



USAID | MACEDONIA
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Improvements of public tenders

At the closing conference "Public Procurement in Macedonia: Experience and draft legislation for improvements" in Skopje, the USAID Project for Microenterprise Access to Public Procurement presented proposals for legislative changes to improve government contracting.

The conference brought together representatives from contracting authorities, economic operators, business associations, competent institutions, NGOs, as well as international institutions, which discussed proposals and the need for further development of legal framework toward more efficient use of public funds.

The conference also marks the closing of the USAID Project for microenterprise access to public procurement 2012-2017.

"Over the past decade USAID, in partnership with the government of Macedonia, has been working to strengthen the public procurement system by making it more functional, transparent, and inclusive. In 2007, USAID worked together with the national Public Procurement Bureau to revamp the Law on Public Procurement. We also assisted the Public Procurement Bureau to strengthen its capacity by establishing a training center for public procurement professionals and introducing a cutting-edge e-procurement system which at that time made Macedonia a leader in Europe. U.S. assistance is all about partnerships, such as these with the government of Macedonia, that strengthen institutions and produce measurable impacts, which help Macedonia achieve its national goals. In the past five years, in partnership with Center for Civic Communications, USAID has provided assistance to over 700 micro-enterprises throughout Macedonia, increasing their access to the public procurement system. As a result of this project, these microenterprises have received tenders worth six million euros. The impact has been to grow these small businesses and create many new jobs, thereby strengthening Macedonia's private sector. ", said USAID Macedonia Mission Director, James Stein.

The USAID project empowered over 700 microenterprises from all over the country to participate more in public procurement market through a series of 50 tailor-made trainings, 4,100 single technical assistances (in registering, preparing tender documents, participating in e-auctions and e-procurement, etc.), four costumed manuals and a web portal for timely information and preparation of tender participation.

In addition, for over 500 local contracting authorities, it offered measures to reduce the administrative burdens and other barriers so that microenterprises can have a greater chance to compete equally with larger companies for public contracts.

NOTES TO THE EDITORS

The American people, through USAID, have invested over \$610 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID works with the people of Macedonia to create jobs, strengthen democratic institutions and practices, enhance integrated education, and prepare students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's path towards a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit [USAID Macedonia Website](#) and [USAID Macedonia Facebook](#) page.

The USAID Project for Microenterprise Access to Public Procurement is working to increase the microenterprise awareness of the opportunities offered by the public procurement market; provide microenterprises with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to participate more in government contracting; and streamline public procurement administrative procedures that inhibit microenterprises' participation in government contracting. The project has been implementing by the Center for Civil Communications.