

## **JUSTICE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (JSDP)**

**Project Duration: March 2004 – March 2009**

### **Project Overview**

The Justice Sector Development Project (JSDP) is a five-year USAID initiative being implemented by East-West Management Institute (EWMI). JSDP is committed to enhancing the capacity of the justice system to maintain and strengthen the rule of law. An overarching goal of the JSDP is to provide institutional support that furthers judicial independence and the fair and efficient administration of justice throughout BiH. In particular, JSDP is dedicated to reform measures that strengthen the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH and the State Ministry of Justice, institutions that are newly established and play a key role in justice sector policy. JSDP is further dedicated to improving court administration in BiH courts around the country.

### **Project Organization**

#### **Strengthening the HJPC**

JSDP provides various expertise to the HJPC to help ensure its successful transition to a viable domestic organization. JSDP is assisting the HJPC with institutional development in fulfilling its constitutional authority to govern the judiciary. Current areas of collaboration include justice sector policy-making, organizational planning and management, codes of ethics for judges and prosecutors, judicial performance standards, and expert technical assistance to meet specific institutional needs. JSDP is working with BiH counterparts to reform the current system of court appointment of counsel in criminal matters.

#### **Court Administration Reform**

JSDP is spearheading court administration reform through its Model Court Initiative (MCI). During wave 1 the MCI was completed in four model courts – DC Banja Luka, MC Konjic, MC Mostar, and MC Zenica. JSDP worked with these four model courts to introduce nine reform activities in 2005 – among other things, a common case numbering system, judicial and court management, case backlog reduction, and public access to court services. During wave 2 JSDP is working with four full model courts (CC Mostar, CC Zenica, MC Sarajevo, BC Banja Luka); two partner courts (SC FedBiH, SC Republika Srpska), principally for implementing the new Manual Records Management System, developing efficiencies in appellate procedures and records transfers among the three instances of courts (first instance, second instance, third instance), court premises improvements, public awareness and access to court services; and one satellite court (MC Capljina) in which selected annexes are being implemented. Two annexes have been added to the MCI for wave 2 courts: audio recording, and criminal legal aid. JSDP also collaborated with the USAID FILE project, which introduced an automated case management system (CMS) in six courts (five of which are JSDP model courts).

#### **Strengthening the BiH MoJ**

JSDP supports the institution of the BiH MoJ to carry out its mandate by providing technical assistance and training for its management development, including human resource management, management of public finances and project management. JSDP also assists the development of specific BiH MoJ sectors, such as the sector for international legal assistance and cooperation, the sector for state judiciary and the sector for strategic planning, donor coordination and European integration. Such support should contribute to the ability of BiH MoJ as an executive ministry to actively work together with the judiciary in the administration of the court system, while at the same time ensuring that the separation of powers between these branches of government is upheld. The overall goal is to increase BiH MoJ efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability.