

ANNUAL REPORT
Kosovo Foundation for Open Society 2016



Work report of Kosovo Foundation for Open Society for 2016

Summary


2016 was the last year of the implementation of 2014-2017 Strategy. This does not mean that the entire program cycle is concluded as regards to the realisation of activities for this period. The 2017-2020 Strategy brings about a new cycle which, in the case of the Foundation, can be considered as the continuation of the past strategy but also as the start of new program activities.

Also, this year's bigger challenge was to conclude some program activities in order to clearly see the achievements, regardless whether a certain program is concluded or it will continue in the coming years. This was the third year of the implementation of programs implying a greater program clarity, which can be summarized in: (1) concrete results that are in full compliance with the previously set goals; (2) strengthening of our partners who were involved in implementation; (3) establishing a more cooperative environment both for us and for our partners; and (4) adopting of the achieved results (changes) by decision-making bodies that were subject of advocacy campaigns.

The achievements during 2016 should be perceived as both conclusion of a strategic cycle and as creation of conditions for the initiation of a new cycle. In other words, it was both the harvesting of results and the improvement of the environment for new "program" sowing. Almost all programs - except for RAE Advocacy, which has been concluded - were involved in the preparation for the new strategic cycle. The results achieved are concrete and easily tangible. The program chapters in this report provide more details in this regard. However, some are worth mentioning, such as:

1. In Mitrovica, the Foundation together with its partners, NGO Aktiv, from its background presence, managed to create a place of energy for all activities - civic ones in the first place, by considerably increasing the civic participation in the north of Mitrovica. Hundreds of activities, which can be found on the website of CEC (Civic Energy Center), established and made operational by the Foundation, have created a new reality of civic life in this part of the country, with many local initiatives and organizations strengthened to undertake a new mandate for the intensification of civic life, by increasing this way the chances for more successful integration. CEC has become home to other program activities initiated and kept alive by the Foundation, such as European School, Empirika advocacy platform, and the joint activities between Serbian media and NGOs with joint advocacy campaigns.

2. The three-year program involvement to increase transparency and accountability of government organizations, during 2016 gave its first signs of a successful involvement, especially with Open Data and the membership in EITI. Government institutions, headed by the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of European Integration have started to restructure their services, as proposed by us, in order to give way to open data in all existing departments. Parallel to this preparation, a series of legal and strategic documents were drafted in order to strengthen their duty to be fully transparent and properly accountable. The second strategic cycle 2017/20 includes a lot of work to be done in order to create a routine of open data, but 2016 definitely marked the establishment of all principles that enable a smooth realisation of this indispensable program for Kosovo democracy.
3. European Integration of Kosovo remains an “evergreen” orientation of the Foundation. In 2016 there was much development in this regard. After the conclusion of the comprehensive campaign for visa liberalization, and advocacy in some European cities, such as Brussels, Paris and Berlin, the Foundation managed to effectively convey the voice of the civil society through specialized think-tank organizations. A cooperation initiative with the Office of the EU in Prishtina brought many concrete results in the approximation of positions of Kosovar experts from think-tank organizations which draft reports and plans for Kosovo in Brussels. Prishtina authorities were the second target of advocacy for the integration of the country in the EU. More than 10 think-tank advocacy organizations gave their recommendations for Forum 2015 platform, which they used to advocate for solutions deriving from their research work in many fields that are important for the improvement of the level of rule of law in the country. Also, these organizations held educational workshops with local and international experts, in order to increase the level of knowledge among civil society and public administration representatives, media, independent institutions, in the fields of particular importance for the EU integration process.
4. The EU integration of Kosovo was also addressed by “Connecting with Europe” program which, in addition to the improvement of relations with the five EU members that did not recognize Kosovo, also addressed the relations with regional countries, with Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina. This long-term program in 2016 started a new cycle of activities, bringing forth more experts from the said countries who, after conducting research on certain issues in Kosovo, took over the mandate to present their findings in academic institutions, and together with the media, present their findings to wider audience from the non-recognizing countries, i.e. the five EU member states. The aim of this is to strengthen the advocacy campaigns of students and experts from these countries who would increase the level of knowledge these countries have about Kosovo, and consequently be able to give up the potential prejudices they have regarding our country. Part of this program will bring the expertise of renown European professors who come from prestigious universities and think-tank organizations, which will bring the experience and the results of their research regarding the current position of the countries: (1) which do not recognize



the statehood of Kosovo; (2) which recognize the statehood of Kosovo and continue to be supportive regarding its independence; and (3) which recognize the statehood of Kosovo, but lately aren't that supportive.

5. This was the last year the Foundation was dealing with RAE issues, respectively strengthening of capacities of CSOs belonging to these communities in order to advocate for the improvement of living conditions, education, and dignified participation in public life. From 2017 the Foundation will continue to work with these communities using third-party funds. Several goals were achieved, such as: (1) an informal network of RAE youth was established. They were trained to improve their advocacy skills; (2) various basic projects of RAE NGOs were supported for the improvement of living conditions and their participation in local public administration; (3) a potential within national media was created to report on the civil society activities within these communities, systematically and conclusively; (4) several concrete results were achieved after the advocacy campaigns.

During its work this year, the Foundation was also involved in the projects financed by third (non-KFOS) parties, as well as with OSF Reserve Fund, in partnership with the Foundation in Bosnia & Herzegovina (more details are given further in this report).

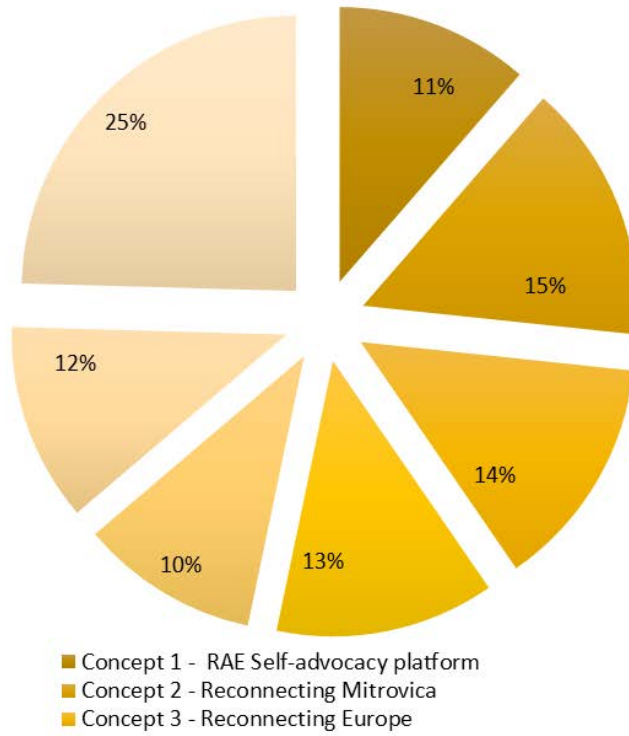


FINANCIAL REPORT

KFOS EXPENSE REPORT FOR JANUARY –DECEMBER 2016

Nr.	Specification	Budget	Spent	% spent
1	Core budget resources for 2016			
	Concept 1 – RAE Self Advocacy Platform	121,143.98	121,143.98	100.00
	Concept 2 – Ricconnecting Mitrovica	347,999.40	347,999.40	100.00
	Concept 3 – Connecting with Europe	313,081.87	313,081.87	100.00
	Field 1 –Transparency and Accountability	294,203.40	294,203.40	100.00
	Field 2 – European Integration	239,428.40	239,428.40	100.00
	Reserve Fund - School me	265,571.00	265,571.00	100.00
	Administrative expenses	236,673.75	236,434.50	99.90
	<i>Sub-Total 1 :</i>	1,818,101.80	1,817,862.55	99.99
2	OSF Budget for 2016			
	School me	138,828.42	138,828.42	100.00
	<i>Sub-Total 2 :</i>	138,828.42	138,828.42	100.00
3	Third party budget for 2016			
	European Union Fund	371,100.00	371,100.00	100.00
	Karl Kubel Shtiftung	132,739.00	132,739.00	100.00
	Swiss Embassy	29,505.37	29,505.37	100.00
	United Nation Developing Program - UNDP	26,614.63	26,614.63	100.00
	<i>Sub-Total 3:</i>	559,959.00	559,959.00	100.00
	Total for budget and expenses:	2,516,889	2,516,650	

Expenses according to programs



Budget spent according to programs - in euros

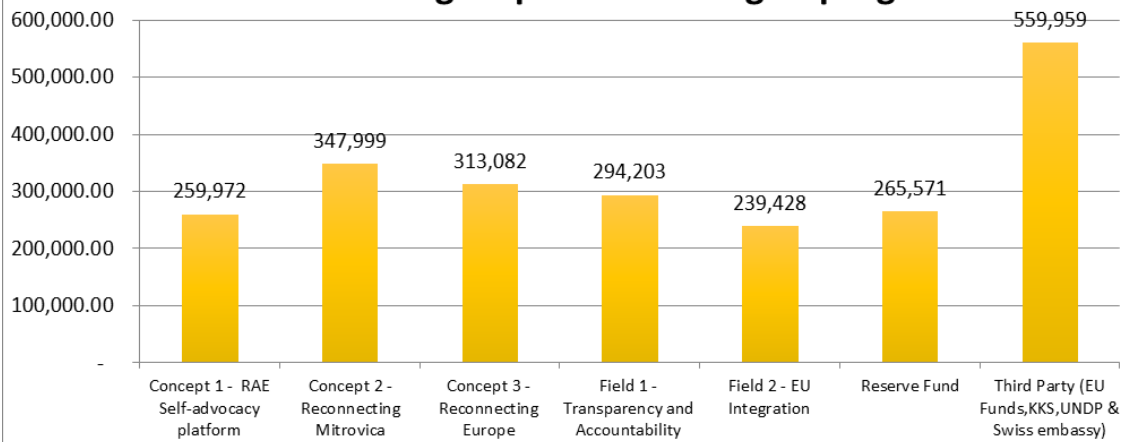




Figure 2. Expenses in months in 2016

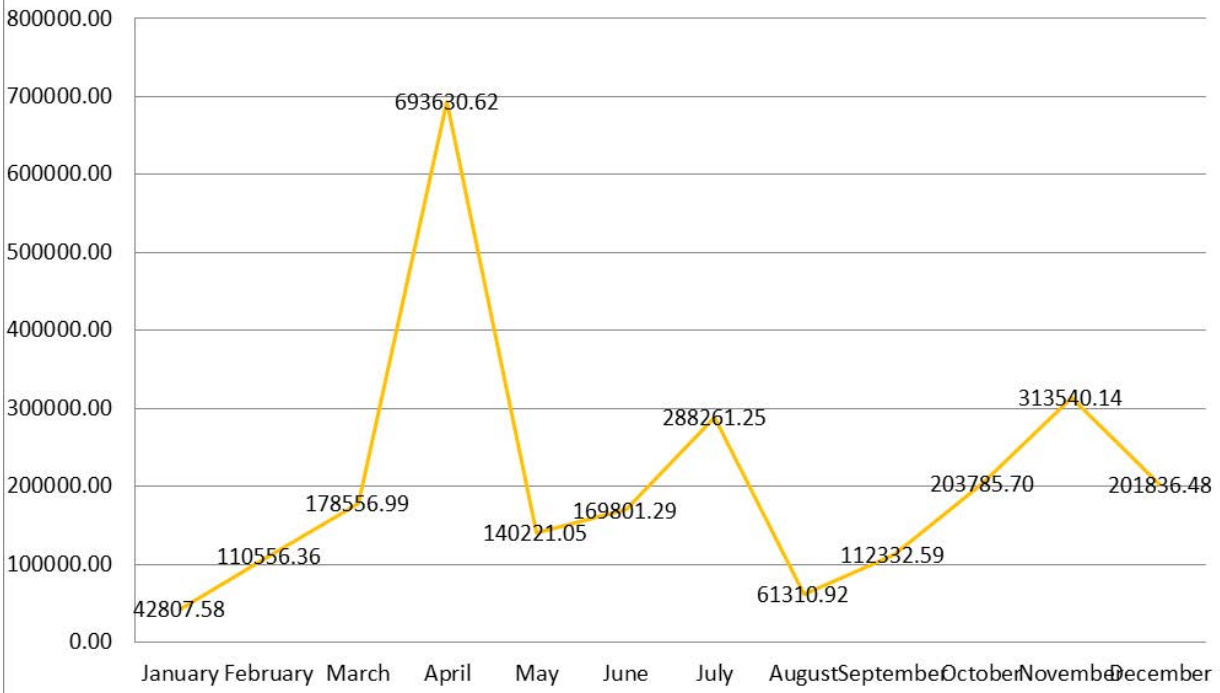
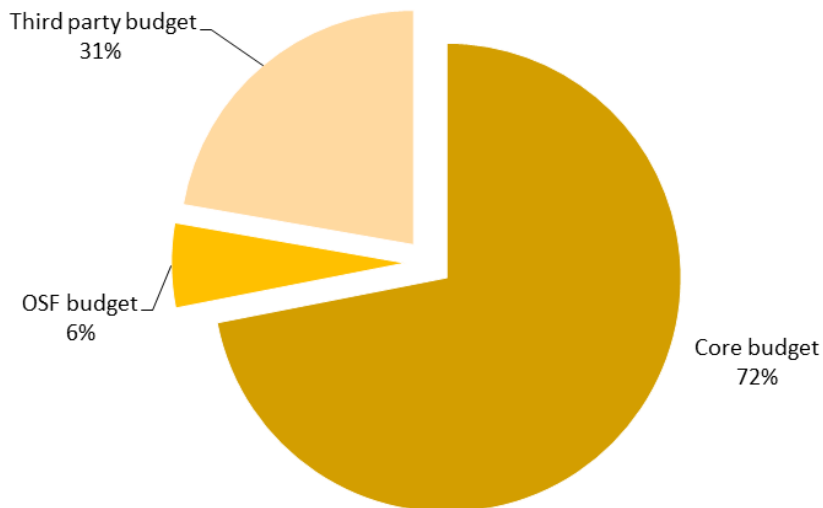
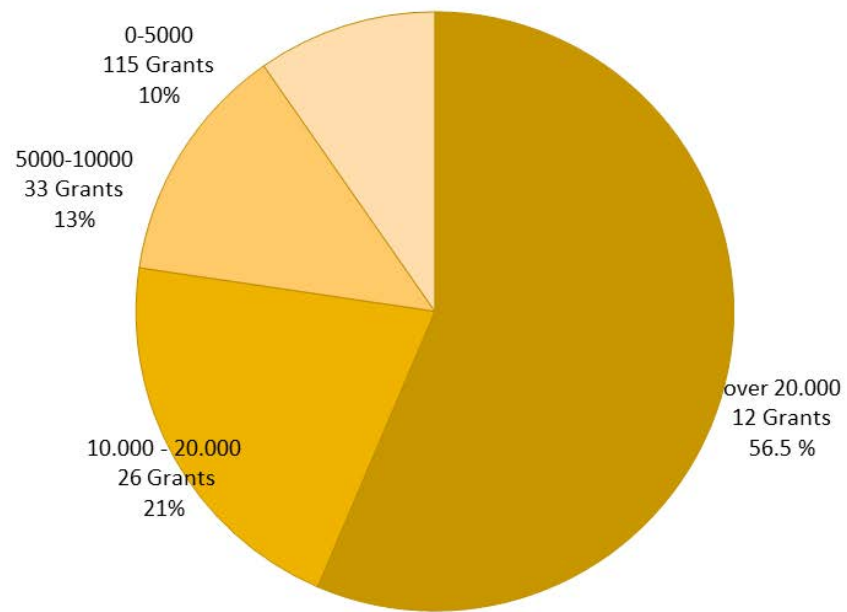


Figure 1. Budget spent according to funding categories



**Figure4. Distribution of grants according to their value - in eur
(Total amount spent according to these categories)**







TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Transparency and Accountability Program

Summary

The program for the increase of transparency and accountability of government organizations in 2016 was more than half a way towards realization of its activities foreseen three years ago. For this precise reason, the Board and the Foundation staff continue to have it high on their agenda for 2017-2020.

Depending on the strategic goals, a major part of programs (1) were concluded successfully (T&A in local administration) (2) another part is ready for the last and concrete steps to be undertaken steps before starting with the implementation (Open Data, EITI), and (3) projects that were established in order to respond to the created situations, where the Foundation with its actions could bring change (Trepca, Kosova C, Civil Society and Politics).

We can conclude that by the end of 2016 some programs were rather preferred by the central administration and donor community, who expressed their readiness to co-finance further work. First of all, the emphasis should be put on Open Data which, during 2017, is expected to have major financial support from big donors but will remain under Foundation's leadership. The same, but nevertheless initial steps were also taken in the extractive industry project, Transparency International - EITI.

Open Governance

Open Data

The initiative of the Foundation open data in 2016 had a considerable development and a number of achievements were made, just as planned and even beyond that.

A meeting was held with all stakeholders in March, in order to discuss the continuation of work for Open Data, which started in 2015. The discussion touched the issue of completion of legislation, Kosovo Charter for Open Data, and further actions to be undertaken by the stakeholders.

The Ministry of European Integration was the carrier of this process until May 13, when Kosovo Charter for Open Data was adopted by the Government. This decision mandated the Ministry of Public Administration to lead the process further. MAP established a working group that would draft the action plan of this Charter. The proposal made by the Foundation regarding group members was accepted by the Ministry. The Foundation engaged a consultant to help in this process and proposed the first draft action plan, which was discussed among the working group and Millennium Challenge Corporation - MCC Office in Prishtina, in November. The PM Isa Mustafa on November 18 sent a letter to MCC in Washington, committing to have Open

Data as one of the government priorities to fight corruption. The Foundation at all times fed the PM and the MCC Office with information regarding the work done so far and the further steps to be undertaken. MCC expressed their readiness to financially support the continuation of the work regarding Open Data. To this end, various meetings were organized between the Foundation, MCC Washington and Prishtina, and the Government.

Open Data is the operation part realized by the Foundation and its partners. On the other hand, in order to support this initiative and other projects within the Open Government pillar, the Foundation allocated grants to different organizations, and further is the description of each project individually.

Riinvest Institute: National Forum for the exchange of experience on Open Governance - Advocacy for Open Governance

National Forum for the exchange of experience on Open Governance is part of 'Advocacy for Open Governance' project which is lead by PASOS network; the project partners are: 1) PASOS, Czech Republic, 2) Institute for Democracy and Mediation, Albania, 2) The Monitoring Centre CEMI, Montenegro, 4) Centre for Euro-Atlantic Studies, Serbia, 5) Analitika – Center for Social Studies, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 6) Centre for Research and Policy Making, Albania.

The aim of this forum is to exchange experiences and present best regional practices which should be followed by Kosovo institutions in order to increase transparency, accountability and civic participation. This goal was achieved through exchange of experiences among CSOs coming from OGP member states, while their representative in this forum was Paul Maassen, civil society coordinator at OGP. The exchange of experience was also carried out by government and non-government experts of Open Governance in Albania. Artela Mitrush, OGP expert in Albania, during this forum reflected on the CSO contribution in Albania within OGP and shared other experiences of CSOs. Jona Josifi, from National Agency for Cyber Security within PM Office in Albania, presented 'the increase of public integrity in Albania' and the engagement of Albania for an open governance.

Kosovo representatives also shared their experiences regarding the journey of both government institutions and CSOs towards a more open governance.

In this forum, regional experts shared their experiences regarding the activities of Open Governance Partnership, as well as the experiences and engagement of both government and non-government organizations, in an effort to improve the structures and mechanisms which provide transparency, accountability and active civic participation.

The orientation of Kosovo government was also made clear regarding further development towards Open Data that are of importance for wider public. This would be done by functionalizing and enriching the open data portal, link: <http://opendata.rks-gov.net>, which is still not quite functional.

Open Data Kosovo: Training for municipal procurement offices - how to open procurement data and make them publicly accessible?

The first phase of the project established contacts with central institutions, respectively with the Ministry of Public Administration, Information Society Agency and the municipalities.

The second phase comprised of the training of municipal representatives, respectively procurement officers, while the third phase which will be concluded in February 2017 will comprise of opening of respective "Accounts" for the municipalities included in the <http://opendata.rks-gov.net/> portal, and data feeding by municipal representatives together with the continuous coordination and monitoring.

The municipalities included in the project are: Prishtina, Gjakova, Ferizaj, Gjilan, Vitia and Lipjan, while Shtime is in the process of getting involved. The field work shows that the process of data feeding after the training can be smooth, but nevertheless, two main challenges were found:

1. Institutional responsibility (various ways of communication should be applied in order to reach the desired result) and 2. People who take this task unwillingly, may not continue feeding the data (the will should be made an obligation).

In the future, the ODK will continue to: (1) Monitor the municipalities which have access to the portal, and provide further support if needed; (2) Include central institutions (procurement reports); and (3) Generalize datasets with data of other sectors (in addition to procurement).

NGO Çohu: Investigative Journalism School

Organization for Democracy, Anticorruption and Dignity - Çohu! through its Kosovo Center for Investigative Journalism in 2016 organized its new edition of Investigative Journalism School. This one-year project was carried out in different phases, starting from planning of particular training components and until its final realization. The project was carried out as cooperation with Çohu! respectively Kosovo Center for Investigative Journalism and KRIK organization from Belgrade. The target groups for this training were CSOs and students, predominantly journalism and other social science journalists. CSOs were invited to take part, while students applied through an open call and very selected after their applications were reviewed. Consequently, a total of 25 CSO representatives and students took part in the training.

Investigative Journalism School was a training which in itself contained two parts: both contained an investigative element and a presentation of various methodologies. The first part of the training: 'Nature of organized crime and research methods in investigative journalism' which was held in Durrës, was carried out by a professional staff with a lot of experience in the field of investigative journalism who come from KRIK. The main component of this part of training was the nature of organized crime, advanced research, international business databases, illegal money circulation, and the advanced internet search.

The second part of the training was carried out in Prishtina by Çohu! staff and its main focus was put on practical investigative journalism aspects in Kosovo. This part comprised of three separate modules: 1. Research methods and creation of databases 2. Legal aspects and 3. Ethics and writing in investigative journalism.

Democracy Plus: Increase of accountability of Procurement Review Body (PRB) through monitoring

Democracy plus (D+) on December 1, 2016, has started implementing the project for monitoring the meetings of the Procurement Review Body (PRB). During December, the project developed the monitoring methodology, together with monitoring dimensions. The project also drafted the electronic form which will be used to process all information related to PRB meetings. Here is the link to see this form: <http://dplus-ks.org/oshp/newfolder/index.php>

Besides designing the monitoring methodology, D+ also had a meeting with the President of the PRB, Mr. Blerim Dina. President of the PRB announced that starting from December 2016, D+ will monitor all sessions of this institution. This meeting also served to present the goal of the monitoring and to call for institutional cooperation to facilitate this monitoring. At the request of the President of the PRB, a memorandum of cooperation has been initiated between PRB and D+. The reason behind this memorandum, according to Mr. Dina, was for PRB to provide institutional commitment to facilitate and allow the monitoring in line with the legislation. Also, through this memorandum all PRB Board members would be part of the decision to reach this agreement. D+ committed itself to draft the memorandum and at this point D+ is expecting comments and an invitation from PRB to sign the final draft.

During December, D+ monitored two hearing sessions. The first session reviewed the case of the renovation of the stadium in Malisheva, while the second session reviewed the cleaning of inside premises of KUCC.

An additional activity that was carried and not been foreseen in the project, was the organization of a public debate in the form of a public hearing in cooperation with the Assembly Committee for the Oversight of Public Finances. The topic of the debate was: "Performance and Integrity of PRB". Present at this meeting were the members of this Committee, PRB President Blerim Dina, Public Procurement Regulatory Commission President Safet Hoxha, American Embassy representative Michele Stovall, CSO representatives which jointly organized the week against corruption #bashkeendreqim, investigative journalists, and representatives of a number of economic operators.

Sbunker & Open 333: "What freedom?"

Sbunker NGO is carrying out a thematic project called: "What freedom?" in order to contribute to the initiation of significant public topics, protection of constitutional rights and the understanding of the rights and freedoms deriving from the latter. The project includes the production and the joint publication of six series of video messages Open 333, and the publication of

12 analytical articles and respective illustrations.

The first series of cooperation between Sbunker & Open 333 was carried out in November on the topic: “What does the Law on Trepca bring?” which contains messages from Muhamet Mustafa, Luan Shllaku and Iraj Hashi. In addition to the publication of this series, Sbunker blog published two following opinions, “Legal acts are not enough for economic development” by professor Besnik Pula, and “Trepca - a blessing and a curse” by Kujtim Dobruna, illustrated by Driton Selmani. This series reached a total audience of 15,700 people in social media.

The second series of this cooperation tackled the central topic: “Where do Balkan history textbooks differ?” featuring Shkëlzen Gashi, Bekim Blakaj and Ermal Hasimja. The following articles were written by professor Armanda Hysa, “What do Balkan history textbooks contort?” from the University of Tirana, and “The logics behind the falsification of history” by Anna Di Lelio from the University of New York, illustrated by Driton Selmani. The second series reached 37,000 users, after its publication on social media and YouTube channel.

FOL NGO: Legal Reform Against Corruption / Amendment and Supplementation of Law on the Declaration of Assets and Law on Protection of Wistleblowers

The project contains three key objectives: a) Report in line with amendments and supplementation of these two laws; b) Inclusion of said laws in the agenda of discussions; c) Amendment and approval of the Law on Declaration of Assets and the Law on Protection of Whistleblowers.

Regarding the first objective - A report will be drafted in line with the amendments and supplementations to the Law on Declaration of Assets and the Law in Protection of Whistleblowers. During December, following actions were taken: content analysis, data collection, and review of reports from other CSOs regarding the amendments and supplementations to these laws. Between January and March, the project will draft a harmonized report, which will contain all findings and examples from best European practices in terms of the legal framework for the fight against corruption. This draft-report will then be sent for comments in the first workshop organized with key stakeholders, such as: Legislation Committee, Subcommittee for oversight, Anticorruption Agency, legal experts, CSOs and media. FOL as the leader of planning, meetings, and working groups will finalize the harmonized report, resulting from the workshop and internal meetings with experts of this field.

Second objective - Inclusion of said laws in the agenda of discussions

Between May and August 2017, the focus will be mainly put on the efforts to include these laws in the agenda of discussions in the Assembly of Kosovo. Meetings will be organized with the Legislation Committee and with the Subcommittee for Oversight, to ensure support for the inclusion of these laws in the agenda. FOL will organize the second workshop to review the current achievements and the actions which are to be undertaken until these said laws are included in the agenda.

Third Objective - Amendment and approval of the Law on Declaration of Assets and the Law on Protection of Whistleblowers.

Between July and December 2017, the project will focus on lobbying to approve these laws. FOL will organize the third and the last workshop regarding this matter. Considering all key stakeholders included in the drafting of the final report, it appears easier to advocate during the entire process and create a legal basis and adequate mechanisms to prevent and effectively fight corruption.

Democracy Plus: Government Program - Not Only On Paper!

The aim of the project is to review the programs of the political parties that are part of government coalition, with a special emphasis on Kosovo Government Program (2015-2018). During this period, the project also identified issues/obligations deriving as tasks of the three government departments: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Development, and Ministry of Work and Social Welfare.

Then the project analyzed decisions and actions taken by the said ministries, in order to address the obligations deriving from Kosovo Government Program 2015-2018

Also, the project analyzed the reports of local and international organizations regarding the performance of government institutions, with a special emphasis on topics related to the scope of work of targeted ministries. D+ staff also drafted two questionnaires to be used in their interviews with competent persons on topics which were the focus of D+ monitoring. To this end, D+ conducted interviews with ministers Avdulla Hotin, Arban Abrashi and Blerand Stavileci, as well as with Safet Gërgjaliu from Kosovo Chamber of Commerce, Ibrahim Rexhepi from STRAS, Haki Shatri from AAK, Alban Hashani from Riinvest Institute, and Agron Demi from GAP.

Meetings with selected public officials

D+ staff had meetings with Avdulla Hoti, Arban Abrashi and Blerand Stavileci, asking them to assess the level of implementation of their obligations and potential challenges during the implementation of government program.

D+ is currently finalizing the draft Analysis on the realization of Government Program by the ministries which were in the focus of D+ monitoring. D+ plans to publish this analysis within a roundtable that will be organized in January 2017.

Monitoring process assessment

Up to this reporting period, the entire monitoring process was carried out as planned.

Organization for Quality Improvement in Education - ORCA: Program against Plagiarism at the University of Prishtina

ORCA carried out its action plan for December (2016) as planned within the PAP-UP project. The project collected the CVs of management and decision-making level professors in order to

verify their publications in suspicious magazines. On the other hand, the research team added additional categories related to the publications in international and regional magazines according to respective documents issued by University of Prishtina - UP Senate.

The collected and processed materials as a first draft are being prepared for project consultant, Jeffrey Beall, who will comment on the findings until February 2017.

ORCA also carried out a round of meetings with local and international experts of scientific publications, in order to find ways for their engagement in the review of the draft report. Also, a coordination among student organizations took place, in order to issue an immediate statement after the publication of results.

ORCA foresees the precise realization of its plans until March 2017, while concluding the need and the indispensability for the project to expand at all academic levels of UP, and consequently include the entire academic staff of UP.

ORCA sees the potential to create a front of student organizations and other CSOs which would play the role of guardianship and academic as well as managerial transparency in UP.

Council for Defense of Human Rights and Freedom/CDHRF - Ministry of Justice, Correction Service and the persons deprived of freedom towards salvation or destruction on the bench of lack of transparency and accountability

During the project, CPHRF visited all correction centers, detention centers and police stations in Kosovo. Meetings were held with the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Kosovo Police Directorate, Correction Service director, Assembly Committees for Human Rights and Legislation, Head of Assembly, President of Kosovo, as well as with the Minister of Justice of Macedonia to get informed on the treatment of detained and imprisoned citizens of the Republic of Kosovo in this country. As part of the regional cooperation, the project organized a study visit in Albania and held meetings with the Minister of Justice, General Director of Prisons in Albania, Ombudsman, and a visit was organized in women's prison in Tirana (the only prison for women). The project staff also met the director of Amnesty International for Southeast Europe and informed him on the situation of people deprived of freedom in Kosovo. The project was active within a working group for the new drafting of the Law on Execution of Criminal Sanctions in Kosovo, and for the amendment of Regulations and other secondary legislation for the treatment of people deprived of freedom, improvement of conditions for the staff, increase of transparency and accountability which is the final goal of this project, gender equality, and the realization of rights of people deprived of freedom. CDHRF is engaged in the drafting of Strategy for the implementation of alternative punitive measures.

Safety of Journalists Public Awareness Campaign

The project aim is to support Kosovo in its efforts to effectively implement the existing legislation on freedom of the media and expression. As part of the project, OSCE plan to initiate a “Safety of Journalists” campaign to raise public awareness on the significance of enabling journalist to perform their work unfettered and without fear and intimidation. The project will start the implementation in January 2017 and complete in December 2018.

The Foundation will support and finance the following activities: 1. Engagement of a company to produce a baseline study on the public perception of the safety of journalists and the role of media at the beginning and upon completion of project activities 2. Production of a documentary on safety of journalists 3. A regional conference entitled “Journalists under Threat: Legal Standards Relating to the Protection of the Journalists 4. Three Safety of Journalists Televised Debates and 5. Drafting a publication and/or broadcasting one story produced collaboratively by one media outlet.

Forum 2015 - History of Kosovo in history textbooks in Kosovo, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia

On December 7, Forum 2015 together with Institute for Social and Cultural Studies Alter Habitus, organized the round table in which was discussed the representation of the history of Kosovo in history textbooks in Kosovo, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. This roundtable was organized to mark the publication of the report of Alter Habitus called “The history of Kosovo in history textbooks in Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro and Macedonia”.

This report looks into the representation of the history of Kosovo from ancient times until today in primary and secondary school textbooks of Kosovo, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. History textbooks of these five countries, approved by their respective ministries of education, have served as key source of this report. Depictions made in these historiographies have been compared, bringing forth similarities and differences among them. Foreign authors who write on the events and developments in Kosovo in different periods have been represented with their respective arguments. The report indirectly shows the types of neighborhood relations the governments of these countries are suggesting to the new generations whom they are educating using these textbooks. This report aims to reveal, as clearly and as factually as possible, that which is the basis of often contradicting claims among nations confronting one another in Kosovo. The panelists in this round table were: Ermal Hasimja, PhD Pedagogue - University of New York/ Tirana, Bekim Blakaj – Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo and Shkëlzen Gashi – Author of the report.

List of projects supported by Open Governance pillar

Name of the project	Beneficiary	Amount in euros
Action Plan of Kosovo Charter for Open Data	-	2,250
Government Program - Not Only on Paper	Democracy Plus	17,820
Investigative Journalism School	Çohu NGO	19,000
Training for investigative journalists	KRIK	2,000
Training for municipal procurement offices - how to open procurement data and make them publicly accessible?	Open Data Kosovo	3,876
Ministry of Justice, Correction Service and the persons deprived of freedom towards salvation or destruction on the bench of lack of transparency and accountability	Council for Defense of Human Rights and Freedom	19,350
Sbunker & Open 333: "What freedom?"	Sbunker	12,641
Increase of accountability of Procurement Review Body (PRB) through monitoring	Democracy Plus	19,060
Legal Reform Against Corruption/Amendment and Supplementation of Law on the Declaration of Assets and Law on Protection of Wistleblowers	FOL NGO	19,230
Participation at OGP Summit - Paris	Open Data Kosovo	1,047
Anti Plagiarism Program in UP	ORCA	13,750
Safety of Journalists Public Awareness Campaign	OSCE	20,000
Other program expenses		15,191
	Total:	165,215

Privatization and Capital Investments

In May, the Foundation organized a two-day workshop with partner organizations involved in the realization of Capital Investment project. The workshop looked into ways to continue with advocacy tools in order to put pressure on public institutions by using analysis findings, by organizing roundtables as part of Dokufest, as well as by other ideas that could be carried out within this program pillar.

Advocacy and promotional activities around analytical research on capital investments

In close partnership and with the support of the Foundation and Cohu organization, part of the campaign “Handle with care, citizen’s property”, Riinvest managed to organize and participate in different advocacy activities.

After publishing four study reports in 2015, the advocacy activities in 2016 included panel discussions, illustrated animations, short story interviews, a TV show on a national television, discussion at Dokufest.

In April 2016, Alban Hashani – research director at Riinvest Institute, Alban Zogaj – senior researcher, as well as Lorik Bajrami from Cohu, and Bujar Ejupi – independent researcher, presented and discussed the findings of the study reports, in one of the most watched political TV show in the country on prime time, “Zona B” – at Klan Kosova, a national TV channel.

Also, part of the advocacy campaign, Riinvest produced and launched four one minute illustrated animations, named “The government’s big projects in one minute”, which derived from the four study reports. Starting from the end of May 2016, the four animations, were launched on a weekly basis, mainly on social media platforms such YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and later on Klan Kosova TV channel.

In August 2016, Riinvest’s executive director Lumir Abdixhiku, and Alban Hashani – research director, under the organization of the Foundation and KOHA group, at Kosovo’s largest cultural event and film festival Dokufest, discussed the topic of corruption and Kosovo’s capital investments with civil society and media representatives. Also, the animations conducted part of the campaign, were shown during this event.

Also, Foundation launched a social media platform on Facebook - Open333, where animations and short story interviews were launched. Articles were also written by key staff of Riinvest on national newspapers on the topics raised by the reports.

Çohu! and Riinvest organized a roundtable discussion on the privatization process and the current situation of Post and Telecom of Kosovo. The panelists of this discussion were: Blernad Stavileci, minister of economic development, Lumir Abdixhiku from Riinvest, and Lorik Bajrami from Çohu! (author of the report). Lorik Bajrami said that PTK experienced a decline in revenues, and is back to its 2014 situation. According to Bajrami, all governments so far had a partisan approach towards PTK, which hindered the development of an accountability mechanism, and produced a poor performance. This roundtable was organized as part of advocacy activities of the Foundation’s initiative “Handle it with care, it is the property of citizens.” The roundtable was held on May 26, 2016.

Çohu! reacted on the penalty imposed by arbitrage for PTK in: «Degradation and Destruction of PTK by Politics» Çohu! considered that it was upsetting and irresponsible to lose millions of euros in this entire process related to PTK - 4,2 million euros for transaction advisers, and 30 million euros for Z-Mobile operator - and nobody knows outcome of AXOS’s lawsuit. This

is the destruction of PTK, which seems to be done on purpose by the competent parties: PTK management and Kosovo Government. So far, no political or criminal responsibility was taken regarding mismanagement, continuous failures in privatization, and continuous degradation of PTK. Çohu! called the State Prosecution to initiate a wide investigation of people who were responsible, and people responsible for the degradation and destruction of PTK to this extent. Çohu! believes that someone should be held responsible for the loss of 34,2 million euros. In addition to political accountability, there should also be a criminal accountability for responsible people (current and previous PTK Board, current and previous directors, current minister of economic development and previous ministers).

The revitalisation of Trepca through public-private partnership: lessons from the experiences of other countries

In February 2016 the Committee on Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo commissioned six case studies by international experts to highlight the experience of other countries in dealing with their mining sector and the restructuring and private sector engagement of a number of specific mining companies. These case studies were presented at a Seminar in Prishtina on 4 June 2016.

Considering the significance of the work carried out for these six study cases, the Foundation engaged Staffordshire University professor, Iraj Hashi, to summarize these study cases in order to present main lessons that could be drawn from the experiences of other: developed countries: Canada, Australia, and New Zealand; developing countries: Turkey; and transition countries: Poland and Bulgaria. This report summarized the six study cases and then drew general conclusions.

Summary of six study cases

The six Case Studies fall into three groups, each highlighting particular features of relevance to Kosovo, and should be summarised separately.

1. The first three case studies, KGHM Polska Miedz (Polish Copper Co KGHM), KCM Plovdiv (Bulgaria) and Eti Bank Group (Turkey), focus on individual companies and their restructuring and privatisation. They analyse the process of restructuring (including changes in their ownership) and the change in the performance of the companies after privatisation.
2. The two case studies of the Quebec Northern Plan and Reflections on Resource Extraction Based Industries in Australasia discuss not individual companies going through the restructuring process but the broader issues of the development of mineral industries and the approaches to public-private partnership adopted by the governments in these countries.

3. The final case study, KOZA ALTIN İŞLETMELERİ A.Ş., provides an example of how a company looking for additional sources of finance may issue different types of shares to its new shareholders and end up with shareholders having two or more types of shares (with different rights). While all shareholders are entitled to a return on their investment, their participation in the decision making process or their seniority in receiving returns on their shares may be different. Shares may be voting or non-voting; they may be preference or ordinary shares; and other differences).

We will therefore summarise the case studies and draw their main lessons for Trepca in three separate sections.

After reviewing the six study cases, a number of lessons were drawn for the revitalization of Trepca as well as some options of Kosovo Government. All these were presented and discussed at a Forum 2015 roundtable: “The upshot of the law: Challenges, opportunities, and risks,” held on October 22. The panelists of this roundtable were: Muhamet Mustafa, Head of the Parliamentary Commission for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry; Nazmi Mikullovcı, Director of Trepca during 1978-1984 and 2001-2008; Blerand Stavileci, Minister of Economic Development and Iraj Hashi, Economics Professor – Centre for Research on Emerging Economies (CREE), Business School, Staffordshire University.

Forum 2015 – A Modern Quixotism - Why Kosovo lacks a long-term energy strategy?

Within the advocacy platform for capital investment studies, on July 7, Forum 2015 organized a roundtable presenting and discussing analysis carried out by KFOS and Riinvest Institute: “A Modern Quixotism.

Why Kosovo lacks a long-term energy strategy?

For some time now, Kosovo has been continuously challenged by the development of energy sector on the one hand, and by many unfinished attempts on the other hand with the aim of attracting foreign investors in the country. For a decade now, all our political actors have been competing as to who will be the first one to let us know that they have the solution to this major developmental problem of the country, and during this whole time the political actors, when coming to power, show a complete incapacity vis-à-vis this challenge.

What the citizens have seen during this decade is the following: (1) lack of basic technical and technological knowledge, including social and environmental knowledge, to bring about a sustainable option for this sector (2) total disrespect to the democratic institutions of the country in the process of drafting and finalizing investment projects, and (3) lack of mechanisms that would be applicable to new power plants and provide economic benefits for the country after this attack on natural resources. All these elements can have a common denominator: to date, Kosovo decision makers have never had a long-term and a clear vision for the development of

this sector for the decades to come, which represents a single and indispensable precondition in order to plan these billions worth of investments in the country.

This was the core topic of this Forum 2015 panel comprised of: Blerand Stavileci, Minister of Economic Development; Libor Chlad, Deputy Head of Cooperation Sector – European Commission; and Alban Hashani, Research Director at Riinvest Institute.

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

Workshop, June 24-25

Kosovo Foundation for Open Society continues its engagement in extractive industry, which started some years ago. On June 24-25, the Foundation organized second workshop on Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) This workshop gathered different public officials from ministries, agencies, regulatory bodies, parliamentary committees, businesses and CSO representatives.

EITI is a global standards of good governance for the countries rich in oil, gas and minerals. It covers key issues, from the beginning of extraction of natural resources, to its impact on citizens' welfare. Countries which implement EITI take the obligation to disclose information on the payment of taxes, licenses, contracts, production and other key elements linked to the extraction of natural resources.

This standard aims to promote transparent and accountable management of natural resources. Starting from the fact that natural resources belong to their citizens, the extraction of these resources should be followed by economic and social development. But, poor management of natural resources often results in corruption and conflicts. Therefore, by increasing transparency and additional care towards extracting industry, the benefits become more comprehensive (belonging to all citizens).

The two-day workshop organized by Eurasia Hub and Kosovo foundation for Open Society informed participants on the key standards of disclosure of information, transparency requirements regarding fuels, gas and other sectors included in EITI, as well as on best practices in the establishment of a multi stakeholder group for the oversight of EITI implementation.

This standard is implemented by governments, in cooperation with businesses and civil society.

The contact has been established with EITI Secretariat in Oslo in order to start the process of meeting basic criteria, which is necessary for the initiation of the membership process. The Ministry of Economic Development committed itself to take the obligations that the government is supposed to have in this process. EuroAsia Hub, Foundation's partner, continues to advise and set priorities in order to be on the right path and do parallel work in: negotiations with Oslo, capacity building of key stakeholders, and informing citizens on the benefits that Kosovo would have from its membership in EITI.

In December, EuroAsia Hub prepared the first draft of its feasibility study, which will be discussed with the Ministry of Economic Development until the final draft is produced.

Documentary Film Festival – Dokufest

The 15th edition of the Dokufest 2016 took place between August 5-13, by offering again a broad variety of documentary and short films, and bringing together producers, directors, from all over the world to share their stories, show their films, contribute to the festival's theme which this year evolved on corruption.

For Kosovo Foundation for Open Society, this was another valuable opportunity to build bridges between Kosovo society and societies of non-recognizing countries in the European Union and region. The festival remained again an excellent entry points to Learning about customer for its ability to build a positive image about a country struggling with challenging stained building and the European integration process.

Therefore, for the fourth year round the foundation successfully brought together several journalists to attend the festival, learn about Kosovo and write stories and their media outlets that will inform their audiences about Prizren and Kosovo as host of International documentary film Festival.

On the other hand, supporting fight against corruption is one of the core values in its multi-year strategy of operation. As such, the festival presented excellent platform to advance the Foundation's implementation of its strategic goals supporting fight against corruption and connecting Kosovar society with the societies of recognizing countries.

To advance accomplishment of its goals, the Foundation organized:

- Visit of journalists and media activists from 8 non-recognizing countries
- Panel discussions on different aspects of corruption
- A standup comedy performance with the Dardan Islami

Similar to the previous years, the foundation organized an additional program to the one offered by Dokufest in order to enrich the journalists' Kosovar experience and introduce them with other aspects of Kosovo's progress and state building in the past years.

Five panel discussions on different aspects of corruption

The festival's focus on issues of corruption this year presented a unique platform to explore different aspects of this phenomenon and the impact it has on human life in general. The Foundation's rich collection of studies, animations, documentaries, and support to civil society organizations enriched a special segment of the festival this year. The initial idea of the foundation to organize one panel discussion and showcasing animations and projects on corruption and public infrastructure project turned into an extended cooperation with the festival organizers themselves and organizing of five separate panel discussions, part of Dokutalk segment of the Dokufest. As a result, each afternoon visitors, citizens, filmmakers, journalist, and wider audience could engage with a one of national, regional, and international activists against corruptive practices in different walks of life. The topics explored through the Dokutalk were: (1) Power, Corruption and Lies (2) "Handle with Care! It is citizen's property" (3) Governance and Impunity (4) Everyday Rebellion (5) Media & Technology and (6) From Before to After

The discussions were interactive and triggered lively conversations between the panelists and attendees in the audience. But to encourage further they interactive character of the discussions the foundation introduced mini quizzes at the beginning of each discussion. Utilizing its own equipment for interactive communication with wider audience the foundation explored two questions related to the topic discussed with the audience the opinions that they shared. The mini quiz was performed by Dardan Islami, a stand-up comedian.

Stand-up comedy performance Si N'fore

For the first time in Dokufest and Prizren, the audience had an opportunity to attend a stand-up comedy performance. Dardan Islami, a well-known standup comedian from Pristina was invited to Prizren, and based on the audience's input through mini-quizzes standup comedy was performed on the evening of August 12, 2016. The performance attracted a big number of audience and in and took place in the yard of Lidhja e Prizrenit. Taking place in an open air it symbolized the nature of the fight against corruption and the need to discuss openly such issues, while touching upon bad practices that continue to concern the citizens to this day.

Workshops - Civil society and the challenges of political scene

Challenged by the political scene which produced much uncertainty and conflict that paralyzed most democratic institutions in Kosovo, Kosovo Foundation for Open Society gathered leaders of most important CSOs in order to debate and then produce a concrete plan that helps CSOs take a constructive role in the created situations. These two workshops produced many debates which were later shaped into a strategic action plan.

List of programs supported by Privatization and Capital Investments pillar

Name of the project	Beneficiary	Amount in euros
Workshop: Advocacy for capital investment analysis	Operational	5,435
National Forum for the exchange of experience on Open Governance	Riinvest Institute	5,000
Summary of 6 study cases on Trepca and recommendations	-	4,510
EITI workshop, June 24-25	Operational	16,180
Journalists reports working on investigative projects regarding the privatization process and capital investments	Klan Kosova	3,000
Dokufest - roundtables on corruption	Dokufest	10,700
Stand-up comedy at Dokufest	Dokufest	3,684
Organization of activities at Dokufest	EC Ma Ndryshe	1,250
Workshop - Higher Education	Operational	5,345
Workshop I - Civil society and the challenges of political scene	Operational	6,362
Workshop II - Civil society and the challenges of political scene	Operational	5,133
EITI meeting, Baku	Operational	6,212
Other program expenses		13,303
	Total:	86,114

Transparency of municipalities

EC Ma Ndryshe: Transparency of Spatial Planning in Prizren

The aim of the project is to help meet the requirements deriving from Open Data Charter, by opening all data and documents related to spatial planning in Prizren, in order to increase the level of public accountability in one of the most non-transparent and controversial sectors in Kosovo.

Realized activities

The project started with its implementation on November 1, 2016 and during the reporting period further activities have been (and continue to be) carried out:

- Documentation of all documents and data regarding spatial planning
- Collection and archiving of all documents and data regarding spatial planning (municipal and central level) - ongoing activity
- Regular monitoring of local and central spatial planning authorities - ongoing activity

A database (electronic documents and links) was created with spatial planning documents (laws, secondary legislation, sectorial strategies, municipal regulations, municipal strategic development regulation plans, maps and other documents). Parallel to this, with the consent of the Directorate of Urbanism of Prizren, the officials of this department started gathering and archiving building permits. EC Ma Ndryshe also contacted cultural heritage authorities (Cultural Heritage department within the Ministry of Culture, Regional Cultural Heritage Center in Prizren, Kosovo Institute for the Protection of Monuments, Cultural Heritage Council in Prizren) in order to obtain all consents and recommendations issued for the Historic Center of Prizren and other cultural heritage zones. At the same time, the project carried out regular monitoring of local and central spatial planning authorities, and during this reporting period four statements were issued regarding the findings from this monitoring.

First trimester of 2017

During this period, the project will carry out following activities:

- Collection and archiving of all documents and data regarding spatial planning (municipal and central level) - ongoing activity
- Establishing contacts with IT company for the creation of an online platform
- Regular monitoring of local and central spatial planning authorities - ongoing activity

Civic Initiative of Skenderaj: Civic activism - Responsible governance


During the reporting period, Civic Initiative of Skenderaj (IQS) carried out numerous activities. The overall goal of this project is to contribute to the strengthening of local governance in Skenderaj through advocacy for the implementation of legal mechanisms and enhancement of local democracy.

The activities carried out during this period:

- **Monitoring of sessions of MA Skenderaj** - the project monitored three regular MA sessions, in order to monitor the implementation of procedures and the Rules of Procedure of the Municipal Assembly. During this sessions, the Assembly adopted a total of 10 decisions and municipal regulations. During this time, procedural and statutory violations were not noticed, except for some minor violations of Rules of Procedure. The Assembly also held one extraordinary session during this period.
- **Monitoring of meetings of the Committee for Policies and Finances**- the monitoring team also monitored regular meetings of one of the most important Assembly committees - Committee for Policies and Finances. During this period, the committee held 3 meetings.
- **Public debates**- During the first phase of the trimester, the project organized its first debate with the wider public, which gathered representatives of local authorities, civil society, village representatives and others, in order to discuss the civic involvement in the drafting of budget policies. Taking into consideration that the participation in such debates in the past was low, this debate discussed and gave recommendations on the ways to increase the participation of citizens in these kinds of meetings.
- **Radio debates** - The project organized two radio debated on a local radio (Radio Drenica) and the guests were public officials from the Directorate for Economy and Finances, who talked about the budget spending during the 9-month period, and the director of Public Services, discussing about the readiness and the measures taken to face eventual emergent situations and road maintenance.

Kosovo Democratic Institute (KDI) Procurement System in Kosovo: Analysis: Challenges and Opportunities for Improvement

The aim of this project was to look at the shortages related to the implementation of legislation and the analysis of key actors of public procurement in Kosovo, leading to the provision of open data in electronic procurement by comparing the experiences in the region and Central Europe.



The final product would be a report drafted by KDI according to research and findings, which would analyze the structure of public procurement institutions and some of their key challenges. Other analyzed aspects are: corruption risk assessment; main causes of mismanagement by analyzing General Auditor reports on central and local levels; assessment of management and efficiency of public procurement system and the mechanisms of accountability and implementation of legislation; analysis of changes in the law on public procurement and secondary legislation; analysis of implementation of electronic procurement (e-procurement) and comparison with European electronic procurements; provision of recommendations regarding key challenges in the implementation of an effective and efficient public procurement.

KDI found that the three barriers in the public procurement process are: 1) poor needs management and planning; 2) irregularities in the drafting of technical specifications for tender dossier; and 3) poor contract implementation management (including submission and payment deadline).

The three key public institutions that are responsible for the implementation of the law and the overall functioning of public procurement system in Kosovo have been facing different challenges. Public Procurement Regulatory Commission lacks necessary human and financial resources to carry out the full monitoring of awarding of contracts to all contracting authorities and the process of contract implementation. AQP was established in 2011 but started implementing joint activities only since 2014 and continues to face different pressures in the course of its work while PRB was widely mentioned as the most corrupted institution in the public procurement sector.

After testing the electronic procurement page, and based on interviews with economic operators, it can be concluded that this platform is still facing various technical issues, and as a result, economic operators prefer to hand their bids in person. Also, this platform does not provide increased transparency for the wider public, but only offers a slight improvement for economic operators which can see the planned amount of contract after downloading the tender dossier.

Open Data in Kosovo remains a desired topic since, compared to countries in the region, Kosovo Public Procurement remains the most closed one and the only one with the access guaranteed only through the Law on Access to Public Documents after submitting a formal request.

List of projects supported by Transparency of the Municipalities pillar

Name of the project	Beneficiary	Amount in euros
Civic Initiative of Skenderaj: Civic activism - Responsible governance	Civic Initiative of Skenderaj: Civic activism - Responsible governance	8,550
Procurement System in Kosovo: Analysis: Challenges and Opportunities for Improvement	Kosovo Democratic Institute	4,500
Transparency of Spatial Planning in Prizren	Emancipimi Civil – EC Ma Ndryshe	18,900
Other program expenses		8,375
	Total:	40,325

RAE SELF-ADVOCACY PLATFORM

RAE Self-Advocacy Platform

Background

Despite a great interest and lots of investments, mainly from international donors and organizations, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities still remain in the most difficult social and economic position and the most marginalized communities in Kosovo society. One cannot say that the lack of political will made the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for the Integration of RAE communities 2009-2015 only partial and on ad hoc basis. The Government did not show leadership in this process, while NGOs of these communities were those who took the initiative, and through donors, secured most of the budget for the implementation of some activities planned for the realization of this Strategy and its Action Plan. This switching of roles, where NGOs took the main role for the implementation of the Strategy while the Government was passive, caused the lack of strong civic advocacy campaigns with the aim to request accountability and institutional responsibility regarding the improvement of their position, the respect of the rights of communities, and the obligations the institutions have in line with the legislation and its adopted strategies.

Few advocacy campaigns were almost unnoticed and unheard by decision-makers due to the lack of experience of RAE CSOs to argument their demands and also due to their failure to establish a closer relationship and mobilization of the communities, with the aim of amplifying their voice until their demands are met.

From 2014 to the end of 2016, the Foundation made efforts to change the scheme and the ways of advocacy, through the concept of RAE Self-Advocacy Platform. This was done by: (1) mobilizing RAE youth in the municipalities of Kosovo; (2) supporting advocacy initiatives of CSOs; (3) supporting RAE media to report and support youth groups and RAE CSOs in their advocacy campaigns.

In 2016 the Foundation also started implementing two projects, using the third-party funds (EU and KKS). The main goal of both projects is the integration and the increase of participation of RAE communities in education system. In addition to this main component, these projects also have networking and advocacy components which were designed with the aim to ensure the continuity of initiatives taken as part of the RAE Self-Advocacy Platform project, as well as the spirit of activism and advocacy beyond 2016.

Concept goal, objectives and activities for 2015

Through this concept, the Foundation *aims* to support the creation and the enhancement of advocacy skills of CSOs and RAE youth in order to address and give solution to the problems of these communities both on local and on central level.

In order to achieve the concept goal, the Foundation designed properly interlinked **objectives** and **activities** as follows:

1. Needs assessment of RAE communities, identification of individuals, CSOs and advocacy campaigns, and the program for the enhancement/development of advocacy skills of CSOs and RAE individuals;
2. Implementation of advocacy campaigns carried out by CSOs and RAE activists;
3. Involvement and strengthening of media in advocacy campaigns;

In order to achieve the concept *objectives*, the Foundation in 2016 supported:

- **Civil society organizations** to implement advocacy campaigns on the important and urgent issues of their communities which also helped build their advocacy skills further;
- **Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian youth** in 6 Kosovo municipalities as a new form of activism and self-advocacy on local level;
- **Community media** which covered the work of CSOs and RAE youth at all times, and also raised relevant issues and in this way encouraged CSOs and individuals to react;

During 2016, the Foundation carried out:

- 7 workshops for CSOs and RAE youth activists, which identified advocacy issues, set out advocacy forms and developed advocacy capacities among participants;
- More than 70 CSO representatives and youth activists were trained on the strengthening of advocacy capacities through trainings, workshops, exchange visits between Kosovo and Albania;
- 6 groups of activists and young advocates were established. They now have a well-set work agenda.
- 17 debate programs REACT and 9 reports on the work of youth activists were produced and broadcast.
- 8 grants for advocacy campaigns on different issues related to RAE communities were allocated.

The identification of issues, needs and locations for advocacy campaigns

The identification of issues, needs and locations for advocacy campaigns was carried out through individual meetings, workshops with CSOs and informal groups of activists, and field visits. During 2016 the Foundation organized 7 workshops - 4 with youth activists facilitated by the activism advisor from Albania during which more than 35 RAE youngsters benefited from trainings and lectures on: (a) public speaking skills; (b) the functioning of social scheme; (c) government institutions and civil rights on local level.

In addition to the workshops organized with youth activists, the Foundation also organized 3 workshops which helped establish the link between the two projects with third-party funds (EU and KKS), in order to secure the cooperation and the co-funding of municipalities where these projects are implemented, and to find modalities of cooperation between partner CSOs within third-party projects and youth activists and advocates.

The workshops with young activists and advocates reached their objectives and the participants planned their initiatives, shared their experiences and established links with partner CSOs in order to continue their engagement and become part of these projects after the completion in 2016.

The workshops organized with CSOs, municipal officers from 10 municipalities and young activists resulted in a closer cooperation between partner CSOs on the one hand and municipal officers and youth activists on the other hand.

List of grants/expenses:

Project/Initiative	Beneficiary	Amount
Workshop with young activists, March 12-13, 2016, Prishtina.	Operational	2 850,00 €
Workshop with young activists, May 20-21, 2016, Prishtina.	Operational	2 581,70 €
Workshop with young activists, July 1-3, 2016, Durrës.	Operational	6 174,62 €
Workshop with municipal officers, CSOs and young activists, July 16-19, 2016, Durrës.	Operational	7 238,75 €
Workshop with young activists, September 9-10, 2016, Prishtina.	Operational	2 263,00 €
Workshop for the sharing of experiences between young activists from Kosovo and Albania, December 2-4, 2016, Bogë.	Operational	3 069,25 €
Workshop on the activism and advocacy of PROSPECT +, December 10-13, 2016.	Operational	500,00 €

Implementation of advocacy campaigns carried out by CSOs and RAE activists.

In 2016, the advocacy continued as regards to several issues initiated between 2014 and 2016, while new advocacy campaigns were also initiated.

The campaign initiated in 2014 to **introduce a special budget code** for the implementation of local action plan of the Municipality of Prizren was carried out and the code was introduced in 2015. The Municipality of Prizren allocated 20,000 € for the implementation of its action plan, and during 2016 the campaign on this topic continued, but it was more focused on the transparency of expenses made on behalf of the implementation of local action plan.

Another campaign initiated in 2015 for **recognizing Roma language as traditional language** in the Municipality of Prizren despite much pressure of CSOs and the community, did not continue in 2016. However, CSOs and the community are determined to push this matter further in the future. This campaign will continue in 2017 without KFOS funding. The activities in this direction will continue on voluntary basis of the community and the CSOs.

The advocacy campaign for the **exemption from charges for health services** for RAE communities in the Municipality of Prizren and for the **facilitation of inclusion into the social scheme** of those who fulfil the criteria set by law, was also one of the issues advocated by RAE CSOs Nevo Koncepti and Durmish Aslano from Prizren.

The recognition of supplementary learning programs implemented in RAE community centers after three years reached its epilogue (the result was not satisfactory in the beginning, but it can however be considered a success). The aim of this intervention was for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to provide support and recognize the learning programs implemented in community centers, and in this way ensure the quality and harmony with official education curricula. This initiative gathered more than 10 CSOs which implement the supplementary learning programs in more than 45 locations around Kosovo. The failure to achieve this aim occurred due to different agendas and interests of the involved CSOs. However, the drafting of an administrative instruction to recognize the supplementary programs provided for RAE children was introduced as one of the points that should be

implemented immediately after the adoption of the new Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo for the respect of the rights of RAE communities 2017-2021.

Reintegration of RAE returnees from Western Europe was also an issue which was subject of advocacy in 2016. This campaign gathered the joint forces of the Roma and Ashkali Documentation Center (RADC) and the Society for Threatened People from Germany. The demand articulated at the roundtable and in meetings with government officials, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and representatives of international organizations in Kosovo was the facilitation and the acceleration of the procedure for the adoption of financial support to provide housing for RAE returnees. This initiative only managed to get the promise that the procedure will be simplified and that the suggestions will be taken into consideration when updating the action plan for the reintegration of returnees. The entire campaign was based on a detailed study carried out by experts from the Society for Threatened

People, assisted by RADC.

The groups of young activists and advocates during 2016 were quite active and addressed a series of issues of relevance for their communities and the places they live. They were very engaged and achieved a lot of success in the mobilization of communities in different neighborhoods of their respective municipalities. The involvement of communities in their advocacy campaigns was one of the key components contributing to the achievement of success. What matters is that the communities were not passive, waiting for the problems to get solved, but were instead involved and in this way showed that they can achieve a lot of success if they are organized. The spirit of self-organization and self-advocacy was introduced also to the community members who were never involved in any activity organized by CSOs.

Young activists and advocates during 2016, in close cooperation with the communities in neighborhoods of their intervention, achieved following results: (1) the roads in 9 locations were asphalted; (2) agreements were reached with maintenance companies in 4 municipalities to clean the streets and install garbage containers; (3) water supply was introduced in 5 neighborhoods; (4) the issue of housing for 22 homeless families in Dubravë, Istog, and 2 families whose house was burned down in Jeta e Re neighborhood in Prizren was raised; (5) around 40 families which fulfil the criteria for social assistance were identified and helped. Also many other issues as public lights, transport for students who live far from schools, etc. were raised. These groups also created a Facebook page, posting all their activities and informing the public opinion on the matters found in the field. This page has over 1000 followers.

These groups of young activists and advocates are now among the most stable and best formed groups. From 2017, these groups will be included in the advocacy and networking activities of third-party projects. Also, the groups decided to register one more NGO which will continue to promote and work with the new spirit of activism and self-advocacy which they adopted during the last three years of Foundation's engagement in the development and enhancement of their activism and self-advocacy capacities. This organization was established with the initiative of 6 members of these groups and will include all other members, striving to preserve the same spirit of activism and advocacy.

As a conclusion, another publication is in the process. This publication will feature the new spirit of activism and advocacy and help the members of 6 groups, other youngsters and NGOs to continue the work with the same or similar spirit of activism and advocacy for the solution of problems faced by RAE communities. In addition to its educational character, this publication will also serve to promote the work of the established groups within the self-advocacy concept and methodology.

List of grants/expenses:

Project/Initiative	Beneficiary	Amount
Advocacy for the improvement of policies for the reintegration of RAE returnees from Western Europe	Roma and Ashkali Documentation Center (RADC) together with the Society for Threatened People.	4 205,00 €
Advocacy for the implementation of local policies for the protection of RAE consumers in the Municipality of Prizren.	Nevo Koncepti	7 930,00 €
Together for a better life	Gjakova Activists Group	5 354,75 €
Advocacy and mediation for change	Istog Activists Group	5 307,75
Community youth in action	Peja Activists Group	5 264,75 €
Fushë Kosova youth in action	Fushë Kosova Activists Group	4 230,00 €
Ourselves for change	Prizren Activists Group	4 525, 85 €
Suhareka youth advocate	Nevo Koncepti	2 135,00 €
Advocacy for the implementation of local policies for the protection of RAE consumers in the Municipality of Prizren.	Durmish Aslano	2 000,00 €
Self-advocacy for the improvement of position of RAE communities	Ec vet	5 500,00 €
Publication on the spirit of community self-advocacy and the achievements of young activists	Operational	3 400,00 €

Involvement and strengthening of media in advocacy campaigns

REAGO program, produced by Romtegra in 2016, marked its second year of broadcast on RTK 2 at a fixed time and RTK 1 at times when this TV channel had space to provide extra time for community programs.

Unlike last year, REAGO started producing programs twice a month and managed to draw more viewership. This program gives the community more media space to raise the issues that concern them and to debate with decision-makers who are quite present on TV debates.

During 2016, a total of 26 programs was produced, out of which 17 debates and 9 reports on the work of young activists and advocates. Some of the topics touched upon in these programs were: (1) Political representation of RAE communities with the participation of three communities in the Parliament of Kosovo; (2) Discussion on the failure of municipalities to give official written answers with the participation of 2 young activists and 2 municipal officers; (3) The process of drafting of the new Government Strategy for RAE communities; (4) The recognition of Roma language as a traditional language in the Municipality of Prizren; (5) Mechanisms for

the representation of communities on local level; (6) affirmative measures for the inclusion of RAE children in education system and the creation of employment potential; (7) Employment opportunities for RAE communities; The format of the program was such that every program contained a vox-pop or short field reports which served to illustrate and argument a said issue.

Romtegra was also involved in the realization of a documentary which aims to show the position of communities in the municipalities where young activists work, and present the methodology of the new spirit of advocacy and promote this spirit.

List of grants/expenses:

Project/Initiative	Beneficiary	Amount
14 TV debates on issues concerning RAE communities and supporting advocacy campaigns	Romtegra	12 450,00 €
4 TV debates on issues concerning RAE communities and supporting advocacy campaigns and recording for the needs of self-advocacy documentary	Romtegra	5 000,00 €
Post-production of self-advocacy documentary	Butterfly	1 000,00 €
Expenses for the translation of documents for the concept and EU SIMRAES 2, Prospect + projects	-	2 215,13 €



THIRD- PARTY FUND

Third-party projects

During 2015, respectively 2016, two projects funded by third-parties kicked-off. Both these projects were funded by the Foundation since the two donors were satisfied with the previous implementation of projects. Another reasons to trust the implementation to the Foundation was its reputation regarding the work with RAE communities and the appropriate supplementation of the self-advocacy concept. In this way, a synergy between the two projects was made possible, and the projects made sure the continuation of the advocacy activities initiated during the last three years.

The project that started by the end of 2015 was Promotion of the Integration of RAE Communities in Peja and Suhareka - Prospect Plus funded by the Ministry of Economy and Development of Germany through Karl Kubel Foundation with more than 500.000 €, while the project that kicked-off in 2016, EU Support for the Implementation of RAE Strategy, was funded by the EU in the amount of 1,3 million €, and is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Further is the description of progress of these two projects.

EU Support for the Implementation of Strategy for the Integration of RAE Communities 2 – Education for Integration (EU SIMRAES 2)

Brief project description

EU Support for the Implementation of Strategy for the Integration of RAE Communities 2 – Education for Integration (EU SIMRAES 2) started its implementation in April 1, 2016. The project is funded by the Office of the EU in Kosovo and implemented by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society in partnership with 7 other organizations:

Kosovo Education Center (KEC)

Balkan Sunflowers Kosova (BSFK)

Bethany Christian Services (BCS)

Nevo Koncepti (NVK)

SHL Kosova (SHL-K)

Syri i Vizionit (SiV)

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology was the key partner of the project and, in addition to supporting various project activities, it also funds part of scholarships within this proj-

ect. The Municipality of Gjakova, Prizren, Rahovec, Istog, Obiliq, Fushë Kosova and Mitrovica are also institutional partners on local level.

Overall objective of EU-SIMRAES 2 is to support Kosovo Government towards creating a democratic and multiethnic society by implementing its Strategy for the Integration of RAE Communities and its respective Action Plan.

Specific objective is to provide RAE children equal access to preschool, elementary and secondary education, by improving their enrollment, attendance and results through community-based and financial support.

Target groups of the project are:

- 10 neighborhoods where RAE communities live with 8,127 residents;
- children aged 5 – 154 in total, out of whom 98 attend preschool while 56 do not attend preschool;
- children aged 6-14 – 1246 in total, out of whom 1002 attend obligatory education, while 244 do not attend obligatory education;
- parent of school age children from the 10 target neighborhoods;
- teachers of the schools serving the targeted communities;
- students of the schools of targeted communities;
- 200-300 secondary school RAE students;
- 7 civil society organizations;
- wider public in Kosovo.

The project has three results, which are also identified as three project components:

- Inclusion of RAE children from 10 targeted neighborhoods in preschool, elementary and secondary education, and the improvement of their results in learning;
- Access and improved continuation of secondary and higher education of RAE students, and the improvement of their capacities to benefit from higher education;
- Improved capacities of the organizations working in the education of RAE children in order to provide quality services to members of their communities;

Main activities of the project are:

- 1.1 Support of the work of 10 learning centers
- 1.2 Awareness raising of RAE parents in order to enroll their children in school on time
- 1.3 Provision of logistic support to RAE children in order to attend preschool education
- 1.4 Provision individual mentoring and homework assistance for school age children and the returnees
- 1.5 Organization of a training for teachers and parents against prejudices, and provide mentoring/advising in order to implemented the given competences
- 1.6. Organization of local events in order to improve the integration of RAE children on school level
- 2.1 Provision of support for the enrollment of RAE children in secondary and higher education
- 2.2 Creation of a scholarship program for RAE children in secondary and higher education
- 2.3 Provision of mentoring for scholarship beneficiaries
- 3.1 Establishment of an informal network of CSOs which work for the improvement of quality of education of RAE children
- 3.2 Facilitation of communication among network members and dissemination of information
- 3.3 Development of a cooperation strategy within the network
- 3.4 Provision of professional development opportunities for network members, in order to improve their capacities in the provision of services and advocacy

Main results

1. Inclusion in early and obligatory education

This component is coordinated by KEC. Other partner organizations have an important managerial role on local level through learning centers. There are 10 learning centers in 7 municipalities, which are managed by 6 partner organizations.

Name of Learning Center	Partner organization
Qendra Sociale në Plementin (PBLC)	Balkan Sunflowers Kosova
Qendra Mësimore në Plementin (PLC)	Balkan Sunflowers Kosova
Fidan Lahu (Fushë Kosovë)	Balkan Sunflowers Kosova
Gurrakoc (Istog)	Syri Vizionit
Serbobran (Istog)	Syri Vizionit
Piranë (Prizren)	Nevo Koncepti
Jeta e Re (Prizren)	Nevo Koncepti
Lagjja e Romëve (Rahovec)	SHL-Kosova
Brekoc (Gjakovë)	Bethany Christian Services
Lagjja e Romëve (Mitrovicë)	RADC

The initial activities within this component included visits in learning centers and a meeting with all implementing partners in the municipalities that are project beneficiaries. Terms and references were drafted and contracts were signed with all implementing partners. During the first trimester of the project, Learning Center coordinators were hired, facilitators and tutors were identified, needs for equipment and inventory were identified, and preparations were made for an awareness raising campaign.

Taking into consideration that the project started on April 1, and the field activities with implementing partners on May 1, 2016, a special emphasis was put on the organization of awareness raising campaigns for the enrollment of children of the families who returned from abroad, and the identification of 5-6 age group children for their enrollment in preschool institutions in neighborhoods where they attend school. The project had close cooperation with the families of the children in order to provide all necessary documents, the lack of which is a challenge in itself and is often the reason of not enrolling children on time and the reason for dropouts. During the campaign, promotion materials were disseminated in order to provide comprehensive information and access to information in order to make their enrollment as easy as possible.

Table 1 below presents the number of enrolled children in preschool education by the staff of project centers:

Table 1 – Children enrolled in preschool education during September 2016.

No.	Learning Center	No. of children (aged 5-6) enrolled in pre-school education		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1	Qendra Sociale në Plementin (PBLC)	4	3	7
2	Qendra Mësimore në Plementin (PLC)	10	8	18
3	Fidan Lahu (Fushë Kosovë)	38	35	73
4	Gurrakoc (Istog)	1	3	4
5	Serbobran (Istog)	2	2	4
6	Piranë (Prizren)	3	4	7
7	Jeta e Re (Prizren)	1	10	11
8	Lagjja e Romëve (Rahovec)	7	4	11
9	Brekoc (Gjakovë)	8	16	24
10	Lagjja e Romëve (Mitrovicë)	13	14	27

The homework program, which is one of the most important project programs implemented according to the methodology of Step by Step course, started without delay on September 1, 2016, at the beginning of school year. This program engaged at least 3 full-time facilitators, or 6 part-time facilitators depending on the needs of the center and the number of children. The program was monitored by the project staff and at this period the participation of children in this program was satisfactory. It is worth mentioning that only during September a total of 806 children (435 boys and 371 girls) regularly attended the program.

EU SIMRAES project also foresees logistical support in order to facilitate the attendance in schools and in learning centers, and consequently undertook the following activities:

- a) disseminated 1500 school packages out of 800 foreseen packages, respectively covered all children in need in 10 targeted municipalities;
- b) monthly disseminates half a meal for children attending learning centers;
- c) disseminated didactic materials for every learning center;
- d) made interventions in all learning centers by refurbishing entirely the learning center facility in Plementin and installed all sewage tubes for the entire building where RAE children live.

In order to integrate the children attending learning centers with majority community and other communities living in targeted neighborhoods the project organized a number of intercultural events. It is worth mentioning that the marking of the International Day of Tolerance in addition to gathering majority community children, school and municipality staff, it also

attracted the attention of national media which broadcasted these events.

The project also foresees the organization of different trainings for learning center staff, teachers and RAE parents. Some of these trainings include:

“Step by Step” (HpH) training for the staff of 10 learning centers: The project aims to strengthen the skills of the staff working in learning centers, respectively facilitators and tutors introducing them to the HpH methodology. The trainings started by the end of June and ended in November 2016. These trainings were organized in 9 groups, with 230 participants (131 women; 99 men). A total of 179 received certification (108 women; 71 men).

Training against discrimination: “Education for Social Justice” (EDSH): With the aim of eliminating prejudices and discrimination in education system, the project provided EDSH training for RAE parents and teachers working with these children. During this period, the project organized 7 groups with a total of 183 participants (115 women; 68 men), out of which 140 received certification (86 women; 54 men).

Training for Learning Center coordinators: The coordinators were provided training comprised of 5 modules, and that: project program, reporting, success indicators, budget/financial issues and visibility rules for the implementation of EU projects.

2. Improvement of access in secondary and higher education

The second component of the project is oriented towards supporting high school RAE students through scholarship and mentoring program.

Scholarship program: On the initiative of the Minister of Education, all providers of scholarships have joined together in a coordinated process of scholarship program this year. This made the scholarship program within this project adapt to this integrated approach, by making modification to have the greatest impact possible. The scholarship program was nevertheless planned to be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, since the latter committed own funds for scholarship, in addition to project funds. In new circumstances, all preparations and procedures were carried out in cooperation with the Ministry and with other scholarship partners.

First, a scholarship package was developed, comprising an open call, scholarship criteria, assessment committee, procedures etc. The project designed a system of information management linked to the scholarships, and it is available for all scholarship partners. The open call was preceded by an information campaign through announcements in electronic media, distribution of promotion materials and outreach meetings. More than 680 students applied. A total of 500 students were granted scholarships, being distributed among different projects/partners. EU-SIMRAES 2 covered 200 scholarships. After negotiating with the Ministry of Education, and taking into consideration that the Ministry committed funds for scholarships, during three years of the project duration, the Ministry of Education covers 133 scholarships, while KFOS covers the rest, i.e. 67 scholarships. The Foundation will monitor the process of school atten-

dance and achievements of all scholarship beneficiaries of the project.

Mentoring program: The project plans to carry out a mentoring program for 100 out of 200 scholarship beneficiaries. In light of this, the project made an agreement with the Ministry of Education, REF and VoRAE, in order to unify the mentoring program. Kosovo Education Center which implements the mentoring program within the project, adapted REF's mentoring program, which is being implemented for three years together with the Ministry of Education. EU SIMRAES 2 set the criteria, duties and responsibilities of the mentors and other accompanying documents and will engage around 30 mentors for this program. As a rule, a mentor can guide up to 5 students, depending on the number of students and their geographic distribution. Mentors are prepared for this program, and went through a first-module training which covers general knowledge on the work of a mentor, and after the practical work with the students, they will also attend the second module, providing them the opportunity to share their experience and reflect on their work with students. The mentoring process will start on January 10, 2017 in three municipalities: Gjakova, Prizren and Istog, where the mentoring program beneficiaries reside.

3. Capacity building of CSOs which work in the education of RAE students

This component is oriented towards the strengthening of capacities of partner organizations in order to provide quality services for RAE communities in the field of education.

As a first step within this component an informal network of CSOs working in the education of RAE students was established. This network is called "Konect" and is made of partner organizations, with the possibility to be expanded and/or cooperate with other networks.

A two-day workshop was organized, gathering partner organizations which drafted the network's work plan. This plan is focused on the communication and information activities, as well as capacity building for advocacy and creation and monitoring of policies.

The network will organize periodic meetings to share the experiences of network members in the field of advocacy for the education of RAE students. While KFOS will play the facilitation role in terms of logistic organization, every organization will host the activities in turns. First such meeting was held in November in Prizren, and was hosted by "Nevo Koncepti".

The project also created a website, which is <http://eu-simraes.net/>. Also, the project opened a Facebook page, which can be accessed at: <https://web.facebook.com/eusimraes2/?fref=ts>.

List of grants:

Name of the project	Beneficiary	Amount
EU SIMRAES II	KEC	253,804.00
Amount of grants distributed to local partners by KEC in 2016		
EU SIMRAES II	Nevo Koncepti	21,331.68
EU SIMRAES II	Bethany Christian Services	10,905.84
EU SIMRAES II	Syri Vizionit	21,331.68
EU SIMRAES II	SHL-Kosova	10,905.84
EU SIMRAES II	Balkan Sunflowers Kosova	36,216.67
EU SIMRAES II	RADC	10,905.84

List of expenses:

Types of expenses	Beneficiary	Amount
Equipment and inventory	Learning Centers	24,923.98
Training of learning center staff, teachers and parents (HpH, EDSH, mentoring and coordination)	Learning Centers/ Schools/Teachers/ Parents	28,371.19
Supply with 1500 school packages	Students	18,288.00
Learning center programs	Students	3,000
Workshops and network meetings	Network members	1,067
Project website	Wider public	1,500
Scholarship information management system	KFOS/ Ministry of Education/Scholarship partners	20,100
Promo materials	KFOS/Partner organizations	2,260

Promotion of integration of RAE communities in Peja and Suhareka – Prospect Plus

Prospect Plus project is the continuation of *Prospect*, which was carried out in four Kosovo municipalities (Prizren, Gjakova, Rahovec and Istog). *Prospect Plus* is being implemented in two municipalities (Peja and Suhareka), starting from November 2015. The right to education and healthcare is not only a fundamental human right but also a substantial strategy to overcome poverty and ensure social and economic inclusiveness. In this context, the project aims to continue to give contribution for the realization of state strategy for the integration of RAE communities, by improving their access to education, healthcare, and social issues. Therefore, the overall objective of *Prospect Plus* is *to contribute to the realization of rights of RAE communities in Kosovo, respectively in the Municipality of Peja and Suhareka, and their integration in Kosovo society*. In order to contribute to the realization of this overall objective, *Prospect Plus* took the

obligation to achieve a specific goal which is *to improve the access to education, healthcare and social services of RAE communities who live in the four said neighborhoods, as an important step towards the intensification of economic and social participation as well as social integration.*

The project foresees a series of measures and activities in the field of education and health-care, which are included in the Strategy and the Action Plan for the Integration of RAE Communities in Kosovo (more specifically, in education and healthcare sectors as well in sectors related to social issues). These will be carried out, monitored and developed together with the target groups, partner CSOs and other stakeholders in order to ensure sustainability also after the termination of the project.

A total of three intervention fields are covered by this project, described as project goals:

1. RAE children in the four municipalities are integrated in primary school (preschool, primary and lower-secondary school);
2. Targeted RAE communities improve their access to education, healthcare and social services and gain more knowledge and information on the health-related issues; and
3. A number of CSOs (PROSPECT network) is engaged and advocates for the implementation of municipal action plans for the integration of RAE communities.

Target group of PROSPECT are four disadvantaged Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the municipality of Peja and Suhareka, approx. 1,800 people. The target communities are: “7 Shtatori” and Vitomirica in Peja, as well as Gelance and Leshan in Suhareka. Each of the four communities is served by one elementary school, which provide pre-primary level education for children aged 5, primary education for children aged 6-10, and lower secondary education for children aged 11-14. It should be noted that not all RAE students attending respective schools come from the targeted communities.

Peja

There is a considerable number of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians living in Peja, although they constitute less than 4% of the total resident population in this municipality. According to 2011 Census data, 3,836 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians live in the Municipality of Peja with Egyptians constituting more than 70% of this population. One-third of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians living in Peja (1,325 in total) are aged 5-19, whereas only slightly more than half of them (687 in total) attend pre-primary, elementary and upper secondary education.

The “7 Shtatori” Mahalla (quarter) is located in the urban area of Peja. Approximately 1,300 families live in this area, whereas Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians constitute an estimated total of 1,200 people. Children from this Mahalla attend primary and lower secondary school Xhemal Kada – their total number is 262 (grade 0 to 9), whereas 133 children do not attend school. There is a Community Center operating in this quarter and organizing different types of activities with men, woman and children.

Vitomirica is a village with around 5,400 inhabitants located 5 km north of Peja. The village is mostly inhabited by Albanians and Bosnians, whereas it is estimated that 450 Roma and Egyptians live in this area. The local primary and lower secondary school is called “7 Shtatori” and should not be confused with the mahalla in the urban area of Peja. In total, 79 children from Roma and Egyptian communities attend lessons in the local school, whereas 24 remain out of school. The village also has a cultural center (a multi-purpose community center) which has some facilities suitable for children and youth, although it is often used by municipal authorities and other organizations.

The project activities are carried out in learning centers established by the project, within school premises.

Suhareka

Suhareka is a municipality located in the southern part of Kosovo with a total of 59,722 inhabitants, of them 539 (0.9%) Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians. In total 122 out of 196 inhabitants aged 5-17 attend some form of pre-university education what makes the situation slightly better than in Pejë/Pec, however there is still a huge discrepancy with the majority population.

Gelance is a village with slightly more than 1,000 inhabitants located 9 km away from Suhareka. Only five of 219 Ashkali and Egyptians are employed, whereas 51 children attend lessons in the local primary and lower secondary school “Drita”, and 8 do not attend.

Leshan is located 6 km away from Suhareka. The village has around 1,600 inhabitants of which 59 Ashkali, most of them living under the social-welfare program. Twenty-six Ashkali children attend primary and lower secondary school “Vaso Pashë Shkodrani” in the village, whereas 7 remain out of school.

There are no community centers in Gelance and Leshan, but there are possibilities to use facilities of local schools for extra-curricular activities.

Poor economic conditions, poverty, unemployment, low awareness of parents for education, and illiteracy of parents, are the main reason for the low school attendance. Also, three out of four proposed locations are settled in rural area, whereas during the crop planting or harvesting season children are working to support their families. Though the number of returnees is yet unknown, repatriation has started happening for those families who migrated in late 2014 and early 2015, whereas all project locations found themselves unprepared to reintegrate children who lost academic year.

Living in poverty without incomes, for RAE community members is very difficult to access health services, whereas most of the families are relying on social scheme.

In Peja municipality, though health/medical facilities are nearby the target locations, RAE community members face participation problem, where mostly women (families) do not have financial means to pay for regular medical checkups. The only visits to doctors is at emergencies cases.

In Suhareka situation is worse. Both Gelance and Leshan do not have the health/medical facilities, as community members have to travel to Suhareka for checkups, for which they cannot afford. Only at emergencies they travel to the town and receive health services.

To date there were no major projects implemented in municipalities of Peja and Suhareka in supporting integration of RAE communities. Also no major donors working on integration of RAE communities were present in both municipalities. Some small scale initiatives were supported by municipalities. For example: Peja municipality has supported informal youth groups belonging to RAE community in undertaking awareness raising activities for the importance of education within the 7 Shtatori mahalla. Also this municipality supported local organization "Syri Vizionit" to conduct small scale activities related to awareness raising of the RAE community for education enrolment and health care. Suhareka municipality last year supported RAE activists in Gelance to conduct awareness raising activities and help young children doing homework. Yet, the support given by municipalities were at small scale and have had low impact on the RAE communities. This is also due to low active citizenship, or very few initiatives coming from the RAE community members themselves.

In terms of commitment municipalities have demonstrated their will to support any initiative coming from RAE community members.

The municipality of Peja has developed a general policy for integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. The mayor signed and approved the document named "The action strategy for RAE communities in Peja municipality", whereas many actions were undertaken to implement the policy. This three-year policy expired in 2011. Since then no other policy was produced for RAE communities. According to civil society organizations in Peja, at the time approx. 90 % of the measures in this policy were achieved. Since then the municipality did not take any action to revise/update or develop new policy.

In the municipality of Suhareka, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has supported the municipality to develop "Action plan for integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Suhareka Municipality". Planned with poor participation of RAE community representatives and with the presence of the entire municipal directorates, the document was approved by municipal board of council and signed by the mayor. The document consists of eleven chapters, describing measures for each chapter, including measures to address education, health and social concerns of this marginalized community. Referring to this document, municipality supported, at small scale, local initiatives that came from RAE community activists, usually awareness campaigns on education and health.

Prospect Plus project started its implementation with the creation of a database. Project partners collected the necessary information regarding issues related to education, healthcare, social issues and organizational development of CSOs that work with RAE communities. In order to smoothly carry out the project activities in the said quarters, KFOS refurbished the premises used for project activities by supplying them with necessary inventory and different technological equipment. At the beginning of the 2015/16 school year KFOS, through local partners, distributed didactic materials for community children attending schools in the targeted quar-

ters. Furthermore, project partners started implementing two groups of activities: awareness raising and intercultural ones. Partners started running awareness raising campaigns regarding regular attendance and enrollment of children in the first grade. Local partners started visiting houses and organized parents' meetings, inviting also municipal officers. They also developed and distributed awareness raising materials. As regards to intercultural activities, which aim to mitigate/eliminate prejudices and stereotypes, local partners started developing activities by bringing together RAE and majority community children in order to socialize and understand the cultural tradition of one another through games, different competitions, arts, etc.. In order to assist students with difficulty in learning, the project envisioned to train a group of people who are expected to help community children in doing homework, communicate with parents and schools, and in this way provide those children a suitable environment, and consequently improve the attendance and the results of this category of students. To this end, the Foundation engaged KEC to provide trainings for this group. The training cycle started in January and ended in March 2016.

As regards to healthcare and social issues, local partners identified participants who will undergo capacity building in order to be able to work as Social and Healthcare mediators, as a connecting bridge between communities and healthcare and social service providers. To this end, the Foundation engaged the Association of Family Doctors of Kosovo, which started to train the identified participants. The training cycle started in January and ended in March 2016, and the trainees started their work in respective target quarters.

Amount of grants distributed to local partners in 2016

Name of the project	Beneficiary	Amount
Prospect Plus	Nevo Konzepti, realization of education activities, health and social mediation, networking and advocacy	23,222
Prospect Plus	Syri i Vizionit, realization of education activities, health and social mediation, networking and advocacy	23,225
Prospect Plus	Kosovo Education Center, training of tutors and mentoring of teachers involved in the project	9,600
Prospect Plus	Association of Family Doctors of Kosovo, training of mediators, mentoring of their work and their connection with healthcare service providers	6,634
Prospect Plus, Operational	Nevo Konzepti, Syri i Vizionit Supply with technology equipment	3455
Prospect Plus, Operational	Nevo Konzepti, Syri i Vizionit Visibility expenses (banners, stickers, etc.)	800
Prospect Plus, Operational	Nevo Konzepti, Syri i Vizionit School packages for community children	2400
Prospect Plus, Operational	Nevo Konzepti, Syri i Vizionit Inventory of learning centers	12330
Prospect Plus, Operational	Nevo Konzepti, Syri i Vizionit Adaptation of learning centers in Peja	2000
Prospect Plus, Operational	Nevo Konzepti, Syri i Vizionit Adaptation of learning centers in Suhareka	2140

General data on Prospect Plus beneficiaries

Neighborhood	Community members	No. of children attending school (6-19 yrs.)	No. of children not attending school (6-19 yrs.)	No. of families receiving social assistance	No. of employed members	Nr i të papunësuarve
7 Shtatori, Peja	1156	119	37	43	6	149
Vitimirica, Peja	433	25	5	19	0	36
Total in Peja	1589	144	42	62	6	185
Leshan, Suhareka	141	26	7	0	2	50
Gelancë, Suhareka	207	48	9	15	4	103
Total in Suhareka	348	74	16	15	6	153

EU INTEGRATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

European Integration and Good Governance Program

During 2016, European Integration and Good Governance Program supported non-governmental organizations in monitoring and advocacy in order to ask for accountability from the Government of Kosovo in matters related to the EU reform agenda, which was declared as crucial in Kosovo government's orientation. The work of this program was carried out in three strategic directions: (1) make sure that Kosovo civil society is actively monitoring and advocating EU standards related to governance through their contribution in EC's Country Reports on Kosovo; (2) deepen the knowledge of public policy makers on EU policy-making; and (3) build an international momentum on the improvement of relations between Kosovo and the EU through the monitoring of EU integration process.

CSO contribution in the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) process

Within this program direction, the Foundation since 2014 pushed forward a more comprehensive process of participation of CSOs in SAA dialogue, among other things. By continuing with this trend both during 2015 and 2016, the Foundation pushed this process forward and new organizations joined the network of contributors and took part with their inputs in the earlier phases of drafting of Country Report on Kosovo.

During 2016, this process was initiated by mobilizing key partner organizations interested to monitor Kosovo's progress in its EU integration path. After that, the comparison and the alignment was made between the expertise of these organizations and the chapters of the Country Report, including also its key thematic sectors. A continuous communication was established with EU Office in Kosovo, which recommended that the contribution be carried out in two phases: the initial phase of drafting of the report by the end of April, and the consultation with civil society by the end of August. First, the organizations send their analysis and recommendations during April, when the drafting of the Report on Kosovo took place. Afterwards, in July 2016, these analyses were expanded in full reports and the contributions were made in a joint meeting between civil society and the EU held on August 24, 2016.

Finally, a series of nine studies on the annual progress of Kosovo in the field of EU integration was produced. The said organizations monitored and analyzed the work carried out by government institutions during 2016, and their expertise was applied in the field they know best. This effort resulted in a valuable material used to track achievements and barriers of Kosovo vis-à-vis EU agenda. Moreover, these reports served as an advocacy platform for recommendations within them, both for local and for EU institutions, and at the same time strengthened the voice of civil society and its impact on local policy-making.

Name of the project	Beneficiary	Amount in euros
Contribution for EC Kosovo Report: Fight against corruption and organized crime, prescription of criminal cases and financing of political parties	Organization for Democracy, Anticorruption and Dignity, Çohu!	3,800
Contribution to the EC Kosovo Report: Urban Planning and Cultural Heritage	EC Ma Ndryshe	3,000
Contribution to the EC Kosovo Report: Witness protection and declaration of assets	Lëvizja FOL	3,000
Contribution to the EC Kosovo Report: Public procurement and fight against corruption	Kosovo Democratic Institute	4,000
Contribution to the EC Kosovo Report: Fight against money laundering and the monitoring of Public Administration Reform	Group for Legal and Political Studies	4,000
Contribution to the EC Kosovo Report: Facing market competition pressure and the functioning of justice institutions	American Chamber of Kosovo	3,000
Contribution to the EC Kosovo Report: Progress in Mitrovica	NGO Aktiv	3,000
Contribution for EC Kosovo Report: Intelligence-led policing and fight and prevention of violent extremism	Kosovo Center for Security Studies	4,000
Contribution to the EC Kosovo Report: Kosovo Assembly	Democracy Plus	2,000
Publication and translation		21,352
<i>Other program expenses</i>	<i>11,327</i>	
Total:	64,479	

Forum 2015: On Thin Ice - Conditionality, Challenges and Reforms toward the EU

In order to crown the 1-year work of this program pillar, the Foundation together with the Group for Legal and Political Studies organized a Forum 2015 conference called: "On Thin Ice - Conditionality, Challenges and Reforms toward the EU". By bringing together diplomats, policy-makers, media and CSO representatives, the aim of this event was to bring forth challenges of Kosovo vis-à-vis good governance and EU integration process.

Divided in three plenary sessions, the conference was open by Foundation's executive director, Mr. Luan Shllaku, followed by a study produced by Augustin Palokaj and Gjeraqina Tuhina, who analysed next steps in Kosovo's EU integration process. The discussion that followed gathered Prime Minister Isa Mustafa, Head of EU Office Nataliya Apostlova and publicist Veton Surroi. Two parallel

panels were held following this discussion, and that, the panel on Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, and the panel on Rule of Law reforms within Kosovo's EU integration.

During the conference, CSO contributions on Kosovo Report were published, and the Rule of Law panel discussed issues that were identified in these studies gathering the very representatives of these organizations, EU institutions and local institutions representatives.

Monitoring of EU Integration Process: Kosovo-EU relations

Within this strategic program pillar, the Foundation gives importance to the momentum of European perspective through activities aimed at Kosovo's progress towards EU. Every further step of Kosovo in its path towards EU integration requires a series of adoptions of EU central institutions and EU member states. By identifying this important factor, the Foundation supported a number of initiatives in order to clarify and identify barriers in the path towards EU integration, and carried out advocacy actions in order to tear down the walls erected between EU member states and Kosovo citizens through demystification of prejudices and the approximation of both parties towards a constructive dialogue.

Advocacy for Schengen visa regime lifting and "Rejected" documentary

In this aspect, emphasis should be put on Foundation's advocacy campaign aimed at lifting Schengen visa regime for Kosovo. By continuing the efforts of the previous year, by the end of 2015 the Foundation produced "Rejected" documentary. This documentary aimed to demystify relations between migration of Kosovars towards EU and the latter's visa regime, featuring interviews with CSO and government representatives.

This advocacy campaign targeted three main European centers - Brussels, Berlin and Paris - in order to raise the awareness of relevant policy-makers and key actors, whose work influences the EU visa policy towards Kosovo. The campaign was carried out in the form of panel discussions, in partnership with a local organization in each city. These events aimed to elaborate the complicated relations between a huge wave of migration of Kosovars towards EU, and the visa regime imposed by those countries. The first event was held in Berlin by the end of 2015, while the Brussels and Paris events were held in February 2016.

The panel discussions gathered people of influence in their respective institutions, including ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors from Kosovo side, and EU representatives together with renown think-tanks from Europe. Among the important issues raised during these discussions was the possibility of overcoming polarization of Kosovo institutions and the meeting of remaining obligations deriving from visa liberalization process, the impact of migration wave from Kosovo in 2014 and Syrian refugees on EU member states in their decision to lift visa regime, possible implications for Kosovo in case the visa liberalization is delayed further, and the opportunities to get the support of EU member states for Kosovo in its path towards visa-free movement.

Negotiating power of Kosovo vis-à-vis EU

During this year, the program initiated a studies cycle around the topic: “Negotiating power of Kosovo vis-a-vis EU”. First, a meeting was held with key actors in this regard, and key elements were identified as regards to Kosovo-EU relations, including the aspects that could be subject of these studies. By allocating grants for these studies, the Foundation aimed to produce a comprehensive overview of negotiation processes between Kosovo and EU, and its member states.

The first study of this cycle is: “The upshot of SAA”, an analysis of the situation within EU in its political dynamics by the end of 2016, and the consequences this situation could produce vis-à-vis Kosovo, taking into account the disagreements among EU member states regarding Kosovo’s statehood to enable its progress towards candidate status, which would be the logical step after signing SAA. This analysis was expanded by including the implications following the signing of SAA and its entering into force. Since this was only the initial phase, Kosovo will face the main challenge during the crucial phase - the implementation phase, which would be carried out under strict and continuous oversight from Brussels. The SAA implementation proved to be challenging for every country. Kosovo which lots of capacities, will be challenges much more than other countries in the implementation process. The study was published at the beginning of November 2016, within Forum 2015 during a plenary session: “On thin ice - Conditionality, Challenges and Reforms towards the EU”.

The next study of this cycle will be conducted by Group for Legal and Political Studies. Entitled: “Kosovo’s legal basis vis-a-vis its possible EU candidate country,” this project aims to shed light on legal aspects of non-recognition of Kosovo by EU member states as well as possible scenarios of Kosovo’s candidate status. Furthermore, this research will provide legal answers to the identified problems. The findings of this study will be disseminated and advocated in Prishtina and Brussels, by providing recommendations and proposed solutions.

Another topic that will be covered is the issue of Kosovo’s image, and the impact of this image on Kosovo’s relations with EU. This study, conducted by Gëzim Krasniqi, will focus on two special components. First, the study will analyze institutional constellation within the EU as part of enlargement, with a special focus on the role economic, political and security considerations, as well as on public perceptions within EU. Secondly, the project will analyze the negotiating power of Kosovo vis-à-vis EU and its member states by analyzing overall political, institutional and human capacities (hard power); economic power and the competitive skills of Kosovo and its businesses in the free European trade zone (sticky power); and the anility to use non-traditional tools to create political advantage and improve its image within EU.

Name of the project	Beneficiary	Amount in euros
The upshot of SAA?	-	4,000
Kosovo's legal basis vis-a-vis its possible EU candidate country	Grupipër Studime Juridike dhe Politike	18,720
Analysis on Kosovo's negotiating power of Kosovo vis-a-vis EU and its member states	Gëzim Krasniqi	4,350
Other expenses	8,450	
Totali :	35,520	

Forum 2015: EU Enlargement towards Balkans - How Europe sees us?

This roundtable was organized on the occasion of the publication of European Policy Center's report: "EU member states and enlargement towards Balkans" which analyses the considerations of the said states in policy-making and potential barriers influencing the positions of state actors vis-a-vis the EU enlargement issue. With the membership of Croatia, the enlargement process seems to be put on autopilot mode. Often, the barriers regarding the advancement of EU agenda in these countries were put by EU, respectively its member states. While the EU internal procedures regarding enlargement have always been intergovernmental in nature, in recent years the chances are bigger for member states to intervene in this process, by giving the so-called signs of "nationalization" of enlargement. The panelists of this roundtable were the minister of EU integration Bekim Çollaku, Corina Stratulat from EPC, Ioannis Armakolas from Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) and Fisnik Korenica from Group for Legal and Political Studies.

Forum 2015: Kosovo in UNESCO

In cooperation with EC Ma Ndryshe, Forum 2015 organized a panel discussion in an effort to initiate a public debate on the steps to be taken by Kosovo institutions in terms of its membership in UNESCO. Held on April 14, 2016, six months after the negative vote, the roundtable aimed to clarify the vision of the country regarding its membership in this organization, since after the failure to do so at UNESCO's conference held in November 2015, Kosovo institutions did not give any indication or agenda for further action to be undertaken to this end. The first part of this roundtable was dedicated to the presentation of a short analysis by Ec Ma Ndryshe regarding the reasons for failure to become a member, and suggestions were made on further steps. Panelists of this discussion were Petrit Selimi (then) acting minister of foreign affairs, Caroline Jäger-Klein, cultural heritage expert from Technology University in Vienna, Ambassador Dimitris Moschopoulos, advisor of Kosovo institutions regarding religious and cultural heritage, and Sali Shoshi from Cultural Heritage Without Borders.

Implementation of funded projects by the end of 2015

Fighting Political Corruption by Strengthening the System of Declaration of Assets and Increasing Transparency of Finances of Political Parties

During 2016, Çohu! initiated a research on declaration of assets of high public officials, by randomly selecting around 80 high public officials from all public institutions. The research checked the assets of these officials from 2010 to 2016, compared the oscillations of assets of these officials throughout years, their movable and immovable property, and emphasis was put on the acquisition of these assets. All these data were inserted in an Excel database, and are being process. The database will be published on opendatacohu.org Parallel to this, a final draft of the research is in the process. In addition to this, Çohu conducted a research on the financing of political parties in Kosovo, ways of financing, analysis of legal basis and recommendations on how to avoid this clientelistic approach of financing. This analysis was published within a roundtable discussion held on December 17, 2016, as part of the Week Against Corruption campaign. The said study provided a perspective on the financing of political parties in Kosovo by considering three established realities: (1) Lack of auditing of finances of political parties; (2) Critiques and international standards; (3) Lack of implementation of the Law on Financing of Political Parties Throughout the project, Çohu! reacted on the failure of Kosovo Assembly to appoint auditors for the forth time in a row. These auditors would audit the financial statement of political parties pertaining to past four years (2013-2016) and two rounds of elections, local and general elections.

Monitoring and Assessment of National Plan for the Implementation of SAA

Group for Legal and Political Studies monitored the work of Kosovo institutions in terms of the fulfillment of obligations deriving from the matrix of short-term measures of the National Plan for the Implementation of SAA (PKZMSA). This plan was approved by Kosovo Government on December 16, 2015 and by Kosovo Assembly on March 10, 2016. Considering the importance of SAA in Kosovo's path towards EU and country's development, GLPS followed closely the work of relevant institutions in order to evident the achievements and challenges during this process. After the first six-month monitoring, GLPS organized a conference, criticizing the institutions for their failure to implement this plan within the set timeframe. Among other things, the monitoring data indicate that: (1) the ability of institutions to draft the legal basis in line with Acquis remains low; (2) There is a lack of proactive institutional cooperation; (3) There is a need to make a clear separation of duties within institutions and an efficient organization of human resources; (4) There is a lack of political will to prioritize PKZMSA in their daily work. The data on the second semester will be published in February 2017, since the deadline for reporting on the implementation of the rest of indicators is mid-January 2017.

Kosovo in the context of regional police cooperation: current situation and further steps

Kosovo Center for Security Studies took over the realization of this project aimed at the increase of level of participation of Kosovo in regional security initiatives, and promotion of bilateral police cooperation. During this year, the project published the research: "Gordian knot: Kosovo's Barriers in the Membership in International Security Organizations – Case of INTERPOL." The research touches upon the context of representation and membership of Kosovo in regional and European security initiatives, as well as police cooperation between Kosovo and other countries. The research points out the importance of Kosovo's membership in these initiatives, the challenges and the role of Brussels Agreement for regional cooperation between Kosovo and Serbia. Kosovo's relations with INTERPOL which are carried out indirectly through UNMIK, lack of proper cooperation between Kosovo institutions towards the membership in INTERPOL, and the support of this process by countries who support Kosovo comprise an important part in this aspect. The research proposed two scenarios that would lead Kosovo towards membership in INTERPOL. These scenarios also point out the reasons behind an immediate need of Kosovo for the rule of law, and the prevention of crimes that go beyond state borders, where Kosovo could give its contribution.

Building a Scaffolding: Analysis of the Effects of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance on Kosovo's Economy

With the support of KFOS, Besa Shahini analyses the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) in Kosovo, and its possible impact on Kosovo's economy, in the context of current economic situation after the signing of SAA with the EU. The signing of this agreement brought forth new challenges for Kosovo; Budget and competition pressure which are the result of the liberalization of trade with EU could pose difficulties for local producers and Kosovo budget. Shahini's analysis looks into ways the reforms funded by IPA could impact the market liberalization for Kosovo's economy. On November, 8, 2016, Shahini presented her work as part of a panel discussion organized by European Policy Centre in Brussels, where she emphasized the challenges Kosovo is facing after entering into force of SAA, and the need to redirect IPA funds towards projects and activities that have direct impact on production and growth of export.

Deepening the Knowledge on EU

EU Integration School remained one of the key instruments of the Foundation for the transfer of knowledge on EU policies to the professionals of this field. A decade ago, this school focused on basic knowledge, and was implemented in partnership with Kosovo Foundation for Open Society. Since 2015, KFOS modified the approach by sophisticating this instrument of knowledge transfer.

EU Integration School is being transformed into an educational institution, reorganized in thematic and specialized modules which address specific EU policies through 2-day workshops. These workshops, which are organized by our partner organizations, gather academic and institutional experts, both local and international ones. In 2016, besides EC Ma Ndryshe, American Chamber of Kosovo, and Kosovo Center for Security Studies, two more organizations were added – FOL and Kosovo Democratic Institute – by adding this way the number and diversity of topics of this cycle of school.

Name of the project	Beneficiary	Amount in euros
Organization and realization of Module for Deepening of European Knowledge on Urban Planning and Cultural Heritage	EC Ma Ndryshe	8,450
Organization and realization of Module for Deepening of European Knowledge on Facing competition pressure and the property and industrial rights in the EU	American Chamber of Kosovo	5,000
Organization and realization of Module for Deepening of European Knowledge on Reform of Security Sectors and Capacity Building for the Prevention and Fight Against Violent Extremism	Kosovo Center for Security Studies	5,000
Organization and realization of Module for Deepening of European Knowledge on Protection of Whistleblowers and Declaration of Assets	Lëvizja FOL	5,000
Organization and realization of Module for Deepening of European Knowledge on Deconstruction and fight against corruption and the integrity of public institutions	Kosovo Democratic Institute	5,000
Other expenses	9,450	
Totali :	37,900	

This innovative approach was successful in terms of increased interest of a high number of professionals and practitioners of public policies related to priorities of EU agenda in Kosovo. After the selection, the participation in these modules varied from 25 to 53 participants – such was the case of the module organized by the end of November 2016. Another important component was the variety of backgrounds of participants. Depending on the topic of the module, these workshops gathered professionals from different sectors: government, CSO, business representatives etc. In this way, the

modules provided a platform enabling the gathering of actors and stakeholders of a certain issue, who, perhaps, for the first time had a chance to discuss together and point out the needs, interests and their experiences.

An added value of these workshops was the involvement of regional and EU experts in the module content. Lectures and panel discussions were carried out by experts of EU matters from renown regional organizations. Among others, we should mention Cornelia Abel from Transparency International, Gentian Elezi, former deputy minister of EU integration in Albania, Gabriel Sipos from Transparency International Slovakia, Malinka Ristevska Jordanova from European Policy Institute Macedonia. Moreover, the lectures and panel discussions were led by representatives of high levels of legislation, executive and judiciary branches, including MPs, Heads of Assembly Committees, deputy ministers and ambassadors of the Republic of Kosovo.

Operational grants for the implementation of modules

Module name	Amount in euros
Module 1: Urbanism and urban management matters	6,972
Module 2: Integrated cultural heritage conservation	6,170
Module 3: Public participation in urban planning	6,113
Module 1: Facing competitive market pressure	8,607
Module 2: Intellectual and industrial property rights in EU	8,654
Module 1: Security sector management: Intelligence-led policing	12,913
Module 2: Prevention of extremism and deradicalisation	10,235
Module 1: Declaration of Assets and Antimafia law	4,490
Module 2: Protection of Whistleblowers	5,010
Module 1: Deconstruction and fight against corruption	9,620
Module 2: Integrity in public institutions	6,916
Other expenses	15,280
Total:	100,980



CONNECTING WITH EUROPE

Connecting with Europe

During 2016 too, the Foundation continued to work on the improvement of relations with 5 EU member states, and two regional states which did not recognize Kosovo, in order to intensify the connections between Kosovo and 5+2 countries, carrying out various activities:

Greece - Addressing the Problem of Negative National Stereotypes in the Southern Balkans

The cooperation with Athens continued upon what was build in previous years by ELIAMEP. Using the existing research, the project this year addressed the problem of negative stereotypes in Southern Balkans, by organizing closed workshops with analysts in Greece. During the last phase, an analysis was carried out on the negative national stereotypes towards Kosovo and Albanians in multi-dimensional relations between Greece and Kosovo. Data and analysis were generated from: (a) a detailed study on the representation of Kosovo in Greek media, which was added to the ELIAMEP's previously carried out work - the representation of Albanians in Greek media. This created a scientific and a comprehensive image of the problem of negative representation of Kosovo and Albania in Greek media in general; (b) the monitoring of reports of Greek media on the current issues of Kosovo, especially the more influential ones, continued; (c) the monitoring of diplomatic, economic, and social relations between Kosovo and Greece continued; (d) a number of short analysis on the current political and social developments in Kosovo was drafted; All this will provide a basis for a more objective and positive reporting of the issues related to Kosovo in Greek media.

Romania – Visit of the Kosovar Delegation in Burcharest

Through our partner CRPE in Rumania, we conducted a survey with 200 Rumanian MPs regarding their perceptions about modern Kosovo. This instrument served as a manual for Kosovo delegation to be used for future meetings in Rumania in order to be prepared on the ways to approach Romanian decision-makers, by having in mind their perceptions on Kosovo.

Between 11-14 October, Kosovo delegation visited Bukarest. Meetings were held with Romanian diplomats, with National Liberal Party members, with representatives of the Association for the Protection of Human Rights in Rumania, with British Embassy representatives, with judges and prosecutors, members of Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, etc. Also, the presentation of the preliminary findings of the survey was organized at ASPEN Institute. Present at this meeting were: Gjylieta Mushkolaj - University of Prishtina professor, Dardan Sejdiu - Deputy Mayor of Prishtina, Agon Maliqi - media representative, Besa Luci - Kosovo 2.0 director, Arben Gashi - Member of Kosovo Parliament, Gent Salihu - Advisor to the Minister of Justice, Alban Hashani - Riinvest researcher, Lumir Abdixhiku - Riinvest director, and Dukagjin Pupovci - Kosovo Education Center director.

Other initiatives

Through its EU Integration Program, the Foundation supported other creative initiatives as well, in order to approximate Kosovo citizens with those coming from countries which did not recognize the independence of Kosovo.

An artistic intervention on the lives of people of Kosovo and Serbia was made. It was presented by the play *Encyclopedia of the Living* by Qendra Multimedia.

On the other hand, as part of the traditional festival *Mirëdita, Dobar Dan!* The Foundation supported cultural activities (theatre plays) which were shown in Belgrade and in Prishtina, as well as the translation and the presentation of Veton Surroi's book – *Ambasadori i Melkizedekut*.

As part of the activities for the intensification of cultural cooperation between Kosovo and Slovakia, we brought Kolomaz theatre to participate at *Monoakt monodrama* festival, which was held from June 26 to July 2, 2016 in Peja.

A strategic meeting was held in Vienna with our partner NGOs from Greece, Romania, and Slovakia, which resulted with two new concepts. 1) *Building knowledge of New Statehood in Southeast Europe: Understanding Kosovo's Domestic and International Policy Considerations*, and 2) *The Politics of (Non) Recognition – Lessons Learned And Knowledge Transfer*.

On November 7, 2016, Group for Legal and Political Studies together with Forum 2015 organized a conference on "Walking on ice: Conditionality, Challenges and Reforms to the EU". This conference has brought together diplomats, policy-makers, media and civil society representatives. The main goal of this conference was to highlight the challenges facing Kosovo vis-à-vis good governance, as well as towards the European integration process.

Dokufest 2016

This year, the Foundation supported Dokufest through its two strategic programs, that is, Transparency and Accountability, and EU Integration. Through EU Integration Program, the Foundation supported the activity of the journalists from 5 EU and two regional countries which still do not recognize the independence of Kosovo.

This year, the festival brought together 8 journalists. The participants have been nominated by the Foundation network of partners and cooperators and then invited to participate. Since kick-start of the project 5 years ago, this year was the first time that confirmed guests came from all 7 countries and included:

1. Hilma Unkic, Mediacentar, BiH,
2. Samuel Marec, Dennik.sk, Slovakia,
3. Žarka Radoja, Radio Free Europe, Serbia,

4. Marianna Katsaouni, Free lance photographer, Greece,
5. Iulian-Mihail-Aureliu Comanescu-Petică (Dilema veche, Mediafax, Șapte Seri, Comanescu.ro), Romania,
6. Feliciano Manuel Tisera Pardiñas, Bez.es, Spain,
7. Alexia Evripidou, Cyprus Mail, Cyprus,
8. Stephen Nugent, Nomad Films, Cyprus,

This year's composition of participants was special for several first-time features. Firstly, this was the first time since the project started five years ago that confirmed journalists came from all seven non-recognizing countries targeted by the Connecting with Europe project. This diversity and coverage allows the foundation to fulfill its goal of building positive image about Kosovo simultaneously in each of 5 EU members states and 2 countries in the region. Secondly, the project hosted for the first time participants from Cyprus. A journalist from Cyprus Mail, Alexia Evripidou and film producer Stephen Nugent from Nomad Films arrived curious and thrilled to explore Dokufest, Prizren, and Kosovo and later present their experience in video production and written outlets. Thirdly, this year the Foundation hosted a former participant to the project for the second time. Thrilled his experience program of last year, Feliciano Tisera, who writes for Bez.es in Spain, expressed his interest to participate this year's festival again, and to continue building a positive attention on Kosovo the Spanish media.

Similar to the previous years, the foundation organized an additional program to the one offered by Dokufest in order to enrich the journalists' Kosovar experience and introduce them with other aspects of Kosovo's progress and state building in the past years.

Building knowledge of New Statehood in Southeast Europe: Understanding Kosovo's Domestic and International Policy Considerations

This regional project aims to fill the gap of knowledge some Balkan countries have regarding contemporary Kosovo. A number of past projects (for examples, those implemented by ELIAMEP and CRPE) made clear that countries which did not recognize Kosovo or maintain a limited interaction with Kosovo, or both, have a considerable deficit of professional and non-stereotypical studies regarding the new independent country. On the other hand, the debate is still dominated by myths and stereotypes that have been circulating since the Yugoslav crises, some 25 years ago. This project aims to partially improve this situation, but also help young and dynamic researchers produce new knowledge about modern Kosovo. Also, the project aims to expose the researchers to the direct experience of Kosovo, coordinate Kosovo researchers with those from other countries, and gradually establish a network of joint researchers.

A strategic meeting with project partners was organized in Thessaloniki for the development of an action plan. After the project development, a call was opened in Slovakia, Romania, Greece, Cyprus, Spain, Serbia and Bosnia and Hercegovina through Foundation's partners and social networks. During a rather short period of time, we managed to recruit 16 young researchers (from Slovakia, Albania, Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Israel, Check Republic), and 5 mentors (from USA, Great Britain, Greece, Macedonia) who worked with the researchers at all times. Researchers come from academic circles, and are either in the process or have PhD degrees. Most of them are university lecturers, which makes more appropriate the dissemination of their analysis.

The first meeting between 16 researchers and 5 mentors was held at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, which featured lectures and research techniques, lectures on Kosovo diplomacy, group works and individual meetings with mentors, and similar.

The project also planned a research visit in Kosovo, which was carried out between 23-29 October. Researchers had the chance to meet and interview different officials in relation to their topics. Also, on October 27, we organized a one-day roundtable to discuss their achievements, dissemination plans, and we invited local think-tank organizations to present their work (four organizations cover the fields which are subject of researchers' work).


The Politics of (Non)-Recognition: Lessons Learned and Knowledge Transfer

The main goal is to review and explain different ways in which EU officials engage with Kosovo. It reviews special practices by a number of countries in four categories - starting from strongest supporters towards strongest opponents. By doing this, the project will find the space to further improve the bilateral relations between Kosovo and the EU member states.

Several years after the declaration of the independence, Kosovo received many recognitions, but it did not manage to fully consolidate its international status. There is an urgent need to reflect upon the strong and weak points of diplomatic efforts of Kosovo, in order to understand the nuances behind the non-recognizing positions, while at the same time it aims to build the capacities of state and diplomatic institutions of Kosovo. This project aims to update our knowledge on the politics of non-recognition, or lack of support of Kosovo in different international processes and mechanisms.

The project has two components:

1. Analysis of the politics of non-recognizing countries (Greece, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Cyprus), or recognizing but not supportive countries (Poland in the case of UNESCO) to be carried out by 9 authors from respective countries (all advanced professors/researchers in renown European universities). In order to achieve comparative results, the analysis will be carried out also around the countries which recognized the inde-



pendence of Kosovo and which support it in every process (Great Britain and Germany). So, the project will establish a matrix, which will explain the politics of:

- a. Non-recognizing countries, which however support it (or do not hinder) Kosovo in important integration processes (Greece, Slovakia and Romania).
- b. Recognizing countries, which however do not support Kosovo in its integration processes (Poland and Check Republic)
- c. Categorically non-recognizing countries (Cyprus and Spain)
- d. Recognizing and supportive countries (Great Britain and Germany)

2. The transfer of knowledge drawn from the findings and the capacity building of Kosovo policymakers will be carried out in closed workshops

The project will be implemented during the first half of 2017, while so the project identified the authors and received their commitment.

Project Name	Grantee	Amount (EUR)
Addressing the Problem of Negative National Stereotypes in the Southern Balkans	ELIAMEP	29,905
Visit of the Kosovar Delegation to Romania	Operational	10,289
Encyclopedia of the Alive	Qendra Multimedia	7,500
Mirëdita, Dobar Dan!	NGO Integra	17,600
Ambasadori i Melkizedekut	Samizdat	4,200
Prizreni 2020 - Platform	Ec Ma Ndryshe	8,000
Presentation of the Slovak Theatre Kolomaz in Monoakt Festival in Peja	Kolomaz Theatre	2,572
Dokufest 2016 – Journalists	Operational	14,329
Building knowledge of New Statehood in Southeast Europe: Understanding Kosovo's Domestic and International Policy Considerations	Operational	131,108
The Politics Of (Non)Recognition – Lessons Learned And Knowledge Transfer	Operational	13,500
Research for “isms” project	Rita Knudsen	1,275
Strategic Meeting with Partner NGOs in Vienna	Operational	6,444
Let Go EU	INSPR	8,850
Conference in Sarajevo on Cultural and Touristic Cooperation between Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ec Ma Ndryshe	2,450
Conference: Walking on ice: Conditionality, Challenges and Reforms to the EU	GLPS	2,000
Other Program Costs		46,074
Total :		306,096

Open 333 Platform

Open 333 is an advocacy platform of Kosovo Foundation for Open Society. It features the most challenging topics and issues deriving from political and societal dynamics in the country.

Open 333 features 3 opinions of 3 personalities in 3 minutes.


The issues produced during 2016 discussed following topics:

1. Who Causes Crisis at the University of Prishtina? (Ramadan Zejnullahu, Dukagjin Pupovci, Rron Gjinovci)
2. Capital Investments (Alban Zogaj, Lorik Bajrami, Alban Hashani)
3. What do Kosovo Serbs think about the Association of Serb Majority Municipalities? (Miodrag Milicevic, Naim Rashiti, Nenad Djurdjevic)
4. Government Works in One Minute: Construction of Highways
5. Government Works in One Minute: Attempts for PTK Privatization
6. Government Works in One Minute: Airport Concession
7. Government Works in One Minute: KEDS Privatization
8. Why Kosovo Lacks a Long-term Energy Strategy?
9. Civil Society Achievements 2016 – Part I (CIVIKOS, Cohu, INPO)
10. Civil Society Achievements 2016 – Part II (QKSS, Ec Ma Ndryshe, KEC)
11. Civil Society Achievements 2016 – Part III (GLPS, KDI, FOL)

During 2016, this platform also joined forces with S'bunker in a joint thematic six-month project in order to initiate a series of concrete debates. The communication using video messages and social networks is increasingly becoming more effective and attract attention and impacts public discourse. Through this cooperation the impact expands beyond the narrow blog readers' circle (S'bunker) or Open 333 viewers, and reaches wider audience. Every edition of Open 333 is followed by two articles on the same topic, written by S'bunker authors.

So far, the project produced two editions:

1. Where do Balkan history textbooks differ? (Shkelzen Gashi, Ermal Hasimja, Bekim Blakaj)

- 
- a. Article: What do Balkan history textbooks contort? - Armanda Hysa
 - b. Article: The logics behind the falsification of history - Anna Di Lellio
2. What does the Law on Trepça produce? (Luan Shllaku, Iraj Hashi, Muhamet Mustafa)
 - a. Article: Legal acts are not enough for economic development - Besnik Pula
 - b. Trepça – a blessing or a curse - Kujtim Dobruna

RECONNECTING MITROVICA

Reconnecting Mitrovica

Background

Northern Mitrovica - one of the most outstanding sources of political conflicts between Kosovo and Serbia, and between Albanians and Serbs of Kosovo – continues to be one of the most divided towns in today's world. Geographical division through Ibër river, in addition to dividing this town in north and south, also symbolizes ethnical, political and social division, continuous tensions between two countries and between two communities which live almost entirely divided and far from one another. In addition to dividing Albanians and Serbs, this river also divides Serbs who live in north, and those who live in central and eastern Kosovo by creating this way different levels of development and integration, as well as numerous divisions and tensions both between Albanian and Serbs and among Serbs themselves.

2016 was characterized with much political tension between Kosovo and Serbia. The Law on Trepça, the initiation of works for the renovation of Ibër bridge, the erection of a wall by the river on the north side, the suspension of participation of Serbian MPs in the Assembly of Kosovo, clashes related to the establishment of the Association of Serb-Majority Municipalities, are just some of the issues that were subject of political disputes between Kosovo and Serbia, which consequently produced increased tension between Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo.

The dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia, facilitated by EU, continued during 2016 but was however characterized with much uncertainty and controversial declarations coming from both sides. These declarations throughout the process and particularly during 2016 made the citizens of Kosovo and Serbia see this dialogue as non-transparent and with no intention to implement the agreements. Mutual accusations did not make the lives of ordinary citizens easier, and they did not contribute to normalization of relations between these two countries, although this is the main purpose of the dialogue.

The Foundation saw the opportunities for intervention in Mitrovica immediately after the signing of the agreement between Prishtina and Belgrade in April 2013. Kosovo Foundation for Open Society opened the saga of Mitrovica in 2014, with the implementation of Reconnecting Mitrovica concept. Since then, this concept has a progressive trajectory, despite many challenges which came as a result of political tensions between the two countries.

2014 was the year when the Foundation put more commitment to field research, finding trustworthy, relevant and committed partners, which would push forward the agenda of the Foundation set in line with its strategy, and establish firm ground for years to come. First results came in 2015, with the already well-established program pillars, while the expansion of work was noticed in 2016. The presence of the Foundation in Mitrovica, which at first was somewhat timid, is now dominant vis-à-vis initiatives from other donors, and had direct impact on the gradual opening of the community in the north, by producing a new civil society spirit in the north. 2016 was full of initiatives coming from civil society organizations which woke up from a suffocation by those NGOs which for more than 15 years were "in charge" of grants by big

donors, which in turn never produced much, or tried to revive the north by involving citizens in their projects. Today, despite many challenges, the north is filled with various initiatives and projects of CSOs, youth groups, experts, scholars, local institutions representatives, artists etc.

Goal, objectives, and activities for 2016

The aim of Reconnecting Mitrovica concept is to initiate a quality process of civil society cultivation, build better and stronger relations among civil society groups, academic, business and other groups of citizens from both sides of Ibër river, and, through this groups, put constructive pressure on decision-makers for the implementation of agreements between Kosovo and Serbia, and on local government which should provide quality services for its citizens.

Goal – Gradual reconnection of Mitrovica and northern part of the country with Serb-majority and the rest of Kosovo.

In order to achieve the goal of this concept, the Foundation designed well-connected **objectives** and **activities** as follows:

1. Support for research and advocacy projects of CSOs, and the monitoring of the implementation of Brussels Agreement;
2. Introduction of elementary EU principles to media, CSOs and municipal officers – EU Integration School;
3. Trends and levels of integration of Serbs.

In order to achieve the objectives of this concept, in 2016 the Foundation supported:

- **Civil society organizations** to conduct research and advocacy on issues that affect the quality of their life and the level of integration in Kosovo society;
- **Media** which covered, supported and amplified the civil society voice during advocacy campaigns implemented by CSOs, and also raised themselves issues relevant to Serbian community in Kosovo;
- **Civil society organizations from the region**, experts in various fields who provided capacity building services for local NGOs;
- **Formal and informal youth groups** which use arts and culture as alternative forms to build bridges of communication between north and south.

During 2016, following activities were carried out:

- Over 200 events/activities were organized at **Civic Energy Center (CEC)**. Through dif-

ferent activities organized by KFOS, CEC, Aktiv and other NGOs gathered 4 897 people.

- 15 “**Sporazum**” debate programs with 2-3 guests in studio which discussed topics related to Brussels dialogue and those which have impact on the democratization of society and pluralism of opinion. A total of 913,45 minutes were broadcasted at prime time on TV Mreza network and on B92 INFO;
- 12 debates of **Mitrovica Social Club**, in a relaxed and informal environment tackled issues that concern the citizens in the north, ranging from political topics to those related to culture and society;
- 7 preparation meetings of partners for **Empirika** advocacy platform and 7 roundtable discussions on the most important issues related to Serbian community which have to do with Brussels agreement;
- 20 roundtable discussions within **17 CSO and media supported advocacy projects**;
- 1 regional conference and 3 workshops on deepening the knowledge on EU, with the participation of over 100 participants and 20 lecturers, experts in EU integration field, as part of **EU Integration School**;
- 1 812 minutes of TV program were broadcasted on TV Mreza, based on programs realized to amplify the **advocacy campaigns of CSOs**. The broadcasted program was made of news, short stories, documentaries and debates.

1. **Support for research and advocacy projects of CSOs, and the monitoring of the implementation of Brussels Agreement**

In 2016 too, the Foundation worked closely with northern CSOs while the main partner in this part of Mitrovica was NGO Aktiv. The establishment of CEC në 2015 enabled the Foundation as well as many other donors and CSOs to implement different initiatives more easily and in much better conditions. Civic Energy Center during this year too proved to be a suitable intervention of the Foundation, by creating in this way a place of energy and meeting point of many organizations, individuals and institutions, and different activities were carried out ranging from presentation of projects and different opportunities for the community that lives there, artistic performances, to the realization of “Sporazum” which now gained the reputation among Serbian community and is also followed by Internet platforms among other communities and by cable TV system in the countries in the region.

The programs which the Foundation implements in partnership with NGO Aktiv at **CEC**, whose primary aim is to mobilize and activate citizens and then carry out joint advocacy campaigns to find solutions to identified problems of concern for citizens, are as follows:

Mitrovica Social Club – is a place of meetings and discussions in an informal environment (café) whose target group are young people and beyond. This club is situated on the first floor

of CEC, and has been transformed into a meeting point of constructive citizens – which could be also considered a type of Casablanca’s Rick Café – a unique meeting point for all civil activities in the town and as a place for discussion of different topics of concern for citizens, and particularly young people of Mitrovica. The format of this discussion platform comprises 2-3 panelists who come from decision-making institutions or analysts/experts, a moderator and the audience, making questions and discussing a topic set by CEC’s Advising Board, in an informal environment while having coffee or tea. 12 such discussions were organized during 2016, featuring following topics: (1) NGO sector in the north: opportunity or a lost goal! (2) What is Kosovo to people from Vojvodina, Kosovo and Belgrade; (3) Journalism as permanent opposition; (4) Who needs visas? (5) Cultural heritage in Kosovo; (6) European integration, Belgrade and Prishtina, road signs; (7) Activism against extremism and autocracy, etc. All debates were recorded, and posted on Mitrovica Social Club channel. Some of the renown guests in these debates were: Dimitris A. Moschopoulos, Dustin DeGrande, Natasa Dragojlovic, Besa Shahini, Adrijana Hodzic, Budimir Nacic, Shpetim Gashi, etc.

“Empirika” – is an advocacy platform which supports advocacy initiatives in the north of Kosovo and among Serbian community in Kosovo. This initiative, which started in 2015, took a new shape in 2016 by including NGOs and other media in the north into a coalition with a good potential to be a powerful Serbian advocacy platform. During 2016 a lot was done towards the mobilization of other CSOs, drafting a new strategy of action of this platform and setting up a new brand for the north of Kosovo. This platform during 2016 managed to organize 7 roundtable discussions through Point One. The discussed topics were: (1) Quality of translation of Kosovo laws into Serbian; (2) Positions of Kosovo Serbs on security after signing the Brussels Agreement; (3) Youth should be asked about their attitudes and needs; (4) Analysis of socio-political trends among Kosovo Serbs; (5) Call for bigger transparency of Brussels dialogue, etc. The last topics was discussed several times as part of formal and informal roundtables and attracted many media from Kosovo and region. So far, this platform is made of 4 NGOs and one media, and that: NGO Aktiv, Sinergija, Humane Center, Center for Democratic Culture and Advocacy, and Kontakt Plus Radio.

The strategy designed by Empirika partners foresees cooperation with Albanian NGOs from Prishtina and other places, based on the topics discussed.

“Point one” – is another activity implemented by NGO Aktiv within CEC and with the support of KFOS which developed its methodology using SPSS, Nvivo and other platforms based on GIS, to produce quantitative and qualitative analyses on topics/fields of relevance for Serbian community in Kosovo. The studies conducted by this platform are used to feed Empirika advocacy platform as well as “Sporazum” program.

“Sporazum” – is a TV debate program which is produced between KFOS, NGO Aktiv and TV Mreza. The main goal of this program is to raise issues of relevance for Kosovo citizens, with a particular focus on Serbian community as regards to the implementation of Brussels Agreement as well as other interlinked topics, and to involve citizens with their questions and comments through social network and guests in studio. A special emphasis is given to the use of social media in order to attract as many citizens as possible, especially young people who

massively use those platforms. This program is broadcasted in five local Serbian televisions around a television network called TV Mreza, in TV Kim and in B92 INFO, while the audio version is broadcasted in all radio stations around a Serbian radio network known as KOSMA. In this way, the program reaches a wide audience of listeners and social media users in order to inform, open a discussion space and provide opportunity to hear different voices. More on this program can be found under Objective 3.

During 2016, the Foundation also worked with other CSOs from the north and from central Kosovo and supported different research initiatives with the aim of advocacy. The twinning between CSOs and media was recently seen as the most appropriate initiative to enable the voice of CSOs be heard beyond their members, partners, and beyond small circles of interest and to be made public with their findings. This was a year of expansion of advocacy campaigns and CSO and media activities in various fields, which were directly or indirectly linked to Brussels Agreement.

All projects supported in 2015 continued with their advocacy campaigns in 2016 through their partner media support although most projects ended their implementation. Researches and findings drew much attention of regional media, such as Tanjug, DW, B92, and other news portals.

Much attention received the research on **safety of Serbian community after the signing of Brussels Agreement** implemented by Humane Center, and was cited by media many times. Likewise, this research also drew the attention of international community and several points of this research ended up as part of EC Country Report on Kosovo. The said center together with another Albanian community organization in the north of Mitrovica continued to deal with the same issue by measuring the perception on **security of Albanians in the north of Kosovo**. This study is in its last phase and the results will be published in the first part of 2017.

Treatment and life of minorities in the municipalities with other-community majority is the subject of "Life of minorities" project, which is worth mentioning. This is a project implemented by a new organization, which nevertheless employed people with media experience. NGO Omonia also has a website which will be used to disseminate the project results. The project aims to look into the challenges which Albanians face in the north, and those faced by Serbs living in Prishtina and Peja. In the course of 5 months, the project will carry out three 25-minute TV and radio reports as well as 10 news articles on the life of minorities. In this way, the project will document and compare the treatment of one majority community towards another minority community in identic or similar situations.

This is the first time Serbian organizations are tackling topics targeting Albanian community and this shows that some links, though fragile at this stage, are being created between these two communities.

Another cooperation initiative started by the end of 2016 targeting young Albanians and Serbs from the north. This initiative was established by a cooperation between Termokiss – an avant-garde youth initiative from Prishtina – and Aktiv Art Club which brings together young Serbs in Mitrovica. 2 meetings have been organized; one in northern Mitrovica and another in Prishtina. These two meetings aimed to bring together these two groups of young people,

in order to share their interests and goals towards a better and easier cooperation. As a next step a joint workshop will be organized gathering also similar groups from the region, in order to give this initiative a regional character and not as a “brotherhood and unity” project, which were usually funded by other donors and produced little after their termination.

As a conclusion, the civil society scene in 2016 was enriched with innovative initiatives, with new organizations and individuals, but many challenges remain in order to have a rather relaxed environment.

List of grants/expenses:

Project/Initiative	Beneficiary	Amount
North and South: Cooperation for the solution of same problems	TV Herc	8 900,00 €
Citizens from the north publicly on Brussels Agreement	Community Development Center	11 700,00 €
Serbian cultural heritage in Kosovo – problems and prospects	NGO Media Pulse	8 980,00 €
Brussels Agreement: Expressing the stance	Radio Kontakt Plus	9 660,00 €
Women’s rights and Brussels Agreement	Women right	6 710,00 €
Security situation in the region – youth and political radicalization	Nëna Terezë	9 634,75 €
Positions of Albanians from the north on security after the signing of Brussels Agreement	Humane Center	10 460,00 €
Increasing democratic practices and inclusion of citizens in decision-making processes	NGO Aktiv	61 475,00 €
Arts and cultural as a tool for social change	Operational (5 140 € NGO Rritu)	20 104,00 €
Media consultancy for Sporazum and other media-based advocacy projects	-	6 000,00 €
Life of minorities	Omonia	4 500,00 €

2. Introduction of elementary EU principles to media, CSOs and municipal officers – EU Integration School;

During 2016, KFOS continued cooperation for the implementation of EU Integration School with European Movement of Serbia, as an organization with expertise and ability to provide quality lecturers, and with NGO Aktiv as a local partner. This is the third year that the EU Integration School is being organized in the north. The program this year had some changes as a result of a need on the field. In addition to its elementary level, the School was enriched with 3 workshops on deepening the knowledge on EU, carried out by the two partner organizations.

2016 program started with a regional conference dedicated to a wider audience in addition to selected participants of elementary level. Participants of the **regional workshop: The basics: Western Balkans and EU**, was held on May 31, 2016 at CEC and gathered 60 CSO, media representatives etc. The panelists of this discussion were high government officials from Kosovo and Serbia, as well as CSO experts. Among others, the panelists of this discussions were: Ramadan Ilazi, then deputy minister of European integration, Ksenija Milenkovic, acting director of EU integration office in Serbia, Venera Hajrullahu, KCSF director, Simonida Kacarska, institute of European policy in Macedonia, etc.

The initial number of participants of **elementary level** in 2016 was 42, while by the end of the course 36 participants were part of the lectures and got their certificates of attendance. 30 lectures and workshops were organized within this level. They were conducted by renown experts from Serbia and the region. The total number of participants from 2014 to 2016 reached 129 - a considerable number of people gaining elementary knowledge on EU, its instruments and policies, and so on.

The study visit in Belgrade organized between September 15-16, 2016 gathered 23 participants, while 29 took part in a visit in Prishtina. During the visit in Belgrade, the participants had the chance to visit some of civil initiatives for EU integration and to talk with experts. They also visited institutions and high public officials during their visit in Prishtina and took part at Forum 2015 roundtable and had the opportunity to hear Kosovo perspective on some issues that are closely linked EU integration process, such as Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, rule of law reform in the EU integration process, and so on.

3 workshops were organized on deepening the knowledge on EU. One of these workshops was organized as a two-day study visit, while the other two were thematic workshops.

The study visit in Knjazevac was organized between July 22-23, 2016. Topic of this visit was **local economic development**, which was the result of needs assessment of participants during the previous editions of this School. 15 participants had the chance to get firsthand information on the good practices of Local Development Agency, Regional Center for Vocational Training, Agency for Development of Knjazevac, and the Center for Youth Economic Empowerment.

Second workshop was organized by European Movement of Serbia and NGO Aktiv on the topic: **Monitoring of Brussels Agreement**. The workshop was held on November 25, 2016 and gathered 17 participants. The workshop was run by Dusan Janjic from the Forum for Ethnic Relations. This workshop was dedicated for CSOs which monitor the implementation of Brussels Agreement, supported by KFOS and other organizations.

Media and EU workshop was organized by KFOS and was held on June 3-6, 2016 in Durrës, in Albania. The workshop was designed and run by two journalists and correspondents from Brussels, Augustin Palokaj and Dejan Anastasijevic. This workshop gathered 30 participants from all minority media in Kosovo, including Roma and Montenegrin media from RTK.

In November, Augustin Palokaj organized another meeting with media representatives as a follow-up if the workshop in order to update journalists on the events that occurred in the mean-

time. Augustin Palokaj also gave an open lecture at CEC, which was followed by more than 40 people from different social backgrounds.

The 2016 cycle was concluded with the distribution of diplomas for the attendees of this year's EU Integration School.

List of grants/expenses:

Project/Initiative	Beneficiary	Amount
EU Integration School – elementary level and two workshops on deepening knowledge on EU	European Movement in Serbia	27 020,00 €
EU Integration School – elementary level and two workshops on deepening knowledge on EU	NGO Aktiv	10 985,00 €
Regional seminar “The basics: Western Balkans and EU” May 31, 2016, northern Mitrovica	Operational	851,77 €
Seminar on deepening the knowledge on EU: Media and EU, June 3-6, 2016, Durrës	Operational	8 463,66 €
Deepening the knowledge on EU: Local development, study visit in Knjazhevac,	Operational	595,29 €
Open lecture Media and EU	-	620,42 €
Follow up of Media and EU, Gracanica, November 8, 2016	Operational	1 129,36 €
Study visit in Prishtina	Operational	704,00 €
Diploma ceremony	Operational	577,02 €

3. Trends and levels of integration of Serbs

2016 was characterized with a considerable cooperation with media which provided higher visibility of the work of CSOs, provided dialogue and open discussion among Serbian and Albanian political representatives, activists, CSOs, analysts and intellectuals. Here, it is worth mentioning two initiatives that were envisioned and designed by KFOS and carried out by its partners, NGO Aktiv and TV Mreza and assisted by a media consultant. The two biggest and most visible initiatives were: (1) “Sporazum”; and (2) Media support for advocacy projects of CSOs, EU Integration School and Empirika advocacy platform.

“**Sporazum**” realized a total of 15 programs with a total of 37 guests in studio, from various social backgrounds such as political representatives, political party leaders, politicians, analysts etc. The topics discussed were of current political nature, and in most cases those were linked to Brussels Agreement and they often touched upon (non) transparency of the very agreement.

The main goal of this program was to demystify the Brussels Agreement and explain its meaning to ordinary citizens, initiate a public debate on frequently controversial issues and opinions, and provide space for free expression without censorship. This program has been produced and broadcasted for two years now, and it gained the trust of a significant number of viewers in Kosovo and in the region. The program is broadcasted on 6 televisions in Kosovo, 5 members of TV Mreza, and on B92 INFO which provides viewership in Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Montenegro. In order to promote this program and to reach the younger audience which mainly use Internet and social networks, the program has its channels and a Facebook page, Twitter, YouTube and Vimeo accounts. All programs are based on quick researches carried out through Point One platform implemented by NGO Aktiv while the audience takes active part in every program by making questions and expressing their opinions on the discussion. Some of the topics discussed during 2016 were: (1) Security situation in Kosovo after signing the Brussels Agreement; (2) Development and economic potential of Kosovo; (3) Education, recognition of diplomas after Brussels Agreement; (4) (in) visibility of media; (5) The right of use of language; (6)

Political crisis in Prishtina; (7) Freedom of movement; (8) Constitutional Court decision on the legality of Association of Serb-Majority Municipalities; (9) Visa liberalization; (10) The future of Trepca; (11) Transparency of Brussels dialogue; (12) Foreign politics vis-à-vis Brussels dialogue and Albanian-Serb relations.

According to TV Mreza website and CEC data, the viewership is relatively high, with at least 1200 viewers per program.

Media support for advocacy projects of CSOs, EU Integration School and Empirika advocacy platform is another project which during 2016 contributed so that the voice of CSOs could be heard by decision-makers, international organizations and citizens, and at the same time promoted the work of KFOS. The project carried out in cooperation with TV Mreza produced: 78 pieces of news on TV Mreza and its members' websites; 35 programs of documentary character; 6 TV debates; 14 interviews with CSO leaders which carried out research; and 14 short stories on TV Mreza televisions. A total of 1 812 minutes of program were produced with several repetitions. Therefore, the broadcast time is even bigger. The entire content of these programs can be found on TV Mreza website. This project contributed to the reputation of CSOs, and it created space for open discussion and free expression by encouraging engagement in even "hard" political fields.

A new initiative was established with a very visited Serbian portal in the north – KoSsev, which is one of the most visited Serbian news portals in Kosovo, and managed by Community Development Center. This initiative will create space for dialogue between Serbian and Albanian intellectuals through publication of articles and organization of discussions on Brussels Agreement and other related topics with the aim to create space for expression of stances of both sides in order to achieve a normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia, as well as between Serbian and Albanian citizens and intellectuals. The project will also comprise 16 vox populi, a forum discussion among citizens and pointing out main issues and interpretation of "Sporazum".

Another achievement is also the membership of some Serbian media in Press Council of Kosovo, showing readiness to reconnect with Albanian media and with Kosovo organizations.

During 2016 KFOS also supported some cultural initiatives such as the International Literature Festival “Polip”, while participants from the north were enabled to take part in artistic programs supported by Stacion in Prishtina.

List of grants/expenses:

Project/initiative	Beneficiary	Amount
Media support for CSO advocacy projects	TV Mreza	18 000,00 €
Media project consultancy	Stanko Pevac	10 170,00 €
Technical realization and broadcast of “Sporazum”	TV Mreza	26 640,00 €
Realization of animations and promotional material for Sporazum	Butterfly	500,00 €
Establishment and management of a podcast on TV Mreza website for Sporazum	TV Mreza	1 300,00 €
Journalism standards in minority media	Press Council of Kosovo	4 000,00 €
Culture and reconciliation – translation and publication of Veton Surroi’s novel “Definicioni i dashurisë së Marie Gjoni”	Samizdat	3 500,00 €
International Literature Festival “Polip”	Qendra Multimedia	300,00 €
Intellectuals in dialogue, citizens debate on Brussels Agreement and related topics	Community Development Center	18 104,00 €
Cooperation between Mitrovica and other parts of Kosovo through contemporary art modules/programs	Stacion	6 490,00 €

RESERVE FUND

SchoolMe

Brief description of the project

Kosovo's strategic documents on education, such as the New Curriculum Framework of Kosovo, Strategic Plan on Education etc., greatly emphasize the need for the development and use of online sources, as a prospect for the use of alternative sources of education content, which help the development of students' competences and the improvement of quality in education. Such an approach is also emphasized by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MASHT), which supports the implementation of projects that enable the development and the use of digital platforms in teaching and learning. The development and use of these platforms enables a faster implementation of the New Curriculum Framework of Kosovo, especially taking into consideration the lack of textbooks that help the development of students' competences, as set in this framework.

Precisely in order to help the implementation of the new curricula of pre-university education by using online sources of learning content, Kosovo Education Center (KEC) in March 2016 started a two-year pilot-project called "SchoolMe". This pilot project was made possible by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society and aims to train teachers and students to use the digital platform learning content known as "SchoolMe". This platform has learning content which is in line with the requirements of the core curricula of the subjects taught between 1st and 9th grade of elementary school. This platform also has a high quality learning content providing explanation for different teaching subjects, such as conducting experiments in virtual laboratories in Physics and Chemistry, showing the images of different organisms in Biology, presentation of maps in History and different places in Geography, and similar. All these materials can be used by teachers that work in schools which are part of this pilot-project. as well as by students.

This project is implemented for the first time in 14 Kosovo municipalities. 2 beneficiary schools are in Prishtina and Gjakova each, and 1 school is in Peja, Istog, Malisheva, Rahovec, Drenas, F. Kosova, Suhareka, Shtime, Podujevo, Hani i Elezit, Lipjan and Vushtrria.

In order to have an objective insight into the effects of the implementation of this project in these schools, during 2017 and 2018 KEC will conduct various researches. The findings of these researches will reflect the advantages of the implementation of this pilot-project, as well as interventions needed in order to increase its efficiency in those schools.

Main achievements

In the beginning, the project was to be implemented in 15 schools around Kosovo. After the insistence of project coordinator, and the savings made during the realization of various activities, the project included one more school. Thus, the pilot-project started its implementation in 16 schools.

This project was the first of its kind in Kosovo, and therefore its successful implementation required the engagement of KEC in order to provide the entire infrastructure of the network, as well as the training of teachers to use this platform in the teaching process. In terms of logistics, KEC had to provide the installation of internet network and its distribution in classrooms, both in cases of schools with no internet connection and in those with internet connection, the installation of Smart TVs, the registration of teachers for the use of digital platform, and their subscription for the use of this platform. Also, KEC had to train teachers to use this platform in the teaching process.

During 2016 many activities were realised, contributing to the achievement of results.

1. The installation of internet connection in 8 participatory schools and the functionalization of the network in other schools.

KEC published an open call for interested companies to conduct an analysis on the current situation and set the cost for the installation and the distribution of internet connection in schools included in the project. The winning company conducted the analysis, carried out the installation and the distribution of internet connection in the classrooms of 8 participatory schools, and functionalized the existing networks in 4 other schools. In this way, the distribution was provided for 8-10 classrooms of the beneficiary schools.

2. The purchasing of 144 Smart TVs and their installation in 16 schools

KEC published an open call for the purchase of 144 Smart TVs and their installation in the beneficiary schools. The winning company provided TVs in line with the ToR and installed 8-10 TVs in 15 beneficiary schools depending on the possibility of distribution of internet connection in schools, and 5 TVs in the 16th school, which was later included in the project.

3. Cooperation with the Municipal Directorate for Education to provide the internet subscription in beneficiary schools

KEC managed to sign a memorandum of understanding with 12 out of 14 municipalities, and in this way secured the funding for internet subscription for a 2-year period. In this way, KEC only had to provide funding for 2 remaining schools - "Emin Duraku" in Shtime and "Ali Gashi" in Drenas. This also made the municipalities get involved and help in the implementation of this project in their schools. Also, in this way KEC reduced the expenses and increased the number of beneficiary schools.

4. Training of teachers for the use of digital platform

By the end of August 2016, KEC organized 2-day trainings in schools with 30 teachers from each of the 16 beneficiary schools. The aim of the training was to help teachers of different levels and teaching different subjects to use the content of the digital platform in the teaching process. In day 1, the teachers were informed about the structure of this digital platform, while in day 2 they were trained to use the platform for the development of students' competences and the assessment of their knowledge. A team of trained teachers conducted training for their colleagues. Until the end of 2016, as part of this project 710 teachers were trained in 16 beneficiary schools.

5. The registration of teachers and students for the use of "SchoolMe" digital platform

KEC cooperated with the company which manages the "SchoolMe" platform and registered 710 teachers trained to use this platform. Also, this company registered 5716 students from these schools to enable them to use the learning content of this platform. This platform is available online 24/7 and students can use it to gain knowledge and develop competences also while home.

6. The monitoring of teachers during classes

The coordinator of the project paid several visits to beneficiary schools in order to give advise to teachers as regards to the use of "SchoolMe" platform in the teaching process. During these visits, the coordinator also monitored the implementation of this platform by 2-3 teachers per school. After this monitoring, the coordinator gave advise on the ways to optimize the use of this platform in order to develop students' competences in the teaching process.

Plans for the future

During 2017 the cooperation with teachers should intensify in order to use this platform in the teaching process as efficiently as possible. Also, the coordinator should increase the visits to beneficiary schools and the number of monitored classes in order to better understand the advantages and the difficulties in the implementation of the platform in certain subjects. This would contribute to the professional cooperation with teachers in order to share their successful experiences, and find ways to overcome potential difficulties. During these visits, the focus should be put on the increase of the number of students of the beneficiary schools using the digital platform in the learning process.

The coordinator should motivate some successful teachers to record their classes, which could later enrich the content of "SchoolMe" platform. These classes could also be used by teachers of other schools.

The project also planned a study visit in Moldova, where a similar project is being implemented for the use of digital laboratories in the teaching process. After the visit, the coordinator will organize a meeting with school directors in order to share the experiences of this study trip.

Since the project is being implemented for the first time in Kosovo, it also included the carrying out of different researches, which could help the project implementers and the MASHT understand the advantages of the implementation of this project in schools, and the interventions needed in order to optimize the results of its implementation in different schools.

Bosnia & Herzegovina

While Kosovo enjoys freedom of movement with all Balkan states, the situation with B&H is different. Kosovo citizens can travel to Serbia only with IDs. Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the other hand, applies visa regime with Kosovo citizens. As a reciprocity measure, Kosovo decided to do the same and apply visa regime for Bosnian citizens. This hinders the freedom of movement, both for Bosnians and for Kosovars. Also, with this visa regime, the economic, cultural and social cooperation is almost entirely interrupted. During 2016, the Foundation together with its partner, Dokukino, got engaged in order to influence the policies for the simplification of visa procedures. Within this initiative, the following activities have been carried out:

Open Talks Initiative - Visa liberalization between Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina

The goal of this project was to gather different representatives of CSOs, scholars, journalists, as well as business representatives in order to send clear messages to the governments of B&H and Kosovo, in order to simplify the visa regime between the two countries.

The **Touch Base meeting in Belgrade** gathered the Deputy Minister of European Integration, the Head of Economic and Social Development Unit of the Regional Council Committee, the President of AmCham of Serbia, the Head of Businesswomen Union - B&H, entrepreneurs, Head of Regional Cooperation Office of the Economic Chamber of Serbia, Head of Marketing of Bosnialijek, renown political and economy analysts, as well as journalists from both countries.

Business Meeting Sarajevo gathered representatives from 40 biggest companies from the two countries on the level of CEOs, representatives from economic chambers, embassies, and international organizations.

PR Campaign established close ties with editors in chief from the most relevant media of both countries. Media coverage was carried out by various televisions, radio stations, dailies, and most news agencies with reports, direct broadcast of events, TV debates and interviews. On the very same day, this meeting was the main topic of discussion of the three televisions (Aljazeera Balkans, N1 dhe Pink BiH).

Open talks initiative - We have the solution! Think Tanks and the Policy Paper

The goal after the meetings in Sarajevo and Belgrade was to invite the selected representatives

from different CSOs, research institutions, media and economic chambers for a one-day gathering in Jahorina hill close to Sarajevo. The invitation was sent to the representatives of these institutions from Kosovo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Greece, and Rumania. The goal was to also have representatives from Greece and Rumania, which did not recognize Kosovo but do not hinder the freedom of movement, and draft a declaration with recommendations, which was then sent to both governments.

A press conference was organized the following day, in order to present the recommendations and put pressure on the political structures of B&H. The impact of this event brought concrete results. Bosnian Foreign Minister, Igor Crnadak, one hour after the press conference, declared that they will start a dialogue with Kosovo government in order to simplify the visa procedures.

Re-connecting: Increasing Public Awareness on the Negative Aspects of Visa Regime between Kosovo and B&H

In cooperation with Kosovo 2.0 journalists, a documentary film was produced made of 6 different stories of citizens sharing personal experiences when dealing with the issues of travelling between Kosovo and B&H (including a publication/advocacy).

Journalists were trained and provided support in order to produce the detailed reports on the negative aspects of visa regime.

Other People's Heart: Theatre Tractate about the Border – A theatre play by Dino Mustafic

In the frame of the project for visa liberalization between Kosovo and B&H, a theatre play was produced by the renown Bosnian director, Dino Mustafic. The play was premiered in the National Theater in February 2016, while during 2015 it was also performed in Sarajevo and Belgrade.

Tour Operator's cooperation between Kosovo and Bosnia & Herzegovina

Another way to improve the cooperation between the citizens of both countries was also the initiative of Ec Ma Ndryshe, which gathered tour operators from both countries. The first meeting between Kosovo and Bosnian tour operators was organized in Kotor. They discussed about the economic and social benefits both countries would have, should the visa regime be lifted.

The second conference: "Intensification of social communication through tourism and culture: Bosnia and Kosovo - How to overcome barriers in communication?" was held on November 23, 2016 in Sarajevo. The conference gathered the renowned tourism and culture personalities from both countries, while the discussions were organized in two panels. In the first panel on tourist cooperation, the panelists from Kosovo Government, business associations and tour operators from both countries mentioned the difficulties of regional cooperation in the field of tourism. The second panel on cultural cooperation brought together directors of culture

festivals from Kosovo and Bosnia & Herzegovina, who reconfirmed the barriers of communication due to visa regime. The conference was attended by tour operators, representatives from CSOs, media, government and universities from Bosnia. This conference was the continuation of a two-day meeting held in June 2016 in Kotor, Montenegro, where tourism and culture sector representatives from Kosovo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Montenegro discussed about regional cooperation opportunities. The conference in Sarajevo was another effort to encourage cultural and tourism cooperation between the two countries, by emphasizing the damaging consequences of visa regime that is applied both by Kosovo and by Bosnia & Herzegovina.

All these activities contributed towards the simplification of visa application procedures, both from the side of Kosovo as well as Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Project Name	Grantee	Amount (EUR)
Open Talks Initiative – Visa Liberalization between Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina	Doku Kino	35,077
Open Talks Initiative – We Have A Solution! Think Tanks and the Policy Paper	Doku Kino	13,829
Re-connecting: Increasing Public Awareness on the Negative Aspects of Visa Regime between Kosovo and BiH	Media Centar	20,000
Other People’s Heart: Theatre Tractate about the Border	Centar Umjetnosti	7,647
Tour Operator Cooperation between Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ec Ma Ndryshe	18,000
Total :		94,553











