

The World Bank

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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CONFORMED COPY

April 15, 2004

Mr. Nikola Popovski
Minister of Finance
Ministry of Finance
Dame Gruev 7, Skopje

Re: Dutch Grant for the Community Development Project
Grant No. TF052503

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the Bank) to indicate the Bank's agreement, as administrator of grant funds provided by the Government of Netherlands, to make a grant in an amount not exceeding one million five hundred thousand US dollars (\$1,500,000) (the Grant) to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (the Recipient).

The Grant is made in response to the Recipient's request for financial assistance and for the purposes and on the terms and conditions set forth in the Annex to this Letter Agreement. The Recipient represents, by confirming its agreement below, that it is authorized to contract and withdraw the Grant for the said purposes and on the said terms and conditions.

Please note that it is the Bank's policy to make publicly available this Letter Agreement and any information related thereto, after this Letter Agreement has become effective and the Recipient has given its consent to such disclosure. The Recipient, by countersigning this Letter Agreement, confirms its consent to such disclosure.

Please confirm your agreement with the foregoing, on behalf of the Recipient, by signing, dating, and returning to us the enclosed copy of this Letter Agreement. Upon receipt by the Bank of the copy of this Letter Agreement countersigned by you, this Letter Agreement will become effective as of the date of the countersignature.

Very truly yours,

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

/s/: Nancy Cooke
Acting Country Director
South East Europe
Europe and Central Asia Region

AGREED:
BORROWER

By: /s/ Nikola Popovski
Title: Minister of Finance
Date: May 7, 2004

Purposes, Terms, and Conditions of the Grant

1. Purposes and Activities

1.1. The purposes of the Grant are to co-finance the Recipient's Community Development Project (the Project), which has as its main objectives to support the Recipient in its post-conflict development efforts aimed at fostering reconciliation amongst its people, reducing social tensions and building local social capital.

1.2 The components and activities (the Activities) for which the Grant is given are as follows:

(a) Community Investment Projects

Provision of grants to support small-scale community investment projects that are designed and implemented by the communities.

(b) Local Level Institutional Strengthening

Provision of technical assistance and training to strengthen local level institutions and community groups through a capacity building program aimed at improving the municipal administration and increase citizen participation in decision-making.

(c) Community Outreach, Information Dissemination and Project Impact Monitoring and Evaluation

Provision of technical assistance and training to: (i) hold workshops and meetings with central government, local communities and donors; (ii) carry out the community mapping/profiling exercise; (iii) establish community citizen information networks in a few selected municipalities; and (iv) organize public hearings, referendums and surveys.

3. Procurement

3.1. Except as the Bank shall otherwise agree, procurement of the consultants' services, goods and works required for the carrying out of the Activities and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant shall be governed by the provisions of Attachment I to this Annex.

4. Withdrawal of Grant Proceeds

4.1. The amount of the Grant shall be credited to an account opened by the Bank on its books in the name of the Recipient (the Grant Account), and may be withdrawn therefrom by the Recipient in accordance with the provisions of this Section 4, for expenditures in respect of the reasonable cost of services required for the Activities and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant.

4.2. The table below sets forth the Categories of items to be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant, the allocation of the amounts of the Grant to each Category, and the percentage of expenditures for items so to be financed in each Category:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount of the Grant Allocated (in US Dollars)</u>	<u>% of Expenditures to be Financed</u>
(1) Grants for Community Investment Projects	1,200,000	100%
(2) Consultants Services	200,000	100%
(3) Training	100,000	100%
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TOTAL	<u>1,500,000</u>	

For purposes of this paragraph, the term “training” means any expenditure incurred by the Recipient on account of training activities under the Project, including reasonable and necessary travel expenses for trainees and trainers, per diem allowances for trainees and trainers, registration fees of participants to training activities, cost of training materials, cost of study tours and translation, seminars, workshops, rental of facilities, and other expenses for Project related training activities as may be agreed by the Bank.

4.3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 4.2 above:

(a) No withdrawals shall be made from the Grant Account: (i) for payments made for expenditures prior to the date of signature of this Letter Agreement by the Bank; (ii) on account of expenditures in the territories of any country which is not a member of the Bank or services supplied from such territories; or (iii) for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, if such payment, to the Bank’s knowledge, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) No withdrawals shall be made from the Grant Account after December 31, 2005 or such later date that the Bank shall establish by notice to the Recipient (the Closing Date). However, withdrawals may be made after the Closing Date for expenditures incurred prior to the Closing Date if the corresponding withdrawal application is received by the Bank within four months after the Closing Date, after which time any amount of the Grant remaining unwithdrawn from the Grant Account shall be canceled; and

(c) If, in the Bank’s opinion, an amount of the Grant allocated to any of the Categories in the table in paragraph 4.2 above will be insufficient to finance the expenditures under such Category, the Bank may, by written notice to the Recipient, reallocate to such Category an amount of the Grant then allocated to another Category which, in the Bank’s opinion, will not be necessary to meet other expenditures.

4.4. When the Recipient shall desire to withdraw any amount from the Grant Account, it shall deliver to the Bank a written application for withdrawal of such amount in the form specified by the Bank. Withdrawal applications shall be: (a) signed on behalf of the Recipient by Minister of Finance or such other person as he or she shall have authorized in writing; and (b) accompanied by such evidence in support of the application as the Bank shall reasonably request. Authenticated specimen signatures of the person authorized to sign withdrawal applications shall be provided with the first application bearing his or her signature. Each withdrawal application for an amount of the Grant and

its supporting evidence must be sufficient in form and substance to satisfy the Bank that the Recipient is entitled to withdraw such amount from the Grant Account and that such amount is to be used in the carrying out of the Activities. The Bank shall pay the amounts withdrawn by the Recipient from the Grant Account only to or on the order of the Recipient.

4.5. The Bank may require withdrawals from the Grant Account to be made on the basis of statements of expenditure for expenditures under contracts for: (a) services of consulting firms costing less than US\$50,000 equivalent; and (b) services of individual consultants costing less than US\$25,000 equivalent; and (c) goods, works, training and payments for grants, all under such terms and conditions as the Bank shall specify by notice to the Recipient.

4.6. Withdrawals of the proceeds of the Grant shall be made in the currency of the Grant. The Bank, at the Recipient's request and acting as an agent of the Recipient, shall purchase with the currency of the Grant withdrawn from the Grant Account such currencies as shall be required to pay for expenditures to be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant. Whenever it shall be necessary, for the purposes of this Letter Agreement, to determine the value of one currency in terms of another, such value shall be as reasonably determined by the Bank.

4.7. To facilitate the carrying out of the Activities, the Recipient may open and maintain a special deposit account (the Special Account) in a commercial bank on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Bank, including appropriate protection against set-off, seizure or attachment. Deposits into, and payments out of, the Special Account shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Attachment II to this Annex.

5. Accounts and Audits

(a) The Recipient shall maintain or cause to be maintained a financial management system, including records and accounts, and prepare financial statements in accordance with consistently applied accounting standards acceptable to the Bank, adequate to reflect the operations, resources and expenditures related to the Activities.

(b) The Recipient shall: (i) have the financial statements referred to in subparagraph (a) above for each such fiscal year (or other period agreed to by the Bank), audited, in accordance with consistently applied auditing standards, acceptable to the Bank, by independent auditors acceptable to the Bank; (ii) furnish to the Bank as soon as available, but in any case not later than six months after the end of each such year (or such other period agreed to by the Bank), (A) certified copies of the financial statements referred to in subparagraph (a) above for such year (or such other period agreed to by the Bank), as so audited, and (B) an opinion on such statements by said auditors, in scope and detail satisfactory to the Bank; and (iii) furnish to the Bank such other information concerning such records and accounts and the audit of such financial statements, and concerning said auditors, as the Bank shall have reasonably requested.

(c) For all expenditures with respect to which withdrawals from the Grant Account were made on the basis of statements of expenditure, the Recipient shall: (i) retain, until at least one year after the Bank has received the audit report for or covering the fiscal year in which the last withdrawal from the Grant Account was made, all records (contracts, orders, invoices, bills, receipts and other documents) evidencing such expenditures; (ii) enable the Bank's representatives to examine such records; and (iii) ensure that such statements of expenditure are included in the audit for each fiscal year, or other period agreed to by the Bank, referred to in subparagraph (b) above.

6. Suspension and Cancellation

6.1. The Bank may at any time, by notice to the Recipient, suspend the right of the Recipient to make further withdrawals from the Grant Account if any of the following events has occurred and is continuing: (a) the Recipient has failed to comply with any of its obligations herein specified; or (b) the right of the Recipient, or any other entity to which the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the IBRD) has made a loan with the guarantee of the Recipient, to make withdrawals under any loan agreement with the IBRD or any development credit agreement with IDA shall have been suspended.

6.2. The Bank may, by written notice to the Recipient, terminate the right of the Recipient to make further withdrawals from the Grant Account: (a) at any time after the right of the Recipient to make withdrawals from the Grant Account shall have been suspended pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 6.1 above; or (b) if the Recipient shall have failed to take action, satisfactory to the Bank, within six months after the effective date hereof, to carry out the Activities.

Procurement

Section I. Consultants' Services

Part A: General

Consultants' services shall be procured in accordance with the provisions of Sections I and IV of the "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers", published by the Bank in January 1997 and revised in September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002 (the Consultant Guidelines), paragraph 1 of Appendix 1 thereto, Appendix 2 thereto, and the following provisions of this Section.

Part B: Quality- and Cost-based Selection

1. Except as otherwise provided in Part C of this Section, consultants' services shall be procured under contracts awarded in accordance with the provisions of Section II of the Consultant Guidelines, and the provisions of paragraphs 3.13 through 3.18 thereof applicable to quality- and cost-based selection of consultants.
2. The following provisions shall apply to consultants' services to be procured under contracts awarded in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph. The short list of consultants for services, estimated to cost less than US\$100,000 equivalent per contract, may comprise entirely national consultants in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2.7 of the Consultant Guidelines.

Part C: Other Procedures for the Selection of Consultants

1. Selection Based on Consultants' Qualifications

Services estimated to cost less than US\$100,000 equivalent per contract may be procured under contracts awarded in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3.1 and 3.7 of the Consultant Guidelines.

2. Single Source Selection

Services for design and setting up of citizen information centers under paragraph 1.2 (c) of the Annex and audit estimated to cost less than US\$10,000 equivalent per contract, may, with the Bank's prior agreement, be procured in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3.8 through 3.11 of the Consultant Guidelines.

3. Individual Consultants

Services of individual consultants for tasks that meet the requirements set forth in paragraph 5.1 of the Consultant Guidelines shall be procured under contracts awarded in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 5.1 through 5.4 of the Consultant Guidelines.

Part D: Review by the Bank of the Selection of Consultants

1. Selection Planning

A plan for the selection of consultants, which shall include contract cost estimates, contract packaging, and applicable selection criteria and procedures, shall be furnished to the Bank for its review and approval prior to the issuance to consultants of any requests for proposals. Selection of all consultants' services shall be undertaken in accordance with such selection plan as shall have been approved by the Bank.

2. Prior Review

(a) With respect to each contract for the employment of consulting firms estimated to cost the equivalent of US\$50,000 or more, the procedures set forth in paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of Appendix 1 to the Consultant Guidelines shall apply.

(b) With respect to each contract for the employment of individual consultants estimated to cost the equivalent of US\$25,000 or more, the report on the comparison of the qualifications and experience of candidates, and terms of reference and terms of employment of the consultants shall be furnished to the Bank for its prior review and approval. The contract shall be awarded only after said approval shall have been given. The provisions of paragraph 3 of Appendix 1 to the Consultant Guidelines shall also apply to such contracts.

3. Post Review

With respect to each contract not governed by paragraph 2 of this Part, the procedures set forth in paragraph 4 of Appendix 1 to the Consultant Guidelines shall apply.

Section II. Procurement of Goods and Works

Goods, works and related services required for community investment projects under paragraph 1.2 (a) of the Annex may be procured in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3.15 of the "Guidelines for Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits" published by the Bank in January 1995 and revised in January and August 1996, September 1997 and January 1999, and in accordance with procedures acceptable to the Association and specified in the Operational Manual.

Special Account

1. For the purposes of this Attachment:
 - (a) the term "eligible Categories" means the Categories set forth in the table in paragraph 4.2 of the Annex to this Letter Agreement;
 - (b) the term "eligible expenditures" means expenditures in respect of the reasonable cost of goods and services required for the Activities and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant; and
 - (c) the term "Authorized Allocation" means an amount equivalent to \$150,000 to be withdrawn from the Grant Account and deposited into the Special Account pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) of this Attachment.
2. Payments out of the Special Account shall be made exclusively for eligible expenditures in accordance with the provisions of this Attachment.
3. After the Bank has received evidence satisfactory to it that the Special Account has been duly opened, withdrawals of the Authorized Allocation and subsequent withdrawals to replenish the Special Account shall be made as follows:
 - (a) The Recipient shall furnish to the Bank a request or requests for a deposit into the Special Account of an amount or amounts which do not exceed the aggregate amount of the Authorized Allocation. On the basis of such request or requests, the Bank shall, on behalf of the Recipient, withdraw from the Grant Account and deposit into the Special Account such amount or amounts as the Recipient shall have requested.
 - (b) (i) For replenishment of the Special Account, the Recipient shall furnish to the Bank requests for deposits into the Special Account at such intervals as the Bank shall specify.
 - (ii) Prior to or at the time of each such request, the Recipient shall furnish to the Bank the documents and other evidence required pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Attachment for the payment or payments in respect of which replenishment is requested. On the basis of each such request, the Bank shall, on behalf of the Recipient, withdraw from the Grant Account and deposit into the Special Account such amount as the Recipient shall have requested and as shall have been shown by said documents and other evidence to have been paid out of the Special Account for eligible expenditures. All such deposits shall be withdrawn by the Bank from the Grant Account under the eligible Categories, and in the respective equivalent amounts, as shall have been justified by said documents and other evidence.
4. For each payment made by the Recipient out of the Special Account, the Recipient shall, at such time as the Bank shall reasonably request, furnish to the Bank such documents and other evidence showing that such payment was made exclusively for eligible expenditures.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Attachment, the Bank shall not be required to make further deposits into the Special Account:

(a) if, at any time, the Bank shall have determined that all further withdrawals should be made by the Recipient directly from the Grant Account;

(b) if the Recipient shall have failed to furnish to the Bank, within the period of time specified in paragraph 5.1 (b) (ii) of the Annex to this Letter Agreement, any of the audit reports required to be furnished to the Bank pursuant to said paragraph in respect of the audit of the records and accounts for the Special Account;

(c) if, at any time, the Bank shall have notified the Recipient of its intention to suspend in whole or in part the right of the Recipient to make withdrawals from the Grant Account pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 6.1 of the Annex to this Letter Agreement; or

(d) once the total unwithdrawn amount of the Grant shall equal the equivalent of twice the amount of the Authorized Allocation.

Thereafter, withdrawals from the Grant Account of the remaining unwithdrawn amount of the Grant shall follow such procedures as the Bank shall specify by notice to the Recipient. Such further withdrawals shall be made only after and to the extent that the Bank shall have been satisfied that all such amounts remaining on deposit in the Special Account as of the date of such notice will be utilized in making payments for eligible expenditures.

6. (a) If the Bank shall have determined at any time that any payment out of the Special Account: (i) was made for an expenditure or in an amount not eligible pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Attachment; or (ii) was not justified by the evidence furnished to the Bank, the Recipient shall, promptly upon notice from the Bank: (A) provide such additional evidence as the Bank may request; or (B) deposit into the Special Account (or, if the Bank shall so request, refund to the Bank) an amount equal to the amount of such payment or the portion thereof not so eligible or justified. Unless the Bank shall otherwise agree, no further deposit by the Bank into the Special Account shall be made until the Recipient has provided such evidence or made such deposit or refund, as the case may be.

(b) If the Bank shall have determined at any time that any amount outstanding in the Special Account will not be required to cover further payments for eligible expenditures, the Recipient shall, promptly upon notice from the Bank, refund to the Bank such outstanding amount.