



Macedonia Court Modernization Project



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In This Issue

- MCMP Launched!..... 1
- Legal Structure and Practices... 2
- What is a Pilot Court?..... 2
- Court Budget..... 3
- Other DPK Projects..... 4
- Project Team..... 4

To Our Readers

The team of the Macedonia Court Modernization Project (MCMP) is pleased to introduce the first edition of its periodical newsletter, which will allow the project to share with partners and the public the activities and achievements of the project, as well as programs for the future. We will also occasionally present articles from our staff and from local and international partners regarding important legal themes of general interest to our readers. The MCMP will be carrying out activities in Macedonia for at least three years and we look forward with great enthusiasm to working closely with all our counterparts and contributing to the process of modernization and improvement that is currently underway in the Macedonian judiciary.

How to Contact Us

The MCMP office is located in Skopje at 11 Oktomvri, No. 40, Third Floor. All are welcomed to stop by and meet the staff! If you would like information on the project or would like to be included in project activities, you can contact us at: ++389 (0)2 3215-095, or email us at: info@courtmodernization.com

Court Modernization Project Launched!

The Macedonia Court Modernization Project was recently launched as a new USAID funded project to focus on development of rule of law and strengthening the administrative capacity of the Macedonia judiciary. A full project team of national and international project staff was assembled onsite in February 2003 and began the process of initial start-up activities. The project approach and objectives specifically target the following practical results and outcomes:



Supreme Court building

- **Legal framework and implementing regulations established** to support the emergence of a strong, independent judicial branch with particular emphasis on the law on the court budget, civil and criminal procedure and judgment enforcement reform;
- **Court management improvements designed** through a model pilot court approach and supported by modern technology and new case management approaches to minimize delay and case backlogs;
- **Court facilities and operations upgraded** to reflect an emphasis upon improved public access to justice and modern court design and technologies;
- **Automated caseflow management systems enhanced** to assist the court system in maintaining information on case status, case tracking and court performance;
- **Administrative office or unified administrative structure of the courts strengthened** and functioning to support a unified Macedonia judiciary and independent court budget planning and management system;

- **Judicial Branch Training Programs strengthened** to provide judges and court personnel with a greater capacity to address jurisdictional, legal and administrative procedures and to ensure future development of court managers and leaders of the Macedonia judiciary;
- **Macedonia Center for Continuing Education (CCE) strengthened** and provided with increased capacity for responding to changing judicial and court management training demands.



Mr. William Davis, Principal and Co-Founder of DPK Consulting at the Public Discussion on the Draft Law on the Court Budget, presenting his comments about Key Questions Regarding the Independent Court Budget.

The MCMP looks forward to working with all of our Macedonian counterparts and to great mutual achievements!

Legal Structure and Practices

One of the main activities of the MCMP is to contribute to legislative reform and drafting effort in Macedonia. The project team has met with a number of government officials at the Ministry of Justice and with members of the



Mr. William Hallock, MCMP (left) and Mr. Agim Miftari, MJA (right)

Macedonian judiciary at the Supreme Court, the Appellate Courts and at Basic Courts throughout the country to discuss priority areas for legislative reform. There is general consensus that both the criminal procedure code and civil procedure code could be amended to reduce complexity and inefficiencies in the legal system.

Many have also mentioned the Law on the Enforcement of Civil Judgments as a priority area. Over the course of the project the MCMP will contribute its expertise and support to the legislative reform efforts for these pieces of legislation, as well as others that can favorably impact the operational efficiency of the courts. All legislative reform activi-

ties will be carried out in a manner that recognizes the importance of the continental legal system and Macedonia's efforts to make its legislation consistent with European Union standards. The MCMP has already contributed technical expertise regarding the Independent Court Budget legislation that is currently in the legislative process.



Representatives from the MJA, USAID, ABA/CEELI and the MCMP at a meeting held on 26 March 2003 at the offices of the MCMP.

What is a “Pilot Court”

What is a pilot court?

What exactly will a pilot court do?

How will this help the court modernization effort?

The USAID / Macedonia Court Modernization Project will introduce a court modernization strategy known as a “*Pilot Court Implementation*” that has been used successfully as a way to help strengthen court practices in other parts of the world. The pilot court approach selects a small number of courts and introduces “model” court improvements in three areas:

- **Improved case management and records management procedures;**
- **Upgraded court design and facility improvements;**
- **Enhanced use of automation and other court technologies to improve efficiency and quality of service to the public.**

Court improvements in the pilot courts are directed at achieving results. What that means is that all the efforts of training, resources and improvements are directed at improving the courts ability to provide better services to the public and to reduce case backlog and delay in resolving disputes. By focusing first on pilot courts, the new approaches can be tried out and then those that work can be replicated and used by other courts.

If you have questions or comments on any area related to court modernization in Macedonia or have informational or educational bulletins to share with the Macedonia Judicial community, you may send an email to the MCMP at info@courtmodernization.com



MCMP Adopts Logo

MCMP has adopted a logo for the project. It includes the scales of justice, symbolizing the judicial system of Macedonia, and contains the colors of the Macedonian flag.

We hope that it will become a symbol of change in the Macedonian judiciary.

Public Discussion On the Draft Law on the Court Budget



*Mr. Dragan Tumanovski
LL.M., Supreme Court
Justice*



*Mr. William Davis, Principal and
Co-Founder of DPK Consulting*



*Mr. Agim Miftari,
President of MJA*



*Mr. Ismail Darlista,
Minister of Justice*



*Mr. Simeon Gelevski
Ph.D., Chief Justice of
the Supreme Court*

The Macedonia Judges Association sponsored a roundtable seminar and public discussion on the draft Law on the Court Budget at the Macedonia Supreme Court on April 9, 2003.

The President of the Macedonia Judges Association, Mr. Agim Miftari, opened the event and welcoming remarks were made by Mr. Ismail Darlista, Ministry of Justice and by Mr. Simeon Gelevski, Ph.D., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

A keynote address by Mr. Dragan Tumanovski, LL.M., Supreme Court Justice entitled “The Elaboration of the Independent Court Budget” provided the philosophical and historical context for the Law on the Court Budget. William Davis, of DPK Consulting and the Macedonia Court Modernization Project, followed with an address on the “Key Questions Regarding the Independent Court Budget Legislation”. Following these comments, there was an open public discussion on the court budget.

Much appreciation is owed to the Macedonia Judges Association and the Center for Continuing Education (CCE) for organizing this exceptional forum for the exchange of views on strengthening the independence of the Macedonia Judiciary. Technical assistance and support was provided by ABA/CEELI and the Macedonia Court Modernization Project with funding from USAID.

A copy of the most recent version of the draft Law on the Court Budget and related materials on the independent court budget is available through: Natasha Kostadinovska, Macedonia Court Modernization Project, 11 Oktomvri, No. 40, 3rd floor, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia or by calling the MCMP at (02) 3215-095.



Judges and representatives from the Courts in Macedonia at the public discussion on the Draft Law on the Court Budget.



From left to right: Ms. Filimena Manevska, Appellate Court Skopje, Ms. Liljana Shopova, Basic Court Skopje 1, Ms. Vera Terzieva-Trojachanec, retired judge, and Ms. Branka Atanasovska, Appellate Court Skopje.



Distinguished national and international justice leaders at the public discussion on the Draft Law on the Court Budget.

Other DPK Projects

Bulgaria:

Open Government Initiative

El Salvador:

Assistance in the Institutionalization of the Penal and Penal Procedure Code

Honduras:

Administration of Justice Project

West Bank and Gaza:

Modernization of Administrative Office of the Courts

Guatemala:

Transition to the New Criminal Justice System

Bangladesh:

Legal and Judicial Capacity Building Project

Ecuador:

Modernization of Civil & Criminal Trial Courts

Pakistan:

Judicial and Legal Reform Project

Kosovo:

Court Administration Project (recently completed)

Project Team

The strongest asset of the MCMP is the project team. The list of core team members and their titles is included below.

1. William Hallock, Chief of Party
2. Richard Callanan, Court Administration and Management Advisor
3. Judge Ernest Borunda, Legal Training Advisor
4. Nevenka Ivanovska, Legal Coordinator
5. Petar Curciev, Information Technology Specialist
6. Nikola Lazarov, Judicial Training and Legislative Coordinator
7. Toni Gligorovski, Project Finance and Administrative Manager
8. Natasha Kostadinovska, Administrative Assistant
9. Toni Velkov, Technical Assistant
10. Aleksandar Pavlovski, Logistical Coordinator



From left to right: Natasha Kostadinovska, Aleksandar Pavlovski, Rick Callanan, Nevenka Ivanovska, William Hallock, Grace Brown, Vice President of Operations at DPK in San Francisco, Robert Page, Principal and Co-Founder of DPK Consulting, Nikola Lazarov, Toni Gligorovski, Petar Curciev, Toni Velkov, and Judge Ernest Borunda



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