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NORTH MACEDONIA

U.S. Government Has Provided Funding to Support Democracy Activities

What GAO Found

The U.S. government provided more than $45 million for democracy assistance in North Macedonia through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), National Endowment for Democracy (NED), and U.S. Department of State (State) in fiscal years 2012 through 2017. During this 5 year period—the most recent for which funding data were available—USAID obligated about $38 million to support rule of law and human rights, governance, political competition and consensus building, civil society, and an independent media and free flow of information. NED—a nongovernmental organization funded largely through appropriated funds—provided $4.2 million for activities such as training in investigative reporting and rule of law. The U.S. embassy in Skopje obligated at least $3.7 million for rule of law and human rights, governance, and civil society. State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) also provided funding for democracy initiatives. However, GAO is unable to report State’s total obligations, because INL’s data were unreliable and because DRL, due to the regional nature of its projects, does not track country-level obligations for North Macedonia.

USAID, NED, and State Obligations for Democracy Assistance in North Macedonia, Fiscal Years 2012-2017

![Chart showing USAID, NED, and State obligations for democracy assistance in North Macedonia]


Note: Only obligations from the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Skopje are shown for State. State’s other funding data were either unreliable or not tracked at the country level.

What GAO Recommends

In prior work, GAO recommended that State identify and address factors affecting the reliability of INL’s democracy assistance data. State concurred and, in July 2019, reported that INL was continuing efforts to improve data reliability. GAO will continue to monitor State’s efforts to ensure this recommendation is fully implemented.

View GAO-20-158. For more information, contact David Gootnick at (202) 512-3149 or gootnickd@gao.gov.