



February 13, 2008

Bi-weekly Newsletter

>> Latest “Authentic Bulgaria” Guidebook Launched

The Authentic Bulgaria Association officially presented the new edition of the *Authentic Bulgaria Guidebook* for 2008 at an event organized in cooperation with Traditzia Foundation on February 6. Tour operators, media representatives and members of the international community took part in the event and purchased guidebooks. The book, which describes the small hotels and family-run bed and breakfast inns around Bulgaria that have earned the Authentic Bulgaria Quality Mark, can be purchased at Traditzia and at the U.S. Embassy. The hotels are also featured on the website <http://authenticbulgaria.org>.

USAID supported development of the Authentic Bulgaria Quality Mark, which is helping to increase professionalism in the tourism sector and offer higher-value alternatives to mass tourism. ❖



>> USAID Legacy Organizations Attract EU Funding for NGO Capacity Development

The Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform recently announced the winners of the first open competition for EU grants to NGOs under the operational program “Administrative Capacity.” This program strives to strengthen NGO-government and NGO-judiciary links as well as to promote enhanced NGO participation in public policy decision-making.

USAID Bulgaria congratulates its partners who successfully competed for grants. They are: the Foundation for Local Government Reform (FLGR), Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD), Regional Association of Municipalities Trakia, Regional Association of Municipalities Maritza, Association of Black Sea Municipalities, National Association Legal Initiative for Local Government, Pazardjik Community Fund, Open Society Club-Sliven, Center for Social Practices, Vidin Agency for Regional Development, Institute for Market Economics, and Eyes on Four Paws. Below are brief summaries of the winning projects:

- **FLGR** will focus on building capacity of NGOs in South-Central Bulgaria in regional and local development and social services.
- **CSD** will strive to engage government and EU institutions on monitoring corruption, crime and judicial reform, consolidating their work with USAID assistance from the past ten years.
- **RAM Maritza** will develop a web-platform, “E-South Central Region,” which will present information and collect feedback about services of regional and local administrations.
- **RAM Trakia** will train NGOs from its member-municipalities to jointly prepare projects with local administrations based on the Czech experience utilizing EU funds at the municipal level.
- **Association of Black Sea Municipalities** will develop a web-platform for training municipal and NGO staff in a variety of demand-driven subject areas.
- **National Association Legal Initiative for Local Government** aims to develop NGO capacity in the areas of public procurement, public-private partnerships, and interaction with public authorities.



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- **Pazardjik Community Fund** will continue its work with the Public Council for Anti-trafficking, which consists of representatives of civil society organizations, public institutions, media, and schools.
- **Program for the Development of the Judicial System** (a sub-grant to the Institute for Market Economics) will implement a communications campaign targeting the judiciary in order to raise awareness about EU funding opportunities for enhancing professional qualifications and public relations capacity. ❖

>> Do you love your job? Yes? Then share it with a student for one working day!

Junior Achievement Bulgaria (JAB) announces the Seventh National Manager for a Day Initiative on March 18 under the patronage of the Ministry of Finance and Minister of Finance Plamen Oresharski.

JAB partners in this initiative are the Ministry of Economy and Energy as well as the American Embassy in Bulgaria, USAID, UNDP, member companies of the Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria, and many other companies and non-government organizations.

The mission of JA Bulgaria is to educate and inspire young Bulgarians to value free enterprise, business, and economics to improve the quality of their lives and to prepare them to succeed in a global economy. This day may be the beginning of the professional careers of thousands of young people in Bulgaria. In return we guarantee your satisfaction in the teamwork and innovative spirit of the motivated young “managers for a day.”

Junior Achievement Bulgaria encourages you and your company to be hosts in the Manager for a Day initiative and support the realization of an effective and a constructive partnership between business and education.

For more information, please contact JAB's office at: (02) 989 4361, fax: (02)989 43 61, e-mail: violetka@jabulgaria.org, or mobile 0889 600 284 (Violetka Minkova). You can also visit JAB's website at: www.jabulgaria.org. The 100 BGN registration fee may be paid by bank transfer. The registration deadline is February 22. ❖

Junior Achievement Bulgaria
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