

**Quarterly Task Order Progress Report
Continuation of the Europe and Eurasia
Regional Networking and
Innovative Practices Project – Phase III
LOGIN –
Local Government Information Network**

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Continuation of the Europe and Eurasia Regional Networking and Innovative Practices Project – Phase III

USAID Quarterly Report 3

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Introduction

ICMA began building the Local Government Information Network in 1999. Five donor organizations currently form the LOGIN Steering Committee, which makes key policy decisions on the project. The Steering Committee also established and supports an administrative structure for the project including staffing for project development and management. The donors include the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank Institute, the Open Society Institute (OSI), and its Local Government Institute (LGI) component, the Council of Europe, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

LOGIN's mission is to create a knowledge- and experience-based information network for local government in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union. One of the primary objectives is to improve the capacity and professionalism of local government through the exchange of information and experience and through the coordination of activities for reform. This mission and objective closely parallel ICMA's own mission statement: "to enhance the quality of local government and to support and assist professional local administrators in the United States and other countries."

Major Accomplishments

During this quarter, the major accomplishments for the LOGIN have been:

- Provided ongoing support for the following new features / modules on the LOGIN system for use by all national partner / anchor sites:
 - ~ Combined List serve / message board
 - ~ E-Newsletter creation tool
 - ~ Advanced search function
 - ~ Web site traffic monitoring
 - ~ WYSIWYG Editor (ability to modify text for Web layout; i.e. bold, italic, headings, and other highlights)
 - ~ Usage reports (Web Trends™) for LOGIN components of individual national partner / anchor sites and the 'About LOGIN' site at <http://logincee.org>
- Continued initial steps toward integration of Romanian and Macedonian national partner / anchor sites
- Continued to pursue integration of Council of Europe database into the LOGIN online library
- Provided ongoing technical support and troubleshooting for all of the national partner / anchor sites
- Provided ongoing support and advice to national partner / anchors regarding marketing of the LOGIN information network to a target audience of local government officials
- Implemented modified administrative interface for improved functionality and user friendliness for national partners using the system

Challenges/Remedial Actions Taken

There have been no significant challenges to the project during this quarter.

Projected Activities

During the next quarter, project activities will focus on:

- Complete integration of Romanian national partner / anchor site.
- Complete integration of Macedonian national partner / anchor site.
- Complete integration of Council of Europe database
- Coordinate training session for overview of new administrative interface and to bring new national partners / anchor sites into the LOGIN team
- Begin programming for an online survey tool for use by national partner / anchor sites.
- Discuss in detail and begin design, programming, and implementation of a distance learning tool for the LOGIN system
- Modify the “Other Web sites” module to include categories
- Create a LOGIN Sponsors area that would support advertising and promotion opportunities.
- Modify the “Calendar” and “News modules” to allow for attachments.