

# ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

## Mission for Serbia & Montenegro 2004

### DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE OFFICE: MONTENEGRO

#### What is USAID doing to promote a civil society and the rule of law in Montenegro?

The election of Milo Đukanović as President in October 1997, as well as international support for the new regime, laid the foundation for the democratization of Montenegrin society. USAID aims to promote greater transparency and accountability at all levels of government, and to build societal support for combating corruption.

USAID supports the democratic transition in Montenegro by improving the capacity of citizens to participate more effectively and more knowledgeably in political and economic processes and by strengthening the capacity of key governmental institutions to effectively implement reforms and protect citizens' essential civil, political and economic rights. The main elements of the USAID Democracy and Governance Office in Montenegro are:

#### Montenegro Advocacy Program

- Strengthening the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to conduct effective public policy advocacy initiatives
- NGO training on advocacy, legislative process, lobbying and policy formulation, community needs assessment, networks and coalition building, NGO/government relations and NGO/media relations

#### Public Education on the Reform Process – “Akcija Coalition”

- Assisting a core group of leading NGOs, academics, experts and alternative media organizations, known as the “Akcija Coalition,” to inform citizens about the reform process and the impact reforms will have on the lives of citizens

#### Montenegro Independent Media Program

- Developing professional and financially sustainable independent media that provides citizens with the news and information necessary to participate in democratic and free market institutions
- Successfully advocating around critical media laws (Media Law, Broadcasting Law and the Law on Public Broadcasting Services)

#### Free and Modern Labor Unions

- Strengthening the ability of trade unions to participate in the development of a democratic civil society and the transition to a market economy
- Training on social dialogue, decision-making between unions, business and the government and conflict resolution

#### Political Party and Parliamentary Development Program

- Developing democratic political parties
- Strengthening the representative and law-making functions of Parliament
- Building domestic capacity for credible nonpartisan election monitoring

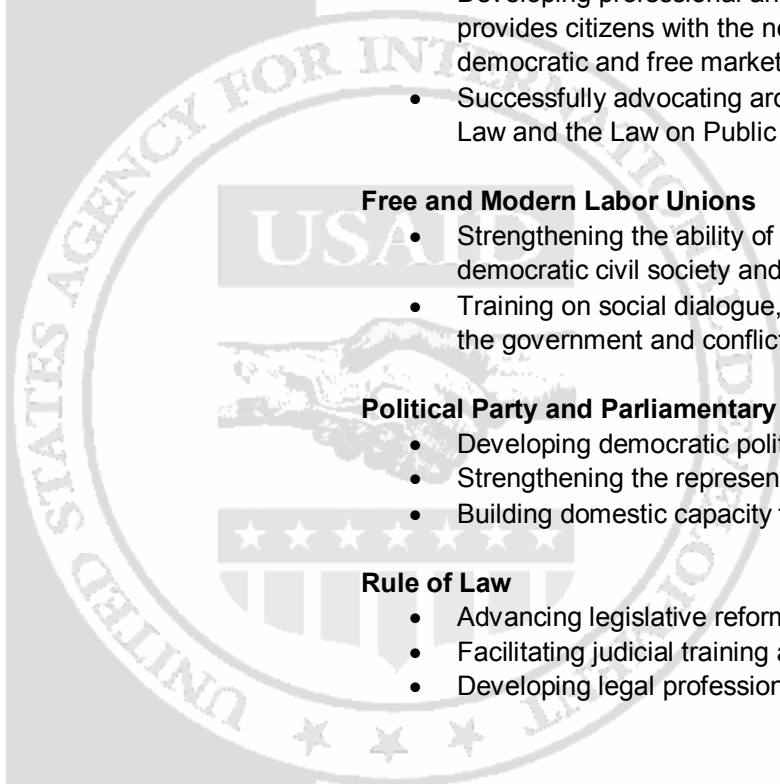
#### Rule of Law

- Advancing legislative reform
- Facilitating judicial training and education
- Developing legal professional associations

United States Agency for  
International Development  
U.S. Embassy  
Kneza Miloša 50  
11 000 Belgrade  
Serbia & Montenegro

For additional information  
on USAID activities, please  
contact:

Cara Stern  
Senior Program Information  
Specialist  
(381-11) 306-4709  
[csstern@usaid.gov](mailto:csstern@usaid.gov)  
Or visit: [www.usaid.org.yu](http://www.usaid.org.yu)



**Judicial System Reform**

- Providing expert legal advice and technical assistance to support the implementation of the Law on Courts to foster the independence of the judiciary
- Assisting in the establishment of two new courts, the Appellate and Administrative Courts, and in the establishment of the Administrative Office for the Judiciary
- Improving court operations by providing expert legal advice, training and technical assistance to improve the quality and timeliness of judicial decision-making and the management and administration of the courts at all levels, with emphasis on improving operations of the basic and commercial courts

**Counter-Trafficking Activity**

- Supporting a public awareness campaign targeting young women and girls about the dangers of falling into trafficking schemes
- Supporting the Women's Safe House Shelter for victims of trafficking

