



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE: KOSOVO



(Province of the Republic of Serbia)

Created 31/01/2005 Updated 23/02/2005

Project details

Title:	Support to Parliamentary Electronic Archives in Kosovo (SPEAK)
Status:	Closed
Duration:	12 months (2003-2004)
Budget:	US\$ 100,000
Donor partner:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Background

Following a hiatus of more than a decade, the Assembly of Kosovo (AoK) resumed operations in 2001. The Assembly's long period of inactivity had led to an erosion in the capacity of its members and secretariat to access accurate current and historical information for the formulation and passage of new legislation. Moreover, the public was unable to access documentation related to the legislature's functions, creating a major obstacle to the establishment of a participatory democracy in Kosovo.

In October 2002, UNDP Kosovo and the IPU, at the request of the President of the Assembly of Kosovo, undertook a joint assessment mission to determine how best to prepare the AoK to pass well-researched and informed legislation and to provide greater transparency to its work for the benefit of the entire population of Kosovo.

Based on the findings and recommendations of this mission, a comprehensive programme of assistance for the Assembly of Kosovo entitled *Support to Parliamentary Electronic Archives in Kosovo* (the SPEAK Project) was prepared and endorsed by the President of the Assembly of Kosovo.

Objectives

The objectives of the SPEAK project included:

1. To provide AoK members, staff and the public with reliable and nearly real-time access to the proceedings of the Assembly through the establishment of electronic archives;
2. To create a logical and consistent workflow within the AoK and to harmonize the document management system to meet the needs of the Assembly, ensuring that all documents would be created according to a defined set of standards, and the document flow would be electronic, to ensure that users had timely access to relevant documentation from the Assembly. Electronic and hard copy archives would also be established for future access by members of the Assembly and the general public;
3. To provide the public with access to information in a printed and electronic form, in accordance with the principles of transparency and democracy. The electronic archives would be made available on the Internet in order
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to give interested parties reliable and well-structured information resources.

Target beneficiaries

The beneficiaries included provisional institutions of self-government, including the Assembly of Kosovo, civil society and the public in Kosovo.



Inside the Assembly of Kosovo

Photo: Assembly of Kosovo

Outcomes

Through the installation of an electronic Data Management System (DMS), the SPEAK project has provided for a publicly accessible electronic archive and "real-time" broadcast system for the Assembly of Kosovo, and thus a more efficient and accountable assembly. Specifically, the outcomes included the following:

- Recording of the hearings and proceedings of the Assembly;
- Establishment of a publicly accessible electronic archive;
- Training of civil servants, staff and parliamentarians;
- Increased transparency and accountability of the Assembly to the public.

Experts providing advice to the SPEAK project included:

- Ms. Inger Lorange Figved, Head of Information and Documentation Department, Parliament of Norway;
- Ms. Elisabet Michailaki Lindkvist, IT Specialist and Project Manager, Library, Parliament of Sweden;
- Mr. Bengt Eriksson, Parliament of Sweden;

Parliaments hosting study tours for the SPEAK project:

- Parliament of Belgium;
- European Parliament .