

IOM/USAID Community Enhancement and Development Programme completes the Construction of a Students Court in the Law Faculty of the University of Prishtinë/Priština



The first lecture in the new facility was held a few days after the US Office, USAID and IOM inauguration ceremony.

An inauguration event held on 9 October 2007 in the Faculty of Law in Prishtinë/Priština University marked the successful completion of a USAID/IOM project to establish a Students Court and Legal Clinic. The facility is, in essence, a completely operational courtroom with all the audio and visual equipment necessary to conduct legal proceedings and therefore, is an ideal premise for law students to develop their practical in-court skills.

The inauguration was attended by Judge John M. Walker, American Bar Association, Rule of Law Initiative, Aleksandar Laskaris, Deputy Chief of US Office in Prishtinë/Priština, Hava Bujupi Ismaili, Dean at the Faculty of Law and Enver Hasani, Rector of Prishtinë/Priština University. The Students Court and Legal Clinic is complemented by the adjoining suite of fully functional offices that act as a legal clinic. For the academic years 2006/7, the Faculty of Law had 4,395 registered students in the undergraduate programs, 604 Masters level students and 42 academic staff with an additional 23 administrative staff.

The project, which entailed an investment of \$300,000 USD included: the construction of a functional courtroom with fire-escape stairway, the building of offices and the carpentry works for office furniture, wood paneling in the courtroom and adjoining conference and translation booths. The courtroom and offices will be supplied with the required IT, communications and translation equipment to conduct legal proceedings.

This USAID-funded programme targets the specific infrastructure needs of communities in Kosovo, thus helping to provide better living and working conditions for area residents. The programme primarily targets the northern municipalities of Kosovo, namely the United Nations-administered portion of Mitrovica/Mitrovicë Municipality (UAM) and Zubin Potok Municipality, as well as the Gračanica/Graçanicë area.