



**NGO Development Small Grants Program  
FY 2007**

**The Embassy of the United States of America  
Public Affairs Section**

*Ljubljana, December 2007*

**Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS)**

**ROUND TABLE – BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND IRAN: NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME IN CRISIS (1.185 USD)**

ISS organized a closed-session roundtable with **Ambassador Greg Schulte**, Permanent Representative of the US to the IAEA. Other participants included: representatives from the Board of Governors of the IAEA, Office of the President of Slovenia, Office of the Prime Minister of Slovenia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, University representatives, businesses, NGOs and media.

**Junior Achievement – Young Enterprise**

**YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROMOTION WORKSHOP**

(2.500 USD)

The project aim was to increase the number of student companies established in Slovenian secondary schools through better promotion and motivation of stakeholders. With this goal in mind, JA-YE promoted youth entrepreneurship, namely by promoting the educative JA-YE Company Program for secondary schools among future mentors-teachers and entrepreneurs, as well as sustaining the motivation of current partners. Participants were headmasters, teachers and entrepreneurs from all Slovenian regions, who learned about bookkeeping methods and financial benefits of the entrepreneurial program. Secondly, the session motivated participants to promote and run the program in their communities, and equipped them with skills to motivate youth and other stakeholders towards entrepreneurship. Furthermore, teachers were acquainted with methods and techniques for team building and leadership that are crucial when running the program and sustaining student motivation.

**Sezam**

**EUROPEAN DAY OF JEWISH CULTURE (1.000 USD)**

The main purpose of the project was a public event presenting the history of the Jewish community in Ljubljana in order to raise consciousness, recognition, and appreciation of the Jewish community. The aim was also to serve the memory of the Holocaust. The project, besides a roundtable, included a photo exhibition and presentation of the Jewish culture and music.

## **Legal Information Center**

### **SHARING OF LEGAL KNOWLEDGE IN ASYLUM IS NECESSARY (1.374 USD)**

UNHCR and the Faculty of Law of the Belgrade University established a Pilot Project – Asylum Legal Clinic in 2006. The idea was to set up a clinic which would be a part of the national legal aid scheme and of the refugee protection system in Serbia. The theoretical part of the program was completed in January 2007 and during the summer semester the students were engaged in practical work.

The cooperation between the two asylum legal clinics presented a great opportunity for both groups of students to enhance their knowledge on asylum issues and to compare experiences of the two countries. Students from the Ljubljana Asylum Legal Clinic who received practical knowledge at Legal Information center for NGOs Slovenia – PIC passed their practical knowledge to their Belgrade colleagues. They introduced them to the conditions at arrival, monitoring mechanisms, to the techniques of dealing with asylum seekers, especially with the most vulnerable among them, as well as to how to maintain relations with the authorities for the best benefit of the beneficiaries. On the other hand, students from the Belgrade Asylum Legal Clinic had the opportunity to implement some of their theoretical knowledge and to learn from Slovene colleagues about the new asylum system, which was established with entry into the EU.

Three students of the Belgrade Faculty of Law who have completed the Asylum Legal Clinic Program in the school year 2006/2007 came to Ljubljana in July 2007 (31 days) for joint summer practice with colleagues from the Ljubljana Faculty of Law Asylum Legal Clinic. Program included:

- visit to all relevant asylum institutions in Slovenia (Asylum Home in Ljubljana, Center for foreigners in Postojna),
- introduction to the Slovenian NGO network for legal assistance to asylum seekers,
- introduction to the conditions upon arrival and monitoring program in Slovenia;
- practical work with the beneficiaries,
- preparation of lawsuits and appeals,

## **Novi Paradoks**

### **INTEGRATION OF ROMA AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL (3.000 USD)**

The 1-day conference was divided into two parts: general Roma integration practices at the national and local level in Slovenia and Austria, and specific Roma employment and vocational training opportunities. The conference aim was to encourage regional cooperation and participation of other actors from both countries: Roma Associations, NGOs dealing with Roma issues, local and national government representatives (Municipalities, Parliamentarians, representatives from Ministries and Government Committee for Roma issues), as

well as representatives from local regional development agencies and employment offices.

### **Gea College - SIFE**

#### **YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONFERENCE (2.500 USD)**

The goal of this conference was to connect the youth and potential entrepreneurs with successful entrepreneurs in their communities as well as with examples from abroad to show them that their dreams can come true. The participants were able to connect with these entrepreneurs, gain advice, share experiences, and network as the youth begin their path through entrepreneurship and begin to develop their ideas into actual businesses. It was done with the cooperation of Drury University.

### **Center for NGOs (CNVOS)**

#### **SELF-PROMOTION OF NGOs IN SLOVENIA (2.000 USD)**

The project Self-promotion of NGOs in Slovenia was aimed at strengthening Slovenian NGOs in the field of communicating with the public, attracting media attention, and reaching beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

The main idea of the project was to provide NGOs with the information, data and knowledge they need for self-promotion at different events, press conferences and through web pages.

3 series of workshops were organized:

- ❖ Public relations for NGOs (3 workshops)
- ❖ Rhetoric and public appearance of NGOs (3 workshops)
- ❖ Management and self-promotion of NGOs (3 workshops)

Trainings provided NGOs with required knowledge on PR, communication with media and target audiences.

### **FOCUS, Association for Sustainable Development**

#### **TRAINING FOR BETTER CLIMATE (2.000 USD)**

To avoid conflicts due to lack of energy resources and insecurity due to climate catastrophes, energy efficiency and use of renewable sources of energy are key priorities in energy policy. Although some NGOs in Bulgaria, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) are highly active in support of renewable sources and energy efficiency, they are not optimally successful due to lack of knowledge and weak presentation of arguments on why energy efficiency and renewables are important for future development of their countries.

To build their capacity for working in the climate and energy field they requested the Focus Association for Sustainable Development to transfer knowledge and know-how for effective actions in the climate and energy field. Capacity building was done through implementation of three in-country trainings for the NGO activists. Training agendas were formed in co-operation with more experienced NGOs from the countries, in such a way that the country specifics were addressed in the training. Materials for training were prepared by Focus.

The project was implemented in co-operation with three NGOs: Za zemiata (For Earth) from Bulgaria, Proactiva from Macedonia and Centar za ekologiju i energiju Tuzla (Centre for ecology and energy Tuzla – CEETZ) from BiH.

### **ROKUS Publishing House**

#### **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC JUNIOR QUIZ (3.000 USD)**

Rokus initiated the National Geographic Junior Quiz in 2005/2006, which brings pupils from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade in primary schools from all over Slovenia to a national TV studio to compete in the areas that are covered by National Geographic. The prize for the winning team was a trip to Washington D.C. that included a visit to the National Geographic Society.

### **Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo mesto**

#### **GIVE A HAND (2.000 USD)**

The project was aimed at the majority population in order to help the Roma successfully integrate into society. It simply means a more positive attitude toward Roma which will through the years improve Roma self-esteem and motivation for integration.

Competition for the best essay on Equal Opportunities was released in all high-schools in Novo mesto The 3-member panel evaluated the essays and selected the six best which will be published in the booklet.

### **The Association of Slovenian Foundations**

#### **STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPMENT OF SLOVENIAN FOUNDATIONS (1.000 USD)**

Slovenian foundations are underdeveloped and do not have enough knowledge about fundraising, PR, participation in decision-making process, project management, human resources management, etc. As a part of the program *Dobra družba*, 4 community foundations were established in 2006. They are in the beginning of their work and they need a lot of technical assistance, transfer of knowledge and support for their sustainable development in the future. In the next three years Association of Slovenian Foundations – ZSU will organize several seminars, strategic discussions, workshops and study visits aimed at capacity building, strengthening and development of 4 community foundations and Slovenian foundations in general. 4 workshops for strengthening 4 local community foundations are planned on the following topics: Governance, Strategic Planning, Human Resource Management, Project Management. Local community foundations are located in Pomurje region in Moravske Toplice, Banjska and Trnovska region in Lokve, Gorenjska region in Kranj and for Posavje region in Brezice.

### **Institute of International Education**

#### **STUDENTSKA ARENA (1.594 USD)**

Student Arena is the biggest educational fair in Slovenia. It is a gathering of young people, ideas and opportunities in the area of education and training, employment, culture and international cooperation in one place. Approx. 25,000

people from Slovenia and abroad visit this fair. Student Arena took place in Ljubljana, from October 17 to October 19, 2006. US Embassy Ljubljana had a booth at the event in order to present and promote the educational opportunities in the United States and advise interested visitors how to enroll in the U.S. schools, colleges and faculties.

#### **Slovenian Student Association of Defense**

##### **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS CONFERENCE (1.000 USD)**

U.S. Embassy Ljubljana was the largest donor for a two-day conference on organized crime with emphasis on Trafficking In Persons (TIP). The conference was organized for an audience of students at the University of Ljubljana. The event gathered eight speakers from key institutions dealing with this issue, including representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, College of Police and Security Studies, NGOs and media.

The goals were to raise awareness about the trafficking in persons issue, to discuss possible solutions to improve the situation, and how to assist TIP victims. Albert Kraaimoore, POL/MIL officer at U.S. Embassy Ljubljana, presented U.S. Government policies regarding TIP issues and talked about the Trafficking in Persons Report. This year's TIP report ranked Slovenia "Tier 1" for the first time. Tier 1 is comprised of the countries that have a serious trafficking problem but fully comply with the act's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

#### **Slovenian Association of Mediators**

##### **ADVANCED SEMINAR ON COMMERCIAL MEDIATION (1.146 USD)**

As a part of Embassy efforts to promote and support judicial reform in Slovenia, Lyn Cole, a dispute resolution professional with more than 26 years of experience led a 3-day training in October organized by the Slovenian Association of Mediators and co-funded by Embassy Ljubljana. Participants, who included representatives from law offices, companies, government ministries, courts and law schools, received training in the practice of business mediation and reaching agreement with the assistance of a third party.

#### **Center for Non-profit Management**

##### **NGO GOVERNANCE SEMINAR FOR NGOS (3.500 USD)**

This 2-day seminar will introduce models and best practices for boards and will show how strengthening governance helps to strengthen the NGO. The seminar will be geared to address the special circumstances and needs of Slovenian NGOs. Among topics to be addressed are board roles and responsibilities, the board-staff relationship, recruiting new board members and boards and fundraising.

Main goals of the seminar are:

- to introduce terminology, models, and best practices for strengthening NGO boards
- rising importance of good governance in the NGO sector

- introduction of special circumstances which can influence trends in governance in Slovenia

### **Slovenian Philanthropy**

#### **VOLUNTEERING JOURNAL – OPEN ZONE (2.923 USD)**

The project “volunteering journal” continues the idea of a volunteering journal, which was published for the first time in April 2007. Two issues of 5000 copies each will be published. The Journal will be composed of articles done by professionals and volunteers, as well as youth who wish to make creative contributions. The project will also have input from The European Volunteer Centre as a professional support and source of information about volunteering in Europe. Topics will include: voluntary work in general, opportunities for voluntary work in Slovenia and abroad, events in the field of volunteerism, inter-ethnic dialogue and inter-generational cooperation. The journal will be disseminated to Slovenian NGOs and to the public across Slovenia.

### **Foundation Together**

#### **CONFERENCE ON PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTH OF KOSOVO (5.000 USD)**

The Foundation “TOGETHER” organized a 3-day international scientific conference “Prevention of Suicide Behavior among Youth of Kosovo- Challenge or Chance?” that took place in Pristina, Kosovo.

The purpose of the scientific conference was to provide the groundwork for further interventions towards the reduction of suicide in Kosovo through the experiences and expertise of other countries (done by taking into consideration the cultural and other differences from countries and regions).

Approximately 30 participants (physicians, psychologists, mental health workers, social workers, sociologists, etc.) were invited to the conference. All invited participants were international experts in the field of mental health that gave their scientific contribution to the project entitled: “Coping strategies among youth of Kosovo”. Representatives from abroad and international experts from various institutions (USA, EU countries, etc.), who are involved in dealing with the issue of suicide and self-harm also attended the conference. The conference was based on exchange of experience and offering workable prevention solutions.

### **Institute for Strategic Studies**

#### **MIDDLE EAST FORUM “MOVING THE ISRAELI PALESTINIAN TRACK FORWARD – OPTIONS AND CHALLENGES AND THE ROLE OF THE ‘QUARTET’ & MIDDLE EAST EU 2008” (3.000 USD)**

A panel of 20 experts, including three Americans, discussed issues related to the Middle East peace process, Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon. They focused on challenges and prospects for 2008 in the Middle East as well as the role of the EU and Slovenia during EU presidency. The event was organized by the Institute for Strategic Studies, U.S. Embassy Ljubljana, European Commission, German think-tank BertelsmannStiftung, and the Slovenian Government Communication Office. The conference attracted an audience of approximately 30 individuals

representing various institutions including the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Defense, the National Assembly, foreign embassies, private companies, and media.

**POLIS, Association for Promotion of Law**

**PERCEPTION OF THE LAW IN THE SOCIETY (6.200 USD)**

This project addressed the need of transitional countries to provide more transparency on judicial proceedings and education on access to courts for public.

Goals of the project:

- to raise public awareness on legal issues; bring simplified legal issues to the general public (web- service)
- to improve communication skills of lawyers (training session)
- to encourage public debate (conference)
- to increase theoretical knowledge (publication).