



Macedonia Court Modernization Project Newsletter

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Facility Improvements Inaugurated in Prilep



Judge Angelco Videski, President, Basic Court Prilep (left) shaking hands with Dick Goldman, Mission Director, USAID (right) after cutting the ribbon of the new Intake Center in the Basic Court Prilep.

Mr. Dick Goldman, Mission Director of USAID Macedonia, recently inaugurated court facility improvements in the Prilep Basic Court. These renovations converted existing intake offices into a modern Court Intake and Records Center. The President Judge of the Court, Angelco Videvski, worked with MCMP to create the design for this modern Records and Intake Center. These services can now be delivered in one, easily accessible location.

MCMP also upgraded six courtrooms to serve as model courtrooms. These, together with the new courtrooms currently being built in the new court wing and financed by the Court Budget Council, will provide space for 27 judges in this courthouse. Previously, there were not enough courtrooms available which created scheduling difficulties and contributed to delays.

In his remarks, Mr. Goldman said these renovations were, "...a visible expression of our commitment to
(cont'd on p. 2)

To Our Readers:

The Ministry of Justice is now spearheading enactment of an ambitious National Strategy for Judicial Reform. The laws to be addressed are headed by constitutional amendments. The effort is focused on the judiciary. New laws will change the organization of the court system and the selection and removal of judges. They will present important areas for debate and participation.

The challenge to MCMP will be to maintain its priorities: efficient processing and prompt disposition of cases in the trial courts. In its first 30 months, the Project has made notable progress in reducing the backlog of cases, especially cases more than three years old. We will now give increased attention to the "younger" cases.

A revised civil procedure law is expected to be passed in September. Although it will not directly affect case management, it should improve a number of areas that cause delay and backlog. The Project will try to capitalize on this by training of judges and direct introduction of case management practices responsive to the new law.

Time marches on. Sometimes it seems that change in Macedonia comes slowly. But it is coming. There is no denying it and no going back.

In This Issue :

<i>Facility Improvements Inaugurated in Prilep.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>New Judges Orientation.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Faculty Development Programs.....</i>	<i>3</i>

<i>"Costing" of the National Strategy for Reform of the Judicial System.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Macedonia Judicial Administrative Confeence.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Milestone Reached.....</i>	<i>4</i>

New Judges Orientation

In a joint effort, the Center for Continuing Education and the Macedonia Court Modernization Project presented New Judges Orientation (NJO) from June 14-18 at Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia. The eighteen attendees were judges appointed to the Basic Courts since July, 2004.



Judge Avramceva during her presentation.

The NJO addresses issues such as ethics, courtroom control, caseload management and recognition of the core competencies required to serve as a judge in the Macedonian judicial system. An exercise that caused both apprehension and excitement was the opportunity to be filmed on two occasions. The attendees were given one criminal and once civil scenario to which they had to respond as if they were in court. Once it was completed the activity turned out to be both educational and fun.

The program is also designed to encourage new judges to meet their colleagues throughout Macedonia. This

opportunity to network is an activity which will strengthen and unify the judicial branch as the third branch of government.

The judges who attended the program came from ten courts representing the three appellate districts in Macedonia and included:

Judge Gordana Jakova, Basic Court Skopje 1; Judge Ljubica Kolic, Basic Court Skopje 1; Judge Sabaudin Shasivari, Basic Court Tetovo; Judge Qani Abduli, Basic Court Tetovo; Judge Ile Tanev, Basic Court Veles; Judge Anica Teova, Basic Court Veles; Judge Zoran Josifovski, Basic Court Kavadarci; Judge Cona Kalamernikova, Basic Court Strumica; Judge Valentina Miteva, Basic Court Strumica; Judge Boris Camovski, Basic Court Strumica; Judge Maja Avramova, Basic Court Gevgelija; Judge Muhamet Balanca, Basic Court Debar; Judge Damjan Iloski, Basic Court Debar; Judge Mersim Marku, Basic Court Debar; Judge Adi Useini-Basic Court Struga; Judge Ifet Bajramoski, Basic Court Struga; Judge Aliji Eljesa, Basic Court Gostivar; Judge Fluturije Dervishi, Basic Court Kicevo.

The instructors included Justice Agim Miftari, Supreme Court, President Judge Ljubin Aleksievski, Basic Court Ohrid; Judge Lazar Gjorgjonoski,

Struga; Judge Marica Avramceva, Gevgelija; Dr. Zhanina Kirovska, Director of the Court Budget Council; Jasmina Shishkovska, Court Coordinator from Bitola; Judge Ernest Borunda of MCMP.

Perhaps the following quote from one of the new participants best describes the experience. "The... NJO was too short. I feel that I got familiar with a brand new experience. I learned many new things (including the fact that) the judge is supposed to feel his profession deeply in his soul."

The court budget trainings were successful in establishing a network of close cooperation between the court secretaries and court accountants at the Basic and Appellate level courts.



Judge Laze Gjorgonoski, Basic Court Struga (left) and Judge Valentina Miteva, Basic Court Strumica (right), simulating media interest in the courtroom.

Facility Improvements

(cont'd from p. 1)

helping the Republic of Macedonia with its efforts to reform the judiciary as a modern, accountable, and independent branch of government in line with EU standards."

In addition, Mr. Goldman emphasized that courts are the cornerstone of a democratic society governed by the rule of law. A fair, transparent, and effective judicial system is essential to Macedonia's efforts to



The new Intake Office in the Basic Court Prilep.

develop democratic institutions, promote business investment, and fight organized crime and corruption.

Supreme Court President Judge Dane Iliev, as well as many Basic Court President Judges and local officials, attended this impressive event. Following remarks, ribbon cutting ceremonies took place in the entrance to the intake center and in the hallway leading to the renovated courtrooms.



Dick Goldman, Mission Director, USAID (left) and Chief Justice Dane Iliev, on a walk-thru demonstration of court facility improvements in the Basic Court Prilep.

Faculty Development Program

In the months of April and May, the Project provided three Faculty Development Courses. The first occurred from April 26-29 at the Arka Hotel in Skopje specifically for Basic Faculty Development, while two programs were held at the Holiday Inn from May 4-7 and May 9-12 for Advanced Faculty.

The development of faculty is integral to the growth of the Center for Continuing Education and the proposed Judicial Training Academy.

Basic Faculty Development. Local staff members including Chief of Party, Doug Myers; Legal Training Advisor, Judge Ernest Borunda; and Judicial Training Coordinator, Nikola Lazarov, LL.M., presented new faculty development training to fifteen Judges from all court levels.

The first Faculty Development program is designed to teach basics in developing learning objectives, designing learning activities to achieve objectives, and writing materials to complement

“Costing” of the National Strategy for Reform of the Judicial System

The Macedonian Parliament on November 22, 2004 enacted the National Strategy for Reform of the Judicial System. The Ministry of Justice carries the burden of preparing the changes and amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia and relevant laws in order to support reform efforts in the judiciary.

The Ministry of Justice is the coordinating body for overall reform of the justice system in the Republic of Macedonia. Upon its request, Mr. Paul Broekhoven, retired judge, and Mr. Sjouke Kuipers, Ministry of Justice representative from Netherlands, came for a short visit to Macedonia (March 8-11, 2005) in order to assess the current stage of the reform process and estimate the fiscal implications to the state budget of the implementation of the National Strategy.

They met with the minister of Justice, Ms. Meri Mladenovska, who gave them an overview of ongoing legislative projects and Government legislative priorities for 2005. The expert team met with key players from the judiciary and representatives of the Ministry of Finance. It is essential that there is consensus between the legal community and political parties to support reforms

in the justice system and built an independent and efficient judiciary that will meet European standards.

The expert team produced a report with interim recommendations to the Ministry of Justice. It is expected to have a

follow up visit in autumn 2005 when the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia will enact proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia.



From left to right: Douglas Myers, MCMP; Paul Broekhoven, retired judge, Netherlands; Sjouke Kuipers, MOJ representative, Netherlands; Antoaneta Shkartova, USAID; Biljana Micevska-Josifovska, MOJ; Valentina Shaurek, MOJ; Ana Angelovska, translator, MCMP; during discussion in the MCMP conferenceroom.

Programs

the oral presentations.

The judges attending included: Zirap Limani Supreme Court; Violeta Duma, Zuca Naumova, Svetlana Trajcovska, and Jasminka Jovanov-Trajkovska from the Skopje Appellate Court; Peco Popovski, Bitola Appellate Court; Stojance Ribarev, Stip Appellate Court; Antoaneta Dimovska, Anita Boskovska from Basic Court Skopje I; Jani Nica, Vesna Strezovska, and Vesna Kalkovska, Basic Court Skopje 2; Nada Bajraktarova, Basic Court Strumica; Marica Avramceva, Basic Court Gevgelija; and Tatjana Susuleska, Basic Court Prilep.

Advanced Faculty Development. Dr. Patricia Murrell from the Leadership Institute in Judicial Education and Ms. Maggie Cimino, Supervising Education Specialist CJER/AOC Education Division of California provided two Advanced Faculty programs in May.

The individuals in this course had previously finished a program in Basic

Faculty Development. A greater emphasis is placed on the ability of the proposed faculty to understand and explain adult learning theory, to teach for the various types of learners, and to build a course using the Kolb Learning Circle. From this class and from Advanced Faculty classes in the future the Project will assist CCE to identify highly qualified individuals to serve as Faculty Development Specialists.

Individuals attending the first session included: Nikola Lazarov, MCMP; Gordana Labovska, Court Coordinator, Struga; Debora Krstevska, CCE; Emilija Paparova, Court Coordinator, Stip; Judge Nadica Markovska, Basic Court Kratovo; Judge Agim Miftari, Supreme Court; Judge Laze Gjorgovovski, Basic Court Struga; Lile Taleska, Public Prosecutor; Pavlina Jankulovska, Public Prosecutor; and Judge Vera Koco, Supreme Court.

Those who attended the second session included:

Tome Bozikov, Public Prosecutor, Strumica; Judge Ruska Paparova, Appellate Court Shtip; Judge Ranko Maksimovski, Supreme Court, Retired; Judge Violeta Duma, Appellate Court Skopje; Judge Dimitar Kovacevski, Appellate Court Shtip; Judge Trajce Puzderliski, Appellate Court Shtip; Judge Ljubinka Muratovska-Markova, Supreme Court, Retired; Judge Danica Risteva, Appellate Court Bitola.



Judge Zirap Limani, Supreme Court, implementing some newly learned skills.

Macedonia Judicial Administrative Conference

The Macedonia Judicial Administrative Conference (MJAC) was held from April 7-9 at the Holiday Inn in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. The Conference attracted an average of 140 individuals each day from different segments of the judicial branch to consider a variety of issues that affect the administration of justice in Macedonia.



Meri Mladenovska-Gjorgjievska, Minister of Justice, R. of Macedonia, (center), opening the Macedonia Judicial Administrative Conference.

All significant stakeholders including the Ministry of Justice, the Administrative Office, the Supreme Court, and the CCE/MJA took an active role in the MJAC.

On the opening day, President Dane Iliev of the Macedonian Supreme Court provided the keynote address entitled, "The Challenge of Change." The Minister of Justice, Meri Mladenovska-Gjorgjievska spoke on Friday. Her theme was "The National Strategy." Both speakers were well received and provided thought provoking insights that led to an enthusiastic dialogue among the attendees.

In an historic moment, the legislative and judicial branches engaged in a panel discussion entitled "Legislative-Judicial Relations: Developing an Effective Dialogue." Appearing from the judiciary were former Supreme Court Justice Fidanco Stoev, President Judge Angelco Videski of Prilep, and President Judge Nikola Spaseski of Struga.

Representatives from the Parliament included Mr. Zarko Karadzovski of the opposition party, VMRO-NP; Mr. Adnan Jasari of the Albanian Ruling Party, DUI; and Ms. Cvetanka Ivanovska of the ruling party, SDSM. The Moderator, Ms.

Zagorka Tnokovska, was masterful in her ability to balance the presentations from the various individuals.

Perhaps one of the most significant achievements of the Conference was the fact that 43 of the 49 presenters, panelists, and moderators were Macedonian with limited input from foreign nationals.

As a result of the success of MJAC, the Project will work with its partners to offer MJAC II in 2006.



Judges and distinguished guests follow the opening ceremony of the Macedonia Judicial Administrative Conference.

Milestone Reached

On June 16, 2005 Debora Krstevska and Atanas Georgievski made their 50th presentation while teaching "Court Security" at Ohrid Basic Court. Debora and Atanas have been a team for one year and are the most prolific teachers in the Macedonian legal system. They work for CCE and are sponsored by the joint grant from SOROS and DPK. They have provided education at eleven courts on four subjects including Caseload Management, Customer Service, Ethics, and Court Security. They will be teaching their fifth course, "Human Resources Development" starting this fall. They are also developing the first Regional Workshops which will include all courts in Macedonia. In September, they will expand their teaching to include five new courts. These are outstanding achievements.

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