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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FORECAST 
Focus on Results: Enhancing Capacity
Across Sectors in Transition

**WORLD LEARNING
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT:
October 2009-March 2010**

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Strategic Objective 4.1 (Cross-Cutting)

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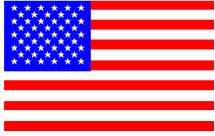
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DISCLAIMER

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



I. Washington, D.C.

A. Travel

Several monitoring visits by World Learning staff were made to 15 FORECAST Exchange students from Serbia and Montenegro at their universities throughout the period:

- October 5-6, Program Associate Amy Fisher, University of Alabama-Huntsville
- October 7-8, Program Associate Claudia Liddle, University of Mississippi
- October 22-23, Claudia Liddle, University of Missouri
- November 10-11, Program Officer Tom Bruey, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- November 16-17, Tom Bruey, North Dakota State
- November 30-December 1, Claudia Liddle, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- March 1-3, Tom Bruey, Grand Valley State University

In addition, staff made visits to universities that will host FORECAST Exchange students in 2011-2012:

- November 12-13, Tom Bruey, St. Cloud State University
- December 1-2, Claudia Liddle, University of Minnesota

B. Meetings, Conferences, and Presentations

- December 8, staff met with Sandra McCormick from World Affairs Council in La Crosse, Wisconsin
- December 9, staff met with Elizabeth Balint from WSOS Community Action Commission
- January 20, 2010 Eric Corens met with International Council of Central Florida
- February 10, staff attended the National Center for International Visitors conference in Washington, DC

C. Solution Provider Outreach

- The Resource Center coordinated visits to the FORECAST office from fourteen training providers. The meetings focused on institutions' academic majors and programs including English language training, international student services, international communities on and off-campus, experience America activities, issues with international students, training capabilities, proposal writing guidance, and issues of training program management. Visits were made by the following institutions: University of Arkansas; University of Tennessee-Knoxville; University of Utah; Illinois State University-Management Development International; Cleveland State University; World Service of LaCrosse; WSOS Community Action Commission; Augustana College; Duke University Center for International Development; University of Arizona; San Francisco State University; Montana State University; California State University, Dominguez Hills; University of Michigan, Dearborn.

Field Offices

II. FORECAST/Albania

For information regarding the most recent training/HICD activities for participants from Albania please refer to the status chart in the Appendix.

Success Stories

Please see the Appendix for full details on the following Success Stories:

- **Southeastern Albanian Town Succeeds in Providing Jobs for Youth**

In an effort to address high unemployment rates among Albania's younger generation, World Learning trained 45 youth in the city of Korca in important entrepreneurship and job seeking skills. The project specifically targeted Albania's minority Roma and Egyptian communities, whose youth are more likely to be affected by unemployment and job loss. With the help of World Learning, its funder USAID, and its partners –local NGOs, and the municipality in Korca – 26 individuals under the age of 30 either found jobs in Korca or received microloans to start their own small businesses, including a coffee shop, construction services, and an internet café.

- **Information Technology Expands University's Window to the World**

World Learning helped the Agricultural University of Tirana in Albania to modernize its computer and network infrastructure, enabling internet access for more than 9,000 university students on campus. Recent grant money from USAID went to the purchase and installment of optical fiber, server equipment, and other Information Technology tools. As a result, the quality of education has improved at the Agricultural University of Tirana, whose students can now go online to access assignments, grades, and other information through the university's web portal.

Media Coverage

- News of the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) competition in Berlin October 3-4 and the Albanian team's reaching the semi-final round was printed in several newspapers.
- Major television channels and some newspapers covered the Agribusiness Fair held October 9-10 in Korca.
- News of the launching of the Inter-Religious Council in Albania was broadcast on all the major TV channels and printed in all major newspapers. The event was funded through a USAID small grant.

- News of the Women's Empowerment Conference held October 28, 2009 was broadcast on all major TV channels and printed in some major newspapers.
- Broadcasts of a USAID supported event organized by ACIT on January 21 to report and discuss Albania's standing in the 2009 Competitiveness Report was carried by TV scan, the Albanian Telegraph Agency and the Albanian Daily News

Third Country Training

- Nine Albanian members of the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Albania team attended the SIFE World Cup competition in Berlin October 2-9 where they managed to reach the semi-final round.

In-Country Training and Technical Assistance

- Implementation of a large in-country Women's Empowerment Project completed phase I, the holding of a large, national high-level conference in Tirana October 28. Over 250 participants heard keynote talks by Albanian President Bamir Topi as well as Mission Director Roberta Mahoney, Deputy Minister of Integration Jorida Tabaku and others. Recommendations emerging from the afternoon workshops will be transmitted to decision-makers. Also as part of the Women's Empowerment Project, six documentaries were broadcast on national public television.
- A call for proposals was launched for small scale projects for phase II of the Women's Empowerment Project. Thirty proposals were reviewed and the results submitted to the Mission. As a result of the procurement, six small scale projects were awarded for implementation February – July 2010.
 - a) Edu-Pro to conduct vocational training for 30 victims of domestic violence in Pogradec
 - b) Development, Information and Gender Equality (DIGE) to train 120 girls and employ 30-40
 - c) Institute for Democracy & Mediation (IDM) to train/nurture 25 women in Rreshen to take leadership and influence the budget become candidates for the 2011 local elections
 - d) Regional Development Agency – Fier (RDA-Fier) to train/nurture 50 women in the Fier region to take leadership roles and become candidates for the 2011 local elections
 - e) Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC) to train 12 trainers to train 120 women in gender empowerment in Shkoder, Vlore, Berat and Rreshen, 10% to be employed
 - f) Progress of Mountain Women – Puka (Progress-Puka) to train 15 women in the area of Fushe Arrez to assume leadership to become candidates for the 2011 local elections
- Implementation continued for a religious harmony publication with final editing to omit any mention of a 2005/6 survey and printing of 1800 copies.
- Preparations continued for a two week course in Legal Writing at the School of Magistrates.

- Preparations continued for a Primary Immunodeficiency Disorder Conference to be organized by the Albanian Association of Pediatricians in April 2010.
- Implementation began for a project to raise awareness and profile positive role models among the Roma by producing four documentaries and organizing three roundtables.
- Preliminary discussions began regarding a high level workshop on Rural Finance.
- Preparations began regarding a two day workshop on Agricultural Technology Transfer.
- Preparations began for ACIT's 2009 Albanian Trade Report and workshop.

Small Grants and Other Follow-On Activities

- A grant to support the launching of the Inter-Religious Council in Albania began and completed implementation.
- A grant to support an Agricultural Fair in Korca began and completed implementation
- A grant to support the efforts of the disabilities and development coalition completed implementation.
- A grant to support an anti-trafficking organization to work with women and girls traversing the border with Greece to reduce the risk of being trafficked continued implementation.
- A grant to improve mother and child health in rural communities of Elbasan began implementation and was completed.
- A grant to train social workers in Tirana and Fushe Kruje to request protection orders for victims of domestic violence began implementation.
- A grant to research and report on Albania's standing in the 2009 Competitiveness Report was awarded and implemented by ACIT with an event on Jan 21, 2010.
- A grant to support the work of the anti-trafficking shelter in Vlore, VATRA, completed implementation.
- A grant to train disabled youth in Elbasan was awarded to MEDPAK and began implementation.
- A grant to train teachers, school doctors and children regarding appropriate posture completed implementation.
- A grant was awarded to provide the city of Fier with 20 dumpsters and 1300 cloth bags to celebrate Earth Day.

Noteworthy Events

- The Mission HICD and Training Plan for FY 2010 was approved in December and was in revision to add a Roma project, among other things, in January.

- February 19, Mission Director Joe Williams visited a FORECAST grantee to observe the training of mothers to improve mother & child health in a rural area outside of Elbasan. World Learning Program Officer Jugera Ibrahimimi attended.
- February 26, WL Program Officer Jugera Ibrahimimi monitored a training program on gender issues conducted by Development, Information and Gender Equality (DIGE) in Shkoder.
- March 18, Program Officer Jugera Ibrahimimi monitored a workshop in Pogradec for victims of domestic violence identified to benefit from vocational training.

Cost-Saving Measures

- \$33,486 was saved in VAT reimbursements from program expenses and \$233 was recovered in VAT from office expenses.

Total Cost Savings.....\$33,719

III. FORECAST/Kosovo

For information regarding the most recent training/HICD activities for participants from Kosovo please refer to the status chart in the Appendix.

Success Stories

Please see the Appendix for full details on the following Success Stories:

- Four New Minority Scholarships Begin at American University of Kosovo
After a rigorous selection process, World Learning awarded scholarships to four new undergraduate students to study at the American University of Kosovo (AUK), bringing the total number of scholarships to 12. Funded by the USAID FORECAST program, the scholarship initiative seeks to bridge the gap in educational opportunities between Kosovo's majority Albanian population and its minority communities by awarding academic scholarships to Serbs, Bosniaks, Turks, and other ethnic minorities. The students, who are working towards an internationally recognized degree, report positive and enriching experiences since the start of the school year in September.
- USAID Scholar Is 2010 Valedictorian at American University of Kosovo
Slavisa Mladenovic, an undergraduate student who received a full scholarship from USAID to attend the American University of Kosovo (AUK), has been selected valedictorian of this year's

graduating class. Funded by the USAID FORECAST program, the scholarship initiative seeks to bridge the gap in educational opportunities between Kosovo's majority Albanian population and its minority communities by awarding academic scholarships to Serbs, Bosniaks, Turks, and other ethnic minorities. Slavisa, a Kosovo Serb, has a nearly perfect GPA and plans to use his "first-class American-style education" towards a management role in community development or social issues.

Third Country Training

- Three participants took part in the International Workshop on Water and Health – A European Perspective in Koblenz, Germany, December 8-9, which aimed to present current water and health issues in Europe and also to identify policy needs based on scientific analysis of the status quo. By participating in the workshop and establishing contact and cooperation with international experts and organizations in the field of water and health impact, participants will be able to contribute more fully to future improvements in the water sector in Kosovo.
- A study tour in Models of University Digitalization to Zagreb, Croatia and Berlin, Germany took place December 13–18 in support of the University of Prishtina's (UP) digitalization initiative, a large FORECAST technical assistance project. The goal of the study visit was for University of Prishtina personnel to learn from the experience of other universities that have recently incorporated similar software into their systems and business processes, with implementation support from the same suppliers that will be working in Kosovo, so that the UP team is better prepared to manage and contribute to the complex process of implementation at UP between now and early 2011.
- Nine participants from the Kosovo tourism sector participated in International Expectations of Local Tourism, March 3-15, in Bulgaria and Austria. The study tour provided examples and insights from Bulgaria and Austria to inspire and inform competitive alternative tourism products in Kosovo.
- TV Station Network Model training took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina March 14-18 for 4 participants from 4 Kosovo minority TV stations in order for them to learn about the use of technology and management related to effective networks, as a Serb-language network was recently established in Kosovo.
- Legal Aspects of Media Regulation training took place March 21–25 in Croatia with representatives from the Kosovo Independent Media Commission. The goal of the training was to enhance the capacity of IMC.

- Five University of Prishtina law students and their coach attended the 17th International Moot Court Competition in Vienna, Austria, March 24-April 2.
- Eleven representatives of municipal administrations across Kosovo traveled to Croatia March 21-28 for training in municipal roles in Urban Spatial Planning.

HICD and Other Activities

- Excellence in Public Service Master's Scholarship for Public Servants
Classes accommodating a total of 47 students for the USAID master's scholarship program at American University in Kosovo are ongoing in two overlapping cohorts.

On November 12, a TOEFL test for candidates interested in upcoming cohorts took place at AUK. The successful candidates will be part of Cohort 3 or 4 for the Master's scholarship program at American University in Kosovo. The selection process is ongoing.

On December 16, an orientation session with the 21 students in Cohort 3 took place for the Master's scholarship program at AUK. Classes started in January. Currently there are 68 participants enrolled in the program in 3 cohorts.

- Performance Improvement & Digitalization Project at University of Prishtina
WL met with representatives of the selected supplier for this project, the Croatia-based b4b, on October 6, to negotiate contract details. USAID and WL met with the new senior university administration on October 16 to bring them up to date on the project and secure their renewed commitment. On October 27 the b4b team returned to Kosovo for an initial project planning meeting with senior university officials and a university project manager was identified.

On November 20 representatives of the selected supplier gave a presentation on the project at the University of Prishtina for University management, a few deans and staff, USAID, and guests. In addition, work began on preparation of a study visit to Croatia and Germany for the University of Prishtina representatives (scheduled for December 2009), in which participants will learn about the experience of other universities in implementing similar digitalization projects.

- Community Service through Extracurricular Activity Program
During October computer and English language clubs started at all 14 selected sites (13 high schools and a community center, 7 Kosovo Albanian and 7 Kosovo Serb). This will be the final academic year of the project. November through March, the computer and English language clubs continued in all 14 selected Kosovo high schools. The classes are organized twice a week for 2 groups for each club.

- Minority Scholarship Program
The USAID Minority Scholarship Program at the American University in Kosovo for undergraduate studies currently supports 12 students that are attending regular classes at AUK.
- Future Voters of Kosovo Program
The US State Department is funding a pilot civics initiative focused on engaging young people in the electoral process. The initiative is being led by the Kosovo organization KIPRED (Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development). In October, FORECAST supported this initiative through the provision of 5 sets laptops and multimedia projectors that will contribute to the initiative's success.

Noteworthy Events

- October 8, Country Director Matt Brown participated in a workforce development coordination discussion organized by the Swiss Embassy with the USAID Kosovo Private Enterprise Project.
- October 16, Matt Brown participated in a meeting of USAID partners with the new US Ambassador on the topic of USAID's strategic directions.
- October 30, Matt Brown met with the Croatian and Bulgarian Consuls to discuss possible expedited approaches to visas for potential training groups to those countries.
- During November, the FY 2010 PTP Training Plan was approved for 22 programs to take place during 2009 and 2010. WL met with numerous USAID partners and USAID personnel to begin developing training and studies tours that support their activities.
- November 5–7, WL staff Matt Brown, Mehrije Nagavci, Aferdita Mekuli, Melita Cacaj and Fatmir Salihu took part in a workshop and conference in Galway, Ireland organized by the Europe division of the International Society for Performance Improvement.
- WL staff met with numerous USAID implementing partners this month to begin development of 20+ new training programs recently approved as concepts in the FY2010 Training Plan.
- December 4, Matt Brown participated in a USAID economic development partners meeting chaired by the USAID Initiating Positive Change Program (AED).
- January 15, Matt Brown attended an International Law Day program organized by USAID's rule-of-law initiative.

- January 19, Matt Brown and WL Deputy Director Aferdita Mekuli participated in an implementers' discussion at USAID regarding USAID's 2010-2014 strategy.
- February 19, several WL staff attended the launch of "TV MREZA," a new USAID-funded Serbian-language TV network, in the village of Shilovo. World Learning will support member stations with a TCT in April.
- March 15 and 16, Matt Brown participated in a USAID Economic Growth conference.

Cost Saving Measures

- \$220 was saved by translating program-related documents in-house and not through outsourcing.

Total Cost Savings.....\$220

IV. FORECAST/Serbia and Montenegro

Success Stories

Please see the Appendix for full details on the following Success Stories:

- Students Organize Fair to Connect Youth With Companies
 Since high unemployment is one of the key challenges facing Serbia's youth, World Learning partnered with USAID and the US Embassy in Belgrade to sponsor a major job fair, known as the Fair of Business Opportunities and Professional Internships. Novi Sad University student and FORECAST alum Bojan Trobok played an integral role in organizing the event. With nearly double the number of participants and sponsors from last year, this year's fair helped 150 university students to find work with major companies or government institutions, including NIS Novi Sad, Delta Generali, and Microsoft.

Staffing

- Nadja Mirkovic, Program Coordinator for PTP left on sick leave related to pregnancy at her doctor's order on October 31 and Duska Stanisic, Program Assistant replaced her.

- Milena Otasevic, former FORECAST alumna, began work as Program Assistant on November 30, replacing Duska Stanistic. Sonja Dragovic, a FORECAST alumni, was hired as a consultant, to assist with receiving applications at the American Corner in Podgorica.

Media Coverage

- Throughout November, FORECAST Exchange received coverage on TV, radio, and print media in Montenegro, as well as on Facebook and YouTube, University of Belgrade Student Television. Coverage was extended by all media forms at the Media Center in Nis, at the American Corner in Nis, at the American Corner in Kraguevac, in the Hungarian press Magyarso in Vojvodina, and at the International University of Novi Pazar in Novi Pazar.
- In December, B92 TV provided coverage of the FORECAST Exchange Program from FE alumnus Stefan Goranovic (a taped interview from an American Corner presentation with staff and alumni). An article on FORECAST Exchange also appeared in the publication *Blitz*, which has the largest circulation of any daily in Serbia. Sumadija Press, an online portal, provided news about FORECAST Exchange alumnae, Dragana Ristic and Milena Otasevic.
- Press covered Bojan Trobok, FE alumnus 2008-2009 at opening of a Job Fair with US Ambassador Mary Warlick on March 17 in Novi Sad. He received a State Department alumni grant (for him and his group) to help organize and conduct this event.

FORECAST Exchange

- October 16-18, Elizabeth Chung conducted the GRE and Graduate School Planning Workshop for six FORECAST Exchange alumni in Montenegro, financed by a small grant from the Public Affairs Department for alumni. WL Program Manager Snezana Mijatovic assisted her.
- Recruitment activities in Montenegro and Serbia took place throughout October-December. Many of the recruitment meetings included program alumni and media coverage and whenever possible, WL staff engaged university faculty in discussions regarding transfer and acceptance of university credit for returning exchange students. A summary of the institutions visited follows:
 - University of Montenegro Rectorate, Faculty of Political Sciences, Faculty of Economy and the Faculty of Philology in Niksic; the University of Dona Gorica in Podgorica; the Mediterranean University at various faculties; American Corner.

- University of Novi Sad; American Corner in Novi Sad to recruit for FORECAST Exchange with alumni.
 - University of Belgrade, Vice-Rector, University Rectorate, Faculty of Political Science, Faculty of Mathematics.
 - University of Nis, Acting Rector, Career Center; Nis Media Center; American Corner Nis.
 - University of Novi Pazar, American Corner
 - American Corner in Subotica, presentation for Hungarian print media in Vojvodina.
 - University of Kraguevac, Vice–Rector, Career Center; American Corner.
 - Philology Faculty, Organizational Sciences Faculty, National Democratic Institute, Singidunum University, American Corner.
- January 19-22, Snezana Mijatovic and Mary Fran Doyle traveled to Montenegro to administer the ALIGU test to Montenegrin FE Exchange semi-finalists and to facilitate the selection process. Out of 29 eligible students who applied and were interviewed by the two Selection Committees, 13 finalists and 6 alternates were chosen by the two Selection Committees. Subsequently they were approved by the PAO Alexander Titolo and by the CTO Ethel Brooks. They were enrolled in the paper-based TOEFL to be administered this year in Montenegro after WL made special arrangements with the International Academic Center and ETS.
 - One hundred students were eligible in Serbia and the staff met with the Serbian Selection Committees and picked 70 semi-finalists and began to meet to interview these semi—finalists at the end of January. Staff administered the ALIGU test to 63 Serbian semi-finalists on January 30. Others had TOEFL previously or Cambridge Proficiency exams.
 - The FORECAST Exchange Program completed the selection of Serbian students. 30 finalists were chosen and 8 alternates and they were approved in Washington by the FORECAST CTO. Students were all informed and the arrangements were made for all of them to be tested for the TOEFL except one student with a hearing disability. Special test arrangements were made for her.
 - In March, Snezana Mijatovic traveled to Montenegro with 2 staff from the International Academic Center to administer the PBT TOEFL test. While there she collected and delivered all court certificates for SRFI security check and checked a possible location for the re-entry workshop that will be held June 1-3 in Montenegro.

- At the request of the Public Affairs Department, all FE students were informed about the availability of alumni grants available to them through the Department and its alumni officer. See below for grants already awarded.
- All FORECAST Exchange students who needed TOEFL testing were tested in March and students of certain disciplines were contacted to submit their portfolios for consideration by US universities in their placement. All students submitted court certificates for the SRFI check by the RSO.
- FE alumna Ana Radulovic (2008-2009) received a \$12,000 grant for a student program that focuses on global sustainable development through the Belgrade University branch of AISEC, an international student organization. The beginning phase of this program was held on March 31 for students to learn how to prepare their projects.
- Milos Stanic (2007-University of Alabama at Huntsville, mechanical engineering), Dunja Pavlovic (2007-University of Alabama at Huntsville, environmental engineering), Maja Savic (2008-East Tennessee State University, graphic arts), and Jovana Nikolic (2008-University of Mississippi, English) after graduating at their Serbian universities all received graduate scholarships/fellowships to return to the US universities where they had been placed as FORECAST students. One FORECAST Exchange alumnus, Milos Stanic left for the US to start his doctoral program at the University of Alabama at Huntsville. He has an assistantship.

Noteworthy Events

- In October, WL staff and 5 alumni from each program were invited by the Charge of the US Embassy to a reception in her home honoring Anne Chick from the SEED office in Washington.
- Also in October, Program Manager Snezana Mijatovic attended a USAID sponsored conference sponsored by Catholic Relief Services on incorporating people with disabilities in programs on behalf of World Learning.
- In November, WL hosted five students in the Princeton Bridge Year Program with Director Svetlana Kijevcanin in which staff explained all WL programs in Serbia and invited alumni from FORECAST Exchange and Community Connections to talk with them as well.
- November 14, Country Director Mary Fran Doyle attended the European Conference of Adult Education held in Belgrade at which the Adult Education Department of the University of Belgrade celebrated its 30th anniversary.

- In December, Mary Fran Doyle represented World Learning at a reception for the new US Ambassador in Serbia, Mary Warlick.
- In February, WL made special efforts at the request of the Embassy to track down the host families for Congressman Earl Pomeroy from North Dakota who came to Serbia on a Congressional Delegation on February 20. He also asked that we identify all the host families in Kraljevo who had hosted any Experiment in International Living alumni from that same summer. WL staff managed to find all except one and they were contacted and invited to a reception hosted by the city of Kraljevo that Rep. Pomeroy and US Embassy DCM Jennifer Brush (also an Experimenter in Kraljevo from 1973) both attended. Mary Fran Doyle represented World Learning at this event.
- March 17, Snezana Mijatovic, Nevena Drakulic, and Mary Fran Doyle travelled to Novi Sad to attend the opening of the Job Fair as special guests of the Technical Faculty of the University of Novi Sad. Bojan Trobok, an FE alumnus helped organize the event and received US Embassy grant support as an alumnus for the event that was opened by the new US Ambassador Mary Warlick.

Cost Savings

- \$1,594 was saved in VAT reimbursements for office expenses.

Total Cost Savings.....\$1,594

V. APPENDIX

A. Intervention Status Report – October 2009-March 2010

B. Success Stories for October 2009-March 2010

APPENDIX A: INTERVENTION STATUS - NEW STARTS - OCTOBER 2009-MARCH 2010

	UST	TCT	ICT	TA	Small Grants	EMT	Academic	Partnerships	HICD Activities	TOTALS
Number of Interventions										
Albania - period	0	1	0	3	13	0	0	0	0	17
cumulative	22	27	17	31	52	0	0	0	0	149
Bosnia-Herzegovina - period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cumulative	6	26	5	1	3	0	0	0	2	43
Croatia - period	0	0	0	0	0					0
cumulative	4	6	3	10	0					23
Kosovo - period	0	8	1	1	0	0	21	0	1	32
cumulative	2	26	9	34	0	0	27	0	17	115
Montenegro - period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cumulative	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	27
Serbia - period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cumulative	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	0	0	85
Regional - period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cumulative	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTALS - period	0	9	1	4	13	0	21	0	1	49
cumulative	34	86	34	77	55	0	139	0	19	444
Number of Participants (if applicable)										
Albania - period	0	9	0	220	n/a					229
cumulative	135	204	1692	1374	n/a					3405
Bosnia-Herzegovina - period	0	0	0	n/a	n/a				n/a	0
cumulative	29	264	1918	n/a	n/a				n/a	2211
Croatia - period	0	0	0	n/a	n/a					0
cumulative	9	40	110	n/a	n/a					159
Kosovo - period	0	49	0	n/a			21		n/a	70
cumulative	21	200	67	n/a			74		n/a	362
Montenegro - period	0	0	0	0			0			0
cumulative	0	0	0	0			27			27
Serbia - period	0	0	0	0			0			0
cumulative	0	0	0	0			85			85
Regional - period	0	0	0	0						0
cumulative	0	58	0	0						58
TOTALS - period	0	58	0	220			21			299
cumulative	194	766	3787	1374			186			6307

APPENDIX A: INTERVENTION STATUS - NEW STARTS - OCTOBER 2009-MARCH 2010

Appendix B
FORECAST Semi-Annual Report
October 2009-March 2010
World Learning Success Stories

Albania

Southeastern Albanian Town Succeeds in Providing Jobs for Youth

Training and small amounts of equipment enable youth in Korca to find jobs and start up businesses



Roma youth Eglantina Rrapushi proudly shows off her own newly started business, an internet café

Challenge: The south eastern Albanian city of Korca (population of 86,000) suffers from high unemployment and the ensuing loss of its youth as they leave for Tirana or emigrate to Greece, often illegally. Members of the Roma and Egyptian minority are even more challenged in finding a job. Some of these youth who have finished high school but lack the necessary job seeking skills such as how to apply for a job, write resumes and present themselves during an interview. Other youth would do well running their own small business but they lack skills in business planning and simple finances as well as small amounts of equipment to get started. One of the main goals of the Municipal Local Development Strategy for youth is to encourage young people to stay in Korca by creating and facilitating more job opportunities for them.

Initiative: Through a small grant from USAID to someone working in the Municipality who engaged a local NGO called CAAP, 45 unemployed young people were assisted. The youth, aged 18-30 years who mostly had 8-12 years of education and were at risk of illegal migration and exploitation received training in entrepreneurship or employment skills. After the entrepreneurship and life skills training, the ten young people with the most promising business plans were given small amounts of equipment necessary to start up their businesses and a bit of follow-up support to help them resolve any problems at the beginning. A special agreement was

made with the Municipality to delay the beginning of tax payments until the businesses got on their feet. Those youth who were trained in employment skills were facilitated in finding and keeping a job by being introduced to local NGOs, businesses and the departments at the Municipality.

Results: By the end of the project, 16 young people, three of whom were Roma, were employed and ten young people, including four Roma or Egyptians, established micro businesses. Several found jobs as ID card operators; others with the local hospital, prison, kindergarten or the Municipality itself. The micro businesses included a photograph studio, coffee shop, barber shop, construction services and internet café.

Eglantina Rrapushi was one who started her own business. Eglantina wanted to start an internet café to give the opportunity to her Roma community to access the internet. But she had only one old computer. She received a grant from the project to purchase three computers and one photocopy/scanner/printer, as well as small internet accessories. Eglantina engaged her younger brother in her business, who is 18 years old. He helps with maintenance of computers and also fills in for his sister sometimes so she can continue her studies.

Quote: "I think that project was indispensable. It changed my life!" claims Eglantina Rrapushi, of the assistance she received to start up her internet café.

Summary: In an effort to address high unemployment rates among Albania's younger generation, World Learning trained 45 youth in the city of Korca in important entrepreneurship and job seeking skills. The project specifically targeted Albania's minority Roma and Egyptian communities, whose youth are more likely to be affected by unemployment and job loss. With the help of World Learning, its funder USAID, and its partners –local NGOs, and the municipality in Korca – 26 individuals under the age of 30 either found jobs in Korca or received microloans to start their own small businesses, including a coffee shop, construction services, and an internet café.

Albania

Information Technology Expands University's Window to the World

Agricultural University of Tirana students and teachers benefit from information and transparency



Students can now easily access assignments, grades, and other information their professors post through the ubt.edu.al portal.

As a result of a grant from USAID, the Agriculture University of Tirana is now connected to the digital age. Access to worldwide information is having an impact on learning, teaching and research both for students and teachers. Previously, the internet was accessed by using private email accounts at nearby internet ‘cafes’ where users often catch and share cyber viruses along the way.

In 2008, the university embarked on an IT modernization project to purchase and set up the central infrastructure with server computers and management software to transfer old hardcopy administrative files and networked the system in one building. But five other buildings were not connected and the distance could not be overcome without financial assistance.

USAID/Albania has long supported agriculture in the private sector and recently established a partnership between the University of Hawaii and the Agricultural University of Tirana. With an additional small grant, hundreds of meters of optical fiber, fourteen switches, eleven antivirus packages, a server room air-conditioner and sundry IT tools were purchased and all five buildings connected to the main one, providing internet and intranet to 95% of the university staff.

Internet for more than 9000 students is now available as well as three internet points and 20 computers connected to the intranet. Students can now easily access assignments, grades, and other information their professors post through the ubt.edu.al portal. Students can see not only their own grades on various tests, papers or projects, but also those of their fellow classmates.

This access helps improve the quality of the education and research at AUT and makes significant contribution to Albania’s economic development.

“My teaching has changed and improved significantly since I have my personal website to communicate directly with my students,” says Dr. Arben Verçuni, Professor and Head of International Relations Office at the Agricultural University of Tirana.

Summary: World Learning helped the Agricultural University of Tirana in Albania to modernize its computer and network infrastructure, enabling internet access for more than 9,000 university students on campus. Recent grant money from USAID went to the purchase and installment of optical fiber, server equipment, and other Information Technology tools. As a result, the quality of education has improved at the Agricultural University of Tirana, whose

students can now go online to access assignments, grades, and other information through the university's web portal.

Kosovo

Four New Minority Scholarships Begin at American University of Kosovo



Vladan Jaćimović and Ivona Naceva: Doing Well as USAID Scholars at the American University of Kosovo

The USAID FORECAST program administers full undergraduate scholarships for Kosovo minorities at the American University of Kosovo (AUK). Four new student-scholars began their studies as freshman in September 2009 after an intensive recruitment and selection process – bringing to twelve the total number of current scholarships. In addition, AUK secured separate scholarship funding for three other strong candidates recruited by FORECAST.

After a few months of study, the new students are doing well and enjoying their experience. Vladan Jaćimović (a Kosovo Serb) reports that he particularly appreciates the evaluation system – that grades are earned through a combination of periodic exams, projects and various assignments, rather than determined by a single comprehensive exam at the end of an academic year (as in many regional institutions).

The scholarship initiative aims primarily to enhance confidence among Kosovo minority communities that they have a viable future in a multiethnic Kosovo. The majority population in Kosovo is ethnic Albanian; the largest minorities are Kosovo Serbs, Bosniaks, Turks, Roma and Ashkali. Students work toward an internationally recognized degree and can expect better career opportunities.

In addition, the rest of the students benefit from the integration of Kosovo Albanians with minorities in a positive university setting. Integrated settings of this type are rare in Kosovo. “Working together on projects and hanging out together, we’ve become friends,” said Ivona Naceva, a Kosovo Serb, about studying with largely Kosovo Albanian students.

Summary: After a rigorous selection process, World Learning awarded scholarships to four new undergraduate students to study at the American University of Kosovo (AUK), bringing the total number of scholarships to 12. Funded by the USAID FORECAST program, the scholarship initiative seeks to bridge the gap in educational opportunities between Kosovo's majority Albanian population and its minority communities by awarding academic scholarships to Serbs, Bosniaks, Turks, and other ethnic minorities. The students, who are working towards an internationally recognized degree, report positive and enriching experiences since the start of the school year in September.

Kosovo

USAID Scholar Is 2010 Valedictorian at American University of Kosovo



Mr. Slavisa Mladenovic, Graduating USAID Scholar at the American University of Kosovo

Mr. Slavisa Mladenovic, an undergraduate student on a full USAID scholarship at the American University of Kosovo (AUK), has been selected valedictorian of this year's graduating class.

The scholarships in this initiative support Kosovo minorities as part of USAID's contribution to a viable future for all of the country's communities. Kosovo's majority population is ethnic Albanian; the largest minorities are Kosovo Serbs, Bosniaks, Turks, Roma and Ashkali.

Slavisa, a Kosovo Serb from the town of Gracanica, is a non-traditional undergraduate. He is 32-year-old father of two and works full-time at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) while also carrying a full course load.

Slavisa is graduating with majors in Management and Economics & Statistics, and a minor in Legal Studies. His nearly perfect GPA is the highest in his class of 75 students. AUK's Director of Academic Affairs praised the student's "consistent personal commitment to academic excellence."

Slavisa is very pleased with his experience at AUK, saying that it has provided him with a first-class, American-style education and will surely open doors in his career. In addition, while classes are held in English, he notes that through his relationships with other students he has attained a high level of proficiency in Albanian (his mother tongue is Serbian).

After graduation Slavisa hopes to work toward a management role in community development or social issues.

Summary: Slavisa Mladenovic, an undergraduate student who received a full scholarship from USAID to attend the American University of Kosovo (AUK), has been selected valedictorian of this year's graduating class. Funded by the USAID FORECAST program, the scholarship initiative seeks to bridge the gap in educational opportunities between Kosovo's majority Albanian population and its minority communities by awarding academic scholarships to Serbs, Bosniaks, Turks, and other ethnic minorities. Slavisa, a Kosovo Serb, has a nearly perfect GPA and plans to use his "first-class American-style education" towards a management role in community development or social issues.

Serbia

Students Organize Fair to Connect Youth With Companies



Bojan Trobok and Ivan Kovacevic (chairman of EESTEC) next to the Job Fair poster listing their sponsors

Challenge: The problem of unemployment is staggering in Serbia especially amongst youth. With an unemployment rate of 30-40% in some areas, many well-educated young people look abroad for opportunities or become disillusioned and simply join the ranks of the unemployed. In either case, this amounts to a significant brain drain, which Serbia's economy cannot afford. In addition to the lack of practical experience, the lack of direct contact between the potential employer and the job candidates is an important missing link often cited as a contributing factor in these grim statistics. It is not surprising, then that some enterprising students came up with the idea of launching a project called KONTEH 10 - Fair of Business Opportunities and Professional Internships to begin addressing these issues.

Initiative: Over the last three years, the Electrical Engineering Students European Association from Novi Sad has demonstrated its commitment, competence and enthusiasm in expertly organizing this event with the strong support of Novi Sad University. FORECAST Exchange alumni Bojan Trobok was in charge of gathering as much support as possible from different corporations, state institutions, and his home University. Using his talents and some of the skills he gained through the FORECAST program, Bojan managed to bring on board key government institutions, student groups, and private companies. One of the key donors was the US Embassy in Belgrade, giving Bojan an alumnus grant to support the fair. Bojan was able to almost double the participants and sponsors for the fair compared to last year. In front of a poster proclaiming “Brain Gain,” U.S. Ambassador Mary Warlick opened the event and thanked Bojan for his contribution.

Results: The benefits of the fair were evident. The companies present provided 150 opportunities for part-time jobs and smaller projects for the students. Companies underlined the value of this venue to find qualified professionals with minimal investment. At least 900 students left their CVs at the Fair’s database that will be maintained by the students’ organizations and many students had the opportunity through interviews and surveys with the firms at the fair to become potential candidates for jobs. Knowing the specific requirements of future employers, students are more motivated to work on their professional development. All of this contributes to students finding a job more easily after completing their university studies. It is hoped that such events will help students understand that they need to be more pro-active and for companies and government institutions to realize their self-interest in engaging the university as a good potential source for talented staff.

Quote: Bojan Trobok: “In Serbia young people are passive in the search process. In the USA searching for jobs is proactive.”

Summary: Since high unemployment is one of the key challenges facing Serbia’s youth, World Learning partnered with USAID and the US Embassy in Belgrade to sponsor a major job fair, known as the Fair of Business Opportunities and Professional Internships. Novi Sad University student and FORECAST alum Bojan Trobok played an integral role in organizing the event. With nearly double the number of participants and sponsors from last year, this year’s fair helped 150 university students to find work with major companies or government institutions, including NIS Novi Sad, Delta Generali, and Microsoft.