

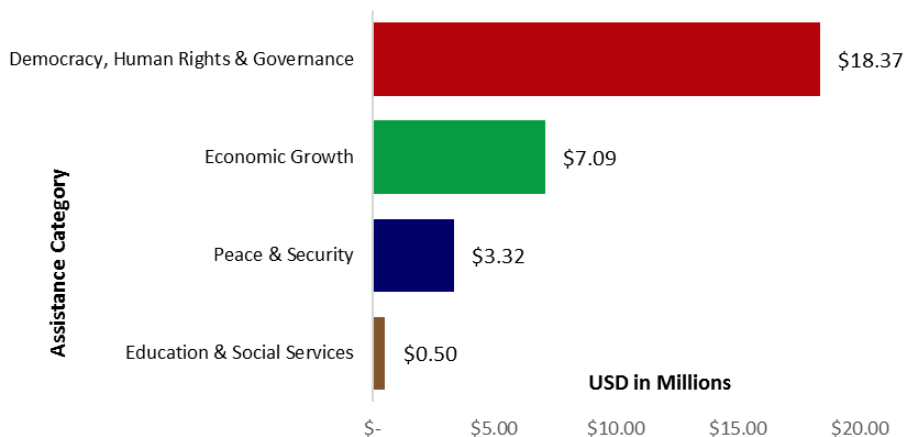


SERBIA

The Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (ACE) oversees U.S. government foreign assistance funds that support Serbia in its integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions, advance U.S. government (USG) priorities in Serbia, and build U.S.-Serbian economic, security, and democracy cooperation. Robust programming strengthens Serbian civil society and independent media, protects human rights, boosts anti-corruption efforts, and supports Serbian law enforcement initiatives. Foreign assistance increases government accountability and bolsters the judicial system's ability to both improve the protection of survivors of domestic violence as well as ensure they receive compensation. ACE-coordinated foreign assistance is provided to Serbia through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Embassy Belgrade Public Diplomacy Section (PDS), the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), and the Department of Justice.

over \$1.1 billion USG assistance since 1996	\$29.3 million State/USAID assistance for FY 2020*	\$3.9 million COVID-19 assistance**
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FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Serbia by Category * (\$29.3m)



Source: ACE

*Does not include centrally managed funds or \$2.05 million in FY 2020 COVID supplemental funds.

**COVID assistance includes reprogrammed, supplemental, and other USG funds.

NOTE: The assistance highlights below are examples of results achieved by funding in each category in the chart.



CIVIL SOCIETY & POLITICAL PROCESSES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USAID assisted seven political parties and movements (including nearly 1,120 party representatives) in strategic communications, political messaging, policy development, and organizational structure, setting a solid baseline for accountability, connecting with citizens and representing their interests. USAID is expanding its work with political processes and stakeholders to identify new actors and agents of democratic change (including women and youth). To further enable and strengthen trust in election processes, USAID is continuing its work on election monitoring and building capacities of local actors to act as watchdogs of election processes, as well as its work with responsive institutions to achieve greater integrity of the election process.

PDS oversees U.S. Embassy Belgrade's Democracy Commission Small Grants Program, which issues small grants to Serbian non-governmental organizations to strengthen the capacity of civil society. As an example of this work, local NGO Astra leveraged Democracy Commission funds to train 60 judges from 15 municipalities on sensitivity issues related to human trafficking issues and cases. Another grantee established the Breakthrough Council of Survivors, whose members developed a set of recommendations on human trafficking and gender-based violence to meet the needs of survivors. PDS also manages the Alumni Small Grants program, supporting community-based projects organized by past participants of USG programs to promote free flow of information, greater civic participation, tolerance, and respect for human rights. For example, one alumna is utilizing a small grant to develop content for the "Remove the Barriers" online portal, which helps persons with disabilities access legal assistance, find jobs, and more easily access social services.



TRADE & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USAID's economic growth portfolio is working on improvements to the business enabling environment and increasing Serbia's added value exports to the EU. The Competitive Economy Project (CEP) increases the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). CEP supported the participation of 70 firms in international trade shows and another 100 firms in domestic trade shows; attendees signed a total of 54 contracts valued at over \$3.5 million. More than 1,500 farmers attended training seminars focused on using advanced technologies, and 192 firms participated in financial awareness and investment training to expand their knowledge of the loan application process, with the goal of increasing applications for the \$91 million joint USAID – Development Finance Corporation agribusiness loan guarantee program. USAID also launched an initiative to boost the business competence, leadership, and influence of women entrepreneurs. The Women Entrepreneurs and Startup Founder Initiative, implemented by Impact Hub, mainstreams gender balance in business leadership and develops the leadership of and increases investments in women-led start-ups. Ninety-four women-led businesses have already benefitted from this program.

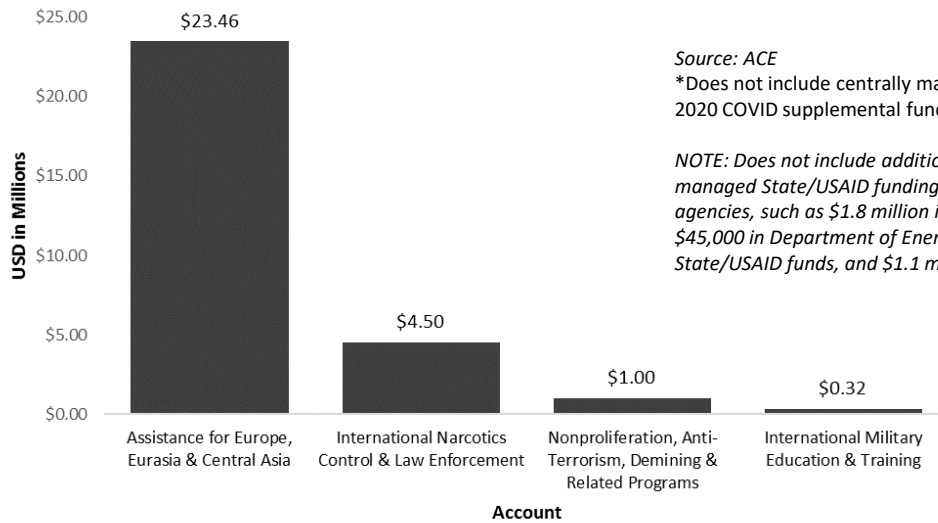


ENERGY ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USAID's Energy Efficiency Activity implements new approaches to energy supply and distribution to improve efficiency and decrease dependence on imported fuels. Piloted in three district heating plants, these new methodologies have received positive feedback and show potential for replicability. In Čačak, for example, 25 substations were fully automated and networked through a supervisory control and data acquisition system to enable remote control and operation improving energy efficiency by 37 percent in 2019 – 2020.



FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Serbia* (\$29.3m)



Source: ACE

*Does not include centrally managed funds or \$2.05 million in FY 2020 COVID supplemental funds.

NOTE: Does not include additional FY 2020 assistance from centrally managed State/USAID funding and funding from other USG agencies, such as \$1.8 million in Department of Defense funds, \$45,000 in Department of Energy funds, \$7.8 million in global State/USAID funds, and \$1.1 million in regional funds.



LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

The Justice Department’s International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (OPDAT) worked with the INL Bureau to mentor and equip Serbia’s Human Smuggling Task Force. From February 2017 to June 2019, the Task Force dismantled 15 criminal groups, arrested 135 suspects, supported 124 plea agreements, confiscated over €200,000 in crime proceeds, and contributed to over 295 years in sentences rendered against human smugglers. To improve law enforcement’s ability to address organized crime, corruption, and police integrity, ICITAP provided over 30 courses on financial investigations, gender-based violence, whistleblower protection, internal affairs investigations, clandestine laboratory investigations, intellectual property, cybercrimes, criminal profiling, and countering human trafficking to over 500 law enforcement officials.



ANTI-CORRUPTION, RULE OF LAW & GOOD GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USAID’s Government Accountability Initiative (GAI) strengthens connections between key Serbian government institutions and stakeholders resulting in increased government accountability at the national and local levels. GAI supports seven local governments’ efforts to include citizens’ views in government decision-making regarding public resource allocations and creates strategies for local governments to operate in a more transparent and responsive manner. GAI has provided whistleblower training to 35 local governments, trained more than 850 oversight officials in managing organizational change and strategic planning to enhance independent risk-based oversight, helped the Ministry of Justice and the Republic Public Prosecutor’s Office (PPO) to train over 240 PPO staff on standardized corruption case data collection and exchange, and facilitated development of the State Audit Institution’s and the Anti-Corruption Agency’s five-year strategic plans.

OPDAT workshops for Serbia’s judiciary focus on adopting new practices for courtroom and case management, scheduling, pre-trial hearings, adjudication skills, and legal writing. OPDAT also supported the creation of four specialized prosecutorial Anti-Corruption (AC) Departments, and subsequently provided them with training and mentorship. Interactive workshops brought together prosecutors, criminal investigation police, tax police, financial intelligence analysts, border police, and customs officials, who then developed task-force approaches to building criminal cases. Since their establishment in March 2018, the four AC Departments have reported more than 1,710 verdicts for economic crimes and corruption offenses.



INDEPENDENT MEDIA & COUNTERING DISINFORMATION ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

PDS is partnering with journalism associations, media outlets, and civil society to strengthen the skills of media professionals and promote independent media in Serbia. Through a new partnership between the University of Tennessee and the journalism schools at the Universities of Novi Sad, Belgrade, and Nis, Serbia’s next generation of journalists is learning how their U.S. counterparts conduct investigative journalism and use digital reporting tools. In partnership with IREX, PDS is introducing the Learn to Discern (L2D) curriculum to young professionals and university students, improving their ability to navigate online spaces and recognize disinformation and misinformation, empowering them to halt the spread of untrue or divisive narratives.

USAID programs that support media sustainability are showing positive results with partner outlets increasing their financial revenues through creative memberships, crowdfunding, diversifying product offerings, new digital advertising, and podcasting. For example, with USAID support, BETA News Agency introduced a daily podcast, increasing its podcast audience by 72%, as well as a subscription business model that offers additional content through a paywall and generates significant monthly revenue to support its operations.



EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

A new PDS-supported partnership between the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Belgrade (UB) and Ohio State University launched in 2020 fosters greater mutual understanding by providing Serbian faculty and students the opportunity to learn about U.S. perspectives on foreign policy and engage in research projects with their American counterparts. The program includes virtual classes and discussions and, when the health environment allows, is intended to involve two-way visits to the campuses in Columbus and Belgrade. OSU and UB are currently engaged in joint analysis of a survey of Serbian views on foreign policy issues, including attitudes toward the United States, the EU, Russia, and China. PDS plans to expand the partnership program in FY 2021 to include linkages between Northwestern University and the UB’s Faculty of Economics, as well as between Clemson University and UB’s Faculty of Political Science.