



CARDS 2002

Country

Serbia and Montenegro

Implementation period

2003-2004

Funding

€4.5 million

Results

Putting in place the structures and training to enable local experts to manage the law-making and organisational tasks of government

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Building the capacity to govern

Getting the foundations in place


Since 1999, the province of Kosovo has been under United Nations' administration. The structures of the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) – in which the European Union plays a major role – have been established to stabilise and rebuild Kosovo. The aim is to ensure security, and assist in allowing the people of Kosovo to return to normal patterns of economic and social life.

But while UNMIK remains in control, Kosovars themselves are not ultimately responsible for running Kosovo. To give the Kosovar people a say in running their own territory, and to prepare the ground for UNMIK's eventual departure, the 'provisional institutions of self-government' have been established, including a parliamentary assembly, government ministries, judicial and audit bodies.

Currently, the provisional institutions are able to adopt legislation for Kosovo, provided it is compatible with the overall constitutional framework developed by UNMIK. In practice this means that the UN special representative in Kosovo has a right to veto. To assist the process of transition, the EU has established a tracking system, to show what reforms have been undertaken and what further work remains to be done.

Priming the office of the Prime Minister

The European Union, through the CARDS programme, is funding a range of projects to help all of the provisional institutions establish themselves. Among the provisional institutions is the Prime Minister's office, which has benefited from an 18-month support project funded by CARDS. In common with other provisional institutions, the Prime Minister's office has only few officials with experience of developing and implementing legislation.



The project brought a team of legal experts from EU Member States, many with previous experience of transition issues in the Western Balkans, to work with the Office of Legal Support Services, within the Prime Minister's Office. The experts' main task was to help develop the competences of the office in drafting legislation.

Essential tasks

In common with government ministries, the Prime Minister's office plays a major role in drafting legislative proposals. But it also has a significant coordinating role, at both policy-making and legislative-drafting levels. Therefore, one of the project's tasks was to help develop the institutional network, ensuring that staff at all levels within the Prime Minister's office has the necessary contacts with their counterparts in other bodies.

The project's main role within the office was to develop the capacity of local experts. A range of training programmes was developed and implemented to help in the training of staff at different levels. One aspect of this was working side-by-side with EU experts in the drafting of actual legislation.

Under Kosovo's constitutional arrangements, legislation is supposed to be drafted in line with the EU *acquis communautaire* and international best practice. So the training programmes were geared to this aspect. In particular for the coordinating role played by the Prime Minister's office, these skills are essential.

A translation unit was also established within the Prime Minister's office, since the multi-lingual dimension in Kosovo's governance means it is essential that accurate translations are available of policy and legislative documents.

Future officials

A final aspect of the project was to train young professionals in the skills of government. A group of ten young Kosovars were chosen for this programme. After working in the Prime Minister's office, they received financial support to begin post-graduate studies and a work placement in an EU Member State to upgrade their education and work skills.