



**NGO Development Small Grants Program  
FY 2008**

**The Embassy of the United States of America  
Public Affairs Section**

*Ljubljana, December 2008*

**EMMA, Organization for Psychosocial Care for Victims of Violence  
ROUND TABLE – THE CASES OF GOOD WORK PRACTICE WITH VICTIMS  
OF VIOLENCE IN POSAVJE AREA (2,000 USD)**

With U.S. Embassy support, the counseling institution EMMA organized a roundtable for key institutions that aid victims of violence in the South-East region of Slovenia. The roundtable was part of the Days of Activism to Combat Violence against Women. 50 people from different organizations, including NGOs, Centers for Social Work, Police, Prosecutors Office, Ministry of Labor Family and Social Affairs, Mayor's Office and others, traded experiences and presented case studies on how to assist victims of domestic violence. The goals of the round table were: to raise professional and public awareness about violence in the family; to present the network programs in Posavje region; and to emphasize the importance of teamwork and network building among professionals.

**Association against Violent Communication  
PUBLICATION “VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – WHAT CAN I DO?” (5,000  
USD)**

Prepared by all main NGOs dealing with issues related to violence against women (Amnesty Organization, Kljuc-Anti-Trafficking in Persons, Association against Violence Communication, SOS Help Line, Women's Counseling Center, Emma), the publication “Violence Against Women – What Can I do” was included as an insert to daily newspaper Delo. 120.000 copies were also distributed as part of the daily edition of Ona. In addition, a grant from the US Embassy enabled the publication of an additional 20.000 copies to be distributed to secondary schools in Slovenia and to serve as additional tools for workshops devoted to the topic.

**Association of Friends of Youth of Slovenia  
CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT (5,000 USD)**

Children's Parliaments, an educational program for democracy, are held at classes, schools, communities and the national level as a forum for conversation and discussion on important issues about children and young people. Children choose the theme for the parliament. This program has been held for 16 consecutive years and has become a useful forum for expression and communication among children, young people and teachers on one side and between pupils, students and representatives of state on the other. It enables the incorporation of children into the decision-making process on how to deal with the questions and problems that concern them, how to draw attention to the voices of children in society, to give them the opportunity to express their opinions, to develop in children those individual capacities and social skills which will enable them to respond to the challenges of contemporary society, and to intensify mutual co-operation and communication between children and adults (parents, teachers, the State).

**Pro et Contra, Institute for Culture and Dialogue  
"SPEAK WITH ME" (3,000 USD)**

The project will promote broad discussion across Slovenia about inter-cultural dialogue and related issues, e.g. human rights violations, migration and the fight against terrorisms. It will compare different policies and strategies which are used in the EU and USA to deal with the problems not only within a nation, but also at the global level. The main target groups are: NGOs which represent different ethnic groups, youth NGOs; governmental and local authorities' representatives; media and debaters from ZIP debate clubs.

The main activities of the project will be:

- Workshops about intercultural dialogue, basic debate and advocacy skills for NGO representatives, youth, media and local government representatives.

- A manual about how to organize and perform a public and radio debate, which will be distributed to the NGO representatives, helping them in the public debates and their advocacy work.
- Public debates, involving NGO and governmental and local representatives.
- Radio debates at local radio stations all over Slovenia, with similar principles as in the public debates.
- Debate tournaments: one two-day national high school tournament and one one-day middle school debate tournament.
- A debate marathon: each debate club at high schools, the middle schools and universities will organize at least one public debate on November 11th, with all together at least 50 public debates all over Slovenia.
- TV debates.

**Vitra, Center for Sustainable Development  
PromOVE (5,000 USD)**

With the goal of informing and educating different target groups about responsible use of energy and renewable energy, VITRA created the “Energy Way in Notranjska Region” as a first model for the other Slovenian regions and others countries. As part of a public presentation of the best practices in renewable energy in the households, 30 households opened their doors to the general public to talk about their experiences using energy efficient equipment. In addition, a guide-book was published with information about this path and households.

VITRA implemented “the energy day” for pupils of Secondary school in Postojna where Embassy participated with IIP speaker to inform them about the climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

**The Wind, Association for Extending Information and Knowledge  
ROMA AMONG US (2,500 USD)**

The purpose of this project is to organize different activities for Roma youngsters and unemployed Roma that will help them develop active and responsible roles in their lives. Detailed research on Roma issues will be carried out and on the basis of the results, three workshops will be carried out. The primary goal is to stimulate Roma to more actively search for jobs, to participate society, to motivate them and to show them that they are necessary and useful members of society. A short picture book will be made for the children in order to have something visible in hand and to encourage creativity. They will also use a local TV station, which will produce four, 15-minute reports and broadcast on regional TV AS, Murska Sobota and through Slovenia TV network on other regional TV stations. If successful, the project will encourage greater tolerance and understanding towards diversity, and stimulate Roma to become active participants in society.

**Legebitra  
"ACTIVATE! Against Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Expression" (1,200 USD)**

ACTIVATE will function as a focal point where all information on LGBT human rights abuse will be gathered and analyzed. Information gathered will consist of documentation of personal testimonies (documented in accordance with the HR documentation / interviews form as provided by International Lesbian and Gay Association Europe, a supporter and partner to the program). During the situation monitoring phase, for the purpose of assessing the problem, ACTIVATE will strive to engage with experts and researchers from the Ombudsman's office as well as from the Ljubljana's Peace institute and Centre LIC Slovenia (Legal-information Centre for NGOs). The information analysis will be done over a period of one year and will, include a quantitative and qualitative assessment of LGBT HR violations in Slovenia. The analysis will also look at other inequalities such as: what is the disparity between: gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender

persons in relation to violence and worst-of and best-of origins and (educational / social) background of perpetrators. In order to secure a comprehensive and a thorough approach to information collection, the program will also initiate a network of organizations (NGOs running social inclusion programs) that will cooperate with Legebitra. The documentation of information within ACTIVATE will be consistent with the national and international standards on human rights: the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, laws relevant in European Union anti-discrimination directives, binding and non-binding United Nation's documents and Council of Europe's documents.

**United Nations Association Slovenia and Student Association of Macedonian Slovenia Friendship**

**SLOVENIA INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS (1,500 USD)**

Over 50 students representing different countries participated in Slovenian International Model United Nations. Participants simulated the work of the United Nations General Assembly. The project purpose was to provide students with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the United Nations. The aim was to enable the students to find out what are the positions of particular countries on issues of intercultural dialogue and trafficking in persons and to give them a broader overall understanding of these issues. This was the first international UN model in Slovenia. Final adopted resolutions were sent to Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Slovenian UN Permanent Mission.

**Voluntariat**

**RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS – CAPACITY BUILDING OF ROMA**

**POPULATION (2,000 USD)**

The Roma population faces high social exclusion rate in various fields. A Regional Training Course on Human Rights Education (HRE) "COMPASS Training" of national HRE trainers and trainers specialized for HRE with Roma Youth, will be organized on-line (8 intensive weeks of study, on-line forum interaction, case studies, weekly specific tasks for participants) with a practical part (three-day classical training with pedagogical HRE observation and

reflection, strategy building and planning) and promotional HRE workshops in Maribor, Ljubljana, and Novo Mesto. The course will bring together a minimum of 25 participants, openly recruited, from formal and non-formal educational field, representing a wide variety of organizations and associations from the country as well as ensuring a gender balance within the total group. Participants will be key multipliers in human rights education and democracy education in Slovenia. They will be highly encouraged to initiate and implement concrete follow-up actions in their organizations and institutions. The team of trainers will be composed of both, Roma and non Roma trainers. The planned number of participants for the national HRE trainers of trainers (TOT) is 15, and for the Roma HRE TOT 10. Participants will be from all over Slovenia. They will be selected upon submitting application during the National Call for Application (distributed via mail, internet, teachers' professional magazine and Ministry of education) At the end of the course they will be awarded a certificate "National HRE Trainer under Compass Programme" or "Roma HRE Trainer under Compass Programme". They will be obliged to perform at least two promotional Compass workshops a year in 2009 and 2010 (that makes estimated 50 promotional Compass workshops in two years).

**SEZAM, Association for Children and Parents**  
**EUROPEAN DAY OF JEWISH CULTURE (900 USD)**

September 7th is World Jewish day. The main event of this project was a public presentation about the history of Jewish community in Ljubljana. Through this project, Sezam tried to raise awareness and recognition of the Jewish community. The goal of the project was also to maintain the memory of the Holocaust. Jewish day was also commemorated through round table discussion and cultural performances as well.

**Science and Research Center Koper**  
**EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSTHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

(5,000 USD)

A collaborative American-Slovenian research project is directed at investigating effective teaching performances and improving teacher performance through university partnerships. The aims of project are: to improve staff performance, to instill responsible behavior in students and the development of competences. In this project, University of Primorska, Science and Research Centre, in Koper will collaborate with different educational institutions from Slovenia and United States. The project is based on videotaping teaching lessons and on assessment of teacher performance. The same research method will be used in both countries in order to be able to compare the results. The project is focused on investigating teachers' performances in different subject areas ranging from languages and sciences to the arts and physical education within a school-university partnership structure. The project will also include the development of ICT toolkits for assessing the performance and development of computer supported data analyses.

**Legal Information Center for NGOs**  
**CROSS BORDER MEDIATION (1,000 USD)**

This project will promote mediation to people who have cross-border disputes. In order to achieve this, Legal Information Center will draw together trained cross border mediators who already work in Slovenia, Croatia and Montenegro to train other mediators in order to specialize in cross border mediation and to promote mediation as an effective method for resolving cross border disputes. Project will include: obtaining information on available cross-border mediators in Slovenia, Croatia and Montenegro, creation of a forum on a web-page, implementation of e-training for mediators who would like to become cross border mediators, publication of leaflets on cross border mediation and its use, creation of the cross-border mediation network, 1-day seminar on cross border disputes, exchange of information and experiences.

**Zavod O****EMPOWER THE YOUTH – MAKING THE LOCAL YOUTH ACTIVE (2,000 USD)**

This project promotes youth activism, voluntarism and active citizenship. 4 workshops will be implemented in order to strengthen young participants' knowledge in project management, communication skills and promote engagement of youth and voluntarism. It will also promote studying in USA by sharing the experiences from living and working in the United States of America.

**Labor Fund Zasavje****IS THE FUTURE OF SLOVENIAN NGOs IN ENTREPRENEURIAL CHALLENGES? (2,000 USD)**

NGOs face important problems in developing human, financial and institutional capacity needed to effectively implement self – financing and self sustaining approaches. The Labor fund Zasavje will conduct a brief situation analysis focused on the connection between NGOs and entrepreneurship. The analysis will provide them with facts about the implementation of the business mentality and entrepreneurship into NGOs that are operating in Slovenia. The purpose of the project is to promote the entrepreneurship in the NGOs and address the question how to make them financially self sustaining and self-supporting. As a measurement method the Labor fund Zasavje will use qualitative and quantitative research methods.

**ZOJA, Association of Ecological and Spare Time Activities  
ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE FOR BUILDINGS – SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT (2,000 USD)**

Association ZOJA intends to promote the Energy Performance Certificate (“EPC”) for buildings. The basic purpose of the EPC is to inform a buyer or tenant of the building about its energy efficiency. Brochures will be printed and delivered to target groups and public presentations will be done. The EPC will provide data about a building’s expected costs for energy and about possible investments necessary for energy improvement of the building and devices in them by a qualified expert about the importance of energy efficiency. The project supports goals to engage NGOs and Government commitment on the themes of climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

**PRIMUS, Institute for Law, Development, Information and Mediation,  
Governance and Consulting  
0,5.si (3,000 USD)**

Slovenia adopted a number of changes to the Personal Income Tax Law in 2006 and 2007. Eligible beneficiaries under the government’s Regulation on Designation of a Part of the Income Tax are (amongst others) several NGOs. Individuals, liable for personal income tax, can designate 0.5% of their tax owed for financing activities in the public interest of selected NGOs. Only 20.8% of the individuals designated their 0.5% which is a result of a lack of promotion of newly established tax mechanism to the wider public. At the same time there is also an obvious lack of available data on the beneficiaries and transparent information on how system works. This project will promote the individual contribution by a variety of awareness raising activities and will try to establish a continuing dialogue with government on further tax deductions.

**Association for Development of Management and Knowledge  
RURAL SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (2,400 USD)**

The project promotes social entrepreneurship through educational activities for different stakeholders including: institutions from the public sector (civil servants,

municipalities, NGOs), potential future mentors - teachers and social entrepreneurs, farmers and general public. The publication »"What anybody should know and whom to ask and contact to promote social entrepreneurship?" will be published. A report and analysis will be prepared to address the risks, the challenges, and the expected problems in the point of view of each target group in regards to rural social entrepreneurship. The goal of the project is to provide concrete guidelines on how to proceed in practice with social rural entrepreneurship using tangible cases and potential models. A practical economic model that includes the possibilities of earning a livelihood will be presented. The model includes several units: a farm, a garden, a zoo, a country hotel and a camp. Feedback will be encouraged and a report prepared for future benchmark and action.

**Slovenian Association of Mediators**  
**ETHICS AND MULTICULTURAL ISSUES IN THE CONTEXT OF BUSINESS LITIGATION (2,200 USD)**

Commercial and Business Mediation, both in private and through the courts, is growing globally to address the growing need of an alternative to litigation. This trend is especially apparent in international contracts and commerce. This course will review two types of issues in this expanding area of commercial and civil mediation: (1) Ethical Issues and (2) Multicultural Issues. The course will be led by American mediator Lynn Cole.

**EMMA, Organization for Psychosocial Care for Victims of Violence**  
**VIOLENCE IS NOT THE POWER (2,000 USD)**

EMMA prepared a program for children, who have been victims of violence from parents or guardians. Children, who grew up in a violent environment learn to respond to conflict with violence and possess low self esteem. They are more likely to suffer guilt and other various psychosomatic disorders. This NGO will also perform a variety of workshops for abused children that will help provide them with the life skills to improve their lives (social skills communication skills, improved self-esteem, peaceful conflict resolution...)

**Slovene Philanthropy**  
**DEVELOPING VOLUNTARY WORK OF CHILDREN IN WESTERN BALKANS**  
(15,000 USD)

This project is a joint effort by American embassies and non-governmental organizations in Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia to promote the volunteerism. The project titled "Developing Voluntary Work of Children and Youth in the Western Balkans as a Means of Preparation for Citizenship in Democratic Society" initiative is coordinated by Slovene Philanthropy.

The goal of the project is to help develop and organize community and school-based volunteers, to provide practical opportunities and experiences, and to promote active participation in efforts to alleviate civic problems in local communities. Educating the youth to become active participants in the community is vital for the development of much-needed social capital and to contribute to the overall stability in the region.

The Slovenian experience has been a useful model to show the value of volunteer work and civic education. Slovene Philanthropy, a Slovenian non-governmental organization, has played a key role as an organizer of events and as a facilitator to promote the exchanges of ideas and experiences across borders.

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