



Fondacioni i Kosovës për Shoqëri të Hapur
Kosovo Foundation for Open Society
Kosovska Fondacija za Otvoreno Društvo

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

www.kfos.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2017
Kosovo Foundation for Open Society



Report on the Foundation's work in 2017

In 2017 the Foundation began implementing the strategy set out for the 2017-2020 cycle. For this cycle the basic program scheme has remained unchanged; but many new innovations have been included. For the first time, we began work on a higher-education program, and we constructed a new and much more asymmetrical scheme of engagement with Europe. Because we have signed new agreements with the EU and the Government of Germany for the realization of long-term projects dealing primarily with the education of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, we have brought our Roma program to a close in order to make room for new commitments.

This report is synthetic, in the sense that it brings together, in broad strokes, all of the basic spending categories; but it is also analytic, in the sense that it describes the grants distributed in 2017, as well as the way in which these grants relate to our primary programmatic goals.

The Foundation had clearly delineated the following primary goals: (1) to combat the culture of impunity in the country's most visible corruption cases; (2) to create optimal conditions for forging connections between the various ethnic groups in the north and the south of Mitrovica; (3) to bring European values into the process of reforming the country's institutions, and (4) to pressure the University of Prishtina to depoliticize itself, as well as to fight the corruption that plagues the university in both its managerial and academic structures.

An important aspect to which we have been faithful in our work is that our four programs have collaborated in an effective manner. This has made for a multifaceted approach in the realization of our target aims. In this direction, some characteristic instances are the following: we have included the integration of the Serb minority in more or less all of the fields and concepts we have realized. For example, the Serb municipalities were monitored as part of our program for increased transparency and accountability; and the CEC's advocacy platform was included in our European integration concept. The Foundation is especially focused on creating civic networks in all fields in which we have activities. This is in order to ensure that civic organizations operate in a more unified and powerful manner, bringing a common focus to the changes toward which they are aiming. The Coalition for Transparency and Accountability in the University (KITU), the Group for Open Data and Procurement, and the Network of Serbian Media were at the leading edge of advocacy for the targeted changes. An especially important aim during this period was to pursue all possible avenues for including the country in international networks for the rule of law, especially in the OGP (Open Data) network, Publish what You Pay (PWYP), and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI).

Even though our activities are linked to program responsibilities that span multiple consecutive strategic cycles, the Foundation managed in 2017 to achieve a continuity of action that ensures concrete results, in full harmony with the aims set out in advance: the reinforcement of partners who have worked on program implementation, the establishment of a more collaborative environment for us and our partners, and the internalization of achieved results (changes) by the decision-makers to whom our advocacy campaigns have been targeted.

Our achievements in 2017 must be seen, in the first place, as part of a single strategic cycle, but also as creating conditions for securing a positive environment for the next strategic cycle.

The results we have achieved are concrete and tangible. These results are described in further detail in the programmatic chapters of this report. But some of them are also worth mentioning here:

The Program concept Reconnecting Mitrovica has continued to build a thoughtful program infrastructure and, above all, has continued to become more sophisticated.

- The CEC Center has continued to be a place of energy for citizen initiatives, whether these initiatives be civil or public. Likewise, all of the advocacy initiatives of the Foundation's projects have come out of this center – not only "Empirica" but also those of other NGOs from Mitrovica and Prishtina.

- The European Integration School has continued its work with a third generation of students. The school hosted lecturers from Prishtina for the first time. In June a regional conference on European themes was organized. Participating in this conference were guests invited from regional countries, as well as from the Ministry of European Integration in Prishtina. The level of interest in attending this school remains high.
- The Network for Serbian Media, which has five regional television stations, as well as a few radio stations and portals, was very active this year. Besides the work that it performs on the biweekly show “Sporazum,” initiated and developed for two seasons by the Foundation’s program, the Network for Serbian Media was very active in 2017 in monitoring the realization of grants awarded to NGOs in Mitrovica and other places where Serbs reside. A few of these grants supported media that have specific research capacities and that, in cooperation with other NGOs, researched important themes from the daily lives of the residents of these places.
- The advocacy platform “Empirica”—which is a project of NGO Aktiv, our main partner in Mitrovica North—presented multiple projects during roundtable debates in Mitrovica. This platform is growing and aims to be active in other areas of the country as well.

The program field *Increasing Transparency and Accountability* of government institutions worked along three pathways in 2017: (1) the establishment and reinforcement of a network of NGOs specializing in this area; (2) the membership of government institutions and civil-society organizations in global initiatives such as Open Data, PWYP, and EITI; and (3) the development of a solid base of advocacy for greater transparency in the public procurement process, by means of in-depth research on various issues conducted by the NGO network for Procurement and Open Data. Concrete achievements included the following:

- In March, a network of organizations specializing in public procurement issues was established. Throughout the year, the network worked on analyzing current conditions in this sector. The group outlined a research plan completed in 2017, as well as an advocacy plan with targeted results. Nine analyses were completed and will be used for advocacy purposes during 2018. At the end of the year, the group agreed to engage actively on the issue of open data, with a focus on improving the capacities of civic organizations and businesses to use the data opened by government institutions, in the most effective possible way.
- Within this program area, a series of steps were taken in 2017 to bring Kosovo closer to membership in two global institutions for transparency: EITI (Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative) and PWYP (Publish What You Pay). The first is an initiative to bring Kosovo into a large global coalition, which would impose on the country obligations to report frequently on all financial, administrative, and environmental activities that flow from the use of mineral resources (lignite, ores, water, etc.). The second initiative is a global alliance of civil-society organizations that continuously pressures governments to fully publish information on the circulation of profits generated through the extraction of mineral potentials.

The program concept *Anchoring European Values in Reforms* in the country, and *Connecting with Europe*, had a notable place in the Foundation’s work in 2017. Two programmatic aims were pursued: (1) supporting civic organizations that work in the field of European integration and (2) intensifying cooperation, in all areas, with European countries that have not recognized Kosovo’s independence, and with which communication and effective cooperation has proven difficult. The most notable activities were the following:

- Together with NGOs (think-tanks), a preliminary plan was drafted on issues arising out of the MSA and the ERA that require greater elaboration. Nine topics were chosen and were assigned to NGOs on the basis of their respective areas of specialization. Each NGO was to draft a research plan for its assigned issue, which would then be followed up by multiple debates involving specific interest groups, as well

as by a concrete advocacy plan. In 2017 the entire cycle was concluded, though a portion of the advocacy activities will be realized in 2018.

- Cooperation with partners from countries with which Kosovo has difficulties in communication has also continued this year. However, the Foundation has substantially changed its method of action. Previously organized study visits, involving MPs, civil society, businesses, students, scholars, etc., were substituted this year with two long-term projects that seek to create networks of scholars in countries such as Slovakia, Greece, Romania, Cyprus, and Spain, but also in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. These scholars will study issues that they believe have been obstacles to more fruitful cooperation, and will use their completed analyses to advocate, each in their own country, for specific solutions for fostering more effective cooperation between Kosovo and the respective countries. This project was concluded with an overview of the analyses of the twelve grant-receiving authors. The overview is being presented repeatedly at roundtables and conferences throughout Europe. This model has proven to be a very successful one, and should be replicated in future years.

The program *Fighting Corruption in Higher Education* began its implementation in 2016. In the first part of the year the Foundation was focused on creating an effective network that would host the activities planned for the strategic cycle that had just been launched. As the year went on, the KITU network (Coalition for Integration and Transparency in the University) worked intensively to draft a number of analyses that would shed greater light on the abusive practices and developments that have blotted the work of this institution over the past two decades. During two consecutive periods, much more has been achieved than we had initially expected:

- The KITU coalition, which is composed of nine organizations with specific experience in monitoring higher-education institutions, was established. From time to time, specific people from inside and outside the University join in the Coalition's work in order to assist with specific tasks arising out of the network's program.
- In addition to this strategy, KITU drafted its action plan with a special emphasis on advocacy activities. Some of the areas to which the Coalition devoted its attention in 2016 were: the politicization of UP, the undeserved promotion of professors, cheating on examinations, the sale of diplomas, the work of the Senate and the Governing Board, etc. All of these analyses were presented at two roundtables at the 2015 Forum and at an international roundtable organized by ORCA, a partner of the KITU Coalition.

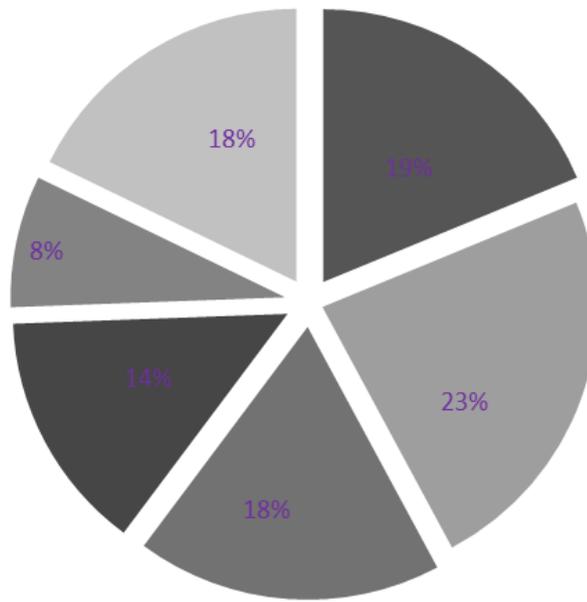
In 2017 KFOS also worked with third-party programs, as well as with the Reserve Fund. Further details about these programs can be found in this report.



FINANCIAL REPORT

No.	Description	Budget	Amount Spent	% Spent
1	Funds from the core budget for 2017			
	Concept 1 - Reconnecting Mitrovica	324,823.00	324,823.00	100.00
	Concept 2 - Bringing Kosovo's public institutions closer to EU standards	406,830.00	406,830.00	100.00
	Field 1 - Increasing transparency and accountability	311,651.00	311,651.00	100.00
	Field 2 - Higher Education Program	246,085.00	246,085.00	100.00
	Reserve funds - Vote and Watch	97,565.00	97,565.00	100.00
	Funds from the network for the Western Balkans conference	39,055.00	39,055.00	100.00
	Administrative program expenses	12,662.00	12,591.49	99.44
	Administrative expenses	238,653.00	238,653.00	100.00
	Subtotal 1 :	1,677,324.00	1,677,253.49	100.00
2	Funds from the budgets of other donors for 2017			
	European Union Funds	178,916.00	178,916.00	100.00
	Karl Kubel Shtiftung	130,650.00	130,650.00	100.00
	CEU	142.00	142.00	100.00
	Other funds	1,200.00	1,200.00	100.00
	Subtotal 2:	310,908.00	310,908.00	100.00
	Total budget and expenses	1,988,232	1,988,161	

Spending according to program



- Concept 1 - Reconnecting Mitrovica
- Concept 2 - Bringing Kosovo's public institutions closer to EU standards
- Field 1 - Increasing transparency and accountability
- Field 2 - Higher Education Program

Amount spent according to program - in Euros

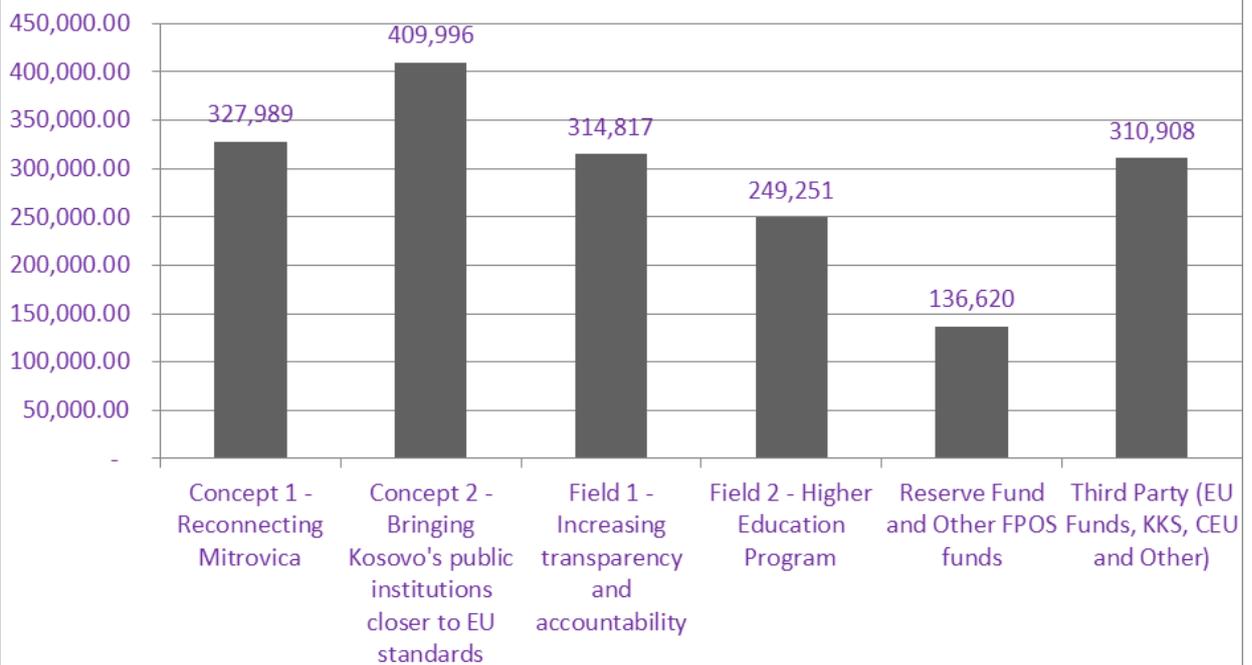


Figure 2. Month-to-month spending in '17

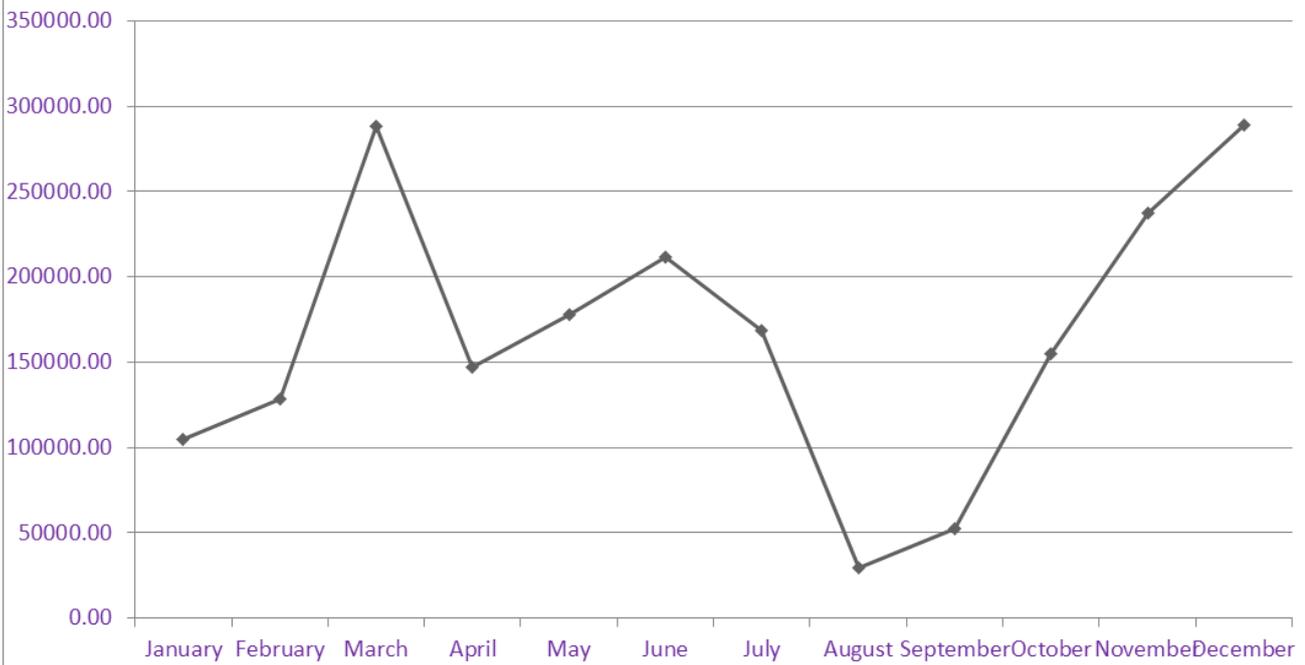
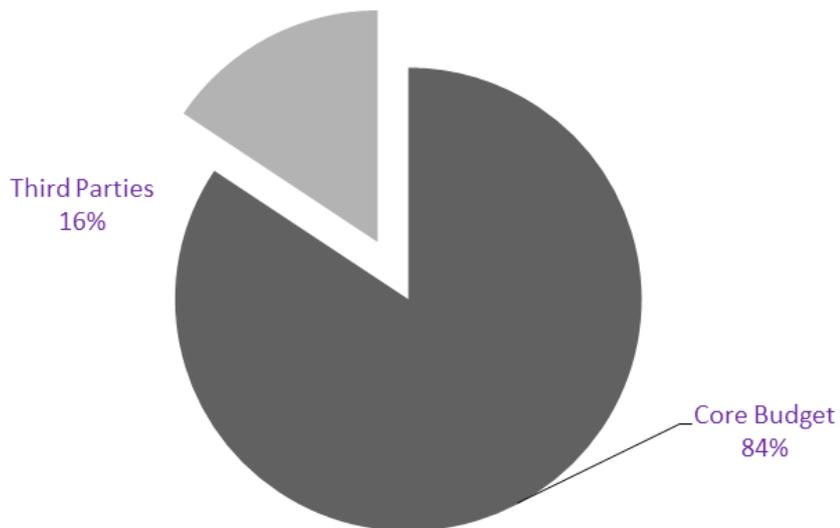
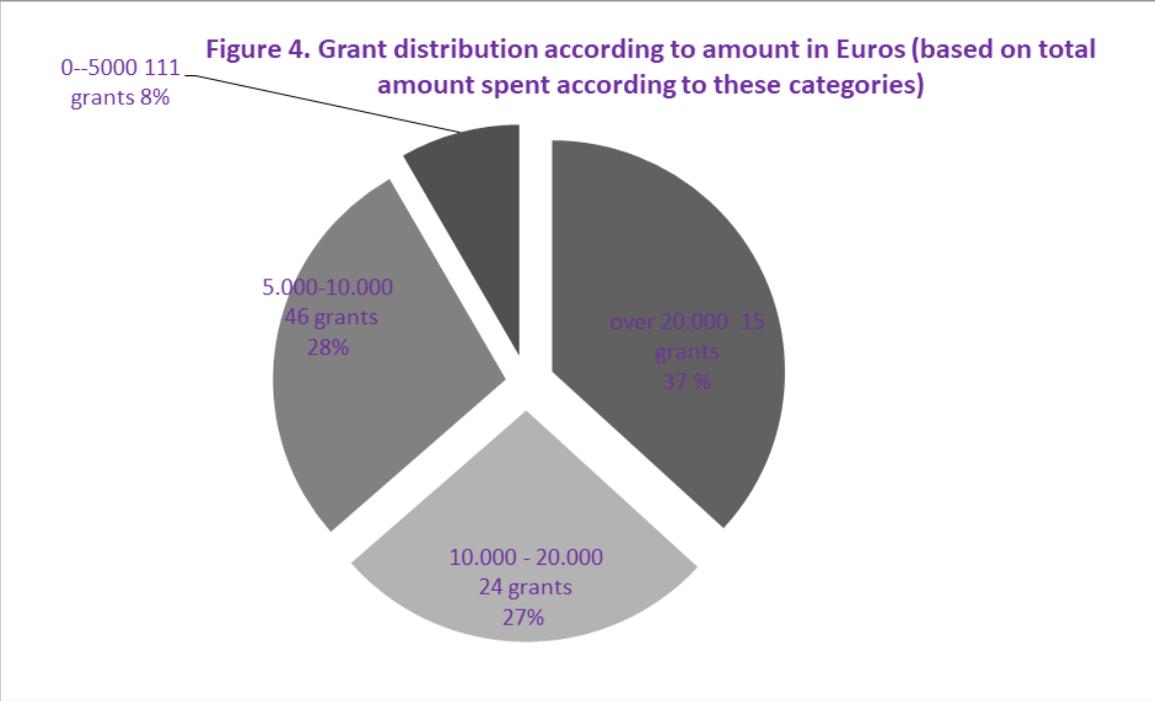


Figure 1. Budget spending, divided according to source of financing





RECONNECTING MITROVICA

The concept “Reconnecting Mitrovica” successfully concluded its fourth year of implementation, thanks to well-placed and well-defined partnerships and infrastructure, both physical and programmatic. The strong foundation laid in the first strategic cycle ensured that implementation would be unimpeded, stable, and in line with the activities and initiatives provided for in the 2017 action plan. Multiple events and developments this year on the political scene of Kosovo, Serbia, and the region were seen more as challenges to be addressed than as obstacles that could endanger the program, or cause it to stumble in its implementation.

This year, parliamentary and local elections in Kosovo, as well as the presidential election in Serbia, put a stop to the talks in the “Brussels Dialogue.” But in the field there was a slowly building movement to implement some of the technical agreements that were reached earlier, such as in the areas of telecommunications, energy, and integration of the courts. Another process, called “Internal dialogue on Kosovo,” began in Serbia, and was related to the requirement of normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia as a condition for the two countries’ EU integration. This process sparked a series of debates between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo, with an understanding that the two parties are inextricably linked with respect to fulfilling their ambitions for EU accession. These were only some of the political developments that had an impact and that were addressed through the concept.

The presence of the Foundation in the north is increasingly visible, and it is now seen as a trustworthy donor and partner. This was achieved by means of the establishment of the Civic Energy Center (CEC), as well as the increased intervention of the Foundation in the north under the management of NGO Aktiv, the Foundation’s main partner in this program. The center is now seen as a “nest” for many citizen and civil-society initiatives in the north, independently of whether the initiatives receive support from the Foundation or from other donors. From its opening until November 2017, over 550 events were organized at the CEC, in which more than 9500 participants took part.

The programmatic pillars and the main achievements of the concept:

The Civic Energy Center, along with its program offerings, aims to strengthen and mobilize citizens. It is implemented through NGO Aktiv and is composed of: (1) the TV debate program “SporaZOOM” (“Agreement”), which is now a serious program and serves as a reference point for media reports, primarily those of Serbian media, (2) the advocacy platform “Empirica,” designed on the basis of Forum 2015, which is now well-known in the Serb community, (3) the Mitrovica Social Club, which is located on the ground floor of CEC, has been transformed into a constructive meeting place in which citizens can address, in an informal atmosphere, serious topics that affect citizens, and youth in particular.

The European Integration School, another programmatic pillar of the concept, is implemented by the CEC. In 2017, it produced its fourth generation of graduates, and there now exists a critical mass of almost 150 alumni from local administration, civil society, media, etc., with basic knowledge of the principles and values of the EU. In addition to the attendees, the broader public has also benefited from being included in open lectures and the regional seminar.

Collaboration (pairing) initiatives between civil society organizations and media this year addressed issues courageously, and succeeded in placing the citizen at the center of its aims and actions. They did this by including citizens in roundtable discussions, debates, focus groups, interviews, radio and TV programs/reports, etc. There was no lack of engaging topics, and the media were constantly researching and following the issues, and providing information about the projects’ activities and results.

The main achievements include the following: (1) The “SporaZOOM” program, the advocacy platform “Empirica,” the Mitrovica Social Club, and the NGO-media pairing projects, no longer attempt to avoid current political topics, which are often difficult and sensitive, (2) participation of the other side (Albanians) as guests, panelists, discussants, etc., has now become almost routine in initiatives in the north, something that only a few years ago would have been considered blasphemy, (3) interest in European processes and values is rising, and the study visit to Prishtina has begun to be assessed by participants as more valuable than the corresponding visit to Belgrade. This represents a big change from a few years ago, when only a small percentage of citizens were pro-EU and were interested in learning about Kosovo’s integration process, (4) cooperation between experts in the north and the south who deal with issues of common interest, such as environmental protection, has begun in small steps, (5) all Serbian media have been connected in a network that attends and participates actively in the Foundation’s activities.

Even as the concept achieves positive and visible results, the situation in the north is still unstable and fragile. In most cases, the challenges that the concept faces are not programmatic; rather, they have more to do with the political situation in the country, and in particular in the north, where the rule of law is absent, which is a situation that is well suited to various interest groups.

The goal and objectives of the concept for 2017

Goal – Gradually reconnecting Mitrovica and the country’s Serb-majority north with the rest of Kosovo, by cultivating a strong civil society and a culture of resolving problems through discourse, and by building a better and stronger connection between civil-society groups, academia, and business, etc., on both sides of the Ibri River. This will in turn apply constructive pressure on decision-makers to improve living conditions and offer high-quality services, which will in the end lead to integration into Kosovo’s society and system.

In order to achieve the goal of the concept, the Foundation devoted its work to three main pillars, as follows:

1. Strengthening and mobilizing citizens
2. Introducing basic principles and values of the EU – the European Integration School,
3. Supporting NGO research and advocacy projects and monitoring the implementation of the Brussels agreement – collaborative projects between NGOs and media.

In the following pages, more detailed information is given about all activities conducted within the framework of the Reconnecting Mitrovica concept, divided according to the main pillars of intervention.

Strengthening and mobilizing citizens

In realizing this objective, the Foundation works closely with NGO Aktiv, which is also in charge of managing the Civic Energy Center. With a spatial infrastructure complete with all of the necessary equipment and a warm environment, the CEC provides a unique place for the realization of different activities that work to keep the citizen engaged and included. During 2017, more than 250 events/activities were held in the CEC, in which over 3500 participants took part. Many of these activities were part of NGO projects supported by other donors. The creation of such a space, a “nest” for all organizations and citizens, was one of the main goals the Foundation had in mind in establishing this center.

The package of programs implemented in the CEC, with the support of the Foundation, was conceived in such a way as to include all levels and groups of citizens, even those who are not so interested in leaving their homes or visiting the spaces where NGOs gather. It was for this kind of citizen that we created the “SporaZOOM” TV

program, which citizens not only can watch but can also comment on at home from the comfort of their couch.

The youth, and those who feel young, have available to them the Mitrovica Social Club (MSC), where, in the setting of “Rick’s Casablanca Café,” they can discuss various issues that impact their lives, all in an informal setting, with experts, artists, researchers, analysts, etc. In this setting, any topic that is addressed can seem easier and has the potential to foster critical thinking. The setting also offers a space where participants can take positions and be confronted with differing opinions.

NGO representatives, experts, analysts, and political representatives have available to them the advocacy platform “Empirica,” where serious aspects of various political issues can be addressed in the form of roundtable discussions, in which “swords are crossed.” They have the opportunity to argue their positions in an effort to find solutions to big political issues – for or against integration, the implementation of agreements, laws, the demand for transparency and accountability, etc.

During the design of this component, the Foundation and NGO Aktiv were careful to ensure that the subjects of discussion in the three formats would be connected to or similar to one another, so as to maximize impact on the broader society, including all age groups and categories of citizens. Thus, for example, a topic addressed in the MSC might also be addressed, in a slightly different spirit and with knowledgeable interlocutors, on the “SporaZOOM” program, whereas the “Empirica” platform could undertake study or research on that very topic and could present and discuss the topic. The results of the research could then be used as a source of arguments in support of “SporaZOOM”. The order in which the components are deployed for the discussion of a particular issue is not always the same; instead, this is typically decided on the basis of the seriousness and the importance of the topic addressed. Not all topics and issues for discussion pass through this entire cycle, but we make an effort to ensure that each component be thematically compatible with the other two.

The “SporaZOOM” program is the most visible of the package of activities conducted in the CEC. The show is produced in cooperation with NGO Aktiv and TV Mreža (a network of five local television stations and a Serbian-language production); it addresses political topics arising from the Brussels Agreement between Kosovo and Serbia. The show is broadcast every two weeks, with at least one rerun, among the five Serbian TV stations that are members of TV Mreža; on TV Mitrovica; and on RTK2, beginning in November. The show is also posted on the social networks (YouTube, Facebook, Twitter) and webpages of the project’s partners. In this way, the show is able to reach viewers even beyond Kosovo, and it is also able to reach younger age groups that primarily get their information through the Internet and various Internet-based platforms.

The program was expanded this year, because the general quality of the program improved by several degrees. Responsible for the program’s improved quality were: the diversity and credibility of the in-studio guests; the selection of timely topics that are important not only to the Serb community, but also to all of Kosovo and beyond; and the quality of the product, both in terms of its content and in terms of its visual aspects. Beginning this year, all shows had at least one representative from the other side, the Albanian side, and this has now been adopted as a regular practice. The program’s editorial board is careful to be as realistic as possible in the selection of topics, and to ensure that each topic is backed up well with studies, research, and analysis. The board also works to ensure that each show reflects an ethnic and political balance, and that various political options, approaches, and positions are represented. This allows all sides and positions to be heard, so that the program is not seen as one-sided. The only balance that the show has not achieved is gender balance.

In 2017, 25 shows were realized with 3-4 studio guests each, amounting approximately to a total of 85 guests, some of whom participated more than once. Topics from current affairs were addressed, such as cultural heritage, parliamentary and local elections in Kosovo, the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia, the integration of the judiciary in the Kosovo system, economic development in the north of Kosovo, the comparison of the position of minorities in the north with those of the south of Kosovo, Kosovo in 2017 and what can be expected in 2018, etc. Guests in the studio included, among others, the British Ambassador Ruairi O’Connell, the U.S. Ambassador Greg Delawie, Blerim Shala, Augustin Palokaj, Gjeraqina Tuhina, Agron

Bajrami, Tatjana Lazarević, Belul Beqaj, Ramush Tahiri, Borko Stefanović, Slobodan Georgijev, Rada Trajković, Slobodan Petrović, Shkelzen Gashi, Dušan Janjić, Kaplan Baruti, Nebojša Vlajić, Dušan Radaković, etc.

All of the shows produced up to this point can be found on the program's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYISCysgvkpUqh5_6GOO40g/videos

Challenges that the "SporaZOOM" program will face in 2018 are: (1) maintaining the quality achieved during 2017, (2) identifying and selecting knowledgeable guests in the studio; which is no easy task, since in Kosovo there is a limited number of potential interlocutors for a show of this kind, especially in the Serb community, (3) improving the capacity of NGO Aktiv to take responsibility for preparing the content and the technical aspects of the program, and in this way securing the program's sustainability, (4) exploring the possibility of broadcasting the show on some regional channel, such as N1.

The "Empirica" advocacy platform is an advocacy instrument based on Forum 2015. In 2017, this platform took its first serious steps and made itself a factor in the Serb community. The ambitions of the platform – which is led by NGO Aktiv in partnership with five other NGOs, a radio station, and a website – are for the platform to become well known both in Prishtina and in other parts of Kosovo as well. This year, it put on its first performance in Prishtina, and it is planned that the platform's advocacy activities will be held in Prishtina even more often, due to the potential of greater participation by decision-makers.

"Empirica" has already drafted its action strategy, and is incorporating other NGOs in the coalition. Based on studies completed earlier in the year, five roundtable discussions were held on issues that were identified as being of great importance at the moment, and that are obstructing Serbian integration, such as: (1) Schoolbooks for Serbian students in Kosovo – roundtable held in Prishtina in March 2017, (2) Access to personal documents in Kosovo, the main obstacle for integration of non-majority communities – roundtable held in June at the CEC. This topic was followed by a series of articles on Serbian and Albanian portals and resulted in the drafting of an administrative order for resolving this issue. (3) The analysis of trends in Serbian integration in 2017 – presentation held on 14 November, from which it came out that security is still a key problem for the Serb community living in the north, (4) the Association of Serbian municipalities: addressing the conflicting positions of Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo – held in cooperation with the Balkan Policy Research Group on 21 November 2017 at the CEC, with the following participants: Igor Simic from Lista Srpska, Bajram Gecaj, Deputy Minister of Local Government Administration, etc. This roundtable received coverage from all media in Kosovo, both Serbian and Albanian. (5) On 1 December 2017, the CEC hosted the "Empirica" Forum on the topic of the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia and the European integration process. At this roundtable, Borko Stefanovic and Edita Tahiri appeared on the same panel for the first time since the Brussels talks. Other panelists participating in the roundtable were: Naim Rashiti, Mimoza Ahmetaj, former Minister for European Integration, and Narasa Dragojlovic from the European Movement of Serbia. The roundtable received coverage from all Kosovo and regional media. As it addressed a very high-stakes issue in the north, the roundtable did not go without verbal incidents, which were also covered in the media. Nonetheless, the roundtable demonstrated that "difficult" topics could be addressed in the north, albeit with extreme caution.

Challenges for continuing the work of the advocacy platform "Empirica" in 2018 include the following: (1) the enlargement of the group of partner NGOs for this platform, though this is not completely necessary, since NGO Aktiv is strong enough to carry the entire load of topics and is committed to doing so, (2) finding new and innovative ways in advocacy campaigns to penetrate even more deeply to the level of the citizen, for example, by putting into play a platform similar to that of the Foundation, "Open 333," (3) creating relationships and developing strong forms of cooperation with Albanian-language media.

The Mitrovica Social Club offers a lighter way of addressing issues that are of interest to the entire Serbian community, with a special focus on youth. During 2017, issues of some difficulty were discussed in an informal setting, such as: (1) Schoolbooks, (2) Relations between Albanians and Serbs after World War II, (3) Serbia's internal dialogue regarding Kosovo: how Kosovo Serbs see this process, (4) Serbian media in Kosovo: problems

that journalists face in obtaining information, (5) The special court: A storm or just a breeze?, (6) The life of Serbs living in enclaves in 2017, (7) connections and the overcoming of differences was held on 14 March in Prishtina, at Dit e Nat, in collaboration with D4D. These were some examples of the 14 discussions held at the MSC in 2017, in which over 30 interlocutors took part, attracting over 300 youth participants. Even in these kinds of discussions, speakers from the other side were in most cases included, such as Albert Heta, Nora Ahmetaj, Shpëtim Gashi, etc.

Challenges for the MSC in 2018 would have to include: (1) refreshing the format with some kind of social innovation, (2) enriching the club with new interlocutors, which would also help in filling out the guest list for “SporaZOOM,” and (3) organizing a greater number of collaborative discussions in the form of visits with D4D’s “Tuesday Salons” in Prishtina and Mitrovica.

Project/initiative	Grantee	Amount
Increasing democratic practices and including citizens in decision-making processes in the north of Kosovo	NGO Aktiv	67.023
Producing twelve “SporaZOOM” (“Agreement”) shows	TV Mreža (TV Network)	26.640
Moderating the “SporaZOOM” show on cultural heritage	Željko Tvrdišić	150
Filming additional interviews for the “SporaZOOM” show on cultural heritage	TV Mreža	200
Consulting for “SporaZOOM,” and for NGO and media projects	Stanko Pevac	8.400
Producing an additional year-end “SporaZOOM” show	TV Mreža	2.200
Social dialogue: Intellectuals and citizens on Kosovo	Center for Community Development	15.000
Consulting for the design and implementation of four events of the social initiative Art for Social Change	Rajko Božić	5.100
Covering expenses for filming “SporaZOOM”	TV Mreža	1.860

Introducing basic principles and values of the EU – the European Integration School

In 2017, the European Integration School produced its fourth generation of graduates. As before, the program’s implementation was entrusted this year to the European Movement of Serbia (EMS) and NGO Aktiv. Thirty-five attendees of the school were registered, of which 28 of them completed the program successfully. Besides the registered attendees, the number of the program’s beneficiaries, when open lectures and the regional seminar are included, increased to almost 80 people.

During the six-month program 28 regular lectures were held on the basics of the EU, including information on European structure, procedures, and law, enlargement policy and economics, and special EU policies. The program and the lecturers were the responsibility of the European Movement in Serbia, which discharged this responsibility admirably. The attendees had the opportunity to hear from experts with international reputations. This year, for the first time, the lecturers for the basic module included Albanian experts from Prishtina, and this can be seen as one of the first steps in building connections between the north and the south in this component of the concept.

On 30 June 2017, the regional seminar was held under the title, “The European Union and the Western Balkans: A common future.” The Minister of European Integration, Ms. Mimoza Ahmetaj, participated as a special panelist. For the first time in North Mitrovica, participants and NGO and media representatives were addressed by a minister of the Government of Kosovo. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear the European perspective from Ms. Nataliya Apostolova, the head of the EU Office in Kosovo. Participating in the seminar were high-level experts from the region as well as from the EU. Also invited and participating as panelists were public television correspondents from Kosovo and Serbia, Gjeraqina Tuhina and Dušan Gajić. In designing the agenda we took care to ensure that each panel would have at least one representative guest from Prishtina, whether it be from the Government or from NGOs, with expertise in the area of European integration. Thus, this year we invited the following panelists from the Albanian side: Alban Hashanin, Executive Director of Riinvest, Bardha Tahiri from KCSF, and Rudina Hasimja from KFOS.

As before, study visits were organized this year to Belgrade and Prishtina with the aim of informing participants about the processes of the two countries. The study visit to Belgrade lasted two days, from 14-15 September 2017, whereas the visit to Prishtina lasted one day, and was held on 2 November 2017. Attendees met with high-level government officials and representatives of EU delegations/offices in both countries. According to attendees, the study visit in Prishtina was the more valuable of the two, because they received information that they had not previously heard and that was more useful for their work and lives in Kosovo.

The program included open lectures for attendees and the broader public of Mitrovica. During the six months of the implementation of the EU School, six open lectures were organized. The lecturers included Augustin Palokaj, who on two occasions spoke to attendees and others about the perspective from Brussels regarding Kosovo’s integration, as well as about other influential processes in the region; Stanko Pevac, who addressed the topic of management of garbage and the impact of the media in raising public awareness; Ron Hooghiemstra and Srđan Staletović, who lectured on the system for protecting minority rights, with reference to constitutional principles and Constitutional Court decisions, and to the European Court of Human Rights as a mechanism for the protection of human rights and freedoms; and Dušan Spasojević, who spoke about populism and the danger that this phenomenon can pose in a democracy.

The EU School program concluded, as it does every year, with a ceremony for awarding diplomas to successful attendees. The ceremony was held on 8 December 2017 at the CEC.

Challenges for the EU School in 2018 will include: (1) greater inclusion of lecturers from Kosovo, which may be somewhat problematic due to the lack of knowledge of the Albanian language, and to the fact that lectures in translation are less effective, (2) giving attendees a closer look at Kosovo institutions, which can be achieved through multiple thematic study visits, (3) creating the potential for specialization in areas essential to the north in the structures of municipalities, NGOs, and the media.

Project/initiative	Grantee	Amount
European Integration School 2017	NGO Aktiv	9.205
European Integration School	European Movement of Serbia	24.890
Open lecture, “Kosovo-EU: The Perspective from Brussels” in North Mitrovica	Augustin Palokaj	290
The regional seminar of the EU School: The European Union and the Western Balkans – a common future	Operational	1.351,45
Honorarium for the lecture “The role of civil society in the European integration process – the case of Kosovo”	Fatmir Curri	214.21
Translation for two regular lectures	Stefan Sovrlić	147.37
Open lecture “Managing garbage – public communication, social responsibility, and citizen awareness”	Stanko Pevac	120
Open lecture “Kosovo-EU: the Perspective from Brussels” in North Mitrovica and Gračanica	Augustin Palokaj	490
Cocktail following the open lecture of Augustin Palokaj in Gračanica	Operational	122

Support for NGO research and advocacy projects, and monitoring the implementation of the Brussels agreement – collaborative projects between NGOs and media.

In March, NGOs and media were invited to apply for collaborative projects that (1) investigate one of the agreements reached in Brussels between Kosovo and Serbia, (2) investigate and address issues that are not being discussed in Brussels but are nonetheless important to quality of life at the local level, (3) evaluate the transparency and accountability of local institutions, or (4) establish dialogue between different communities. Eighteen NGOs, along with their media partners, submitted applications in response to the invitation, with 11 projects in the end receiving support.

The individual projects can be classified into three categories: (1) projects that address the Brussels agreements, or topics that were not included in the agreements but that citizens think ought to have been included – in this category four projects received support, (2) Activism and participation – three projects received support, and (3) The north-south connection: what unites us (and what divides us) – four projects supported.

The number of beneficiaries directly included in all of the projects taken together was 4,416, but given that all of the projects had distinct media components, the number of indirect beneficiaries was many times higher. All of the projects and their activities were fully covered by the media, and in this way it could be verified that the activities actually took place. The media’s interest in the project activities went beyond the partners in the project. A number of activities, presentations of research/study results, and discussions also attracted the attention of Albanian-language media in Kosovo, as well as of other regional media that deal with topics from Kosovo and the region.

The great progress of NGO-media pairings in this project cycle has yielded encouraging results in collaboration between various groups of Serbs and Albanians. A concrete example is the Group of ecological and medical

experts, which realized a project on environmental protection. The project brought together colleagues and experts from South Mitrovica in partnership with TV Mitrovica. TV Mitrovica not only provided media coverage of the project activities but also directly participated in the realization of the activities. Another example is the realization of the project “Across the bridge,” in which two Serbian media from North Mitrovica and one Albanian medium from South Mitrovica were involved in organizing the media activities. The project had strong reverberations in the region as well, and has already started to travel throughout the region, in the form of results from a study on the perceptions of the bridge over the Ibri River.

Realized within the framework of these projects were 35 focus groups, ten conferences, and ten political studies/analyses. In addition, over 20 documentaries, spots, and televised debates were produced, along with 35 articles on web portals. A number of these studies have been used as a basis for preparing SporaZOOM shows, while some others will be used to for the program in 2018.

Currently in preparation are a publication with short descriptions of the funded projects, and the production of a documentary report on civic activism. Both of these products will be presented in a discussion held in the second half of February at the CEC in Mitrovica. The discussion will be held with project grantees, their partners, and the public.

The publication will include details of every project supported in 2017, and will be released in the middle of February 2018.

Challenges for this component in 2018 include: (1) encouraging collaboration between NGOs in the north and the south, as shown by the example of the project on environmental protection, and building on this experience, (2) finding even more powerful and innovative ways to reach citizens, for example, through the format of the Foundation’s Open 333 platform or through the method of presenting findings in video form, as in the project “Across the bridge,” (3) insisting on addressing “difficult” topics in new ways that are different from the classic roundtable discussion or television debate, finding attractive formats to entice citizens to take part actively on issues that are important to them.

Project/initiative	Grantee	Amount
The consequences of delays in integrating the judiciary – the situation and prospects	Center for Representation of Democratic culture	10.000
“... in the face”	Radio Kim media group	5.999
The Brussels agreement – unaddressed topics	Center for peace and tolerance	9.980
All-inclusive governance and increased citizen participation	New Social Initiative	10.820
North and south: cooperating in the resolution of similar problems	Herc International	8.900
Consolidating media, scientific, and civic capacities in the fight against pollution	Group of ecological and medical experts	10.880
Across the bridge: symbolism, freedom of movement, and security	Alternative Center for Conflict Resolution	11.300
Promotion and advocacy for increased youth participation	“Synergy” Education Center	8.050
Are we watching and how can we hear each other after the Brussels agreement? – Analysis of the Brussels agreements on energy and telecommunication	NGO Radio Mir	10.900
The right to language – the right to life	Communication for Social Development	8.070
Analysis of economic conditions in the north of Kosovo for the Brussels agreement – where are the job opportunities?	Institute for Territorial Economic Development	12.000
Advising on the “Sporazum” show and collaborative NGO-media projects	Stanko Pevac	7.200
The way of life of minorities	NGO Omonia	8.427
Designing and printing the publication of collaborative NGO-media projects (Bridge)	Operational	2.743
Translation of the publication (Bridge) into English	Bruno Neziraj	1.860
Translating and printing the work of Petrit Imami, “Albanians and Serbs through the centuries”	Samizdat doo	5.000



Transparency and Accountability

In 2017, the field of increasing the **transparency and accountability** of government institutions focused on (1) the system of public procurement in Kosovo, (2) the best possible preparation for international initiatives from which Kosovo society can benefit, Open Data as a part of the global initiative OGP (Open Government Partnership), and (3) EITI (Extractive Industry Transparency International). Contacts were also established with Publish What You Pay, an already well-known initiative of international NGOs working for accountability in the extraction sector. Three seminars were organized in this period, with wide participation by interest groups, governments, large companies, media, and civil society. In these initiatives, the Foundation has decided to collaborate closely with the MCC (Millennium Challenge Corporation) and the World Bank, which are interested in taking part in the initiatives.

The field of **increasing the transparency and accountability** of government institutions continued during the year to award grants to organizations, as provided for by the Strategy, specifically for projects aiming to increase integrity in the country. The following grants were awarded:

- *Çohu: Fighting political corruption by monitoring the justice system, analyzing changes in criminal law, preventing conflicts of interest, and advocacy*
 - Monitoring was completed, and in October the report was published, along with its findings.
 - Çohu was an active part of the inter-institutional working group for the amendment of the Criminal Code, and at the end of the year a report was produced that describes in detail the process of reviewing the highest and most important document in the field of criminal law.
 - Over 400 decisions of the ACA, forming a part of the process of preventing conflicts of interest, were analyzed; and problems with this process were identified and published in a pre-planned analysis.
- *Press Council of Kosovo – PCK: School of Journalistic Ethics*
 - At the end of May, the PCK held the first module of the School of Journalistic Ethics in a three-day session. The second session was organized in December 2017, whereas the last module is expected in January 2018.
- *The Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms – KMDLNJ: Transparency and accountability as a condition for the humane treatment of persons deprived of liberty, but also of correctional staff*
 - As a part of the advocacy project, KMDLNJ met with relevant actors, including the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. The KMDLNJ's recommendations and advocacy for improving the treatment of persons deprived of liberty has led to improvements in physical conditions, but also in the treatment of minors in some of Kosovo's Correctional Centers.
- *Riinvest Institute: Responding to development challenges – (1) economic challenges and (2) health therapy (urgent)*
 - The Riinvest Institute has focused this project on two areas, those of economic development and health. The main aim of the project has been to shed light on developments in these sectors, as well as to propose policy changes. Through these policies, more successful responses must be developed in the face of challenges that slow the pace of economic growth, and with the aim of promoting systematic medium-term measures for the effective reform of the health sector. The reports were presented at Forum 2015, on 1 November 2017.

List of projects of organizations supported by the pillar, Increasing the transparency and accountability of government institutions

Project Name	Grantee	Amount in Euros
Fighting political corruption by monitoring the justice system, analyzing changes in criminal law, preventing conflicts of interest, and advocacy	The Organization Çohu	29,050.00 €
Municipal accountability through transparent procurement	Kosovo Democratic Institute	27,059.00 €
Press Council of Kosovo - PCK	School of Journalistic Ethics	7,000.00 €
Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms - KMDLNj	Transparency and accountability as a condition for the humane treatment of persons deprived of liberty, but also of correctional staff	9,920.00 €
Other expenses		23,639.00 €
	Total	96,668.00 €

In the field of **Public Procurement**, we managed to found a coalition made up of seven partner organizations that work in the area of improving and advancing Kosovo's procurement system and in promoting open data. Two workshops were held: the first had the goal of identifying areas for intervention, whereas the second, in October of 2017, had the goal of developing an advocacy strategy based on the findings.

The following organizations received grants, for the topics described below:

- KDI: *Municipal accountability through transparent procurement*
 - The analysis was completed; and advocacy activities and televised debates with elected officials have begun.
 - Four infographics were produced in Prishtina, Peja, Rahovec, and Shtërpca (since Gjakova does not have a website). These infographics will be published after the election, in order that they not be interpreted as political messages, and in order to safeguard the comparative value of the project.
 - Three debates were held on KTV (Prishtina), TV Syri (Gjakova), as well as on Prizren TV Besa for Rahovec (in the absence of a local TV station in Rahovec). Problems were encountered in confirming participation for the debates in Peja and Shtërpca. Nonetheless, however, in the event that the debates are not realized, they will be held after the elections and the publication of the infographics, with participation by the mayor, civil society, and youth.
 - As a part of this project, KDI negotiated with MAPL to enable the municipalities to apply for the purchase of high-speed scanners, which would make it possible to scan and publish the contracts.
- Çohu: *Retrospective on public procurement, and the lack of political will on the part of investigatory institutions to deal with cases relating to public procurement*
 - The Organization for Democracy, Anti-Corruption and Dignity, Çohu!, monitored cases of this nature; it also conducted advocacy activities and interviews with head prosecutors from the basic prosecution offices and the Special Prosecutor's office, as well as other relevant actors.

- Even though the handling of corruption cases is considered a priority by prosecutors and courts, a considerable number of cases involving abuses in public procurement have remained undeveloped and completely untouched.
- During the monitoring and interview process, the Organization Çohu! identified two major problems relating to the effective and professional handling of public procurement cases: The failure to properly categorize cases having to do with public procurement, as well as professional shortcomings, such as: the lack of specific prosecutors and experts specializing in the area.
- Based on interviews held with the head prosecutors of the respective prosecution offices, it has come out that none of the basic prosecution offices had been placing cases relating to procurement into a special category; they are instead classified under the category of acts of official corruption and abuse of power. According to data provided by the prosecution offices upon the request of the organization Çohu! and other institutions, the categorization of such cases is now under way. This will make possible an overview of the status of these cases in the entire prosecutorial system.
- With respect to the issue of professional shortcomings, which have to do with the lack of specialization among prosecutors handling public procurement cases, as well as a lack of experts in the area, none of the prosecution offices has a prosecutor specializing in such cases. Most of the head prosecutors stated that they are continuously encountering problems in their efforts to handle public procurement cases in a professional manner, due to the lack of experts in the area. According to them, the expertise of public procurement experts is necessary for being able to more easily uncover and understand suspicions regarding abuses in these kinds of cases. This expertise would also help to improve the professionalism and efficiency with which such cases are handled.
- *Democracy +: Identifying and addressing repeated violations in procurement*
 - Insufficient monitoring of the execution of contracts
 - Oversight institutions in the area of public procurement, including the National Audit Office, the Public Procurement Regulatory Commission, and the Anti-Corruption Agency, have concluded that the monitoring of contracts is one of the weakest links in the public procurement process. This is because contracts reached with economic operators often are not fulfilled in compliance with the initial agreement. This state of affairs has been reached due to the meagerness of the funding allocated for overseeing the execution of contracts, as well as institutions' lack of professional capacities for monitoring the execution of contracts.
 - The failure to respect the formal recommendations of the National Audit Office and the Anti-Corruption Agency
 - Despite the fact that both the National Audit Office and the Anti-Corruption Agency undertake regular inspections of budgetary spending devoted to procurement, the majority of their recommendations nonetheless remain unaddressed, or only partially addressed, by Kosovo's ministries and municipalities. This state of affairs has resulted from the absence of obligatory mechanisms and a lack of will on the part of institutions to implement the recommendations and opinions.
 - Inadequate monitoring on the part of the PPRC in Public Procurement

- The Public Procurement Regulatory Commission is a regulatory institution for public procurement. Despite the fact that it has a full legal mandate to monitor public procurement, it conducts monitoring activities only very rarely, and then only in an ad hoc manner. This is due to the fact that it lacks qualified staff and that it is overburdened with other work that the institution performs, especially work that involves interpreting norms and maintaining the electronic procurement system.
- The FOL! Movement: *Increasing the accountability of institutions for their use of public funds (large-scale contracts in the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Infrastructure, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry were analyzed)*
 - The failure of the ministries to respond to requests for accessing documents was an issue that the FOL! Movement faced right from the beginning of the monitoring activities. In addition to delaying the process of obtaining the documents, this made it necessary to submit a complaint to the Ombudsperson against the Ministry of Infrastructure for failing to respond to a request for access to documents. After the involvement of the Ombudsperson, the Ministry of Infrastructure finally provided access to the documents in question.
 - The signing of contracts by uncertified officials was one of the main findings on which further advocacy is needed in order to prevent violations of the law on procurement. At the Ministry of Health, it was noticed that contracts with two economic operators were signed by the acting director of procurement, who is suspected not to have a procurement license.
 - Hesitation to provide all of the requested documents was encountered at two ministries. First, the problem of trade secrets and a reluctance to harm economic operators were offered as excuses. In addition, we did not manage to obtain from the Ministry of Health the plan for managing the monitored contract. In spite of our insistence and of our staying in continuous contact, we have not yet received a response regarding this document.
- INPO: *Promoting integrity in Public Procurement in the Municipalities (Ferizaj, Shtime, Prishtina)*

Processes for procuring identical services were analyzed in the three aforementioned municipalities. The report shows that

 - The drafting and management of contracts, the supervision of work, and thus the guarantee of quality, are among the main problems.
 - Price quotes: Economic operators offer different prices to different municipalities, e.g., asphalt is offered at different prices to Prishtina and Ferizaj, respectively.
 - Procurement planning is not done in an efficient manner.
 - Awarding multiple contracts to the same company within a single year increases the risk that work contracted to the company will not be completed on time or will not be of high quality.
- KDI: *Analysis of the consequences of the failure to evaluate the performance of Economic Operators in Public Procurement in Kosovo*
 - The investigation analyzed the consequences suffered by the Kosovo citizen due to the failure to evaluate Economic Operators and contract management. The following problems were identified in this area:
 - The need to amend/supplement the law and administrative instructions relating to: the process of contract management, the creation of instruments for evaluating compliance with contract conditions, as well as the need to compensate/penalize EOs

after the contract's conclusion.

- The report, entitled "Patched Investments," was presented in November 2017, whereas in early 2018, advocacy will be intensified on the basis of the project's findings, together with the project findings of other coalition partners. A short documentary film will be produced, as well as a short animation, which will be released during the coalition's first public appearance, sometime in early 2018.
- Advocacy will proceed along the following lines:
 - Advocacy relating to insurance against incomplete or low-quality work;
 - The need to advocate for increasing institutional and business accountability for the loss of public funds, which is also a violation of law according to the Kosovo Criminal Code.
 - Teaching citizens to demand accountability/compensation for damages caused by low-quality work in public projects.

In November 2017, the following grants were awarded to continue the work of the coalition in the areas of public procurement and open data. The grants will be implemented in 2018.

- Çohu: *Fighting corruption in Public Procurement through transparency, accountability, and open data*
- D+: *Accountability in Public Procurement*
- The FOL! Movement: Open data and increasing the transparency of institutions in the use of public funds
- INPO: *Promoting integrity in Public Procurement in the Municipalities (Ferizaj, Shtime, Prishtina) – Phase II*
- Columbus Institute: *Analysis of the consequences of the failure to evaluate the performance of Economic Operators in Public Procurement in Kosovo*
- KDI: *Citizens for efficient procurement and conscientious management of public funds*
- Balkan Tender Watch
 - As a part of a collaborative regional project, we have requested funds from the European Commission for a four-year project together with Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia, and Montenegro. The project has the goal of improving the integrity of procurement systems in the Balkans. The project has a budget reaching one million Euros and was approved at the end of December 2017. Its implementation will continue until 2021.

List of projects of organizations supported by the pillar, Public procurement

Project Name	Grantee	Amount in Euros
Planning workshop for the coalition for public procurement and open data	Operational	6,218.00 €
Retrospective on public procurement, and the absence of political will on the part of oversight institutions for handling cases related to public procurement	The Organization Çohu	6,500.00 €
Identifying and addressing repeated violations in procurement	Democracy +	3,460.00 €
Increasing the accountability of institutions for their use of public funds	FOL! Movement	4,940.00 €
Promoting the integrity of Public Procurement in the Municipalities (Ferizaj, Shtime, Prishtina)	Initiative for Progress - INPO	2,697.00 €
Analyzing the consequences of the failure to evaluate the performance of Economic Operators in Public Procurement in Kosovo	Kosovo Democratic Institute	3,580.00 €
Responding to development challenges: Economic challenges and – Health therapy (urgent)	Riinvest Institute	9,943.00 €
Planning workshop for the coalition for public procurement and open data	Operational	4,378.00 €
Fighting Corruption in Public Procurement through transparency, accountability, and open data	The Organization Çohu	15,900.00 €
Accountability in Public Procurement	Democracy +	16,650.00 €
Open data and increasing the transparency of institutions in their use of public funds	FOL! Movement	19,350.00 €
Promoting integrity in Public Procurement in the Municipalities (Ferizaj, Shtime, Prishtina) – Phase II	Initiative for Progress - INPO	9,112.00 €
Analyzing the consequences of the failure to evaluate the performance of Economic Operators in Public Procurement in Kosovo	Columbus Institute	7,300.00 €
Citizens for efficient procurement and conscientious management of public funds	Kosovo Democratic Institute	23,164.00 €
Harmful contracts in Kosovo	Riinvest Institute	8,975.00 €
Other expenses		45,753.00 €
	Total	187,920 €

With respect to the field of **open data** and **international initiatives for transparency in the extraction sector**, after the Foundation prepared an Action Plan for open data, the responsible institution – the Ministry of Public Administration – decided to push the initiative forward, allocating funds from its core budget to implement the Action Plan we worked to develop.

- Seeing that the Government has included the Open Data program in its strategy, the Foundation, from now on, will focus on monitoring the implementation of this plan, as well as on preparing civil-society organizations to use the data that are to be opened.
- EITI – we represented Kosovo in the meeting of the board of the secretariat in Oslo, where we presented on Kosovo’s work and achievements in this area. The participation of the Deputy Minister from the

Ministry of Economic Development, Ms. Besa Gashi, was expected, but her attendance had to be cancelled due to the political situation in the country. The chair of EITI's board was especially interested in the progress that Kosovo has achieved, and in one of their closed-door meetings, we were invited exclusively to make a presentation.

- Publish What You Pay – we established our first contacts with the organizers, and we will work during 2018 to include the coalition for public procurement and open data as a part of this initiative.

List of projects of organizations supported by the pillar, Open data and the EITI

Project Name	Grantee	Amount in Euros
Workshop - EITI - Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative	Operational	11,398.00 €
Workshop – Open Data	Operational	8,801.00 €
Other expenses		6,863.00 €
	Total	27.062.00 €



EUROPEAN PROGRAM

Anchoring Kosovo's public institutions to EU standards and policies

This program of the Foundation aims in its activities to further Kosovo's EU integration process as a means of promoting reforms in governance. Our efforts in this program are focused in two directions: (1) using the European perspective of Kosovo to advocate for reforms in the country, and (2) maintaining this perspective by strengthening Kosovo's connections with European states that do not recognize its statehood.

The contribution of NGOs to the process of the Stabilization and Association

Agreement

Political Failures in the Field of Education in Kosovo is a position paper prepared by analyst Besa Shahini. It is based on key priorities that the European Union has set out as a part of the European Reform Agenda for Kosovo, specifically in its third pillar, which deals with employment and education. The position paper was presented at Forum 2015: Issues holding back the Republic of Kosovo's development.

Deepening Knowledge about the EU develops modules from position papers produced by civil society organizations on the key themes of the European Reform Agenda (ARE) for Kosovo. These modules included the production of documents that compile findings from organizations on the themes in question, as well as the advocacy activities that followed. The advocacy was conducted by holding a public debate on these topics, and by using the Foundation's advocacy platforms to increase influence on policymaking.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo analyzed the economic aspects of EU integration by developing two modules on topics such as: the informal economy, public procurement, fighting corruption, confronting increased market pressure, education and new jobs, and cyber-security.

- Three position papers were produced for discussion during the modules' workshops. These documents were included in the advocacy instrument, "Recommendations for Developing the Private Sector," which the Chamber has sent to the country's institutions.
- Two workshops lasting two or three days were held with representatives of institutions, businesses, NGOs, and media. At these workshops, international and local experts lectured on best practices in Europe relating to the workshop's topics. The first workshop addressed the topics of The Informal Economy, Public Procurement, and the Fight against Corruption from the perspective of businesses. The second workshop addressed topics such as Education, Future Jobs and Cyber-security.
- Three advocacy forums were held with stakeholders and with alumni of modules that were held in previous years; these forums addressed the following themes: (1) the rule of law and economic development, (2) knowledge gaps, especially in the sectors of production, trade, and services, and (3) cyber-security.

The Group for Legal and Political Studies has analyzed the three key priorities of the Reform of the Public Administration, advocating for the importance of the legislative package on the civil service, salaries, and the organization of the state administration.

- A three-day workshop was held with representatives from the Ministry of Public Administration, the Ministry of Finance, and the Administration of the Assembly. At this workshop, experts from the country and the region moderated a discussion of the position paper produced by the GLPS on the Reform

of the Public Administration. This workshop was divided into two parts, which were held in parallel to each other. The main part of the workshop focused on (1) drafting a framework of action to push forward the concept documents and their recommendations for reforming public administration; the other part of the workshop was dedicated specifically to (2) the integrity of the administration of the Assembly of Kosovo.

The Organization for Democracy, Anti-Corruption, and Dignity, Çohu! conducted analysis, monitoring, and advocacy as a part of the fight against corruption and organized crime.

- Four analyses were produced on priority topics specified by the EU in the ARE: (1) Preventing Conflicts of Interest, (2) Financing Political Parties, (3) Declarations of Assets, and (4) the Confiscation of Assets
- A three-day workshop was held, together with the Kosovo Democratic Institute, on the issue of preventing conflicts of interest
- A four-day workshop was held in cooperation with the organization KRIK from Belgrade; the workshop discussed the best-proven methods of investigative journalism on the topics of financing political parties, declarations of assets, and the confiscation of assets.
- The organization Çohu was also assisted in further developing its advocacy on the topic of Financing Political Parties through a video that will be produced at the beginning of the year 2018.

The Kosovo Democratic Institute, in cooperation with the organization Çohu!, has strengthened the legal definition of conflicts of interest for senior officials. It has also analyzed the progress of the Government of Kosovo in implementing the new electronic procurement platform.

- A three-day workshop was held, along with the organization Çohu and representatives of Transparency International, on European experiences in the area of preventing conflicts of interest. The aim of the workshop was to make a contribution to amending the law on conflicts of interest.
- An analysis was produced on the implementation of the Government's decision on the use of electronic procurement; and at the beginning of November 2017, a three-day workshop was organized on EU experiences with e-procurement, with a special emphasis on the case of Slovakia. Gabriel Sipos from Transparency International Slovakia was invited to participate.

EC Ma Ndryshe has mobilized existing resources in Kosovo to advocate for a structured urban platform in the area of urban planning and development for the city of Prizren.

- A three-day workshop was held on the topic of European standards for sustainable urban development. The workshop was held for officials, students, and spatial-planning professionals in Kosovo, featuring lectures by local and international experts.
- A roundtable discussion was held on the topic of urban chaos in Kosovo cities and on the lack of accountability in the construction sector. An advocacy video on this topic was posted on the Open 333 platform, under the title of "The Historical Center of Prizren." The video featured Nora Arapi Krasniqi, Sali Shoshi, and Edon Mullafetahu, who are experts on cultural heritage, territorial and developmental planning, and the rule of law.
- Measurements in the terrain are under way, with the aim of identifying and mapping out all urbanization issues and problems in the city of Prizren. This is being done through surveys, data processing, and the production of short analyses within the framework of the project.

Democracy Plus has shed light on the Assembly's exercise (or failure to exercise) its constitutional role as leg-

islators and representatives, as well as its role in the supervision of Independent Agencies.

- Two position papers have been produced: one of them has conducted (1) a general evaluation of the institutional independence of Kosovo's independent agencies, and the other has evaluated (2) parliamentary oversight, with a focus on independent agencies. The papers address the role and responsibilities of the Assembly as well as the mechanisms by which it supervises independent agencies.
- Democracy Plus presented and discussed these papers in the workshop "How independent Kosovo's Independent Institutions." Along with civil-society representatives, Deputies from the Assembly discussed the issues raised by D+'s papers.
- The organization was assisted in continuing its work with independent agencies, in advocating for transparency in the selection of board members, and in fighting against political appointments to these boards.

The Kosovo Center for Security Studies aimed to analyze the state of Kosovo's efforts to penetrate into the international arena, including here membership in international organizations/mechanisms focusing on the security sector.

- A workshop was held under the title "Kosovo in the face of security risks, membership in international organizations, and the dialogue with Serbia." Invited were high-level representatives from institutions and civil society. The workshop discussed topics such as the challenges and possibilities for Kosovo's accession to international organizations, the redefinition of foreign security challenges in the context of Kosovo, as well as the transformation of the KSF from the perspective of Kosovo's minorities.

The Kosovo Advocacy Development Centre was engaged in protecting public health from air pollution caused by the release of gases and pollutants from automobiles. It did this by advocating for the adoption of policies regulating the import and circulation of automobiles. It has specifically called for Kosovo to move in the direction of European Union policies on the protection of air quality, on the basis of European standards for limiting the emissions of toxic gases from automobiles.

Project Name	Grantee	Amount in Euros
Deepening Knowledge about the European Union: The Business Sector	American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo	9,650,00€
OEAK Workshop 1: The Informal Economy, Public Procurement and Fighting Corruption from the perspective of businesses	Operational	8,388,00€
OEAK Workshop 2: Education and Future Jobs, Cyber-security	Operational	5,620,00 €
EU Policies: The three most urgent issues in Public Administration	Group for Legal and Political Studies	6,400,00 €
GLPS Workshop 1: The integrity of employees of the Administration of the Assembly of Kosovo: General Principles for integrity and best practices	Operational	4,439,00 €
GLPS Workshop 2: Strengthening public discourse on European Integration policy: Designing a framework of action	Operational	2,745,00 €
EU School for investigative journalism: Organized crime and corruption	Organization for Democracy, Anti-Corruption, and Dignity, Çohu!	11,700,00 €
Çohu! Workshop 2: Financing political parties, confiscation of assets, and declaration of assets	Operational	12,148,00 €
Strengthening accountability using European experiences	Kosovo Democratic Institute	8,000,00 €
KDI Workshop 1 (together with Çohu!): Conflicts of Interest	Operational	7,469,39 €
KDI Workshop 2: E-procurement in Kosovo and European experiences in improving practices	Operational	7,805,12 €
Deepening European Knowledge on Urban Planning and Development	EC Ma Ndryshe	14,950,00 €
EC Ma Ndryshe Workshop 1: Sustainable Urban Development	Operational	7,603,75 €
Strengthening the integrity of the Assembly of Kosovo and Independent Agencies	Democracy Plus	8,000.00 €
Democracy Plus Workshop 1: How independent are Kosovo's Independent Institutions?	Operational	6,440.87 €
The impact of the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue on the regional perspective in the EU integration process	Kosovo Center for Security Studies	7,000.00 €
KCSS Workshop 1: Kosovo in the face of security risks, membership in international organizations, and the dialogue with Serbia	Operational	8,705.00 €
Air quality protection – The adoption of European standards	Kosovo Advocacy Development Centre	12,500.00 €
Advocating increased supervision over the work of Kosovo's independent institutions	Democracy Plus	9,000.00 €
Production of the video "Financing Political Entities"	Organization for Democracy, Anti-Corruption, and Dignity, Çohu!	8,700.00 €

Monitoring the European Integration Process: Kosovo-EU Relations

The Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue is an issue on which the Foundation has been working to create synergy among civil-society organizations, with the aim of securing greater latitude for consensus in the society as a whole. A lack of progress, as well as increasingly frequent confrontations between the various sides, both within Kosovo as well as between Kosovo and Serbia, has produced an environment conducive to rethinking the entire process. For this reason, the Foundation organized a two-day workshop at the beginning of 2017, which included representatives of civil-society organizations and individual experts. Held in February of this year, the workshop aimed at developing a unified platform that could address topics concerning the future of the dialogue, as well as the alternatives available to Kosovo in this process. In line with these efforts, an advocacy video was released in February of this year under the title “Restarting the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue: Have we gotten on the wrong train?” The video was posted on the Open 333 platform. Featuring contributions from Florian Qehaja of the Kosovo Center for Security Studies, Naim Rashiti of the Balkan Group for Policy Studies, and Sonja Stojanović of the Belgrade Center for Security Policy, the video addresses topics such as the hostile dynamic that emerged between the two states at the beginning of 2017, the inclusion of Presidents Thaçi and Vučić in the dialogue, and the future of the dialogue, which now looks to have stagnated.

In Search of Consensus: A proposal

In an effort to discover a formula for compromise that could be supported both by Kosovar society and the majority of the parliamentary groups, the analyst Agron Bajrami prepared an analysis of this issue in September of 2017. The analysis, entitled “In Search of Consensus,” describes the moment at which Kosovo finds itself in the process of the Brussels dialogue, and discusses issues that must be re-examined by the country before continuing any further in talks with Serbia.

Forum 2015: The end of the dialogue – What Kosovo can expect from this process

In order to advocate for a more comprehensive approach to the process of the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue, Forum 2015 organized a discussion panel at the end of September 2017. Featuring panelists with a solid background in addressing the relationship between the main actors in this dialogue – Albin Kurti, Veton Surroi, David Phillips and Bosko Jaksic – the discussion sought to pave the way for thinking about how the final agreement between Kosovo and Serbia ought to look. Against this background, the discussion mapped out possible scenarios for the future of the dialogue, touching on important aspects that will determine its success or failure.

Normalization and the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue

The Group for Legal and Political Studies was provided support to analyze essential issues that must be addressed in the dialogue as a part of a new framework for the talks. In light of some of the main criticisms that have been made of this process – the continuing lack of transparency, the lack of comprehensiveness, as well as the absence of a strategic vision for final expectations in the dialogue –these stumbles have served to aggravate relations, both within the country and with the other party in the dialogue. For this reason, GLPS has committed to publishing three analyses that will bring together high-level participants to discuss recommendations that come out of them.

- **The Political Forum for Dialogue** is a civil-society initiative that the GLPS proposed in the analysis and roundtable it held at the end of December 2017. The Forum would serve as an informal platform bringing together representatives of civil society, parliamentary groups, as well as personalities and

individuals from the political arena and from institutions. The aim of this forum would be to forge consensus among these parties on the key points determining the progress of the dialogue. These points, in broad strokes, are: (1) issues that Kosovo should put forth for discussion in the dialogue, (2) issues that Kosovo should not put on the table in the dialogue, and (3) framing Kosovo’s position on the final agreement, including here the internal dialogue with Kosovo Serbs. These points were discussed at a roundtable organized with the heads of the parliamentary groups, Avdullah Hoti from LDK, Ahmet Isufi from AAK, Bilall Sherifi from Nisma, and Glauk Konjufca from the Self-Determination Movement.

- At the end of January and in the middle of February, GLPS will come out with two other analyses that will be the subject of discussion with the main stakeholders, that is, with high-level representatives of political parties and with the appointees of institutions dealing with issues relating to the dialogue. The first analysis, **“What does Serbia really seek”** addresses the internal dialogue within Serbia, Serbia’s obstruction of Kosovo’s accession to international organizations (UNESCO, Interpol), as well as Serbia’s “offer” of a seat to Kosovo in the UN. Likewise, the analysis touches upon the idea of dividing Kosovo and/or the exchange of territory. The analysis also considers the possibility of Serbia recognizing Kosovo. The final analysis, which will be entitled **“The connection between the European integration process and the Brussels dialogue,”** will analyze the dialogue considered as a means of integrating Kosovo (and Serbia) into the EU. The analysis will come precisely at the time when the EU is slated to publish a new strategy for the Western Balkans, in which the dialogue will be cited as one of the key points in the process of integrating Kosovo (and also Serbia) into the EU.

The new moment for EU enlargement: What Kosovo can gain

In line with developments expected in 2018, the European Commission will issue its Strategy for renewing the enlargement process. On this occasion, the Foundation, in collaboration with Augustin Palokaj and Gjeraqina Tuhina, has addressed the issue of what advantages Kosovo can gain from this strategy. Together, they have analyzed the possibilities and circumstances opened up by the EU’s new approach to candidate countries, or potential candidates, from the Western Balkan region.

Project Name	Grantee	Amount in Euros
Meeting with representatives of civil-society organizations on the topic of the dialogue	Operational	8,397.00 €
In Search of Consensus: A proposal	Agron Bajrami	1,289.47 €
Normalization and the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue	Group for Legal and Political Studies	10,970.00 €
The new moment for EU enlargement: What Kosovo can gain	Augustin Palokaj, Gjeraqina Tuhina	4,000 €

CONNECTING WITH EUROPE

1. Developing knowledge about the new state in Southeast Europe: Foreign and domestic policy in Kosovo

This regional-level project has the aim of filling a gap in the basic knowledge that some countries in the Balkan region have regarding contemporary Kosovo. In a number of previous projects (for example, in those implemented by ELIAMEP and CRPE) it became clear that countries that do not recognize Kosovo or that have limited interaction with it, or both, suffer from a serious lack of professional, non-stereotypical studies on the newly independent state. Indeed, public debate is still dominated by myths and stereotypes that have circulated since the beginning of the Yugoslavian crisis about 25 years ago. This project had the goal of partly addressing this problem, but also of helping young and dynamic researchers produce new knowledge about modern Kosovo. In addition, the project had the aims of gaining exposure on the behalf of 16 regional researchers with direct experience in Kosovo, coordinating researchers from Kosovo and other countries, as well as gradually putting together a unified network of researchers. During 2017, after the advocacy plan was compiled and the results distributed in countries where the European researchers worked (16 doctoral students in seven states), concrete advocacy activities were organized. These activities will continue even beyond the implementation period, supported by media campaigns and social media.

- In June, a two-day conference was organized in Athens under the title of “Unknown Balkans,” with the purpose of presenting the project’s findings and more. Kosovo was the main topic, but regional issues were also included, such as the dispute over the name of Macedonia, security in the Balkans, the influence of Turkey, etc. Participants included authors, professors, and eminent policymakers from Greece, along with professors from Macedonia, Turkey, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, to enrich the program with cultural events, we screened the film “Home,” as well as a short documentary about Kosovo. The documentary was produced by journalists from Cyprus, whom we had invited to write about Kosovo and about the 2016 edition of the festival “Dokufest” in Prizren.
- In June, all of the papers were compiled into a 425-page book, which was published at the end of July.
- In September, ten copies of the book were sent by mail to each researcher and supervisor, who then deposited a number of them in the libraries of the universities from which they came.
- In September, four of the project’s researchers participated in one of the largest annual academic conferences, UACES, held in Krakow, with a special discussion session announcing the findings and promoting the book.
- The publication was also sent to the Balkan Academic News (BAN) network, which includes over 1,300 researchers, activists, government officials, students, and others who deal with the Balkans or who are interested in Balkan issues.

In the beginning of 2018:

- The book will be placed in several university libraries in Europe.
- A joint publicity activity will be held in Bucharest to conclude the project.

2. Lack of engagement? An overview of EU member states’ policies toward Kosovo

The next project is one that brings together ten European experts to assess and advocate for the diplo-

matic position of Kosovo vis-à-vis EU member states that have not recognized Kosovo’s statehood, but also vis-à-vis those that have recognized it but have not proven to be supportive. The project came out with its first results in December 2017.

- At the beginning of 2017, the authors were brought to Kosovo to hold meetings with relevant actors and to collect information for their work.
- In December 2017, all of the project’s researchers came to Prishtina, where, during a four-day stay, a number of advocacy activities were organized. A Policy Paper with the title “Lack of engagement? Surveying the spectrum of EU member state policies toward Kosovo” was presented as the first product of the project. A roundtable was held in North Mitrovica, in the spaces of the Civic Energy Center, where participants included representatives of NGOs and media from North Mitrovica. Forum 2015 was organized, on the occasion of which the findings were presented before an audience of more than 100 people, including Minister Behgjet Pacolli. Forum 2015 was broadcast directly on KTV and live-streamed on the Foundation’s Facebook page. Also included as in the activities was a visit by the entire group to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where we were welcomed by the Deputy Minister, Mr. Anton Berisha, and his team. In the evening, a conversation was organized between the academic coordinator of the project, Mr. James Ker-Lindsay, and the publisher Mr. Vetton Surroi. The conversation was filmed by KTV and broadcast a week later.
- Two Open 333 videos were made about the positions of some of the project’s participating states, and they were released on the Foundation’s online advocacy platform – Open 333.

Until the end of the year and the beginning of next year:

- The papers will be compiled into a book, which is slated to be published by a well-known publishing house in Great Britain during the spring of 2018.

List of projects of organizations supported by the pillar, “Let’s join with Europe”

Project Name	Grantee	Amount in Euros
Lack of engagement? Surveying the spectrum of EU member state policy toward Kosovo	Operational	52,077.00 €
Two-day conference “Unknown Balkans – Ballkani i panjohur” in Athens	Operational	22,233.00 €
Academic conference UACES in Krakow	Operational	4,513.00 €

55 Shades of Gay

This controversial show, addressing the politics of the LGBTI community in the Balkans and Europe, was produced by the Multimedia Center with the support of the Foundation. It was shown as a part of the International Theater Festival, “Desire,” held in Subotica, Serbia, in November of 2017. The project in question gave a push to the discourse on LGBT issues in the region’s artistic sphere, a discourse that has heretofore been lacking. Employing art as a means of promoting important causes and messages, the show served to open debate outside the confines of conservatism and homophobia. Furthermore, the show deepened communication and cultural cooperation among artists from Serbia and Kosovo.

Mirëdita, dobar dan!

The festival “Mirëdita, dobar dan!”, held at the beginning of June 2017 in Belgrade, has now been transformed into a platform for meetings and cultural exchanges between the two countries. This edition brought together participants from Kosovo and Serbia, who had the opportunity to see artistic performances, internationally renowned films about the Kosovo war, theatrical shows, as well as an address by the ex-President of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga, about survivors of sexual violence during the Kosovo war. This festival received positive reviews by media and progressive intellectuals in Belgrade, but it also prompted reactions from extreme-right organizations, who shouted nationalist messages at guests. However, by opening discussion on such topics, the festival’s participants and organizers expressed their determination to continue further with such activities, which critically assess relations between Serbia and Kosovo from the perspective of the past, as well as consider the prospects for cooperation in the future.

Autostrada Biennale was supported in its mission to organize an art festival that sought to transform the relationships between artists, the spaces in which they work, and the communities in which they live. The festival managed to achieve this by highlighting the social, political, economic, and aesthetic conditions affecting daily life beyond the world of art. The festival attempted to transform the city of Prizren itself into a museum and a place of harmony. Artists from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Spain, and other countries descended upon the city to complete their artistic residence, as well as to participate in research programs and panel discussions on issues such as borders in society, cultural diversity, and social justice.

Fashion Beauty Love is a project of the organization “Medea” that attempts to put artistic communities to use and to transform them into spaces conducive to collaboration. The project attempted to bring cultural communities in Bosnia and Kosovo closer together.

The Case Study on “Beyond” marks the twentieth anniversary of the famous exhibition “Beyond,” held in the Center for Cultural Contamination in Belgrade. Building on the experiences and capacities of cultural organizations in Kosovo and Serbia, the project addresses issues such as the lack of institutional support for creativity and youth engagement, and absence of efforts to pass memories on to younger generations. It addresses these issues by encouraging artists from Serbia, Kosovo, and the region of the former Yugoslavia to use their memories and experiences of an extended positive collaboration, to articulate artistic responses and to lift up the context of their work into the broader contexts of the region and Europe.

The Other Serbia is a project that has aimed to collect statements from Serbian intellectuals (from the revocation of Kosovo autonomy until the entry of NATO troops into Kosovo) against the Slobodan Milosevic regime and in defense of Kosovo Albanians. Likewise, statements were collected from Albanian intellectuals, from 1999 until the riots of March 2004, in defense of the Serbian minority. The statements were then compiled and arranged in chronological order. They are now being prepared for publication in three separate volumes: Albanian, Serbian, and English.

List of projects of organizations supported by the pillar, "Let's join with Europe"

Project Name	Grantee	Amount in Euros
Lack of engagement? Surveying the spectrum of EU member state policies towards Kosovo	Operational	52,077.00 €
Two-day conference "Unknown Balkans – Ballkani i panjohur" in Athens	Operational	22,233.00 €
Academic Conference UACES in Krakow	Operational	4,513.00 €
Case study "Beyond" – 20 years	Kosovo 2.0	10,000.00 €
Mirëdita, dobar dan!	Integra	20,000.00 €
Autostrada Biennale	Autostrada Biennale	7,500.00 €
The Other Serbia	Admovere	7,000.00 €
Fashion, Beauty, Love	Medea	8,176.00 €
50 Shades of Gay	Multimedia Center	2,130.00 €
Art Studio for Fahrije and Bajram Mehmeti	Rritu	2,000.00 €
Exhibit "Beside the wound from which pain spills"	Admovere	6,000.00 €

HIGHER EDUCATION

Challenging Corruption in Higher Education

The field that aims to improve integrity at the University of Prishtina began implementation for the first time this year. Much work has been done in defining activities, specifying adequate dynamics of action, as well as finding and preparing partners who will lead the activities. The objectives toward which this program has worked are: (1) Sectorial analysis of the most glaring problems at the University of Prishtina, (2) Selecting organizations and social/civic networks that work on reforming the University, and mobilizing them around a unified action plan, (3) Collecting permanent data on the most common abuses of the administrative and academic staff, as well as the publication of these data in the country's media. Supporting investigative journalism organizations in this area, (4) Supporting international experts that will analyze academic promotions from a neutral perspective on the basis of the quality of doctoral theses, (5) Promoting investigative findings, both in the media and in meetings/advocacy conferences organized for this purpose.

The Founding of the Coalition for Integrity and Transparency in the University

All the preparatory meetings conducted with partners have pointed toward the need to create an informal Coalition of civil-society organizations that have expertise and experience in higher-education issues. With this aim, the Coalition was founded on 14 April, under the name of the Coalition for Integrity and Transparency in the University. The members of this Coalition are: the Kosovo Education Center, the Organization for Improving Education Quality, the Encompass Center, the Center for Political Courage, the Organization Çohu!, S'Bunker, Democracy for Development, the NGO Admovere, and the EdGuard Institute.

KITU's mission is to contribute to improving transparency and accountability in Kosovo's higher-education system, and in particular at the University of Prishtina. In less than one year, the coalition has managed to produce a series of studies and reports. It also took further steps to increase awareness about various issues related to academic integrity, a topic that has finally become a subject of public debate in Kosovo. KITU has won a reputation as a fierce advocate against all forms of academic abuse, and it is recognized as such by all relevant actors in Kosovo, including by the broader public, the media, higher-education institutions, students, and government agencies with responsibility over this domain.

KITU's Advocacy

After the founding of the Coalition, a work plan was drafted. The first areas in which grants were awarded to organizations were: a retrospective on the state of UP, comprehensive research on the state of UP, politicization, plagiarism, the lack of literature – photocopies, the failure of instructors to show up to class, the enormous income of a number of professors, the purchase and sale of diplomas, cheating on examinations, auditors' reports on UP, the work of the Governing Board and the Senate, and the monitoring of Senate sessions.

The advocacy performed by member organizations of the Coalition has been fairly diverse, ranging from presenting research findings at press conferences, to producing documentaries that bear witness to the violations and abuses taking place at the University of Prishtina. All of the grants that have been awarded have yielded concrete and well-argued facts.

There were two key events toward which a large portion of the activities undertaken during the year were directed: the International Conference on Academic Integrity, and the roundtable at Forum 2015. After the drafting of the advocacy plan, which was elaborated together with the Coalition, the conference and the Forum 2015 roundtable were organized to serve as central opportunities for advocating most of the achieved results. The conference organized by ORCA brought a special element that may open a new prospect for

development in future years. A prominent guest at the conference, held at the beginning of December, was Jeffrey Beall, who during his speech gave the following assessment of ORCA: *One organization that has taken the lead in exposing suspicious journals is ORCA. Its work has been exemplary; and other states and universities – including my own – should follow its example. It defends scientific and research integrity by helping to alert researchers to suspicious journals and helping researchers to avoid them.*

On 22 November, the roundtable of Forum 2015 was held under the title “Transparency and Integrity at the University of Prishtina – A Mosaic.” At this roundtable, findings from research completed in 2017 were presented, such as: a retrospective on the state of UP, comprehensive research on the state of UP, politicization, plagiarism, the lack of literature – photocopies, the failure of instructors to show up to class, the enormous income of a number of professors, the purchase and sale of diplomas, cheating on examinations, auditors’ reports on UP, the work of the Governing Board and the Senate, and the monitoring of Senate sessions. In addition, an animation, as well as a documentary by Çohu! on the purchase and sale of diplomas, were presented. In attendance was a large presence of civil-society organizations, media, professors, and students.

In December, Anti-Corruption Week was organized. The organization Çohu, which led this event, will present its project findings on the purchase and sale of diplomas and on cheating in examinations. These are the results of its work within the framework of the Coalition. The Week also provided an opportunity to promote the Coalition.

With the aim of broadening collaboration, the Coalition is working together with regional organizations and networks, with a focus on initiatives that strengthen students and the networking of student organizations. Students are the primary stakeholders in higher education and therefore must be reinforced. The exposure of student groups to examples of best practices in other countries, the facilitation of cooperation and exchange with similar groups in the region, as well as cooperation with local civil-society organizations, will all contribute to building students’ capacities to confront challenges in an effective manner.

In order to increase the Coalition’s influence on decision-makers and citizens, the Foundation has reached an agreement with the Koha Group, according to which the Group will broadcast/publish in its media all the topics that are addressed within the framework of the Coalition, as well as those addressed within the framework of organizations being supported outside the framework of the Coalition.

KITU’s reactions to current developments at UP

Shortly after the Coalition’s first appearances before the public, institutions and donors began to request meetings, seeking opportunities to collaborate. This was an indication that the Coalition managed to build, in a very short time, a positive and trustworthy public image. Many meetings have been convened between members of the Coalition and a considerable number of stakeholders. Likewise, the Coalition came out with a number of reactions to developments that were then taking place at UP. The first reaction was in response to the removal of board members from the Agency for Accreditation. In its reaction, the Coalition demanded that the Government justify these removals, as well as to fulfill its legal obligation to report to the Assembly regarding them. In addition, it demanded a lawful and transparent selection process for new members of this institution. The other reaction was in regard to political interference at UP.

The Coalition will continue to monitor processes that are closely connected to academic integrity, such as the academic-promotions process. Corrupt practices in higher education, academic dishonesty, and plagiarism will be highlighted and denounced. Furthermore, it will be advocated that the University set up effective procedures for ensuring transparency and accountability and for defending academic integrity. With this aim in mind, support was given, and will continue to be given, to investigations that can provide a solid basis for evidence-based advocacy. This will serve both to raise awareness on issues relating to academic integrity and to reinforce student groups in dealing with such issues from the position of representing clients.

Below are summaries of the reports submitted by each grantee.

NGO Admovere

Retrospective report: The State of UP “The professors pretend to lecture and the students pretend to study”

The aim of this analysis is to survey the main problems the University of Prishtina (UP) has faced, from the end of the war until today. With this aim in mind, various documents and strategies drafted by UP were analyzed, along with laws on higher education passed by the Assembly of Kosovo, reports, analyses, studies conducted by various NGOs on UP, progress reports of the European Commission (KE), etc.

Based on the analysis of the aforementioned documents, it was revealed that UP faces the following problems: unqualified academic staff; selection of academic staff on the basis of party / clan / nepotism / corruption; undeserved academic promotions; plagiarism; the lack of programmatic plans that are coherent and related to the needs of the economy and society in general; the lack of scientific journals; the failure to pay for international scientific journals; the lack of libraries; mandatory texts that are outdated; the lack of evaluation of professors by students, and the evaluation of students by professors using outdated methods; excessive numbers of students vis-à-vis the number of professors and available physical space; and politicized student organizations.

This analysis is especially important, because it makes it possible to measure developmental trends, both in the administration of UP and in matters of academic integrity.

Organization for the Improvement of Education Quality - ORCA

Project for increasing integrity and academic ethics at UP:

Goal: To improve academic responsibility and accountability at the University of Prishtina through investigative techniques and civic pressure

Beginning in March, ORCA investigated 35 bulletins published on the UP website. In these 35 bulletins, 131 candidates for professorial positions recommended positively by evaluative committees were investigated. ORCA compiled three reports that were sent to senators in advance of the Senate's meetings, in order to ensure that senators would not vote to promote meritless professors. Out of the 131 candidates, ORCA evaluated 57 of them positively and 74 of them negatively. As a result of pressure brought on by the reports that were delivered in advance of the meetings, the Senate promoted only four of the candidates we evaluated negatively and rejected the other 70. This represents a vast improvement on earlier situations, in which all candidates were promoted without verification. ORCA has published an analysis of this process.

In June, ORCA began investigating the CVs of all UP academic staff holding a professorial title. It completed the investigation in September, having investigated altogether 481 professors. According to the resulting report, 72% of current professors do not merit their academic titles.

ORCA organized three public congratulatory events for meritorious professors promoted in the last competition. The first event was organized on 28 July, across from the National Library, and introduced 23 assistant professors that were meritoriously promoted in the last competition, where merit was judged according to number of academic publications.¹ The second event was organized on 2 August at the National Library, and introduced 11 associate professors meritoriously promoted in the last competition.² And the third event was organized on 15 August, again at the National Library, and introduced 12 full professors meritoriously promoted in the last competition.³

1 <http://orca-ks.org/sq/2017/07/28/orca-pergezoni-profesorit-asistent-meritore-te-avancuar-ne-konkursin-e-fundit/>

2 <http://orca-ks.org/sq/2017/08/02/orca-publikon-emrat-e-profesoreve-te-asocuar-meritore/>

3 <http://orca-ks.org/sq/2017/08/15/orca-pergezoni-profesorit-e-rregullt-meritore-te-avancuar-ne-konkursin-e-fundit/>

During this reporting period, ORCA organized three meetings with stakeholders. The first meeting was held between representatives of the university and representatives of ORCA. ORCA representatives presented data from three of its analyses: an analysis of the bulletins, an analysis of department chairs, and an analysis of the Faculty of Education. Another topic of discussion was ORCA's lawsuit against the University regarding its regulation on external collaborators. The regulation itself was also discussed. In the second meeting participants included professors from the fields of Albanian language and literature, Albanian history, and the arts, along with representatives from ORCA. ORCA presented a guide to publication in these fields, including a list of platforms and journals that accept papers in these areas.⁴ In the third meeting, a discussion was held between legal advisors, education experts, and ORCA on recommendations for an administrative instruction, to be issued by the Ministry, that specifies standards for academic papers and clarifies what constitutes an international academic journal.

Impact of this project:

The Minister of Education issued Administrative Instruction 1/2018, which regulates the matter of academic promotion. This administrative instruction came directly as a result of ORCA's advocacy. ORCA sponsored the first version of the draft and cooperated closely with the Minister in shaping the final version.

In February 2017, ORCA began investigating the bulletins for the competition for selection of academic staff. ORCA investigated 131 professors, 74 of whom were negatively evaluated due to the fact that they did not fulfill minimum criteria relating to academic publications. Only four of these candidates were subsequently promoted by the Senate.

A phenomenon that is in principle illegal emerged during the promotion process: 35 professors were reappointed by the Senate with their existing academic titles. Because of this, ORCA has submitted two complaints to the Education Inspectorate at the Ministry of Education.

A case was also filed before the Ethics Council against Professor Enver Hasani, who has been criminally sentenced by a Kosovo court. ORCA has demanded that ethical principles be applied in this case, which require that this professor's contract be revoked.

Project for monitoring the effectiveness of teaching at the University of Prishtina

Goal: Using monitoring to increase transparency and instructors' accountability for the effectiveness of the teaching process and for their presence at the University

ORCA monitored the office hours of 86 professors from the Faculties of Philosophy, Law, and Economics, on the basis of the official schedule and the official webpage (those who are listed on the faculties' webpages, and those that are included in the official schedules). Then, ORCA monitored a total of 1177 lectures in the three faculties. The lectures were monitored on the basis of the official schedule. Finally, ORCA also monitored 60 examinations in the three faculties. ORCA compiled two reports based on the findings of its monitoring, under the title "The Slackers of Hasan Prishtina." The first report deals with office hours,⁵ whereas the second analyzes lectures, examinations, and survey results.⁶ Upon the publication of the first report, on 24 May, students were invited exclusively to discuss the findings of the monitoring and the quality of teaching in general. Upon the publication of the second report, on 14 July, various stakeholders were invited, such as students, civil-society organizations, members of KITU – the Coalition for Transparency and Integrity in the University, media, etc.

4 http://orca-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Udh%C3%ABzim-p%C3%ABr-publikim-n%C3%AB-revista-shkencore_final.pdf

5 http://orca-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Raporti-i-Monitorimit_Interactive.pdf

6 http://orca-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Dembelet-e-H.P.2_Final_Shqip.pdf

The impact of this project:

One effect of ORCA's work is that the administration of UP has admitted to the reality of the irregularities evidenced by ORCA (even though the deans of three of the monitored faculties deny this). In addition, the administration is in the process of implementing a project for electronically monitoring the class attendance of professors. Another success is that awareness has been raised about problems surrounding the effectiveness of teaching at UP. And this awareness-building is measurable: 51 instances of media coverage; 276 likes, 11 shares, 4378 views of the video of the roundtables and Facebook stories; and 867 clicks to the report on ORCA's website.

Other Activities:

1. ORCA has also sent letters to donors, stakeholders, and embassies. In these letters it expresses its worries about developments in higher education at the University of Prishtina.

2. The Executive Director of ORCA, Rron Gjinovci, took part in an international anti-plagiarism conference held in Brno, Czech Republic in May, where he also met with Jeffrey Beall, the founder of a global movement that promotes academic integrity by unmasking predatory journals masquerading as genuine academic publications. ORCA's methodology is based on Beall's. Beall also took part in ORCA's conference, which was held in December.

3. ORCA visited various student groups and organizations that deal with the issue of education in Macedonia. ORCA staff, along with student activists, made several visits to organizations in the country. During these visits they exchanged experiences in civic and student activism on higher education issues.

4. ORCA organized a formal meeting with representatives of student organizations on 21 April. In the meantime, it also met with different student groups on an informal basis. As a result, it has 77 students ready to join with ORCA in student activities.

5. Mass media activities

Below are some data from ORCA's website for the project period:

- 30122 unique visitors
- 42346 visitors to the site
- 368744 clicks

Below are some data from ORCA's Facebook page for the reporting period 01.03.2017-31.12.2017

- From a baseline of 1597 likes on the Facebook page on 1 March, ORCA now has 2.5 times more likes, for a total of 3866.

The EdGuard Institute

Pushing for Accountability at the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"

The research team, in collaboration with developers of the methodology, Professors Jusuf Thaçi and Nait Vrenezi, agreed on the specification of investigative methods, including sample selection and the design of the interview survey.

Recruiting and Training Interviewers – Due to the importance of collecting valid data, special caution was observed in recruiting professionally competent and trustworthy interviewers to conduct the investigation in question. Data collection in the field was preceded by a one-day training for interviewers on the technical

details of the data-collection process. Professor Vrenezi led the training.

Data Collection – Data collection for the 14 academic units of the University was concluded within the specified deadline of eight days. In accordance with the targeted sample size, a total of 1495 interviews were conducted, with students at both the bachelor’s and master’s levels. Throughout the entire data-collection period, interviewers were monitored for quality control.

Data Processing – Special importance was assigned to precision in data entry and processing, in order to safeguard the value of the data that had been collected. The research team continuously supervised the progress of the data processing, ensuring that those who entered the data were doing high-quality work.

Writing the Report – Data collection was immediately followed by the drafting of the report. In addition to descriptive statistics, the report also calculates relationships between different variables that are of interest. The report will be completed in January 2018.

Presenting the Findings

The Production of Infographics: The research findings that are of wider public interest will be presented in the form of infographics. These infographics will illustrate the findings and present them in the form of a visual overview. Such an overview can be used easily to spark the interest of a wider audience.

Organizing a Conference: The research findings will be presented at a conference. The conference in question, through the official release of the report, will seek to open debate on the conditions at the university and the demand for accountability.

Developing an Investigative Methodology – During this activity the investigative team settled on the investigative design. The project, in addition to reviewing papers for plagiarism, also investigates the process of selling papers; therefore, special importance was assigned to designing a suitable method for identifying improper instances of plagiarism at various levels of the university.

Reviewing Papers for Plagiarism – This activity involved the review of publications of university professors; theses; seminar papers, etc. The team conducted the plagiarism review with the support of software that uses specific algorithms for detecting levels of plagiarism.

Investigating Students’ Level of Knowledge Regarding Plagiarism – In addition to analyzing levels of plagiarism and the practice of selling papers, the final report of findings will also include an assessment of professors’ and students’ knowledge about plagiarism. The data collection method used here was solely qualitative, and was done primarily through focus groups and interviews.

Writing the Report – The findings from all dimensions of the investigation will be presented in detail in a summary report. Importantly, the report will provide recommendations to decision-makers for interventions aimed at eliminating plagiarism from the university.

Presenting the Investigation’s Findings – The investigation’s findings will be made public during a conference organized to excite media interest. The report will be published in January 2018.

Even though the findings have thus far only been presented at the Forum 2015 roundtable, public discussion and attention surrounding the analysis has been extraordinary. Besides the reactions from the university itself, reactions and pressure from other stakeholders at the university provide an indication of change.

Despite the fact that the reports are still awaiting publication, we have received a satisfactory level of media attention. We will aim to research student perceptions of the university on an annual basis, in order to make it possible to compare findings from different years, as well as to measure the impact of any eventual interventions.

The Organization Çohu

The Organization Çohu has conducted an analysis of six topics relating to irregularities at the University of Prishtina.

1. The purchase and sale of theses

This investigation shows that the phenomenon of the purchase and sale of theses is very much present at UP, and reveals that there are individuals who have made a business out of this practice and who advertise their services online and in the streets. The ease with which theses can be purchased has also been verified by Preportr via telephone contacts with individuals selling theses, as well as in a personal meeting with one of these individuals. The investigation also shows that professors do not provide the requisite level of supervision for these theses. One of the reasons for this is that they are overburdened with candidates, with some professors supervising up to 80 theses per year.

2. The lack of basic textbooks

This investigation reveals the way in which UP students study some basic subjects with photocopies, slides, summaries of materials, and summaries of lectures. We arrived at this conclusion after meeting with students and interviewing them on the issue. There are departments – for example, the Faculty of Education or the Faculty of Philosophy (in particular the Social Work track) – that do not have enough literature for the programs they offer; and assessment reports drafted for accreditation purposes show that even the literature that is available does not fit with the programs of study. In the context of this investigation, academic work at UP was also considered. The investigation shows that the University of Prishtina – which has 13 faculties, within which there are 41 departments, 42 programs, five modules and five sub-departments – publishes only three academic journals, whose quality even UP's own Rector's Office considers to be lacking in any scientific contribution whatsoever.

3. The Politicization of the University

Four faculties, with a total of 374 professors, constituted the main focus of Preportr's investigation into the politicization of the University of Prishtina. Out of the 374 professors investigated, 50 of them were revealed to have some direct connection to politics. Some of these professors have held high-level state positions in the country: Prime Minister, Minister, Deputy, President, etc. The data in this investigation were collected from four faculties—Law, Economics, Philosophy, and Medicine—encompassing a total of 374 professors. Those professors who were found to have direct political connections divided their allegiances between two parties, PDK and LDK, in roughly equal numbers. Another interesting datum revealed by the investigation is that in the Faculty of Medicine there were only a small number of professors with political connections – only 7 out of the faculty's 183 professors.

4. Masters of copying

This investigation addresses the phenomenon of copying at the University of Prishtina. The investigation reveals that copying is easy, and that there are different methods of doing it. Photocopying shops – or, as they are sometimes called, “copy-makers” – are one of the main drivers of the phenomenon. At these shops, one can find completed tests and other materials, which are usually photocopied in a very small size so as to facilitate cheating. The Preportr team shows on video the way in which one prepares in advance for cheating.

Some students use these tests and materials by writing them on the seats of classrooms where examinations are held. During the monitoring that was done in the amphitheater of the Law Faculty, some students were seen writing answers or various definitions on the tables. After the conclusion of the examination, the notes are typically erased from the tables.

Another method of copying is through the use of technology. On marketing webpages and on various social networks, there are advertisements for the sale or rental of copying technology. The cost of these services ranges from 20 to 80 Euros.

With respect to this phenomenon, Preportr talked with a professor and a dean to get their perspective. In the course of the investigation, data collected by an EdGuard Institute study were employed.

The aforementioned investigative findings, along with many other details, are also summarized in an approximately ten-minute documentary.

5. Auditor reports

In the course of this investigation reports of the general auditor of the University of Prishtina were analyzed. The reports that were analyzed came from the period of 2009-2016. The most notable finding coming out of the analysis, as well as the most worrying, was the large number of violations that are repeated almost every year by the University of Prishtina. In addition to the large number of abuses and violations, the analysis also reveals the inability and the unwillingness of the administration to address them or take steps to avoid them. As a result of the administration's negligence, the very same criticisms – the majority of which were characterized as problems to be treated with high priority – were repeated in almost every auditor's report throughout the entire eight-year period.

Almost every audited sector has serious problems, but the dominant ones, and those that received the most attention in this report, were violations and abuses related to salaries and per diems, as well as other violations caused by the maladministration of the UP budget. In this area, serious violations were described in every auditor's report, including the phenomenon of multiple contracts being awarded to the same person (and salaries being paid according to each separate contract), contracts drafted in violation of regulations, continuous payment of salaries to professors in all units for lectures they did not give, and the practice of taking on more hours of teaching than is permissible. All of these repeated violations had the effect of creating additional expenses for UP. Furthermore, documentation of lectures given was minimal; and in the majority of cases, it was completely non-existent.

Special importance in this investigation was also assigned to the Internal Auditor of UP, as well as to the Auditing Committee. These units, and their resulting reports, are considered crucial to improving the conditions at UP. However, in addition to the fact that these units were established later than they should have been, and indeed have never functioned in the way that they should, their work was also evaluated as subpar. The Internal Auditor has never managed to complete even half of the office's annual plans, plans that were themselves characterized as being of sub-standard quality. This unit has continuously relied on only one auditor, and for many years UP did not have an auditor at all. With respect to the Auditing Committee, during almost all of these years it was inoperative; and even when it had members, its work amounted to nothing.

In the context of this investigation, the Secretary of the University of Prishtina and the head of the organization ORCA were interviewed to discuss the problems in question.

The topic of professors' salaries

Preportr has secured the regulation on the basis of which, up until this year, professors were paid bonuses for all of their activities.

On the basis of this regulation, professors were paid bonuses, starting in 2012, for:

- Additional hours
- Proctoring examinations
- Supervising bachelor's and master's theses
- Serving on various committees

In 2017 the Rector's Office, by issuing a new regulation on salaries, eliminated bonuses paid for proctoring

examinations. This was in response to a request by the UP Committee on Financial Advice, a request that was also supported by USAID.

Preportr held interviews with members of this committee and received answers from them regarding UP's salary system.

Exercising the right of access to official documents, Preportr requested from this institution the list of regular salaries and bonuses paid to professors in the Faculties of Economics, Law, and Philosophy during the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 academic years.

Despite the insistence of our team, we have still not received any data from the Rector's Office, which has offered the excuse that they are in the process of reviewing the relevant documents to ensure that they do not include personal data.

Preportr has reviewed the criticisms of the Auditor in relation to salaries paid by the University and has revealed a series of problems that are specified in the report. In addition, interviews on this topic were conducted with UP professors.

Democracy for Development D4D

The intermediary report described activities organized by the D4D Institute since the beginning of the project, on the basis of the initial plan: a salon involving the participation of a number of the coalition's members, and quick reaction. Due to the Governing Board's tardiness in decision-making, the planned analysis began late, which has in turn led to a delay in its publication. In the second reporting period an expert was engaged for the purpose of assessing the UP Governing Board.

Report for the period of September-December

Meetings with the administration of the Rector's Office

During the months of October and November 2017, D4D realized four (4) meetings assessing various forms that collaboration with the Governing Board could take. After many requests to the Governing Board, followed by delays in its response, D4D managed to obtain a dossier containing 160 decisions of the Governing Board, making analysis of these decisions possible. Nonetheless, the request for transcripts to be handed over was not approved, on the pretext that they contain sensitive information.

D4D has likewise undertaken efforts to lobby the administration of the Rector's Office on the issue of increasing transparency and accountability at UP. After a few meetings, it was agreed that decisions of the Governing Board would begin to be published on the official website of University "Hasan Prishtina." This has made possible a new level of transparency and accountability surrounding decisions of the Governing Board.

Presentation at the KITU conference

At the Forum 2015 roundtable, held in November of 2017 within the framework of the KITU coalition, D4D presented a quick reaction on the UP Governing Board. The presentation, which addressed the topics of the transparency and accountability at the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina," described the level of transparency of the Governing Board, the publication of the Board's decisions on the official website of the university, the current state of the Board, and recommendations for change.

Analysis of the Governing Board's decision-making

After obtaining the dossier of Governing Board decisions, the Democracy for Development Institute managed to produce an analysis on "The Operation of the UP Governing Board." The analysis, which is in the final phases of editing, contains a structured analysis of problems evidenced in the operation of the Governing Board. The analysis assesses the quality of Governing Board decisions from the standpoint of transparency and accountability in decision-making, and on the basis of a comparison with the way in which Governing Boards operate in other countries.

The analysis also draws conclusions on decisions reviewed in the analysis. In these decisions, errors of a primarily technical nature relating to the issuance of the decisions are apparent. Furthermore, the Governing Board and the UP administration do not have a functional framework that can secure transparency and accountability in the operations of university bodies and officials. The recommendations will be addressed to the Ministry of Education, the University of Prishtina, and the Governing Board.

Infographics

Up to now, we have not produced any of the infographics planned for the purpose of presenting the results of investigations conducted by other partners or by D4D. We expect that these infographics will be published in collaboration with other partners. In the coming days, D4D will coordinate with other members of the coalition to assess the possibility of creating infographics that can effectively present data on accountability and transparency at UP.

Remaining activities

The following activities remain from now until the end of the project,:

- Completing and publishing the analysis of the Governing Board and an editorial on the state of the Governing Board (February);
- Monitoring the publication of Governing Board decisions on the official UP website (January-February);
- Infographics in collaboration with KITU partners (February)

Finalized activities

- Tuesday Salon;
- Quick reaction.

Tuesday Salon

Within the framework of this project a salon was planned on the topic "Transparency and Accountability of the UP Governing Board." The salon was held in October. Members of organizations making up the KITU Coalition were invited to serve as moderator and panelists at the salon. Some of the key conclusions that reached by the salon were the following:

- The lack of transparency and accountability. The lack of transparency and accountability in UP's governing bodies, as well as the failure of these values to be observed in university policy generally, is demonstrated by the fact that transparency is mentioned only twice in the UP Statute, and then only in the part that deals with academic promotions. Accountability, on the other hand, is not mentioned even once.
- Politicization of UP. This phenomenon was emphasized as one of the main problems facing UP. The problem of politicization stretches from the Governing Board and the Senate to all of UP's branches, extending even to the teaching process. The Governing Board is politicized, and as a result, UP does not operate in an independent fashion; rather, it is controlled by and is directly dependent on political actors.
- Necessary Reforms. The University of Prishtina requires radical reforms, starting from the composition of the Governing Board. The members of this board should be individuals with the requisite professional abilities, and they should be held responsible for all finance-related decisions. They should also be held responsible for the administration and distribution of funds.
- Politicization, clientelism, corruption, the lack of quality in academic study, the lack of fit between programs of study and the job market, the purchase and sale of theses, plagiarism, the lack of academic criteria, etc. – these and many other problems have brought UP to the state in which it finds itself today.

The Governing Board, as the primary mechanism, must draft policies for the prevention of these problems – rather than becoming a part of them. Transparency and accountability must begin with the Governing Board and extend down through the academic units of the University, all the way to instructors and administrative staff.

Analysis of the Governing Board's decision-making

D4D has engaged Mr. Xhavit Rexhaj to analyze the decisions made by the Governing Board. Even though D4D has submitted three requests for access to Governing Board decisions, covering the years 2016 and 2017, it has unfortunately not received answers to these requests, and as a result, this investigation has been delayed. D4D submitted a request to the Ministry of Education as well, but without success. Even requests to interview Mr. Ismet Salihu from the Governing Board, as well as Mr. Esat Kelmendi from UP, were met with silence.

In the second week of October, D4D met with Mr. Esat Kelmendi and repeated its request for access to Governing Board decisions. Mr. Kelmendi promised that the request would be forwarded to the Governing Board for consideration, and that a decision could be expected in response to it.

At the meeting with the UP Secretary, Mr. Kelmendi, it was agreed that those Governing Board decisions that have not yet been published on UP's official website would now be published in order to increase the Board's transparency. It was also agreed that, following the Board meeting, the Board's decisions would be handed over to D4D to help fulfill its investigative needs. However, the request for transcripts of Governing Board meetings was refused, with the excuse that they contain various pieces of sensitive information and therefore could not be shared with D4D. In response, D4D recommended that these documents be published with whatever personal and sensitive information blacked out.

It is expected that, after the Governing Board decisions are finally handed over, the analysis will be completed within 30 days. During the meeting, the possibility of D4D participating in Board meetings was also discussed, and we will be informed about this possibility following the next meeting of the Board.

Infographics

Until now, we have not produced any of the planned infographics for presenting the results of investigations conducted by other partners or by D4D. It is expected that these infographics will be published in collaboration with other partners.

Projects of organizations outside the Coalition

Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, BIRN

Education in Focus

The key aim of the project “Education in focus” is to investigate the state of education in Kosovo, as well as to advocate for improving it. The emphasis is on investigating and reporting problems in the education system generally, and in higher education in particular. Editors and journalists at Prishtina Insight and at the newspaper “Jeta në Kosovë” have researched and published articles in English and Albanian. These include short news stories, longer articles, opinion pieces, and investigative pieces on higher education. Most of the articles have focused on higher education; but reporting and research on the education system more generally have made it possible to raise awareness about the urgency of addressing problems that plague Kosovo’s education system as a whole. All of the published articles include original investigative work.

During the second half of the project, the following were published in Prishtina Insight, in English:⁷

- Seven (7) short news articles on problems in higher education, including the lack of professors who fulfill the criteria for the titles they hold; the criminal sentencing of the ex-Rector of the University of Prishtina for corruption and abuse of power; the lack of a research budget, etc.
- One (1) long article, a report on students from the UP Law Faculty that are participating in international competitions without support from their alma mater.
- Three (3) investigations on the plagiarism that permeates higher education, the politicization of the University of Prishtina’s student organization, and the operation of the “University of Prishtina, temporarily situated in Mitrovica”
- One (1) analysis summarizing the main events taking place in the field of higher education in 2017.

In addition, Prishtina Insight has published one (1) opinion piece on the necessity of sex education in Kosovo schools.

Prishtina Insight has over 8,300 followers on Facebook; 2,991 on Twitter; and an organic reach of 13,540 individuals.⁸ The number of visits to these articles (on the website alone) is 3,505, while the average reach of the articles via Facebook is 3,200 individuals per post.

On Kallxo.com and the newspaper “Jeta në Kosovë,” nine (9) of the aforementioned articles have been translated and published, and 16 short news stories and reports on higher education – specifically on the University of Prishtina – were also published. These pieces have reached altogether 43,830 readers on the website, in addition to an average reach of 8,902 individuals per post on Facebook. Kallxo.com and the newspaper “Jeta në Kosovë” have also published dozens of short news stories on the education system as a whole during this period, but they have not been included in the report.

⁷ All articles can be found here: <http://prishtinainsight.com/tag/education-in-focus/>.

⁸ Data collected on 17.01.2018.

Obstacles and small changes in the project: Because of the special elections in the summer, followed by local elections, Prishtina Insight’s editors decided to postpone the timelines of long-term investigations due to the lack of sufficient attention to systemic issues at the national level, including education issues. One of the primary obstacles to the complete fulfillment of the project’s objectives has been the lack of statistical data. Such data would have to be collected by the institutions that are responsible for the regulation of higher education. This has created an obstacle to the production of infographics for presenting data analyzing the state of education in Kosovo. Nonetheless, original graphics have successfully been produced for long-term investigations, such as “Behind the divided student organizations of UP.”

All analyses, opinions, and debates can be downloaded at Prishtina Insight, Kallxo.com, and the newspaper “Jeta në Kosovë.”

Table of grants

Project Name	Grantee	Amount in Euros
Increasing integrity and academic ethics at the University of Prishtina	NGO ORCA	39,000.00 €
Monitoring the effectiveness of teaching at the University of Prishtina	NGO ORCA	5,222.83 €
Analysis of five topics relating to the University of Prishtina: 1. Politicization of UP 2. The purchase and sale of diplomas – Graduation 3. Salaries and bonuses for UP staff 4. Auditor reports on UP, and 5. The use of literature – photocopies	NGO Çohu	15,700.00 €
Analysis: the state of UP according to reports drafted from the end of the war up to today	NGO Admovere	3,300.00 €
Accountability and transparency at the University of Prishtina	NGO Democracy for Development D4D	5,256.00 €
Ten animated cartoons to be drawn about the University of Prishtina	Jeton Mikullovc	1,228.08 €
Methodology, sampling, and comprehensive research instrument on the University of Prishtina	Nait Vrenezi	1,250.00 €
Methodology, sampling, and comprehensive research instrument on the University of Prishtina	Jusuf Thaçi	1,535.09 €
Participation in the conference “Plagiarism across Europe and Beyond 2017”	Rron Gjinovci	1,100.00 €
Pushing for accountability at the University of Prishtina	EdGuard Institute	16,758.50 €
Education in focus	BIRN	9,800.00 €
Copying and cheating during examinations, by means of various methods	NGO Çohu	2,000.00 €
UP from the inside	NGO Admovere	14,990.00 €
Transparency and Accountability in public higher education	NGO Çohu	23,600.00 €
Essays	NGO ORCA	6,540.00 €
Increasing transparency and academic accountability at the University of Prishtina	NGO ORCA	46,980.00 €
Total grants		194,270.50 €
Other program expenses		13,769.00 €
Program administration expenses		38,045.04 €
Grand total 2017		246,084.54 €

Third-party projects

During 2017, two projects funded by third-parties kicked-off. Both these projects were funded by the Foundation since the two donors were satisfied with the previous implementation of projects. Another reasons to trust the implementation to the Foundation was its reputation regarding the work with RAE communities and the appropriate supplementation of the self-advocacy concept. In this way, a synergy between the two projects was made possible, and the projects made sure the continuation of the advocacy activities initiated during the last three years.

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

Further is the description of progress of these two projects.

EU Support for Executing the Strategy for Integrating the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities 2 – Education and Integration (EU SIMRAES 2)

The implementation of the project “EU Support for Executing the Strategy for Integrating the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities 2 – Education and Integration” (EU SIMRAES 2), began on 1 April 2016. The project is financed by the European Union Office in Kosovo and is being implemented by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS), in partnership with seven other organizations:

Kosovo Education Center (KEC)

Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo (BSFK)

Bethany Christian Services (BCS)

Nevo Koncepti (NVK)

SHL Kosovo (SHL-K)

Syri i Vizionit (SiV)

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is the main institutional partner in the project. Besides supporting the project’s activities, the Ministry also funds a portion of the scholarship program included in the project framework. The municipalities of Gjakova, Prizren, Rahovec, Istog, Obiliq, Fushë Kosova, and Mitrovica also serve as institutional partners at the local level.

The general objective of the EU-SIMRAES 2 project is to support the Government of Kosovo in developing a democratic and multi-ethnic society by executing the Strategy for Integrating the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities, along with its Action Plan.

The specific objective of action is to ensure equal access to preschool, elementary, and secondary education for Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian children by improving their registration and attendance rates and their achievement outcomes, all through community-based and financial support.

The targeted groups are as follows:

- Ten localities in which Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians reside, with altogether 8127 residents;
- Children of five years of age – altogether 154, of which 98 attend preschools and 56 do not attend;
- Children between 6-14 years of age – altogether 1246, of which 1002 attend compulsory schools and 244 do not attend;
- Parents of school-age children from the ten targeted localities;
- School teachers who serve the targeted communities;
- Schoolchildren from the targeted communities;
- 200-300 Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian secondary-school students;
- Seven civil-society organizations;
- The public-at-large of Kosovo.

The project aims at three results, which can also be identified as the main components of the project:

- The inclusion of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities from the ten targeted localities in pre-school, elementary, and secondary education, and improvement in their learning outcomes
- Improved access and retention of students from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in upper secondary education, and improvements in their ability to benefit from higher education
- Organizations working in the area of education for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities improve their capacity to offer high-quality services to their communities.

The main project activities are as follows:

1.1 The work of ten educational centers is supported.

1.2 Awareness is raised among parents from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities regarding the issue of registering their children in school on time.

1.3 Logistical support for attending preschools is provided to Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian children.

1.4 Individual mentorship and homework help are provided to school-age and returning children.

1.5 Anti-stereotype training is provided to teachers and parents, and mentorship/advice is provided to ensure that the acquired capacities are put into practice.

1.6. Local events are organized to help ensure better integration of school-age children from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

2.1 Support is provided for registering Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian children in upper secondary schools.

2.2 A scholarship program is launched for Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian students in upper secondary schools.

2.3 Mentorship is provided to scholarship recipients.

3.1 An informal network of civil-society organizations working for the improvement of educational opportunities for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities is established.

3.2 Communication among members of the network is facilitated and information distributed.

3.3 A collaboration strategy is developed for the network.

3.4 Opportunities for professional development are provided to members of the network in order to improve their skills in service and advocacy.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Inclusion in early and compulsory education

This part of the project is coordinated by the Kosovo Education Center. Other partner organizations mainly play a role at the local level, through management of the education centers. There are ten education centers in seven municipalities. These centers are managed by six other partner organizations.

Name of the education center	Managing partner organization
Plemetin Social Center (PBLC)	Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo
Plemetin Education Center (PLC)	Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo
Fidan Lahu (Fushë Kosova)	Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo
Gurrakoc (Istog)	Syri Vizionit
Serbobran (Istog)	Syri Vizionit
Pirana (Prizren)	Nevo Koncepti
New Life (Prizren)	Nevo Koncepti
Roma Quarter (Rahovec)	SHL-Kosova
Brekoc (Gjakova)	Bethany Christian Services
Roma Quarter (Mitrovica)	RADC

The revision of activities conducted in the first year of the project, especially the introduction of awareness-raising activities, has had an effect during this year as well. This is shown by the fulfillment of the project indicators. Starting from preschool children, who constitute the biggest focus of the project, we have seen a 92% participation rate. In other words, out of 195 identified children, 179 of them have registered and are attending school at this level. In addition, we have seen an increase in school attendance rates to 91.62%, which constitutes a 13% increase from the 78.7% rate marked at the beginning of the project. The project also includes special activities for repatriated children, especially those from Western countries. Up to now, over 80% of repatriated children have returned to school. This was the result aimed for at the end of the project. Furthermore, the pass rate from 9th grade to upper secondary school has been very satisfying. Thanks to the intervention of the educational centers in the respective localities, as well as to the availability of scholarships, the pass rate has risen to 77%.

Results for each project indicator are listed in the table below:

2016-2017 School Year	I 1.1 –Attendance rates for Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian students in compulsory schools	I 1.3 –Gap in grade averages ¹	I 1.4 (School registration for returned students %)	I 2.1 – Pass rate for entering upper secondary school
EC New Life	93.28%	1.53	100%	100%
EC Pirana	98.58%	1.33	75%	20%
EC Roma Quarter (Rahovec)	91.3%	1.01	100%	0%
EC Gurrakoc	100%	1.08	N/A ²	81.81%
EC Serbobran	100%	1.08	100%	100%
EC Brekoc	76.48%	1.61	100%	57.14%
EC Fushë Kosova	81.3%	0.97	38.4%	92.5%
EC Plemetin Social Center	83.73%	0.78	88.74%	100%
EC Plemetin Village	96.97%	1.66	100%	100%
EC Roma Quarter, Mitrovica	94.61%	1.18	49.38%	61.53%
Mean	91.62%	1.22	81.44%	77%

The only indicator that did not show significant improvement was indicator 1.3, relating to the gap in grade averages in compulsory schools. Activities relating to this indicator have been organized during the 2017/18 school year, with an eye toward improvement.

Like last year, visits to education centers and recipient municipalities were conducted, and they included awareness-building, cross-cultural, and other activities.

Implementation of the homework program continued. This is one of the project’s most important programs, and it is implemented using the methodology of the course “Step by Step.” As a part of this program, at least three full-time facilitators, or alternatively, six half-time facilitators, continue to be retained at each education center, depending on the needs of the centers and the number of children. They are in turn aided by volunteers or tutors from the education centers.

The EU SIMRAES 2 Project includes logistical aid to facilitate attendance at schools and at the education centers. In this context it took the following actions during this year as well:

- It distributed 1500 school packets, exceeding the 800 that were expected, and it covered all children in need from the ten recipient localities;
- It distributes snacks on a monthly basis to children attending education centers;
- It distributed teaching materials to each education center;
- After the renovation of the education centers in Plemetin and Rahovec in the first year, it undertook three large-scale renovations this year and provided central heating to those education centers that did not previously have such a system.

- a. Renovation of the education center in Brekoc and installation of central heating
- b. Renovation of the Fushë Kosova center
- c. Renovation of the Plemetin Village center
- d. Installation of central heating in the special classroom of the EC Rahovec school.

Within the framework of the project, a few different types of training were planned for education center staff, teachers, and parents of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian children. Some of the trainings that were offered are described below.

“Step by Step” Training – advanced level for the staff of the ten educational centers: The project refreshes the staff, specifically the facilitators and tutors, on SbS methodology. After the basic five-day training held in 2016, as well as the implementation of the training throughout the education centers and the schools, the project trained the same participants at an advanced level during the period June-August 2017. A total of seven groups were organized, with 147 participants (86 women; 61 men). Out of these, 116 participants were certified (77 women; 39 men).

Anti-discrimination training “Education for Social Justice” (ESJ): With the aim of eliminating stereotypes and discrimination in the educational system, the project provided ESJ training: to parents of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian children; to the staff of the education centers; and to the teachers who work with these children. During this period, three training groups were organized. The total number of people trained was 286 (181 women; 105 men), out of which 235 (148 women; 87 men) were certified.

After the training, the project monitored 76 teachers (48 women; 28 men) involved in the community, from ten schools, in order to observe: the level at which the activities from the training were being put into practice; the level of cooperation with parents; the inclusion of the children; and school activities for combating discrimination. The findings from the monitoring were that the parents have confidence in educational institutions and encourage their children to participate actively in school and extracurricular activities.

Training for mediators: During the month of May 2017, the project organized a six-day training for school mediators. Participants included education center coordinators, tutors, and active members of the community, who work directly with families in educating their children and in encouraging the good relations of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians with other communities. A total of 37 participants (21 women; 16 men) were trained, on the basis of a program designed by Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo.

Training for Education Center Coordinators: A training for measuring success on the basis of indicator results was provided to the coordinators of the ten education centers. The training was based on the logical-framework method. In addition, for each coordinator, project staff provided support/individual mentorship in generating and interpreting statistical data. The coordinators also benefited from different trainings as a part of the networking component.

Monitoring the Education Centers (SbS): The monitoring of the education centers began in February 2017 and continued until December 2017. In this framework, each education center was monitored on a regular basis to ensure the quality of the children’s activities, which were led by coordinators, facilitators, and tutors. The aspects that were monitored/recommended for further improvement were: the use of texts and materials, communication with children, collaboration with parents and the school with the aim of harmonizing activities, the conditions in which activities are held, etc. One hundred and thirty-seven monitoring visits were carried out. The monitoring will continue next year as well, at a rate of two monitoring visits per month at each education center.

One finding that has come out of the monitoring up to this point was that the facilitators/tutors require additional support in working individually with children. For this reason, the project organized a special three-day workshop that provided information on individual planning (PIA), on planning models and methods, and on observation and evaluation of children.

Education Center	No. of monitoring visits
Brekoc	14
Pirana	13
Haziz Tola	13
Rahovec	14
Gurakoc	14
Serbobran	14
Fushë Kosova	14
Plemetin PLC	14
Plemetin PBLC	14
Mitrovica	13
Total no. of monitoring visits in 2017	137

2. Improving access to upper secondary education

The second component of the project is oriented toward supporting upper secondary-school students from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities through scholarship and mentoring programs.

Scholarship program: As part of the second project component, a partnership with MASHT was planned for the purpose of awarding 200 scholarships to upper secondary-school students from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. Besides the EU SIMRAES 2 project, other donors offered scholarships as well. MASHT took on the role of coordinating the process for awarding the scholarships. As a part of this joint scholarship program, scholarships were awarded by the following donors:

- EU SIMRAES 2 200 scholarships
- REF/MASHT 200 scholarships
- VoRAE 107 scholarships

A group of donors, under the coordination of MASHT, determined the evaluation criteria, advertised the scholarships, assessed the applications, and selected the winners for the 2017/18 school year. The process went through the following steps:

- Advertisement of the scholarships September 2017
- Application processing September - October 2017
- Selection of winners October 2017
- Announcement of winners October 2017
- Beginning of scholarship disbursement November 2016

Like last year (2016/2017), the EU SIMRAES 2 project, which included 200 scholarship recipients, distributed scholarship funds from two sources: from KFOS and from MASHT. Out of the 200 scholarship recipients, 133 are funded by MASHT, while 67 are funded by KFOS. The value of the scholarship is 300 EUR/year. The way in which the scholarships are administered depends on the source of the funds. KFOS signed a contract with the recipients it funded, whereas MASHT transferred funds on the basis of a decision issued by the Ministry of Education. MASHT disburses the scholarship funds by transferring the entire sum at once, whereas KFOS disburses the funds in multiple installments, once every two months. Up to this point, two installments have been paid. Thus, funds have been disbursed covering the period up to December 2017.

Mentoring program: The project offers a special monitoring program for at least half of the 200 recipients. During the 2016/2017 school year, from January to June 2017, 112 upper secondary-school scholarship recipients, in the municipalities of Gjakova, Prizren, and Istog, received support.

In the 2017/2018 school year, the mentoring program started on 1 November 2017 with 114 students. The program is carried out by high-school teachers serving as mentors. These mentors advise students regarding attendance, success, and careers. They are also in continual contact with parents, the school, and the community, with the aim of ensuring fulfillment of the program objectives. In this process, 23 mentors are engaged in three municipalities: Gjakova, Prizren, and Istog.

3. Strengthening the capacity of civil-society organizations working on education in the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities

This component is directed toward strengthening the ability of members of partner organizations to provide high-quality educational services to the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

The network holds periodic meetings that provide a forum for exchanging the experiences of network members in the field of education advocacy for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. KFOS facilitates these meetings in their logistical and organizational aspects, whereas the partner organizations take turns hosting the meetings. This year four meetings were held by the following partner organizations:

- Balkan Sunflowers Kosova – meeting held in Prishtina, on 22 February 2017
- SHL Kosova – meeting held in Rahovec, on 26 April 2017
- Kosova Education Center - meeting held in Prishtina, on 17 October 2017
- Syri i vizionit – meeting held in Peja, on 6 December 2017

As a part of this component, professional-development programs are also offered for members of partner organizations, with the aim of developing their capacities for offering better services to members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. In this activity the project has collaborated with the Kosovo Education and Employment Network (KEEN) project, as a part of which similar professional-development programs were also planned for civil-society organizations. Members of partner organizations participated in the following training programs:

- Advocacy and Monitoring
- Policy development cycle
- Strategic and budgetary planning
- Research methods

The project released a manual entitled “Advocacy and participation in policymaking.” This manual was published in Albanian, Serbian, Roma, and English. The Albanian, Serbian, and Roma versions were printed and distributed to civil-society organizations that work to provide support to the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. The manual was also uploaded onto the project website.

During this year, the EU SIMRAES 2 project coordinated activities with other organizations and projects, taking care to create synergies to support further educational inclusivity for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. Toward this aim, there was collaboration with the projects KEEN, KOSINT 2020, PROSPECT+, and others as well. One major result was the active participation of partner organizations in the EU SIMRAES 2 project, both in drafting the administrative instruction for the establishment and functioning of education centers, and in the approval of this instruction on the part of MASHT.

The project has a functioning website (available at <http://eu-simraes.net/>), as well as a Facebook page (available at: <https://Web.facebook.com/eusimraes2/?fref=ts>).

List of grants:

Project name	Grant recipient	Grant amount
EU SIMRAES II	KEC	19,6114.40
EU SIMRAES II	Nevo Koncepti	32,594.60
EU SIMRAES II	Bethany Christian Services	15,997.30
EU SIMRAES II	Syri Vizionit	34,447.93
EU SIMRAES II	SHL-Kosova	15,997.30
EU SIMRAES II	Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo	54,472.50
EU SIMRAES II	Roma and Ashkali Documentation Center	15,997.30

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

The *Prospect Plus* project is a continuation of the Prospect project, which was implemented in four Kosovo municipalities (Prizren, Gjakova, Rahovec, and Istog). The Project Plus project has been implemented in two municipalities (Peja and Suhareka) since the beginning of November 2015. The right to education and health is not only a basic human right, but also a basic strategy for overcoming poverty and achieving comprehensive social and economic security. Against this background, the project aims to continue contributing to the realization of the state strategy for integrating the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, by improving access to education, health, and social services. Thus, the general aim of the Prospect Plus Project is *to contribute to the realization of the rights of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians in Kosovo, specifically in the municipalities of Peja and Suhareka, and to their integration into Kosovar society*. To contribute to the achievement of this general aim, the Prospect Plus Project has undertaken the obligation to achieve a specific goal, which is: *in four neighborhoods in the two aforementioned municipalities where Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities reside, to improve access to education, health, and social services as an important step towards increasing economic and social involvement, as well as social integration*.

The project provides for a number of measures and activities in the areas of education and health, which are included in the Strategy and Action Plan for the integration of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians in Kosovo (specifically in the education and health sectors, as well as in sectors relating to social matters). These measures and activities will be realized, monitored, and conducted together with the targeted groups, NGO partners, and other actors important to ensuring sustainability after the conclusion of the project.

There are altogether three areas of intervention in this project, which can be expressed as project goals:

1. Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian children in four locations will be integrated into elementary schools (at the preschool, elementary, and lower secondary levels).
2. The targeted Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities will improve their access to health and social services, as well as gain greater knowledge and become better informed about issues having to do with health, and
3. A number of NGOs (PROSPECT Network) will become involved in and advocate for the implementation of municipal action plans for the integration of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

The Prospect Plus project's target groups are the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities at four locations (neighborhoods) in two municipalities, which together amount to approximately 1900 members. The target communities are: the "7 Shtatori" neighborhood and the Vitomirica village in the municipality of Peja, as well as Gelanca and Leshan/Tërne villages in the municipality of Suhareka. In each of these four locations there is one elementary school that provides preschool education for children of five years of age, elementary education for children between 6 and 10 years of age, and lower secondary education for children between 11 and 14 years of age.

Peja

There exists a considerable number of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians living in Peja, even though they make up less than 4% of the population of this municipality. According to census data from 2011, 3,836 Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians live in the municipality of Peja, with Egyptians constituting 70% of this population. One-third of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians living in Peja (altogether 1,325) are between the ages of 5 and 19, whereas only slightly more than half of these (687) attend preschool, elementary, or high school.

The neighborhood "7 Shtatori" is located in an urban zone of Peja. Around 1,300 families live in this zone, while Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians make up altogether 1,200 people. The children in this neighborhood attend elementary and lower secondary school at the school "Xhemajl Kada." There are altogether 262 of them (grades K-9), whereas 133 children do not attend school at all. There is a functional Community Center in this neighborhood that organizes various activities for men, women, and children.

Vitomirica, a village with around 5,400 inhabitants, is located five kilometers north of Peja. The village is mainly populated by Albanians and Bosniaks, whereas it is estimated that about 450 Roma and Egyptians reside in this zone. The local elementary and lower secondary school is called "7 Shtatori," which should not, however, be confused with the neighborhood lying in the urban zone of Peja. Altogether 79 children from the Roma and Egyptian communities attend the local school, whereas 24 of them do not attend. The village also has a cultural center (a multifunctional community center) that contains several suitable spaces for children and youth, but the center is often used by municipal bodies as well as other organizations.

Project activities are conducted in educational centers founded by the project on school grounds.

Suhareka

Suhareka is a municipality in the southern half of Kosovo, with a total of 59,722 residents, out of which 539 (0.9%) are Roma, Ashkali, or Egyptian. Altogether 122 out of 196 residents between the ages of 5 and 17 attend some kind of pre-university schooling, which is somewhat better than in Peja. Nonetheless, there is a large discrepancy in these numbers vis-à-vis the majority population.

Gelanca, village with a little over 1,000 residents, is located nine kilometers away from Suhareka. Only five out of 219 Ashkali and Egyptians are employed, whereas 51 children attend the local elementary and high school “Drita”; eight of them do not attend.

The village Leshan is located six kilometers away from Suhareka, and has around 1,600 inhabitants, out of which 59 are Ashkali, the majority of whom are receiving social assistance. Twenty-six Ashkali children attend elementary and lower secondary school in the village, “Vaso Pashë Shkodrani,” while seven of them do not attend school at all. The condition of these communities is also not favorable in the nearby village, Tërne, whose children attend school in Leshan.

Both in Gelanca and in Leshan, schoolrooms are used as educational centers for project activities.

Difficult economic conditions, poverty, unemployment, a low level of awareness on the part of parents regarding education, as well as illiteracy, are the primary reasons for low rates of school attendance. Furthermore, three out of the four target locations are located in rural zones; during the planting and harvesting seasons, the children work to assist their parents. Even though the number of returnees is not yet known, repatriation of families that emigrated at the end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015 has begun; and all of the project locations found themselves unprepared to reintegrate children who had lost a year of school.

Impoverished and lacking income, members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities have difficulty accessing health services, while the majority of families receive social assistance.

In the municipality of Peja, even though the health/medical centers are close to the targeted locations, members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities have participation problems, with mainly women (and children) lacking the financial means to pay for regular medical check-ups. Medical check-ups occur only in urgent cases.

In Suhareka, the situation is still worse. Neither Gelanca nor Leshan have their own health/medical centers, and so members of the communities have to travel to Suhareka for medical check-ups, for which they cannot afford to pay. Only in urgent cases do they travel into the city and receive medical care.

Until now, no large project has been implemented in the municipalities of Peja and Suhareka supporting the integration of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities; and none of the large donors that work on integrating the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities has extended its presence to these two municipalities. The municipalities themselves have given support to some small activities. For example, the municipality of Peja has supported informal youth groups from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in efforts to raise awareness of the importance of education. These activities were conducted in the “7 Shtatori” neighborhood. Likewise, the municipality has supported the local organization “Syri i Vizionit” in small-scale activities for raising awareness among the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities regarding inclusion in education and health care. Last year the municipality of Suhareka supported Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian activists in Gelanca in organizing awareness-building activities and in helping children with their homework. Despite this, support from the municipalities has been small-scale, and has had only a small impact on the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. This is also the result of low levels of civic activism, or low numbers of initiatives coming from members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities themselves.

In terms of commitment, the municipalities have shown a readiness to support whatever initiatives come from members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

The municipality of Peja had once developed a general policy for integrating the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. The mayor signed and approved a document called “Action strategy for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the municipality of Peja,” and many actions were undertaken to implement this policy. But the three-year policy ended in 2011. Since then, no new policy has been issued for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. According to civil-society organizations in Peja, about 90% of the measures outlined in that policy were realized. Since that time, however, the municipality has not taken any action to

review/update or develop a new policy.

In the municipality of Suhareka, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has supported the municipality in developing an “Action plan for the integration of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the municipality of Suhareka.” Planned with low rates of participation from representatives of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, and in the presence of all the municipal directors, the document was approved by the Municipal Council and was signed by the mayor. This document comprises seven chapters, and measures are outlined for each chapter, including measures for addressing concerns about education, health, and social matters in this marginalized community. On the basis of this document, the municipality has offered a small degree of support for local initiatives coming from activists of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, primarily in the form of awareness-raising campaigns relating to education and health.

The implementation of the Prospect Plus Project began with the creation of a database, for which local partners collected necessary information relating to issues that have to do with education, health, and social matters, and with the organizational development of civil-society organizations working with the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. In order to conduct project activities in the aforementioned neighborhoods in an unimpeded manner, KFOS created spaces where activities could be held, furnishing these spaces with necessary inventory and technological equipment. At the beginning of the school year, KFOS, through its local partners, also distributed learning materials to children from the communities who attended lessons in neighborhoods toward which the schools included in the project gravitate. In order to progress further in the area of education, local partners began with two types of activities: awareness-raising activities and intercultural activities. With respect to the awareness-raising activities, local partners initiated publicity campaigns on the topics of regular school attendance and registering children for the first grade. Local partners initiated home visits and organized meetings with parents, which often included municipal education officials as well. They have also designed and distributed publicity materials. With respect to the intercultural activities, which aim to lessen/eliminate prejudices and stereotypes, local partners have begun to hold activities that bring the communities’ children together with children from the majority, so that they can become friends and understand one another’s cultural traditions by way of playing, competition, art, etc. In order to help children from the communities who have learning difficulties, it was planned that a group of people would be trained to help the communities’ children with their homework, as well as to communicate with parents and schools, with the aim of providing a suitable environment to these children. This can be expected to lead to improvements in attendance and success rates for students in this category. In order to train the group of people who would be offering these services to the children, the Kosovo Education Center/KEC was engaged. Now that the trainings have concluded, the KEC is now in the process of mentoring the trained instructors in order to support them in implementing an integrated approach in the schools.

With respect to issues relating to health and social matters, local partners have identified participants whose capacities will be improved so that they will be able to work as Health and Social mediators, as bridges between the communities, on the one hand, and health and social-service providers on the other. In order to build these capacities, the Association of Family Doctors of Kosovo was engaged first, and specialists from the QKMF were then brought in to begin training the identified participants. After the end of the trainings, work with the project’s neighborhoods was commenced, continuing until the QKMF completed the mentorship of the trainees.

Amount of grants distributed to local partners in 2017

Project name	Grantee	Amount
Prospect Plus	Nevo Koncepti, realization of educational activities, health and social mediation, and networking and advocacy	28,905
Prospect Plus	Syri i Vizionit, realization of educational activities, health and social mediation, and networking and advocacy	25,240
Prospect Plus	Kosovo Education Center, training tutors and mentoring instructors included in the project	12,280
Prospect Plus	Dr. Genc Ymerhalili, Association of Family Doctors of Kosovo, training mediators, mentoring their work, and connecting them with health-care providers	3,084
Prospect Plus, operational	Nevo Koncepti, Syri i Vizionit School packets for students of the communities	5,100

General data on beneficiaries of the Prospect Plus project

Neighborhood	Community residents	No. of children attending school (6-19 vjeç)	No. of children not attending school (6-19 vjeç)	No. of families receiving social assistance	No. employed	No. unemployed
7 Shtatori, Peja	1340	139	22	46	7	151
Vitomirica, Peja	440	35	15	21	0	39
Total in Peja	1780	174	37	67	7	151
Leshan, Suhareka	139	15	7	12	3	56
Gelanca, Suhareka	212	19	21	16	2	85
Total in Suhareka	351	34	28	28	5	141

RESERVE FUND

SCHOOL ME

The “Më mëso mua” project (in English: “School Me”) began implementation in Kosovo in March of 2016. The project is funded by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) and is realized by the Kosovo Education Center (KEC) in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MASHT), as well as with the Municipal Directorates of Education (DKA) of 15 municipalities in which the project is being piloted. These are: Prishtina, Peja, Gjakova, Gjilan, Vushtrri, Podujeva, Hani i Elezit, Istog, Rahovec, Malisheva, Lipjan, Suhareka, Fushë Kosova, Shtime, and Drenas. The goal of the project is to train teachers in developing students’ learning capacities, specified in the Curricular Framework of Kosovo, by using the “School Me” digital platform and online resources in the learning process.

At the beginning of project’s implementation, activities were focused on securing the technical conditions for using the platform in classrooms, registering teachers and students for use of the platform, as well as training teachers in integrating the digital platform into their teaching methods. In September 2016, 16 schools were selected to use the digital platform in the learning process. More than 750 teachers and almost 6500 students in these schools took advantage of the opportunity to use the platform in school and at home. Interest in employing new methods in the learning process, and especially in the use of digital learning, led to an increase in the number of beneficiaries to a total of 23 schools in 2017, as well as 909 teachers with the ability to use the platform, and 8054 students with access to it.

Because the “School Me” platform was being implemented for the first time in Kosovo, there was interest, for the second year of implementation, to analyze the level of its realization by means of monitoring in the classroom and organizing five different research investigations. These undertakings would provide information relating to the platform’s quality, the perceptions of teachers and students regarding its usefulness, as well as the platform’s effects during classroom use. Based on research completed by the end of 2017, the conclusion has been reached that the “School Me” digital platform is considered by teachers to be a very good opportunity for successfully implementing the Curricular Framework of Kosovo, especially in light of the lack of school-books for the implementation of that framework. Furthermore, the fact that teachers are able to access all of the platform’s materials gives them the opportunity to use its content in line with the new Curricular Framework. This is thought to ease the realization of the lessons’ content, because explanations of the content can proceed according to the new curriculum. On the other hand, the high quality of the learning materials and the possibility of accessing them 24 hours a day, every day of the week, provide students with an extraordinary opportunity to gain knowledge and develop their skills. At the end of the project, the investigative reports will be published and will be provided to all interested parties.

Main achievements

During 2017 the following results were achieved:

1. The registration of teachers and students from new schools that joined the project during 2017

During 2017, seven new schools joined the “School Me” project. These schools expressed a willingness to use the platform by means of laptops and projectors in their schools. The schools that joined the project were: “Mileniumi i tretë,” “Gjergj Fishta,” and “Pjetër Bogdani” from Prishtina; “Mulla Idriz Gjilani” from Gjilan; “Mazllum Këpuska” from Gjakova; “Selman Riza” from Fushë Kosova; and “Skender Çeku” from Peja. All of these schools’ teachers, as well as 200 students from each of them, were registered to use the platform during 2017 and the first half of 2018.

2. Updating of the lists of registered teachers and students from the 16 beneficiary schools from the first year

During the 2016-2017 school year, many beneficiary schools had registered ninth-grade students on the platform. Because these students completed lower secondary school in June 2017, and because the platform did not have suitable material for them, it was register other students on the platform in their place. Furthermore, the officials of the platform needed to move all students one grade higher. On this occasion, school lists were updated by registering new teachers and students.

3. Organization of a reflection workshop with school directors and coordinators from the beneficiary schools of the “School Me” project

From 6-8 June 2017, a workshop was held in Durrës for 40 representatives of the 20 beneficiary schools of the “School Me” project. The goal of this workshop was to use SWOT to analyze the achievements of the project’s realization in schools, and to identify challenges that could be expected in the future. During the workshop, successes in teachers’ and students’ use of the platform were shared. Also mentioned was the need to engage a specialized company that could analyze the platform’s functioning in schools.

4. Analysis of the platform’s functioning in the beneficiary schools

From 5-12 July 2017, the company engaged to analyze the platform’s functioning in schools conducted visits to 18 out of the 20 beneficiary schools. In these schools the company tested: i) Internet access and local computer networks (LAN), ii) the functioning of the “School Me” system, iii) the constructed system’s accessibility to users, as well as iv) the condition of the TV devices, and access to “School Me” through the TV devices. The company prepared a report on the current situation at 18 schools, and also gave recommendations to the “School Me” company on improving various elements of the platform. The findings from the report were discussed by the representatives of “School Me,” KFOS and KEC.

5. Organization of research investigations on the usefulness of the “School Me” platform in the learning process

Because the “School Me” platform is being used for the first time in Kosovo, it was seen as reasonable, for the second pilot year of the project, to conduct five research investigations, which could then provide information relating to the usefulness of the platform in the learning process. In 2017, an investigation was completed that studied the perceptions of teachers about the usefulness of the platform in the learning process. In addition, two other investigations are in the process of being completed: one relating to students’ perceptions about the usefulness of the platform, and the other evaluating the quality of the online resources. The fourth investigation, which focuses on the effects of using the online resources, is being conducted. Finally, the fifth investigation, relating to the influence of the use of the online resources on the quality of teaching, will be conducted in 2018.

6. Convening of a workshop with teachers from the “Isa Boletini” school in Rahovec

In Rahovec, on 29 June 2017, a one-day workshop was held with 34 teachers from this school. During this workshop the teachers were taught how to integrate the platform’s materials into their teaching methodologies. Examples of lessons in biology, mathematics, and in the subject “Person and Nature” were presented to the workshop’s participants. At the end of the workshop, teachers reported that the workshop would lead them to make greater use of the platform in the 2017-2018 school year.

7. Drafting of a protocol for monitoring the implementation of the “School Me” platform in classrooms

During the month of September, the “Protocol for monitoring the implementation of the ‘School Me’ platform in classrooms” was drafted. The protocol’s aim was to inform the directors and teachers from the beneficiary schools about the monitoring process and the monitoring instrument. A training for school directors on how to use the monitoring protocol was conducted at the KEC on 11.10.2017.

8. Organization of monitoring at the beneficiary schools

In November, 13 schools were monitored, out of the 18 beneficiary schools participating in the project that were slated for monitoring during this time period. During the monitoring visits, interviews with school directors, meetings with teachers, and monitoring of teachers were conducted. At each of these schools, two to five teachers were monitored in accordance with the monitoring protocol. For each teacher, the monitoring protocol was filled out, and a final report was prepared for all of the schools.

9. Update of the project database

All of the project documents were continuously collected and systematized in the project database. Likewise, the documents on logicaldoc were also continuously systematized.

Plans for the future

In July 2018 the piloting of the “School Me” project will conclude. During the first part of 2018, a number of activities will be realized, such as:

1. Monitoring teachers as they use the platform in classrooms

During January and February of 2018, the ten beneficiary schools participating in the project that have not yet been monitored will undergo monitoring. Teachers will be monitored according to the monitoring protocol, and the results of the monitoring will be reflected in the summary report.

2. Collecting the investigative reports

During 2018, the five research investigations planned as a part of the project should be completed. The first and the fifth investigations, which are related to the evaluation of the quality of the platform and its impact on the learning process, are to be conducted only once, and they should be finished, respectively, in January and May of 2018. The second parts of the three other investigations – which relate to the perceptions of teachers and students about the usefulness of the platform in the learning process, as well as the effect of the platform on the learning process (case study) – will be conducted during the period of March-May 2018. All of these investigations will eventually be prepared for publication and distributed to interested parties.

3. Searching for possible donors to continue the project in the future

In 2018, various meetings with potential donors will be convened to examine the possibility of securing the requisite funds for continuing the project in the future.

4. Reporting

At the end of the project, a report will be prepared.

VOTE AND WATCH

For the third time, the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society, this time in collaboration with the Columbus Institute, organized the “Vote and Watch” campaign for the early elections held on 11.06.2017.

This campaign aimed to achieve four objectives:

- To prevent any eventual abusive acts during the voting,
- To document possible fraud,
- To give citizens a greater stake in building up the country’s democratic institutions, and
- To collect data sufficient to foster electoral reform

This time around, as before, there was a high level of readiness in Kosovar society generally, and among our partners in particular, to contribute to this campaign. This was a great sign of the prospects for success.

The format of the campaign for this election was the same as for those of 2013 and 2014. Thus, citizens were given the chance to report any eventual irregularities they noticed on Election Day by delivering free messages to the number 500 88. The messages were kept anonymous.

Because the infrastructure for organizing the campaign was ready at hand, the Foundation quickly re-established contacts with all partners with whom it organized the campaign in previous elections. We contacted AKREP, which reactivated the number 500 88 within the day. Then, we contacted the three mobile operators that agreed this time around to offer contributions to the campaign free of charge; they delivered the following text message to all citizens, twice: “Dear citizen, go out and vote for your future. Defend democracy and our new state. Send a free SMS to the number 500 88. KFOS.”

IPKO reactivated the platform (a technical move) on the basis of which all messages were collected from the three mobile operators. The messages were then read by 20 of our operators (mostly the same as the last time), and were classified into categories of irregularities, which also remained the same as those identified last time: “Everything was fine, Problems with voter lists, Violation of ballot secrecy and family voting, Management of the place of voting, Manipulation of voting inside the booth, Surroundings of the voting center, Pressure and violence at the voting center, and Inadequate management of the centers.”

Exactly 3265 messages from all of Kosovo were delivered to the number 500 88. The category containing the most messages was “Everything was fine.” The second most common messages were those falling in the category “Inadequate management of voting centers,” followed by “Problems with voter lists.” Judging from this number, and from the most commonly reported categories, we can conclude that this election was well run, and can be considered free and democratic.

The campaign was promoted using the following materials: The animation, fliers, postcards, badges, t-shirts, and hats.

The other partners in the Vote and Watch campaign were NGOs, which ran the campaign throughout the entire territory of Kosovo. The following NGOs took part:

Democracy Plus, COHU, INPO, CBM, POLIS, FORTESA, KOHA, ACDC, and the Center for Peace and Tolerance.

Media partners included:

KOHA GROUP, RTV 21, and KLAN KOSOVA

Partners that aided the campaign free of charge were:

RTV Dukagjini, TV Syrivision, TV ARTA, KOHA net, SPIN TV, Radio ALBA, Radio Zëri i Shtimes, Radio 24, Telegrafi.

Com, ON AIR, Kamenica Press, L NEWS, Lipjani Press, and INFO KOSOVA.

The report on the Serbian-speaking part of the campaign, as well as the Columbus Institute's report on the campaign's promotion in the media, can be found below.

VOTE AND WATCH – THE CAMPAIGN IN SERBIAN

The “Vote and Watch” campaign was again conducted for Serbian-speaking minority communities, with a special emphasis on the Serb community. Preparations for the Serbian-language campaign began alongside preparations for the campaign in Albanian. All of the materials prepared for the campaign were translated and adapted to the needs of Serbian-speaking communities. All of the relevant Serbian-language media in Kosovo were involved in meeting campaign needs. These media included: 1. TV Mreža – a network of five television stations and one producer – TV Mir, TV Herc, TV Most, TV Mir, RTV Puls, and New Press Production, 2. RTV Kim, a collection of cable television stations, radio stations, and web portals with the largest following in the Serb community, including a network of five Serbian-language radio stations in Kosovo, 3. Kosma Mreža, which, besides Radio Kim, leads a network comprising Radio Kontakt Plus in North Mitrovica, Radio Gorazhdevc near Peja, Radio Herc from Shtërpca, Radio Kllokot, and Radio Puls. The NGO Omonia was engaged to record the voices for the campaign animation. Omonia also promoted the campaign through its web portal, Graçanica online.

The Center for Peace and Tolerance, headquartered in Graçanica, was involved in distributing campaign fliers in Serbian throughout Kosovo, in partnership with an organization from Mitrovica, the Center for Advocacy and Democratic Culture. Both organizations took on the duty of distributing fliers in all of the majority-Serb municipalities and villages in Kosovo.

The campaign began in the same way as it did in the Albanian media. Immediately on 1 June, the campaign began with a media communication about its launch, via the websites of all of the partners involved in the campaign. Immediately after this, following the end of the animation, a longer version of the animation was placed on all of the websites, and it began to be broadcast on all of the member television stations of TV Mreža dhe RTV Kim. The audio version of the animation was also broadcast on all of Kosma Mreža's radio stations. The campaign banner was put in the most visible positions on the websites of all of the media that were involved. Likewise, the all of the partners' social media pages widely distributed all campaign materials.

The distribution of fliers south of the Ibri River began on 3 June, and started in the north on 4 June. Materials were distributed in cafes, community centers, and NGO offices, etc., that are most frequented by youth.

Starting from 3 June, the animation was broadcast at least five times per day on each television station, and it was broadcast on some stations even more frequently than agreed upon, such as on RTV Puls. TV Kim alone broadcast the animation more than 30 times during the period of 3-5 June. The animation was also transmitted via Kosma Mreža's radio stations more than 150 times.

On 7 June, the TV program Sporazum broadcast a show on the topic of the election and the role of civil society in the electoral process. During the show, a statement by the Executive Director of KFOS on the “Vote and Watch” campaign was broadcast, along with the animation.

A press conference held on 9 June 2017 was also attended by Serbian media. Even though for technical reasons the conference was not translated into Serbian, it was nonetheless reported on.

On Election Day, all of the media reported on notifications of irregularities.

In general, it can be said that the “Vote and Watch” campaign prepared for Serbian-speaking communities was a success, despite the fact that only eight messages in Serbian were delivered to the center on Election Day. The campaign was visible on all media and excited great interest in the Serb community generally.

Report of the Columbus Institute

Through the “Vote and Watch” campaign, the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society – in collaboration with the Columbus Institute in Prishtina – made it possible for citizens to report every irregularity occurring on the day of the early parliamentary elections in Kosovo by sending free SMS messages to the number 500 88. Including citizens in this process was considered vital and a way to ensure the achievement of the highest democratic standards in the electoral process. In the third iteration of the “Vote and Watch” campaign for reporting irregularities on the day of the early parliamentary elections of 11 June in Kosovo, the Columbus Institute, in partnership with the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS), was responsible for promoting the campaign, and for ensuring its presence in the media. This included national media, cable TV (program service providers), daily newspapers, the radio, web portals, and local broadcasters.

In several media, the campaign was promoted with special rates, and in others it was promoted free of charge.

The Columbus Institute reached an agreement of cooperation with the KOHA group for the promotion of the campaign on three of the group’s media: Kohavision (TV), the daily newspaper “Koha Ditore,” and the web portal koha.net. Some of the television services were provided at special rates (the “Vote and Watch” campaign’s 59-second promotional animation was broadcast at 2 EUR per second). Furthermore, the most highly watched evening informational program in Kosovo, “Interaktiv,” devoted a segment to “Vote and Watch.”

For seven days, “Interaktiv” covered the “Vote and Watch” campaign via reports and in-studio interviews. It ran awareness-raising reports targeted at citizens, encouraging them to exercise their constitutional right to vote and thus to report irregularities to the “Vote and Watch” campaign. These reports included topics such as how to vote, participation by young voters who had turned 18 after the previous election, criminal indictments for election abuse, how to change one’s voting center, as well as information on how to find out one’s voting center in the first place. Within the framework of these reports, as well as for in-studio interviews, KQZ officials, the State Prosecutor, and the organizations Democracy+, Çohu, and KDI were interviewed.

The remaining parts of the campaign promotion effort were provided free of charge in support of “Vote and Watch”: Three scheduled broadcasts of the KFOS-produced documentary “Message on democracy” on 1, 2, and 3, June – two broadcasts in the evening and one in the morning; display of the “Vote and Watch” campaign logo with an accompanying message to report irregularities to the number put to use in service to voters, 500 88, broadcast 15 times during the day across Kohavision’s program schedule; interviews with guests from KFOS and the campaign partner organizations “Initiative for progress – INPO” and “Çohu” on the morning program, in promotion of “Vote and Watch”; and reports on the progress of the campaign on Election Day, with live feed from the field at the “Vote and Watch” headquarters, as well as with representatives of partner organizations in Ferizaj and Prizren.

Meanwhile, the daily newspaper “Koha Ditore” published the “Vote and Watch” promotional material on ¼ of a newspaper page, for seven days, in support of the campaign; and koha.net displayed the “Vote and Watch” logo on its main website. All materials were also promoted on the respective websites of the aforementioned media. Promotion of the campaign on Kohavision and TV Arta began on 1.06.2017 and continued until 11.06.2017, whereas it began in Koha Ditore and koha.net on 3.06.2017, and continued until 11.06.2017.

Promotional material from the “Vote and Watch” campaign was also published on ¼ of a newspaper page in the daily newspaper “Zëri,” which supported the campaign in the print version of the paper.

Two other influential broadcasters that promoted the “Vote and Watch” campaign’s promotional animation were Radio Television 21 and Klan Kosova.

Both television broadcasters offered this service at the preferential rate of 2.2 Euros per second. The promotion of the campaign began on 3.06.2017 and continued until 9.06.2017. Coming before the national news program on each station, the animation was broadcast in prime time in the context of the election debates,

which were also broadcast in prime time.

The “Vote and Watch” campaign was likewise promoted on TV Dukagjini and TV Syri, which broadcast the animation 3-5 times per day, distributed across the program schedule of these channels.

Both of these broadcasters supported the campaign free of charge, whereas TV Dukagjini also reported on the campaign in information programs both on television and radio, with increased coverage on Election Day as operators at the “Vote and Watch” headquarters received messages from citizens about the voting process.

The web portals that supported the campaign by displaying the “Vote and Watch” logo free of charge were telegrafi.com, infokosova.net, and onairmusic, one of the platforms most frequented by youth. In this way, the campaign was able to filter through to young voters, especially those for whom this election was their first chance to participate in the voting process.

The “Vote and Watch” campaign was also supported by local media in various cities in Kosovo: Spin TV, Radio Alba, Radio “Zëri i Shtimes,” Radio 24, Kamenica Press, Lipjani News, and Lipjani Press. Besides Albanian-language media, the campaign was also promoted and supported free of charge by Serbian-language media: TV Mreza, Radio KIM Media Group, Kosma Mreza, and the Gračanica Online portal.

The conference was broadcast live on Kohavision, and was also covered by RTV21, RTK2, VOA, Tribuna Channel, Koha Ditore, koha.net, kosovapress, infokosova.net, and telegrafi.com.

In addition to media promotion, the “Vote and Watch” campaign was also promoted using alternative methods of spreading information: distributing promotional material, publishing photographs with television personalities on social networks in support of the “Vote and Watch 2017” campaign, and media reports on the “Vote and Watch” logo.

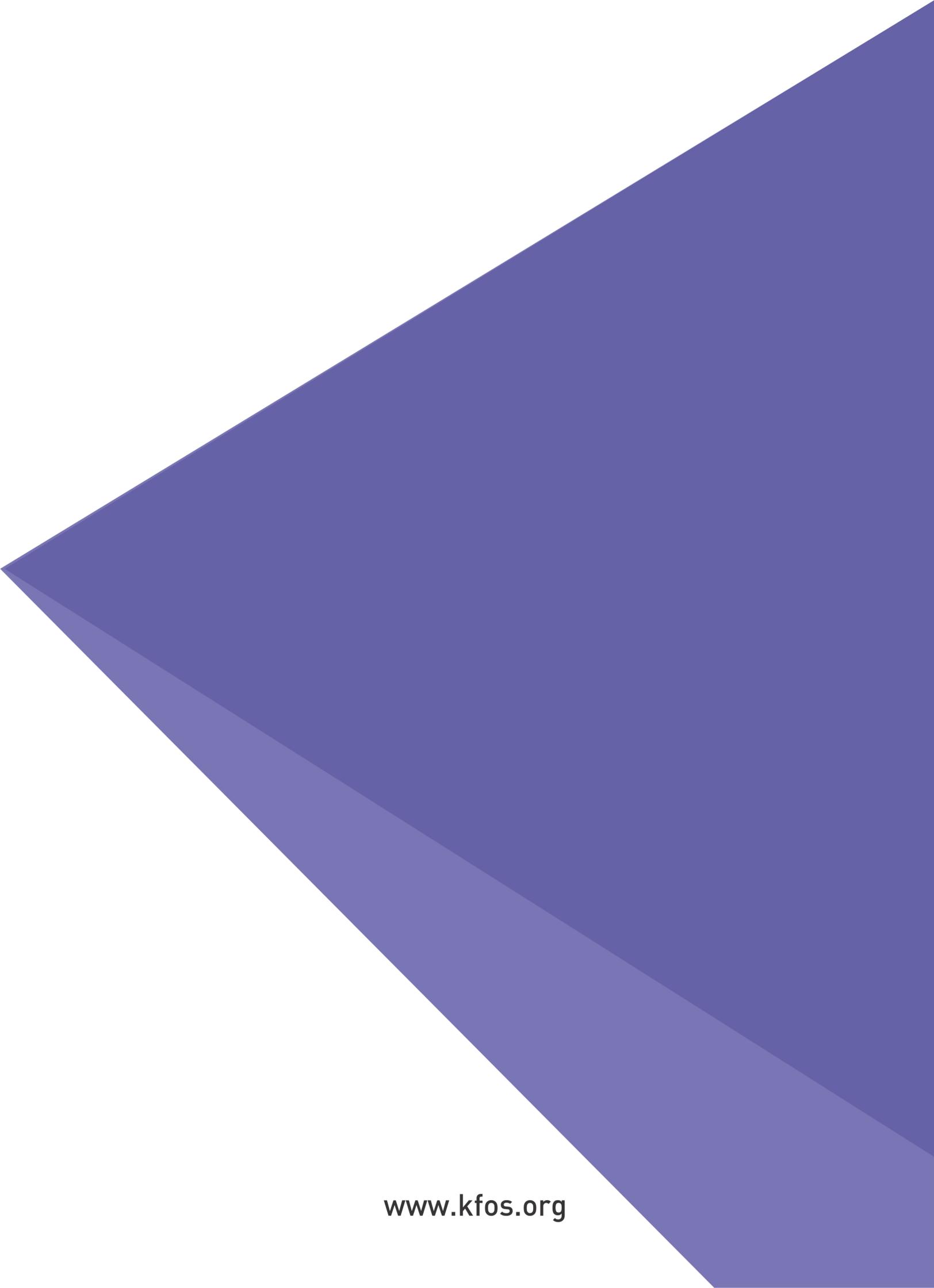
The “Vote and Watch” campaign was also supported by other local media in various cities in Kosovo: Spin TV, Radio Alba, Radio “Zëri i Shtimes,” RTV 24, Kamenica Press, Lipjani News, and Lipjani Press. Besides Albanian-language media, the campaign was also promoted and supported free of charge by Serbian-language media: TV Mreza, Radio KIM Media Group, Kosma Mreza, and the Gračanica Online portal.

On Election Day, a number of television and radio stations, as well as the most widely read online portals in the country, reported on the operators as they were receiving messages. Live reporting from the “Vote and Watch” headquarters was broadcast on KTV, Klan Kosova, Tribuna Channel, TV Arta, and RTV Dukagjini. On 12.06.2017, media also reported on the results of the “Vote and Watch” campaign, specifically on the 3000 SMS messages delivered by citizens, who were voting until 19:00. Three categories – “Everything was fine,” “Inadequate management of voting places,” and “Problems with voter lists” – dominated among the messages, whereas there were also messages falling under the categories “Violation of ballot secrecy and family voting” and “Manipulation of voting inside the booth.”

List of grants

Project name	Grantee	Euro
Vote and Watch	Demokraci plus +	18,910.00 €
Vote and Watch	Fortesa	1,855.00 €
Vote and Watch	Community Building Mitrovica	2,950.00€
Vote and Watch	INPO	2,898.80€
Vote and Watch	Iniciativa Qytetare Skenderaj	2,000.00 €
Vote and Watch	COHU	3,220.00 €
Vote and Watch	POLIS	2,200.00 €
Vote and Watch	KOHA	1,820.00 €
Vote and Watch	TV MREZA	2,000.00 €
Vote and Watch	RADIO KIM	700.00 €
Vote and Watch	Center for Peace and Tolerance	800.00 €
Vote and Watch	Omonia	200.00 €
Vote and Watch	Instituti Columbus	20,844.00 €
Grand total		60,397.80 €
	Other project expenses	37,167.16 €
	Grand Total 2017	97,564.96 €



The image features a white background with two overlapping blue geometric shapes on the left side. The top shape is a large triangle pointing to the left, with a darker blue color. Below it is a smaller, lighter blue triangle, also pointing to the left, which overlaps the bottom edge of the darker triangle. At the bottom center, the text 'www.kfos.org' is displayed in a black, sans-serif font.

www.kfos.org