



KOSOVO FOUNDATION  
FOR OPEN SOCIETY

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2018

# ANNUAL REPORT



# Our work in 2018

## Strategic Planning

In 2018 the Foundation was engaged in two directions: carry out its programs in line with 2017-2020 Strategy and play an active role in supporting initiatives that facilitate and increase the efficiency of political and civil society engagement in dealing with the biggest current challenges, such as the process of negotiations with Serbia and regional cooperation – through OSF reserve fund.

During this year, the Foundation reviewed its action strategy for the new strategic cycle 2019-2022 which keeps the same program macrostructure as the previous one but bringing many changes which address current developments – a never static socio-economic and political environment– and enhance the approach and methods used to achieve program objectives.

## Programs – developments and challenges in 2018

The program scope has remained unchanged, focusing mainly in four strategic directions: (1) Reconnecting Mitrovica (2) European Integration (3) Fight against corruption and improved transparency and accountability of government institutions, and (4) Fight against (academic) corruption in the University of Prishtina. In addition to these programs, the

// The two main challenges to open society in Kosovo continue to be ethnic division and pervasive impunity.

Foundation introduced activities in program funded by third party donors, which made possible a higher involvement in the provision of support for RAE communities. Also, a very important place in the work of our Foundation make up projects funded by OSF Reserve Fund: Strengthening Kosovo's position in negotiations with Serbia and deconstructing myths created about Big Albania – a regional program carried out together with the sister foundation from Tirana (OSFA).

The programs carried out for many years now – except for Higher Education Program – have preserved their final goal although they are always subject to minor changes in order to adapt to current circumstances and developments which, in most cases, are quite dynamic. All the programs together during 2018 continued to address the big developmental issues of our country, in the first place to: (1) challenge the culture of impunity linked to striking corruption cases in the country, (2) create optimal circumstances to bring closer ethnic communities that live in Kosovo, especially in Mitrovica (north and south), (3)

bring much European values in the reforms of government institutions, and (4) put pressure upon the University of Prishtina in order to depoliticize and fight corruption that is found at management and academic level. This program structure also addressed other issues which make up the core of an open society: our Foundation has supported initiatives which fight our country's isolation, especially in networks such as OGP, Open Data, and Publish What You Pay (PWYP). It is expected that in 2019 initiatives will be reactivated bringing Kosovo closer to global initiatives such as EITI (Extractive Industry Transparency International).

In addition to program activities, the Foundation in 2018 continued its engagement to establish networks and coalitions of non-governmental organizations which at this stage act as our partners in carrying out our program objectives, but in a near future these networks can continue their work as independent entities. Our Strategy is to address the major problems we tackle, through well-established networks which easily connect with one another to reach joint objectives and complement one another with their expertise. This approach has proven successful and the Foundation stimulated the establishment of at

// The Foundation is focused on the creation of networks and coalitions of civic actors to multiply impact, e.g., the 9-member Procurement & Open Data Group, the 11-member

## Coalition for Integrity and Transparency in Universities, and the 7 member Network of Serbian TV and radio outlets.

least two such networks: KITU (Coalition for Integrity and Transparency of the University) as well as Pro Open which works with anti-corruption and public procurement. A similar, yet informal, network works in the field of European Integration.

For many years now, the Foundation has been building quite efficient capacities for action through its operational projects (concepts) as well as through direct grants (fields) which can very flexibly adapt to certain program circumstances – as an official tool to challenge Kosovo democracy which continues to be rather fragile. Major operational projects have been the most apparent part of our Foundation's work during 2018.

## Political and socio-economic situation in the country in 2018

Year 2018 brought many dynamic developments in our country's politics. Political developments in Kosovo and in the region brought about more dilemmas and confusion than solutions and development perspective. Political actors are the same, as is their public discourse which is dominated by populist actions and rhetoric. The only change is that in 2018 Kosovo entered into some of the most significant processes for its future but still lacking a clear vision for long-term solutions

to the remaining challenges. Uncertainties and political chaos caused many drawbacks in our country's development agenda, with reforms moving at a slow pace and the EU integration agenda fading away due to lack of adequate action of Kosovo administration. Struggle for power proved to be more aggressive than before, neglecting the possibility to reach a political consensus for major issues of our country.

The second part of 2018 was particularly full of political conflicts, lack of consensual visions to address a major issue, i.e. dialogue with Serbia. This fact stimulated our Foundation to help empower Kosovo's side in this dialogue. In May 2018, the Foundation proposed the OSF Reserve Fund to engage in this process, in order to provide support to Kosovo parliamentary parties, together with the support of civil society from Kosovo and abroad. This initiative will also continue during 2019, and the funds for the planned activities have already been secured.

Kosovo economy continues to lag behind that which can be achieved. Virtual development parameters, such as GDP dominated by projects implemented with tax-payers money, remain the only argument of our government that Kosovo is having some kind of progress. But, when analyzing the performance of SME or private sector which makes up over 90% of economic operators in our country, it becomes obvious that this sectors lags, that current policies cannot do much to improve its performance. And in this situation, it is more than normal to have such a high level of unemployment and poverty. With such economy, and with such a vague and unconstructive development policy various social group will be its first victims: the retired, the sick, and other vulnerable categories that are desper-

ate and at permanent risk of having their position worsen further. Chances are that another category might join – that is the vast number of young people and children that have little opportunities to have a prospective future in Kosovo.

Civil society or, more precisely, non-governmental organizations have been consolidated to a certain extend and are increasingly aware of the fact that only a genuine performance might bring them development opportunities – donor support which is diminishing in recent years. Advocacy groups are much more visible, including those who work with development policies, organizations that have built experience in monitoring transparency and accountability of decision makers, as well as organizations that work with ethnic minorities and with groups with special needs. A major part of NGO activism in sectors covered by government sources is diminishing, which is a normal reaction to the fact that by introducing and strengthening the activity of local and central administration the need for certain NGO activities is reduced.

To sum up, in 2018 our Foundation has continued to work in four strategic directions, which are analyzed further in this report, and has started to address to major political and developmental challenges that was brought by 2018 (with Reserve Fund). Also, our Foundation has continued to work with third party donors, such as EU and Karl Kubel Stiftung, in addressing RAE community issues in the field of education.



# KOSOVO FOUNDATION

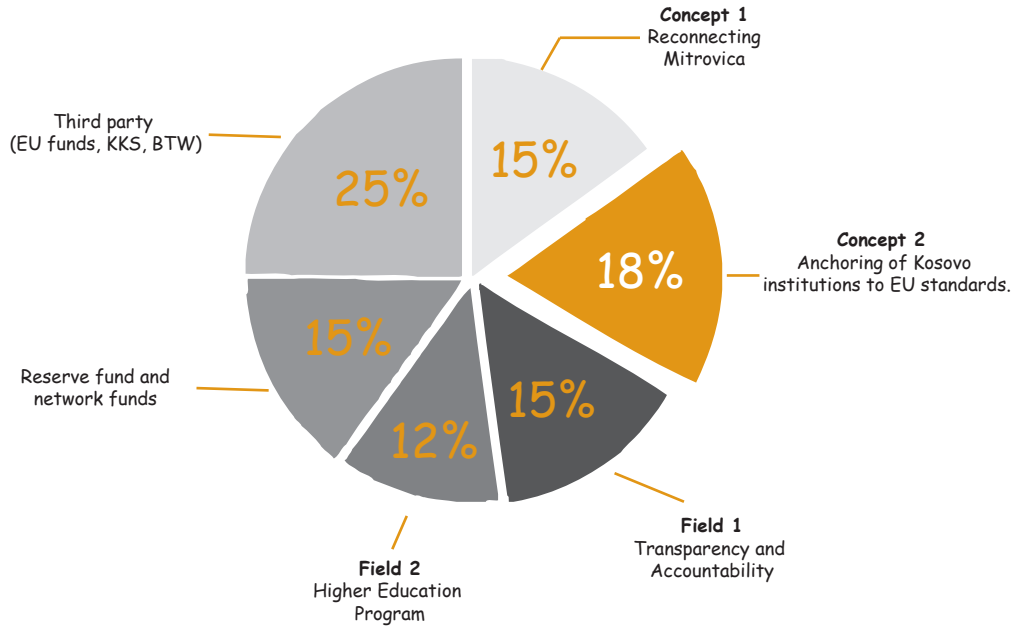
## FINANCIAL REPORT

January - December 2018

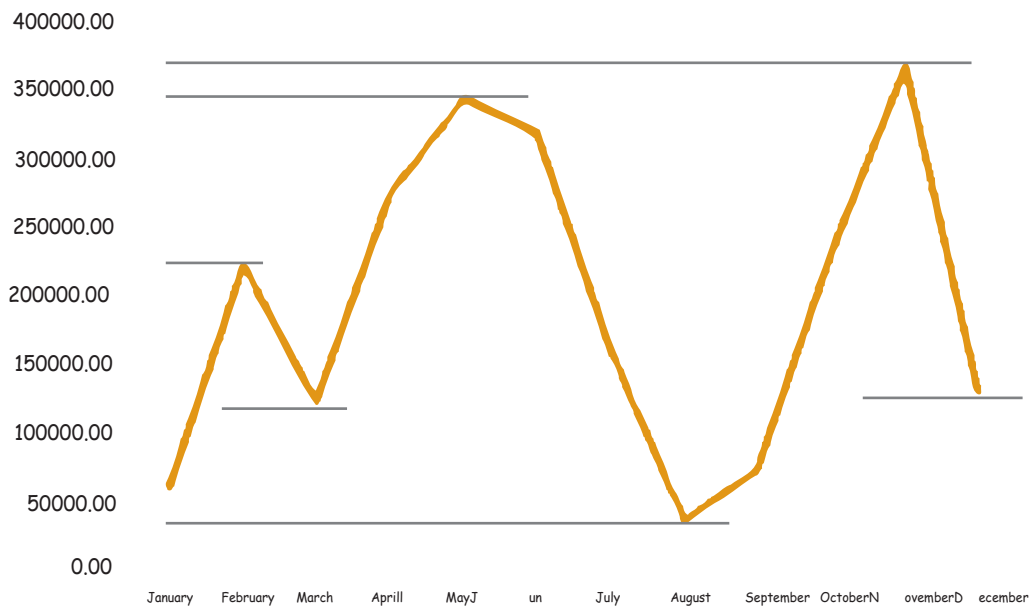
No.	Item	Budget in Euro	Expenses in Euro	% expenses
1	Core Budget in 2018			
	Reconnecting Mitrovica - Concept 1	316,273.32	316,273.32	100.00
	Anchoring Kosovo's Public Institutions to EU Standards and Policies Concept 2	379,393.32	379,393.32	100.00
	Transparency and Accountability - Field 1	306,484.65	306,484.65	100.00
	Higher Education Policy Reform and Support - Field 2	252,972.06	252,972.06	100.00
	Program Administrative Expenses	12,196.69	12,196.69	100.00
	Administrative Expenses	223,201.71	223,201.71	100.00
Sub-Totali 1 :		1,490,521.75	1,490,521.75	100.00
2	OSF Reserve Fund and other network contributions			
	OSF Reserve Fund - Kosovo - Serbia Dialogue	274,946.49	176,870.06	64.33
	OSF Reserve Fund - Kosovo - Albania Project	150,969.00	34,161.16	22.63
	OSIFE - Think Tank Fund for 5+2 Project	153,669.00	58,027.31	37.76
	Network fund for RAE Initiative	53,087.00	53,087.00	100.00
Sub-Totali 2 :		632,671.49	322,145.53	50.92
3	Third Party Donor Contributions in 2018			
	EU Commission Office	393,094.02	393,094.02	100.00
	Karl Kubel Stiftung	114,979.24	114,979.24	100.00
	Balkan Tender Watch	16,078.26	16,078.26	100.00
Sub-Totali 3:		524,151.52	524,151.52	100.00
Total:		2,647,345	2,336,819	

Unspent funds of the OSF reserve and network fund will be transferred in 2019.

# 1. Incurred expenses based on programs

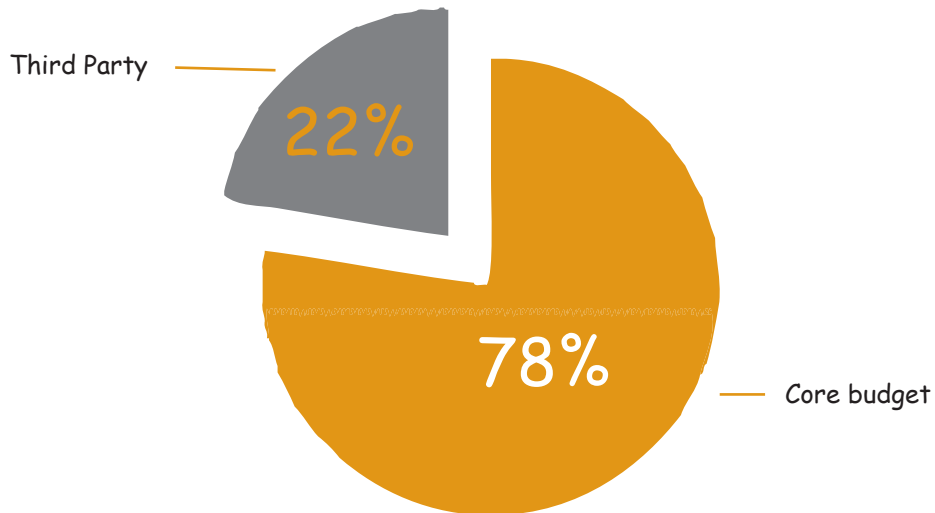


# 2. Incurred expenses based on months '18



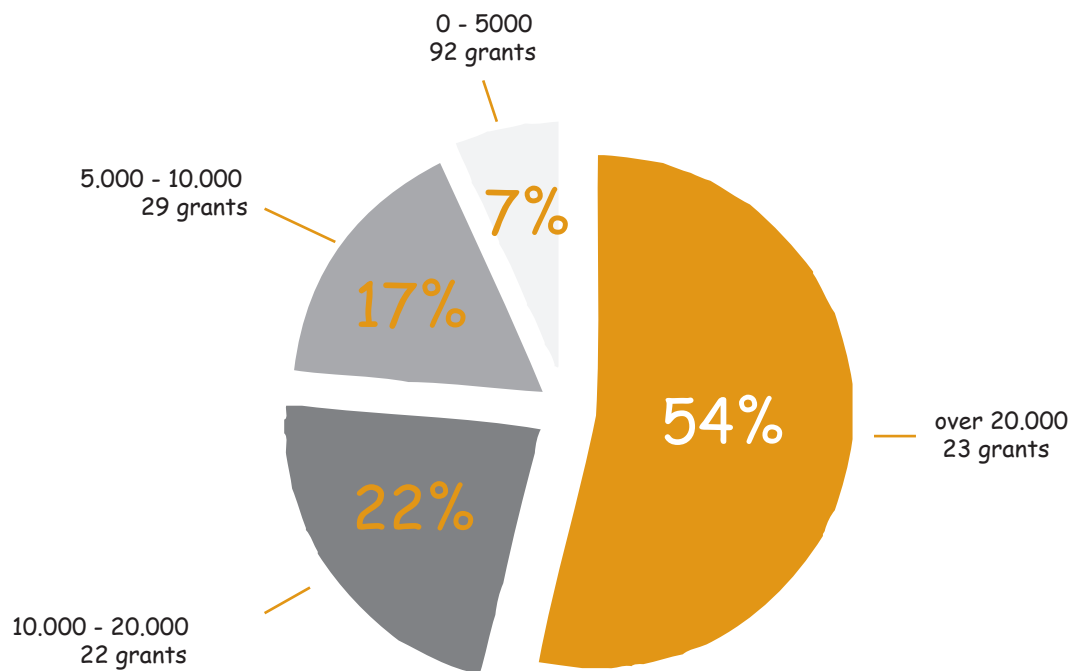


### 3. Budget spent based on financing categories



### 4. Distribution of grants according to their value - euro

(The total sum spent according to these categories is taken into account)





# EUROPEAN PROGRAM





# ANCHORING KOSOVO'S PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO EU STANDARDS AND POLICIES

Although Kosovo signed its first contractual agreement with the European Union in 2015, Kosovo's institutions are far from achieving European standards. Kosovo has adopted a National Plan for the Implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement, and the European Reform Agenda, but much remains to be done in reforming Kosovo's institutions and their approximation with the EU.

This program was established in order to serve the process of Kosovo's integration into the EU, making it a catalyst and a supporter of reforms of governance. The Foundation has focused its efforts within this program in two directions: firstly, by using the country's European perspective to advocate reform; secondly, by trying to strengthen this perspective through establishing and maintaining links with European states that do not recognize Kosovo's statehood.

During 2018, the Foundation supported civil society organizations to monitor Kosovo's progress in meeting European standards by creating a network of organizations that have researched and advocated for the approximation of Kosovo institutions to the EU within the various sectors.

“ The Foundation has established a network of organizations in European non-recognizing countries which serve as its partners.

In addition to a series of publications about Kosovo's position vis-à-vis the EU, as well as analysis of progress in the integration process, the Foundation has been actively involved in building and expanding links with civil society and cultural scenes in the seven non-recognizing countries, including the five EU member states, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the success in 2017, for the second time, the Foundation will support a network of 12 young scholars from these countries who will disseminate knowledge on modern Kosovo in their respective countries. The Foundation has also continued to cooperate closely with civil society in non-recognizing countries such as Greece and Romania, by organizing a two-day event in Bucharest, Romania, where dozens of academics and regional experts had the opportunity to discuss the future of Kosovo within the new framework for EU enlargement.

In addition to core budget programs, during 2018 the Foundation has also developed two operational projects funded by the Open Society Foundations reserve fund. Considering the importance of entering the final phase of the dialogue, from May 2018 the Foundation has launched an initiative with its partners from Germany and Kosovo to strengthen Kosovo's position in dialogue with Serbia, by facilitating Kosovo stakeholders and promoting a political consensus. In addition, the Foundation has started cooperating with the Foundation for Open Society in Albania, OSFA, to conduct a joint quantitative and qualitative study on citizens' attitudes about economic, social, cultural and political cooperation between the two countries. Both projects will continue to be implemented throughout 2019.

## Deepening knowledge about the EU

The Foundation is committed to supporting civil society to advocate for the approximation of Kosovo institutions to EU standards. In the first place, this objective is translated in the commitment of the Foundation to support civil society organizations to produce knowledge about the EU integration process, and secondly to provide them with tools to advocate to local institutions and those involved in the process for results derived from their research work.

One form of doing this is through the modules of "Building Knowledge about the EU". These modules incorporate a compilation of position papers on key topics of European Reform Agenda (ERA) and the priorities set by the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA), as well as intensive workshops with key

stakeholders from public institutions, civil society and the media. These modules focus on specific sectors by giving space to civil society organizations to monitor, research and analyze various topics thoroughly.

As a result of work of these organizations, a joint publication titled: "A European Debate: European Standards as part of Legal and Institutional Structures" has been produced and will be launched at the beginning of 2019. In addition to this, seven local organizations have focused their work on researching European priorities and standards in various sectors, creating space for stakeholders to gain in-depth knowledge and contribute to analyzing reforms and alignment with the EU.

**Kosovo Democratic Institute (KDI)** has advocated for increased integrity and punitive measures in the field of public procurement and together with the Cohu! they organized a three-day workshop with key stakeholders in Struga, Macedonia. The workshop held in June brought together foreign and local lecturers and prompted a productive debate among participants - most stakeholders from public institutions - on the ways to establish a mechanism to empower the Code of Ethics in Public Procurement and Prosecution. The recommendations derived from this workshop were incorporated into a brief analysis titled "Integrity, a Key Element in Public Procurement", which was published on December 7, 2018. The recommendations of this project underline the need for structural changes in Public Procurement Regulatory Commission (KRPP) and the development of legislation to support the functioning of an Integrity Bureau, a solution based on Dutch model.

On the other hand, **Organization for Democracy, Anti-Corruption and Dignity, COHU!** fo-

cused on threats and attacks on journalists. In addition to monitoring of these cases, COHU is advocating to have these attacks included in the Criminal Code. As part of a more general awareness raising, COHU organized a 4-day journalism school in Durrës, Albania in cooperation with KRIK team from Belgrade. At the beginning of 2019, COHU is expected to publish a research on this topic.

**Kosovo Center for Security Studies (QKSS)** analyzed how the SAA – more specifically the political part of this agreement – could create opportunities for Kosovo, like other Balkan countries, to participate proactively in EU peacekeeping missions. For the first time, QKSS advocated inside and outside Kosovo for such an approach, prompting a debate on how Kosovo could become a contributing country in security, as part of wider international community.

In September, as part of this project, QKSS has launched the policy document titled “Kosovo’s Participation in Peacekeeping Missions: An Effective Tool for Foreign Policy”. The study also analyzes the existing legal framework for Kosovo’s participation in EU peacekeeping missions and identifies potential capacities and areas of expertise in which Kosovo can contribute actively. QKSS also drafted and published the policy paper titled: “Security Restitution: The Western Balkans as a Security Provider”. This paper was sent to London before the London Summit which was organized under the Berlin Process. As part of Building Knowledge about EU, on 16-19 September, QKSS organized a module on security, justice and rule of law. The purpose of this module was to provide a special non-formal education program on security sector development issues in Kosovo, SAA implementation, regional and international security cooperation as well

as Kosovo’s contribution to EU peacekeeping missions.

**Democracy Plus (D+)** monitored cases of temporary contract agreements and acting positions contrary to the rules of the Law on Civil Service and advocated for their legal and practical regulation. D+ drafted a draft report titled: “Exploiting Temporary Contracts and Acting Positions in Civil Service: Respecting Legal Criteria in Temporary Contracts and Acting Positions”. On 7-9 December in Durrës, Albania the report was presented and discussed at a roundtable organized with relevant stakeholders from various institutions.

The final report is expected to be published at the beginning of 2019.

**EC Ma Ndryshe** carried out an analysis of the construction sector, examining the implementation of European standards in this sector and advocating against planning abuse.

The project researched and produced a brief analysis of the spatial planning situation in Kosovo municipalities in, addressing the legal framework, cases of illegal constructions and analyzing the case of Prizren in particular. The publication was made in November 2018. “European Standards for Transparency in Construction” workshop was held on September 21-23 in Durres, Albania. During this workshop participants were informed on the role of implementation of European standards in spatial planning and on the prevention of misuse in the construction sector. A report was submitted to the European Commission regarding the spatial planning sector. A brief summary covering the topics: Meeting the SAA in the field of environment, Euro codes and Kosovo Construction Code, Implementation of legislation in the planning and

construction sectors, Damages caused to the cultural heritage of Statistics etc. has been submitted to EU institutions to be included in the Country Report drafted by the European Commission.

At the beginning of 2019, a short documentary regarding specific cases of misuse in the construction sector is expected to be produced.

**Kosovo Center for Advocacy and Development (KADC)** focused on advocating for the implementation of the Law on Tobacco Control, a law which – although in line with EU legislation – is clearly ignored or violated in public spaces throughout Kosovo. Bearing in mind that the implementation of this law is an imperative for a healthy life, KADC was focused on increasing the capacity of inspectors to notify them of changes to the Law on Minor Offences. To this end, KADC organized a three-day workshop in October 2018 with 50 inspectors from all municipalities in Kosovo to discuss legal changes as well as actual cases of sanitary inspectors. In December 2018, KADC also published a brief paper titled “Current Legislation and Policies Governing the Work of the Sanitary Inspectorate in Kosovo”.

The last module as part of the sub-program “Building Knowledge about the EU”, was designed by Group for Legal and Political Studies (GLPS) which organized a three-day workshop in Durrës, Albania on the topic “Functional Review of Justice Sector as the Forerunner of European Integration Process”, which was held in December 2018. By bringing together key stakeholders and key players in the justice sector - including prosecutors and various legal experts - the workshop created room to discuss issues of judiciary vetting in Kosovo, and problems around the lack of full imple-

mentation of reforms in this sector.



# 1. List of grants

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Integrity and Impunity in Public Procurement	Kosovo Democratic Institute, KDI	4,950.00 €
EU School of Investigative Journalism: Attacks on Journalists	Organization for Democracy, Anti-Corruption and Dignity - COHU!	10,000.00 €
Kosovo Possibility to Participate in EU Peacekeeping Missions	Kosovar Center for Security Studies, QKSS	9,000.00 €
KDI Workshop: "Integrity and Impunity in Public Procurement"	Operational	9,990.00 €
Monitoring of cases of temporary contract agreements and acting positions contrary to the rules of the Law on Civil Service and advocacy for their legal and practical regulation.	Democracy +	10,840.00 €
EU Standards for the Prevention of Abuse in Construction Sector	EC Ma ndryshe	9,940.00 €
COHU workshop: "Investigative Journalism School".	Operational	11,409.55 €
QKSS workshop: "Defining the Future: Kosovo's Path towards EU until 2025".	Operational	6,250.00 €
Implementation of the Law on Tobacco Control	Kosovo Center for Advocacy and Development, KADC	6,000.00 €
D+ workshop: "Civil Service Recruitment Practices: Special Services Agreements (Temporary Contracts) and Acting Positions - the Way Forward?"	Operational	6,080.00 €
KADC workshop: "Law on Minor Offences, Implementation and Relevance with Other Basic Laws"	Operational	8,128.72 €
EC Ma ndryshe workshop: "EU Standards in Spatial Planning and Prevention of Abuse in Construction Sector"	Operational	4,415.58 €
GLPS workshop: "Functional Review of Justice Sector as the Forerunner of European Integration Process"	Operacional	7,580.00 €
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>98,988.86 €</b>
<b>Operational Program Expenses</b>		
Conferences and meetings		
Western Balkans Meeting	Operational	989.50 €
Meeting with OSFA	Operational	1,786.50 €
Workshop on Building Knowledge about the EU and conference expenses	Operational	2,486.20 €
Other professional payments		
Consultancy	Operational	2,262.12 €
Publications and prints		
Publication for EU Knowledge Workshops	Operational	2,388.28 €
Translation services	Operational	2,071.21 €

Office supply		
Office supply	Operational	618.20.€
	Subtotal	12,502.01 €
	<b>Grantee Total</b>	<b>111,590.87 €</b>

## Monitoring the EU Integration Process and Advocating for Reforms

Even before the establishment of the European Program, the Foundation has seen EU conditionality as a powerful tool for pushing forward institutional reforms that are a prerequisite for the development of Kosovo's state. In line with its Strategy, during 2018 the Foundation supported civil society organizations and stakeholders to monitor the implementation of Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) priorities. The Foundation has supported research, publications, workshops and roundtable discussions addressing Kosovo's position vis-à-vis the EU and Kosovo's backwardness in the European integration process. This required support for projects at several levels: from monitoring of actions and priorities foreseen in country's documents, to producing research about the geostrategic position of Kosovo towards the EU.

One of the top-ranked projects is Kosovo Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED) project which addresses the threats and challenges to Kosovo's sovereignty through a publication prepared in cooperation with Peacebuilding and Human Rights Program of Columbia University, New York. This research project brought together 15 international and local scholars to explore

from different viewpoints the challenges of Kosovo towards Serbia, the European Union, Russia, and Turkey. In October 2018, the nearly 200-page book was launched at an all-day conference attended by 64 representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kosovo Parliament, diplomatic corps in Pristina and dozens of scholars. The electronic and printed book, in addition to KIPRED, is also distributed through Columbia University and the Helsinki Committee in Serbia.

From a closer perspective, Group for Legal and Political Studies, GLPS monitored the meeting of criteria set by the EU in the SAA, by supporting their fulfillment through advocacy to relevant institutions involved in the process. From May 2018, GLPS has continuously monitored the implementation of the National Plan for the Implementation of the SAA (PKZMSA) and will continue to do so for the first half of 2019. To carry out the monitoring - GLPS designed an original matrix and will produce 6-months reports to assess how many actions have been carried out by Kosovo institutions. In October, GLPS published its first six-months report - which shows that Kosovo's institutions have made progress in implementing PZMSA with 6 partially completed actions, and nearly 52 fully completed actions. The monitoring results have been used to advocate to all national and international actors and have been distributed through the media following a press conference. In the wake of advocacy for public sector reform, GLPS has also organized a three-day workshop in Durres, Albania

“ The Foundation has managed to create a dynamic conduit of advocacy between civil society organizations, Kosovo Government, and EU institutions both in Prishtina and Brussels.

on the topic “Functional Review of Justice Sector as the Forerunner of European Integration Process” - discussing also the need for vetting in the judiciary in Kosovo, and the problems regarding the failure to implement reforms in this sector.

Continuing the work started at the end of 2017, the “New Moment for EU Enlargement: What Can Kosovo Benefit” is a publication prepared by Brussels correspondents and EU affairs experts, Gjeraqina Tuhina and Augustin Palokaj, which aimed to prompt discussion on the new EC Strategy for the reaffirmation of the enlargement process. The publication was presented at Forum 2015, on February 20, 2018. The publication analyzes the benefits Kosovo might have from the new communication strategy of the European Commission and the 2025 perspective for ‘frontrunner’ candidate countries.

“EU Multiannual Financial Framework and Enlargement - Benefits for Kosovo” is a continuation of the work of EU affairs experts, Gjeraqina Tuhina and Augustin Palokaj, who prepared the publication “EU Budget: Does the 2021-2027 Framework Justify Enlargement Policies “. This publication analyzes the

changes in the proposed EU financial framework and how it affects the EU enlargement and the European integration of the Western Balkans in general and Kosovo in particular. Publication results were mentioned at advocacy visits in Brussels and Bucharest during 2018, and at the beginning of 2019 the publication is expected to be launched in Pristina. The publication comes at a very important moment for the EU itself, which will hold parliamentary elections in the spring of 2019.

Another publication that was prepared during 2018 is “Understanding Kosovo’s Negotiating Power in Relation to the EU and its International Image” written by Gezim Krasniqi, co-director of the Nationalist Studies Department at Edinburgh University. This publication will be launched in the first part of 2019.

In December, Women NGO “Qeliza” received financial support to advocate for the enhancement of social services in three Kosovo municipalities. The advocacy part of the project will be carried out in the first part of 2019.

## 2. List of grants

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Participation at "Lincoln Center" Theater Laboratory	Agon Myftari (DR)	4,054.16 €
Participation at "Lincoln Center" Theater Laboratory	Blerta Rrustemi Neziraj (DR)	4,054.16 €
Exhibition: Blood Forgiveness Campaign 1990-1991	Oral History Initiative	2,000.00 €
Transparency and Accountability in the Implementation of the Law on Marginalized Groups	Council for Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms (KMDLNj)	9,990.00 €
Research and publication project: "Threats to Kosovo's sovereignty"	Kosovo Institute for Policy Research and Development, KIPRED	7,800.00 €
Monitoring of the National Plan for the Implementation of SAA, Building Knowledge on the EU Integration Process and Enhancing Public Discourse on the Dialogue between Prishtina and Belgrade	Group for Legal and Political Studies, GLPS	20,000.00 €
For Better Quality Social and Family Services	Network of NGOs "Qeliza"	16,940.00 €
	Subtotal	64,838.32 €
Operational Program Expenses		
Conferences and meetings		
Forum 2015 expenses	Operational	4,033.92 €
Workshop with OSFA 07.02-09.02.2018	Operational	<b>4,679.99 €</b>
Other professional payments		
Consultancy	Operational	8,289.26 €
Publications and prints		
Annual Report	Operational	1,430.00 €
Publication for Forum 2015	Operational	3,331.00 €
Translation services	Operational	961.20 €
Office supply		
Office supply	Operational	756.40 €
	Subtotal	23,481.77 €
	Grantee Total	88,320.09 €

## Relations between Kosovo and the EU: Connecting Europe

Though Kosovo has managed to establish contractual relations with the European Union, by signing the Stabilization and Association Agreement in 2015, ten years after independence, Kosovo's European perspective remains vague, especially due to lack of consensus within the EU itself. More specifically, five EU members and two countries pursuing EU membership do not recognize Kosovo. As the official channels with these countries are mostly closed, one of the Foundation's strategic goals is to pave new ways through which policy makers, civil society and ordinary citizens can be reached in these countries. As a result, the Foundation established a network of scholars from different countries of the region and the non-recognizing ones, supported exchanges and arrangements that bring Kosovo and its European perspective to the spotlight, thus contributing to strengthening its European perspective. The sub-program for the development of links and exchanges with civil society in the seven countries which did not recognize Kosovo is supported by the core budget and the OSIFE's Think-Tank fund.

## Building Knowledge of New Statehood in South East Europe: Kosovo's Foreign and Internal Policy

This regional level project aims to fill a knowledge gap of some countries of the Balkan region regarding modern Kosovo. A number of previous projects (for example, those implemented by ELIAMEP and CRPE) have made

“With the network of scholars, the Foundation supports influential voices from non-recognizing countries, to act as multipliers in helping to sway public opinion.

clear that countries which did not recognize Kosovo or have limited interaction with it, or both, have a serious deficit of professional and non-stereotypical studies regarding the new independent state. Otherwise, public debate is still dominated by myths and stereotypes that have been circulating since the beginning of the Yugoslav crisis about 25 years ago. This project in part aims to address this problem, but also to help produce new and dynamic researchers which contain new knowledge on modern Kosovo. Following the successful completion of the first cycle of “Building Knowledge of New Statehood in Kosovo”, the project still aims at exposing 12 young scholars from Romania, Greece, Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Italy, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina to direct experience of Kosovo, coordinating scholars from Kosovo and other countries, as well as gradually establishing a network of joint scholars. Qualified professors from renowned universities - Arolda Elbasani, Stephanie Schwandner-Sievers, and Agon Demjaha - were engaged to supervise researchers with relevant research plans and relevant literature and help them set their research questions. During 2018, following the drafting of an advocacy plan, concrete advocacy activities have been organized. These activities will continue beyond the implementation period and will be supported by media

and social network campaigns.

- In May, the first workshop was organized at Aristoteles University in Thessaloniki, whereby the University spaces were offered pro bono. During this workshop, participants were informed about the project and its objectives, and agreed on the topics they will work with.
- Also, during the Thessaloniki workshop, participants were provided with an additional program by Greek experts: research techniques, effective approaches and dissemination methods, as well as a lecture on Balkan history and ties between Kosovo and the neighboring nations.
- In September, researchers were invited to a study visit in Kosovo, where we organized a workshop to discuss the progress and eventual barriers of the researchers.
- Final drafts were submitted by all researchers by the end of December.

By the beginning of 2019:

- Texts will be edited
- Texts will be summarized and published in a book format

## **Lack of engagement? A look at the policies of EU member states towards Kosovo.**

Another project which gathered 10 European experts to assess and advocate for Kosovo's diplomatic position vis-à-vis the non-recognizing EU member states as well as also those which recognized Kosovo but do not support it, brought additional results at the end of this year. In November 2018, we reached an agreement with Palgrave MacMillan publishing house to publish the book and disseminate it

to a number of university libraries in England, but also online for all interested people. The book has been edited and is expected to be published in the spring of 2019.

## **On the Agenda Again: EU enlargement towards the Western Balkans**

Another project which is a good example of the Foundation's work to establish further connections with civil society in the region is the project implemented by Global Focus, a Romanian association based in Bucharest. The project, carried out on the eve of Romania's taking over of European Presidency, brought together dozens of policy makers, scholars, civil society representatives and politicians from Romania and the region to discuss the Romanian agenda during the presidency, and historic agreements between Greece and Macedonia, and Kosovo and Serbia.

The two-day event, organized in cooperation with other organizations from Bulgaria and Austria, and Romanian scholars, resulted in a series of events on 29-30 October 2018 in Bucharest, which advocated for the European integration process for Kosovo, the need for more knowledge on the recent developments in Kosovo and the region, as well as the knowledge on Kosovo's culture.

The project produced a closed expert seminar at the European Commission in Bucharest gathering, among others, representatives of EU member states as well as Romania's top political representatives. The one-day discussion resulted in two preparatory reports and a white paper.

In addition, together with the Global Fo-

cus project partners, they organized a panel discussion: “Artists Between the Borders of Balkans” as part of “Culesi di Balkani” documentary film festival, attended by Kosovo artists. Part of the festival program was a photo exhibition for “Dokufest” documentary film festival.

On the last day of the event, an academic meeting was held in cooperation with the National School for Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA) bringing together old and young scholars who have an interest in Kosovo, including the beneficiaries of the first scheme of “Building knowledge about Kosovo”. This event brought together a group of young people, whose curiosity and enthusiasm indicates the importance of continuing the support for regional scholars to produce knowledge about Kosovo and advocate for this knowledge.

**Annual festival “Mirëdita, dobar dan!”** organized in Belgrade over the last years has now turned into one of the biggest cultural events which connects the two neighboring countries - Kosovo and Serbia. In 2018, the relations between the two countries remained tough, while the dialogue in Brussels was left largely ignored by both sides. In this context, the fifth edition of the festival was held in a grave political atmosphere: before its launch, right-wing parties dispersed propaganda against the festival and the organizers received threats from the Serbian Radical Party (SRS). On their way to Belgrade, Kosovo artists were detained by Serbian police and two of Eliza Hoxha’s works - photo shoots of protests in Kosovo during the 90s - were taken by Serbian police. However, 30 Kosovo artists arrived in Belgrade and along with 20 Serbian and Kosovar journalists participated in panel

discussions, film shows, exhibitions and concerts organized from 30 May to 2 June. Despite the political pressure (protests outside the Center for Cultural Decontamination – CZKD during the opening, and the presence of Vojislav Seselj with constant police escort), the festival was entirely and successfully organized and managed to gather a large audience and generate public debate on the relationship between the two states - over 400 media reports covered the festival.

### **Between the Seas – workshop of playwright Jeton Neziraj in Athens**

In the course of its work to link Kosovo’s civil society to that of the countries of the region, and in particular to the five EU member states that do not recognize Kosovo, the Foundation supported the participation and workshop of playwright Jeton Neziraj as part of the “Between the Seas” performing arts festival. The workshop was held from 5 to 10 November, and during the festival Neziraj managed to make other public appearances and a public reading of his screenplay “Department of Dreams” and Greek public had the chance to hear its translation for the first time.

**Youth regional exchange Dokufest 2018** was implemented by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, bringing together 21 young people from the region in order to create a network of youth young people from the Western Balkan countries. During a one-week stay, participants met with local organizations, learned more about the socio-economic context of Prizren and Kosovo and in general.

### 3. List of supported projects and other expenses:

Project title	Grantee	Amount from core budget	Amount from OSIFE fund
Miredita, Dobar Dan! Festival 2018	NGO Integra	21,800.00 €	
The project "Building Knowledge about Kosovo" Part 2	Operational	23,019.28 €	56,019.99 €
Consultancy fees for "Building knowledge about Kosovo vol. 2"	Operational	20,150.00 €	
KIPRED roundtable with Daniel Serwer: "The Balkans, EU and USA: Can they synchronize again?"	Operational	1,223.51€	
Workshop in Athens by the playwright Jeton Neziraj	Between the Seas	1,010.00 €	
Youth regional exchange Dokufest 2018	Youth Initiative for Human Rights, YIHR	5,250.00 €	
Fees for researcher participants of "Building Knowledge about Kosovo vol. 2"	Operational	12,369.77 €	
"Back on the Agenda: European enlargement and the Western Balkans"	Global Focus	40,028.72 €	2,007.32 €
		<b>124,851.28 €</b>	<b>58,027.31 €</b>
<b>Operational program expenses</b>			
Consultancy fees	Operational	1,140.12 €	
Publications and research	Operational	5,959.00 €	
Translation services	Operational	1,006.45 €	
Office supply	Operational	803.83 €	
	Subtotal	8,909.40 €	
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>133,760.68 €</b>	<b>58,027.31 €</b>







# TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY





# TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

“ The foundation builds public sector ownership and capacities to implement standards, while at the same time supports civil society to hold officials accountable.

## Challenging Corruption-related Impunity

In the area of transparency and accountability of government institutions, during 2018 Kosovo Foundation for Open Society continued with the implementation of its strategy and action plan. The strategy was focused on (1) the system of public procurement in Kosovo, more specifically on the analysis of concrete cases of violations of procurement procedures; (2) proper preparations for international initiatives from which Kosovo society may benefit, Open Data as part of Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiative; and (3) Extractive Industry Transparency Interna-

tional (EITI). Pro Open coalition, established by the Foundation in 2017 met all the criteria to become member of Publish What you Pay, an acknowledged international civil society initiative for extractive sector accountability, while the decision on the membership will be taken in the first part of 2019.

The area of transparency and accountability of government institutions, continued to give grants to the organizations which were part of the Strategy, for their projects which aim to enhance the country's integrity. The grants that were given in the field of Public Procurement are:

### *Iniciativa Qytetare Skenderaj - IQS: Transparent and accountable procurement in the Municipality of Skenderaj*

The aim of the project was to assess the level of fulfilment of mayor's commitment for a transparent and accountable procurement, as well as to measure the impartiality of the municipality in awarding tenders and in respecting the Law on Public Procurement. Through this project, IQS carried out the following activities:

- Monitoring of public contracts from the tender announcement to the signing of the con-

tract. Through this activity, IQS monitored criteria set by the municipality, assessment of awarded companies, meeting the criteria and potential violations in favoring certain companies, and the signing of the contracts.

- Analysis of tenders awarded by the Municipality of Skenderaj.
- Publication of violations in the process of public procurement. In order to inform the citizens on the number of the awarded contracts, IQS made periodical publications regarding the said contracts and the process of their selection.
- Organization of 2 public debates which provided citizens' recommendations on the said topic. Organization of 10 lectures with secondary school students in order to inform them on the aspects of functioning of local institutions, and how they can request accountability from relevant actors.
- Organization of one press conference in order to inform the citizens on the issue of accountability of the municipality towards them, on the aspects of the functioning of public procurement, on selection procedures of a certain company to carry out certain works, etc.
- Organization of lectures with pupils and students. This activity was carried out in secondary schools and open spaces with young audience, mainly pupils and students, in order to raise their awareness on the importance of transparency of public contracts. The activity had an impact on the youth since there was an increasing interest in access to public documents and transparency level.
- Organization of roundtable discussions. During the project implementation, IQS organized two roundtable discussions with a considerable attendance. These discussions tackled the situation of public procurement in the Municipality of Skenderaj and gave

recommendations for relevant bodies in order to make the contracts available. As a result, the Municipality of Skenderaj started publishing public contracts on its official website.

Through this project, IQS managed to increase the transparency in the process of the signing of contracts which were later made public on the municipality's website.

### **Çohu: Accountability in Public Procurement**

The project aimed to visually argument the type of debate which should be in place, with particular emphasis on the way how public procurement is tackled in the sphere of fighting corruption from the legal aspect (Criminal Code and respective laws) in order to free the procurement process in Kosovo from "perceptions" and to bring back the necessary trust in public institutions. The aim of the project was use a video documentary in order to address the said issue to justice institutions, which are responsible for this issue and deal with procedures when it comes to cases of public procurement.

### **Forum 2015: Integrity and (im)punity in procurement**

After several months of work of Pro Open coalition, the Foundation used its advocacy platform - Forum 2015, to publish all the analysis of the coalition in a joint public presentation. In order to make it easier for the reader, we have produced a summary of recurring violations mentioned by all coalition partners. This summary was published as a booklet. Also, we have produced three short documentaries in order to visualize the violations of public procurement procedures.

The discussed topics are:

- Summary – Integrity and (im)punity in procurement
- Tenderomania in prosecution – by ÇOHU
- Violations of Law on Public Procurement in Kosovo – by Democracy +
- Monitoring of Public Procurement in Kosovo: Increasing accountability of institutions regarding public money spending – by FOL!
- Mended investments – by Kosovo Democratic Institute
- Purchasing essential list medicaments with an exponentially higher price compared to market price – by Columbus Institute
- Integrity in public procurement of municipalities (Ferizaj, Shtime, Prishtinë) – by Iniciativa për Progres

The Forum gathered more than 100 participants, and it was broadcast live on KTV.

### **Çohu: Destruction of environment and the negative effect of quarries – what is the contribution of abusing procurements and lack of transparency?**

ÇOHU – Preportr carried out a considerable part of field work in order to see the situation of rivers - after extraction and exploitation of sand, and the destruction of environment by quarries around Kosovo. Preportr analyzed the data provided by Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals regarding illegal cases of exploitation of sand as well as cases of illegal quarries pertaining to 2005-2018 period.

Preportr found 495 illegal cases during 2009-2018, out of which 166 cases had to do with illegal exploitation of rock and 329 cases had to do with illegal exploitation of sand. Also, the KPMM data show that this institution is-

sued a total of 562 licenses for quarries (268 for research and 294 for exploitation).

Preportr started inserting the data on its open data platform which is in the process of data visualization.

Another aspect which will be addressed by ÇOHU in 2019 are the political links between companies and natural persons who were awarded licenses or were involved in illegal exploitation that may have potential links with political parties.

### **Democracy +: Monitoring of clientelism between media and public institutions**

The project aimed to identify and monitor marketing services contracts between public institutions with media as well as monitor the quality of media reports related to public institutions which awarded those contracts:

- In the course of six months, the project monitored five daily newspapers evidencing all ads, marketing materials and open calls of public institutions;
- Also, 14 news portals were monitored for banners, ads or marketing materials of public institutions;
- A total of 66 requests were made to public institutions for access to their service or marketing contracts with the media;
- 19 requests for information were made to 14 news portals and 5 daily newspapers;
- 10 interviews were carried out with the representatives of institutions, media and third parties, aiming at obtaining the information on media reports regarding the institutions that publish the adds;
- The project identified all media articles regarding the institutions which published the adds in those media in order to analyze

whether the said reports were balanced in these cases;

- The initial findings of the report were presented within a roundtable organized by the OSCE and the Association of Kosovo Journalists;
- The final report is being drafted and analyzed and will be published in January.

### **INPO: Accountability in construction contracts**

The aim of the project was to raise public debate on the ongoing failures of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in spending public money through capital investments for the construction of sports halls and the “mobilization” of civil society to demand accountability. The analysis is in the completion phase and will be published in the second half of January.

### **KAND: Increasing youth participation in decision making in Gjilan**

The project was focused on raising the awareness of young people and municipal officials to be cooperative in decision making processes which involve youth interests, especially scholarships for young people of Gjilan, Viti and Kamenica. Project activities:

- Advocacy in Gjilan, Viti and Kamenicë municipalities for the process of scholarship distribution: At this stage the project team started the advocacy process through the Law on the Access to Public Documents, requesting documents for the process of scholarship distribution for students in the Municipality of Gjilan, Viti and Kamenica. The findings from the research were discussed during meetings with officials from the Municipalities of Gjilan, Viti, Kamenica

and the youth during the third month of the project.

- Organization of three (3) meetings with students and officials from the Municipality of Gjilan, Viti and Kamenica: This activity has brought the local government closer to young people so that their requirements and recommendations for granting scholarships are as clear as possible. The mayor of the Municipality of Viti, Sokol Haliti together with more than 100 young people/students took part in the meetings named “Young People Call”.
- Production of a video featuring project results: This activity represented the final stage of the project. The findings of the project team in the first implementation month regarding the requests for access to public documents were then addressed in the meetings with the Mayor of Viti, the Mayor of Kamenica and the Director of Education Directorate in Gjilan. The video also features all recommendations and findings of these meetings in the 3 municipalities. The video was published on KAND’s official FB and Instagram page.

### **Columbus Institute: Monitoring of procurement in Health Insurance Sector**

Since August, the Columbus Institute started looking into the design of infrastructure of Health Insurance. Despite the problems of accessing information from the Ministry of Health, the documents that Columbus provided show the loss of many millions of Euros with no results.

Currently, Columbus Institute has the initial findings and is interviewing the relevant actors.

The final report will be including findings related to the involvement of the five last min-



isters in the functionalization of Health Insurance.

The strategy of former ministers Alush Gashi and Bujar Bukoshi in 2019 turned out to be a complete failure. Several millions of Euros have been for the implementation of this strategy, with no accurate report on the money was spent.

Former Minister Ferid Agani tried to modify this strategy and together with the next minister Imet Rrahmani they spent about 6m Euros to create a system that should have started working in December 2017. But only 2 out of 22 modules of the electronic system created by them managed to become functional.

The current minister, Uran Ismail, considered the entire investment of his two predecessors a failure and a new system has started from scratch, the cost of which will be millions of Euros.

The current minister did not make any step regarding other components of the functionalization of Health Insurance such as: pricelist, service list, law amendments, issuing administrative instructions, etc. Such a sluggish pace will not allow for the implementation of the Law on Health Insurance for many years to come, while its implementation was supposed to start back in 2015.

### **Forum 2015 - Kosovo's harmful contracts: who is to blame?**

The Kosovo government has recently faced court disputes, which stem from the inadequate formulation and implementation of public contracts. These legal contests show that the Government of Kosovo and other public institutions failed to design complete

contracts and meet the obligations arising from such contractual relations. While the outcomes of these contests could potentially cost a lot to Kosovo's budget, nobody has yet been held politically, let alone criminally responsible for these cases.

The Forum presented the study carried out by Riinvest Institute, followed by a roundtable discussion between Pal Lekaj – Minister of Infrastructure; Valdrin Lluka – Minister of Economic Development; Korab Sejdiu – Member of Parliament; and Alban Hashani – Executive Director, Riinvest.

### **Balkan Tender Watch**

In 2018, the Foundation joined the regional coalition called Balkan Tender Watch, established few years ago by Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro. In 2018, Kosovo joined the Balkan group in this coalition in the second project carried out by Balkan Tender Watch.

The project which lasts four years aims to improve the procurement systems in the Balkans. The EU-funded project will compare and assess the national procurement systems in these countries, by applying a number of indicators developed in 2018.

The kick-off meeting was held in Belgrade in spring, while the second meeting was held in Prishtina. The members of the coalition gathered in Prishtina to discuss the indicators, which were then finalized at the meeting in Sarajevo in autumn.

In the second half of the year, the project produced a Media Brief, a Policy Brief and a Shadow Report, which were then incorporated into a comparative report for all coalition

countries.

At the end of December, the first regional conference was held in Skopje, gathering key stakeholders from public sector, civil society and media from the entire region. Kosovo was represented by: National Audit Office, Anti-Corruption Agency, Public Procurement Regulatory Commission, Procurement Review Body, Kosovo Democratic Institute, BIRN, FOL!, Democracy Plus, and Çohu.

Projects approved by the end of 2018 that will be implemented during 2019:

#### **Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC): Public procurement in the north of Kosovo**

The aim of the project is to increase the transparency and a greater participation of Small and Medium Enterprises in the public procurement process in the north of Kosovo. Specific Project Objectives: (1) Research how many local SMEs participate in public procurement; (2) Explore the transparency of the public procurement process; (3) Strengthen the role of the public and SMEs in monitoring the public procurement process; (4) Improve the participation of local SMEs in the public procurement process, and (5) Facilitate the interaction of municipal structures and SMEs in order to accelerate economic development and greater employment. The project will be implemented during 2019.

#### **INTERNEWS Kosova: Contracted manipulations**

The Public Procurement Regulatory Commission has made it mandatory for all budget institutions to publish all contracts with Economic Operators for performing works, ob-

taining services or supply.

Despite the fact that the publication of contracts is good news for civil society and journalists, so far, the information has not been used to expand the research in this area in order to find corrupt practices or the signing of harmful contracts.

Internews Kosovo will analyze the contracts of similar nature which are also comparable. The project will focus on framework agreements. Framework agreements are made when institutions cannot project the exact number of goods to be purchased. With this agreements, economic operators bid specific prices for every product. One of the problems identified over the years has been the unusually low prices for some products in the case of framework agreements. There were many instances of inflated prices for a certain product and unusually low prices for another product.

# 1. List of projects of organizations supported in the public procurement field and other expenses:

Title of project	Grantee	Sum in EUR
Transparent and accountable procurement in the Municipality of Skenderaj	Iniciativa Qytetare Skenderaj	10,500.00 €
Accountability in Public Procurement	Çohu	3,900.00 €
Destruction of environment and the negative effect of quarries – what is the contribution of abusing procurements and lack of transparency?	Çohu	16,620.00 €
Monitoring of clientelism between media and public institutions	Demokraci Plus	14,980.00 €
Accountability in construction contracts	INPO	9,237.00 €
Increasing youth participation in decision making in Gjilan	KAND	2,965.00 €
Monitoring of procurement in Health Insurance Sector	Instituti Columbus	23,400.00 €
Public procurement in the north of Kosovo	Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture	9,980.00 €
Contracted manipulations	Internews Kosova	10,000.00 €
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>101,582.00</b>
<b>Program expenses</b>		
Planning workshop of Pro Open Coalition	Operational	6,741.22 €
Western Balkan Forum	Operational	1,678.91 €
Social media sponsoring	Operational	2,744.72 €
Translation services	Operational	779.09 €
Office supplies	Operational	348.99 €
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12,292.93 €</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>113,874.93 €</b>

In the field of Open Data, after the Foundation supported the development the Open Data Action Plan, the assigned institution - Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) has continued to push the process further, by earmarking funds for the modernization of the Public Administration as well as for the implementation of the Open Data Action Plan. During several meetings conducted by MPA about data inventory, it has been noticed that there is still very little information about Open Data by public officials, especially those assigned to work with the process.

### **Training / Workshop - Data Opening Ecosystem**

To give an additional boost to this initiative, we worked with the team of experts from Open Data Institute in London to help us strengthen the Open Data Ecosystem in Kosovo by building on the existing strengths and future opportunities.

The first day was a full day of training primarily covering the key information around an open data ecosystem. Participants were taught what open data was, what the data spectrum is, and how the ODI theory of change relates to data ecosystems more broadly. Numerous examples of data ecosystems were discussed as well. Certificates and licensing were covered in the afternoon, and participants were taught the different types of sharing licenses that exist. The day ended with understanding how to measure success in open data, primarily using the World Wide Web Foundation's Open Data Barometer.

The second day was split into a morning workshop that the participants actively engaged and presented to the group, as well as an afternoon training session focused on in-

novation and ethics. The morning workshop helped the participants understand what their roles are in a data ecosystem, and the roles of the people they rely upon for success. Based on this, the participants were taught how to create an effective engagement strategy and created mock lite strategies themselves. The afternoon training discussed the importance of promoting innovation in society based on the socioeconomic benefits the ODI has witnessed in the past. The training covered the startup ecosystem and how best to help encourage it, such as sustainable open data challenges. The final topic covered what data ethics was, why it was important in society, and examples where ethics had been applied improperly in the past.

The third day consisted of a morning workshop focused on helping the participants to understand and create communications strategies. The participants were then asked to take the knowledge they had learned over the last two days and use it to create a credible set of immediate, short term, and long-term goals and actions to address the recommendations from the ODRA. There was no afternoon session.

The grants that have been allocated to the Open Data field during 2018 are:

### **FOL!: Open Data and the increase of transparency of institutions in public money spending**

The project aims to make transparent the process of implementation of the contract for the construction of Prishtinë-Gjilan highway. In the course of the project, FOL! was focused in four fields:

(1) The procurement process – assessing the procurement procedures, respectively the selection of economic operators for the construction of the highway, as well as complaints of other economic operators which were part of tendering procedures;

#### Findings:

- The entire process around the construction of the highway was followed by a considerable lack of transparency.
- The partial provision of documents required from the Ministry of Infrastructure related to the construction of the highway adds doubts about potential misuse during the implementation of this contract, especially the lack of a Contract Management Plan, which according to the procurement officers was not in place.
- The monitoring of this highway showed that its construction was not part of procurement plans of this ministry.
- The process is followed by delays in the start of the works, contrary to the terms of reference of the contract.

(2) The expropriation process, which was assessed in terms of the form it had taken, the duration of this process and the cadastral zones in which expropriations took place. The analysis of this area was carried out considering the legal framework regulating the expropriation, government decisions, as well as cooperation between the two municipalities involved in expropriation.

#### Findings:

- The exploitation process started late, i.e. after signing the contracts for the construction of highway.
- Because the final decision for the exploita-

tion was taken too late, the municipalities had to change the ownership of parcels in cadastral zones where the highway passes.

- This change of ownership of parcels in cadastral zones affected by exploitation was allowed up to the final decision of the government of October 2018.

(3) The assessment of immovable property, including the change of property owners, which was attempted to be carried out in coordination with the institutions that carried out the assessment and the two municipalities whose cadastral zones have been part of this process:

#### Findings:

- Using the right to access public documents, FOL managed to obtain information on expropriation of parcels in the cadastral zones of Prishtinë-Gjilan highway, for the last 3 years. There was a large number of sales transactions that occurred before and during the period when the highway construction started.
- After denying the request for access to the assessment of these parcels by the Ministry of Finance, FOL filed a complaint to the Ombudsman who responded that they were working on a report to address this issue, and not just give recommendations as was usually the case.
- FOL is also awaiting an interpretation by the Agency for the Protection of Personal Data regarding the denial of access to the assessment of expropriated parcels.

(4) Public hearings monitored based on data, respectively minutes provided by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning:

## Findings:

- The minutes of these public hearings appeared to have been held only because they were forced to do so and not in order to inform the citizens. According to the citizens, these public hearings did not inform in detail the owners and those who had an interest in the project; they were not informed about the crossing line; there were discrepancies in the categorization of parcels between the situation in the field and the elaborates; they were not informed about the process, respectively the land line that is being expropriated; also information and decisions were sent to the legal owners of parcels not using the right names.

Projects approved by the end of 2018 that will be implemented during 2019:

#### **Democracy Plus: Digitalization of financial reports of political parties**

The purpose of the project to be implemented in 2019 is to increase the transparency and accountability of political parties in their fundraising and spending of money, by creating a mechanism for online reporting of political entities and candidates, aiming at increasing transparency in the financing of political subjects in Kosovo. D+ believes that besides the changes in legislation that are being made by the Government and the Kosovo Assembly, there is a need for change of reporting practices that would simplify the reporting for political entities and would increase transparency for voters.

#### **Environmentally Responsible Action Group (ERA): For a more transparent and accountable municipality - Environmental activism in The Accursed Mountains**

“ Over the past 2 years we have supported civil society’s efforts to introduce to Kosovo the Open Data initiative, Publish What You Pay (PWYP) and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). These are all at different stages of formal adoption and uptake but have already begun to establish normative mechanisms and pressure to make Kosovo’s institutions more accountable.

The aim of the project is to increase the transparency and accountability in the Municipality of Peja by reaching these objectives: (1) Protect the environment in The Accursed Mountains National Park through procurement and monitoring, (2) Raise citizens’ awareness on damages caused by corruption in procurement (3) Ensure proper implementation of contracts, (4) Analyze the applicable laws

#### **Legal and Political Studies Group (GLPS): Raising accountability and transparency of Government on public money allocation**

Through this project GLPS aims to reduce the negative impact of uncontrolled spending and

allocation of public money, and to create a monitoring mechanism which would identify indicators related to trends of allocation of public money. To achieve this goal, GLPS will put pressure on the Government to be more transparent and to account for how the public money is spent.

## 2. List of projects of organizations supported in the Open Data field and other expenses:

Title of project	Grantee	Sum in EUR
Open Data and the increase of transparency of institutions in public money spending	FOL!	14,100.00 €
Digitalization of financial reports of political parties	Demokraci Plus	18,280.00 €
For a more transparent and accountable municipality - Environmental activism in The Accursed Mountains	Environmentally Responsible Action Group	6,415.00 €
Raising accountability and transparency of Government on public money allocation	GLPS	14,195.00 €
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>52,990 €</b>
Program expenses		
Workshop/training – Open Data	Operational	16,667.90 €
Open Data Institute London	Operational	18,219.17 €
Translation services	Operational	2,105.28 €
Office supplies	Operational	488.45 €
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>37,480.80 €</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>90,470.80 €</b>

In the extractive sector, the Foundation together with its strategic partners have continued preparations for membership of the Pro Open Coalition to the Publish What You Pay (PWYP) organization. The coalition statute has been drafted, considerable work has been done with the PWYP secretariat and the application form was submitted in November. The decision to join the Pro Open Coalition in Publish What You Pay is expected in early 2019.

Grants that are allocated to the extractive sector field during 2018 are:

### **Ec Ma Ndryshe: Public procurement challenges in the Municipality of Prizren**

The aim of the project is to evidence violations that are being made in the construction sector in the center of Prizren, considering that this part is protected by a special law and that each intervention should be subject to Law on the Historical Center of Prizren. Recently, we have witnessed many illegal constructions that were done in the city, but nobody took responsibility for this degradation. Project activities:



- The research into specific cases of legal and procedural violations of public procurement in the Municipality of Prizren: This activity has been completed and published. Also, this research/analysis will be published/promoted in a closing roundtable.
- Monitoring of public procurement bodies in Prizren: It was carried out continuously, and the findings supported the research as well.
- Advocacy for the improvement of online transparency in the field of public procurement: We have organized a number of meetings with the head of municipal assembly and with the directors of some directorates, and we discussed about the importance of feeding and updating the online platform with documents published by the relevant officials. Also, we have had meetings with relevant directors to discuss the possibility of updating the platform as well as the possibility to make the documents more available and understandable for citizens. After publishing the procurement announcements, by mid-August the municipality started publishing certain contracts as well.
- Video documentary: the screenplay is in its final phase and soon the project will contract the company which will carry out the production of the documentary. This documentary will contain findings/specific cases of legal violations in the field of public procurement, some of which were published in the research as well.

Roundtable discussion: this was planned to be organized at the end of the project to present the analysis/research, documentary and other activities which were carried out within the project.

Projects approved by the end of 2018 that will be implemented during 2019:

#### **BIRN: “How much does the boss eats” dossier**

“How much the boss eats” gathered a considerable attention and interest of the public. The dossier published the expenditures of public officials, all based on hundreds of bills obtained by BIRN. The aim of this project is to improve the accountability in relation to public money spending and increase the transparency on local level. During last local elections, BIRN asked the mayors to publish their bills when spending public money. Most of them promised they would publish the bills or allow access to those bills. This resulted in a public duty of the heads of municipalities which guarantees public access. This project aims to make public the expenses of the mayors. The project will continue during the first part of 2019.

#### **Riinvest Institute: TEM - Economic Topic of the Month**

The project which is implemented in 2019 aims to provide space – platform – for a meaningful and engaged debate in order to use its sources and competences but also those of the most prominent economists. TEM will organize debates on 8 topics/issues throughout the year and will disseminate the positions and recommendations to government institutions and public opinions, using relevant channels. The aim of the project is to enhance economic policies by producing relevant recommendations from an informed and systematic debate on the most important economic and developmental issues in Kosovo.

**Kosovalive: Femsamble - Kosovo female MPs Group with young journalists from the GlobalGirl Media Kosovo Women's Bureau is working to raise the awareness of women across Kosovo to identify fake news in the Internet, social media and news portals**

The aim of the project is to facilitate the co-operation of the Kosovo female MPs Group and young journalists from the GlobalGirl Media Kosovo Girls Bureau to work on raising the awareness of women throughout Kosovo to identify fake news on the Internet, social media and news portals as well as to assess the quality of news/information. KosovaLive aims to work on increasing the readership level, shape their mindsets about their role as readers, contributors, distributors, and consumers of media products. This will be achieved through the establishment of cooperation between the public sector, civil society and ordinary citizens, by involving female MPs, members of GlobalGirl Media Kosovo Bureau, teachers and schools. The aim is to put pressure on leaders in the public sector to address the issue of information and fake news as well as the issue of misinformation and to raise this issue in local institutions in their municipalities.

**George Williams Youth Association in Kosovo: The role of youth in social change**

The purpose of the project is to monitor the municipality of Gjakova and Peja in implementing the Regulation 04/2017 on the Criteria and Procedures and Standards of Public Funding of NGOs, as this directorate is among the most affected ones by this regulation and gives most subsidies for all three categories. Also, the project will work on the mapping of institutions which work with youth in these municipalities to assess direct investments in

the last two years in youth sector and youth participation in decision-making processes.

### 3. List of projects of organizations supported in the Open Data field and other expenses:

Title of project	Grantee	Sum in EUR
Public procurement challenges in the Municipality of Prizren	Ec Ma Ndryshe	9,850.00 €
“How much does the boss eats” dossier	BIRN	14,850.00 €
TEM - Economic Topic of the Month	Instituti Riinvest	17,010.00 €
Kosovo female MPs Group with young journalists from the GlobalGirl Media Kosovo Women's Bureau is working to raise the awareness of women across Kosovo to identify fake news in the Internet, social media and news portals	Kosovalive	8,200.00 €
The role of youth in social change	George Williams Youth Association in Kosovo	9,530.00 €
	Subtotal	59,440.00 €
Program expenses	Operational	
Meeting with OSF Albania	Operational	3,252.40 €
Design and print of annual report	Operational	2,300.00 €
Translation services	<b>Operational</b>	<b>840.00 €</b>
Furnizime të zyrës		708.40 €
	Subtotal	7,100.80 €
	<b>Total</b>	<b>66,540.80 €</b>



# HIGHER EDUCATION





# HIGHER EDUCATION

## Challenging Corruption in Higher Education

This is the second year of implementation of “Challenging Corruption in Higher Education” Program. The biggest focus within this program is the support of the work done by the Coalition for Integrity and Transparency at the University - KITU. KITU is a network of CSOs operating since the beginning of 2017 and has so far established the reputation of the main advocate for standards of transparency, integrity and accountability in higher education. For nearly two years, the Coalition has published a significant number of reports and studies and has taken other awareness-raising steps on various issues related to academic integrity.

“ By linking the research work to media debates, we have achieved to gain an important part of public opinion in support of the demands that have been made before university officials.

KITU’s mission continues to be to contribute to improved transparency and accountability within the higher education system in Kosovo, specifically at the University of Prishtina. During 2018 the Coalition produced a series

of studies and reports and took other steps to raise awareness on various issues related to academic integrity, which finally became a matter of public debate in Kosovo. KITU continues to have the reputation of a strong advocate against all forms of academic abuse and is recognized as such by all relevant actors in Kosovo, including the general public, media, higher education institutions, students, and governmental agencies in charge.

KITU’s specific objective is to promote the implementation of standards of transparency, integrity and accountability in the higher education sector by extending the participation of civil society organizations, student groups and other stakeholders in decision-making and monitoring through cooperation and dialogue with public institutions.

## KITU’s work

During 2018, KITU has been very engaged in activities such as reactions to certain processes, meetings with stakeholders and workshops aimed at proposing amendments to the Draft Law on Higher Education, as well as KITU’s action plan.

### *Kosovo Accreditation Agency (AKA)*

Through its representative delegation, KITU in April visited EQAR and ENQA headquarters in Brussels before the decision to review the status of Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA) by ENQA’s General Assembly. AKA was not expelled from ENQA but has a member under review status.

In order to contribute to enhancing the transparency and accountability of the accreditation process, KITU expressed its readiness to carry out monitoring of the work of the Agency after the functioning of AKA. To this end, an MoU will be concluded between KITU, MASHT and KCC, which specifies the modalities of the monitoring process. We believe that such monitoring will increase accountability of AKA officials, KCC members, and the accountability of higher education institutions that are subject to evaluation.

Upon the appointment of new members of AKA's board, KITU's member, ORCA, started monitoring this Agency. Soon an MoU will be signed between KITU, MASHT and KCC.

In the meantime, the MASHT initiative for drafting the new law on KAA has included ORCA as a member of KITU which is participating in drafting the law, expected to be voted in the Assembly in April-May 2019.

### **Draft Law on Higher Education**

In March, KITU held its planning workshop which reviewed the new Draft Law on Higher Education (PAL). All our comments made in PAL have been taken into account and are in the final draft which will be discussed at the next session of Kosovo Assembly.

### **KITU Planning Workshop**

In September, KITU held a planning workshops to draft its work plan. This work plan was drafted by Coalition representatives, based on the mid-term strategy of KFOS, but also based on strategies and plans of its member organizations. The purpose of the plan is to provide a framework for coalition action during 2019-2021 period. In order to have an

effective implementation, in addition to this work plan, annual action plans should be developed as well, setting out deadlines for the implementation of certain activities, the necessary budget and their carriers.

One of the lessons learned is that the Coalition should work with various groups, in order to encourage their demand for change. For this reason, we have identified five target groups for Coalition activities: 1) Students 2) Higher Education Institutions 3) Authorities 4) CSOs and 5) Wider Public.

The Coalition has defined four expected results for the following period: 1. Strong initiative of student groups and academic staff which address issues of transparency, integrity and accountability in higher education 2. Well-organized and prepared groups that monitor higher education independently and enthusiastically 3. Increased awareness of all relevant parties about the dangers of corruption and the need to increase transparency, integrity and accountability in higher education 4. Strengthen KITU to address transparency, integrity and accountability issues in higher education.

### **KITU's Participation**

Coalition representatives participated in the conference: "Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters". This conference was organized by the University of Ljubljana in June.

### **Reaction regarding NGO Admovere**

KITU's member, Admovere, was ordered by the court to withdraw part of the report from circulation as a safeguard measure of a lawsuit by a professor. In addition to Admovere, a



lawsuit was filed against Luan Shllaku, Executive Director of Kosovo Foundation for Open Society - KFOS. KITU reacted because the article referred to in Admover's report is public and no lawsuits has ever been filed regarding the article or its authors. KITU described this as a violation of freedom of expression.

The Coalition continues to be open to expand its ranks with new members who are interested to contribute to the scope of the Coalition.

The Coalition will continue to monitor the processes closely linked to academic integrity, such as the promotion of academic staff. The Coalition will identify and denounce corruption practices, academic dishonesty and plagiarism in higher education. The Coalition will also advocate for the University to introduce efficient procedures to ensure transparency and accountability and to protect academic integrity. To this end, the Foundation will continue to provide support for research that provides the basis for evidence-based advocacy to raise awareness on issues related to academic integrity and to empower student groups to deal with such issues from the position of client representatives.

Below is the summary of reports of each grantee.

## NGO Admovere

During 2018 the non-governmental organization Admovere carried out the projects "UP Academic Staff", "University of Prishtina - accreditation reports, magazines and libraries", and received support for the project "Professors Before with Law" in 2019.

The "UP Academic Staff" project was implemented for six months, and the report

was published on September 21, 2018. This project aimed at identifying the key problems faced by each academic unit of UP and extracting data related to staff-student and student-space ratio, statistics on studies, other engagements, plagiarism and academic staff assessments. For this purpose, the project carried out through interviews were with the heads of academic units and critical professors within respective faculties, and reviewed documents such as UP statute, CVs of professors, newspapers and relevant portals on this topic. The report of this research was published in Albanian and English, copies of which were sent to the stakeholders (rector's office, deans, professors, etc.). It should be emphasized that this project had great media coverage and sparked numerous debates and reactions both between the professorship and the civil society. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the results of the findings of the report have prompted the reaction of a professor even by a lawsuit, and the organization is facing a legal contest with the said person.

The "University of Prishtina - accreditation reports, magazines and libraries" project was also carried out for six months, and the report was published on December 13, 2018. This project aimed at addressing the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (AKA) reports on the most attractive branches at each UP faculty and the declarations of deans on the progress made in implementing AKA experts' recommendations since last accreditation. Another aim was to identify the situation in the libraries and reading rooms at UP faculties. The ultimate goal was to review UP faculties' journals, where the potential works of the academic staff are published. The research methodology of this report includes the review of AKA reports, thorough interviews (with heads of

academic units, heads of departments, professors, journal editors and librarians) and comparative analysis (between international scientific journals and UP journals). The report was covered by various media, including Koha Ditore newspaper, which dedicated a page to the promotion of the report, Urban FB and Rrokum TV, Radio Kosova, T7 television with two news stories, and so on.

The “Professors Before the Law” project, which received KFOS support at the end of 2018, is underway. This project aims at identifying members of UP academic staff who have been in conflict with the law. For this purpose, the project will obtain data from different courts and the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, carry out interviews with heads of academic units and get statements from members of academic staff who have been in conflict with the law. The publication of this report aims at promoting a debate on ethics and integrity at the UP, the efficiency of judicial system and the overall situation in the field of education and the judiciary in the country.

## Organization for Enhancing Quality in Education - ORCA

In 2017, ORCA also analyzed the process of appointment of professors, where 131 of them received positive recommendations by evaluation committees, although 74 of them were negatively assessed by ORCA. Of these 74, 70 were not advanced by the UP Senate, altogether changing the situation from previous years when the Senate used to advance professors in groups without assessing them individually.

In 2018, in the advancement process, 199 professors were nominated positively by the evaluation committees. 46 of them do not

meet the criteria for advancement according to ORCA – marking a decline from 2017. As soon as the advancement process was over, ORCA came up with an analysis of compliance of Senate decisions with ORCA recommendations. It is important to note that through public and institutional pressure, ORCA managed to reduce the number of attempts for undeserved advancements from 55% to 23%.

Another success story is the action to disclose suspicious journals that formally comply with the rules. This was carried out by ORCA and its partners. The “Vineyards” operation managed to unmask the International Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences Review and Research where ORCA sent a paper without any scientific value (fictitious) by Dr. Rrush Kalaveshi (Grapes Cluster) from the (inexistent) University of Ranilluk, which was published on this journal.

Immediately after the release, the media reported on the case, while ORCA and “Rrush Kalaveshi” asked the Senate to take measures and to include this journal in the suspicious journals list. As a result, the UP Senate for the first time decided to include this journal in the said list and, moreover, did not advance the professors who had works published in that journal.

### **Increasing the Number of Scientific Publications and Justification of Academic Titles in the UP**

In 2017 ORCA found that 72% of academic staff in the UP did not justify their academic titles. In 2018 as a result of the pressure and awareness campaign of ORCA, this percentage dropped to 59%, making the number of scientific publications increase from 1320 in 2017, to 1735 in 2018.

## Criminal charges and appeals

ORCA filed a criminal charge against a UP professor for plagiarism and forgery of documents in January. This case is still under investigation and there are no recent developments by the prosecution.

ORCA also reacted against sexist statements of UP management. Using a group of students and other non-governmental and student organizations ORCA managed to cause the dismissal of deputy rector Pustina-Krasniqi. This group together with ORCA also filed other requests, including the request for apology by the University for all cases of sexual harassment that have not been dealt with in the past, as well as the establishment of an investigative commission that will deal with sexual harassment in the future. A working group has been set up to address these requests, and ORCA is monitoring the group.

ORCA raised the awareness of the academic community on advancement procedures and ways of appeal through its complaint guideline, thus making itself an address for the complainants. So far 25 candidates have received legal assistance from ORCA.

In the meeting of July 23, the Senate has decided positively for all the professors of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, for whom ORCA has carried out an action saying that they do not meet the criteria; as well as for some professors from the Faculty of Philology and Philosophy who do not have proper publications in line with the regulations in force. This failure of the Senate to protect academic integrity has forced ORCA to file seven complaints with the Education Inspectorate to review these decisions.

The Education Inspectorate decided in favor of ORCA's appeal and cancelled the regulation of the Faculty of Arts which equaled master's degree in Arts with that of Doctor of Arts.

## Summer School and Student Engagement

In 2018 ORCA involved three student organizations and over 200 students in research on quality education.

The summer school was held from September 5 to September 10. Among other activities, the school organized lectures on: the history of the University of Prishtina, student activism and statistics on higher education in Kosovo. During the school, the floor was also given to representatives of Youth Educational Forum from Macedonia, and representatives of Organizata Politike from Albania.

A report on the situation of student activism in Kosovo was compiled based on summer school discussions.

**// KITU Coalition has established fruitful links with similar institutions and initiatives in the region, as well as with student networks to exchange best practices**

The success of this project can be considered the fact that there are already activist students at the University of Prishtina, who have distributed their knowledge gained in sum-

mer school among their colleagues at the respective faculties. More than 50 students are now activists of ORCA.

Summer school students have continued to engage in student activism after the completion of the school by organizing activities, meetings and a commemorative march for October 1, 1997 which was organized on October 1, 2018. These students continue to be part of ORCA's activities by engaging in the quest for quality education.

Eight analysis/reports have been published dealing with academic staff and UP finances. ORCA activities have been covered more than 400 times by the media.

## Center for Political Courage - CPC

The overall goal of the project "From Findings Towards Policy Enhancement and Integrity in Higher Education" is to contribute to overcoming the lack of a dialogue between the parties towards improving the often lacking quality and integrity in higher education in Kosovo. The project has two objectives: 1. Enhance the level of cooperation between relevant stakeholders in higher education and 2. Enhance the level of implementation of recommendations by decision-making parties based on the findings of recent years' research conducted by civil society.

It is believed that the first objective is only partially achieved due to external factors which cannot be controlled by the CPC since a significant part of the academic staff of the University of Prishtina (UP) seriously hesitates, even boycott, the roundtables aimed at prompting a dialogue forum between the par-

ties, academic staff, civil society, etc. As a consequence, in order to maximize the chances of achieving the objectives, the project activities have been proven to suit the circumstances. Although three roundtables were initially planned with all stakeholders, after the first roundtable the second meeting was held in the form of a focus group with UP staff.

In UP, there is a total lack of discussions among academic staff on the issues related to integrity, ethics and scientific research. We consider that the organization of such discussions is one of project's achievements. The focus group discussion held on 27.11.2018 was very dynamic, where academic staff discussed normative issues and presented an overview of the situation of their implementation based on personal experiences as well. The third meeting is scheduled to be held in January/February 2019 at the Faculty of Philosophy aiming at a final discussion on research findings.

Also, another project achievement is a qualitative and comprehensive study which is being prepared by CPC titled "Dialogue between the Deaf: Academic Integrity at the University of Prishtina". The paper analyses issues of ethics and integrity in UP, issues of research capacities as well as those of academic staff advancements in the UP. The data presented and analyzed in this paper are based on: a) an analysis of the content of all documents that regulate issues of ethics and academic integrity in the UP; b) comparison of these documents with other documents that regulate integrity issues at European level; as well as c) data presented at a roundtable discussion as well as within two focus groups organized by CPC.

The paper in the end presents a list of recommendations with concrete and necessary steps that should be undertaken with a view to enhancing academic integrity in the UP.

## Kosova Education Center – KEC

The purpose of this research was to learn more about students' perceptions regarding academic quality and overall situation at the University of Prishtina. The research included 1,492 students from all academic units, to continue with interviews in student focus groups as well as individual interviews with non-students, but with good knowledge of the situation at the University of Prishtina. The main findings of the research are:

**Organization of the learning process.** - The schedule is mostly announced on a time, while the records on the regular attendance of the academic staff vary according to the academic unit. A significant number of the surveyed students (37.2%) report that there are courses where more than half of the lectures are held by assistants rather than professors. The phenomenon of signing the professors' attendance lists so they can get paid, even without giving lectures, is not uncommon.

**The quality of teaching and learning.** - From the survey it turns out that students are generally satisfied with the quality of lectures and exercises, but this is largely denied by in-depth interviews. According to students, what lectures lack is the interaction of academic staff with students. Over 65% of surveyed students consider that professors provide "plenty" or "enough" space to be active in lectures. In individual interviews and focus groups almost all participants agreed that students are not

very prepared or willing to interact during lectures and exercises, although they perceive the reasons for this lack of readiness differently.

**Literature.** - In most cases, professors only recommend literature in Albanian. With few exceptions, the interviewed students are not against the use of literature in English; on the contrary, they speak good of the professors who recommend such literature. Alternative materials, such as slides and handouts – as single sources of literature – continue to be used by a considerable number of professors, although it cannot be said that they make up the majority of academic staff.

**Practical work.** - Practical work continues to be the weak point of study programs at the University of Prishtina. One form of this weakness is the lack of information on internships as part of the curriculum. Another weakness has to do with the degree and quality of practical work accomplishment. Respondents agree that practical work during studies is incomplete or not at all feasible. Practical work is lacking even in those areas where expenses for its organization would be relatively low, such as social and human sciences. The main reason behind the lack of practical work is the great disparity between the number of students and the academic staff, which makes it impossible to organize practical work effectively. Another reason is the lack of interest of academic staff.

**Student assessment and challenges.** - Most respondents consider that students' success is not the result of their work, due to the high presence of cheating and thanks to the assessment practices. Continuous assessment either does not exist or is seriously defective. One of the shortcomings is the lack of

colloquia foreseen by the curriculum. Students' grades primarily depend on the final assessment. Repetition of tests with questions largely similar to past exams is reported by less than 68% of surveyed students and is confirmed by focus group and interviews with non-students. This is seen as a factor for the unrealistic outcome of students' assessment. Cheating during exams – continues to be quite present among UP students. About 80% of respondents confirm this, while 55% of respondents consider that “a large” number or “about half” of students do copy. All interlocutors in one way or another acknowledge that copying is considered “a skill and not an unacceptable moral and social value”. Penalty measures for cheating are reduced to expulsion from the exam and occasional initiation of a disciplinary procedure without its clear result.

**Student representation.** - Students are not active in student organizations - this is claimed by 95% of respondents. In general, there is a negative perception of the work of student organizations. This is not so obvious from the survey, but it is said in the interviews. Student representatives acknowledge that students have little knowledge of the work of their organizations and their activities within the university bodies.

**Governing bodies and relations within the UP.** - When it comes to the relations between students and academic staff, most respondents say they are “very good” or “good” - 75.5% for “professor-student” relations and 81.8% for “assistant-student” relations. Most students are quite happy with the work of the administration in academic units, and even more satisfied with the functioning of SEMs. The assessment of the work of the governing bodies of different levels by students is

average, and usually better for those bodies which, by their nature, are closer to students, for example the highest grade gets the department compared to Rector's Office or the Steering Committee.

### **Research on the Politicization of Public Universities in Kosovo**

Kosovo currently has seven public universities, six of which have been established after the declaration of independence. With the exception of the University of Prishtina, all other universities were established later: University of Prizren (2010), University of Peja (2011), University of Gjilan, Mitrovica and Gjakova (2013), and University of Ferizaj (2015).

In order to analyze political party affiliations of the governing structures of the seven public universities in Kosovo (Pristina, Peja, Gjakova, Prizren, Mitrovica, Gjilan and Ferizaj), the project took the lists of election candidates at local and central level, media reports and other relevant documents that support their political positions over the years.

Of 86 officials of the University of Prishtina, who were subject of analysis in this research, 20 or 23% have been or are still associated with an active or inactive political party. In governing structures, LDK leads with seven members who have had or are still related to this party. It is followed by AAK and PDK with five, respectively four members. AKR, NISMA, PSHDK and KDTP have one member each. The management of the University of Prishtina has proved to be the most affected one by people with party affiliations, especially the Steering Committee. At faculty level, the Faculty of Philosophy leads while no case has been identified in the current faculty composition of the Faculty of Mathematics and

Natural Sciences, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and the Faculty of Arts.

25 officials have been subject of research at the University of Peja, who make up the main structure of "Haxhi Zeka" University. The rector, vice rectors, secretary, members of the Steering Committee, senators and deans were all subject of monitoring. Out of these 25 officials, 8 in one form or another have had or still have a political party affiliation. In the UPHZ – with the most officials who have been or still are affiliated to political parties – PDK leads with three members. Two of them have links to AAK and LDK, and one with AKR. The most affected body of UPHZ by people who are currently or had been related to political parties is the Rector's Office.

In the University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani" (UGJFA), the project also analysed all the leading structures, rector, vice rectors, deans, secretary, senators, deans and heads of departments. Compared to UPHP and UPHZ, UGJFA is less affected by political ties in its leading structures. It has been noted found that out of 24 officials, only four of them had, or continue to have links to political parties. They are part of Rector's Office, while no party links have been identified in relation to deans and heads of departments. However, at UGJFA, the Steering Committee and the Rector's Office are bodies equally affected by people who have had links, or still have relations with political parties in the country.

In the University of Prizren "Ukshin Hoti", the project analyzed 28 officials in all leading structures, rector, vice rectors, deans, secretary, senators, deans and heads of department. Out of 28 officials, the project identified 7 or 25% people as currently or previously linked to political parties in the country. As in

the aforementioned universities, the most affected body in UPUH is the Rector's Office, respectively the Steering Committee, while the dominant party has resulted to be PDK with three members. On the other hand, VAKAT, NISMA, AAK and LDK had one a member with current or past party affiliation.

Similarly, at the University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj (USHAF) rector, vice rectors, deans, secretary, senators, deans and heads of department have been closely examined for party links. Of the 22 analyzed cases, it turned out that 6 or more 27% of people currently have or have had links to a party. At USHAF, AKR and PDK dominate the leading structures, with two people who have had or are still having links to these parties. LDK and PSHDK had one member each linked to these political parties. As far as the faculties are concerned, there are no evidences of deans with political party affiliations.

The University of Gjilan "Kadri Zeka" (UGJZZ) had 25 officials as research sample, including rector, Steering Committee members, Senate and deans. Of the 25 analyzed officials, 5 or 20% had party affiliations. Similar to the aforementioned universities, USHAF is also dominated by persons who are or have been related to AAK, with two people having links to this party. PDK, NISMA and LDK had one person each affiliated to the respective parties.

In the leading structures of the University of Mitrovica "Isa Boletini" (UMIB) the situation is different compared to other universities. Of the 33 analyzed officials, 8 of them or 24% have or have had party links in the past. 7 of them are members, current or past supporters of PDK, except for 1 who is or has been associated with LDK. After the careful ob-

ervation of the Rector's Office, the Steering Committee, the Senate, the Vice Deans and the Deans, the most affected body of this politicization has resulted in the Rector's Office.

## **Organization for Democracy, Anti-Corruption and Dignity - ÇOHU!**

### **Poor Assessment Methods**

The research addressed the way students are assessed at the University of Prishtina. The research shows that despite the statutory regulation, the majority of students in the UP are assessed only through the final exam. This assessment is a violation of the Statute of the University which directly penalizes the students.

Despite the introduction of work methods such as seminar papers or presentations, those are rarely used as a form of assessment because professors usually do not check them and give feedback to the students.

The focus of the research was the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Philosophy, because they have the greatest number of students.

Preportr team visited these faculties and collected data from professors and students to see which forms of assessment are used and how useful they are. The research shows that the current methods of assessment also encourage the phenomenon of cheating. The fact that the passing or the failing of an exam is determined within 45 minutes establishes a tendency to cheat and "get rid of" that exam. We also talked to some students and they have stated that only some of the professors

use systematic assessment and that most of the assessment is done within the final exam.

This research also produced a short documentary.

### **UP at the Hands of External Associates**

The research addressed the underlying lack of academic staff at the University of Prishtina. In some faculties of this University nearly half of the teachers are external associates.

Given that the engaged professors – or external associates as they are called – have a regular job, this means that teaching in the UP is of secondary importance. This affects their participation in lectures and the quality of teaching in general.

The statistics for 2017/2018 the academic year indicate that the number of external associates continues to grow. According to these data, in the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering 41 professors have this status, while only 32 are regular professors. In the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, 39 are external associates, while 41 are regular professors. In the Faculty of Physical and Sports Education, the number of external associates is 21, equal to the number of regular professors. At the Faculty of Arts, 78 are external associates, while 79 are regular professors. Lack of regular staff puts some UP programs to the risk of being closed. For now, UP has no plan on how to get out of this situation.

### **University as Campaign**

The research analyzed the situation in the six public universities in Kosovo. Preportr has looked closely in the situation in these uni-



versities that have been established in the last five years without any strategy or plan. All these universities face significant problems such as lack of staff, major political interferences, while MASHT is looking to profile them.

As they are new universities, they face numerous problems, such as political interference, nepotism, and the lack of staff. Preportr found that these universities hired professors with a grade slightly over six, who did not have proper experience while many held only BA degrees.

The research also analyzed the link between their management and political parties. The evidence shows that many of them have been or are still part of political parties, while some even held the most important political and public positions in the country.

## Democracy for Development - D4D

The 2018, reports mention the activities organized by the D4D Institute since the beginning of the project: a salon with the participation of several coalition members and the rapid response, according to the initial project plan. It was also reported on the completion of the analysis carried out by D4D called: "The functioning of SC of UPHP – analysis of work and decisions". The publication of 2 analysis and editorials was delayed due to lack of response of UPH management regarding our request to access the SC meetings.

From June to December 2018, D4D continued with its activities of the project funded by KFOS, Increasing Transparency and Accountability in UPHP. Monitoring the Quality of Decisions of the Steering Committee of UPHP

– the activities in this period were focused on the advocacy part, through meetings with the UPH management, and meetings with the members of the Steering Committee.

From July to December 2018, D4D has filed and processed two official requests to participate as the monitoring organization of the SC meetings. The requests were submitted and recorded by Rector's Office administration.

Despite these requests, between July and September 2018 we did not receive any answer regarding the permission to monitor these meetings.

During 2018, D4D Institute continued with advocacy meetings with Rector's Office, advocating on issues of transparency and accountability of UPHP, with a special focus on UPHP's Steering Committee.

Meetings were also held with some of the members of the SC and also with the Rector – addressing the issues of functioning, transparency and accountability of the governing bodies of UPHP.

During all these advocacy meetings with higher education actors in Kosovo D4D distributed publications, analysis and findings of the D4D Institute.

Until the end of the project, D4D will:

- Draft and publish two brief analysis on the transparency and accountability of the Steering Committee
- Publish a series of 6 editorials that focus on the issues that arise from the findings of the monitoring
- Organize two Tuesday's Salons

## BIRN

The project “Investigative Journalism in Higher Education” has 2 phases and contains: workshops, research fellowships, advocacy and monitoring of institutions through media coverage. All activities reinforce each other to empower current journalists and those aspiring to engage in investigative journalism in higher education, while at the same time increasing reporting and research, as well as increasing transparency in higher education.

SO far, BIRN Kosova has carried out the following activities:

**Phase 1:** “Investigative Journalism on Higher Education in Kosovo: Challenges and Lessons”

The workshop was held on July 6-8, 2018 in Durres, Albania. The workshop gathered 15 journalists from different Kosovo media outlets in Kosovo: Ngadhajim Avdyli - Kosova 2.0, Edona Musa – RTK , Albert Ahmeti – Zeri , Besa Kalaja - Preportr, Arben Ahmeti – TV Dukagjini, Shkelqim Hysenaj - REL, Bensik Krasniqi – Koha Ditore, Lira Klaiqi – Gazeta Monitor, Albulena Nuha – RTV 21, Dafina Jegeni – Klan Kosova, Drita Vitia – Radio Kosova, Teuta Gashi - Kosovapress, Serbeze Haxhij – Radio Kosova, Plator Gashi – Prishtina Insight dhe Doruntina Baliu – KALLXO.com.

Part of the panel were: Kosovo Education Minister Shyqiri Bytyci and Albanian Education Minister Lindita Nikolla who discussed about the situation of education and the relations and cooperation of these two countries to increase the quality of education. Also, part of the panel was Artan Fuga – scholar and publicist from Albania and Dukagjin Pupovci – professor and education expert from Kosovo who discussed on the quality of universities of the

two countries, emphasizing that education in Kosovo and Albania is going through a crisis since university diplomas are being sold as products, making this a profitable business.

The workshop continued with the presentation by professor Gazmend Lubotenit and professor Vjollca Krasniqi from AKA, which discussed on the matter of accreditation around the topic “Accreditation and quality of education”. In the second part of the workshop, journalists Besa Kalaja - Preportr; Bensik Krasniqi - Koha Ditore, & Rron Gjinovci - ORCA had the opportunity to present the topic “Reporting and research in education: specific cases”.

On the second day of the workshop, the editor of KALLXO.com, Kreshnik Gashi organized a workshop on the topic “Ethical reporting and access to education documents”, followed by Visar Prebreza, editor at Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë who organized a training on “Monitoring of procurement in education”.

In the second half of the workshop, journalists had the chance to discuss on reporting and research on high education topics. They also discussed their ideas on education, which they would address in their research/articles for which they will also get a scholarship.

**Stage 2:** Investigative Reporting, Reporting & Advocacy Scholarships (June 2018- January 2019)

Part of the activity was the engagement of 15 journalists in research on education. So far, 12 articles have been published on KALLXO.com and in the media where these journalists work. The 3 remaining articles will be published soon.

It should be noted that journalists have been under the supervision of BIRN Kosova editors, namely Kreshnik Gashi and Visar Prebreza who helped them with their research, giving comments and suggestions about their topics.

project will be implemented in 2019.

## **Kosovo 2.0**

The project “In-Depth: On Education”, supported at the end of 2018, aims to publish a monograph on the topic of education. Kosovo 2.0 through this project aims to reach all citizens of Kosovo, but a special attention will be given to youth, respectively age groups 18-34, who are active students or have recently completed their studies.

## **Network of Radios for Human Rights - RDN**

The main purpose of the media Project “It is Your Education - We Are All Responsible for a Better Education System” is to raise the awareness of students, professors, academic staff, administrative staff, and their empowerment to combat inefficient and corrupt Universities. This project was supported by the end of 2018 and will be carried out in 2019.

## **Initiative for Social Innovation - Zvecan**

The project “Perception of Corruption in Higher Education in Serbian language in Kosovo” will be carried out at the University of Mitrovica and is aimed at advocating among the representatives of higher education institutions to create mechanisms to fight corruption based on the recommendations of the Research on Perceptions of Corruption. The

# 1. List of grants and other expenses

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Increasing Transparency and Accountability in UP	ORCA	6,900.00 €
Curricula in UP	NGO Admovere	22,920.00 €
Students' Perceptions of the Quality of Studies and the Overall Situation at UP	Kosova Education Center - KEC	7,440.00 €
Participation in the conference: "Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters".	Rron Gjnovci, Rinor Qehaja, Arton Demhasaj	2,433.00 €
Investigative Journalism in Higher Education	BIRN	26,400.00 €
BIRN Workshop Expenditures	Operational	5,812.00 €
Summer School for Student Engagement	ORCA	26,550.00 €
From Findings to Policy Enhancement and Integrity in Higher Education	Center for Political Courage - CPC	21,747.00 €
Increasing Transparency and Accountability in UPHP. Monitoring the Quality of Decisions of the Steering Committee of UPHP	Democracy for Development - D4D	8,760.00 €
Research - Politicization of Public Institutions of Higher Education in Kosovo	Kosova Education Center - KEC	12,990.00
Professors Before the Law	NGO Admovere	22,750.00 €
In-Depth: On Education	Kosovo Glocal	9,890.00 €
Perception of Corruption in Higher Education in Serbian language in Kosovo	Initiative for Social Innovations – Zvecan	11,300.00 €
It is Your Education - We Are All Responsible for a Better Education System	Network of Radios for Human Rights - RDN	4,000.00 €
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>189,892.00 €</b>
<b>Operational Program Expenses</b>		
KITU meeting, March 2018	Operational	6,851.00
KITU meeting, September	Operational	5,234.32 €
Meeting with ENQA and EQAR	Operational	2,226.45 €
Meeting with OSFA	Operational	2,185.47 €
Western Balkans Meeting	Operational	1,030.12 €
Conference expenses	Operational	455.00 €
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17,983.34 €</b>
Consultancy payments	Operacional	2,262.12 €

Annual Report	Operational	2,060.00 €
Documentary on Cheating, Butterfly	Operational	3,500.00 €
Translation services	Operational	580.51 €
	Subtotal	6,140.51 €
Office supply	Operational	256.40 €
	Subtotal	256.40 €
	Total	26,642.37
	Grand Total	216,534.37



# RECONNECTING MITROVICA







# RECONNECTING MITROVICA

As in previous years, the fifth year of implementation of the Reconnecting Mitrovica concept was completed successfully; the only difference with the previous years was the numerous events on the political scene that took place in 2018 and which had the potential to jeopardize the proper implementation of the concept. Nevertheless, the close and trusted cooperation fostered in previous years with civil society, our Foundation's flexibility to react quickly to new situations, and the good planning considering the political situation, has made possible the implementation of all activities envisaged for 2018.

The strong foundation, laid down in the first strategic cycle (2014-2017), provided unimpeded, stable and consistent implementation of the activities and initiatives foreseen by this concept. The establishment of Civic Energy Center (CEC), the largest intervention the Foundation made in the North, provided permanent presence in that part of the country as well as a place of energy, ideas and civil action in the most tense part of Kosovo. This center is now seen as the "kindergarten" of many initiatives by CSOs and citizens of the north regardless of whether a certain initiative is supported by the Foundation or other donors. The established partnerships grew stronger, not only with the organizations from the north but also with those from other parts of Kosovo inhabited by Serb population. Platforms and other initiatives that are implemented within this concept this year have advanced and stabilized.

The political challenges in 2018 were numerous and severe. The assassination of Serbian

political leader Oliver Ivanovic at the beginning of the year was one of the first threats to the implementation of the concept. Fear and great despair of Serbs throughout Kosovo after the assassination very quickly interrupted nearly all activities in the north. Subsequently, the proposal of the two presidents of Kosovo and Serbia for border correction, exchange of territories, and so on caused confusion among Serbs living in central and eastern Kosovo, making them feel abandoned and their opinion neglected concerning the process of dialogue and final and comprehensive agreement between Kosovo and Serbia. In the end, the imposition of taxes on goods imported from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina raised the tensions to its peak, causing even riots in the north and the great dissatisfaction of Serbs living in other parts of Kosovo, pointing out the differences between the Serbs from the north and the south and between their interests, but also the different positions they have. All these aspects influenced the implementation of the concept by orienting and sometimes even "disorientating" the topics of discussion. But the most important point of the concept, discussion and communication, kept alive even at the time of the greatest tensions.

**// Five years on, our progress has been more profound than anticipated.**

The concept continued with the same program pillars this year, by which it continued its work on the gradual reconnection of alien-

ated north and south communities using the same but updated tools in line with the needs and developments of the community on the ground and the level of communication in the Serbian-Albanian and north-south relations. Thus, for example, the School of European Integration was re-designed and the curriculum of basic and advanced level modules on European processes was transposed into thematic plans by addressing specific areas – now in two locations: in the north and in central Kosovo.

## Program platforms and key achievements of the concept in 2018:

Civic Energy Center and its program offer aimed at empowering and mobilizing citizens in the North and fostering dialogue between Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians, and implemented through partnership with NGO Aktiv consists of (1) “SporaZoom” debate show which has now become a serious brand-name show in Kosovo and the region, in the first place because it is seen as an objective show without censorship. During 2018, a total of 16 shows were produced, with 3 studio guests per show, selected to ensure balance (2) “Empirika” advocacy platform, designed on the basis of Forum 2015, is a platform that is now recognized by the community as well as by government institutions and the international community and has become a platform for converging advocacy interventions of the Serbian community for their rights. The opening of the liaison office in Pristina and the launch of Empirika in this office has advanced and stabilized its position. During 2018 this platform developed advocacy campaigns related to personal documents and legal and administrative changes that Kosovo

government should do to resolve this important problem for community integration. Another campaign advocated by Empirics is respecting the law on the use of language and the quality of translation of official government documents. (3) Mitrovica Social Club, located at the ground floor of CEC, has been transformed into a meeting of constructive citizens in which serious issues affecting citizens, especially young people are addressed in an informal atmosphere. During 2018, a total of 20 discussions were conducted and recorded. Those can be found on social media and engage an even larger auditorium compared to the one physically present in these discussions. In addition to this, MSC has also taken an important role to play in other discussions, be it with SporaZoom show, Empirika platform, or with any other discussion. Through its discussions MSC obtains the citizen’s opinion which is then included in the studies and discussions and now, in addition to the informal discussion, the place serves as a focus group for measuring the trends of society in the north.

Cooperation initiatives between CSOs and the media this year dealt with bold issues and once again managed to have the citizen at the center of their goals and actions by involving them in roundtables, debates, focus groups, interviews, radio and TV programs/reports, etc. There were lots of engaging topics, while the media were always behind CSOs by researching, tracking and informing on project activities and outcomes, and carrying out reports and articles on project topics. This year’s highlight was the cooperation established among projects, which occurred with the self-initiative of project carriers. In this way, various projects found their common points and used each other’s opportunities to amplify their voice in addressing the

issues they dealt with. An example for this is a project that monitored the overall security situation in the north and another one that dealt with the consequences of environmental pollution in the Mitrovica region. These two projects documented and addressed the cases of spillage of poisonous material in the Iber River and raised the issue to the respective authorities. This is just one of several cases of establishing ad hoc and unplanned cooperation with a project proposal.

European Integration School is another program pillar, which until the beginning of 2018 was implemented only in the north of Mitrovica, in CEC in 2018 marked its fifth edition. The number of participants reached 250 representatives of local self-government, CSOs, public institutions, media and businesses. The 2018 curriculum was redesigned in order to meet the needs for specific/thematic areas and was present in two Serb-inhabited locations – in the north of Mitrovica and in Gracanica. This year, the school gathered 70 participants – 35 per thematic group, which among other things contributed to the dissemination of knowledge on specific EU policies and experiences from the region and Kosovo in these areas. The re-designed curriculum also provided more opportunity for interaction between the work of CSOs and Kosovo experts, contributing to a deeper knowledge of Kosovo's reform processes towards European integration.

The main achievements of the 2018 concept are: (1) issues addressed through “Spora-Zoom” show, “Empirika”, “Mitrovica Social Club” and the CSO-media projects are no longer avoiding current political topics, which are often “serious” and sensitive, (2) participation of the other side (Albanians) as guests, panelists, opinion makers, etc. in initiatives in

the north, has now become almost a common and a necessary thing, which only a few years ago would have been considered blasphemy, (3) the interest in European processes and values is on the rise. The redesigned curriculum brings more contact with experts from Kosovo and knowledge about the processes in Kosovo. The anti-EU trend among Kosovo Serbs is lower than before the implementation of the EU School, but this varies depending on the political situation. (4) cooperation between north and south experts is still minor but growing – a good example for this is the environmental protection and security project, but these are not the only ones, (5) Serbian media are connected to a network and their reporting has become much more professional and oriented towards events in Kosovo.

## Five years on, our progress has been more profound than anticipated

Qëllimi – rilidhja graduale e komuniteteve të tjetërsuara të Veriut dhe Jugut të Kosovës – 1. duke kultivuar një shoqëri të fuqishme civile dhe kulturë të diskutimit si mjet për zgjidhje të problemeve dhe 2. duke krijuar lidhje të reja dhe ringjallje të vjetrave në mes të grupeve qytetare, akademike, etj. të bazuara në komunitet në të dyja anët e lumit rreth çështjeve me interes të ndërsjellë për të dyja palët.

Për të arritur qëllimin e konceptit Fondacioni punoi në tri shtylla kryesore, si në vijim:

1. Nxitja dhe lehtësimi i dialogut në mes të serbëve dhe shqiptarëve të Kosovës,
2. Përfshirja dhe angazhimi më i madh i OShC-ve dhe të komunitetit Serb në përgjithësi në proceset politike dhe shoqërore të Kosovës

përmes punës kërkimore dhe avokimit,  
3.Ngritja e njohurive mbi parimet dhe vlerat e BE-së.

Në vazhdim jepen informata më të detajuara mbi të gjitha aktivitetet e zhvilluara përbrenda konceptit Rilidhja e Mitrovicës e ndarë sipas shtyllave kryesore të intervenimit.

### **1. Encouraging and facilitating dialogue between Kosovo Serbs and Albanians**

**While the ‘reconnection’ of the city remains our guiding star, the organizations that KFOS has seeded in Mitrovica have sparked civic activity and debate unseen for generations.**

Goal - gradual reconnection of alienated communities of north and south of Kosovo - 1. by fostering a powerful civil society and a culture of discussion as a tool for problem solving and 2. by creating new links and reviving old ones between civic, academic, and other community-based groups on both sides of the river around issues of mutual interest for both sides.

To reach the goal of the concept, the Foundation worked on three following pillars:

- 1.Encouraging and facilitating dialogue between Kosovo Serbs and Albanians
- 2.Greater involvement and engagement of CSOs and the Serb community in general

in Kosovo’s political and social processes through research and advocacy,  
3.Improving knowledge on EU principles and values

Below is more detailed information on all the activities developed within Reconnecting Mitrovica concept, categorized by the main pillars of intervention.

### **1. Encouraging and facilitating dialogue between Kosovo Serbs and Albanians**

Though this was the goal of the whole concept and spread across all the program pillars, it was the focus of discussion platforms conducted at Civic Energy Center and in partnership with NGO Aktiv and TV Mreza as the second partner in the case of SporaZoom show. Discussion platforms such as the Mitrovica Social Club, Empirika and SporaZoom were designed based on the needs of various interest groups in the north of Mitrovica, starting with young people as the most dynamic, demanding group and in need of different activities; CSOs with a special need for space for implementing their own activities and a strong advocacy platform, and the broader audience targeting the most intellectually intrinsic layer that needs information, challenging the perception of the situation by providing a different view from another point of view.

Civic Energy Center Energy (CEC) - the meeting point of almost all civil activities in the north during this year was also a place of ideas, action, education, art and culture. Over the year, more than 260 activities were attended by approximately 3.500 participants supported by the Foundation and other donors. CEC hosted presentations of studies and research, discussions with citizens about local and central politics, initiatives and presenta-

tions of new projects of international organizations, trainings, language courses, theatre

## // The Civic Energy Center alone hosts community activities nearly every day.

performance rehearsals, ballet and a series of debates and discussions on political issues. CEC was also the venue for discussion with civil society in the framework of the initiative of “Internal Dialogue on Kosovo” prompted by the President of Serbia. All activities supported by the Foundation had good media coverage and brief info on the website of CEC. This center was the largest investment of the Foundation in the north and as such complemented its purpose for the revitalization of civil society, of the citizen and this was achieved with variety and amount of activities carried out and designed to meet the needs of each group of citizens in the north. In the process of designing platforms that would contribute to the promotion and facilitation of dialogue, special attention was paid to finding the most appropriate forms which would meet the needs and interests of all groups. To meet this need, three specific forms of discussion were devised which, according to the format, aim at different groups and needs for discussion, information and exchange of information. Also, together with NGO Aktiv – our partner who also managed CEC – we tried to connect the discussion platforms in order to maximize the effect on society. For example, a subject dealt with through MSC in a slightly different, lighter way, and with a competent interlocutor, is also addressed in “SporaZoom”, while Empirika platform has already prepared the study/research on the same topic and presented and discussed it

at the roundtable while the research results are used as arguments and to support “SporaZoom.” The sequencing of the instruments used for discussion of an issue is not always the same – it is usually decided based on the seriousness and importance of the subject being dealt with and the current needs. Not all topics and issues go through this cycle, but we try to have each of the mechanisms used for discussion thematically compatible with the other two.

“SporaZoom” show is the most visible product from the palette of activities that are carried out at CEC. This show is produced in cooperation with NGO Aktiv and TV Mreza (network of 5 local TV and production in Serbian language) and in most cases addresses political topics based on Brussels Agreement between Kosovo and Serbia. The show is broadcast every two weeks with at least one later broadcast by five Serbian TV stations which are part of TV Mreza and TV Mitrovica. The show is also published on social networks (YouTube, Facebook, Twitter) as well as on project partner websites. The website also publishes a summary of discussion as an article. In this way it is made sure that the show is watched beyond Kosovo and it reaches to the young age group which is mainly informed via internet and various internet-based platforms.

This year, the show experienced an expansion since the overall quality of the show has been improved by some degrees. This improved quality is also the result of diversity and credibility of studio guests, the selection of current topics relevant to the Serbian community and to Kosovo and beyond, and the quality of the product both from the aspect of content and from the visual point of view. Since last year, all the shows featured at least one representative of the other side, the Al-

banian side, and this has now become some kind of rule. The editorial board of the show takes care of selecting the topics so that they are as realistic as possible, well argued with studies, research, analysis, with an ethnic and political balance, representation options, positions, and various political attitudes in order to hear all sides and attitudes and not be seen as biased. The only balance that the show did not reach was gender balance because of the lack of women in decision-making positions and also because they rarely accept to be part of such shows.

During 2018, a total of 17 shows were produced with 3-4 guests in the studio which is approximately around 60 guests, some of whom participated more than once. Various topics were discussed, from current politics to the topic of a comprehensive agreement on the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia, the interruption of the dialogue, the quality of the implementation of the agreements reached, and so on. Among other guests we had British Ambassador Rouri O'Connell, Bodo Weber, Agron Bajrami, Jeta Krasniqi, Besa Luci, Belul Beqaj, Rada Trajkovic, Dusan Janjic, Ksenija Bozovic, Florian Qehaja, Nenad Rasic and others.

The situation between Kosovo and Serbia at the end of the year reached its peak of tensions and as always, these tensions always affected the stability of the situation in the north. This situation greatly affected the realization of the latest winter edition of SporaZoom. The guests for the last shows refused participation due to tense situation. In order to find a solution to this, the Foundation suggested moving to another form of realization. The topics were discussed by two analysts, one from Kosovo, Belul Beqaj and another from Serbia, Dusan Janjic, who were record-

ed in their offices, adding a number of statements from experts and situation experts such as Florian Qehaja on security, Augustin Palokaj and Dusan Gajic, Brussels correspondents who commented on the situation regarding the proposals for exchange of territories, the import tax on goods from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and so on from the perspective of Brussels, Zhivojin Rakocevic, who represented the position of central Kosovo Serbs, Ruari O'Connell as a representative of Quint countries, and so on. In this format, two last shows were produced, and despite the assumptions, the audience received them quite well.

All shows produced so far can be found on the YouTube channel.

Challenges regarding SporaZoom in 2019 are:

(1) maintaining the quality achieved over the past years, (2) finding adequate forms to ensure timely shows, despite political tensions and risks that prevent the guests from participating physically in the studio in the north, (3) the identification and selection of competent guests in the studio as there is limited capacity of interlocutors for this type of shows especially among Serbian community, (3) the establishment and further development of capacities of NGO Aktiv and TV Mreza to take over substantive and technical preparation of the program and thus ensure its sustainability, (4) finding broadcast opportunities in any of the regional channels such as: N1. And securing broadcast on Kosovo's public channels, namely RTK.

"Empirika" is the advocacy platform designed based on Forum 2015. In 2018, NGO Aktiv opened its liaison office in Pristina where "Empirika" was launched in order to be closer

to the decision-making processes. Throughout the year, the platform was engaged in increasing the number of its platform members and finding more effective forms of advocacy. The expansion of platform members included member NGOs from central Kosovo, and now the number of members is 9, which makes this platform more representative in terms of geographical representation and more powerful in terms of expertise. The media members of this platform give penetrating power to the media in Kosovo and the region, CSOs and Kosovo Serb media.

During the year, several studies were conducted by members of Empirika led by NGO Aktiv. Among the most relevant studies was the study of the perception of Albanians and Serbs on each other, that of analyzing the trends of integration of the Serb community into Kosovo society, and the study on Kosovo separation scenarios. The first two studies were presented in Mitrovica and will be also presented in Prishtina in February. The second study will soon be presented in both cities. Also, a series of quantitative analyzes was carried out, such as the position of Serbs towards the proposal for separation of Kosovo and/or exchange of territories, on employment opportunities and the perspective of life of Kosovo Serb youth, the analysis called "Special Passport Zone" which addressed the problem of personal documents and the access of Kosovo Serbs to those documents. These and other studies and analysis can be found on CEC website.

This year Empirika held two roundtable discussions within their advocacy activities regarding the use of Serbian language in Kosovo institutions and the quality of translation of official documents as one of the tools for integrating Serb community into Kosovo society and providing democracy by respecting

human rights and the applicable law. These roundtables were accompanied by a number of open letters and petitions.

Other initiatives of Empirika were open letters addressed to relevant institutions related to the tax on import of goods from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina; calls for acceleration and initiation of the dialogue process; reaction to the two mayors' proposals for partitioning Kosovo. These open letters and appeals made Empirika even more important to the Serb community, but also to the civic scene throughout Kosovo. This platform became partner in several Kosovo CSOs initiatives which jointly try to encourage CSOs to participate more actively in the negotiation process with Serbia and carry out awareness campaigns on these processes.

A good result and indicator of the slow integration of the Serbian community is the new initiative launched by Empirika to monitor the work of parliamentary groups of Kosovo Parliament. During the year, member organizations of the platform monitored some of the parliamentary groups such as the European integration group, the security group, the legislative group, and so on.

The challenge for continuing the work of "Empirika" in 2019 can be: (1) after consolidating and increasing the number of members that emerged during the 2018 Empirika should strengthen its position in other Serb-inhabited areas, in central Kosovo, in Gracanica, (2) engage in major CSO initiatives in awareness campaigns on the negotiation process between Kosovo and Serbia and advocacy campaigns, defending and presenting the position of Kosovo Serb community. (3) find innovative ways to convey the message to the decision makers such as Open 333 of the Foundation or other forms; (4) establish stronger ties and

cooperation forms with CSOs and media in Albanian language that would provide them the most qualitative penetration of their message.

Mitrovica Social Club is a milder form of addressing the areas of interest to the entire Serbian community, with a special focus on young people. The 2017 practice of filming discussions and publishing them on YouTube and on CEC website continued in 2018 and a short report on the main topics discussed during the MSC was also added. Discussion topics in 2018 closely followed the political events, so their sequencing could serve as a calendar of political events in the country. During 2018, a total of 18 discussions were carried out, two per month. Very often, MSC was organized shortly after or prior to SporaZoom or the EU School workshop and thus maximized the use of its financial resources and provided high-profile panelists and experts for this informal discussion platform. Over the last year the topics discussed were: 10 years of independence of Kosovo - which analyzed the changes that took place since the declaration of independence up to its ten-year anniversary, bringing together Sanja Sovrlic, journalist and civil society activist, Shpëtim Gashi, president of the Council for Inclusive Government, and Zeljko Tvrdisic, journalist. About Brussels Agreement, and how far is the compromise between the two sides, talked Belul Beqaj, political analyst and Nenad Rasic, president of the Progressive Party of Kosovo Serbs. Darko Dimitrijevic, member of advising council for communities and Goran Avramovic, chief editor of KIM TV, discussed with participants about the reasons why young Kosovo Serbs leave Kosovo. Another issue discussed at MSC was the functioning of the judiciary one year after its integration into Kosovo system. Dusan Radakovic, director of the ACDC who has been monitoring this process since the be-

ginning, and Jelena Krivokapic, judge of the Supreme Court of Kosovo, talked about this issue. The proposal of the two presidents for border correction and exchange of territories was discussed in two cases by Marko Jaksic, blogger and member of the municipal assembly of the north of Mitrovica, and Lubomis Stanojkovic, political analyst from Shillova. Florian Qehaja, director of Kosovo Center for Security Studies and Veroljub Petronic, director of Humane Center of Mitrovica, spoke about the transformation of Kosovo Security Forces into the Army. In Pristina, the discussion was held on the level and possibilities of cooperation between Albanian and Serbian CSOs. This topic brought together three civil society activists, Naim Rashiti, Dejan Radivojevic and Boban Simic,

This form of discussion proved to be very effective in fostering dialogue and resulted in many new ideas, recommendations and often encouraged new initiatives to address the issues discussed. The publication of discussions on social networks spread the information beyond Kosovo and engaged citizens and activists from Serbia.

The challenge for MSC in 2019 may be: (1) the MSC format which is not yet consumed and is still attractive to participants but needs an update and a social innovation that would make it more attractive, (2) upgrade with not-yet-explored young people from both communities, which would also help fill in the guest list of SporaZoom, (3) organize more cooperation discussions in the form of visits in other places around Kosovo – in Pristina but also in Gračanica where the program should be opened with a number of initiatives.



# 1. List of grants and expenses:

Title of project/initiative	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Increasing democratic practices and involving citizens in decision-making processes in northern Kosovo	NGO Aktiv	82,760.00
Production of 16 "SporaZoom" shows (Agreement)	TV Mreza	33,960.00
Cooperation in the field of visual arts between Albanian and Serbian communities	Monet Art & Books	4,000.00
Subtotal		120,700.00
Operational Program Expenses		
Workshop with CSOs	Operational	797.12
Production of short documentary: "RM në 4 minuta"	Operational	350.00
Translation services	Operational	297.73
Consultancy	Operational	6,442.00
Office supply	Operational	173.00
Subtotali		10,059.46
<b>Totali</b>		<b>130,759.46</b>

## 1. Building knowledge on basic EU principles and values – School for European Integration

School for European Integration in 2018 completed its fifth edition. The implementing partners of the program this year were the European Movement for Serbia (EPS) and NGO Aktiv. Since over the past four years a critical mass of 200 alumni has been established with basic knowledge of EU principles, values and processes along with 60 alumni with advanced knowledge, the Foundation assessed that there is capacity and it is time for a new program to be redesigned and enhanced in order to fit the needs of participants, alumni

and the need of the moment. At the beginning of the year, in cooperation with implementing partners, the Foundation redesigned the EU School curriculum by creating opportunities to advance knowledge in specific areas and by establishing closer cooperation with CSOs and Kosovo institutions. The redesigned program assumed the political momentum in the north and the need to disseminate knowledge about the EU in other Serb-inhabited municipalities as well. Considering these two moments, it was decided to establish a cell of this school in Gracanica with two thematic groups that would meet the need for specific knowledge in two areas. The two areas this

year were the Rule of Law (which took place in northern Mitrovica) and Sustainable Development (which was organized in Gracanica). The redesigned program had about the same structure of activities but there was much more interaction among groups, experts and Kosovo institutions.

The program consisted of an initial workshop on EU principles, eight two-day thematic workshops, four for each thematic group, a regional seminar, study visits in Belgrade and Pristina, study visits to venues or institutions that could provide examples of practical work and open lectures.

The program started with a two-day workshop that was held in Vrnjacka Banja in June 2 in which new participants could hear about the principles of functioning of EU, its structure, decision-making, while the participants of the previous generations refreshed their knowledge on these topics. Lecturers in this workshop were experts in the field selected by the European Movement of Serbia, which is also engaged for its expertise in this field.

These thematic workshops were conducted one in each venue per month, except in August. For both groups a workshop on watchdogging policy activities was conducted in order to provide them with knowledge on this type of activities and implement it in their municipalities and jointly when needed.

The participants of Rule of Law program in Mitrovica visited the Basic Court in Mitrovica where they were welcomed by the president of this court and the judge of the Court of Appeal who informed them about the work of these courts and the process and challenges of the integration of the judiciary in Kosovo system.

The Sustainable Development Group visited the quarry of Kishnica, where the Director of the Directorate for Urbanism, Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection of the Municipality of Gracanica hosted them. The members of this group during this visit were informed about the work of this directorate in the field of environmental protection and the challenges faced by the barren of this mine and the pollution it causes.

Open lectures were also held in Gracanica and Mitrovica. The concept always uses the opportunity of visits of experts engaged in other projects to give an open lecture that also includes other people who are interested in the subject. This year, open lectures were held by Bodo Weber on the already inevitable topic of normalization of Kosovo-Serbia relations, which emerged shortly after the proposal for partition of Kosovo, border correction and it attracted great interest. Over 30 people heard his lecture, while the discussion that followed was very lively and lasted more than two hours. This lecture, besides providing information on the negotiation process between Kosovo and Serbia, was also a barometer of interest and the position of central Kosovo Serbs towards this process and the projected proposal.

Much interest in the same subject, but from a different perspective from Brussels, including processes in both Kosovo and Serbia as well as other EU processes such as Brexit, EU budget planning, attracted Augustine Palokaj. The number of participants at this lecture was surprisingly high compared to previous years. Augustin Palokaj's lectures was very interesting, full of information and honesty, and was highly appreciated by the participants. The discussion that followed was also very lively, with many questions and comments and ex-

pressed attitudes. This lecture, besides being a barometer, also gave important information to the concept that the Serb community in central Kosovo is more than willing to participate in the dialogue process and to express its position openly.

The redesigned program prompted much more debate between the participants, lecturers, experts, and analysts interested in relevant fields, and was considered to be very useful for most participants by providing them with practical knowledge that they can use in their daily work.

The challenge for EU School in 2019 may be: (1) still unstable situation in the north which hinders the implementation of planned activities due to lecturers' fear, (2) adequate selection of specialized courses for both locations, (3) finding additional forms to bring Serbian community closer to other Kosovo institutions and organizations. (4) knowledge of language of both sides will remain a permanent challenge.

## 2. List of grants and expenses:

Title of project/initiative	Grantee	Amount in Euro
School for European Integration 2018, Mitrovica	European Movement in Serbia	16,833.00
School for European Integration 2018	Communication for Social Development	25,890.00
School for European Integration, Gračanica	International Business College Mitrovica	4,570.00
Scholarships for minority community students	International Business College Mitrovica	4,995.00
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>51,398.70</b>
Operational Program Expenses		
Consultancy		624,76
Translation services		682,60
Office supply		301,20
<b>Subtotali:</b>		<b>1,608,53</b>
<b>Totali:</b>		<b>53,007.23</b>

### **2. Support for CSO research and advocacy projects and the monitoring of implementation of Brussels Agreement - cooperation projects between CSOs and the media.**

In 2018 the concept continued with the grant scheme for non-governmental organizations and Serbian media, which were again challenged to work in partnerships for joint projects. This scheme has been very successful in the past two years and has produced very concrete results. Media involvement has provided efficiency and creative approaches to advocacy campaigns that have been part of guaranteed projects.

The Foundation's main objective was to address three issues easily translated into undisputed values of this program pillar: (1) to capture a broad spectrum of organizations (NGOs and media) with high impact on society; ) to broaden the spectrum of researchers in NGO projects by adding media researchers (journalists) and (3) to significantly strengthen the advocacy capacity of these organizations in communicating the outcomes to decision-makers.

A special chapter will be the period of collection of results from all supported projects that gives the Foundation the opportunity to summarize all the projects and results in a special

edition - a successful practice from the previous year - that enabled the organization of the final discussion "Under construction" with many important actors and with the project carriers, where the most expressed results were presented and the important processes in Kosovo society subject of the projects were dealt with. The involvement of media and the production of three programs upgraded this initiative even more, bringing the results closer to the citizens, promoting our work and the role of civil society in securing developmental dynamics in all areas. A similarly summary and a discussion with panelists from Prishtina organizations will be held in 2019, as the conclusion of 2018 cycle.

The call for project ideas for 2018 project cycle was opened shortly after "Under Construction" discussion, the beginning of which was also used to inform about the opening of the call and potential areas for project implementation.

A total of 9 projects were supported, addressing issues such as: (1) the Brussels Agreement and the implementation of agreements, (2) Rule of law and security, and (3) Sustainable development and environmental protection. Behind this selection of areas was the idea of linking this program to that of the School of European Integration and involving project carriers in the thematic groups of this school, so that they could innovate and apply their knowledge in practical work by implementing their projects. This actually happened and gave very good results, bringing greater joint commitment, higher quality and better structure of studies and media products.

The number of direct beneficiaries involved in all projects was 4,917. The number of indirect beneficiaries is several times greater thanks

to the media component of each project. All projects and their activities were fully covered by the media and in this way, it was proven that the activities were actually carried out. The media interest in project activities went beyond project partners. A number of activities, presentations of the results of research/studies and discussions also attracted the attention of Albanian-language media in Kosovo and other regional media that deal with topics related to Kosovo and the region.

Within these projects, more than 35 focus groups, 12 conferences, 9 policy studies/analyses were carried out, and more than 15 documentary shows, spots, TV debates and more than 20 articles on web portals were produced. Part of these studies was used as basis to prepare SporaZoom, while some of the experiences were shared in discussions with the EU School participants.

The challenge for this component in 2019 is: (1) encouraging cooperation between the north and south CSOs as an example of environmental protection project and building on this experience, (2) strengthening cooperation with Albanian media, (3) finding innovative forms of advocacy and greater involvement of citizens of both communities.

### 3. List of grants and expenses:

Title of project/initiative	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Discussion "Under Construction"	Operational	968.59
Analysis of process of diploma verification in line with Brussels Agreement	"Sinergija" youth educational club	8,666.00
Education of agricultural producers as basis for environmental protection and health of the population	Group of ecological and medical experts	10,150.00
Integration of the judiciary - 6 months later	Center for Representation of Democratic Culture	10,000.00
Did Brussels Agreement forget the citizen?	Crno beli svet	9,000.00
Agreement on registers: calm waters of Brussels hill	Local Initiative LINK	9,775.00
Brussels Agreement - Remaining Topics	Center for Peace and Tolerance	7,910.00
Assessment of security problems in northern Kosovo - SECURYMETAR	Mitrovica Humane Center	10,000.00
Responsible Society - Transparent Municipalities!	New Social Initiative and Communication for Social Development	16,985.00
North and South: Connecting points	TRV Herc	4000,00
Analysis of the Situation of Small and Medium Enterprises and Creation of Strategy in Central and Eastern Kosovo in Serbian Communities	Small Development Business Center of Kosovo	3,950.00
Prishtina-Belgrade Dialogue: The Way to Normalization and How Can We Get There?	Forum for Multiethnic Development and Cooperation	1,500.00
Subtotal:		92,905.00
Operational Program Expenses		
Participation in the Western Balkans Forum	Operational	989.90
Workshop with CSOs	Operational	1,519.53
Translation services	Operational	845.80
Office supply	Operational	812.10
Subtotal:		4,167.33
<b>Total:</b>		<b>97,072.33</b>







# OSF RESERVE FUND





# OSF RESERVE FUND

## Strengthening Kosovo's perspective in dialogue with Serbia

Considering that the beginning of a new phase of dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia is of great importance and will affect the development of the whole region, the Foundation has initiated a facilitating project to strengthen Kosovo's position within the negotiations. The need for such a project became more apparent in March 2018, when the new Communication Strategy by the European Commission linked the European integration process of all Balkan countries with good neighborly relations, and in the case of Serbia and Kosovo, conditioned their European perspective with a legally binding agreement.

In response, the Foundation launched the project "Strengthening the Perspective of Kosovo" in cooperation with the Democratization Policy Council (DPC) from Berlin and Group for Legal and Political Studies (GLPS) from Pristina in May 2018 – a project that will continue to be implemented throughout 2019.

So far, the project carried out a series of closed roundtables under the Chatham House rules, drafted and launched four policy documents, carried out advocacy trips to major European capitals, and organized closed roundtables gathering key political actors in Kosovo. So far, this was the only civil society platform supported by all major parties representing the Albanian majority in the Assembly, both ruling and opposition parties.

With the financial support of OSIFE reserve fund, the project's main objective is to strengthen Kosovo's capacity in the dialogue to reach a comprehensive agreement with Serbia by providing political representatives with policy documents and other publications for discussions and debates among political and civil society representatives. Since May 2018, the Foundation has been actively engaged in reaching a political consensus in the country to persuade the ruling and opposition parties to participate constructively in the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue. In order to have a sincere discussion among all political parties in the country, the Foundation organized a series of closed roundtables in Tirana, gathering all key parties to discuss the basic principles they would like to see represented in the process of dialogue with Serbia.

In May, the Foundation in cooperation with its partners organized a closed roundtable to launch the first document drafted by Bodo Weber and Agron Bajrami, "The Original Framework of Political Dialogue". This publication came out after the first meeting between political party representatives on deputy and vice presidents' level and continued throughout 2018 with another meeting in September and with the launching of three other documents written by those experts tackling Kosovo's potential recognition by Serbia, Kosovo's path towards EU membership and the UN, and the issue of the Association of Serb-majority municipalities.

Political representatives of the main political parties in the country conducted advocacy visits to four key EU capitals: Paris, Berlin (June

2018), Brussels and London (November 2018) to meet with state and civil society representatives in each country in order to advocate for their support in this important process and to communicate their position regarding the eventual agreement. In Paris and Berlin, political representatives representing the entire political spectrum in Kosovo met with parliamentarians, officials of foreign ministries, and held public debates. In Brussels and London, political representatives met senior European Commission officials, European Parliament representatives, House of Commons deputies, and Foreign Relations Office representatives in London. The key role of these high-level meetings was to communicate and strengthen the common position of political representatives, despite a lack of consistent consensus and a disagreement over President Thaci's proposal for "border correction".

In October, the Foundation also organized one Forum 2015 to discuss the possibility of a new paradigm for dialogue, presented by Mr. Veton Surroi and with the presence of German Ambassador Christian Heldt. In November, the initiative expanded further and included civil society representatives, mainly leaders and researchers from key think-tanks in Kosovo. The project will continue with an advocacy trip to the US capital, drafting of a 'non-paper' (discussion paper) – a result of closed roundtables between political representatives and civil society, and will expand with the inclusion of the perspective of Serbs of Kosovo, through research and debates.

In 2019, the Foundation will follow the developments and respond flexibly by engaging and activating more civil society representatives.

# 1. List of supported projects and other expenses

Project name	Grantee	Amount in euros
Strengthening Kosovo's position in the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue	Democratization Policy Council, DPC	42,264.00 €
Strengthening Kosovo's position in the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue part 2	Democratization Policy Council, DPC	15,430.00 €
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>57,694.00 €</b>
<b>Operational program expenses</b>		
The first closed meeting with political representatives in Tirana, May 2018	Operational	7,310.66 €
The second closed meeting with political representatives in Tirana October 2018	Operational	8,063.44 €
The third closed meeting with political representatives in Tirana, December 2018	Operational	6,751.35 €
Outreach and advocacy trip with political representatives to Paris, France, June 2018	Operational	26,628.30 €
Outreach and advocacy trip with political representatives to Berlin, Germany June 2018	Operational	12,280.59 €
Outreach and advocacy trip with political representatives to Brussels, Belgium, November 2018	Operational	16,505.20 €
Outreach and advocacy trip with political representatives to London, UK, November 2018	Operational	13,745.60 €
Presentations/ roundtables in Prishtina in May, June, July and October	Operational	5,293.63 €
Consultancy fees	Operational	12,087.08 €
Publications	Operational	5,136.95 €
Office supplies	Operational	380.00.€
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>111,176.06 €</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>176,870.06 €</b>

## Kosovo-Albania Relations: A study in partnership with OSFA into attitudes found on both sides of the border

This project was supported by the reserve fund of Open Society Foundations -OSF. The fund provides support for the two national foundations, KFOS and OSFA and it will continue to be implemented in 2019.

### Purpose

The research of positions, interaction, knowledge, beliefs between the citizens of Albania and Kosovo aims to increase cooperation between the Western Balkan countries.

The kick-off meeting aimed at looking at the possibilities of carrying out a comprehensive research in Albania and Kosovo was held in February 2018 in Tirana.

In February too, the Foundations in Albania and Kosovo have appointed project leaders who will coordinate the work between the Foundations in Albania and Kosovo and the organizations which conduct the survey and prepare the final report of the findings of the survey, decide on the communication strategy of results and coordinate expert groups for thematic studies.

### Activities

- From March to June 2018, three joint meetings between project leaders, research organizations and Foundations were held in Kosovo and Albania for the purpose of agreeing on activities, duties, deadlines, and focus groups guides in Albania and Kosovo;

- From July 6 to July 30, 2018 KANTAR TNS Index Kosovo – the research company commissioned to carry out quantitative research in Kosovo – held 8 focus groups in three different localities in Kosovo. Focus groups were held with different groups of society (women/men, young/elderly, urban/rural) with the aim of identifying areas and questions to design the quantitative questionnaire.
- On September 24, 2018, the fourth joint meeting was held between the Foundations, project leaders, and research companies to harmonize the final draft of the questionnaire.
- Between October 13-18, 2018, the research company carried out field testing in order to avoid eventual problems in the questionnaire.
- During November 2018, a survey was conducted with 1,004 Albanian speaking respondents throughout the territory of Kosovo.
- During December 2018, 300 surveys were carried out with members of the Serbian community.

### Results

The work with focus groups in Kosovo and Albania has resulted in identifying areas and questions for the final questionnaire, which contains questions that aim to measure the interaction between the citizens of Kosovo and Albania, the knowledge of each other, the values and beliefs that share or divide them, the assessment of the official cooperation between the two countries, the question of the attitude of the two states, the relations with the countries of the region, the positions on the European Union, and the perceptions of Serbia-Kosovo dialogue and citizens' views on the open debate on border correction.

## Future activities

The comprehensive report on the results of the surveys in Albania and Kosovo will be finalized in January 2019.

After finalizing the report, the Foundations in cooperation with project leaders will identify

key areas in which experts from different fields will continue the debate on cooperation in the field of education, trade, labor market etc.

## 2. List of grants

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Joint Study Albania-Kosovo	Index Kosova	26,609.00 €
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>26,609.00 €</b>
<b>Operational Program Expenses</b>		
Coordination meetings	Operational	4,404.22 €
Consultancy	Operational	3,028.94 €
Office supply	Operational	618.20.€
	Subtotal	7,552.16 €
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34,161.16 €</b>

## School Me

### Brief Project Description

In March 2016, Kosova Education Center (KEC) started implementing the 3-year project “School Me” in 16 beneficiary schools of Kosovo. The project was funded by Open Society Foundations reserve fund and implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MASHT), as well as

Municipal Education Directorates (KKA) of 15 municipalities: Prishtina, Peja, Gjakova, Gji-lan, Vushtrri, Podujeva, Hani i Elezit, Istog, Rahovec, Malishevë, Lipjan, Suharekë, Fushë Kosovë, Shtime and Drenas. The purpose of the project was to train teachers to develop students’ learning competencies set out in Kosovo Curriculum Framework by using “School Me” digital platform as well as other online sources in the teaching process.

“School Me” was carried out in three stages. In the first stage of project implementation, activities were carried out focusing on providing technical capacities to use this platform in classroom, registration of teachers and students for platform use, and teacher training for integration of this digital platform in their work methodology. In September 2016, the project selected 16 schools to use the digital platform in their teaching process during 2016/2017 academic year. More than 750 teachers and nearly 6500 students of these schools had the opportunity to use the platform at school and at home. The interest to use novelties in the process of learning, especially in terms of digital teaching, made the number of beneficiary schools increase to 23 schools in 2017/2018 academic year, and 909 teachers could use the platform while the number of students reached 8076.

As “School Me” was implemented in Kosovo for the first time, 5 different researches were carried out during the implementation period of the project, which provided information on its quality, perceptions of teachers and students about the usefulness of “School Me” in the teaching process as well as the effects it has while being used in the classroom. The conducted researches showed that this digital platform is considered by teachers as a good opportunity to successfully implement Kosovo Curriculum Framework, especially when considering the shortage of textbooks for its implementation. Teachers in particular have highly appreciated the fact that, through the use of the platform, they have managed to develop digital competence in students as a requirement for their preparation for digital era.

## Activities carried out during 2018

During 2018 the following activities were carried out:

### 1. Organization of a competition for the beneficiary schools of the project

From January to June 2018, KEC organized a competition for beneficiary schools of “School Me” project. The organization of the competition aimed to motivate teachers and students of the beneficiary schools to use the platform in the learning process through the design and implementation of school projects that would include activities involving the use of digital platforms in general and “School Me” platform in particular. Prior to the start of the competition, KEC drafted the protocol for this competition as well as criteria for the evaluation of school projects. After drafting the documents, KEC organized a 1-day “Problem Lesson” training for beneficiary school representatives. On February 9, training was held for 22 representatives of 11 schools involved in the project, and on February 10 for another 22 representatives of other 11 schools. 44 teachers who participated in the training were certified. Upon completion of the training, the beneficiary schools drafted their school projects until February 28, 2018, and then began their implementation by May 15, 2018. The commission comprised of 3 representatives of MASHT, KKA in Mitrovica and KEC evaluated these school projects. The announcement of the winners was made during the conference “Digital Teaching - Future Perspective”, which was held on 28 June, 2018. In addition to the six winning schools that were awarded first prizes and got laptop computers, cameras and mathematics training materials, KEC rewarded a set of books for all participating projects.



2. The update of teachers and students list of 23 beneficiary schools to use “School Me” platform in the teaching process

In September 2018 teachers and students list of 23 beneficiary schools was updated to use “School Me” platform in the teaching process. Thus, students who during 2017/2018 academic year were in 1-8 grade and used the platform, in September 2018 got to next grade, while those who were in the 9th grade were replaced by new students who begun to use “School Me” platform for the first time in the teaching process. During 2018/2019 academic year, 909 teachers and 8076 students registered to use the platform in the teaching process.

The good experience of “Qamil Batalli” and “Kelmend Rizvanolli” schools in implementing the project in the teaching process gave these schools free access to “School Me” platform during the second half of 2018/2019 academic year.

3. Organization of research on the usefulness of “School Me” platform in the teaching process

“School Me” project planned 5 researches, 1 during 2017 and 4 during 2018. After completing the first research on the quality of “School Me” platform materials in April 2017, KEC carried out 4 remaining researches in 2018. The results of the first two researches conducted during 2018 which analysed the perceptions of teachers and students on the use of digital platforms in the learning process were presented during the conference held on June 28, 2018. Two other researches, one focused on the effects of using online resources and the other on the impact of using online resources on the quality of teaching,

ended in September 2018 and were distributed to representatives of various institutions which contribute to the promotion of digital teaching in the learning process. All research reports have been sent to project implementation partners.

4. Organization of monitoring in the beneficiary schools

During September and October 2018, a total of 23 beneficiary schools were monitored. This monitoring was intended to assist schools in collecting data of new users of platform and to assess the preparations made by schools at the beginning of the school to use “School Me” platform in the learning process. During school monitoring, the project coordinator conducted interviews with school directors, teacher meetings, and conducted monitoring of 1-2 teachers in the classroom. Out of the monitored teachers, 11 were class teachers, 2 physics teachers, 5 biology teachers, 4 geography teachers, and 1 ICT teacher. The monitoring protocol was completed for each teacher and a final report for all schools was drafted.

5. Update of project database

All project documents were collected on regular bases and processed in project database.



# THIRD PARTY FUND





# THIRD PARTY FUND

## Projects implemented by third party funds in supporting Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities

During 2018, the implementation of two projects supported by other donor funds continued and reached final stage: Prospect Plus project supported by the German Ministry of Development through Karl Kubel Stiftung with a total budget of € 527.000 and EU SIMRAES II project supported by European Union through IPA funds with a total budget of € 1.3 million. Started at the end of 2015 respectively in the first months of 2016 both projects achieved far more compared to the projections in project proposals. Both projects were designed to have a full synergy in order to maximize their effects. Through the work of community/learning centers in 12 municipalities these projects addressed the most critical areas of these communities – integration into the education system, health and social issues, and empowering CSOs to address these issues and be able to advocate for their own communities. Neither of these projects faced any significant barrier or unforeseen challenge.

During the last year of implementation of these two projects, the Foundation started negotiations with both donors and Kosovo institutions to continue supporting similar projects from 2019. The cooperation will

continue with Karl Kubel Stiftung with a new project which will be implemented in the current locations (Suhareka and Peja), but will now address repatriated Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians with an emphasis on reintegration into education and social system. This project will last four years and will have a budget of € 575.000. Negotiations also started with the EU Office in Kosovo and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and at this stage, following the meetings with Minister Bytyqi and his support for the continuation of EU SIMRAES project in a new format, the Foundation has designed a proposal and is awaiting a response from the Ministry of European Integration to begin preparations for a new draft proposal.

Below are the key achievements of the two projects.

## EU Support to the Implementation of the Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities 2 - Education for Integration (EU SIMRAES 2)

### **BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project “EU Support in the Implemen-

tation of the Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities 2 - Education for Integration” (EU SIMRAES 2), started its implementation on April 1, 2016. The project is funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo and is implemented by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) in partnership with seven other organizations:

Kosova Education Center (KEC)  
Balkan Sunflowers Kosova (BSFK)  
Bethany Christian Services (BCS)  
Nevo Koncepti (NVK)  
SHL Kosova (SHL-K)  
Syri i Vizionit (SiV)

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is the main institutional partner in the project, which in addition to supporting project activities, also finances part of the scholarship program under the project. The municipalities of Gjakova, Prizren, Rahovec, Istog, Obiliq, Fushë Kosovë and Mitrovica are also institutional partners at local level.

The overall objective of the EU-SIMRAES 2 project is to support the Government of Kosovo in developing a democratic and multiethnic society by implementing the Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities and its Action Plan.

The specific objective of the action is to ensure equal access of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children to preschool, primary and secondary education by improving the enrolment, attendance and achievement of results through community-based and financial support.

Target groups are:

- 10 localities inhabited by Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities with 8,127 inhabit-

- ants;
- children aged 5 - 154 in total, out of whom 98 attend preschool education;
- children aged 6-14 - in total 1246, out of whom 1002 attend compulsory education;
- parents of school-age children from 10 target localities;
- school teachers serving targeted communities;
- students in target communities;
- 200-300 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian high school students;
- 7 civil society organizations;
- general public in Kosovo.

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

- Inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children from 10 targeted localities in preschool, primary and secondary education, and improvement of their learning outcomes
- Improved access and attendance of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education and improvement of their capacity to benefit from higher education
- Organizations working on the education of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities improve their capacity to provide quality services to their community members.

Main project activities are:

- 1.1 Support the work of 10 learning centers
- 1.2 Raise the awareness of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian parents to enroll their children on time
- 1.3 Provide logistical support to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children to attend preschool education.
- 1.4 Provide individual mentoring and homework help for school children and returnees.
- 1.5 Organize training for teachers and parents

against prejudices, and provide mentoring/ counselling to ensure the application of competencies

1.6 Organize local events to contribute to better integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children at school level.

2.1 Provide support for the enrolment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in upper secondary education

2.2 Establish a scholarship program for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students of upper secondary schools.

2.3 Provide mentoring for scholarship beneficiaries.

3.1 Establish an informal network of CSOs working to improve education opportunities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities

3.2 Facilitate communication between network members and disseminate information

3.3 Develop a cooperation strategy for the network

3.4 Provide professional development opportunities for network members to improve their service and advocacy skills.

## MAIN RESULTS

### 1. Inclusion in Early and Compulsory Education

This component is coordinated by Kosova Education Center. Other partner organizations have a significant role in local management through learning centers. There are 10 learning centers in 7 municipalities, which are managed by 6 other partner organizations.

Name of learning center	Managing partner organization
Plemetin Social Center (PBLC)	Balkan Sunflowers Kosova
Plemetin Learning Center (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
Roma Mahalla (Rahovec)	SHL-Kosova
Brekoc (Gjakovë)	Bethany Christian Services
Roma Mahalla (Mitrovicë)	RADC

## Support to learning centers

The implementation of the homework program has continued, which is among the most important project programs implemented in line with the Step by Step methodology. This program continues to engage at least 3 full-time facilitators or 6 half-time facilitators depending on the center's needs and the number of children. They are assisted by learning centers volunteers or tutors.

The EU SIMRAES 2 project foresees logistical support to facilitate school attendance as well as attendance in learning centers, and the following actions have been carried this year:

- a) 1,600 school packages (out of the 800 foreseen) have been distributed for 2018/2019 academic year, covering all the children in need in the 10 beneficiary locations;
- b) half-boards for children attending school have been provided on monthly basis;
- c) each learning center has received relevant learning materials;

## Training for trainers "Education for Social Justice" (ESJ)

During April 2018, the project organized trainings for ESC trainers. The purpose of the training was to prepare a list of new trainers who could provide ESJ training in the future. During the training, the participants prepared and presented activities and were evaluated by their colleagues. This method in addition to presentation has given each participant the opportunity to evaluate other participants in the quality of the trainer, to reflect more about performance as a trainer. In total, 16 participants were trained and certified (12 women, 4 men).

## ESJ reflective workshop

During April 2018, the project organized a reflective workshop on "Prevention of prejudice, stereotypes and the establishment of a democratic school" in collaboration with Prospect +. This training program has been organized in such a way that the participants got acquainted with prejudices and stereotypes in our schools and the ways to fight them. During the workshop, the participants presented their reflections on the implementation of school activities and provided additional activities for implementation in schools. The training gathered 32 participants (15 women, 17 men), who were directors and teachers of partner schools of the learning centers and the teaching staff.

## Workshop for learning center coordinators

During May 2018, a three-day workshop was organized with learning center coordinators on "The role of CSOs in implementing the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society 2017-2021". The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the strategy measures which are directly related to the work of the learning centers, namely the work of coordinators of these centers. During the three days of the workshop, participants had the opportunity to discuss how they could contribute to the implementation of certain measures of the Strategy, to discuss challenges and to exchange practices in implementing this policy. The workshop gathered 19 participants (9 women, 10 men).

## Monitoring of Learning Centers (SBS)

Monitoring of Learning Centers (LC) started in January 2018 and ended in December 2018. During this period, a total of 105 monitoring visits were carried out. This year as well, mon-



itoring as a continuous process has been regular in each center. Centers were monitored to ensure the quality of work in general, including activities with children, the aspect of staff performance, the aspect of logistics and hygiene in particular.

Monitoring has played an important role and has had a positive impact on the daily work of LCs. Centers have established order, especially in terms of curriculum implementation. The monitoring so far shows a steady increase in number of children attending classes in learning centers, including majority community children.

The aspects recommended by the monitors are: detailed planning of thematic lessons, which can include topics that enable the interconnection of topics and learning subjects, whereby is achieved the teaching that develops skills, aptitudes and abilities of the students through their interaction and individual work with children.

## **2. Improve access to upper secondary education**

### **Scholarship program**

For the third consecutive year, the project is part of national level scholarship program coordinated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, involving other scholarship providers for secondary school Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students. In the first two years the number of scholarships was 500, and this year the number has increased to 600 beneficiaries. The project funds 200 scholarships.

The scholarship program has started this year with the open call for scholarships. More than

700 students have applied, and all applications were processed through Scholarship Management System – a joint system which is a contribution of our project. Based on this system and established criteria, preliminary list of beneficiaries was produced and later validated by Minister's decision. KFOS has signed scholarship contracts with 67 students for scholarships covered by the Foundation, while the Ministry will cover scholarships for additional 133 students.

### **Mentoring program**

The purpose of this program is to improve the attendance and results of beneficiary students by providing them academic and non-academic support as well as more opportunities to associate with their peers.

During 2017/18 academic year, out of 200 beneficiaries, the project provided mentoring program for at least half of them. More precisely, a total of 114 students were supported by 23 mentors in the municipalities of Gjakova, Istog and Prizren.

The program went well and there have been improvements in learning results. The following table shows the average grade in the course of two academic years since the mentoring program has been initiated. The table shows that there has been an increase of the average grade over the two years.

# 1. Average grade of mentored students

Academic year	Average grade First semester	Average grade Second semester
2016/17	2.46	2.85
2017/18	2.86	3.18

During May 2018, the project in cooperation with VoRAE organized the second module of mentor training provided by Roma Education Fund (REF). The purpose of the training was to enable mentors to improve their mentoring practices in terms of supporting mentored students for their learning results, their development and social inclusion. The training gathered 41 mentors who are part of mentoring programs of VoRAE and EU SIMRAES 2.

In the academic year 2018/19, the mentoring program started on November 1, as soon as the scholarship selection process was over. During this academic year, 115 scholarships will be supported in the municipalities of Gjakova, Prizren and Istog. Students will be assisted by 23 mentors, who are their school teachers, on issues related to learning, peer communication, opportunities for internships, career orientation and extracurricular activities. As in previous years, mentoring will be organized in the form of individual and group meetings with students as well as periodic meetings with parents and school.

### 3. Strengthening CSO capacities to work on the education of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities

This component is aimed at strengthening the capacity of partner organizations to provide quality services in the field of education for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

The network holds periodic meetings to exchange the experiences of its members in the field of advocacy for the education of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. KFOS has the facilitating role in these meetings in terms of logistics, while organizations host meetings in rotation.

This year, the first network meeting was held in May 2018, hosted by partner organization Bethany Christian Services. The second network meeting was more specific as it was held in the form of a three-day evaluation workshop. This workshop was organized by KFOS. The workshop served as an initiative for the process of drafting network strategy.

In November 2018, a three-day workshop was organized for the development of Konect network strategy for the next three years. The workshop gathered a planning group comprised of partner organizations of the network. The workshop was used to define the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the network, and the measures to reach the strategic objectives. After this workshop, the consultant commissioned by the project drafted the first draft strategy document and it was circulated for comments and additional contributions by the members of the planning team.

Partner organizations this year have been engaged in planning and implementing advocacy

initiatives that are oriented towards addressing issues of importance to the education of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, as well as towards other related areas. The project in cooperation with KOSINT and KEEN projects also cooperated in creating a platform for advocacy initiatives. However, due to different dynamics of those projects, it has not been possible for all advocacy activities to be carried out together. However, as a result of cooperation with partner organizations of these projects, an Advocacy Council has been established with the mandate to review and approve proposals for advocacy initiatives. Members of these organizations represented in this council were: KFOS, BSFK, VoRAE, SiV, RADC, TdH and KEC.

The Council approved 7 advocacy initiatives:

- Advocacy for financing school-based learning centers in Prizren and Suhareka (NVK)
- Notification of primary and lower secondary school students about the reserved places for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in upper secondary schools of Prizren and Suhareka (NVK)
- Functionalization of teams for prevention and response to drop-out of regular education in compulsory education by pupils in the municipality of Peja, and strengthening their role within schools (SiV)
- Intervention of local level institutions to regulate the sports stadium and its surroundings in 29 Neighborhood in Fushë Kosovë (BSFK)
- Revitalization of a green park for social housing in Plemetin (BSFK)
- Commitment to increase the success of 6-8 grade students in Plemetin (BSFK)
- Representation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in local government through employment of a ZKKK representative in Rahovec (SHL-K)

All of these initiatives have been carried out successfully.

The project has a functional website which is <http://eu-simraes.net/>. Also, the project has a Facebook page, available at <https://Web.facebook.com/eusimraes2/?fref=ts>

### Future plans

The following activities are planned for 2019:

- Application for continuation of the project;
- Implementation of homework assistance programs in 10 learning centers;
- Mentoring of 115 scholarship beneficiaries;
- Mentoring of programs;
- Organization of awareness raising and intercultural activities;
- Professional support to learning center staff, as needed;
- Approval of network strategy;
- Network meetings and other networking activities.

## 2. Lista e granteve:

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euros
Partner coordination, training of LC staff and activity monitoring and assessment	Kosova Education Center (KEC)	66,337.71
LC management and implementation of education and advocacy activities	<b>Nevo Koncepti</b>	<b>32,034.60</b>
LC management and implementation of education and advocacy activities	Bethany Christian Services	16,406.70
LC management and implementation of education and advocacy activities	Syri Vizionit	<b>29,774.60</b>
LC management and implementation of education and advocacy activities	SHL-Kosova	17,126.30
LC management and implementation of education and advocacy activities	<b>Balkan Sunflowers Kosova</b>	<b>42,810.64</b>
LC management and implementation of education and advocacy activities	<b>Roma and Ashkali Documentation Center</b>	<b>17,049.30</b>

## Promoting the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the municipalities of Peja and Suhareka, Kosovo - Prospect Plus

Prospect Plus project is the continuation of Prospect project, which was implemented in four municipalities of Kosovo (Prizren, Gjakova, Rahovec and Istog). Prospect Plus has been implemented in two municipalities (Peja and Suhareka), starting November 2015. The project aims to continue contributing to the realization of country's strategy for the integration of Roma and Ashkali communities by improving access to education, health and social services. Therefore, the overall objective of Prospect Plus is to contribute to the realization of the rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Kosovo, respectively in the municipalities of Peja and Suhareka, and their integration into Kosovo society. To contribute to the achievement of this overall goal, Prospect Plus has taken on the obligation to achieve one specific goal, which is to improve access to education, health and social services in four neighborhoods of the two municipalities where the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities live, as an important step towards increasing economic and social participation and social integration.

This is the last year of the realization of this project, i.e. the project was completed on January 31, 2018. In an agreement with the donor, it was decided that the project will continue for four additional months at no cost. Meanwhile, the preparations for launching the new Prospect project are being finalized. The project is expected to begin in May 2019.

During its implementation in 2018, the project has undertaken a series of measures and activities to achieve the objectives, which are also included in the Strategy and Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo (specifically in education and health sectors as well as in interrelated sectors regarding social issues).

This report includes the realization of the activities and the achievement of the objectives/areas of intervention, defined as purposes of the project:

### **1. Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in four locations are integrated into primary school (preschool, primary and lower secondary level).**

All project activities in 2018 have been carried out in two Learning Centers in the Municipality of Peja, respectively in Vitimirica and in 7 Shtatori neighborhood in Peja, and in two Learning Centers in Suhareka – in Leshan and Gelancë. Learning Centers are located within the primary school premises where – in agreement with education authorities – classrooms have been adjusted, thus becoming Learning Centers (LC). Every LC has two 2 tutors, who help children with learning difficulties, irregular school attendance or returnees. In the municipality of Peja, 286 children received such services, whereas in Suhareka the number of children was 79. In addition to this, tutors carried out mediation with teachers, school authorities and parents in order to strengthen the cooperation between parents and the school to increase parents' involvement in helping their children. In these LC, services were also provided for about 20% of children from the majority community, who also come from challenged social strata. As a result, school attendance increased and the

average success or grade of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students increased. LC has also carried out intercultural, recreational and educational activities involving Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, Albanian and Bosniak children. Intercultural activities have led to reducing the level of discrimination, stereotypes and prejudices that children have towards each other. Every month, at least one intercultural activity has been undertaken in a LC or at least 48 such activities, involving around 200 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children and around 200 children from the Albanian community as well as around 100 children from the Bosnian community in the municipality of Peja. In the municipality of Suhareka there were about 70 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children and about 200 children of the Albanian community. The project has also carried out awareness-raising activities: in May, June and August 2018 intensive parents/family awareness campaigns were launched aimed at enrolling or keeping their children in schools, since these are the months when children are legally enrolled in school. Thus, the project staff, including municipal education officials, made visits to project locations also by entering homes of the more authoritative families coming from these communities but also of the poorest ones, and advised them on the importance of education and the role of the school to provide prospective future for their children.

## **2. The targeted Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian target communities improve their access to health and social services and gain more knowledge and information on health issues**

The activities were mainly carried out in project neighborhoods/locations, also often in the homes of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian families. To this end, the project hired

health and social mediators from these communities. The focus was mainly on women and girls, since they were initially reluctant to receive medical and social services. In an agreement with municipal health authorities, in particular with Family Medicine Centers, mediators organized mobile visits of doctors and medical specialists in the neighborhood, where doctors performed routine and specialist check-ups at home, checking women, girls, boys and men who had health problems. At least one monthly visit was organized at each project location, or at least 50 such visits throughout the year. Mediators also brought members of communities from their neighborhoods to FMC to carry out specialist examinations or visits, and at least 50 such events were undertaken during 2018. Other important activities undertaken by mediators are the organization of meetings or counseling sessions mainly for women and girls of the community. Twice a month, at each project location, doctors or specialists were brought to one of the family homes in the neighborhood where the session gathered about 15-20 women and girls. Sessions were of counseling character, while the topics discussed were picked up by women or girls themselves. Some of the topics were individual hygiene, culinary hygiene, endemic and chronic diseases, child hygiene, family planning, and so on. Every second month, counseling topics were of social nature attended by men and boys who picked up the topics. Some of these topics were the right to benefit from social schemes, relationships between family members, employability, etc. The Kosovo Family Medicine Association (AMFK) staff has been involved to monitor this component, which has monitored the work of the mediators and mentored them, also by helping FMCs to mobilize and provide health care to families within neighborhoods of commu-

nities. On average, 180 women and girls received these services in the municipality of Peja, facilitated by project activities, while in Suhareka 120 women and girls received these services. In relation to activities that have to do with employment mediation/counseling, 5 people were hired in the municipality of Peja, and 3 in the municipality of Suhareka.

**3. A number of NGOs (PROSPECT Network) are engaged and advocate for the implementation of municipal action plans for the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.**

PROSPECT network consists of Prospect + partner organizations, including organizations that have been involved in previous Prospect project (NVK, BCS, SiV, SHL-K and Vision 02). Neither Peja nor Suhareka have action plans or local strategies for the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Their action plans and strategies expired 10 years ago (Peja), respectively 3 years ago (Suhareka), thus making the municipalities take less measures regarding the integration of these communities. Since such strategy with the action plan until 2021 has been approved at central level, partner organizations have advocated in the municipalities to implement the planned measures of the strategic document stemming from the Office of Good Governance of the Prime Minister's Cabinet. During 2018 local partners (Nevo Concept - Suhareka and Syri i Vizionit - Peja) each month had meetings with directors of the municipal directorates of health, education and social welfare, not only to coordinate project activities but also to make decisions for the drafting of a new strategic document at municipal level for the integration of communities. Such meetings gathered municipal officials of the Office for Communities and Returns, who all

the while have expressed the need to have such a document. In the year-end meetings with mayors, municipalities made a decision to start in 2019 with the drafting of the local strategy and action plan for the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. At central level, partner organizations such as PROSPECT network have been involved in drafting the new Administrative Instruction of MASHT (No.17/2018) which regulates the functioning of Learning Centers and their financial support, which is expected to be implemented in 2019.

Partner organizations have also undertaken advocacy activities in their municipalities. This is because the support from the municipalities was small and had little impact on Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community. This is also the result of low civic activism, or few initiatives stemming from members of these communities. Through the mobilization of youth coming from these communities, throughout 2018 advocacy was carried out in various municipal sectors, and as a result of some advocacy actions some of the problems of the neighborhood were solved, such as the reconstruction of the bridge in Leshan, public lighting installation in the neighborhood of 7 Shtatori and road repairs in all project locations.

### 3. The amount of grants distributed to local partners for 2018

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euros
Realization of learning activities, health and social mediation, networking and advocacy	Nevo Koncepti	24,000
Realization of learning activities, health and social mediation, networking and advocacy	Syri i Vizionit	24,000
Training tutors and mentoring of teachers involved in the project	Kosova Education Center (KEC)	2,450
Training of mediators, mentoring of their work and interconnection with health service providers	Dr. Genc Ymerhalili, Kosovo Family Doctors Association,	2,880
School Packages for Community Students	Operational	6,570



## 4. General Data on Prospect Plus Project Beneficiaries

Neighborhood	Community residents	# children attending school (6-19 years old)	# children who do not attend school (6-19 years old)	# families benefiting from the social scheme	# of employed	Number of unemployed
7 Shtatori, Peja	1340	218	52	46	3	151
Vitomiricë, Peja	440	68	18	19	0	0
Total in Peja	1780	286	70	65	3	151
Leshan, Suhareka	139	28	14	12	3	65
Gelancë, Suhareka	212	51	31	16	2	0
Total in Suhareka	351	79	45	28	5	65

