR trainers have provided training to over 100 attorneys throughout the country and to more than 20 judges from Plovdiv, Assenovgrad, and Stara Zagora.

Work with USG:

In September 2004, BAADR began implementing a pilot project with USAID funding for court-referred mediation together with the Plovdiv Regional Court with USAID funding. During the implementation of the pilot project, BAADR and its Mediation Center gained prominence and trust among the judges and citizens in Plovdiv, and the Mediation Center established itself as the leading mediation center in the country. In 2005 BAADR opened Mediation Centers in Assenovgrad and in Stara Zagora and in 2006 in Bourgas. BAADR has not received USAID assistance since September 2006.

Current Areas of Activity:

The Mediation Center has mediated more than 100 cases with a 78 percent success rate. The cases are primarily in the areas of family law and non-commercial, civil law. A significant number involve indigent or socially disadvantaged people, as well as some Roma clients. The Association has also initiated community service programs in Plovdiv. One of the most successful efforts was the development of a peer mediation course at schools. Peer mediation is both a program and a process where students of the same age group facilitate resolving disputes between two people or small groups. This process assists students to understand and resolve conflict in their lives, and often results in a reduced need for disciplinary action in schools.

Another noteworthy fact about BAADR is that the mediators from the center attended courses to learn sign language in order to mediate disputes between deaf-and-mute people. This is the only mediation center in Bulgaria that provides such services.

Name of**Organization:**

Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law (BCNL)

Key Personnel:

Mr. Lyben Panov, Director

Office Address:6, Dobrudja Str.
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel./Fax: (+359 2) 988 81 66, 981 66 17
E-mail: info@bcnl.org
Website: www.bcnl.org**Purpose/Mission:**

The Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law was founded in 2001 as a non-for-profit legal entity with public benefit purposes. The BCNL provides legal support for the development of civil society in Bulgaria.

Work with USG:

With USAID support, BCNL helped develop a supportive legislative framework for NGOs by removing obstacles to registration, obtaining favorable tax concessions, allowing economic activity, and opening political space for activities. BCNL legal activities continue with a second generation of reform initiatives such as social contracting.

Current Areas of Activity:

BCNL works in close partnership with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law. BCNL is a founder and a partner of the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law seated in Budapest. BCNL provides expertise and legal assistance to NGOs in Bulgaria and produces various reports and analyses on the legal framework for NGOs in Bulgaria.

Name of**Organization:**

Bulgarian Institute for Legal Reform Initiatives (BILI)

Key Personnel:

Bilyana Gyaurova-Wegertseder, Chair of the Managing Board

Office Address:132, Rakovski Str., fl.3
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 2) 980 80 84
E-mail: bilyana@bili-bg.org
Website: www.bili-bg.org**Purpose/Mission:**

BILI promotes the rule of law and improvement the legal framework, institutions, and organizations of Bulgaria and the region; fosters dialogue among civil society, business, and the executive, judicial, and legislative branches; assists the process of harmonization of Bulgarian legislation with European and international legal standards; supports the maintenance and improvement of the qualifications of lawyers, judges, prosecutors, mediators and other professionals; and promotes legal reform, including spreading a new culture of dispute resolution through popularizing mediation and other alternative dispute resolution methods.

Work with USG:

BILI was created by the local staff of ABA/CEELI to continue the legal reform efforts supported by USAID. The organization has significant experience in drafting and implementing projects, primarily focusing on legal profession development, alternative dispute resolution, and legal education reform. It will continue to enhance the professionalism of attorneys, a quintessential element of any effectively functioning judiciary.

Current Areas of Activity:

BILI's work is focused on:

- Maintaining a legal reform watch internet resource, www.legalreformwatch.info. The portal is designed to be a one-stop on-line resource providing analytical and statistical data pertaining to legal reform initiatives implemented in Bulgaria.
 - Providing support for the Bulgarian Bar to strengthen the professional development of attorneys, to promote methods for alternative dispute resolution, and to remedy the lack of practical training in Bulgarian legal education.
 - Promoting alternative dispute resolution and mediation as effective solutions for many of the goals of the judicial reform.
 - Providing technical assistance to the legal clinics established with the support of ABA/CEELI.
-

Name of**Organization:**

Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD)

Key Personnel:

Mr. Ognian Shentov, Chairman
Mr. Boiko Todorov, Program Director

Office Address:

5, Alexander Zhendov Str.
Sofia 1113, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel.: (+359 2) 971 3000
Fax: (+359 2) 971 2233
E-mail: csd@online.bg
Website: <http://www.csd.bg>

Purpose/Mission:

Founded in late 1989, the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) is an interdisciplinary public policy institute dedicated to the values of democracy and market economy. Its mission is to build bridges between scholars and policy-makers. Born as a think-tank, CSD has evolved into policy development through dialogue and partnership. It brings cutting-edge solutions to problems in an attempt to keep the middle ground between academia and social practice.

Work with USG:

As a non-profit think tank, CSD was one of the earliest participants in the democratic change in Bulgaria supported by the USG. With USAID support, CSD addressed escalating corruption in the late nineties. It created the Corruption Monitoring System, which increased broad public awareness of corruption in Bulgaria. CSD was instrumental in assisting government officials to draft anti-corruption legislation and publishes its own policy papers that focus on government efficiency, transparency, and trustworthiness. The annual Corruption Assessment Report, referenced by various international institutions and foreign governments in reviewing Bulgaria's progress, has introduced a rigorous, though consensual, process of assessment of government, civil society, and business in their efforts to thwart corruption. The institution of the ombudsman – championed by CSD with support from USAID – is now accepted as a key element of transparent governance.

Current Areas of Activity:

The Center plays a key role in bringing representatives of all political parties and civil society to the table to discuss and agree upon a common agenda on issues of vital importance for Bulgarian society. CSD priorities are building Bulgarian policy capacity for successful EU integration, promoting institutional reform, monitoring public attitudes, serving as a watchdog of the Bulgarian institutional reform process, and strengthening the institutional and management capacity of NGOs. The organization has a strong team of researchers and experts in areas of crime and corruption in Bulgaria, trafficking in persons, ombudsman capacity building, and other areas related to law and policy formulation. CSD analysis and recommendations are well received by most government officials and receive broad media coverage. CSD also maintains working relationships with a number of high-level government officials and members of the donor community in Bulgaria and is a good partner for organizing international conferences, attracting speakers from the region, and garnering support for their recommendations.

Name of**Organization:**

Foundation for Local Government Reform (FLGR)

Key Personnel:

Mr. Lachezar Rossenov, Chairman, FLGR Board of Directors
Ms. Ginka Kapitanova, CEO

Office Address:

Mladost 1, Yerusolim Str., bl. 51, office 2
Sofia 1784, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel.: (+ 359 2) 976 89 89
Fax: (+ 359 2) 976 89 30
E-mail: flgr@flgr.bg
Website: www.flgr.bg

Purpose/Mission:

The Foundation for Local Government Reform is an independent, professional resource centre supporting local democracy, founded by reform-oriented mayors in 1995. It builds public consensus on local government reform issues, develops and disseminates innovative practices in local government administration, and promotes transparency and accountability of local government and increased citizen participation in public policy decision-making.

Work with USG:

FLGR is one of the strongest USAID legacy organizations in Bulgaria. USG support to FLGR amounted to more than \$6 million, nearly 80 percent of which was channeled as sub-grants for municipal and NGO projects aimed at establishing effective and accountable local governments in Bulgaria. The two outstanding initiatives of FLGR are:

- A new model of municipal customer service delivery on the basis of one-stop shop services. Inspired by U.S. and Polish experience, FLGR launched the model in Bulgaria 10 years ago. There are currently more than 100 municipal customer service and information centers (“one-stop shops”) across the country. These centers won nationwide recognition as an innovative tool for better administrative services, enhanced efficiency, and increased transparency. The municipal “one-stop shops” have been adopted by nearly half of all Bulgarian municipalities, which now fund them directly.
- A new professional approach to Local Economic Development (LED). As a direct result of U.S. cities’ technical assistance, 29 Bulgarian municipalities established LED offices and now apply professional economic development strategic planning and operational management. In addition, 22 municipalities have established Economic Development Advisory Boards.

Current Areas of Activity:

FLGR is one of the strongest Bulgarian NGOs with a long track record of successfully implemented projects at the local level. It is widely recognized in Bulgaria and abroad for its innovative approaches, professional staff, and exceptionally strong organizational and financial management. Its current priorities are: Local Economic Development; Regional Development Policy; Utilization of EU Structural and Cohesion Funds at the Municipal Level; Delivery of Effective and Transparent Administrative Services; and Grant Management. FLGR increasingly works with

counterparts throughout Southeastern Europe to apply its innovative practices (particularly the “one-stop shop”).

LEGAL CLINICS

Purpose/Mission: To increase the standards of practice and professionalism within the legal profession by providing law students with interactive, practice-based teaching techniques that include simulation classes and work with indigent clients.

Work with USG: The clinics were established with USAID assistance through the American Bar Association/Central Europe and Eurasia Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI). USAID aimed to raise the standard of legal training by introducing a practical element.

Name of Organization:	Legal Clinic with Angel Kunchev University, Rousse
Key Personnel:	Prof. Georgi Stefanov, Dean POC: Mr. Anastas Georgiev, Rousse Legal Clinic Governing Board POC: Mr. Ivaylo Todorov, Head of the Administrative Law Clinic
Office Address:	8, Studentska Str., Rousse
Contact Information:	Tel.: (+359 82) 888 258 Mobile: +359 848 94 77 27 (Ivaylo Todorov)

Name of Organization:	Legal Clinic with St. Kiril and Methodiy University, Veliko Tarnovo
Key Personnel:	Ms. Yanka Tyankova
Office Address:	2, Teodosiy Turnovski Str., Veliko Tarnovo
Contact Information:	Tel.: (+359 62) 606 522, 628 025 E-mail: mbox@uni-vt.bg

Name of Organization:	Legal Clinic with Varna Free University "Chernorizetz Hrabur"
Key Personnel:	Ms. Tamara Hinkova, POC Mr. Anton Grozdanov, POC
Office Address:	K.K. Chayka, Varna 9007
Contact Information:	Tel.: (+359 52) 325 058 Mobile: +359 888 27 84 61 (Anton Grozdanov)

Name of Organization:	Legal Clinic with University for National and World Economy, Sofia
Key Personnel:	Mr. Georgi Boyanov Mr. Krassimir Dimitrov
Office Address:	Studentski Grad, Sofia
Contact Information:	Tel.: (+359 2) 81 95, 962 18 41 Mobile: +359 898 66 70 71 (Krassimir Dimitrov) E-mail: legalcl@37.com ; legalcl@yahoo.com

Name of Organization:	Legal Clinic with the Free University, Bourgas
Key Personnel:	Ms. Slavka Dimitrova
Office Address:	101, Alexandrovska Str., Bourgas
Contact Information:	Tel.: (+359 56) 813 904

Name of**Organization:**

National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Key Personnel:Mr. Ivan Grigorov, Chairman
Dr. Pencho Penev, Director**Office Address:**14, Ekzarh Yossif Str.
Sofia 1301, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 2) 935 91 00
Fax: (+359 2) 935 91 01
E-mail: nij@nij.bg
Website: <http://www.nij.bg>**Purpose/Mission:**

NIJ enhances the efficiency of justice through quality professional training and qualification advancement opportunities.

Work with USG:

Judicial structural reforms will have a limited effect on the delivery of justice if judges and court clerks lack experience and skills to implement the reforms. USAID support of the NIJ helped build the competency of members of the judiciary through initial and continuing education of magistrates and court staff on the administration of justice and delivery of court services. Support efforts improved the strategic and financial management skills of NIJ Board members, expanded the training curriculum to include new laws, introduced new court administration trainings and legal education, and strengthened the programmatic and organizational sustainability of the Institute. Founded with substantial USAID assistance in 1999 as an NGO, known as the Magistrates Training Center (MTC), the organization was transformed into a sustainable governmental organization in 2004 so as to ensure adequate Bulgarian Government funding and support. With USAID funding, the MTC and NIJ have trained a total of 8,061 magistrates and clerks since 2000 and the majority of those, 3,878, since January 2005. The training emphasizes practical skills and ethical practices as well as substantive law and court administration/case management.

Current Areas of Activity:

The NIJ is an independent legal entity but has a functional relationship with the Supreme Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice, both of which are represented on the NIJ Managing Board. The Institute is funded from the budget of the judiciary, from various programs and projects, from donations, and from its own resources. The NIJ implements the following activities: initial training for junior magistrates; continuing training for all sitting magistrates; and training of court clerks.

Name of**Organization:**

National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB)

Key Personnel:

Ms. Ginka Chavdarova, CEO

Office Address:

23, Golash Str., Geo Milev Residential Quarter
Sofia 1111, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel.: (+359 2) 943 44 67, 943 44 68
E-mail: namrb@namrb.org
Website: <http://www.namrb.org>

Purpose/Mission:

The National Association of Municipalities is the statutory voice of all 264 Bulgarian municipalities. It represents and advocates on behalf of its member-municipalities before state bodies, proposes improvements in the legislative framework for local self-governance, participates in state budget formulation by commenting on aspects of the budget affecting municipalities, delivers training and technical assistance to municipal officials and practitioners, and maintains contact with similar organizations in other countries.

NAMRB led fiscal decentralization efforts, institutionalized a dialogue between central and local governments, developed and clarified expenditure standards and responsibilities of national and local governments, and raised the profile of local authorities and municipalities throughout the country, within EU institutions, and regionally.

Work with USG:

USAID supported NAMRB's advocacy for fiscal decentralization, training programs and information dissemination to improve local government capacity, and institutional strengthening of NAMRB itself. In addition to substantive legislative advocacy, NAMRB has developed model municipal ordinances to help address new authorities and responsibilities delegated to local government. Total USG support to NAMRB was over \$2 million, including support for the renovation of NAMRB's new Training Center near Gabrovo, which is one of the largest training facilities in Bulgaria.

Current Areas of Activity:

NAMRB is one of the largest and most influential advocacy and membership organizations in Bulgaria with a strong track record in promoting decentralization and good governance. It is one of the founders and most proactive members of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South and Eastern Europe, and a Member of the Council of the European Municipalities and Regions.

NAMRB current priorities are: training of municipal officials and practitioners in all areas of municipal development; various advocacy and representation activities at the national level promoting the decentralization reform agenda; drafting national and local level legislation; conferences; international cooperation; and implementation of national and regional projects in the area of local government.

Name of Organization:

National Association “Legal Initiative for Local Government”

Key Personnel:

Ms. Eva Radeva, Chairperson of the Board of Directors

Office Address:22, Aleksandar Stamboliiski Blvd.
Sofia 1301, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 2) 986 70 21, 981 01 16
Mobile: +359 888 259 769
E-mail: office@naliig.org
Website: <http://www.naliig.org/>**Purpose/Mission:**

The National Association “Legal Initiative for Local Government” (NALILG) seeks to improve the legal environment for Bulgaria’s full integration into EU Structures. Its specific focus areas are:

- increased effectiveness of local government through improved legislation and dialogue between local and central authorities;
- to enhance the role of women in the EU integration process;
- control of corruption;
- protection of human rights;
- protection of the environment and sustainable tourism development.

Work with USG:

We have not worked directly with this organization since the completion of the USAID Open Government Initiative, although NALILG carries on some aspects of the project’s work. The office of the U.S. Commercial Service in Sofia has used NALILG for consultative services on local government procurement tenders.

Current Areas of Activity:

The organization’s founders have significant legal experience in the area of public procurement, and are committed to increasing the transparency and effectiveness of local government.

Name of Organization:

Program for the Development of the Judicial System (PDJS)

Key Personnel:

Ms. Presiana Manolova, Chair of the Board
Ms. Velislava Delcheva, Board Member

Office Address:

54 "Tzar Boris 3" Blvd., fl. 4, 1612 Sofia

Contact Information:

Cell: +359 888 241166
Cell: +359 889 228423
presiana.manolova@prss-bg.org
velislava.delcheva@prss-bg.org

Purpose/Mission:

- Promoting the USAID/JSI rule of law (ROL) and judicial reforms.
- Strengthening the capacity of the administrative courts.
- Further developing the second version of the Court Improvement Plan and its implementation.
- Enhancing the capacity of the newly established SJC Court Administration Unit to sustain and extend the Model Court program pioneered by USAID's JSI.

Work with USG:

PDJS is a legacy organization of USAID with unique expertise in the area of judicial reform and improving court administration. It was established by the implementers of USAID's Judicial Strengthening Initiative.

Current Areas of Activity:

PDJS has strong partnerships with the courts, SJC, NGOs and the professional associations of judges and clerks. While a new NGO, the PDJS team includes senior attorneys and staff with extensive experience and expertise working with USAID on judicial reform initiatives. Among their accomplishments:

- Development of a Court Improvement Plan comprising 26 factors for concrete, low-cost reforms to improve court efficiency, transparency and independence. The team worked with 32 courts in Bulgaria (approximately 20% of the total) to improve court administration/case management.
- An independent polling company surveyed the public's perception of the USAID-supported courts compared to courts that had not received USAID assistance. Court users ranked USAID-assisted courts 19% higher in the level of availability of information, 14% higher in the efficiency of trial proceedings, 10% higher in the quality of administrative services, and reported 23% more satisfaction with information signs and 30% higher approval of court calendars. After just one year of work with the courts in the largest Bulgarian cities, the extreme negative perceptions about their operations dropped by 16% and expectations of fairness increased by approximately the same percentage.
- Assisted the SJC build its court administration capacity.
- Organization of public forums on new legislation and other legal/policy issues pertaining to Bulgaria's judicial reform,

including three large national conferences for Bulgaria's judges.

Name of Organization:

Regional Association of Municipalities Hebar (RAM Hebar)

Key Personnel:

Mr. Nikolaj Karaivanov, Executive Director

Office Address:

1, Central Sq., fl. 2, PO Box 499
Plovdiv 4000, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel.: (+359 32) 626 623
E-mail: hebar.ram@gmail.com
Website: www.hebar-bg.org

Purpose/Mission:

Established in 1997, RAM Hebar represents the interests of 23 municipalities from South-Central Bulgaria (Plovdiv and Pazardjik Regions): Assenovgrad, Batak, Belovo, Velingrad, Kaloyanovo, Krichim, Kuklen, Leschovo, Luki, Maritza, Pazardjik, Panagyuriste, Perustiza, Pestera, Plovdiv, Rakovski, Rodopi, Septemvri, Sopot, Stambolijski, Strelcha, Saedinenie and Hissar.

The association improves effectiveness and accountability of local government, enhances citizen participation in public policy decision-making, and promotes local economic development in South-Central Bulgaria.

Work with USG:

USAID provided technical assistance to the association for the start-up of its operations and later awarded a grant for its advocacy and capacity-building activities.

Current Areas of Activity:

Local economic development in South-Central Bulgaria
Capacity-building of Bulgarian municipalities for the utilization of EU structural and cohesion funds.

Name of**Organization:**

Regional Association of Municipalities Maritza (RAM Maritza)

Key Personnel:

Ms. Margarita Velikova, Executive Director

Office Address:4, Tzar Osvoboditel Str.
Haskovo 6300, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 38) 665 021
E-mail: maritza@maritza.info
Website: www.maritza.info**Purpose/Mission:**

RAM Maritza is an NGO, registered in 1997 in Haskovo. Eleven Municipalities from Haskovo and Kardzhali regions, located along the Arda and Maritza Rivers, are members – Dimitrovgrad, Harmanli, Haskovo, Ivaylovgrad, Kardzhali, Lyubimetz Madzharovo, Mineralni bani, Simeonovgrad, Stambolovo and Svilengrad.

RAM Maritza supports local government activities and works towards creation of decentralized, competent and strong local government with effective mechanisms to improve municipal standards of living, physical infrastructure and public services.

Work with USG:

RAM Maritza has a very strong track record of successfully implemented USAID grants in the period 1997-2006. The grants aimed to strengthen its capacity as an effective membership-based organization providing technical assistance and services to member-municipalities on a variety of municipal development issues.

Current Areas of Activity:

Local Economic Development, Public-Private Partnerships, Local Government Capacity Building for the Utilization of EU Structural Funds, and Trans-border Cooperation with Local Government Authorities from Greece and Turkey.

Name of**Organization:**

Regional Association of Municipalities Trakia (RAM Trakia)

Key Personnel:

Dr. Ivan Varlyakov, Executive Director

Office Address:102, Tzar Simeon Veliki Str., fl. 2
Stara Zagora 6000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 42) 600 586
E-mail: ramt@ram-trakia.org
Website: www.ram-trakia.org**Purpose/Mission:**

RAM Trakia was established in 1997 as an independent, voluntary non-governmental organization. RAM Trakia is now the largest regional association of municipalities in Bulgaria by territory and population. It encompasses 25 percent of the country's territory with a population of over 1.3 million. Thirty six municipalities from 8 administrative regions are members of the association - Aitos, Bolyarovo, Bratya Daskalovi, Brezovo, Gurkovo, Galabovo, Djebel, Dimitrovgrad, Elhovo, Ivailovgrad, Kazanlak, Karlovo, Karnobat, Kotel, Krichim, Krumovgrad, Maglij, Nikolaevo, Nova Zagora, Opan, Pavel banya, Pazardjik, Perushtitsa, Parvomai, Radnevo, Sliven, Sozopol, Sredets, Stara Zagora, Straldja, Sungurlare, Tvarditsa, Topolovgrad, Tundja, Chirpan and Yambol.

RAM Trakia takes an active role in:

- Improving local self-government and the legal framework of the local authorities;
- Increasing the efficiency and the transparency of municipal activities and creating opportunities for expanded citizen participation in local self-government;
- Economic development of the regions.

Work with USG:

RAM Trakia has a very strong record of successfully implementing USAID grants in the period 1997-2006. These grants strengthened its capacity as an effective membership-based organization providing technical assistance and services to member-municipalities on a variety of municipal development issues.

Current Areas of Activity:

RAM Trakia is the first Bulgarian organization of its kind to open an office in Brussels. The Brussels office will help member municipalities work with European institutions. In the Brussels office, Trakia RAM works closely under one roof with the representations of three other regions – Kujavsko-pomorski - Poland, Steinmark - Austria and West Panonia – Hungary.

RAM Trakia's current priorities are: Local Economic Development; Local Government Capacity Building for the Utilization of EU Structural Funds; Trans-border Cooperation with Local Government Authorities from Greece and Turkey; and Agriculture and Rural Development.

Name of Organization:

Regional Association of Municipalities Yantra (RAM Yantra)

Key Personnel:

Ms. Mariela Tsoneva, Executive Director

Office Address:2, Maika Bulgaria Sq.
Veliko Tarnovo 5000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**

Tel./Fax: (+359 62) 630 139

E-mail: yantra@abv.bgWebsite: http://www.ram-yantra.eu/index_bg.htm**Purpose/Mission:**

RAM Yantra is one of the newest and smallest regional associations in Bulgaria. It unites 9 municipalities from the Veliko Tarnovo region around issues of joint development interest. The association promotes good local government management practices and stimulates local economic development in the region.

Work with USG:

USAID provided technical assistance to the association for the start-up of its operations and later awarded a grant for its advocacy and capacity-building activities to member-municipalities.

Current Areas of Activity:

Capacity-building of Bulgarian municipalities for the utilization of EU structural and cohesion funds.

Name of**Organization:** Program for the Development of the Judicial System (PDJS)**Key Personnel:** Ms. Presiana Manolova, Chair of the Board**Office Address:** 54, Tzar Boris III Blvd., fl. 4
Sofia 1612, Bulgaria**Contact Information:** Mobile: +359 888 241 166
E-mail: presiana.manolova@prss-bg.org
Website : TBD**Purpose/Mission:**

- Continuing the USAID Judicial Strengthening Initiative's rule of law and judicial reforms.
- Strengthening the capacity of the newly established administrative courts.
- Further developing the second version of the Court Improvement Plan and its implementation.
- Enhancing the capacity of the newly established Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) Court Administration Unit in order for it to sustain and extend the Model Court program pioneered by USAID.

Work with USG: PDJS is a legacy organization of USAID with unique expertise in the area of judicial reform, including court administration and case management. It was established by the staff of the USAID Judicial Strengthening Initiative.**Current Areas of Activity:** PDJS has strong partnerships with the courts, SJC, NGOs, and professional associations of judges and clerks. While a new NGO, the PDJS team includes senior attorneys and staff with extensive experience and expertise working on judicial reform initiatives such as:

- Development of a Court Improvement Plan comprising 26 factors for concrete, low-cost reforms that improve court efficiency, transparency, and independence. The team has worked with 32 courts in Bulgaria (approximately 20 percent of the courts in the country) to improve their court administration and case management pursuant to this plan. An independent polling company surveyed the public's perception of the USAID-supported courts compared to courts that had not received USAID assistance. Court users ranked USAID-assisted courts 19 percent higher in the level of availability of information, 14 percent higher in the efficiency of trial proceedings; 10 percent higher in the quality of administrative services; and reported 23 percent more satisfaction with information signs and 30 percent higher approval of court calendars.
- Building its capacity in court administration. A major step towards sustainability of the court improvement program was made in the summer of 2007 when the SJC created a specialized Court Administration Unit under the Council that will continue to implement the court improvement plans.
- Organization of a number of public forums for discussing new

legislation and other legal/policy issues pertaining to Bulgaria's judicial reform, including three large national conferences for Bulgaria's judges.

Name of**Organization:**

Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities

Key Personnel:

Ms. Mariana Kancheva, Executive Director

Office Address:4, Preslav Str.
Varna 9000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 52) 611811
E-mail: office@ubbsla.org
Website: www.ubbsla.org**Purpose/Mission:**

The Union of the Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA) is an independent NGO established in 1992. It represents the interests of member-municipalities and encourages strong and effective local self-government and active citizen participation in the Black Sea Region. UBBSLA unites 21 municipalities bordering the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast: Avren, Aksakovo, Balchik, Beloslav, Bourgas, Byala, Varna, Valchi dol, Dalgopol, Devnya, Dobrich, Dolni chiflik, Kavarna, Malko Tarnovo, Nessebar, Pomorie, Primorsko, Sozopol, Souvorovo, Shabla and Tsarevo, located in three administrative regions – Bourgas, Varna and Dobrich.

Work with USG:

UBBSLA has a very strong track record of successfully implemented USAID grants in the period 1997-2006. The grants aimed to strengthen UBBSLA's capacity as an effective membership-based organization providing technical assistance and services to member-municipalities on a variety of municipal development issues.

Current Areas of Activity:

Energy Efficiency Management at Municipal Level, Promoting Sustainable Tourism and Recreation Activities, and Capacity-building of Bulgarian Municipalities for the Utilization of EU Structural and Cohesion Funds.

Economic Development

Name of

Organization:

America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF)

Key Personnel:

Mr. Frank Bauer, Executive Director
Mr. Gary E. MacDougal, Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors
Mr. Carl H. Pforzheimer III, Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors

Office Address:

16, Krakra Str.
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel.: (+359 2) 965 83 58
Fax: (+359 2) 944 50 10
E-mail: TBD
Website: TBD

Purpose/Mission:

The Foundation will build on the work of the Bulgarian-American Enterprise Fund (BAEF) by promoting private sector development, entrepreneurship, education, leadership development, and private sector philanthropy and volunteerism in Bulgaria. It may include a regional element.

Work with USG:

The Foundation will utilize the significant resources (estimated at \$200 million) to be generated from the liquidation of BAEF assets. ABF, with its meaningful resources, can make a major contribution to Bulgaria's continued transition and progress and represent an enduring legacy and symbol of U.S. commitment to an important ally. The Foundation should become operational in 2008. Due to the substantial resources that will be channeled to the new entity, projections are that it will continue to function in perpetuity.

Projected Areas of Activity:

The priority areas of the Foundation are:

- Private Sector Development, Entrepreneurship and Business Education: Programs and training initiatives for present and future small and medium enterprise (SME) executives, entrepreneurs, journalists, and economic specialists in the public and private sectors. Activities may support business and economic education to help Bulgarian institutions better support a market-based economy.
- Leadership Development: Encouraging Bulgarian youth to remain in Bulgaria, and promote the return of Bulgarians abroad with opportunities in a stronger private sector. Programs may support reform in the public sector by training and educating financial sector administrators, and stimulating entrepreneurial initiatives.
- Support for NGOs: ABF may support the development of private sector philanthropy and private voluntary organizations. It might also support trade promotion activities of Chambers of Commerce, as well as research to support economic reforms. This focus area provides the opportunity to support a broad range of advocacy organizations addressing key issues related to economic development.

- Support Key Competitive Business Sectors: Tourism and IT.
-

Name of**Organization:**

Association of Career Counselors

Key Personnel:

Mr. Deyan Hadjiysky, Chairman

Office Address:

University Career Development Center, Veliko Tarnovo
University
2, T. Tarnovski Str., Veliko Tarnovo 5000, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel.: (+359 62) 618 354
E-mail: didohadji@yahoo.com

Purpose/Mission:

Expand the role of career counselors in bridging the gap between the needs of employers and the skills/qualifications offered by universities.

Work with USG:

The Association is a direct outcome of the USAID Labor Market project in Bulgaria (2004-2006) which provided assistance to upgrade the ability of universities to develop the skills sought by employers, to improve the quality of training and certification programs in key economic sectors, and to improve the capacity of Bulgarian Government institutions to deliver enhanced customer services to employers and the unemployed. The project established the career counselors' profession in Bulgaria. The association established by the career counselors will further promote their role and importance for the development of the labor market.

Current Areas of Activity:

The association focuses on promotion of career counseling in Bulgaria, strengthening of the profession of the career consultant, protecting the professional interests of the members, establishing professional standards and ethics standards among the members, and implementation of labor market related projects.

Name of**Organization:**

Authentic Bulgaria Association

Key Personnel:

Ms. Kamelia Kaloyanova, Chair of the Board of Directors

Office Address:6, Skobelev Blvd., ap. 10
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**

Tel.: (+359 2) 852 4227

E-mail: kkaloyanova@vegabtd.orgWebsite: <http://www.authenticbulgaria.org/index.php>**Purpose/Mission:**

Authentic Bulgaria is a non-profit association of small Bulgarian tourism providers and tour operators. It supports the development and promotion of high quality Bulgarian tourism products which contribute to the authentic experience and presentation of local traditions, food, drinks, culture, crafts, Bulgarian history, and nature.

The Mission of the association is to accelerate the development of sustainable tourism and well-being of local communities through attracting visitors to facilities that carry the Authentic Bulgaria Quality Mark.

Work with USG:

The Authentic Bulgaria Association is a successor of the Authentic Bulgaria activity of the USAID Business and Trade Development program implemented by VEGA (VEGA/BTD). The association ensures sustainability in the quality certification system launched by VEGA/BTD. This quality certification system includes basic benchmarks for cleanliness, health, and safety, with a focus on quality of service, hospitality, community integration, use of Bulgarian products and food, value, activity offerings, environmental awareness and conservation.

Current Areas of Activity:

- Marketing with Tour Operators
 - Participation in Tourism Fairs
 - Marketing of the quality mark
 - Publication and distribution of the Authentic Bulgaria guide of accommodations with quality mark
-

Name of**Organization:**

Bulgarian American Credit Bank (BACB)

Key Personnel:

Mr. Frank Bauer, Chairman of the Managing Board and Executive Director

Mr. Stoyan Dinchiiski & Mr. Dimiter Voutchev, Members of the Managing Board and Executive Directors

Office Address:

16, Krakra Str.
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel.: (+359 2) 965 83 58

Fax: (+359 2) 944 50 10

E-mail: bacb@bacb.bg

Website: www.bacb.bg

Purpose/Mission:

BACB's mission corresponds to that of Bulgarian American Enterprise Fund (BAEF) to actively participate in the development and expansion of the Bulgarian economy by profitable investing and reinvesting in innovative market projects in the private sector and focuses on long-term financing to small and medium sized business.

Work with USG:

BACB's major shareholder is the BAEF, a U.S. corporation established in 1992 pursuant to the United States Support for East European Democracy Act (the SEED Act). Under the SEED Act, the U.S. government provided \$ 57 million to BAEF for investments in the Bulgarian private sector. A volunteer Board of Directors, appointed by the U.S. President, manages BAEF. The Bulgarian American Credit Bank (BACB) is the most visible and respected entity established with U.S. Government funds to support the development of a competitive private sector in the country. BACB was incorporated in 1996 in Sofia by the Bulgarian-American Enterprise Fund.

The bank provides long-term financing to small and medium sized companies in a variety of industries. The bank helped to pioneer mortgage loans to individuals and households. BACB also pioneered the use of mortgage bonds, issuing the first such bond in Bulgaria in 2001. As of September 30, 2006, the mortgage market has grown to nearly \$2 billion and there have been 18 mortgage bond issues totaling nearly \$200 million. Through its construction lending program, BACB has financed the construction of over 5,000 apartment units in Bulgaria. In 2005, BACB was ranked first in Bulgaria on Return on Investment, and in 2007 it was ranked by Euromoney as having the most convincing and coherent strategy of all companies in Bulgaria. In 2006, its total assets were valued at nearly \$327 million. As a result of BACB direct investments in SMEs, close to 4,000 new jobs were created by 2007.

Current Areas of Activity:

The Bulgarian American Credit Bank provides long-term financing to small and medium sized companies in a variety of industries. The Bank also provides mortgage loans to individuals and households. Loan analysts are prepared to meet the specific needs of each client and help them improve their business. Services include: Loans, Banking Services, Brokerage Services, and Investment

Banking.

Note: BACB is the largest asset of BAEF and will be divested as part of BAEF's dissolution. BACB has been a major landmark of U.S. Government assistance to Bulgaria.

Name of Organization:

Bulgarian Association of Dairy Processors

Key Personnel:

Mr. Mikhail Velkov, Executive Director

Office Address:

Lagera Residential Quarter, bl. 44, entr. A
Sofia 1612, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel.: (+359 2) 952 32 65
Fax: (+359 2) 953 27 23
E-mail: bam@mb.bia-bg.com
Website: <http://www.milkbg.org/>

Purpose/Mission:

The Association has 120 of Bulgaria's most active and reputable dairy processors as its membership, representing more than 60 percent of all processors in the country. It has an executive director responsible to an elected board from the membership.

The Association provides a broad range of services to members including information and seminars on important regulations, products, and technology that help the industry develop. It has also participated in all key legislative initiatives affecting the dairy industry.

The Association has developed a good partnership with the government, and it teamed with the government in working groups to meet EU accession criteria. It also helped draft and vet a key animal husbandry law in 2005 to meet EU requirements. In 2006 it helped to set up eight regional boards and a national dairy board with the Dairy Farmers Association and key government ministries to discuss and agree on EU dairy quota issues.

Work with USG:

The Bulgarian Association of Dairy Processors was established in 1998 with USAID assistance through Land O'Lakes. LOL provided comprehensive technical and training support in almost every area of operation including: organization, bylaws, business planning, operations management, fundraising, member services, legislation, and the development of a newsletter that now provides 30% of the Association's revenue.

Current Areas of Activity:

Advocacy on behalf of its members and publicizing the EU requirements to be met by the dairy producers.

Name of**Organization:**

Bulgarian Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIAB)

Key Personnel:

Mr. Tzvetan Tzvetkov, Managing Committee

Office Address:7a, Graf Ignatiev Str.
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 2) 981 67 80
Fax: (+359 2) 986 28 08
E-mail: iiabulgaria@abv.bg; fincont@internet-bg.net
Website: <http://www.iiabg.org/>**Purpose/Mission:**

The Association performs all activities of an Affiliate of the Institute of Internal Auditors, Inc. - translating, publishing, and disseminating the Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing and Code of Ethics, as well as organizing short term and long term training in the field of internal auditing designed for auditors, accountants, and financial experts. Among the Institute's main activities are also those concerned with disseminating the standards for assessment of internal auditors' work, as well as with studying, spreading, and promoting knowledge and information on internal audit and financial control.

Work with USG:

IIAB was established in 2003 with the assistance of the USAID Open Government Initiative (OGI). IIAB and OGI introduced international best standards and practices to internal auditing in Bulgaria's public sector, and supported professional development in the sector through trainings and seminars.

Current Areas of Activity:

- Encouraging dialogue on effective policy for internal audit and financial control within trade companies, banks, public sector bodies, universities and non-profit organizations;
 - Creating opportunities for professional development to improve management;
 - Translating, publishing and disseminating the Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing and the Code of Ethics;
 - Short-term training of internal auditors;
 - Postgraduate professional education /six to nine months/ and qualifications aimed at acquiring educational and qualification degrees;
 - Organizing international conferences discussing issues of strengthening the control environment in Bulgaria.
-

Name of Organization:

Business Center Serdon

Key Personnel:

Ms. Gergana Valova, Managing Director

Office Address:23a, Angel Kantchev Str.
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 2) 981 30 77; 980 99 60
Fax: (+359 2) 981 30 81
E-mail: serdon@bcserdon.com
Website: <http://www.bcserdon.com/>**Purpose/Mission:**

Business Center (BC) Serdon is a business consultancy which integrates business development and project management services.

Work with USG:

BC Serdon worked with several USAID programs, which enabled the company to set up and improve its website, improve project management, better manage sales, conduct business planning support, improve human resources management, provide management services, and provide financial management assistance to SMEs. Support under a USAID Trade Network program helped BC Serdon develop regional contacts and expanded regional business. Another regional USAID program that promoted regional competitiveness gave BC Serdon tools to support IT, agribusiness, and tourism in Southeast Europe. Through the most recent USAID SME support program BC Serdon worked with two U.S. MBA volunteers who helped improve business services to SMEs. Finally, BC Serdon received financial assistance from USAID to develop an SME Financial Clearinghouse Web Portal in 2007 that will serve as a one-stop shop for SMEs to find financing and receive expert consulting support.

Current Areas of Activity:

- Desk research
 - Business matchmaking
 - Consultancy for starting up new businesses
 - Business database
-

Name of**Organization:**

Business Foundation for Education (BFE)

Key Personnel:

Ms. Gergana Rakovska, Executive Director

Office Address:3, Shipka Str., fl. 4
Sofia 1504, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 2) 944 43 49; 491 80 27; 491 80 28
Fax: (+359 2) 491 80 29
E-mail: fbo@jobtiger.bg
Website: www.fbo.bg**Purpose/Mission:**

The Foundation encourages the personal and professional development of Bulgarians in the country and abroad.

Work with USG:

The Foundation will continue to work for the improvement of the labor market in Bulgaria by supporting the 36 Career Development Centers established by USAID and meeting the needs of employers for a well-educated and skilled workforce. This activity is a continuation of the combined work of JobTiger Ltd. and the USAID Labor Market Project.

Current Areas of Activity:

Among the main priorities of BFE is the establishment of the career counseling capacity in education and support to the professional orientation and development of young people. BFE makes linkages between the business community and universities more natural and effective, improving graduates' preparedness for the workplace. The Foundation works with the Ministry of Education to improve career counseling in secondary schools, serves as a National Board of Certified Counselors in Bulgaria, and prepares and certifies career consultants under the Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) program. BFE also promotes and organizes internships among employers and supports their organization.

Name of**Organization:**

Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development
(CEED)

Key Personnel:

Mr. Nikolay Yarmov, CEO

Office Address:

6, Bigla Str., ap. 3
Sofia 1407, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel.: (+359 2) 819 43 43
Fax: (+359 2) 819 43 44
E-mail: nyarmov@seaf.bg
Website: www.ceed.bg

Purpose/Mission:

The Center for Entrepreneurial and Executive Development is devoted to encouraging entrepreneurship and empowering the leaders of Bulgaria's small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) with the know-how and networks needed to accelerate business growth. The mission of CEED is to accelerate growth of SMEs and foster the development of a true entrepreneurial culture in Bulgaria.

Work with USG:

CEED supports emerging entrepreneurs and mid-level executives in small and medium sized companies in Bulgaria and in neighboring countries by providing them with the knowledge and skills to manage their companies now and into the future. It was established in Bulgaria in 2005 with the financial support of the Small Enterprise Assistance Fund (SEAF) from revenue reflows from USAID grant funds to SEAF. It employs strategies that were successfully pioneered by the U.S. – Russia Center for Entrepreneurship in Moscow, focusing on practical topics requested by entrepreneurs and delivered by entrepreneurs in networking sessions that allow for maximum interaction.

Current Areas of Activity:

- Top Management (CEO) training
 - Leadership teams training
 - Functional training
-

Name of**Organization:**

EnEffect

Key Personnel:

Mr. Zdravko Genchev, Executive Director

Office Address:1, Hristo Smirnensky Blvd., fl. 3, P.O. Box 43
Sofia 1164, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**

Tel.: (+ 359 2) 963 17 14, 963 02 69

Fax: (+ 359 2) 963 25 74

E-mail: zgenchev@eneffect.bg; eneffect@mail.orbitel.bgWebsite: www.eneffect.bg/**Purpose/Mission:**

EnEffect supports policy reform, investments, and capacity building in the energy efficiency sector.

Work with USG:

The Center for Energy Efficiency, EnEffect, was established as an NGO in 1992 with USAID assistance. EnEffect supports the efforts of the Bulgarian Government and local authorities to increase sustainable development through improved energy efficiency. EnEffect provides consulting and engineering services for development of energy efficiency programs, and supports energy efficiency investments with technical advice. The organization used its skills in energy auditing to develop software for energy audits of buildings, which is the tool designated by the Bulgarian Energy Efficiency Agency for use by licensed energy auditors to certify energy efficiency of buildings.

Current Areas of Activity:

EnEffect acts as Secretariat of the Bulgarian Municipal Energy Efficiency Network and of the Regional Network for Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources jointly with the Black Sea Regional Energy Center.

Name of**Organization:**

Institute of Market Economics (IME)

Key Personnel:

Dr. Krassen Stanchev, Chairman of the Board
Ms. Svetla Kostadinova, Executive Director

Office Address:

61, Patriarh Evtimii Blvd., fl. 3
Sofia 1463, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel.: (+ 359 2) 952 62 66, 952 35 03
E-mail: mail@ime.bg
Website: www.ime-bg.org/

Purpose/Mission:

IME is one of the oldest independent economic policy think tanks in Bulgaria. Its mission is to advance market-based solutions to reform challenges in Bulgaria and the region. IME provides independent assessment and analysis of the government's economic policies and is a focal point for the exchange of views on market economics and related policy issues.

IME focuses on Regulatory Impact Assessments of proposed legislation, and increasing efficiency of regulations and public institutions through analysis and information. IME is the official Bulgarian representative for the Index of Economic Freedom.

Work with USG:

IME was a subcontractor to various USAID projects, including the Implementing Policy Change Project and the Business and Trade Development Project. IME provided the research and support for the Bulgarian securities legislation that formed the basis of Bulgaria's capital markets in 1994 and 1995. IME worked with the SEC and U.S. Stock Exchange in this endeavor, as well as with the World Bank. Other important IME contributions to Bulgaria include research and public information on the "pyramid schemes" that drained millions of dollars of savings from many Bulgarians from 1993 to 1995. In 2002, it received recognition from the Bulgarian Government for its contribution to democracy and civil society, a rare recognition for a private economic think tank.

Current Areas of Activity:

IME analyzes current political and macroeconomic developments; observes and comments on current economic policies of the Bulgarian government, including publishing a general overview of political and economic developments four times a year; provides advice to the government and private agencies, investment banks, local and foreign investors, and embassies; facilitates contacts between foreign investors and Bulgarian market or public institutions, between local and foreign economists and public policy institutes; provides case studies on individual enterprises and sectors. IME is one of few institutes able to produce Regulatory Impact Assessments, and has extensive experience drafting legislation and proposed regulations in coordination with international counterparts (including the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission).

Name of**Organization:**

Junior Achievement Bulgaria (JAB) Foundation

Key Personnel:Ms. Sasha Bezouhanova, Chairman of the Board
Ms. Milena Stoycheva, CEO**Office Address:**1, Hristo Belchev Str., ap. 7
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel./Fax : (+359 2) 989 43 61
E-mail: milena@jabulgaria.org
Website: www.jabulgaria.org**Purpose/Mission:**

JAB educates young Bulgarians to value free enterprise, understand business and economics, develop ethical leadership, and be workforce-ready for the challenges of the future. JAB provides training, service, and technical support to the best and the brightest teachers and students in Bulgaria's high schools. Junior Achievement Bulgaria, registered as a not-for-profit organization on February 5, 1997, is a member of Junior Achievement Worldwide (JAW), USA and Junior Achievement – Young Enterprise (JA-YE), Europe.

Work with USG:

In order to increase the scope and outreach of its programs in Bulgaria, JAB entered into a partnership with USAID in late 2003 to launch its Young Entrepreneurial Spirit program. The first phase of the USAID-financed initiative supported an active search for new business partners and private sector donors for the creation of public-private partnerships in support of entrepreneurship and the establishment of student-operated mini-enterprises. In 2006 the program re-focused on the expansion and improvement of the quality of business and entrepreneurship education in Bulgarian schools. Junior Achievement Bulgaria worked with key governmental institutions to implement changes in the subject curricula and incorporate economic, business and entrepreneurship education and training. With USAID assistance, JAB increased awareness of their activities throughout the local business community, thus attracting more donors and supporters. Finally, JAB expanded its cooperation with the international Junior Achievement network, which enables Bulgarian students to compete internationally. JAB programs are taught in 230 schools in Bulgaria.

Current Areas of Activity:

JAB provides the only major entrepreneurial education programs at the high-school level in the country. The programs are approved by the Ministry of Education and Science and are taught as elective subjects by teachers trained regularly by JAB. JAB's entrepreneurial curriculum includes economic and business programs for students from 6 to 22 years of age. The most popular JAB educational programs include the *Student Company Program*, *Business Ethics*, and *JA Economics*. JAB organizes two major student events with national coverage: the career-oriented annual *Manager for a Day* event, and the annual *Virtual Enterprise Competition* which is part of the Ministry of Education annual calendar. The national *Juniors in Action* competition is aimed at students in the primary schools. JAB plans to expand its *Graduate*

Student Company program at university level as well as its network of Centers for Entrepreneurship.

Name of**Organization:**

Nachala

Key Personnel:

Mr. Petar Arnaudov, Director

Office Address:11, Kokiche Str.
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel./Fax: (+359 2) 960 83 11, 960 83 12
E-mail: arnaudov@nachala.bg
Website: www.nachala.bg**Purpose/Mission:**

Nachala supports the development of small family-operated businesses, creating new jobs and income generating opportunities.

Work with USG:

Nachala is one of the two legacy organizations of the USAID Microfinance Program. The program developed microfinance mechanisms as a way of improving financial intermediation, mobilizing capital, and enhancing the competitiveness of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. Nachala provides entrepreneurs with access to non-banking financial services, with a particular focus on less economically developed regions. Both individual and group lending is provided. In 2007 Nachala Cooperative and USAID signed a 4-year Development Credit Authority agreement covering \$1.5 million.

Current Areas of Activity:

Nachala continues to provide loans to small family-operated businesses. The loans range from 600 BGN to 40,000 BGN depending on the credit records of the clients. Currently, Nachala has a staff of 50, a central office in Sofia, and regional offices in Plovdiv, Pleven, Varna, Bourgas, Russe, Stara Zagora, Pazardzhik, Gabrovo, Velingrad, and Blagoevgrad.

Name of**Organization:**

Professional Association of Mediators in Bulgaria

Key Personnel:

Ms. Sevdalina Aleksandrova, Chair of the Management Board

Office Address:149, Evlogi Georgiev Blvd.
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 2) 943 81 41
Fax: (+359 2) 983 40 45
E-mail: pamb@abv.bg
Website: www.pamb.info; www.mediationbg.info**Purpose/Mission:**

The Professional Association of Mediators in Bulgaria (PAMB) is an independent non-governmental organization assisting companies and businesses to resolve their disputes out of court with the assistance of a mediator. PAMB works to:

- Build a positive culture and communication models in which people demonstrate tolerance and resolve their disputes through cooperation and partnership;
- Make mediation a popular, accessible, and high-quality service.

Work with USG:

PAMB was established in November 2006 on the initiative of mediators and mediation trainers trained by the USAID Commercial Law Reform Program (CLRP). The organization works on a volunteer basis. Its members are experienced in mediation, mediation center management, and mediation training.

PAMB participated in the production of a USAID-funded film on mediation, produced for the Bulgarian National Television and based on a real-life case mediated by PAMB mediators. Recently, PAMB hosted a practical seminar sharing the U.S. experience in mediation and involving mock mediation by an American mediator and former Manager of the Harvard Mediation Program.

Current Areas of Activity:

PAMB's main priorities include cooperation with the judicial system to establish programs for referring cases to mediation, and mediation training and awareness campaigns mainly targeted at small and medium-sized businesses in Bulgaria. PAMB publishes articles in specialized business media, such as Cash, maintains informational websites on mediation (www.mediationbg.info, and www.pamb.info), and disseminates information on mediation procedures through national legal information systems. PAMB also delivers mediation presentations and seminars for lawyers, municipalities, and businesses.

Name of**Organization:**

Public Computer and Communication Centers (PC3)
Telecenters Association

Key Personnel:

Dr. Iliana Nikolova, Executive Director
Ms. Kalina Toteva, Chair of the Board of Directors

Office Address:

70, Cherni Vrah Blvd., ap. 31
Sofia 1407, Bulgaria

Contact Information:

Tel.: (+359) 816 15 35
Fax: (+359 2) 865 61 57
E-mail: pc3board@pc3.orbitel.bg
Website: <http://pc3.orbitel.bg/pc3net/>

Purpose/Mission:

To build public-private partnerships and establish sustainable ICT centers able to provide quality training and business services to underserved communities.

Work with USG:

Bulgarian PC3 center is a locally owned and operated enterprise which serves a town with 5,000 to 30,000 inhabitants, offering fee-for-use and, to a limited extent, subsidized access to Internet and computer services, ICT training, and business support services. The PC3 Association was founded by PC3 operators and the PC3 project team to sustain the project achievements, to maintain the partners' network, and to further develop and replicate the PC3 concept and practices. The Public Computer and Communications Centers (PC3) Association was launched in 2002 as a follow-up to the USAID supported Public Computer and Communications Center (PC3) Project. This pilot project supported the creation of PC3 centers (telecenters) in ten small underserved Bulgarian towns - Varshets, Pravets, Apriltsi, Byala, Omurtag, Tryavna, Aistos, Vetren, Madan, and Zlatograd. The PC3 centers offer public access to Information and Communication Technologies products, services and related training, and facilitate the economic and social development of the local communities. The PC3 Project built on a public-private partnership and supported eight small local companies and two local NGOs, in the establishment and startup of PC3 centers. The typical

Current Areas of Activity:

Six years after the end of USAID assistance, seven of the PC3 centers are operational and have expanded their services and areas of expertise in community IT training, IT skills for the disabled, and business services to the communities. The PC3 Association, through its most active members in Tryavna, Pravets, Madan and Zlatograd, won several EU and U.S. twinning projects. The Association is a founding member of the European Tele-centers Association and actively participates in joint EU projects. Continuing education is another focus area.

Name of Organization:

Public Procurement National Institute

Key Personnel:

Ms. Eva Radeva

Office Address:22, Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd.
Sofia 1301, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel./Fax: (+359 2) 981 01 16
E-mail: ppni.bg@gmail.com**Purpose/Mission:**

The Public Procurement National Institute (PPNI) was established to continue the public procurement work of the USAID Open Government Initiative (OGI). PPNI's Board of Directors consists of representatives of the National Audit Office, Bulgarian Industrial Association, Public Procurement Agency, Ministry of Economy and Energy, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, and OGI experts.

PPNI's goal is to decrease the risk of corruption and prevent corruption in public procurement, concessions, and public-private partnerships.

Work with USG:

We have not worked directly with this organization since the completion of USAID Open Government Initiative, although PPNI was founded by the primary implementers/partners of the project.

Current Areas of Activity:

The organization's founders have significant legal and policy experience in public procurement, and are committed to increasing the transparency and effectiveness of the public procurement system.

Name of**Organization:**

Ustoi

Key Personnel:

Mr. Pavel Velev, CEO

Office Address:35, Vitosha Blvd., entr. B, fl. 2
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+ 359 2) 980 45 40, 980 47 05
Fax: (+ 359 2) 981 09 86
E-mail: microfinance@ustoi.org
Website: www.ustoi.org**Purpose/Mission:**

The mission of Ustoi is to increase income and sustain employment of micro-entrepreneurs in Bulgaria. Ustoi supports micro-business development by providing entrepreneurs with sustainable access to financial services while promoting partnership and mutual assistance.

Ustoi targets the smallest economically viable businesses and offers the most accessible financial services in terms of procedures and requirements. The product is affordable for a large proportion of micro-entrepreneurs, including those working in rural places, which assures vast program outreach potential.

Work with USG:

Ustoi is the second of the two legacy organizations of the USAID Microfinance Program. The program developed microfinance mechanisms as a way of improving financial intermediation, mobilizing capital, and enhancing the competitiveness of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. Ustoi provides entrepreneurs with access to non-banking financial services, with a particular focus on less economically developed regions. Both individual and group lending is available.

Current Areas of Activity:

Ustoi has supported the development of micro-business in Bulgaria for the last eight years by providing entrepreneurs with fast and sustainable access to financial services. The company operates on a regional basis, and provides services to micro-entrepreneurs, predominantly women. Ustoi has 21 offices throughout the country.

Name of**Organization:**

VOCA Consult

Key Personnel:

Mr. Krassimir Kiryakov, President

Office Address:63, Vitosha Blvd., fl. 3
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**Contact Information:**Tel.: (+359 2) 987 91 60, 988 04 60
Fax: (+359 2) 987 94 63
E-mail: office@vocaconsult.com
Website: <http://www.vocaconsult.com/>**Work with USG:**

VOCA Consult was established in 2003 as a successor of the American NGO ACDI/VOCA upon the successful completion of its USAID-funded program in Bulgaria. ACDI/VOCA provided technical assistance to hundreds of Bulgarian agribusiness entrepreneurs and private firms, agricultural associations and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. ACDI/VOCA implemented the Warehouse Receipts System, which helped create a modern economic framework for Bulgarian agriculture.

Current Areas of Activity:

- Industry Analysis, Market Research, and Feasibility Studies;
 - Investment and Project Financing;
 - Assistance to Bulgarian companies in applying for SAPARD program.
-