



March 26, 2008

Bi-weekly Newsletter

>> English Teachers Almost Ready for First Students

Eleven participants from across the country, including 6 Roma and 5 other Bulgarians, have passed the midpoint of a one-month English teacher training course in Sofia. After the course, the novice teachers will apply their new skills in formal or informal English classes for adults in Roma communities and for disadvantaged or underserved groups. The participants are affiliated with organizations in Lom, Kyustendil, Veliko Turnovo, Vidin, Barutin village, Razgrad, and other locations.



Novice English teachers in training.

The course, hosted by the Bulgarian Center for Development and Training (BCDT, a USAID legacy), includes daily practice lessons with adult students, recruited primarily from NGOs that work with Roma and vulnerable groups. At the end of the course, the novice teachers will receive a Qualification in Language Teaching certification issued by the World Learning SIT Graduate Institute and BCDT.

The course is supported by the Democracy Commission of the U.S. Embassy, the Bulgarian American Society, and USAID. A similar course will take place later this spring. In addition, a version of the course leading to an international teaching certificate is planned for April/May (for native or near-fluent English speakers). For more information: Matt Brown, mbrown@bcdt.bg, www.bcdt.bg.

>> USAID Posters Debut in Sofia Airport

USAID Bulgaria posters will be on display for travelers at Sofia Airport over the next month. Six posters are on stands in the airport's main departures hall. The posters will inform airport visitors about USAID assistance to Bulgaria over the past 17 years. The advertising space was provided by the airport at no cost.



Airport visitors can now learn about U.S. development assistance in Bulgaria while they wait to catch or meet flights.

Upcoming Events

April 5: The Stara Zagora Community Foundation, a USAID legacy, will organize tree planting near the city of Stara Zagora. The goal of the "Let's Save the Forest" initiative is to replant 2,471 acres devastated by last summer's wildfires. The Community Foundation raised over BGN 23,500 for this initiative; USAID will match this amount.

April 8: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) will mark the end of its program with USAID, which has provided support to the National Anti-Trafficking Commission and to local organizations for community-based projects with high risk groups.