



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ACTIVITY BRIEF

Balkan Trust for Democracy

USAID
Regional Services Center



Voter registration booth in Zagreb, Croatia is part of Gong's civic education

Partners:

The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Geographic Targets:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro

Project Duration:

2002-2012

Contact Information:

Heather Goldman, CTO
Ivan Vejvoda, Executive Director of Balkan Trust for Democracy

U.S. Agency for International Development

Activity Background

The Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD) is a ten-year grant-making initiative to support good governance in Southeastern Europe. BTD's beneficiaries are civic groups, indigenous NGOs, local and regional governments, educational institutions, and media outlets that are promoting democracy and good governance throughout the region.

BTD, based in Belgrade, was created through founding contributions from USAID, Charles S. Mott Foundation, and German Marshall Fund. The Trust is growing with new contributions from the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade, the Greek government, the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation and the Swedish Development Agency.

Core Interventions

- (1) Giving grants to local and national organizations working to improve citizen engagement with government, monitoring of government performance, and improving citizen understanding of their rights and responsibilities;
- (2) Supporting sub-national and trans-Balkan collaboration among governments, NGOs, civic initiatives, and other institutions working to improve understanding and cooperation throughout the region;
- (3) Strengthening democratic political institutions in individual countries;
- (4) Advancing cross-border cooperation in the region to promote the region-wide political, social, and economic development necessary to ensure long-term stability for Southeastern Europe.

Activity Results

- (1) BTD increased its grant making capabilities by 48% due to new donors
- (2) In 2005, the BTD made 96 grants totaling \$3,064,382 (51 grants totaling \$1,347,688 were fully funded by USAID)
- (3) BTD is engaged in important policy-related work (advising the International Commission on the Balkans, U.S. Congress hearing)

Breakdown of grants:

