



in cooperation with



BiH Youth, Let's Make Our Future! November 7-12, 2005



Summary Report

I. OBJECTIVES OVERVIEW

To commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords, the U.S. Government, CIDA, and the World Bank hosted a series of activities in the period November 7-12, 2005 entitled, “BiH Youth, Let’s Make Our Future.” The events were intended to encourage young people to take the lead through entrepreneurship in creating a brighter future for themselves and for BiH.

The conference and related events, sponsored by USAID, were designed to give young Bosnians and Herzegovinans a sense of the practical skills needed to find a job, get an internship, start an NGO, or open their own business. USAID wanted to help them to create work opportunities for themselves in an effort to change their lives and their country for the better.

The events “BiH Youth, Let’s Make Our Future!” were the first in what USAID plans to be continued steps that the U.S. Government will take to support youth employment and entrepreneurship in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

II. CONFERENCE AND PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

A. ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXHIBITION & NIGHTLY DISCUSSIONS SARAJEVO, NOVEMBER 7-12, 2005

The results of BiH youth entrepreneurship from the Dayton Accords to the present were on display through interactive booths, fliers, short films, poster-boards, PowerPoint and live presentations during daily exhibits and scheduled nightly discussions.

Daily Exhibits included: 42 booths of youth NGOs, banks, MCOs, employment agencies and leading American international companies; a One-Stop-Shop where young entrepreneurs could register for meetings with a team of business and legal experts and successful entrepreneurs that would advise them on the start-up and running of their business; a Timeline was created and

installed that documented the milestones of BiH development and the achievements of youth from 1995 to 2005.

Nightly discussions were held on differing themes of youth entrepreneurship and NGO advocacy. Live presentations included speeches, Powerpoints, films, and interactive discussions with different organizations and private companies represented in the exhibition.

B. CONFERENCE AVENUE ANIMATION

The “conference avenue,” the geographic area between the Bosnian Cultural Center and the Economic Faculty in Sarajevo, was designed as a week-long animation to draw attention and attendance to the “BiH Youth, Let’s Make Our Future!” events. To “animate” the avenue, young people were hired to create a wide variety of public attractions and displays promoting the message “BiH Youth, Let’s Make Our Future!” through drama, art, costumes, music, and dialogue. Youth interacted during the day with passersby, and also designed and distributed advertisements for the events. These advertisements appeared on city lights, flyers, posters and banners throughout Sarajevo Canton and East Sarajevo.



C. YOUTH CONFERENCE “BIH YOUTH, LET’S MAKE OUR FUTURE”, SARAJEVO, NOVEMBER 12, 2005



The conference was attended by 539 young entrepreneurs, advocates, political leaders, and journalists from every corner of diverse BiH – from Stolac to Velika Kladuša; Zvornik to Ljubuški; Tuzla to Mostar; and Banja Luka to Sarajevo. Relevant government, academic and business leaders also attended as participants. Fifty three panelists spoke in the conference sessions, including successful entrepreneurs, professors, government representatives, civil society leaders, journalists and foreign experts.

Those giving inspirational talks at the conference included the U.S. Ambassador, an American music legend Mary Wilson, USAID/Bosnia Mission Director, Canadian Ambassador, and a Representative of Microsoft BiH.

The conference functioned as a day-long workshop, including inspirational speeches, a town-hall session and eight interactive panel discussions in which participants met local entrepreneurs and experts who offered their success stories and advice. The topics that were covered throughout the day included:

- Academic Approach to Entrepreneurship
- Youth Employment Policy
- From My Idea to My Own Business: How to Start a Business
- Engagement of the World Bank in the Reform of Higher Education in BiH
- NGO Entrepreneurship

- Traditional and Non-Traditional SMEs
- Marketing
- Career Development and the Job Market – Education and Training Programs

D. SMALL PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY YOUTH MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE ADVISORY GROUP

Projects Completed:

1) “It is Possible” One Stop Shop, November 7-11, 2005

Established by ACIPS (Association Alumni of the Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies), a consulting team was created, consisting of administrative experts, business people, lawyers, academics with theoretical and practical knowledge in regards to starting and running a business, and/or developing careers inside big companies. Through this project, ACIPS offered free advice and an open dialogue between youth and numerous practitioners and experts in entrepreneurship and addressed challenges and opportunities in registering, developing and managing successful, sustainable businesses. An Info Kit about how to register a small business was distributed to participants.

Projects Ongoing:

2) **The Conference Van** took a team of youth through 15 cities in BiH in 14 days, between mid December 2005 and the end of March 2006 to create a direct link between the conference “entrepreneurship” theme and the grassroots level. The van was driven by the Youth Information Agency (OIA), and its members organized events where they discussed issues like youth entrepreneurship, employment opportunities and improving employment policies aimed at youth. In total, it reached over 600 stakeholders from 85 different BiH municipalities. Short, forty 5-minute films were created to document the project. These films are broadcast on BHT1.

3) **TV series, “Promoting Entrepreneur Leadership with the Youth”** is being created by the youth organization “LUNA, Rudo” and will be screened on the OBN station in June 2006. A jury representing successful private companies and business banks will select the best entrepreneurial leaders in BiH between 18-35 years, based on the business plans they submit. The final selection of a winner will be announced at the Award Ceremony and broadcast on TV.

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2. *Zijada Kurtodža*, Zenica, creator of the conference logo;
3. *Faruk Šabanović*, BiH youth representative;
4. *Economic Faculty*, Sarajevo;
5. *BKC – Bosnian Cultural Center*, Sarajevo;
6. *Microsoft BiH*;
7. *McCann Erickson*, Marketing Agency, Sarajevo;
8. *NGOs, banks, MCOs, employment agencies and leading American international companies*;
9. *Speakers and Panelists* at the conference (Prof. dr. Lamija Tanović, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Sarajevo; Miralem Šarić, BiH Agency for Employment and Work, Sarajevo; Zlatko Hurtić, BiH Council of Ministries, EPPU – Economic Policy Planning Unit, Sarajevo; Selma Kadić, OIA - Youth Information Agency, Sarajevo; Safet Babić, EKO-EEPPROM, Bugojno; Predrag Milošević, Herzegmed d.o.o., Trebinje; Amra Abadžić, Government of Brčko District; Žiga Vaupot, ORACLE SEE; Bojan Bajić, NGO LUNA, Rudo; Taida Begić, CIPS - Center for Postgraduate interdisciplinary studies, Sarajevo; Edib Ahmetpahić, SGSB – Sarajevo Graduate School of Business, Sarajevo; Azra Pašić, Economic Faculty Student Council, Sarajevo; Dino Mujkic, WUS – World University Service Austria, Sarajevo; Suada Numić, Ministry of Education and Science FBiH, Mostar; Jugoslav Vuk Tepić, Ministry of Education and Culture RS, Banja Luka; Ranko Savanović, Ministry of Education and Culture RS, Banja Luka; Nebojša Kuruzović, OSRS – Youth Council of RS, Banja Luka; Bojana Trninić, hCa – Helsinki Citizens’ Parliament, Banja Luka; Omer Korjenić, FBiH Employment Bureau, Sarajevo; Chris Miller, USAID PRO Project/Urban Institute, Sarajevo; Dino Đipa, CEPOS - Center for Policy Studies, Sarajevo; Verica Krajnović, Economic Institute, Banja Luka; Vedrana Ajanović, BIT – Business Innovation and Technology Center, Tuzla; Boris Maslo, USAID/SPIRA, Sarajevo; Edin Hodžić, LEKO Group, Sarajevo; Mustafa Lelić, CPCOS - Center for Youth Development Support, Zenica; Prof. dr. Aziz Šunje, Economic Faculty and SGSB, Sarajevo; Miralem Turšinović, hCa – Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly, Tuzla; Bojan Bajić, NGO LUNA, Rudo; Milena Savić, CIPP – Center for Information and Legal Assistance, Zvornik; Zehra Kačapor, UNICEF, Sarajevo; Demir Imamović, ALDI, Goražde; Agnesa Šećerkadić, SOROS, Sarajevo; Goran Đurović, NEVEN, Rudo; Nada Bokšić, Bokšić, Čitluk; Samir Medanhodžić, PHARMAMED, Travnik; Bojan Hadžihalilović, Fabrika d.o.o. , Sarajevo; Meri Musa, Youth Cultural Center “Abrašević”, Mostar; Lejla Radončić, UHD Bosanske rukotvorine, Tuzla; Zlatko Berbić, Radio Kameleon, Tuzla; Dragan Močević, PRIME COMMUNICATION, Banja Luka; Elma Pašić, GFK, Sarajevo; Senad Zaimović, Fabrika, Sarajevo; Aleksandar Vukmirović, PLANTAGO, Banja Luka; Almir Peštek, Faculty of Economics, Sarajevo; Miroslav Vukajlović, SPEKTAR Employment Agency, Banja Luka; Edo Mehić, Development Studio d.o.o., Sarajevo; Susanne Prahlandžo, NGO Via Kult, Sarajevo; *World Bank panelists*: Srdjan Arnaut, BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communication, Sarajevo; Prof. dr. Nikola Kovač - Rectorate of Sarajevo University; Prof. dr. Franjo Ljubić - Rectorate of Mostar University; Prof. dr. Izudin Kapetanović - Rectorate of Tuzla University; Bojan Klačar - University of Pale; Boško Rističević - University of Eastern Sarajevo).