



USAID | BULGARIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Legacy Mechanisms for the Future

USAID is establishing two funding mechanisms to help ensure that important but still fragile reforms and organizations receive support after USAID closes its program. The main mechanism will be the America for Bulgaria Foundation. The Foundation will provide funding to business groups and NGOs to help ensure Bulgaria's continued transition and progress. To meet immediate needs until the Foundation is operational, USAID with the German Marshall Fund established a Bulgaria Fund for grants to NGOs working in designated reform areas.

America for Bulgaria Foundation

The America for Bulgaria Foundation will utilize the significant resources (estimated at \$200 million) to be generated from the liquidation of Bulgarian-American Enterprise Fund assets. The Foundation will aim to make a major contribution to Bulgaria's continued transition and progress, serve as an important continuation of the Fund's accomplishments to date, and represent an enduring legacy and symbol of U.S. commitment to an important ally. The Foundation is expected to become operational in 2008. Due to the substantial resources that will be channeled to the new entity, projections are that it will continue to function in perpetuity. The priority areas of the Foundation are:

- Private sector development, entrepreneurship and business education
- Leadership and private sector philanthropy development
- Support for NGOs
- Support for key competitive business sectors, such as tourism and IT.

Bulgaria Fund

The Bulgaria Fund will give targeted grants of approximately \$25,000 each to NGOs. USAID will provide approximately \$3 million to the German Marshall Fund to establish the Bulgaria Fund. The two goals of the Bulgaria Fund are:

- To continue the USAID reform agenda in specified program areas where reforms are ongoing and incomplete; and
- To help ensure the sustainability of local USAID partner organizations that will continue working towards the completion of important reforms.

Beginning of funding: Late 2007

End of funding: September 2010

Priority support areas:

- Good governance, transparency and accountability in the legislative, executive, and judiciary on national and local level
- Support for disadvantaged groups
- Employment, education and competitiveness

Who is eligible to apply: Bulgarian NGOs

Total level of funding: up to USD 3 million

Average funding per project: up to USD 25,000

Number of grants: about 40 per year