

National Employment Bureau

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

SKOPJE

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Tel. (02) 111-850; fax 111-856

Our ref. 03-271

Skopje, March 17, 2003

To:

Mr. Dick Goldman

USAID Mission Director

Dear Mr. Goldman,

The National Employment Bureau (NEB) has been co-operating with the PRiSMa project for more than 3 years. From this experience, we are definitely convinced that your project "PRiSMa" has introduced the most efficient methods for local economic development, more efficient than the other models we could see in projects we are constantly being exposed to by other donors. The PRiSMa model efficiency lies in the local partnership the model creates enabling the public sector on its role in the market economy, in order to pave the way for the private sector development and while doing so having in mind the need of the workforce meeting the market changes.

Due to these issues, as you are aware, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia is adopting the methods, for training laid off workers, introduced by PRiSMa, and in this context NEB, as one of the national paratenrs, plays a very active role.

I have been informed that the consulting enterprise "Worldwide Strategies Inc.", implementing the PRiSMa model, recommends continuation of the local economic development activity in Macedonia. I am convinced that this next step will help the private sector to support the competitive clusters. This is very precious for our local teams, and in this process the already established public-private partnership network that PRiSMa had created could be utilized.

I express my support in your efforts and honest wishes in the concern you show for the local economic development in our country, that could significantly reduce the unemployment rate. NEB will continue to invest its egagement and work time of the specialized staff to participate in the PRiSMa local teams, alongside the efforts to learn more about labor market active measures that can meet the needs of local business clusters.

Respectfully,

Acting Director,

Mile Stojmenovic