

# Good Governance Activity in Montenegro

The East-West Management Institute (EWMI), with funding from the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, is implementing the five year **Good Governance Activity in Montenegro (GGAM)**. The overall objective of GGAM is to help develop transparent, functioning and responsive government institutions, and to strengthen the role of civil society and the private sector as counterparts to those institutions in Montenegro. The specific focus is on the judicial system, business regulation and a variety of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) relevant to strengthening transparency and accountability. GGAM will also work to strengthen public trust in public administration and the courts through civil society oversight activities and investigative journalism. The project will have three distinct but interdependent components.

## **Component 1: Reforming Business Regulation and Licensing**

GGAM will improve the visibility of government operations through efficient and transparent business licensing and permitting practices that reduce costs and mitigate corruption. GGAM will also engage in other activities designed to improve the business environment. We will:

- Work to simplify business licensing and permitting, including assistance to institutionalize a system of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) in the context of business regulation;
- Work to automate the licensing / permitting system, with the goal of establishing a National Licensing Center, and ultimately a Central One Stop Shop (COSS) for all business licensing together with select regional satellites.
- Implement targeted broader business environment reforms (including Doing Business-related activities);
- Carry out various survey, monitoring and capacity-building activities.

## **Component 2: Strengthening Civil Society Oversight and Anti-Corruption Efforts**

GGAM will work to strengthen public trust in public administration and the courts by boosting public oversight of these institutions. Through a grant-making program, GGAM will support advocacy and watchdog efforts by business associations, NGOs and media to advocate for tougher anti-corruption measures, draft secondary legislation, and stimulate public policy dialogue. We will:

- Develop and conduct an Annual Corruption Survey,
- Increase public oversight of the Montenegrin governance sector and better equip civil society to participate in policy dialogue,
- Increase civil advocacy and involvement in oversight activities through

*Working in partnership with grass roots groups, local governments and international organizations to build just, prosperous and democratic societies.*

watchdog and advocacy grants,

- Increase use of the court system to improve government accountability.

### **Component 3: *Improving Judicial Administration and Transparency***

GGAM will work to develop reforms and strengthen the justice system's ability to work more efficiently and transparently. It will:

- Work with the Judicial Council and the Courts to support the improvement of public perception and trust of the judicial system,
- Develop and implement enforcement of time and performance standards,
- Develop and implement a case management system (CMS) in targeted courts,
- Assist the Judicial Council in developing and training the Judicial Policy Unit (JPU), and
- Enable civil society groups to conduct oversight of the judiciary and the courts by educating them on how to utilize publicly-available and online information.

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