



Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA)

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

ACDI/VOCA

Citizens Development Corps (CDC)/MBA
Enterprise Corps (CDC/MBA EC)

Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA)

Coffee Quality Institute Coffee Corps

Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC)

Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for
Caribbean Action (FAVACA)

Institute of International Education (IIE)

International City/Count Management
Association (ICMA)

International Executive Service Corps (IESC)/
Geekcorps / Financial Services Division

International Real Property Foundation (IRPF)

International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP)

Land O'Lakes

Opportunities Industrialization Center
International (OICI)

Partners of the Americas

Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA)

Winrock International

World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU)



CONTACT INFORMATION

To receive additional information, or to
participate in our programs, contact:

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BULGARIA

BTB



Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance

Business and Trade Development – Bulgaria (BTB) Program



USAID | **BULGARIA**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



HOW WE WORK

VEGA-BTD provides assistance to local BSOs on a demand-driven basis. Requests from BSOs are reviewed by VEGA staff for urgency and relevance of the identified need(s), compliance with the BTD-Bulgaria program goals, and the proposed project's viability within the framework of VEGA members' capabilities. When a proposal is accepted, VEGA-BTD works with the counterpart to construct an appropriate and well-focused project of assistance and will determine whether the project goals may best be met by the utilization of a US or European Volunteer Expert (VE), a local consultant, or a long-term MBAEC advisor. Volunteers may be selected from any of VEGA's 17 member organizations.

In addition, VEGA-BTD will utilize the resources of its members to assist in linking local BSOs and SMEs with potential trade and investment partners in the United States.

VEGA-BTD is ready to assist any local business support organization that presently serves the SME community, in particular those operating in trade- and export-oriented industries.

LOCAL STAFF

Director: Charles Conconi

Financial Manager: Bistra Sharankova

BSO Division

Senior Program Manager:
Kamelia Kaloyanova

Program Officer:
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Program Associate:
Delcho Stanimirov

EGIP Division

Senior Program Manager:
Doriana Basamakova

Program Associate:
Vera Bardarska



VOLUNTEERS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH ALLIANCE (VEGA)

VEGA is designed to greatly enhance the Agency's ability to partner with volunteer organizations that provide technical assistance in many areas of economic growth.
-Andrew S. Natsios, Former Administrator of USAID

The Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) is the world's largest consortium of economic growth volunteer organizations providing technical expertise in private sector development. Collectively, VEGA has more than 350 years of experience in mobilizing American volunteers to support economic growth in developing countries (including post-conflict and transition), and in designing and implementing successful technical assistance projects across the spectrum of economic growth activities worldwide.

VEGA is demand-driven and provides comprehensive resources with a single point of contact. Program designs are consolidated, but created through a collaborative process based on our members' extensive expertise in:

- **Private Market Development**
- **Financial Services**
- **Expanded Opportunities for Rural and Urban Poor**
- **Agribusiness Development**

In addition to VEGA Member Organizations' expertise in implementing activities, VEGA professionals are available to assist donor organizations in designing and developing economic growth assistance projects to meet a country's specific needs. Given their experience in economic growth activities, VEGA members are able to employ best practices and volunteer assistance models that have been developed and tested by the VEGA member organizations over several years, and have proven successful. VEGA creates sustainable practices and institutions for the future, while assisting government and private sector partners overseas to build economic and trade links to American businesses, trade associations and skilled entrepreneurs.



BUSINESS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT (BTD) – BULGARIA PROGRAM

The mission of the VEGA - BTD - Bulgaria Program is to strengthen the capacity of local business support organizations (BSOs) to be more effective and sustainable market-based service delivery agents for their SME clients.

To these ends, VEGA provides a broad portfolio of training and volunteer- and consultant-based business support services through demand-driven activities in conformity with USAID-Bulgaria's country-specific strategic objectives and priorities. In addition, VEGA-BTD aims to assist BSOs and their SME clients to identify international investment opportunities and promote international trade linkages in industry sectors with high growth potential that will result in new business opportunities.

In addition, VEGA-BTD strives to promote dynamic and efficient public-private dialogue by providing targeted support to the Government of Bulgaria SME assistance and promotion agencies, through education and training, investment promotion and development, and improved competitiveness, particularly through assistance to industry-specific clusters active in the local economy.

This assistance is carried out by VEGA's implementing partners through:

- **Volunteer-based technical assistance projects**
 - **Local consultants**
 - **MBA-Enterprise Corps (MBAEC) advisors**
 - **Small grants**
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