

**Project Results for USAID-Government of Serbia (GoS) Consultation and Annual Monitoring
February 2013**

Project	USAID Judicial Reform and Government Accountability
USAID Office	Democracy and Governance Office. Peter Wiebler, Office Director
USAID Contracting Officer's Representative	Rob Force
Duration	May 2011 – May 2016
Budget	Life of project: \$21.8 million To date under the Agreement: \$10,917,000
Implementing Partner	National Center for State Courts, Chief of Party: Larry Vetter
Project Purpose	The purpose of the USAID Judicial Reform and Government Accountability Project is to help the Government of Serbia strengthen the rule of law, judicial efficiency, independence, and integrity and the openness and accountability of government operations overall. This USAID project provides technical assistance, training, IT infrastructure design, and other support to the courts and independent agencies.
Project Components	1. Judicial Reform 2. Government Accountability
Assistance Agreement	169-AA-10-DG/001
Objective	Government Operations Improved <i>Indicator: USAID Monitoring Country Progress (National Governance)</i> <i>Indicator: World Bank Governance Indicators (Government Effectiveness)</i>
Indicators	Result 1. Efficient, Transparent and Accountable Provision of Government Services Enhanced <i>Number of Justice Sector Personnel that Received USG Training</i> <i>Number of USG Assisted Courts with Improved Case Management systems</i> Result 2. Checks and Balances Strengthened <i>Number of government officials receiving USG supported anti-corruption training</i>
GoS European Integration Office (SEIO) Aid Coordination Group	Justice Sector
Key GoS Partners – Ministries	Ministry of Justice
Key GoS Partners – Agencies and other organizations	High Court Council, Judicial Academy, Anti-Corruption Agency, Ombudsperson's Office, State Audit Institution, Administrative Courts, Supreme Court of Cassation, High Misdemeanor Court, Misdemeanor Courts, Judicial Academy, Commissioner for Public Information and Data Protection, Commissioner for Equality
Date of USAID-GoS workplan review	Last review: June 2012 Next review: June 2013
The consultative process to date: USAID regularly engages with its counterparts in developing workplan activities, and shares with them the annual workplans. As part of this process, USAID seeks input and guidance from its counterparts on achieving targets for current and out-years. USAID previously provided SEIO with the project tasks and 5-year workplan.	

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<p>State of implementation from January 2012 through December 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USAID supported the Ministry of Justice working group on drafting the amendments to the Law on Misdemeanors. The consultation process is in the end stages before the Law will be sent to the National Assembly for debate and a vote. The process is widely seen as open, transparent, and inclusive of views of all stakeholders, and the final law will be stronger and more successful as a direct consequence. • The public consultation process for the Law on Misdemeanors included the USAID-supported two-day annual Misdemeanor Judges conference in Kladovo, where 350 Misdemeanor judges debated the provisions of the law. • In close partnership with the Ministry of Justice, USAID renovated Misdemeanor Courts in Kikinda, Arandelovac, Valjevo, Zrenjanin, and Zaječar. Most of these courts received one-stop public service shops to improve court efficiency and public access. • USAID assisted the Anti-Corruption Agency in recruiting and training 160 political finance monitors who observed the activities of political parties and reported on the finance aspects of the recent election. USAID also assisted the Anti-Corruption Agency in analyzing the resulting data so that the Agency will be able to release a report and take action on the findings. • USAID improved communication, cooperation, and information sharing between the independent agencies and the Misdemeanor Courts by hosting roundtable discussions. During these roundtables, representatives of the agencies and the courts were able to discuss the legal requirements for cases filed by the agencies, how to present evidence, and other challenges and issues to improve the effectiveness of the agencies. • USAID assisted the independent agencies in public outreach campaigns to educate the public on the function of the agencies and how the public can access their respective services. • USAID completed a detailed IT and infrastructure analysis of all major Misdemeanor Courts, and is finalizing a comprehensive book that includes data on these Courts, photos, architectural drawings, a needs analysis, and recommendations for improvements for the Ministry of Justice, which is responsible for court infrastructure. • USAID initiated training for Misdemeanor Court judges and staff on basic computer literacy, substantive law, ethics, and court administration in close cooperation with the Judicial Academy. • During this period, USAID helped strengthen civil society organizations in the judicial reform and government accountability sectors by issuing a total of nearly \$400,000 in grant funds. <p>Contributions from GoS Partners in 2012:</p> <p>GoS partners from the Misdemeanor Courts contributed to improving court and case management through participation in working groups dedicated to transparency and access to courts, and court and case management.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice led the effort on drafting the Law on Misdemeanors and the Law on Judicial Police, and leveraged its financial resources to improve physical infrastructure of Misdemeanor Courts in partnership with USAID.</p> <p>The independent agencies, particularly the Anti-Corruption Agency, the State Audit Institution, and the Commissioner for Equality, participated in roundtables, and in the planning of other assistance activities provided through USAID.</p> <p>Obstacles and proposed solutions:</p> <p><u>Issue:</u> Last year, USAID identified challenges faced by the Anti-Corruption Agency in building its capacity as a relatively new institution, such as staff development, public awareness, and procedures to carry out its mandate. These challenges remain but are diminished, in part because of new leadership and a reinvigorated</p>	

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<p>Agency. The board's term ends shortly and the transition to new members may present some issues of continuity and institutional memory if members are replaced.</p> <p><u>Risk:</u> As was the case last year, the Agency's ability to fully utilize and absorb the technical assistance of USAID remains, although this challenge appears to be greatly reduced.</p> <p><u>Solution:</u> USAID will continue to support the Agency within the parameters of our programs to the level that is mutually agreeable and beneficial.</p> <p><u>Issue:</u> The potential impact of the new court network may affect space availability for the Misdemeanor Courts.</p> <p><u>Risk:</u> Some Misdemeanor Courts may experience pressure to relocate so that new Basic Courts and newly reinstated judges are provided premises.</p> <p><u>Solution:</u> USAID will remain flexible in providing support for Misdemeanor Court infrastructure needs for those courts that have maximum control over their premises.</p>	

Table 1. Indicators and Targets: Baseline and Targets for JRGA Project Indicators

Indicator	Baseline	2011 Actual	2012 Target	2012 Actual	2013 Target	2014 Target	2015 Target
<i>Number of Justice Sector Personnel that received USG training</i>	0	637	800	1452	600	700	700
<i>Number of USG Assisted Courts with Improved Case Management</i>	0	NA (commencing in 2012)	6	8	11	16	32
<i>Number of government officials receiving USG supported anti-corruption training</i>	0	196	50	594	300	200	200

Note:

For trainings in both the judicial sector and the anti-corruption sector, unanticipated training opportunities arose. In the justice sector, trainings related to basic computer skills, as well as in other substantive areas, resulted in a greater number of trainings than expected. On anti-corruption, the increase resulted largely from the training of political finance monitors, as requested by the Anti-Corruption Agency.