



EUROPE & EURASIA BUREAU - 5TH ANNUAL REGIONAL EVENT
COMPETITIVENESS, FINANCE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
MOVING FORWARD: EXITING THE CRISIS AND NAVIGATING THE CHANGING GLOBAL ECONOMY



May 18 – 20, 2010, Hotel Europe, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina





DAY 1 (May 18) – Competitiveness Finance, and Economic Growth in the E&E Region

9:00 am – Welcomes and Introduction, Facilitator Steve Eastham, USAID Washington

- Mr. Allan Reed, Mission Director, USAID Bosnia and Herzegovina
- H.E. Bosse Hedberg, Ambassador of Sweden to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Tarik Djodjic, Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Lewis Tatem, USAID Washington, “Comments on USAID’s Economic Growth Activities in the E&E Region”

9:28 am – Panel presenters change

9:30 am – Coming out of the Global Economic Crisis: Current Status, Effects, and Responses, Facilitator Steve Eastham

- Coming Out of the Crisis Central Eastern Europe – Paul Marer, PhD, Central European University Business School – Budapest
- Overview of Economic Conditions in the Western Balkans – Dragana Radevic, PhD, CEED Consulting Montenegro
- Overview of Economic Conditions in the Caucasus, Moldova, Ukraine – Krassen Stanchev, PhD, Institute for Market Economics
- Questions and Answers

10:30 am – Business Networking Break

11:00 am – Review of USG’s Economic Growth, Competitiveness and Finance Activities in E&E, Facilitator Lewis Tatem, USAID Washington

- Latest Trends in the Regional Financial Sector Programs – Hugh Haworth, USAID Washington
- Latest Trends in the Regional Competitiveness Activities – Neal Nathanson, USAID Washington
- Country Reports (macro, competitiveness, finance), *brief presentations by USAID EG Officers and/or Project COPs*
 - Armenia – Artak Ghazarian, CAPS Project
 - Azerbaijan – Sheila Young, USAID Azerbaijan
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Amira Vejzagic-Ramhorst, USAID Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Georgia – Michael Jones, USAID Georgia
 - Macedonia – Joseph Lessard, USAID Macedonia
 - Moldova – Sergiu Botezatu, USAID Moldova
 - Montenegro – Igor Pesic, STARS Program
 - Serbia – James Stein, USAID Serbia
 - Ukraine – Ryder Rogers, USAID Ukraine



1:00 pm – Lunch with Business Networking

2:30 pm – Partnership and Leveraging Opportunities with International Donor and Multilateral Organizations (part 1), Facilitator Neal Nathanson

- Bosnia and Herzegovina Case Study: USAID Bosnia’s Funding Partnership with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – USAID Bosnia and Herzegovina: Vladimir Milin and Amira Vejzagic-Ramhorst & SIDA Representatives: Nedim Bukvic and Natasa Miskin
- Azerbaijan Case Study: USAID Azerbaijan co-funding collaboration with the Government of Azerbaijan – Sheila Young, USAID Azerbaijan
- EBRD TAM/BAS Programme – Zihnija Hasovic, EBRD TAM/BAS Programme Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Questions and Answers

3:30 pm – Business Networking Break

4:00 pm – Partnership and Leveraging Opportunities with International Donor and Multilateral Organizations (part 2), Facilitator Hugh Haworth

- Regional Competitiveness Initiative – Alan Paic, OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe (with the support of the European Commission and in partnership with the RCC)
- Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) - Sanjin Arifagic, Head of Economic and Social Development Unit
- International Investment and Trade in the E&E Region
 - Research and Analysis of Access to Finance for South East Europe – RCI, Gergana Valova, Managing Director, BC Serdon
 - The Regional Economy from the perspective of a Multinational Firm – Ronald Pintar, Fibernet Slovenia
- Questions and Answers

5:00 pm – Conclusions for Day 1 and Preparing for Day 2, Facilitator Lewis Tatem / Steve Eastham

- Presentation of the National Geographic Traveler Western Balkans supplement
- Open Discussion and Conclusions for the Day - USAID representatives and Chiefs of Party
- Preparation for Day 2 Split Parallel Sessions:
 - Introducing the topics – Neal Nathanson

6:00 pm – End of Day 1





DAY 2 (May 19) – Focus on Sectors and Cross-Sector Activities (Split Parallel Sessions)

9:00 – Parallel Session 1

| IT Quality and Innovation for Increasing Competitiveness | Regional Tourism Promotion | Agribusiness Market Information Systems | Access to Finance and Investment |
|--|--|---|--|
| <i>Facilitator Filip Stojanovic, Regional Competitiveness Initiative (RCI)</i> | <i>Facilitator Sanscho Ramhorst, Excellence in Innovation Project</i> | <i>Facilitator Bruce Brower, FARMA Project</i> | <i>Facilitator Amira Vejzagic - Ramhorst</i> |
| <p>Excellence and Innovation Centers: * Quality Standards and Certifications (www.quality2it.org), George Sharkov, Regional Director, ESI Center Eastern Europe * Innovation, Tomislav Bronzin, RCI Senior Innovation Expert</p> <p>‘Moldova ESI EE Quality Lab (QLab)’, Doina Nistor, CoP, CEED Project Moldova</p> <p>‘Macedonia Innovation Center activity’, Brett Johnson, Macedonia Competitiveness Project</p> | <p>‘Regional Tourism Portal - Need, Sustainability and Partners?’, Exploring Macedonia, Sasha Gavrilovic</p> <p>‘Western Balkans Interdependencies: Heritage and Regional Tourism Development’, FIRMA Project BiH, Snjezana Derviskadic</p> <p>‘Regional tourism cooperation: Balkans – Black Sea – Caucasus’, UNDP Office Athens, Giuseppe Belsito</p> <p>Exploring Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sasha Vasic</p> | <p>‘MIS in Bosnia and Herzegovina’, Bruce Brower, FARMA Project</p> <p>‘Ukraine MIS’, Evgenia Malikova, USAID Ukraine</p> <p>Discussants: - Macedonia AgBiz Program - Excellence in Innovation Project - Serbia Agribusiness Project - SIDA - EU Delegation - IFC</p> | <p>‘Supply and Demand of Credit for SMEs in Bosnia’, Dina Karic, FIRMA Project Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>‘Asset Based Finance for SMEs’, Michael Gold, Crimson Capital</p> <p>‘Venture Capital in Southeast Europe’, Natasa Tomic, RSG Capital Slovenia</p> <p>‘Macedonia Financial Platform’, Jasminka Varnaliev, Macedonia Competitiveness Project</p> |

11:00 – Business Networking Break



11:30 – Parallel Session 2

| Increasing Business Cooperation | Importance of Tourism Quality Standards and Training Leading to International Certification | Regional Cooperation in Agribusiness | Financial Crisis Response Programs |
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| <i>Facilitator James Stein</i> | <i>Facilitator Susan Warren, MTW Associates</i> | <i>Facilitator Dusan Neskovic</i> | <i>Facilitator Hugh Haworth</i> |
| <p>‘Armenia IT sector and possibilities for regional cooperation’, Artak Ghazaryan, CoP, Armenia CAPS Project</p> <p>‘Fostering and building industry associations’, Doina Nistor</p> <p>‘Office Business Center in Kosovo’, Jovan Madjovski, CEED Macedonia</p> <p>‘Working in the Western Balkans and Caucasus’, Michael Gold</p> <p>‘RCI IT2Business portal (www.it2business.org)’, George Sharkov</p> | <p>‘Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria’, Milena Nikolova, Global Sustainable Tourism Alliance (GSTA)</p> <p>‘Quality Mark aligns with global sustainable criteria for competitiveness’, Susan Warren</p> <p>‘Macedonia Quality Mark Initiative’, Sasha Gavrilovic, Exploring Macedonia</p> <p>Discussant: FIRMA Project BiH</p> | <p>‘Macedonia Experience: Backward linkages / contract farming’, Macedonia AgBiz Project, Vasko Hadzievski</p> <p>FARMA Project BiH, Bruce Brower</p> <p>‘Introduction - Balkan Agricultural Associations Network’, Dori Pavloska – Gjorgjieska, SIDA funded SFARM project</p> <p>‘Introducing “Culinaria” Fair’, Nenad Popandic, Serbia Agribusiness Project</p> <p>Discussants: Excellence in Innovation Project, EU Delegation, SIDA, IFC, etc.</p> | <p>‘How the financing sources (investment funds, strategic investors, banks, IFIs) reacted to the crisis’, BC Serdon, Gergana Valova</p> <p>‘Bosnian Government’s Response to the Global Financial Crisis’, Berina Selimovic Mehmedbasic, PARE Project</p> <p>‘USAID’s Response to the Ukrainian Financial Crisis’, Ryder Rogers, USAID Ukraine</p> <p>‘Serbian Government’s Response to the Global Financial Crisis, Scott Calhoun’, SEGA Project</p> |

1:30 – Lunch with Business Networking

2:30 – Parallel Session 3

| Regional Donor collaboration/partnership | Workforce Development in USAID Projects | Indicators and Performance Measurement in USAID Projects | Promoting Entrepreneurship and Executive Training |
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| <i>Facilitator Vladimir Milin</i> | <i>Facilitator Joseph Lessard</i> | <i>Facilitator Neal Nathanson</i> | <i>Facilitator Tom Drum, SEAF USA</i> |
| USAID Washington, Steve Eastham Business Advisory Council for South East Europe, Maria Bozoudi Discussants: - UNDP Office Athens - Regional Cooperation Council - EBRD TAM/BAS - EU Delegation - SIDA - GTZ - World Bank IFC - SNV Balkans | 'Increasing quality and competitiveness of ICT labor force', Doina Nistor 'Regional Project Management Initiative', Serbia Compete Project, Tatjana Lukic 'Integrated software solution for the Macedonian Employment Service Agency', Macedonia Business Environment Activity (BEA), Kiril Minoski 'Developing Next Generation Workforce', Macedonia Competitiveness Activity, Visar Ademi | FIRMA Project, David King Discussants: - James Stein - Evgenia Malikova - Amira Vejzagic-Ramhost - Projects representatives | CEED USA, Peter Righi CEED Macedonia, Jovan Madjovski Citus, Tomislav Bronzin 'Global Entrepreneurship Initiative', USAID Washington, Lewis Tatem USAID Georgia - Michael Jones Algebra BiH - Zlatan Mulabegovic |

4:30 pm – End of Day 2



DAY 3 (May 20) – INTERNAL DISCUSSION – USAID and PROJECT IMPLEMENTERS ONLY

New Directions for Competitiveness, Economic Growth and Finance Programming

9:00 – New Directions Emerging from Day 2 Sessions (3 minutes maximum) Facilitator James Stein

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| - IT Quality and Innovation for Increasing Competitiveness, Filip Stojanovic | - Increasing Business Cooperation, James Stein | - Regional Donor collaboration/partnership, Vladimir Milin |
| - Regional Tourism Promotion, Sanscho Ramhorst | - Importance of Tourism Quality Standards and Training Leading to International Certification, Susan Warren | - Workforce Development, Joseph Lessard |
| - Agribusiness Market Information Systems, Bruce Brower | - Regional Cooperation in Agribusiness, Dusan Neskovic | - Indicators and Performance Measurement, Neal Nathanson |
| - Access to Finance: Credit and Investment, Amira Vejzagic-Ramhorst | - Financial Crisis Response Programs, Hugh Haworth | - Promoting Entrepreneurship and Executive Training, Tom Drum |

10:30 – RCI and PFS Update, Facilitator Lewis Tatem / Steve Eastham

- RCI Update – Filip Stojanovic and Anne-Sophie Samjee (report on RCI activities and web site introduction)
- New PFS Activity: Key Features – Hugh Haworth

11:00 – Open Discussion by EG Officers, FSNs and Chiefs of Parties, Key Observation and Comments, Possible Discussion Topics:

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|---|------------------------------------|---|
| - How can RCI / PFS & EG assist Missions in 2011 | - Joint study tours/training | - Regional cooperation in the sector of IT |
| - Community of Practice on "Knowledge Management and Encouragement of Innovation" (RCI/PFS and EG/EE to Missions) | - Workforce development | - Regional cooperation in the sector of tourism |
| - Mission Buy-ins | - Access to finance and investment | - Regional cooperation in agribusiness |
| | - Cross-regional cooperation | - Potential venues for future events: Georgia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Cyprus |
| | - Program results/indicators | |
| | - Leveraging other Donor Programs | |

1:00 pm – Conference Wrap-up, Conclusions and Next Steps – Steve Eastham

- Opportunities for partnering with RCI
- Opportunities for partnering with PFS
- Opportunities for Cross Regional Cooperation – Missions, Projects and Stakeholders

1:15 pm – End of Day 3





USEFUL INFORMATION

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EVENT MATERIALS ON USB

1. Agenda
2. Participants List
3. Presentations
4. Short Bios for Presenters
5. Reports by RCI, OECD, EBRD, World Bank/EBRD, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) and Baltic Business School
6. Promotional and introductory documents – Black Seas Trade and Development Bank (BSTD), Albania Competitiveness Economic Development Program, Armenia CAPS project
7. Articles by Dr. Paul Marer

