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IREX CLOSEOUT CONFERENCE "BUILDING INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN SERBIA – FIFTEEN YEARS LATER"

BELGRADE – IREX and USAID organized a closeout conference „Building Independent Media in Serbia – Fifteen Years Later“, marking fifteen years of USAID media support in Serbia and closeout of the Serbia Media Assistance Program implemented by IREX. The conference gathered media representatives, media associations, state institutions, international institutions and donors.

Topics covered at the conference included contemporary media law, media strategy and its implementation, media freedom, investigative journalism, social media for journalists, media market and trends, media literacy, and preconditions and critical issues for media development in Serbia.

The two-day conference was launched by Michael D. Kirby, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia and Bratislav Petković, Minister of Culture and Information, Republic of Serbia.

IREX is an international nonprofit organization implementing Serbia Media Assistance Program, financed by the The United States Agency for International Development (USAID). IREX and USAID have supported independent media in Serbia since 1997. Today IREX works with over 30 independent media outlets and organizations in Serbia to support the development of skills and capacities of journalists and media professionals through trainings, workshops, consultations and grants.

Since 2001 USAID has invested more than \$689.4 million to stimulate economic growth, strengthen the justice system, and promote good governance in Serbia. For more information about USAID, visit <http://serbia.usaid.gov>