



**EUROPE & EURASIA BUREAU - 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REGIONAL EVENT  
COMPETITIVENESS, FINANCE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

***MOVING FORWARD: EXITING THE CRISIS AND NAVIGATING THE CHANGING GLOBAL ECONOMY***



**May 18 – 20, 2010, Hotel Europe, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**





***DRAFT AGENDA (as of May 11, 2010)***

***DAY 1 (May 18) – Competitiveness Finance, and Economic Growth in the E&E Region***

**9:00 am – VIPs Welcomes and Introduction**, Facilitator Steve Eastham, USAID Washington

- Mr. Allan Reed, Mission Director, USAID Bosnia and Herzegovina
- H.E. Bosse Hedberg, Ambassador of Sweden to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Tarik Djodjic, Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Lewis Tatem, USAID Washington, “Comments on USAID’s Economic Growth Activities in the E&E Region”

**9:28 am – Panel presenters change**

**9:30 am – Coming out of the Global Economic Crisis: Current Status, Effects, and Responses**, Facilitator Steve Eastham

- Coming Out of the Crisis Central Eastern Europe – Paul Marer, PhD, Central European University Business School – Budapest
- Overview of Economic Conditions in the Western Balkans – Dragana Radevic, PhD, CEED Consulting Montenegro
- Overview of Economic Conditions in the Caucasus, Moldova, Ukraine – Krassen Stanchev, PhD, Institute for Market Economics
- Questions and Answers

**10:30 am – Business Networking Break**

**11:00 am – Review of USG’s Economic Growth, Competitiveness and Finance Activities in E&E**, Facilitator Lewis Tatem, USAID Washington

- Latest Trends in the Regional Financial Sector Programs – Hugh Haworth, USAID Washington
- Latest Trends in the Regional Competitiveness Activities – Neal Nathanson, USAID Washington
- Country Reports (macro, competitiveness, finance), *brief presentations by USAID EG Officers and/or Project COPs*
  - Armenia – Artak Ghazarian, CoP, CAPS Project
  - Azerbaijan – Sheila Young, USAID Azerbaijan
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Amira Vejzagic-Ramhorst, USAID Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Georgia – Michael Jones, USAID Georgia TBC
  - Macedonia – Joseph Lessard, USAID Macedonia
  - Moldova – Sergiu Botezatu, USAID Moldova
  - Montenegro – Igor Pesic, STARS Program



- Serbia – Jim Stein, USAID Serbia
- Ukraine – Ryder Rogers, USAID Ukraine

**1:00 pm – Lunch with Business Networking**

**2:30 pm – Partnership and Leveraging Opportunities with International Donor and Multilateral Organizations (part 1),** Facilitator Neal Nathanson

- Bosnia and Herzegovina Case Study: USAID Bosnia’s Funding Partnership with Sweden – USAID Bosnia and Herzegovina: Vladimir Milin and Amira Vejzagic-Ramhorst & SIDA Representatives: Nedim Bukvic and Natasa Miskin
- Azerbaijan Case Study: USAID Azerbaijan co-funding collaboration with the Government of Azerbaijan – Sheila Young, USAID Azerbaijan
- EBRD TAM/BAS Programme – Zihnija Hasovic, BAS Programme Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Questions and Answers

**3:30 pm – Business Networking Break**

**4:00 pm – Partnership and Leveraging Opportunities with International Donor and Multilateral Organizations (part 2),** Facilitator Hugh Haworth

- Regional Competitiveness Initiative – Alan Paic, OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe (with the support of the European Commission and in partnership with the RCC)
- Regional Cooperation Council - Sanjin Arifagic, Head of Economic and Social Development Unit
- International Investment and Trade in the E&E Region
  - Research and Analysis of Access to Finance for South East Europe – RCI, Gergana Valova, Managing Director, BC Serdon
  - The Regional Economy from the perspective of a Multinational Firm – Ronald Pintar, Fibernet Slovenia
- Questions and Answers

**5:00 pm – Conclusions for Day 1 and Preparing for Day 2,** Facilitator Lewis Tatem / Steve Eastham

- Presentation of the National Geographic Western Balkans supplement
- Open Discussion and Conclusions for the Day - USAID reps and Chiefs of Party
- Preparation for workshop program on Day 2:
  - Introducing the topics of the parallel sessions – Neal Nathanson

**6:00 pm – End of Day 1**





**DAY 2 (May 19) – Focus on Sectors and Cross-Sector Activities (Split Parallel Sessions)**

**9:00 – Parallel Session 1**

IT Quality and Innovation for Increasing Competitiveness	Regional Tourism Promotion	Agribusiness Market Information Systems	Access to Finance and Investment
<i>Facilitator Filip Stojanovic, Regional Competitiveness Initiative</i>	<i>Facilitator Sanscho Ramhorst, Excellence in Innovation Project</i>	<i>Facilitator Bruce Brower, FARMA Project</i>	<i>Facilitator Amira Vejzagic - Ramhorst</i>
<p>Excellence and Innovation Centers:            * Quality Standards and Certifications (<a href="http://www.quality2it.org">www.quality2it.org</a>), George Sharkov, Regional Director, ESI Center Eastern Europe            * Innovation, Tomislav Bronzin, RCI Senior Innovation Expert</p> <p>‘Moldova ESI EE Quality Lab (QLab)’, Doina Nistor, CoP, CEED Project Moldova</p> <p>‘Macedonia Innovation Center activity’, Brett Johnson, Macedonia Competitiveness Project</p> <p>BIT Center Tuzla , Vedrana Ajanovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>	<p>‘Regional Tourism Portal - Need, Sustainability and Partners?’, Exploring Macedonia, Sasha Gavrilovic</p> <p>‘Western Balkans Interdependencies: Heritage and Regional Tourism Development’, FIRMA Project BiH, Snjezana Derviskadic</p> <p>‘Regional tourism cooperation: Balkans – Black Sea – Caucasus’, UNDP Venice, Giuseppe Belsito</p> <p>Exploring Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sasha Vasic</p>	<p>‘MIS in Albania’, Juan Estrada-Valle, Albania Agriculture Competitiveness Project</p> <p>‘Ukraine MIS’, Evgenia Malikova, USAID Ukraine</p> <p>Discussants: Macedonia AgBiz Program, Excellence in Innovation Project, EU Delegation, SIDA, IFC, etc.</p>	<p>‘Supply and Demand of Credit for SMEs in Bosnia’, Dina Karic, FIRMA Project Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>‘Asset Based Finance for SMEs’, Michael Gold, Crimson Capital</p> <p>‘Venture Capital in Southeast Europe’, Natasa Tomic, RSG Capital Slovenia</p> <p>‘Macedonia Financial Platform’, Jasminka Varnaljeva, Macedonia Competitiveness Project</p>

**11:00 – Business Networking Break**





**11:30 – Parallel Session 2**

Increasing Business Cooperation	Importance of Tourism Quality Standards and Training Leading to International Certification	Regional Cooperation in Agribusiness	Financial Crisis Response Programs
<i>Facilitator James Stein</i>	<i>Facilitator Susan Warren, MTW Associates</i>	<i>Facilitator Dusan Neskovic</i>	<i>Facilitator Hugh Haworth</i>
<p>‘Armenia IT sector and possibilities for regional cooperation’, Artak Ghazaryan, Armenia CAPS Project</p> <p>‘Fostering and building industry associations’, Doina Nistor</p> <p>‘Office Business Center in Kosovo’, Jovan Madjovski, CEED Macedonia</p> <p>‘Working in the Western Balkans and Caucasus’, Michael Gold</p> <p>‘RCI IT2Business portal (<a href="http://www.it2business.org">www.it2business.org</a>)’, George Sharkov</p>	<p>‘Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria’, Milena Nikolova, Global Sustainable Tourism Alliance (GSTA)</p> <p>‘Quality Mark aligns with global sustainable criteria for competitiveness’, Susan Warren</p> <p>‘Albania Quality Mark’, CED Project, Kent Ford</p> <p>‘Macedonia Quality Mark Initiative’, Sasha Gavrilovic, Exploring Macedonia</p> <p>Discussant: FIRMA Project BiH</p>	<p>‘Macedonia Experience: Backward linkages / contract farming’, Macedonia AgBiz Project, Vasko Hadzievski</p> <p>Albania Agriculture Competitiveness Project, Juan Estrada-Valle</p> <p>FARMA Project BiH, Bruce Brower</p> <p>Discussants: Excellence in Innovation Project, EU Delegation, SIDA, IFC, etc.</p>	<p>‘How the financing sources (investment funds, strategic investors, banks, IFIs) reacted to the crisis’, BC Serdon, Gergana Valova</p> <p>‘Bosnian Government’s Response to the Global Financial Crisis’, Berina Selimovic Mehmedbasic, PARE Project</p> <p>‘USAID’s Response to the Ukrainian Financial Crisis’, Ryder Rogers, USAID Ukraine</p> <p>‘Serbian Government’s Response to the Global Financial Crisis, Scott Calhoun’, SEGA Project</p>

**1:30 – Lunch with Business Networking**





**2:30 – Parallel Session 3**

<b>Regional Donor collaboration/partnership</b>	<b>Workforce Development in USAID Projects</b>	<b>Indicators and Performance Measurement in USAID Projects</b>	<b>Promoting Entrepreneurship and Executive Training</b>
<i>Facilitator Vladimir Milin</i>	<i>Facilitator Joseph Lessard</i>	<i>Facilitator Neal Nathanson</i>	<i>Facilitator Tom Drum, SEAF USA</i>
USAID Washington, Steve Eastham Business Advisory Council for South East Europe, Maria Bouzudi EU Delegation SIDA GTZ UNDP, Giuseppe Belsito Discussants: Regional Cooperation Council , EBRD TAM/BAS, IFC	‘Increasing quality and competitiveness of ICT labor force’, Doina Nistor ‘Regional Project Management Initiative’, Serbia Compete Project, Tatjana Lukic ‘Integrated software solution for the Macedonian Employment Service Agency’, Macedonia Business Environment Activity (BEA), Kiril Minoski ‘Developing Next Generation Workforce’, Macedonia Competitiveness Activity, Visar Ademi	FIRMA Project, David King Discussants: USAID Missions – James Stein, Evgenia Malikova, Amira Vejzagic-Ramhost and Projects representatives	CEED USA, Peter Righi CEED Macedonia, Jovan Madjovski Citus, Tomislav Bronzin ‘Global Entrepreneurship Initiative’, USAID Washington, Lewis Tatem USAID Georgia - Michael Jones Algebra BiH - Zlatan Mulabegovic

**4:30 pm – End of Day 2**





**DAY 3 (May 20) – INTERNAL DISCUSSION – USAID and PROJECT IMPLEMENTERS ONLY**

**New Directions for Competitiveness, Economic Growth and Finance Programming**

**9:00 – New Directions Emerging from Day 2 Sessions (3 minutes maximum) Facilitator James Stein**

- IT Quality and Innovation for Increasing Competitiveness – Filip Stojanovic
- Regional Tourism Promotion – Sanscho Ramhorst
- Agribusiness Market Information Systems – Bruce Brower
- Access to Finance: Credit and Investment – Hugh Haworth
- Increasing Business Cooperation – James Stein
- Importance of Tourism Quality Standards and Training Leading to International Certification – Susan Warren
- Regional Cooperation in Agribusiness – Dusan Neskovic
- Financial Crisis Response Programs – Amira Vejzagic-Ramhorst
- Regional Donor collaboration/partnership – Vladimir Milin
- Workforce Development – Joseph Lessard
- Indicators and Performance Measurement – Neal Nathanson
- Promoting Entrepreneurship and Executive Training – Tom Drum

**10:30 – RCI and PFS Update, Facilitator Lewis Tatem / Steve Eastham**

- RCI Update – Jorge Segura and Anne-Sophie Samjee (report on RCI activities and web site introduction)
- New PFS Activity: Key Features – Hugh Haworth

**11:00 – Open Discussion by EG Officers, FSNs and Chiefs of Parties, Key Observation and Comments – Possible Discussion Topics:**

- |   |                                    |   |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| - How can RCI / PFS and the EG Office assist Missions in 2011 | - Joint study tours/training       | - Regional cooperation in the sector of IT                                  |
| - Leveraging other Donor Programs                             | - Workforce development            | - Regional cooperation in the sector of tourism                             |
| - Mission Buy-ins   | - Access to finance and investment | - Regional cooperation in the sector of agribusiness                        |
| - Program results/indicators                                  | - Cross-regional cooperation       | - Potential venues for future events: Georgia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Cyprus |

**1:00 pm – Conference Wrap-up, Conclusions and Next Steps – Steve Eastham**





- Opportunities for partnering with RCI
- Opportunities for partnering with PFS
- Opportunities for Cross Regional Cooperation – Missions, Projects and Stakeholders

**1:15 pm** – End of Day 3

