



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



FOUNDATION'S WORK IN 2019

The Foundation's activities in 2019 have been driven by the agenda of building an open society in Kosovo, which is part of a mid-term strategy that was established two years ago. The key premises that set this agenda are at the same time the most serious challenges which Kosovo society faces for more than two decades now. The values of an open society in Kosovo are put at risk both from the outside and from the inside of the country. The Foundation has tackled both aspects: (1) the isolation of the country resulting from unfinished international processes and (2) the establishment of a culture of impunity being two important aspects within which the Foundation has built its own strategy of action.

The general objectives were:

(1) Fight against the isolation of the country, resulting from a rather slow process of recognition of its statehood internationally. The Foundation can not do much for the recognition of the new state but has continued to advocate for greater engagement of states that have not yet recognized Kosovo's statehood. Considering that formal recognition is a political and a diplomatic act, the Foundation has not been able and has not even made efforts to stimulate these processes; but on the other hand throughout the year steps have been taken to stimulate a more intense engagement of non-recognition countries to inter-state cooperation at all levels. In this regard, individuals and representatives of civil society visited many European centers. A special emphasis during 2019 was put on the strengthening of regional cooperation and on bilateral challenges such as Kosovo-Serbia negotiations.

(2) The second pillar of the Foundation's action in 2019, emerging from the corpora of fight against the problems that keep Kosovo society

more and more closed, is the fight against the culture of impunity by promoting transparency, accountability and integrity of decision-making institutions. In this regard, the Foundation has been involved in complex activities arising from some long-term programs, such as European Integration, fighting against corruption and increasing transparency and accountability of government institutions, and (4) Fighting (academic) corruption at the University of Prishtina.

(3) last but not least, the whole range of activities that bring to the forefront the action to integrate and protect minority rights is recapped in the Reconnecting Mitrovica Program, which gradually becomes a symbolic title for continued efforts to strengthen the civil society sector in areas where Serbs live, because in 2019 a large part of activities organized by this program were located in other regions outside Mitrovica.

As in previous years, the Foundation has been strongly supported by the fact that (1) it has already accumulated considerable experience with its work carried out in these areas and has had concrete results that encourage us to move forward; (2) there is effective cooperation with strong networks of individuals and organizations at home and abroad in support of specific objectives; (3) it has strong advocacy platforms to influence adequate decision-making.

A significant goal of the Foundation in 2019 has continued to be the strengthening of networks and coalitions of non-governmental organizations, which at this stage act as Foundation partners in the realization of program goals, but in the short term these networks will continue their work as freelancers.

The partnership with these networks and coalitions of civil society organizations enables successful tackling of major problems, because it brings much more expertise both in research potential and in building advocacy platforms around the issues of our concern. This approach has so far been quite successful, and the Foundation has promoted the establishment of at least two such networks: KITU (University Integrity and Transparency Coalition) as well as Pro-Open dealing with anti-corruption and public procurement projects. A similar but informal network works on European integration issues, as well as with ethnic communities in the north of the country and in Gračanica, linked to Civic Energy Centers that the Foundation established in previous years.

The established program structure, partner program networks and Foundation's advocacy infrastructure (Forum 2015, Open 333, CEC and Evening Talks) for years has established a synergistic action with operational projects (Concepts) as well as direct grants (Fields), which can be adapted very flexibly to certain programming circumstances as an effective tool to challenge the very fragile Kosovo democracy. Large operational projects have been the most significant part of our operation in 2019.

This year the Foundation has continued to work in four strategic directions, the analysis of which is provided further in this report and has continued to work on addressing the two political and development challenges this year brought to us (with reserve funds). The Foundation has also continued to work with third party funding, such as the EU and the Karl Kubel Stiftung (SNC), to address the problems of RAE communities in the field of education. During 2019 the multi-year project funded by the EU to support education of RAE communities has been completed, while the project addressing the education and social needs supported by the KKS will continue until 2022. Also, projects funded by the OSF Reserve Fund related to the empowerment of Kosovo side in the Kosovo-Serbia negotiations and the project implemented jointly with the Foundation in

Albania entitled "De-composing the Myth of the National Unification" have come to an end.

FINANCIAL REPORT

KFOS EXPENDITURE FINANTIAL STATEMENT

For the period January – December 2019

No.	Specification	Budget in Euro	Expenditure in Euro	% of Expenditure
1	Core budget for 2019			
	Concept 1 – Reconnecting Mitrovica	377,938.22	377,938.22	100.00
	Concept 2 - Anchoring Kosovo's Public Institutions to EU Standards and Policies Concept	458,885.12	458,885.12	100.00
	Filed 1 - Transparency and Accountability	276,807.30	276,807.30	100.00
	Filed 2 – High education Program	244,303.37	244,303.37	100.00
	Program administration expenses	188,396.69	188,396.69	100.00
	Administrative expenses	247,816.13	247,816.13	100.00
	Sub-Total 1:	1,794,146.83	1,794,146.83	100.00
2	* OSF Reserve Fund and other network contributions 2019			
	OSF Reserve Fund - Kosovo – Serbia Dialogue	96,565.00	96,565.00	100.00
	OSF Reserve Fund - Kosovo - Albania Project	119,667.83	119,667.83	100.00
	OSIFE - Think Tank Fund for 5+2 Project – Concept 2.	90,157.12	90,157.12	100.00
	Network fund for High education program	31,726.67	31,726.67	100.00
	Sub-Total 2:	338,116.62	338,116.62	100.00
3	Third Party Donor Contributions in 2019			
	European Union funds	120,884.50	120,884.50	100.00
	Karl Kubel Shtiftung funds	141,092.02	141,092.02	100.00
	Balkan Tender Watch	27,363.52	27,363.52	100.00
	Sub-Total 3:	289,340.04	289,340.04	100.00
	Total of budget and expenditures	2,421,603	2,421,603	



FIG 1. Expenses incurred under the programs - EUR

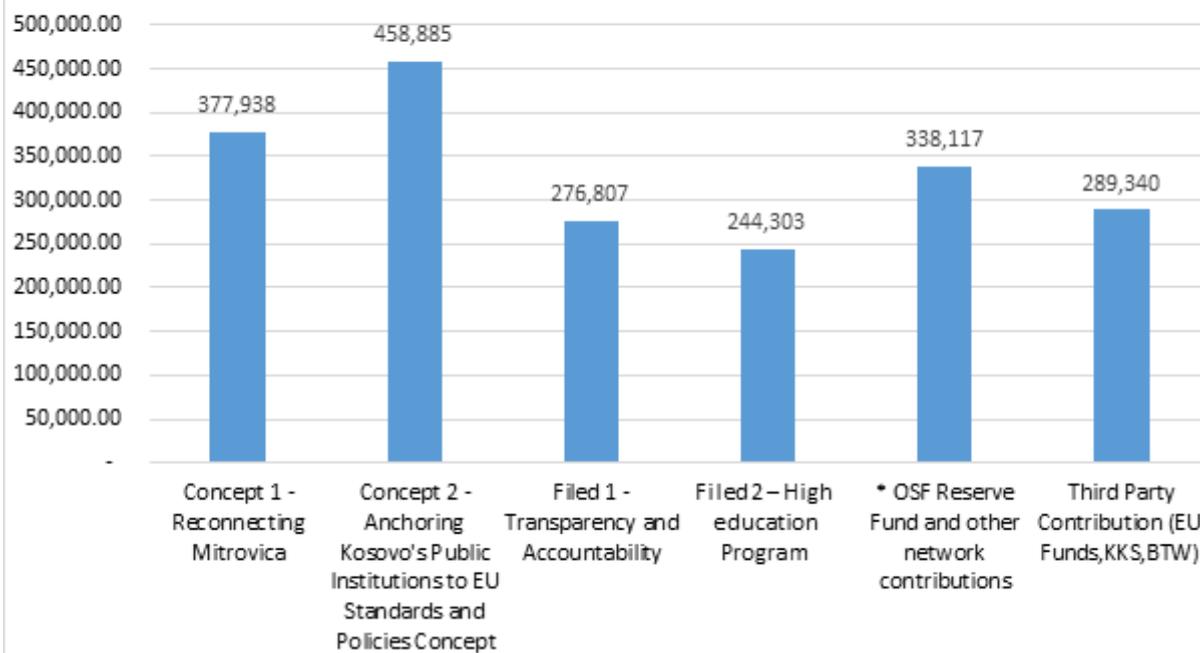


FIG. 2. Expenses incurred by months

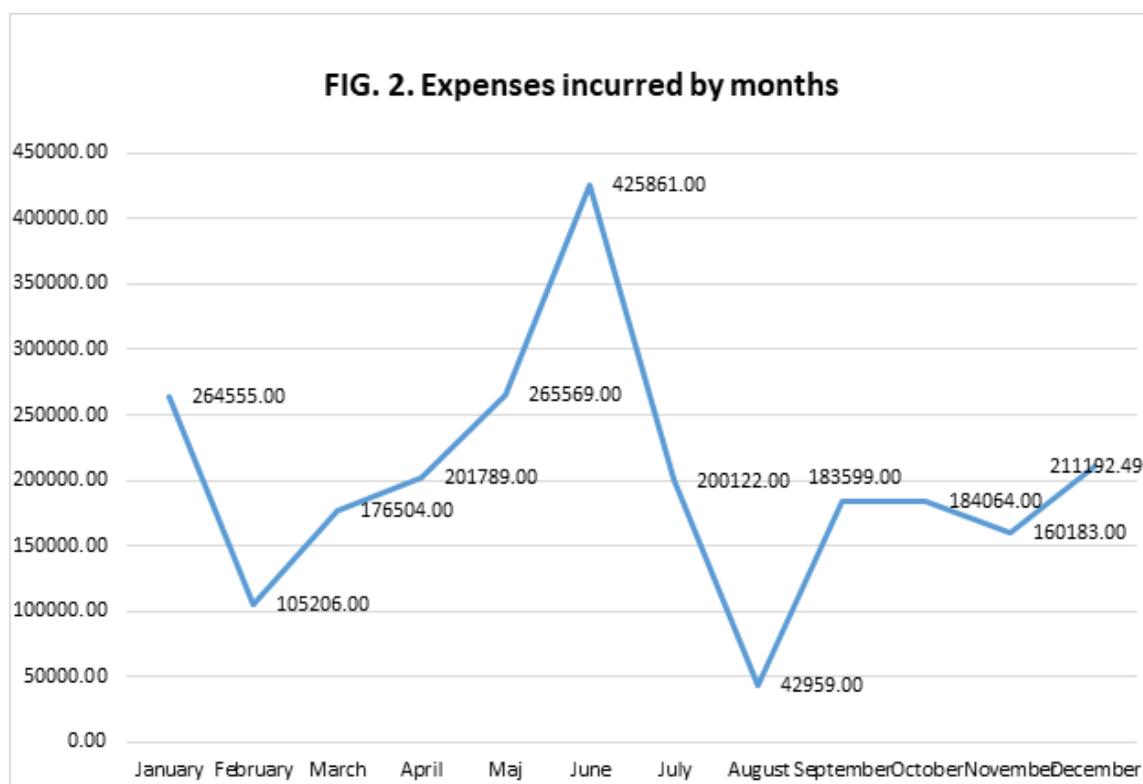


FIG. 3. Spent budget divided by funding categories

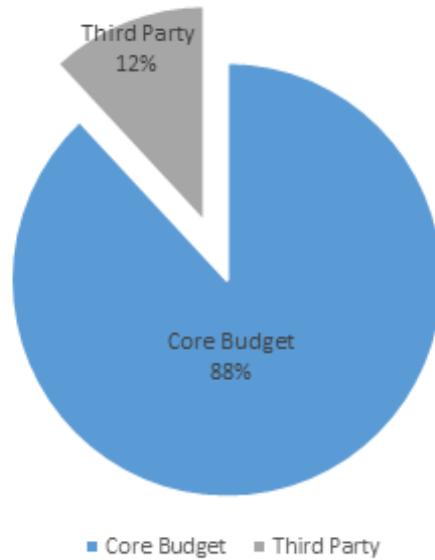
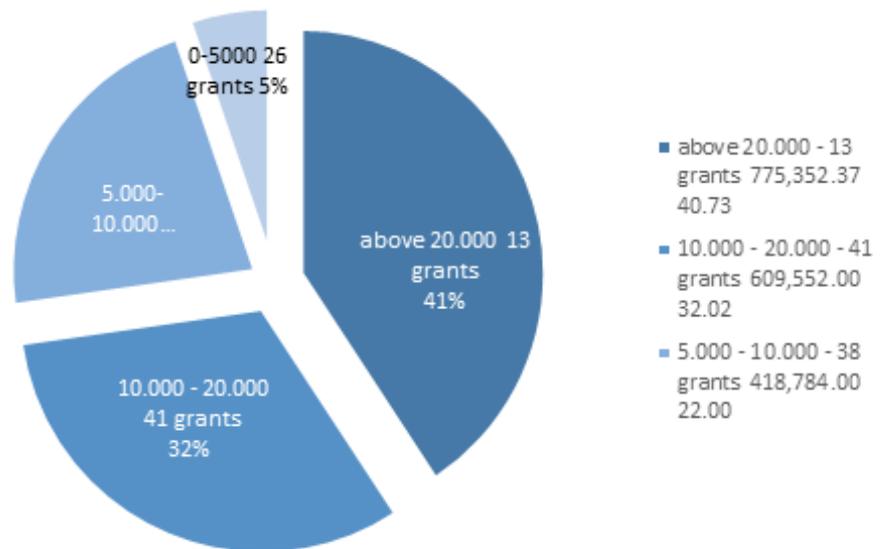


FIG. 4. Devision of grants by amount - EUR





EUROPEAN PROGRAM



EUROPEAN PROGRAM

Anchoring Kosovo's Public Institutions to EU Standards and Policies and Enhancing Kosovo's International Status

Summary

Although Kosovo signed its first contractual agreement with the European Union in 2015, Kosovo institutions are still far from achieving European standards. Moreover, the return to the nationalist spirit among EU member states, especially those that do not yet recognize Kosovo's independence, is a negative indicator of the country's European perspective.

In Kosovo, on the other hand, despite positive steps that have been made in addressing European Commission requirements, a series of political developments that kicked off with the imposition of a 100 % tariff on products from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in December 2018 kept Kosovo's relations with neighbors and Brussels in tension all year long.

The unilateral imposition of this tariff by Haradinaj government led to Serbia's withdrawal from the Brussels-mediated dialogue process, undoing every step taken towards finalizing the all-inclusive agreement. On the other hand, the European Parliament elections in March and the slow formation of new institutions – a process that lasted until December – left the EU in an institutional vacuum without much authority to put pressure or push its regional cooperation policy.

In June 2019, after receiving invitation for an interview by the Special Court in The Hague, PM

Ramush Haradinaj resigned, putting the country in an institutional crisis for the rest of the year.

The dissolution of parliament and the resignation of the government resulted in the suspension of political initiatives, and had an adverse effect on the legislative agenda by postponing many positive initiatives, even the adoption of the Second European Reform Agenda (ERA 2).

Haradinaj's resignation led the country to early elections in October – won by two opposition parties, the Self-Determination Movement and the Democratic League of Kosovo. Although election results indicated that Kosovo citizens wanted change, the political crisis in the country continued to deepen and the winning parties failed to form a ruling coalition by the time this report was written, in January 2020.

Against the backdrop of domestic and international political developments, the Foundation continued to work to promote and support European reforms in the country. The Foundation focused its efforts in two directions: firstly, by using the country's European perspective to advocate reform; secondly, by trying to strengthen this perspective through establishing and maintaining links with European states that do not recognize Kosovo's statehood.

To accomplish these, the Foundation has focused on:

1. Supporting the "Deepening EU Knowledge" modules in key sectors of the European agenda
2. Support the development of research that enhance knowledge of Kosovo's relations with the EU and monitor the implementation of contractual obligations

3. Supporting the network of young researchers from non-recognizing countries (EU and the region) and expanding the networking between Kosovo civil society and these countries

4. Continuing to advocate for a final agreement with Serbia by supporting a dialogue between all political parties in Kosovo with a view to reaching consensus

During 2019, the Foundation supported civil society organizations to monitor Kosovo's progress in meeting European standards by creating a network of organizations that have researched, monitored and advocated for the approximation of Kosovo institutions to the EU within the various sectors.

In addition, the Foundation has initiated and supported the publication of works and the organization of discussions that have addressed the change of the political climate in Europe as well as in the region regarding the European integration process of the Western Balkan states – in particular after the European Council postponed the opening of negotiations with Albania and Northern Macedonia.

Moreover, during 2019, the Foundation intensified its efforts to establish links between Kosovo civil society and policymakers with those in Brussels, in non-recognizing states in Europe and in the region, by organizing open and closed discussions in Serbia, Belgium, Albania, Greece and Spain.

On the other hand, following the success of the first two generations, the Foundation continued to support 12 young researchers from European countries and the region whose original work will be disseminated in their respective countries and through European publications. The initiative of networking of young researchers and civil society from Kosovo with non-recognizing countries is supported by the core budget and the Think-Tank Fund by OSIFE.

To continue working on strengthening Kosovo's position vis-à-vis dialogue with Serbia, the Foundation has continued the operational project

with its German and Kosovo partners, supported by reserve fund and a one-year supplement to the core budget. Despite the suspension of the dialogue process and the lack of Government and Parliament, the Foundation continued to work with policymakers in and out of Kosovo to address the possibilities of continuing the dialogue and expanded its activities to include the Serbian community in Kosovo as part of the process.

Building Knowledge about the EU

As part of its goal of improving governance and further democratization of the country, the Foundation is committed to supporting civil society in Kosovo to be part of policymaking in the country, always taking into account the standards and obligations arising from the Acquis and the SAA.

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

As a means of achieving this goal, the Foundation has initiated and supported the organization of a so-called "Building Knowledge about the EU" modules which include workshops, development of position papers on relevant topics arising from the obligations undertaken by the EU, Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA), and advocacy for policy reform. Modules usually result in intensive workshops with key stakeholders from public institutions, civil society and the media. These modules focus on specific sectors giving space to civil society organizations to monitor, research and analyze various topics thoroughly.

In March 2019, the Foundation organized a workshop for planning and consultations with a large group of civil society organizations to discuss sectors where the Foundation's intervention through its programs would be most imminent.

This meeting which brought together the potential grantees (participatory grantmaking), was jointly organized with the Transparency and Accountability Program. During the meeting, civil society representatives found it necessary that another segment of the “Building...” modules focus on two major topics: environmental protection and access to public documents.

Throughout the year, various organizations have been engaged to research and advocate within thematic areas, covering topics ranging from economic and environmental impacts of the construction of the new Kosova e Re power plant to the possibility of reducing air pollution in Prishtina – every winter ranked as one of the most polluted cities in the world.

As part of this intervention, in May 2019, Riinvest Institute organized a successful workshop bringing together representatives of Kosovo Assembly, energy experts, civil society and media representatives in a workshop to discuss the effects of the decision to build the new power plant and to advocate the prohibition of ratification of the project by the Assembly. The policy paper titled “Power Sector at Crossroads: New Power Plant, An Old Idea?” published as part of this advocacy project, summarizes key arguments about how a new power plant is not only harmful for Kosovo’s environment and economy, but also an inevitable obstacle to EU integration processes.

Although the contract to build the new power plant did not come to a vote in the previous legislature, the topic of the power plant was one of the key topics discussed during the October 2019 elections and remains a priority for the new Assembly and the future Government of Kosovo. To advocate in this regard, the Foundation also commissioned an animation to explain the key arguments emerging from the consultations made within this project to also inform voters about the problem.

Another highly influential project within this intervention was the project run by the Organization for Democracy, Anti-Corruption and Dignity, Çohu!, which turned its traditional

investigative journalism school into a platform to promote media coverage of environmental issues. Following a preliminary monitoring and analysis of media coverage, Çohu in collaboration with the Crime and Corruption Reporting Network (KRIK), organized a 4-day workshop focused on journalism research methods and the minimum expertise needed to cover major environmental damages. As part of the project, Çohu also give awards for the best environmental articles at the end of 2019, which had a positive impact on promoting coverage of environmental issues.

Some of the projects supported as part of this objective will continue to be implemented in 2020, where the thematic focus will be expanded to cover fake news and dissemination of disinformation - a topic the Foundation wants to address in 2020.

List of grants and other program expenses:

Project title	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Low emission zones	Kosovo Center for Advocacy and Development, KADC	7,725.00
KADC Workshop "Low Emission Zones" 14.-16.06.2019	Operational	8,861.44
"Power Sector at Crossroads: New Power Plant - An Old Idea?"	Riinvest Institute	4,800.00
Organization of workshop with Riinvest Institute "Power Sector at Crossroads" on 17-19.05. 2019	Operational	4,289.98
EU School of Investigative Journalism – Environmental damage	Organization ÇOHU	10,200.00
Workshop ÇOHU / KRIK "EU School of Investigative Journalism – Environmental damage" 07-11.06.2019	Operational	13,703.63
Environmental Monitor	EC Ma ndryshe	9,910.00
The most economically favorable tender criterion - How ready are we?	Kosovo Democratic Institute, KDI	4,000.00
KDI Workshop "The most economically favorable tender criterion - How ready are we?" 15-17.11.2019	Operational	5,343.85
Fake News and EU School of Investigative Journalism	Organization ÇOHU	18,000.00
Pollution and Construction	EC Ma ndryshe	10,000.00
Together for a smoke-free environment	Kosovo Center for Advocacy and Development, KADC	10,700.00
	Subtotal	107,533.90
Program Expenses		
Planning meeting with civil society organizations 22-24.03.19 in Tirana, Albania	Operational	5,686.22
Animation and publishing services	Operational	1,105.26
Publication and print	Operational	1,000.00
Other program administrative expenses	Operational	6,540.88
	Subtotal	14,332.36
Total		121,866.26

Monitoring the EU Integration Process and Advocating for Reforms

Over the past two decades, EU conditionality has played a powerful role in pushing reforms across the Western Balkans. In Kosovo too, EU funds and gradual conditioning on the path to European integration have been positive incentives for Kosovo's institutions to adopt reforms to guarantee the rule of law, respect for human rights, and the sustainable development of the country.

In line with its Strategy, during 2019 the Foundation supported civil society organizations and stakeholders to monitor the implementation of Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) priorities. Due to the institutional crisis that followed the Prime Minister's resignation, the Kosovo government failed to adopt the Second European Reform Agenda (ERA II).

Despite the institutional crisis, through various grantees the Foundation has continued to work towards fostering EU compliance by working with the civil service level.

In order to achieve its strategic objective, the Foundation has worked in two directions. On one hand, the Foundation has financially supported organizations that have monitored measures and priorities set out in the state documents, thereby assessing and promoting Kosovo's advancement towards European path. Moreover, the Foundation has financially supported organizations developing policy documents to advocate for changes to the legal framework or specific policies.

On the other hand, the Foundation has initiated and supported projects which have been actively dealing with the consequences of political changes within the EU following the parliamentary elections and the creation of the new Commission, addressing the issue of stagnation of the enlargement process directly.

As a grant giver, the Foundation has supported organizations to research and develop policy

documents, and then to advocate in various sectors: from public administration reform to increased transparency and integrity in the Kosovo police.

Prishtina Institute for Policy Studies (PIPS), for example, has dealt with the issue of administrative reforms – in particular the restructuring of independent agencies. This process that has begun many years ago, has not yet taken its final form and is one of the priorities of the European agenda in Kosovo, making the participation of civil society indispensable.

On the other hand, **Group for Legal and Policy Studies (GLPS)**, continued to monitor the meeting of the criteria set by the EU in the SAA, by supporting their fulfillment through advocacy to the relevant institutions involved in this process – a project launched in the year past.

On the other hand, the Foundation has supported other analyzes to be published in early 2020, including research conducted by **European Policy Institute of Kosovo (EPIK)** on EU funds to be provided as part of IPA III starting 2021.

While the Foundation has continued to push for much needed reforms for the country, it has been unable to ignore the dimming of the European perspective for the Western Balkans, especially after the indefinite postponement of visa liberalisation for Kosovo citizens, and postponing the opening of negotiations with Northern Macedonia and Albania.

To address the change in mood within the EU itself, and in particular following the publication of a French document calling for a reversal of the accession process, the Foundation commissioned the analysis: "New Enlargement Methodology: Obstacle or Inspiration?" The launch of the analysis on December 11 was followed by a successful and a very lively debate gathering the authors of the report, Augustin Palokaj and Gjeraqina Tuhina, and French Ambassador in Kosovo, Her Excellency Marie-Christine Butel.

List of grants and other program expenses:

Project title	Grantee	Amount in Euro
With Efficient Institutions Closer to the EU	Kosovo Center for Advocacy and Development, KADC	16,000.00
Monitoring the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement in the area of public administration reform	Prishtina Institute for Policy Studies, PIPS	8,677.46
Kosovo in IPA III: Challenges and Novelities	European Policy Institute of Kosovo, EPIK	5,909.46
Monitoring of SAA implementation in relation to rationalization of independent agencies	Prishtina Institute for Policy Studies, PIPS	
Lack of transparency and accountability impedes deradicalization of returnees in Kosovo	Council for Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms, KMDLNj	8,000.00
Strengthening integrity in the Kosovo Police	Kosovar Center for Security Studies, QKSS	20,000.00
Potential migrant profile	Group for Legal and Political Studies, GLPS	15,200.00
Citizens at the center of journalism	Kosovo Glocal	15,000.00
Government reorganization: organization of ministries, tackling of redundant civil servants and inspectorate-type structures within fused ministries	Democracy plus	9,960.00
Consultancy services for the analysis "The Future of EU-Kosovo Relations after the European Elections"	Operational	5,254.03
Consultancy services for the analysis: "New European Enlargement Methodology: Obstacle or Inspiration"	Operational	5,388.55
Subtotal		119,389.50
Program Expenses		
Publication and print		1,537.59
Translation services		225.92
Other program expenses		6,540.88
Subtotal		8,304.39
Total		127,693.89

Improving relations between Kosovo and non-recognizing states

Kosovo's failure to join Interpol at the end of 2018 symbolically marked the beginning of a difficult period in its foreign policy. Since the imposition of a 100 % tariff - a decision that has been sharply criticized by the EU and other international partners - to a series of withdrawals of its recognition, 2019 has found Kosovo increasingly isolated. During the year, there were no changes in the five non-recognizing EU member states' position towards Kosovo independence – a serious obstacle to the country's European perspective. Moreover, in September Czech national team lost a football match against Kosovo team, after which the Czech president discussed the possibility of withdrawing Kosovo's recognition.

The imposition of tariff further worsened relations between Kosovo and its two neighbors, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

These developments made the Foundation's intervention even more essential in networking Kosovo's civil society, policymakers and artists with those of non-recognizing countries and launching new channels of communication between these societies. The initiative for the development of links and exchanges with civil society in the seven countries which did not recognize Kosovo is supported by the core budget and the OSIFE's Think-Tank fund.

For the third year in a row, the Foundation continued to support a network of young researchers from non-recognizing countries to challenge stereotypical perceptions and lack of knowledge about Kosovo. This project, informally called "Building knowledge about Kosovo", has produced a series of articles in European and regional publications in various languages, a volume of academic articles, a publication of short articles, and has continued to present the results of work in various dissemination events.

In 2019 the Foundation published a committed volume of original research produced by

European and regional researchers entitled "Local and international determinants of Kosovo's statehood" - the result of a year's work of second cycle mentors and researchers.

At the same time, the Foundation has selected a new group of researchers from Spain, Northern Macedonia, Greece, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, and others, to work together with qualified mentors in research on various issues of Kosovo's identity, citizenship, European perspective and Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, among others.

The third cycle of the network will be completed in early 2020, when the Foundation will also focus on formalizing the network and will continue to work on alumni networking.

Another success of the Foundation was the publication of the book "The politics of recognition and engagement," edited by Ioannis Armakolas and James Ker-Lindsay, published by the prestigious publisher Palgrave Macmillan. The book, a volume of articles by Balkan academics and experts, is the result of over two years of work initiated and supported by the Foundation to analyze how the various policies that EU states (non-recognizing and allied) have towards Kosovo influence the chances of improving its international status. In December, the book was also promoted at the London School of Economics and Political Science in London, where some of the book's authors and editors presented the work to the academic community.

During 2019, the Foundation was very active in maintaining links between civil society in Kosovo and in non-recognizing countries.

Following an approach that touches upon several objectives at once, the Foundation organized a series of roundtables to stimulate debate on Kosovo's European perspective and dialogue with Serbia, targeting non-recognizing states and the role they can play around these issues.

In March, in collaboration with the Forum for Ethnic Relations (FER), the Foundation organized

a panel discussion on Kosovo-Serbia dialogue in Belgrade with civil society representatives of the two countries, thus opening a two-way debate on the benefits and consequences of the dialogue. During 2019, the Foundation also continued to support the traditional festival “Mirëdita, Dobardan!”, which in late May brought to Belgrade artists, films and musicians, continuing to contribute to the opening of two societies to one another.

In late November, in collaboration with the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Affairs, ELIAMEP, the Foundation organized a meeting in Athens. The biggest success of this intervention was the successful organization of an all-day event in Madrid, Spain precisely to discuss the dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia and the role of Spain in this process, especially after the appointment of its former Minister of Foreign Affairs as a representative of European diplomacy.

List of grants and other program expenses: Basic budget

Project title		Grantee	Amount in Euro
Consultancy services for the establishment and expansion of network of researchers "Building knowledge about Kosovo" – third generation.	Operational		18,000.00
Workshop in Thessaloniki 30.05 -02.06.19 and support for small research projects as part of the "Building knowledge about Kosovo" project	Operational		38,502.19
"Mirëdita, Dobardan" festival 2019	NGO "Integra"		25,000.00
New Government: What Now?	European Policy Institute of Kosovo, EPIK		4,980.66
Study visit of 12 researchers in Prishtina 15-21.09.19	Operational		8,206.66
Planning meeting for the regional development and expansion of the "Building knowledge about Kosovo" network III, 6-10.03.19	Operational		6,635.77
Roundtable with ELIAMEP in Athens "Addressing the Challenges of the Western Balkans" on 28.11.19	Operational		1,935.55
Support for book promotion "Politics of Recognition" at London School of Economics on 4.12.19	Operational		631.72
Workshop with Elcano and ECFR in Madrid, 11-15.12.19	Operational		2,928.80
	Subtotal		106,821.35
Program Expenses			
Other program administrative expenses	Operational		6,540.88
	Subtotal		6,540.88
		Total	113,362.23

List of grants and other expenses: Basic budget and reserve fund OSIFE

Project title	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Support for small research projects as part of the "Building knowledge about Kosovo" project – third generation	Operational	39,917.00
New Government in Kosovo and the Future of Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue	Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Affairs, ELIAMEP	3,020.00
Strengthening constructive public debate on Kosovo's foreign policy and political relations with the European Union	Prishtina Institute for Policy Studies, PIPS	5,500.00
Consultancy services for editing, mentoring, and coordination of network of researchers "Building knowledge about Kosovo" 3.0	Operational	14,000.00
Study visit of 12 researchers in Prishtina 15-21.09.19	Operational	8,206.66
Planning meeting in Tirana 22.24.03.19	Operational	2,686.22
EPC Roundtable in Brussels "Stuck in Limbo? The Future of Prishtina-Belgrade dialogue" me 20.11.19	Operational	2,245.36
Roundtable with ELIAMEP in Athens "Addressing the Challenges of the Western Balkans" on 28.11.19	Operational	1,752.69
Support for book promotion "Politics of Recognition" at London School of Economics on 4.12.19	Operational	2,085.06
Workshop with Elcano and ECFR in Madrid, 11-15.12.19	Operational	3,004.06
Subtotal		82,417.04
Program Expenses		
Publication and print		7,149.88
Other program administrative expenses		590.20
Subtotal		7,740.08
	Total	90,157.12

Strengthening Kosovo's perspective in dialogue with Serbia

Considering it an issue of great importance, in 2018 the Foundation launched a project to address the lack of consensus among Kosovo's political parties over the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue. In collaboration with the Democratization Policy Council (DPC) from Berlin and involving civil society organizations in Kosovo, the Foundation launched a comprehensive project of political parties in Kosovo to align inter-party positions and strengthen Kosovo's prospects for the finalization of a comprehensive and legally binding agreement with Serbia.

The project that was supported by the Open Society Foundations Reserve Fund during 2018 and 2019, was seen as highly important and relevant, and therefore the Foundation benefited from a unique one-year increase of the basic budget. This increase was allocated into two Foundation programs, Reconnecting Mitrovica and European Program.

Despite the suspension of the dialogue between the two countries in December 2018, throughout the year the Foundation has continued to advocate for a consensus among parties to formulate a joint platform and support initiatives to foster debate between local and international actors.

For a detailed explanation of the initiative, refer to the section on the Reserve Fund on p. 65. expenses incurred as part of the basic budget are listed below. For the full budget, including that of the Reserve Fund, refer to the tables on p. 68.

List of grants

Project title	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Diplomatic Dialogue: A New Paradigm for Kosovo and Serbia	Forumi për Marrëdhënie Etnike, FER	3,580.00
Autostrada Biennale II "Revolution is us"	Autostrada Biennale	12,000.00
New challenges in the path of European integration	Instituti Riinvest	9,320.00
EPC Roundtable in Brussels "Stuck in Limbo? The Future of Pristina-Belgrade dialogue" me 20.11.19	Operacional	5,245.36
Roundtable with ELIAMEP in Athens "Addressing the Challenges of the Western Balkans" on 28.11.19	Operacional	2,817.23
Support for book promotion "Politics of Recognition" at London School of Economics on 4.12.19	Operacional	1,453.33
Workshop with Elcano and ECFR in Madrid, 11-15.12.19	Operacional	3,932.70
Consultancy services related to the office in New York	Operacional	13,912.77
Consultancy services related to the office in New York	Operacional	13,952.42
Consultancy services for the initiative "Strengthening Kosovo perspective"	Operacional	20,800.00
	Subtotal	87,013.81
Program Expenses		
Publication and print		4,268.66
Translation services		1,026.57
Other program administrative expenses		3,653.81
Subtotal		8,949.04
Total		95,962.85
Grand Total of the Program		549,042.34



TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Summary

Në vitin 2019 nuk mund të thuhet se ambienti In 2019 it cannot be said that the political environment had made remarkable moves towards reforming the administration – especially not in the areas we have covered. The most sensitive points remain those related to the rule of law, especially when it comes to public procurement, which remains relatively well covered by relevant legislation and digital infrastructure. The most common problems are related to eventual interpretation of procedures and failure to apply the law at all stages of implementation.

The administration continued to be inert and not interested in taking reform steps. Throughout 2019, the Foundation attempted to recreate a collaboration with public administration at central level in order to continue working on open data, but concrete steps in this collaboration are difficult to be made because the support is only declarative. Ministry of Public Administration this year has halted activities to do something concrete with external consultancy and with a grant awarded to a local organization and this has given the Foundation the opportunity to intervene - especially during 2020.

During 2019, Kosovo Government had made several decisions which were met with widespread opposition from the wider civil society, primarily regarding the construction of the new power plant, mini hydropower plants and most recently the building permits near Lake Badovc.

In the area of transparency and accountability of government institutions, during 2019 Kosovo Foundation for Open Society continued with the implementation of its strategy and action plan.

The strategy was focused on (1) the system of public procurement in Kosovo, more specifically on the analysis of concrete cases of violations of procurement procedures; (2) proper preparations for international initiatives from which Kosovo society may benefit, Open Data as part of Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiative; and (3) Development projects, especially those in the area of environment which generated a spectrum of abuses, questioning thus the orientation of the public administration to respect the rule of law. In addition, the Foundation has continued to work closely with the network of civil society organizations - Pro Open, which it had established years ago, with a joint approach aimed at increasing transparency and reducing the abuse of taxpayer money.

During this year, we had specific involvement in all the said areas with many concrete results:

Public Procurement

Regarding the first pillar, PP, the Foundation was focused more on the access to public documents which, despite the existing legislation, is not implemented at a satisfactory level. During our several years of work, but also with the (always coordinated) interventions of other donors, it has been possible to operationalize the e-procurement system, whereby all contracts are already made public in this system. The system has shortcomings that need to be addressed in the future. For example, not every citizen can have access to the system – it is designed to grant access only to contracting authorities and economic operators. Despite the fact that all contracts are already public, not all the accompanying documentation is accessible. To be able to analyse a procedure

or a contract from start to finish the information available on the portal is never sufficient. Therefore, the Foundation in 2019 has focused more on facilitating access to official documents. This has been done with the Foundation's partners, who have analysed various regional practices, the hierarchy of laws in force (since officials often use this argument to refuse access to documents with secondary legislation, etc.). We have managed to raise the awareness of both citizens and public officials that legal deadlines for allowing access to documents must be respected.

Third party projects and grants from OSF thematic programs

In addition to the basic budget, the Foundation also works with third-party funding and grants from OSF network thematic programs on various projects and initiatives. Two such programs pertaining to the public procurement domain are (a) Balkan Tender Watch (BTW) - "Ranking of Public Procurement Systems in the Western Balkans" – a four year project funded by the European Union, and (b) "Promoting anti-corruption engagement of local organizations in the field of education and health in the Western Balkans" funded within the OSF network thematic funds.

List of projects of organizations supported within the public procurement pillar and other expenses:

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Increasing accountability through transparent public procurement	Skenderaj Civic Initiative	13,500.00
Civil Society Assessment of the Kosovo Albanological Institute and public dialogue about this special institution financed by public funds	Integra	25,765.00
Transparency and accountability of institutions - the road towards the European Union	Medija Centar	8,958.00
Improvement through advocacy of Handling of Cases in Public Procurement	Çohu	18,350.00
	Subtotal	66,573.00
Program Expenses		
Publication and print	Operacional	5,078.76
Translation services	Operacional	391.97
Other program administrative expenses	Operacional	3,039.74
	Subtotal	8,510.47
	Total	75,083.47

Balkan Tender Watch - Ranking of Public Procurement Systems in the Western Balkans

BTW is a coalition of civil society organizations committed to fighting and preventing corruption, aiming to become a center of anti-corruption community in the Western Balkans, capable of developing political approaches, protecting proposed measures, in order to continuously monitor anti-corruption policies, especially in the field of public procurement, and provide responses to the regional approach presented by the EU. Members of the BTW coalition are Kosovo Foundation for Open Society - KFOS; Open Society Foundation, Serbia; Center for Civil Communication, Northern Macedonia; Network for affirmation of the NGO sector - MANS, Montenegro and Open Society Fund - Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goal of this project is to increase the impact of Western Balkan civil society on anti-corruption policies and practices within the public procurement cycle, utilizing EU integration as a transformational agenda.

The project aims to influence the governments of these countries to introduce reforms that will enable the establishment of responsible public procurement systems in line with EU rules, and build alliances with public authorities – ready to engage in reforms.

During the second year of implementation - 2019, the project trained 10 grassroots organizations by providing them with a benchmarking tool, two of which also received sub-grants to implement small projects in their municipalities. The sub-grants were provided directly to OSF Serbia. On the other hand, second regional conference was organized in Podgorica presenting a comparative study which included all countries that are part of this project. A total of 15 people from Kosovo took place in this conference. They come from civil society, media, and government sector.

Promoting anti-corruption engagement of local organization in the field of education and health in the Western Balkans

Another project that comes as a collaboration between OSF thematic programs is “Promoting the Anti-Corruption Engagement of Local Organizations in the Field of Education and Health in the Western Balkans”. The initiative started in late 2019 and will be developed in six Western Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia and Serbia.

The goal of the project is to bridge the gap between local organizations working in the field of health and education and professional (central level) anti-corruption organizations. Professional anti-corruption actors have the knowledge and skills to fight corruption but have low mobilization potential, while local groups (grassroots) and associations (patients, parents, etc.) lack the knowledge to tackle corruption, but have a more pronounced mobilization potential. Joining their forces will strengthen anti-corruption efforts by ensuring the credible engagement of these stakeholders in addressing corruption - the fundamental foundations of which will strengthen their anti-corruption knowledge and skills. Other project partners from Kosovo are: at central level - Democracy Plus, and locally (grassroots) - the Organization for the Improvement of Quality in Education - ORCA and the Columbus Institute. The project already identified cases to be analysed, both in health and in education; request have been submitted for access to public documents while during 2020 the project will analyse cases and present the results.

List of projects of organizations supported by third-party funds and grants from OSF thematic programs:

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Balkan Tender Watch - Ranking of Public Procurement Systems in the Western Balkans	Operational	27,363.52
Promoting anti-corruption engagement of local organization in the field of education and health in the Western Balkans	Democracy plus	13,852.49
Promoting anti-corruption engagement of local education organizations in the field of education in Western Balkans	ORCA	8,937.09
Promoting anti-corruption engagement of local education organizations in the field of education in Western Balkans	Columbus Institute	8,937.09
	Total	50,153.10

Open Data

On the other hand, the second pillar, that of open data, has had some drawbacks – on the one hand due to lack of political will to proceed with the initiative, and on the other hand due to the dissolution of the assembly from the second half of the year. During the last four years, the Foundation has helped create the conditions to start the opening of data, pushed forward the approval of the open data charter, helped create a concrete action plan, organized various trainings for government officials as well as civil society – always emphasizing the importance of opening up the data and benefits we can enjoy from this initiative in terms of transparency. The whole initiative is left to inventorying of the existing datasets within the institutions, while we expect the creation of the new government in order to continue with the full implementation of this initiative. It is necessary to create data squads during 2020 which will assist each ministry in inventorying, prioritizing and processing data, which should then be made public without specific requirements (open by default). In parallel, even against the backdrop of the initiative as a whole, the Foundation and its partners have continued with specific activities that lead to open data. In our work in public procurement, we have noticed that publication of contracts alone is not

sufficient to analyse the whole process of contract implementation and identify points at risk of corruption. We have also begun to put pressure on the state treasury, namely the ministry of finance, to make public the payments the state makes to economic operators. This would help civil society organizations, but also citizens, to analyse concrete projects from beginning to end. The most frequent violations are the non-compliance of payments that are subject to signed contracts. For this reason, to increase transparency further, we will continue to put pressure for the opening of all treasury payments during 2020.

List of projects of organizations supported within the open data pillar and other expenses:

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Catalogue and analysis of access to public documents	Group for Legal and Political Studies, GLPS	23,200.00
Monitoring and promotion of the Law on the Protection of Personal Data and the Law on the Protection of Whistleblowers	FOL!	24,145.00
Full transparency in public money spending through the opening of treasury transactions	Democracy plus	19,690.00
	Subtotal	67,035.00
Program Expenses		
Publication and print	Operational	3,555.13
Translation services	Operational	274.38
Other program administrative expenses	Operational	2,127.82
	Subtotal	5,957.33
	Total	72,992.33

Natural resource management

The third pillar of the transparency and accountability program is both natural resource management and the membership of the Pro Open coalition in the global transparency initiative such as Publish What You Pay - PWYP.

Thanks to the flexibility of the Foundation, throughout the year we have periodically intervened with some initiatives presented by the citizens. For more than a year, citizens of the municipality of Shtërpcë have opposed the construction of a hydropower plant on the Lepenc River, which had begun to be built on a densely populated site, and is expected to cause problems with drinkable and irrigation water. Since the beginning of the involvement, it has been found that these residents had held over 200 protests since 2015, yet received neither the attention of the government nor that of the media. Following our involvement, starting with the coordination of the protest on July 1, 2019, this problem attracted a special attention of the Kosovo daily newspapers, becoming an important discussion topic in the local and even international media. On October 8 2019, using post-election

circumstances, while residents were protesting police used excessive violence against protesters, not even saving children from pepper spray. Our partner, KDI, has assisted the residents and coordinated support with environmental NGOs, mountaineering associations and environmental lovers to hold a protest on October 10, 2019, with over 600 protesters. The protest had also attracted the attention of the international community, and was reported by the BBC and Reuters. KDI also organized a debate hosted by “Jeta në Kosovë” show, where institutions, residents and investors were confronted. The debate had reached over 74 thousand views.

In support of this initiative, we have organized a petition throughout the territory of Kosovo, including small locations that were most affected by these developments. The petition has garnered some 28,000 signatures, which will be submitted to the next Assembly once it is operational. Partners in this initiative were: KDI, Ec Ma Ndryshe, INPO, REC Kosova, Aktiv, Gjethi, KADC, and ERA. The petition activity has also been accompanied by a media campaign where for several consecutive weeks various coalition members in televised debates (KTV - Interaktiv,

T7 - Pressing) and other television programs have directly confronted senior state officials - responsible for this situation, but also investors. The petition's main request was the development of a comprehensive national water plan by the Government, a plan which would include strictly prohibited locations for the construction of mini and small hydropower plants. At no point did the petition ask to suspend on the development of the energy sector, but rather investments to be carried out based on feasibility studies, which were deficient, and develop a general analysis of water capacity assessment in each location - to mark red lines where plants should not be built, and mark places where such construction is possible, always prioritizing environmental protection.

In March 2019, Pro Open officially became part of Publish What You Pay, a group of non-governmental organizations working to increase transparency in the extractive sector. With this, the obligations of the Pro Open coalition have also increased. We have worked to feed the secretariat with various analyzes of the extractive sector in Kosovo, but also organized joint appearances as a coalition addressing environmental issues.

At the end of the year, more precisely on December 3, we organized a fair called Kosovo Ecology(cs). This environmental fair was part of a series of events we have summarized as "Odyssey". After higher education the Foundation and the Pro Open Coalition have brought up the next topic - the environment, and we named this event Odyssey: Kosovo Ecology(cs). We have brought our eco-system within a logical framework, and after putting all that we know about the quality of the environment around us, it turns out again, as in many other areas of life, that we must embark on a path of greater perplexity – we must embark an Odyssey, to enhance the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the soil that nourishes us.

Civil society has a special role to play in helping with environmental issues. The aim of the fair was not only to report on the abuses committed to this sector, as we have done at this Fair, but also

to lead a process that will bring the right values to launch a major environmental reform. First, it should encourage all stakeholders to become part of a National Environmental Plan, and why not lead the process, bringing it to the attention of government, civil society, business, media, schools and universities, and above all keep alive the citizens' interest on the dangers posed by a polluted environment.

This environmental fair exhibited photographs and video documentaries, results of many analyzes that our NGOs have carried out, and invited stakeholders involved in public debate, by trying to unfold the whole eco-logic of our environmental life, which continues to challenge Kosovo politics, but also each and everyone of us who must be more than spectators and observers of the serious environmental situation that surrounds us. The debate was divided into two parts: the morning panel with government officials, and the afternoon panel with civil society activists.

List of projects of organizations supported within the extractive sector pillar and other expenses:

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Environmental degradation through public procurement for capital investments	Kosovo Democratic Institute, KDI	25,666.00
Workshop on civil intervention in Lepenc River degradation	Operational	2,972.97
Petition – Environmental damage caused by mini hydropower plants	Initiative for Progress - INPO	4,995.00
Petition – Environmental damage caused by mini hydropower plants	Kosovo Advocacy and Development Center - KADC	4,650.00
Petition – Environmental damage caused by mini hydropower plants	Kosovo Democratic Institute, KDI	5,000.00
Petition – Environmental damage caused by mini hydropower plants	Reconciliation Empowering Communities – REC Kosova	4,887.50
Petition – Environmental damage caused by mini hydropower plants	EC Ma ndryshe	3,610.00
Petition – Environmental damage caused by mini hydropower plants	Gjethi	3,650.50
Petition – Environmental damage caused by mini hydropower plants	Environmentally Responsible Action – ERA	5,000.00
Petition – Environmental damage caused by mini hydropower plants	Aktiv	3,810.00
Kosovo Ecology(cs) – fair / debates	Çohu	4,800.00
Waste disposal – acute environmental problem	Reconciliation Empowering Communities – REC Kosova	6,000.00
Cooperation of "Pro Open" coalition vis-a-vis Publish What You Pay	FOL!	15,630.00
Advocacy on the situation of Lepenc River degradation	Initiative for Progress - INPO	9,975.00
	Subtotal	100,646.97
Program Expenses		
Publication and print	Operational	16,759.91
Translation services	Operational	1,293.49
Other program administrative expenses	Operational	10,031.14
	Subtotal	28,084.54
	Total	128,731.51



HIGHER EDUCATION



HIGHER EDUCATION

Challenging Corruption in Higher Education

Summary

The year 2019 was characterized with the same problems in the higher education sector, such as political impact, lack of financial transparency, academic integrity and other issues that have not been addressed by the relevant institution thus hindering the enhancement of quality in higher education. This was the third year of the implementation of this program. The focus continued to be on the support of the work of the Coalition for Integrity and Transparency at the University - KITU, but also the work of other organizations that are not part of the coalition.

The Coalition Integrity and Transparency at the University is made of these organizations – Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS), Kosova Education Center (KEC), NGO Admovere, Democracy for Development (D4D), Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED), Organization for Quality Improvement in Education (ORCA), Organization for Democracy, Anti-Corruption and Dignity, Çohu! and Center for Political Courage (CPC).

KITU has continued to publish reports and studies in order to improve transparency and accountability in the higher education system in Kosovo. In addition to the numerous publications through which KITU has advocated consistently, this year the coalition has organized meetings and workshops with all higher education institutions, and these events aim to align positions and identify opportunities for collaboration to achieve the common goal – enhance the quality of higher education in Kosovo.

In June, the Foundation published an open call inviting organizations to apply with their project proposals focusing on the following two objectives:

1. Activities of student groups and academic staff that advance their level of commitment to a more transparent and accountable university;
- and 2. Concrete research and advocacy work in establishing and correcting measures that combat abusive phenomena and pave the way for higher education reforms.

After reviewing all applications, the Foundation supported organizations that fulfilled the set criteria. In addition to KITU's member organizations, non-member organizations were supported as well.

Fighting Corruption in Higher Education program in 2019 had two objectives:

1. **KITU - empower coalition, higher education monitoring and advocacy actions**
2. **Support student movements to be able to address university transparency, integrity and accountability**

KITU - empower coalition, higher education monitoring and advocacy actions

Odyssey - University of Prishtina in years

On February 13 2019, on the 49th anniversary of the University of Prishtina, KITU organized an all-day event called "Odyssey - University of Prishtina in years". The event featured an exhibition of photographs, presentations, debates and a music night.

The exhibition chronologically presented photographs showing the most important events of the University of Prishtina for almost half a century:

1. The photographs of the 60ies showed the establishment of the first 4 faculties, which at that time were part of the University of Belgrade, then the protests of 1968 which, among other things, called for the establishment of the University of Prishtina, then the passing of the law for the establishment of the University by the then-Kosovo Assembly in 1969, and so on. 2. The photographs of the 70ies showed the establishment of UP and other faculties within the UP, the cooperation agreements with the University of Tirana. In other words the tremendous enthusiasm of both the professors and the students for the establishment of the most important institution - UP. 3. Furthermore, there were photographs of the demonstrations of 1981, the first criticism towards the academic integrity at UP, with special emphasis on plagiarism in years. 4. 90ies were years of survival – the expulsion from the university buildings by the Serbian government, then the protests against this segregation and apartheid, the establishment of the University of Prishtina in private homes, the October 1, 1997 protests and the war. 5. The last part of the exhibition was the afterwar, listing mainly some of the UP rectors' scandals, mostly political appointments. 6. At the forefront of the exhibition were the key findings of KITU organizations on the current situation in UP.

In addition to the exhibition, there was a presentation of reports compiled by KITU members on the topic: *Attacked Integrity: Challenging the Culture of Impunity in Higher Education*. This was followed by a debate with the Minister of Education, the Rector of UP and the Executive Director of KEC on the topic: *A New Direction: The University After Nearly Half a Century and the Way Forward*.

This debate was then broadcast on Koha Television. The day was closed with a music night, with many students and professors from UP, other universities in Kosovo as well as members of civil society and journalists.

Cooperation of civil society and higher education institutions - Opportunities for quality enhancement

After several years of work and engagement, many debates, publications of important findings, involvement in improving the legal and regulatory infrastructure of higher education, KITU saw the momentum of creating new opportunities for co-operation and maximizing the realization of up-to-date recommendations through joint work with relevant higher education institutions. To this end, in May KITU organized workshops with the aim of creating sound communication bridges, aligning attitudes and identifying opportunities for cooperation to achieve a common goal: enhance quality in higher education in Kosovo. The workshop gathered representatives of the Rectorate of the University of Prishtina, the Rector and Pro-Rectors, members of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency, MEST higher education officials, members of the Parliamentary Committee on Education, representatives of Public Universities, members of KITU as well as higher education experts.

The workshop addressed four general topics. These discussion topics emerged from KITU's findings over the two year period of research such as: Increasing institutional transparency, Fighting (perception of) politicization of universities, Good financial management, Increasing (academic) integrity and Quality assurance processes.

On all these topics, KITU members expressed their commitment to look at the possibilities of advocacy in order to meet the needs identified as far as the NGO mission within the Kosovo context allows. On the other hand, universities as well as relevant public institutions of higher education (KAA, MEST, Parliamentary Committee on Education) have committed themselves to a more rigorous implementation of laws and regulations in force in order to increase transparency. These commitments have been agreed by the institutions and KITU: Institutions commit themselves: 1. To invite partners from civil society organizations involved in relevant issues to events / meetings /

working groups and 2. To provide easier access to public information needed to increase institutional transparency. On the other hand, KITU commits itself: 1. To provide information on the research carried out for the relevant institutions before publishing the materials in order to avoid errors in publishing the results; 2. To organize meetings for information purposes and review of opportunities for mutual cooperation at least once a year; 3. In the capacity of an advocate, to create opportunities for opening international horizons of cooperation; 4. To organize a workshop detailing the action plan on issues raised at this meeting.

Kosovo Accreditation Agency - KAA

In order to contribute to increasing the transparency and credibility of the accreditation process, KITU has expressed its willingness to monitor the work of the Agency. On March 27 2019 a decision was made on a Memorandum of Understanding between AKA and KITU. This agreement specifies the modalities of the monitoring process and KITU has appointed the Organization for Quality Improvement in Education - ORCA to monitor the meetings of this agency. The objectives of this Memorandum are: 1. Increase cooperation between civil society and public institutions 2. Increase transparency in the work process and third party access to CSC meetings 3. Coordinate actions between KITU and CSC related to enhancing the quality of higher education; and 4. Stimulate the fulfillment of European standards in the field of accreditation of higher education institutions.

In 2018, KITU through its representative delegation visited the headquarters of the European Register for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (EQAR) and the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) before a decision was taken to review the status of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency by the general assembly of ENQA. Despite this advocacy, the continuation of political interference led to ENQA's decision to expel the KAA. The decision was made on September 19, 2019. EQAR also dismissed the Agency on the grounds that it had lost the ability to act independently.

Some of the achievements of KITU member organizations

Selling thesis - ÇOHU!

In March, Kosovo Police arrested two people on suspicion of producing thesis for other people. This intervention took place after the publication of the video documentary produced by ÇOHU.

The Bektashi case

On September 21 2018, Admovere published the report "UP Academic Staff - Studies, Other Engagements, Plagiarism, Assessments and Student-Staff Ratio". One of the aims of this report was to list all cases of plagiarism of members of the UP staff, reported in the media over the years since the establishment of the UP itself. Following the publication of this report, on October 1, 2018, Law Faculty professor, Mr. Mejdi Bektashi sued Admovere for defamation, and the Basic Court in Prishtina on November 8, 2018 granted the security measure requested by the plaintiff, which obliged Admovere to withdraw the part of the report that speaks of him and not to make statements regarding his personality, until a final decision is made by the court.

The Court of Appeal on February 28, 2019 rendered Ruling Ac.nr.5022/18 / 8 on the quashing of the Basic Court Ruling setting the security measure dated November 8, 2018 and remanded the case back to the Basic Court. The Court of Appeal found that Admovere's appeal was well founded and held that the Ruling setting out the security measure consisted a substantial violation of the provisions of the contested procedure, that it had erroneously applied the substantive law and that the factual situation had not been properly and completely substantiated.

On March 26 and April 24, 2019, resettlement hearings were held in relation to Mr. Bektashi on the imposition of a security measure at the Basic Court in Prishtina. Consequently, on May 3, 2019 the Basic Court in Prishtina rejected Mejdi

Bektashi's motion for a security measure as unfounded.

Career advancements - ORCA

ORCA has reported on a gradual improvement regarding the justification of the titles at UP. Since 2017 when ORCA's engagement started, the number of professors who justify their academic degree with a research degree has been growing. In 2017, 72% of professors did not justify their academic degree. In 2018 ORCA sponsored an administrative instruction which entered into force by MEST. In 2018 the number of professors who do not justify an academic degree has dropped to 59% (still worrying). The results of the 2019 research show that this figure has dropped to 55%. ORCA has reported that 25% of all scientific work since its inception has been published in 2017-2019 period, since ORCA has launched its program to monitor the advancement process.

ORCA has carried out two actions satirizing fake journals. Two journals, one in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and one in the Faculty of Economics, with the recommendation and request of ORCA have been excluded from the UP Senate itself as journals that cannot be used for advancements in the UP.

In December, KITU planned to hold a protest march against the decisions of the Ethics Council at UP: Vetting in Higher Education! In this march all citizens, students, student organizations and civil society organizations were invited to join the fight to liberate the university and to march together with the demands to: 1. establish a commission for the verification of plagiarisms; 2. establish a commission for the verification of academic degrees. Because of the earthquake in Albania, this march was postponed to a more appropriate time.

The publication "Professors Versus the Law" brings to the attention of the public the way justice is administered in cases where suspects, accused or convicted are members of the academic staff of the University of Prishtina – the largest

public university in our country. Therefore, the report of Admovere at its core focuses on concrete cases of various violations committed by members of this staff, both within and outside the university, to investigate whether they have resulted in any consequences for their academic engagement. The first part of the report presents cases when members of the UP academic staff are suspected of violating the UP Code of Ethics, while in the second part there are cases of academic staff violating the law in Kosovo, resulting in criminal reports, indictments or convictions by the justice institutions, even for actions that are not related to their work in the UP.

Professors of the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering (FIEK) of the University of Prishtina (UP) gave public alarm about the risk of closing the electro-energy study program at this faculty. Given that it is a study profile not offered by any other higher education institution in Kosovo, and the consequences of closing this study program on the country's economy and industry in the medium to long term, Admovere received support to publish a report focusing on the risk and the consequences of the closure of the FIEK program – The situation in the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering (FIEK).

The report has a total of 20 conclusions / findings and 5 recommendations for FIEK, UP, MEST and the Government of Kosovo: 1. The Dean of FIEK and the Rectorate of UP, with the support from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) and the Ministry of Finance (MoF), as well as by the industry itself, should provide scholarships to distinguished students, as well as full-time PhD teaching assistants at European universities, provided they return home for regular academic engagement at FIEK upon completion. Also, staff admitted to FIEK who are doing PhD abroad should not have their contracts terminated 2. The Dean's Office of the FIEK and the Rectorate of the UP, with the support from MEST and MoF, should eliminate the budgetary constraints in recruiting new full-time academic staff at the FIEK for specific areas of national interest, such as electro-energy 3. Establish a mechanism by the

Dean's Office and the Rectorate to monitor the status of academic staff in the departments of FIEK, so that vacancies for full-time academic staff are announced more often and in accordance with the needs, unlike the current practice of advertisement of competitions almost every two years for all faculties at once. Also, the aforementioned mechanism should ensure that at least six months before a full-time academic staff member retires the call is announced or the procedures for the promotion of his / her assistant 4. Creating staff takes time, so doctors who meet the statutory requirements for regular engagement, who are employed in the industry, might be offered incentives to engage in academia 5. Increase the budget for scientific research and FIEK to be a self-generating institution, creating institutes for scientific research and various expertise for enterprises and institutions of the country, in order to have a link between university and industry.

Admovere in 2020 will continue research on the Causes and Consequences of Closing / Not Accrediting Study Programs at the Faculty of Geosciences at the University of Mitrovica.

From the realization of this research, the Organization ÇOHU during the implementation of the Private Education in Kosovo project has found a large number of violations. Private colleges have a significant staff shortage. A significant number of professors teaching at these colleges are University of Prishtina staff. Some of them do not have the necessary infrastructure and operate in private homes. Another thing that has been noticed during the research is that the students in these colleges are admitted without entrance exam and without secondary school completion exam.

In order to accredit a program, colleges must present the program holders and the academic staff who will lecture for that program. But the Kosovo Accreditation Agency does not monitor whether the staff on paper is teaching in those programs or if they are teaching someone else instead. Some of the private colleges have exceeded the quotas set by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency for admission of students and Çohu continues to work to

provide reports that have identified these excesses. Exceeding quotas means that students who have completed all exams and graduated cannot legitimize their diploma in MEST because they are enrolled out of time and do not appear in the registries or already in the system managed by MEST. Until 2016 colleges had no quota at all, so they admitted students as much as they wanted.

Çohu has looked at the political affiliations of professors working in private colleges and affiliated with political parties. Data show that 15 of them have political links: six with LDK, five with PDK, one with VV and two with AAK.

Out of 80% of private colleges that have so far been subject of the said research about 60 lecturers have work relations with both private and public colleges.

In 2020 Çohu will extend the focus of research to private colleges specifically addressing two issues: 1. Admission and evaluation criteria (passing exams and graduation) of private college students, and 2. Academic staff and literature in private colleges.

The overall goal of the Advocacy for Enhancement of Academic Integrity and Higher Education Quality project, implemented by the Center for Political Courage, was to improve the key policies and documents that regulate UP academic integrity issues. CPC organized a roundtable to discuss the main findings and recommendations of the report "Dialogue among the Deaf - On Academic Integrity at the University of Prishtina".

The project managed to present and disseminate the aforementioned report to almost all stakeholders, initiate debate on the topics of this report and publish a policy paper. Also, the project which will continue in 2020, organized a total of three seminars.

The Coalition for Higher Education Quality Assurance (CHEQA) implemented by the International Business College in Mitrovica, IBC-M aims to improve the co-operation and networking of higher education institutions in Kosovo by thus creating

a model of interaction between them through the creation of the Coalition of Higher Education Institutions of Kosovo. The coalition aims to bring public and private institutions together to create a common platform for quality assurance. This project will continue through 2020.

List of grants and other expenses

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Odyssey: University of Prishtina in years	NGO Admovere	9,300
Private education in Kosovo	Organization for Democracy, Anti-corruption and Dignity - Çohu!	22,600
Advocacy for the enhancement of academic integrity and quality in education	Center for Political Courage	17,987
The rise and fall of electro-technical departments in UP	NGO Admovere	15,000
Coalition for Higher Education Quality Assurance	International Business College	8,750
Private education in Kosovo - further research	Organization for Democracy, Anti-corruption and Dignity - Çohu!	24,760
Causes and consequences of closing / lack of accreditation of study programs at the Geoscience Faculty at UMIB	NGO Admovere	9,820
Consultancy		2,000
Cooperation between Civil Society and Higher Education Institutions - Opportunities for Quality Improvement - Workshop in Tirana	Operational	7,338.93
	Subtotal	117,556
Shpenzime tjera programore		
Publikime dhe shtyp		3,978.75
Shërbime përkthimi		959.83
Shpenzime Administrative Programore		10,765.00
	Subtotal	15,703.58
	Total	133,259.58

Support student movements to be able to address university transparency, integrity and accountability

Kosovo remains the country with the least developed economy in the region and in Europe. 54% of young people under 25 are unemployed. This poor economic growth is reflected in low investment in education, especially in higher education. The low investment is then reflected in the low effectiveness of measures to improve the quality of higher education.

The University of Prishtina has a total of 33,018 students at the Bachelor level, 6,682 students at the Master's level, while there are 66 PhD candidates. On the other hand, the University of Prishtina has a total of 930 regular academic staff and 452 part-time staff. This means that the ratio of student to professor is 1:43. In the countries of the region the ratio is 1:25 and in the EU this ratio is from 1:8 to 1:15, depending on the field of study.

In Kosovo, higher education is seen as a continuation of secondary education with the sole purpose of earning a degree - not always in profiles that guarantee employment and not always with the necessary qualifications and competences. This unproductive way of thinking has been used by some groups for political gain by placing more and more students in higher education institutions, thus compromising the quality of studies. The public perception that student organizations are controlled by political parties or other interest groups still remains.

The ORCA's Academic Integrity Through Student Activism project has, on one hand, informed the public by presenting the situation around academic integrity and spending public money at universities, and on the other hand raised critical awareness of students and their involvement in symbolic actions.

The main results of the project were: 1. About 150 students actively involved in the project and

in total over 340 involved in all activities of 2019; 2. Strengthening the criteria for appointment and promotion of academic staff at UP through the new Regulation 2/748 adopted on October 1, 2019. ORCA has successfully advocated that scientific papers necessary for advancement starting June 2020 be published only in journals indexed in the two most prestigious index databases, Web of Science and SCOPUS. On the other hand, from the beginning of 2023 the papers necessary for academic advancement - regardless of the year of their publication - will only be considered if they have been published in journals indexed in the two mentioned databases; 3. Disclosing overdraft and overpayment schemes of academic management staff of public universities in Kosovo. ORCA has published the report 'Debt of the Academy' which presents payments to management staff from public universities, showing that: Rectors are paid an average of 2517 Euros per month, 46% of which is from extra payments; deans are paid an average of 2202 Euro per month, 43% of which is from extra payments. Whereas from all public universities it turns out that the most paid are the members of the Deanery of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, with sums up to over 3500 Euro per month. The data for this research were obtained from assets' declarations at the Anti-Corruption Agency; 4. Kosovo's first "Student Basket" study showing student expenditures across fields of study including accommodation, semester fees, transportation, food, recreation, etc., has shown that UP students spend an average of 150 Euro per month.

ORCA has organized a Student Activism Congress. More than 50 students from Kosovo, Albania, Northern Macedonia and Serbia attended the congress. Students have gained insights from civil society activists in Kosovo and the region. The congress proposed a resolution inviting students from all Western Balkan countries to join this new regional movement through the "Students for Quality in Education 2020" initiative. This movement aims to strengthen the quality of public education.

Ethics Clubs is a project that will be implemented until March 2020. The project aims to create student resource groups that open up issues that address the quality of studies more thoroughly. These groups established at each of the faculties of the University of Prishtina will be provided with knowledge and action plans from ORCA, in order to ensure the sustainability of their functioning. The project also aims to publish the eighth issue of the satirical-critical newspaper "THE TEMPLE OF KNOWLEDGE" that is authored by ORCA students and activists.

During September 2019, Debate Center has opened the call for participation in Debate UP and by mid-October 10 informative meetings have been organized in different faculties of the University of Prishtina. These meetings targeted around 400 students. Upon completion of the application phase, the Debate Center received 261 applications and selected a total of 100 students to be divided into three debate groups and clubs were established in the Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Economics, and Faculty of Education. Also, 10 professors were selected to be engaged as debate mentors on specific topics. These clubs have held weekly meetings (initial training to advanced training), and have been trained in the basics of argumentation, public speaking and are more clearly informed about the format of the British Parliamentary Debate. Over the same period, Debate Center has delivered a total of 1,890 training hours in 21 training sessions in total. In November, each group held 4 trainings, while in December they received 3 trainings. The project will continue through 2020.

The overall goal of the project "Think globally, act locally: A series of seminars on critical thinking and academic integrity" was to raise students' awareness and broaden their horizons on the quality that higher education institutions in Kosovo should offer. This project implemented by the Center for Political Courage had two main objectives: 1. Promote critical thinking through constructive debate on academic integrity, student activism; and 2. Encourage students for

a better organization and revitalization of student life. The achievement of the project is considered increased students' knowledge of topics that they have not had the opportunity to encounter in the institutions where they study. Important topics for students like critical thinking, academic integrity, student / civic activism, soft skills are key to challenges and opportunities during and after their studies. As part of this project a network of students has been created, motivated to boost student activism and revitalize student life.

The "BONEVET Vocational Training" Prishtina project aims to provide a working environment for University of Prishtina students from the departments of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering so that they can develop their practical skills and prepare for the job market. Starting September 2019, BONEVET Prishtina has trained 32 students in the field of Electronics and CNC Mechanics delivering four two-month trainings (three in mechanics and one in electronics). Those interested in attending these trainings have been subject to the application process, for which 192 students have applied.

This project will continue through 2020. In the coming months, BONEVET will continue with two trainings in electronics and three in Python programming language.

List of grants and other expenses

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Think globally, act locally: A series of seminars on critical thinking and academic integrity	Center for Political Courage - CPC	15,362.01
Academic integrity through student activism	Organization for Enhancing Quality in Education - ORCA	46,790
Debate UP	Debate Center	16,185
Vocational training in Bonevet Prishtina	Bonevet Foundation	15,610
Ethics Clubs	Organization for Enhancing Quality in Education - ORCA	9,980
Student Congress	Operational	4,500
	Subtotal	108,427

Operational Program Expenses

Western Balkans Foundations Meeting		892.25
Retreat - Staff and Board		1,724.60
	Subtotal	2,616.85
	Total	111,043.85
	Grand Total of the Program	244,303.43



RECONNECTING MITROVICA



RILIDHJA E MITROVICËS

The political context

In 2019 there have been many political movements that brought Mitrovica and other Serb-populated areas to the forefront. This ethnic community continues to be very poorly integrated into Kosovo society, although in some areas significant progress has been made. Whenever political moments of great importance for the future of this community come into effect, the enthusiasm for cooperation and integration into a broader civil society space in Kosovo declines significantly.

The idea of swapping territories, rectifying borders that would result in movement of people from one side to another, from Kosovo to Serbia and vice versa, destabilized the Serb community as much as the Albanian community and raised a number of questions and dilemmas. Some of the main fears of Kosovo Serbs that arose after this idea were related to them being abandoned by Belgrade and the termination of services provided by Belgrade institutions – while their constitutional rights would supposedly lessen compared to those they currently enjoy. But their biggest fear was the large movement of people that would take place following such a solution.

The missing dialogue between the Serbs from north and south as well as Albanians together with the political challenges of the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue exacerbated the traditionally fragile relations. Thus, intervention in this area, i.e. inter-ethnic dialogue, was more than necessary.

Early parliamentary elections were another challenge and a chance for the Serb community in Kosovo. Although elections were expected to take place, the Serb community failed to organize and ensure pluralism, freedom of expression and freedom of choice in Serb-populated areas. These elections in Serb-populated areas were de-

scribed by all international organizations as non-democratic.

This year has brought numerous attempts to launch the long-awaited Kosovo-Serbia dialogue – not without the additional commitment of the Foundation and its partners to facilitate such an initiative. Serbian civil society was active and not necessarily rigid when addressing this political perspective during numerous events that were organized in the centers established by the Foundation (CEC). This perspective of cooperation was also addressed in comprehensive meetings of the most prominent representatives of Serbian civil society, NGOs, the media, academics from the university faculties in Mitrovica, etc.

The political environment is increasingly expanding with the active participation of civil society organizations and the Serbian media, which are bringing an autochthonous and sometimes different viewpoints to that of political parties which are only an extended hand of the government in Belgrade. The courage for a political opinion unlike that of the “establishment” is growing and is in direct relation to the attempts of cooperation with members of the Albanian civil society, which is evidenced by the very fruitful discussions that the members of these two communities carry out in the Foundation’s TV project “SporaZoom”, in social clubs, during numerous discussions of other organizations supported by the Foundation and other donors which have been organized in these centers. The participation of Serbian civil society in Kosovo’s political processes this year was more evident than in previous years, as evidenced by a number of presentations and discussions of their position towards current political processes that took place in Pristina with mixed panels.

Summary - aim and objectives

In 2019 the Reconnecting Mitrovica program has been expanded to other Serb-populated areas in addition to the north, mainly in central Kosovo, in Gracanica and its surroundings. Also, the program this year had an addition budget allocated by OSF as an one-off supplement to address the challenges of dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

The extension of the program to other parts of Kosovo in addition to the north came as a result of the need to connect Serbs on both sides of the Iber River in order for this community to reconnect first as a whole in order to disclose their needs and attitudes which are often different due to the realities in which they live, and then with unified positions to appear before their political representatives and the government of Kosovo to express their needs vis-a-vis government policies in fulfilling the rights of minorities and at the same time to express their concerns or proposals regarding the course of the dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

The main challenges in 2019 within “Reconnecting Mitrovica” concept were (1) further development and strengthening of the work of Civic Energy Centers in Mitrovica and Gracanica, thus strengthening the debate among Serbs themselves, the discussions between Serbs and Albanians and fostering the culture of debate as a means of addressing clustered problems; (2) the addressing of Kosovo-Serbia dialogue from the Serbian perspective at a time when the dialogue was completely interrupted and was expected to resume in a still undetermined format, while Serbs were fully unprepared and woke up from a twenty-year-long sleep, after leaving their fate in the hands of Belgrade, following the idea of “territory swap”, and (3) encouraging and further developing Serbian advocacy organizations, coalitions and platforms to advocate for issues that they consider of particular importance to their community that would enable their smoothest integration into Kosovo society.

The “Reconnecting Mitrovica” concept during 2019 did not need many programmatic adaptations to new developments in the community and society as a result of daily politics and dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia, nor did it change the set objectives and was fully prepared with its mechanisms and program platforms developed earlier to address all challenges arising from its aim:

Gradual reconnection of alienated citizens of the north with other parts of Kosovo, by reviving civil society and other Serbian civic groups from the north (youth, academia, businesses, etc.), by facilitating inter-ethnic communication around common issues / challenges and by bringing Serbian citizens closer to Kosovo society and its institutions.

The following lines provide more detailed information on all activities carried out within the Reconnecting Mitrovica concept, broken down in key pillars of intervention.

Encouraging and facilitating dialogue between Kosovo Serbs and Albanians

Though this was the goal of the whole concept and spread across all the program pillars, it was the focus of discussion platforms conducted at Civic Energy Centers in Mitrovica and Gracanica.

According to the model of Civic Energy Center (CEC) set up Mitrovica in 2015, in 2019 the same center was established in Gracanica with the same name and purpose to foster a culture of debate and discussion within the community and between communities. The aim of both centers was initially to mobilize and revitalize Serbian civil society to address the challenges they face, to stimulate debate and discussion, and to create conditions for interaction with different communities and stakeholders.

The Civic Energy Center (CEC) in Gracanica opened in May 2019. The FDMC is responsible

for its day-to-day management, while programs are developed by this NGO and two other organizations with a long-standing presence and reputation in Gracanica region, Center for Peace and Tolerance (CPT) and Communication for Social Development (CSD). In addition to these three organizations, the center is open to all civil society organizations and groups and their activities.

Programs supported by the Foundation that run at both centers (CEC) are formatted to suit the communities they serve and to liaise with each other. The two main programs implemented in both CEC are: 1) Social Clubs (Mitrovica and Gracanica), 2) SporaZoom show and 3) the use of space by other organizations funded by the Foundation or other donors to implement their initiatives. Other programs implemented by NGO Aktiv and FDMC were designed in collaboration with them according to the specifics of each region and the communities these organizations serve.

The success of these centers is confirmed by the number of activities and participants. Thus, during 2019 in CEC Mitrovica a total of 144 civil events were organized with the participation of 2,547 participants while at CEC Gracanica from May to the end of 2019 a total of 124 events were organized with the participation of 2,125 beneficiaries. The events organized are diverse and target different groups of citizens and stakeholders ranging from local institutions, civil society organizations, high school and elementary school students to cultural and media organizations. For six years now, these centers have been the epicenters of civic events, known for their open debates and discussions on hot social and political topics which provide space for pluralism of thoughts and expression.

“SporaZoom”, the most prominent product of this concept among the audience, is being produced in partnership with three organizations, NGO Aktiv, FDMC and TV Mreza (a network of five Serbian television stations and one production). This partnership also brought along a media consultant commissioned by the Foundation to ensure the quality of the show and at the same

time develop the partners’ capacities throughout the production process. The show is managed by a five-member editorial board from each partner organization, the Foundation’s media consultant and a program coordinator as ex-officio member. Until 2019 the show was produced at CEC Mitrovica studio, and with the establishment of CEC Gracanica this show is also produced at this location in line with the agreed schedule between the partners and the situation on the ground which is still very fluid and occasionally makes it impossible to shoot the show at CEC Mitrovica.

In 2019 were produced eighteen (18) regular shows and one special show, which was a whole year recap broadcast on January 1, 2020. The show is broadcast on four Serbian TV stations, members of TV Mreza (TV Puls, TV Herc, TV Mir), and RTV Kim which is not a member of the network. TV Puls and TV Kim are also part of cable platforms, IPKO and Kujtesa, and can be viewed all over Kosovo. TV Mir provides coverage for the north of Kosovo. The show also has its own channel on Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and all shows are posted immediately after the first broadcast on all social media.

The format of the show was conceived so as to always have three guests, to be based on an analysis or a study eventually carried out by a Kosovo Serb organization, and to feature a short report or a statement on the topic discussed in the studio. In the studio in Mitrovica we also have grandstands for the audience which follows the studio discussion and participates in the show in two ways, serving as an ad hoc focus group on the topic being discussed and asking guests questions or commenting on that which has been said. SporaZoom is a unique show mainly because it is the only one in Kosovo that brings Serbs and Albanians together to discuss topics of interest to both parties, a place where the opinions of one or the other party can be expressed freely and without censorship and where debate is balanced in all respects as required by a program that wants to be impartial and open to different positions on the hot and sensitive political topics of Kosovo and the region.

During 2019 topics mainly had to do with the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, Kosovo's European integration process comparing it with the processes in the countries of the region, early elections in Kosovo, the return of communities, the war crimes trial in Kosovo, Kosovo, etc. but the dominant topic was the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue and the normalization of relations between the two states. The show gathered analysts, journalists, experts, representatives of civil organizations dealing with specific topics covered in the program, etc. Some of the well-known guests were: Agron Bajrami, Belul Beqaj, Veton Surroi, Bodo Weber, Adriatik Kelmendi, Stefan Surlic, Djordje Vlajic, Dalibor Jetic, Mytaher Haskuka, Aleksandar Corac, Luan Shllaku, Gjeraqina Tuhina, Branimir Stojanovic, Miodrag Milicevic, Augustin Palokaj, etc.

Social Clubs are another kind of discussion platform that are held at CEC with the support of the Foundation and other donors, where topics of concern to citizens – from political to cultural and social topics – were dealt with in an informal atmosphere in both regions where the CEC centers were located. These clubs have become a meeting place for constructive citizens – that can also be seen as Casablanca's Rick's Caffè – a unique venue for all civic activities in the city and beyond and a place for discussion of various topics of concern to citizens, in particular young people. The concept of the Mitrovica Social Club by 2019 had a more relaxed format of discussion in an informal setting (in the café), with music in the background which did not prevent serious topics from being discussed. Usually, every social club had two to three guests who would converse with each other and with the audience. This concept of a social club in Mitrovica was very successful and was also transferred to CEC in Gracanica with modifications adapted to this region and its various stakeholders in line with the experience and expertise of partner organizations. This year through our partners we also started with activities not typical for clubs until 2019. The novelty in these clubs were quizzes for young people, different art nights aimed at social change, such as film nights, photography, cartoon, music, poetry and literature nights in general – all for a more democratic and

open society. Social clubs at CEC in Gracanica also included activities for younger ages such as elementary school children who were encouraged to read more and to read more quality literature. Also, by watching films they were encouraged to debate and in this way to start thinking critically. Another innovation that was introduced in this concept was the coffee with the ambassadors which was very welcome. During these meetings with ambassadors there was always more space needed for the crowds. Serious social and political topics did not lack, but it was clear that more relaxed activities such as trivia and culture nights made the political conversations to attract much larger audience and interest from citizens. To ensure a greater citizen engagement this year, live broadcasts via Facebook and other social media tools were launched.

During 2019 a total of 39 social clubs were organized with 21 in CEC Gracanica (6 implemented by FDMC, 4 by CPT and 11 by CSD), and 18 in CEC Mitrovica – 8 discussions on social and political themes, 5 art activities for social change, 1 coffee with ambassadors and 4 quiz pubs.

List of grants and other expenses:

Title of project / initiative	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Establishment and functionalization of Civic Energy Center in Gracanica	Forum for Development and Multiethnic Collaboration (FDMC)	42,629
Civic Energy Center Mitrovica - Operational Expenses for Maintenance, Management and Organization of Activities	NGO Aktiv	19,550
Realization of 16 "SporaZoom" shows	TV Mreza	32,000
Realization of 10 "SporaZoom" shows	NGO Aktiv	15,750
Realization of 6 "SporaZoom" shows	Forum for Development and Multiethnic Collaboration (FDMC)	14,683
Civic Energy Center Gracanica: Social animation	Center for Peace and Tolerance (CPT)	11,855
Civic Energy Center Gracanica:	Communication for Social Development (CSD)	10,630
The awakening of society	NGO Aktiv	16,550
Mitrovica Social Club	Qendra Multimedia	1,500
Discussion and reading contemporary literature with writers from the region	TV Mreza	1,870
Realization of 1 "SporaZoom" show		167,017
Subtotal		
Program and administrative expenses	Operational	9,900
Consultancy for "SporaZoom" show	Operational	1,500
Print	Operational	1,000
Translation services	Operational	5,306.60
Other administrative expenses		17,706.60
Total		184,723.60

Greater involvement and engagement of CSOs and Serbian community media in Kosovo's political and social processes through research and advocacy

This program pillar is mainly implemented through open competition with very specific criteria for CSOs and the Serbian media, by encouraging cooperation with other communities, mainly Albanians. The scheme of this call was set up 4 years ago in order to make the work of CSOs as transparent as possible and to include as many citizens as possible. This goal was achieved through the inclusion of media among the supported projects, which was one of the main conditions of this call. The media in these projects did not have a passive role of reporting about project events but were directly involved in the implementation of these projects by doing a great deal of research work, by producing informative reports on project-related issues, by producing television and radio debates, video spots, informative animations and advocacy.

The Foundation's main objective was to address three issues easily translated into undisputed values of this program pillar: (1) to capture a broad spectrum of organizations (NGOs and media) with high impact on society; 2) to broaden the spectrum of researchers in NGO projects by adding media researchers (journalists); and (3) to significantly strengthen the advocacy capacity of these organizations in communicating the outcomes to decision-makers.

Predefined areas of this call for which organizations were invited to apply for 2019 were: the Brussels Agreement and the process of normalization of Kosovo-Serbia relations, sustainable development and environmental protection, transparency and accountability of local governments, and establishing communication between communities through arts and culture.

This year, the Foundation supported 10 out of 17 projects from CSOs with more than 20 media

partners. The supported projects produced 6 studies / analyzes presented in 8 discussion tables – 3 of them were used for the realization "SporaZoom", while 16 TV discussions and 19 radio talks and other multimedia products were produced and were used by numerous television, portals, radios and social networks.

These projects, like every year, sparked public debates, revived the public scene in Kosovo not leaving the majority public indifferent – which was the primary purpose of this pillar.

Among the most prominent projects was the public opinion survey of Serbian community in Kosovo, Trend Analysis 2019 implemented by NGO Aktiv in cooperation with RTV Kim. This analysis has been conducted since 2015 by NGO Aktiv. At the time, this initiative was launched as a programmatic need of the Foundation to measure the progress of the integration of Serbian community and their opinions regarding the processes and key actors that lead them. Since then, this analysis has become an annual analysis – today a reference point for policy makers, international organizations, political representatives and the public in general regarding what is happening in the areas of Kosovo Serb community. The specificity of this year's survey was that the analysis included all areas where Serbs live throughout Kosovo, while previous editions only covered the north of Kosovo. Trend Analysis 2019 aroused much interest not only in Kosovo but also in Serbia and in the region.

Empirika, the informal coalition of Kosovo Serb organizations and media, this year had their hands full. This platform was designed based on the Foundation's Forum 2015 and had its own course of establishment and transformation throughout the years of its existence. The platform is now a powerful advocacy tool for the Kosovo Serb community and consists of 11 CSOs and 1 media on both sides of Iber River. During its years of operation, they carried out 14 advocacy campaigns, 2 of which took place this year, 7 open letters on various political and social processes, and the platform now regularly contributes to the EU Country Report.

The Empirika advocacy platform addressed hot political issues. This powerful instrument managed by our partners, NGO Aktiv from Mitrovica, has brought forth many topics, difficult to be discussed but much needed in order to give civil society the space to engage in current issues such as the Kosovo-Serbia negotiations, implementation of (not yet) reached agreements, integration into the Kosovo administrative system, Association of Serb-majority municipalities, etc.

Another advocacy campaign which was carried out in an operational form in cooperation with Empirika was conducted before the run-up to the Kosovo parliamentary elections. To this end, Empirika produced a short policy document addressing key interests for Kosovo Serbs meant for central level decision makers. This document was produced and presented intensively to raise awareness on these interests addressed in the document, and to exert strong pressure on political and social actors to advance these interests until they are resolved. This document tackled a number of issues that are of key interest to Kosovo Serbs, which serves as a starting point for analysis and other policy documents that will serve as advocacy tool in the years ahead. To draft this document, Emirika coalition member organizations carried out one focus group as well as various studies and analyzes. In addition to Serb-inhabited areas, this document was also presented in Pristina on October 5, 2019.

List of grants and other expenses

Title of project / initiative	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Strengthening transparency and citizens' participation in decision-making at the local level in North Mitrovica	Advocacy and Culture Democracy Center (ACDC)	8,000
Trend Analysis - public opinion survey of Kosovo Serb community in 2019	NGO Aktiv	9,458
Citizens ask for solutions	Minority Rights Center	5,000
To what extent are local self-government institutions open to citizens?	Crno beli svet	9,000
ARTvizm – connecting communities through arts and culture	Link	14,862
The impact of environmental problems on the transformation and development of the environment and society	Environmental and Medical Experts Group (EMEG)	9,030
Improving the position of young people in the shadow of the Brussels agreement	Sinergija	7,500
Sustainable tourism in the function of sustainable development	Institute for Territorial Economic Development (InTER)	9,000
Kosovo - North, South, East, West	Media Centar	6,000
Unmasking demarcation along ethnic lines: Advantages and consequences	New Social Initiative (NSI)	9,000
Key interests of the Serb community in Kosovo - 2019 parliamentary elections	Operational	2,784
Support to the expansion of PCK membership among non-Albanian communities	Press Council of Kosovo	3,500
Support for the production of the documentary about the life and work of Bekim Fehmiu	Bekim Fehmiu Foundation	
Emergent humanitarian assistance for the realization of the conceptual project for the construction of social housing for the earthquake-stricken Roma in Tirana	Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians	2,525
Subtotal:		100,656
Program and administrative expenses		
Print	Operational	3,000
Translation services	Operational	304
Other administrative expenses	Operational	9,060
Subtotal		12,364
Total:		113,020

Engaging the Serbian community in advocacy work and the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue process

This program pillar was implemented with combined, basic and allocated funds as a one-off support from OSF to address the challenges posed by the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue. Most activities carried out were operational, and the Foundation was in charge of the design and implementation of the activities.

Since the beginning of the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, the Foundation has been committed to enabling Kosovo Serbs to have their voices heard and taken seriously by the general public and political elites as well as amplified to reach out to international factors.

The implementation of this program pillar relied on three types of activities: (1) research work for which the Berlin DPS was engaged, (2) workshops and roundtables, and (3) open discussions with analysts and experts.

The previously established cooperation between the Foundation and the Council for Policy Democratization (DPS) this year expanded further with research in Serb-populated areas addressing issues of Kosovo Serbs over the challenges of the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue and the process of normalization of relations between these two countries. During the year a policy paper was finalized and three more papers were commissioned to be finalized by the beginning of 2020 – all of which will be tailored to the program's conceptual needs. The completed study is entitled: Collective ethnic protection as a tool of (dis)integration: Association of Serb-majority municipalities. The other three papers will deal more with the possibilities of local self-government under the Ahtisaari Plan to ensure the integration of communities at the local level and the quality of implementation of a security-affecting agreement that deals with the judiciary and police. The working titles of these three studies to be carried out next year are: (1) Local

Governance in Practice: Need to Update the Ahtisaari Plan? - The Controversial Association of Serb Majority Municipalities in Comparative Perspective, (2) Collective Rights in Practice - Ahtisaari minus, (3) Integration of Judiciary and Police - a success that lacks substance.

The field interviews for these three papers were also used for open community discussions organized at CECs. This year we had 4 such talks, three of which were hosted by Bodo Weber from DPS, one hosted by Gjeraqina Tuhina and Augustin Palokaj addressing the new EU developments after elections and the effects and expectations on the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue.

Two two-day workshops and roundtables were organized serving both for research and to disclose the opinions of the Serbian community towards developments in the process of normalization of relations. The first workshop was held in June with panelists Bodo Weber, Dusan Janjic, Veton Surroi, Miodrag Milicevic and Dejan Radivojevic. This workshop dealt with the role of civil society in the process of dialogue and normalization of Kosovo-Serbia relations and was entitled: How to civilize negotiations. In order to maximize the effects at the end of the discussion, a special "SporaZoom" show was also produced with the panelists.

The second workshop was organized to serve two purposes – to continue the discussion launched in June on greater involvement of civil society in the dialogue process and to serve as a foundation for consultations with its partners on the development of the strategy for the upcoming strategic cycle. The panelists in the discussion were Milan Antonijevic, director of the Foundation in Serbia, Bodo Weber from DPS and Veton Surroi.

At the end of the year another discussion was organized by our partner, Forum for Development of Multi-ethnic Cooperation which gathered a wide audience of journalists, diplomatic corps, political representatives and civil society. The discussion was organized based on the previously conducted research: How much is

the Serb community in central Kosovo prepared for the eventual consequences / benefits of a comprehensive agreement between Kosovo and Serbia? The panelists in this discussion were Ardian Arifi, advisor to the President of the country, Lulzim Peci, founder and leader of KIPRED, Zivojin Rakocevic, writers and journalists, and Branimir Stojanovic, former Vice President of the Kosovo Government.

Another research that also deals with the process of dialogue and involvement of the Kosovo Serb community that was contracted last year with the FDMC will be completed during the first quarter of 2020 and will be presented to the public shortly afterwards as a discussion and in other forms of promotion for advocacy purposes.

List of grants and other expenses

Title of project / initiative	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Strengthening Kosovo's Position Towards Dialogue and Normalization of Kosovo-Serbia Relations - Serbian Perspective	Operational / DPC	20,334.84
Workshop and Discussion: The Role of Civil Society in the Dialogue and Normalization Process of Kosovo-Serbia Relations, Durres 16-18.06.2019	Operational	10,406.82
Workshop and Discussion: The Role of Civil Society in the Process of Dialogue and Normalization of Kosovo-Serbia Relations and Strategy Consultation 2021-2024, Tirana 15-17.11.2019	Operational	9,847.65
Gracanica Bridge Rewiring	Forum for Development and Multiethnic Collaboration (FDMC)	22,810
Subtotal		66,159.84
Program and administrative expenses		
Consultancy	Operational	2,760.53
Print	Operational	1,900
Translation services	Operational	1,200
Other administrative expenses	Operational	8,174.25
Subtotal		14,034.78
Total:		80,194.62
Grand total:		377,938.22



OSF RESERVE FUND



OSF FONDI REZERVĚ

Strengthening Kosovo's perspective in dialogue with Serbia

Considering it an issue of great importance, in 2018 the Foundation launched a project to address the lack of consensus among Kosovo's political parties over the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue. In collaboration with the Democratization Policy Council (DPC) from Berlin and involving civil society organizations in Kosovo, the Foundation launched a comprehensive project of political parties in Kosovo to align inter-party positions and strengthen Kosovo's prospects for the finalization of a comprehensive and legally binding agreement with Serbia.

The project that was supported by the Open Society Foundations Reserve Fund during 2018 and 2019, was seen as highly important and relevant, and therefore the Foundation benefited from a unique one-year increase of the basic budget.

Whilst during 2018 the possibility for a comprehensive agreement to be reached within the mandate of High Commissioner Federica Mogherini (until March 2019) seemed realistic, Prime Minister Haradinaj's decision to impose a 100 per cent tariff on Serbian products in December 2018 led to the complete suspension of the dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

Although official dialogue was suspended and any line of communication between the two countries was disrupted, dialogue as an idea and tool for achieving lasting peace with Serbia was a hot topic throughout the year, not only in Kosovo but also on the international stage. European parliamentary elections led to a new Commission, which appointed Josep Borrell, Spain's former foreign minister - one of Kosovo's non-recognizing states - as High Representative for Foreign Policy. Borrell has announced that his first official trip will

be to Prishtina and has expressed interest in being actively involved in the process.

To address the deteriorating relations between Kosovo and Serbia, in April 2019, German Chancellor Merkel and French President Macron invited representatives of the Western Balkans to Berlin, announcing a new mediation process that would continue with a meeting in Paris. However, Haradinaj's resignation in June and the lack of a functioning government in Kosovo postponed the meeting to an indefinite date and symbolically marked the end of this still-unfinished process.

Another sign that the dialogue was still considered key to resolving problems between Kosovo and Serbia was the pressure exerted by official Washington, which appointed not one but two delegates to handle the dialogue - Matthew Palmer as special envoy for the Western Balkans, and the US Ambassador to Germany, Richard Grenell, as special envoy for dialogue. Throughout 2019, the heated topic of discussion was whether the EU should also appoint a special representative, from a friendlier or at least indifferent state, to Kosovo's independence.

This political backdrop changed the nature of the Foundation's initiative, but in a positive sense made it even more relevant, especially as the initiative served as a bridge between political representatives and civil society in Kosovo on the one hand and the capitals of Kosovo's key allies on the other hand.

In addition to closed meetings between representatives of all political parties and civil society which were held during 2018 and early 2019, the Foundation has continued to organize advocacy meetings with political and civil society representatives in international centers such as Brussels, Berlin, New York, Belgrade, Athens and Madrid.

In late January, the Foundation organized a roundtable with representatives of political parties and civil society in Tirana, Albania. Comments made during this meeting, and during those of the previous year were used to compile a “non-paper” – a document that summarizes the consensus points among all parties in Kosovo. In the following two months, the Foundation supported its partners to inform key stakeholders in the US, Germany and the EU about the potential position and the path Kosovo should follow when the parties return to the dialogue table.

In January and February, Foundation partners and representatives organized advocacy meetings in Brussels and Berlin to raise awareness in these two key centers about the situation on the political scene in Kosovo, the need for a constructive EU and German involvement in the dialogue.

In addition to closed meetings, the Foundation continued to initiate, organize and support a series of public discussions to stimulate debate about the need for dialogue, but also to tackle the way dialogue was guided until 2018. In March, in cooperation with the Forum for Ethnic Relations (FER), a roundtable discussion “Diplomatic Dialogue: A New Paradigm for Kosovo and Serbia” was held in Belgrade where “new paradigm” for dialogue was presented. The presentation in Belgrade revived the debate over the need for dialogue and the necessity of launching a new, political and redefined process.

In June, the Foundation organized a new edition of Open Talks entitled “After Berlin, Before Paris” - an informal evening discussion between Vetton Surroi, publicist and writer, Blerim Shala, advisor to the President of Kosovo, and Dr. Mark Baskin, Professor of International Relations at RIT Prishtina.

While the October elections temporarily halted the initiative, in the fall the Foundation also launched a series of meetings and roundtables aimed at policymakers in cities that will play a decisive role in the next steps of the process.

In late November, in collaboration with the European Policy Center (EPC) in Brussels, the Foundation organized an open panel “Stuck in limbo? The future of the Belgrade-Prishtina dialogue” in Brussels. A large number of representatives of European institutions, diplomats and other experts dealing with the Western Balkans were present and contributed to the discussion.

At the end of the year, the Foundation also turned its focus to non-recognizing countries that have played key supportive roles in regional cooperation processes, such as Greece, or with countries that have been serious opponents of Kosovo’s independence, such as Spain.

On November 28 in collaboration with the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Affairs, ELIAMEP, the Foundation organized an all-day event in Athens, Greece. Although closed to the media, the discussion entitled “Addressing Challenges to the European Integration of the Western Balkans: The Belgrade-Prishtina Dialogue After the Elections in Kosovo” garnered a high level of diplomats and political representatives in Athens.

On December 13 in collaboration with the Royal Elcano Institute and the European Center for Foreign Relations, ECFR, in Madrid, the Foundation organized a closed all-day event titled “The New European Commission and the Western Balkans: The Past, Present and Future of Kosovo-Serbia Relations” in Madrid, Spain. During the day, representatives of civil society in Kosovo had the opportunity to discuss with key stakeholders in Madrid, including civil society there, about the European perspective of the Western Balkans following the French document (published in November).

List of grants and other program expenses: Basic budget

Project title	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Diplomatic Dialogue: A New Paradigm for Kosovo and Serbia	Forum for Ethnic Relations, FER	3,580.00
Autostrada Biennale II "Revolution is us"	Autostrada Biennale	12,000.00
"New challenges in the path of European integration"	Riinvest Institute	9,320.00
EPC Roundtable in Brussels "Stuck in Limbo? The Future of Pristina-Belgrade dialogue" me 20.11.19	Operational	5,245.36
Roundtable with ELIAMEP in Athens "Addressing the Challenges of the Western Balkans" on 28.11.19	Operational	2,817.23
Support for book promotion "Politics of Recognition" at London School of Economics on 4.12.19	Operational	1,453.33
Workshop with Elcano and ECFR in Madrid, 11-15.12.19	Operational	3,932.70
Consultancy services related to the office in New York	Operational	13,912.77
Consultancy services related to the office in New York	Operational	13,952.42
Consultancy services for the initiative "Strengthening Kosovo perspective"	Operational	20,800.00
	Subtotal	87,013.81
Program Expenses		
Publication and print		4,268.66
Translation services		1,026.57
Other program administrative expenses		3,653.81
	Subtotal	8,949.04
	Total	95,962.85

List of grants and other expenses: Reserve Fund and OSF

Project title	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Advocacy meetings in Brussels 20-21.01.19	Operational	4,969.37
Planning meeting with partners in Berlin 21-.23.01.19	Operational	5,458.71
Closed roundtable with political and civil society representatives in Tirana 25-27.01.2019	Operational	11,832.02
Advocacy meetings with political representatives in Berlin 17-19.02.2019	Operational	5,511.79
Advocacy trip to Washington DC, New York 25.02.-03.03.19	Operational	13,895.60
Participation in roundtable organized in cooperation with FER in Belgrade 13.-15.03.19	Operational	4,811.07
Meeting with OSF representatives in Tirana 28-29.09.19	Operational	1,929.95
Accommodation for OSF office consultants	Operational	€220.13
Publication of guiding principles for negotiations	Operational	4,900.00
Presentations in Brussels, Berlin and USA	Operational	4,200.00
Consultancy services	Operational	29,185.50
Translation services	Operational	4,699.50
Other program administrative expenses	Operacional	4,951.36
Total		96,565.00

Kosovo-Albania relations: Survey on the positions on both sides of the border

Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) and the Open Society Foundation for Albania (OSFA) at the end of 2018 have conducted an extensive research in Kosovo and Albania to measure the interaction and the attitudes of citizens of both countries regarding a range of issues, such as interaction, social distance, images of neighbors, attitudes towards official cooperation of both countries, and attitudes towards national unification. During October and November 2018, a total of 2,504 citizens were surveyed in both countries: 1,200 in Albania and 1,304 in Kosovo (1,004 Albanians and 300 Serbs). The data collection was carried out using the same methodology, but by two different companies, namely IDRA in Albania, and Kantar TNS Index Kosova in Kosovo. The format of the survey and the number of questions were the same in both countries, while a shorter version of the survey was used for Serbian citizens in Kosovo.

During 2019 five meetings were held between the foundations and partners from Kosovo and Albania. The report “Kosovo–Albania, Interaction, knowledge, values, beliefs, cooperation and unification” has already been published. Authors of the report are Agron Demi and Blendi Ceka. This project was supported by the Open Society Foundations - OSF Reserve Fund.

The research was not the ultimate goal of this joint OSFA and KFOS initiative, but rather a first step in a series of activities aimed at analyzing and fostering a debate on deepening cooperation between Kosovo and Albania – as an important project in expanding and deepening regional cooperation. Following the meetings between the two foundations and their partners, it had been decided to continue this cooperation between civil society organizations in Kosovo and Albania to explore further four key topics:

1. Trade cooperation between Kosovo and

Albania: challenges and potentials; 2. Improving Albania-Kosovo cooperation in the education sector; 3. Albania and Kosovo: What is the future? - Deconstructing the idea of unification and 4. Kosovo-Albania energy cooperation: opportunities and Challenges.

The studies on the first three topics are already done and advocacy activities are ongoing. Depending on the political situation following the October 6 2019 elections in Kosovo, the timing of publication and other planned activities will be set accordingly. The fourth topic is at the beginning of the project implementation.

In addition to advocacy of each organization separately, a Forum 2020 roundtable is planned to be held in February to present the analysis and discuss these topics.

Trade cooperation between Kosovo and Albania: challenges and potentials

This project aims to raise the awareness of the political actors as well as the private sector about the benefits of exploiting economic potential through increased trade exchanges between Kosovo and Albania. Moreover, this project aims to promote a comprehensive evidence-based debate beyond political rhetoric.

So far all activities have been completed and the first version of the study report has been drafted. Publication and other advocacy activities will take place during 2020.

Improving Albania-Kosovo cooperation in the education sector

The objectives of this project aimed at improving Kosovo-Albania cooperation in the education sector are: Ensure existing cooperation agreements; 2. Identify potential issues / processes that produce new collaboration / alignment derivatives; 3. Prepare a preliminary report on this cooperati-

on; 4. Develop a Roadmap with specific short and medium term recommendations and 5. Advocacy activities.

All these objectives have been met, only the advocacy part remains. As part of this activity, the project plans a public presentation of the Roadmap followed by a debate on cooperation, several media articles, as well as participation in TV shows on the topic of Albania-Kosovo cooperation. The delay in forming the new Government has delayed this part of the project for some time.

Albania and Kosovo: What is the future? - Deconstruct the idea of unification

The project aims to contribute to shaping the political debate in Kosovo and Albania to improve and deepen bilateral strategic relations, including shaping the idea of unification. The objectives of the project are: 1. Intensify cooperation between civil society organizations of Kosovo and Albania in addressing public interest issues; 2. Critical assessment of current and future political relations between the two countries; 3. Examine the possibilities and constraints for the idea of unification deriving from domestic constitutional order, international law, integration and membership in Euro-Atlantic structures; and 4. Raise the level of debate on realistic options for developing strategic relations between the two countries. So far the redrafting of the paper has been completed and advocacy activities will follow soon.

Kosovo-Albania energy cooperation: opportunities and challenges.

This project aims to address the real challenges and opportunities of energy cooperation between Kosovo and Albania. Since a detailed study in this area is missing, it can serve as a good information platform of public policies that can be of use by the governments of both countries. The project has begun at the end of 2019, and in May 2020 the report will be published and advocacy activities will begin.

List of grants and other expenses

Project name	Grantee	Amount in Euro
Albania and Kosovo: What is the future? - Deconstruct the idea of unification	KIPRED	15,000
Improving Albania-Kosovo cooperation in the education sector	Qendra Kosovare për Arsim	25,000
Trade cooperation between Kosovo and Albania: challenges and potentials	Instituti Riinvest	14,965
Trade cooperation between Kosovo and Albania: challenges and potentials	Instituti GAP	14,580
The Bridge	The Bridge	3,000
Kosovo-Albania energy cooperation: opportunities and challenges.	Instituti Riinvest	18,000
	Subtotal	90,545
Meetings with OSFA and Partners		
Takimi në mars		3,710.14
Meeting in April		2,129.68
Meeting in September		4,980.27
Meeting in November		2,833.86
Meeting in November		1,718.01
	Subtotal	15,371.96
Consultancy		6,722.47
	Subtotal	6,722.47
Publications and print		
Publications and print		6,415.40
Administrative expenses		613
	Subtotal	7,028.40
	Grand Total	119,667.83



THIRD-PARTY FUND PROJECTS



THIRD-PARTY FUND PROJECTS

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

During 2019 two projects supported by other donor funds were completed: 1. Prospect Plus project supported by the Ministry of Development through Karl Kubel Stiftung with a total budget of € 527.000 and EU SIMRAES II project supported by European Union through IPA funds with a total budget of € 1.3 million.

Karl Kubel Stiftung continued its collaboration with the Foundation implementing the Prospect 3 project for the next four years, until 2023, with a budget of € 575,000 to address the needs of returnees of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in four locations, two in the municipality of Suhareka and two in the municipality of Peja.

Below are the key achievements of the two projects.

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

The Prospect Plus project has been implemented in two municipalities (Peja and Suhareka), starting in November 2015, and ending on April 30, 2019. The project has contributed to the implementation of the State Strategy for the Integration of Roma and Ashkali communities by improving access to education, health and social services. Therefore, the overall objective of Prospect Plus has been to contribute to the realization of the rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Kosovo, respectively in the municipalities of Peja and Suhareka, and their integration into Kosovo society. To contribute to the achievement of this overall goal, Prospect Plus has taken on the obligation to achieve one specific goal, which is to improve access to education, health and social services in four neighborhoods of the two municipalities where the Roma, Ashkali

and Egyptian communities live, as an important step towards increasing economic and social participation and social integration.

The project has undertaken a series of measures and activities in the fields of education and health, which are included in the Strategy and Action Plan for the Integration of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo. The activities have been implemented, monitored and developed together with target groups, partner NGOs as well as relevant parties to ensure sustainability even after project completion.

There is a total of three areas of intervention within this project, expressed as project goals:

Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in four locations are integrated into primary school (pre-school, primary and lower secondary level).

All project activities have been carried out in the two Learning Centers in the municipality of Peja, namely Vitomirica and 7 Shtatori neighborhood in Peja, and in two Learning Centers in the municipality of Suhareka, in Leshan and Gelance. In each LC the tutors have assisted children with learning disabilities, irregular attendance or those who have returned from abroad. In addition to this, tutors carried out mediation with teachers, school authorities and parents in order to strengthen the cooperation between parents and the school to increase parents' involvement in helping their children. As a result, school attendance has improved and the average success or grade of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students increased. LC has also carried out intercultural, recreational and educational activities involving Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, Albanian and Bosniak children. Intercultural activities have led to reducing the level of discrimination, stereotypes and prejudices that children have towards each other. The project has also carried out awareness-raising activities: intensive parents/family

awareness campaigns were launched aimed at enrolling or keeping their children in schools.

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

The activities were carried out in project neighborhoods/locations, also often in the homes of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian families. To this end, the project hired health and social mediators from these communities, as project staff who come from these communities. The focus was mainly on women and girls, since they were initially reluctant to receive medical and social services. In an agreement with municipal health authorities, in particular with Family Medicine Centers, mediators organized mobile visits of doctors and medical specialists in the neighborhood, where doctors performed routine and specialist check-ups at home, checking women, girls, boys and men who had health problems. Facilitators also brought members of communities from their neighborhoods to FMC to carry out specialist examinations or check-ups. Other important activities undertaken by mediators are the organization of meetings or counseling sessions mainly for women and girls of the community: Twice a month, at each project location, doctors or specialists were brought to one of the family homes in the neighborhood where the session gathered about 15-20 women and girls. Sessions were of counseling character, while the topics discussed were picked up by women or girls themselves. Every second month, counseling topics were of social nature attended by men and boys who picked up the topics. Some of these topics were the right to benefit from social schemes, relationships between family members, employability, etc. The Kosovo Family Medicine Association (AMFK) staff has been involved to monitor this component, which has monitored the work of the mediators and mentored them, also by helping FMCs to mobilize and provide health care to families within neighborhoods of communities.

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

PROSPECT network consists of Prospect + partner organizations, including organizations that have been involved in previous Prospect project (NVK, BCS, SiV, SHL-K and Vision 02). Neither Peja nor Suhareka have action plans or local strategies for the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Their action plans and strategies expired 10 years ago (Peja), respectively 3 years ago (Suhareka), thus making the municipalities take less measures regarding the integration of these communities. Since such strategy with the action plan until 2021 has been approved at central level, partner organizations have advocated in the municipalities to implement the planned measures of the strategic document stemming from the Office of Good Governance of the Prime Minister's Cabinet. Throughout the project, local partners (Nevo Concept - Suhareka and Syri i Vizionit - Peja) have had monthly meetings with the directors of the municipal directorates of health, education and social welfare, not only to coordinate project activities but also to develop community policies which are conducive to community members as well. Such meetings gathered municipal officials of the Office for Communities and Returns, who all the while have expressed the need to have such a document. At the year-end meetings with mayors, for 2019 the municipalities have decided to plan the launch of the drafting of a local strategy and action plan for the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. At central level, partner organizations as PROSPECT network have been involved in drafting the new Administrative Instruction of MEST (No.17/2018) which regulates the functioning of Learning Centers and their financial support.

The target group of Prospect Plus were Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in four locations (neighborhoods) in two municipalities, which comprise around 2100 members. Target community is: "7 Shtatori" neighborhood and Vitimirica village in Peja municipality, as well as Gelance and Leshan / Terne villages in Suhareka municipality.

The amount of grants distributed to local partners for 2019 (January - April)

Project name	Grantee	Amount
Realization of learning activities, health and social mediation, networking and advocacy	Nevo Koncepti	10,580
Realization of learning activities, health and social mediation, networking and advocacy	Syri i Vizionit	10,580
Training tutors and mentoring of teachers involved in the project	Kosova Education Center (KEC)	1,200
Training of mediators, mentoring of their work and interconnection with health service providers	Association of Family Doctors of Kosovo	940

(Re)Integration of Vulnerable and Returnees Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Peja and Suhareka Municipalities, Kosovo (Prospect 3)

The Prospect 3 project is a continuation of the ProspectPlus project, which has been implemented in two Kosovo municipalities (Peja and Suhareka). The Prospect 3 project had been implemented in these two municipalities, starting in May 2019. The project aims to continue contributing to the realization of country's strategy for the integration of Roma and Ashkali communities by improving access to education, health and social services. Added to this is the employability component, which aims to contribute to the creation of preconditions for employment of these communities. Therefore, the overall objective of Prospect 3 is to contribute to the realization of the rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Kosovo, respectively in the municipalities of Peja and Suhareka, and their integration into Kosovo society, with a particular emphasis on returnees from European Union countries, especially Germany. To contribute towards the achievement of this overall goal, Prospect 3 has committed itself to achieving a specific goal, i.e. to improve access to education, health and social services as well as employability in the four neighborhoods in the two municipalities in which the Roma,

Ashkali and Egyptian communities live. This is an important step towards increasing economic and social participation and social integration.

The project envisages a range of measures and activities in the areas of education, health and employment. These are implemented, monitored and developed together with target groups, partner NGOs as well as relevant stakeholders to ensure sustainability even beyond project completion.

Target group

The target group of Prospect 3 are the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in four locations (neighborhoods) in two municipalities, which comprise approximately 2200 inhabitants. Target community is: "7 Shtatori" neighborhood and Vitomirica village in Peja municipality, as well as Gelance and Leshan / Terne villages in Suhareka municipality. In each of the four locations there is an elementary school providing pre-school education for children aged 5, elementary education for children from 6 to 10 years old, as well as lower secondary education for children from 11 to 14 years old.

Objectives and their realization

There is a total of three areas of intervention within this project, expressed as project goals:

Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in the four target locations regularly attend school and their attendance is ensured (preschool, elementary and lower secondary level).

Project activities have started and continue to be implemented in the two Learning Centers in the municipality of Peja, namely Vitimirica and 7 Shtatori neighborhood in Peja, and two Learning Centers in the municipality of Suhareka, Leshan and Gelance. These centers have tutors who are engaged young people in the community helping children who have learning difficulties, irregular attendance or have returned from migration. Tutors also mediate with teachers, school authorities and students' families to strengthen collaboration with the school. As a result, school attendance has improved and the average success or grade of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students increased. The Learning Centers have also undertaken intercultural recreational and educational activities involving Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, Albanian and Bosnian children. Intercultural activities have led to reducing the level of discrimination, stereotypes and prejudices that children have towards each other. The project has also carried out awareness-raising activities: intensive parents/family awareness campaigns were launched aimed at enrolling or keeping their children in schools. In order to carry out the project activities in the neighborhoods mentioned above, with the start of the new 2019 school year, through local partners KFOS has also distributed didactic teaching aids to at least 200 children in the community attending school in the neighborhoods included in the project.

Members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities improve their health and quality of life

The activities are carried out by staff trained as health and social facilitators consisting of girls from the community. The activities were mainly carried out in project neighborhoods/locations, also often in the homes of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian families. The focus has been mainly on

women and female beneficiaries, as they are the most vulnerable in community families. In an agreement with municipal health authorities, in particular with Family Medicine Centers, mediators organized mobile visits of doctors and medical specialists in the neighborhood, where doctors performed routine and specialist check-ups at home, checking women, girls, boys and men who had health problems. In addition to the checkups, doctors also delivered lectures on a variety of health issues, especially on issues that were mostly linked to community members. Other important activities undertaken by mediators are the organization of meetings or counseling sessions mainly for women and girls of the community: Twice a month, at each project location, doctors or specialists were brought to one of the family homes in the neighborhood where the session gathered about 15-20 women and girls. Every second month the counseling themes were of a social nature, in which men and boys participated as well where the topics were raised or selected by them, such as the right to benefit from the social scheme, the relationships between family members, employability etc. The Kosovo Family Medicine Association (AMFK) staff has been involved to monitor this component, which has monitored the work of the mediators and mentored them, also by helping FMCs to mobilize and provide health care to families within neighborhoods of communities. By the end of 2019 the project also organized trainings with the "Parental Skills" module, where women groups from the communities of the project locations in Peja and Suhareka attended a three-day training module on enhancing parenting skills.

The targeted Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, including returnees, improve employability prospects

In terms of employability, unemployed persons who were not registered with the employment offices were identified among the residents in the targeted localities. During the identification, residents were identified with their skills and other data related to their employment. At least 40 interested unemployed have participated in a training in "Successful Application" module, which is delivered by the Kosovo Employment Support Agency (APPK). These training modules

have to do with the enhancement of soft skills, which are a prerequisite for joining the labor market. In 2019 the cooperation with Regional Employment Centers, Vocational Training Centers and Employment Offices in municipalities has been expanded. The collaboration started with sharing information, as these employment authorities initially had no information on employability of community members at project locations. The collaboration is going on with information sharing in the neighborhood / houses on the opportunities provided by the authorities to prepare neighborhood residents for access to the labor market. The project is also facilitating the involvement of community members in the labor market, first by identifying vacancies in the private sector, then by providing information to interested residents and finally by referring private sector residents who have certain set of skills.

Organizations working on education, health, social welfare and employability of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities improve their capacity to provide quality services to their beneficiaries, and advocate with local and central authorities for a better position of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities

PROSPECT network consists of Prospect + partner organizations, including organizations that have been involved in previous Prospect project (Nevo Koncepti, Bethany Christian Services, Syri i Vizionit, SHL-Kosova and Vizioni 02). With the implementation of the Prospect project, all these organizations have built or improved their capacity to work with communities on issues most relevant to them, such as education, health and employability. These organizations have also strengthened their organizational and management capacity as Prospect projects are complex projects, with interconnected components that require not only management but also careful administration. In advocacy matters, the Prospect network has prepared these organizations for strong advocacy: each of these organizations has raised different issues in its own municipalities, related to improving the quality of life for communities. Almost all the issues raised have been dealt with by the authorities, while the communities themselves have continued to

advocate for other issues of concern to them. These organizations are continuing to advocate for municipalities to have up-to-date action plans for community integration, while all together, network-wise, are continuing to pressure central authorities to implement a national strategy for the integration of communities. In 2019, the network has been involved in the drafting and implementation of the MEST Administrative Instruction on Learning Centers, and being part of the monitoring teams for the implementation of the National Strategy for Community Integration, the network has contributed to the process of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of state policies for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo.

Grantee	Purpose	Amount
Nevo Koncepti (NVK)	Realization of learning activities, health and social mediation, networking and advocacy	19,490
Syri i Vizionit (SiV)	Realization of learning activities, health and social mediation, networking and advocacy	19,490
Kosova Education Center (KEC)	Tutor training and mentoring of teachers involved in the project, including parenting skills training	6,930
Association of Family Doctors of Kosovo	Training of mediators, mentoring of their work and interconnection with health service providers	1,200
Kosovo Employment Support Agency (APPK)	Training community members on preparation to join the labor market, consulting project partners on employability	4,000
Prospect Plus, operational	Nevo Koncepti, Syri i Vizionit	3,995

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

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project “EU Support in the Implementation of the Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities 2 - Education for Integration” (EU SIMRAES 2), started its implementation on April 1, 2016. This project came to an end in October this year. The project was funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo and implemented by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) in partnership with 7 other organizations:

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

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

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

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

The target groups were:

- 10 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian localities;
- preschool children;
- children aged 6-14 attending obligatory education;
- parents of school-age children from 10 target localities;
- school teachers serving targeted communities;
- students in target communities;
- 200 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian high school students;
- 7 civil society organizations;
- general public in Kosovo.

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

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

The main activities of the project were:

- 1.1 Support the work of 10 Learning Centers
- 1.2 Raise the awareness of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian parents to enrol their children on time
- 1.3 Provide logistical support to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children to attend preschool education.
- 1.4 Provide individual mentoring and homework help for school children and returnees.
- 1.5 Organize training for teachers and parents against prejudices, and provide mentoring/counselling to ensure the application of competencies

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

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

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

2.3 Provide mentoring for scholarship beneficiaries.

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

3.2 Facilitate communication between network members and disseminate information

3.3 Develop a cooperation strategy for the network

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

MAIN RESULTS

The project was scheduled to end on March 31, 2019. However, the project has managed to make significant savings, thus a timely request has been made to the Contracting Authority to extend the project implementation. The extension of the project has been approved and consequently the project has been implemented until October 31, 2019.

Inclusion in Early and Compulsory Education

This component was coordinated by Kosova Education Center. Other partner organizations have had a significant role in local management

through learning centers. There are 10 learning centers in 7 municipalities, which are managed by 6 other partner organizations.

- Provision of 1620 school packages for children in learning centers. Although it had not planned to provide school packages for this school year,

Name of learning center	Managing partner organization
Plemetin Social Center (PBLC)	Balkan Sunflowers Kosova
Plementin Learning Center (PLC)	Balkan Sunflowers Kosova
Fidan Lahu (Fushë Kosovë)	Balkan Sunflowers Kosova
Gurrakoc (Istog)	Syri Vizionit
Serbobran (Istog)	Syri Vizionit
Piranë (Prizren)	Nevo Koncepti
Jeta e Re (Prizren)	Nevo Koncepti
Roma Mahalla (Rahovec)	SHL-Kosova
Brekoc (Gjakovë)	Bethany Christian Services
Roma Mahalla (Mitrovicë)	RADC

The extension of the project has made it possible for the pre-primary and compulsory education child support centers to last until the end of the 2018/19 school year, enabling the completion of this support and data collection from the learning centers.

budget planning for the project extension period has made possible for this support to be extended through the packages for this school year as well – at least to ensure a good start of the 2019/20 school year.

Some of the key achievements within this project component are:

- Provision of homework program until the end of the 2018/19 school year. Over 1500 children have benefited from this program. There were also many intercultural activities carried out in all learning centers, with the participation of children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, children from the majority community and their parents.

- Renovation of the learning center in Mitrovica. The building of this learning center was a contested property between the Privatization Agency of Kosovo and the Municipality of Mitrovica, thus early intervention was not allowed. Last year, CSOs operating in this building received a note stating that they cannot continue to use the building. Following this notification and taking advantage of the project savings, the project planned to invest in the renovation of this learning center during the project extension period to ensure a sustainable service provision for children in the coming period.

- Integration of learning center activities into social buildings in Plemetina, within the Pandeli Sotiri school. With this, the number of learning centers carrying out activities within partner schools increased to 6 out of 10 centers, consolidating thus the hybrid concept of learning centers. Part of the activities in these centers – mainly those related to support through the homework program – take place in the classes provided by the school, while other activities take place in the community center.

Improve access to upper secondary education

As part of the second component of the project, the scholarship and mentoring program continued to be provided.

Scholarship program

The project was part of a nationwide scholarship program coordinated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, which also included other scholarship providers for high school students coming from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. This year the number of scholarships increased to 600 beneficiaries. The table below shows the scholarship recipients per scholarship providers within the national scholarship program

Scholarship provider	2016/17		2017/18		2018/19	
	Applications	Beneficiaries	Applications	Beneficiaries	Applications	Beneficiaries
	686	501	724	507	785	601
KFOS – MASHT (EU SIMRAES 2)	200		200		200	
VoRAE – MASHT	182		107		200	
REF – MASHT	119		200		201	
Totals	501		507		601	

The project this year has also funded 200 scholarships. During 2019 this scholarship year has been completed, enabling data collection for beneficiaries. Below is a table with data on the success (average grade) and dropout of EU SIMRAES 2 scholarship recipients, by years.

	2016/17		2017/18		2018/19	
	First half	End of year	First half	End of year	First half	End of year
Average grade	2.82	3.16	3.02	3.37	2.82	3.06
Dropout	9		0		2	

Although the Project was not a partner of the 2019/20 scholarship program, it did assist the scholarship partners in preparing for this year's scholarship program, contributing to the preparation of the scholarship application package, participating in the information campaign for scholarships and providing their own experience for beneficiaries.

Mentoring program

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

During the 2018/19 school year, out of 200 scholarships the project provided mentoring programs for more than half of the scholarships.

More precisely, a total of 23 students were supported by 115 mentors in the municipalities of Gjakova, Istog and Prizren. The table below shows the number of mentorship program beneficiaries for three years.

School year	Girls	Boys	Total	Scholarship beneficiaries	Non-scholarship recipients
2016/17	46	67	113	102	11
2017/18	51	63	114	111	3
2018/19	48	67	115	115	0

The program went well and there have been improvements in learning results. The following table shows the average grades for this and the two prior school years when the mentoring program was offered to the beneficiaries of the mentoring program. The table shows that there has been an increase of the average grade over the three years.

operation agreement, which has been signed by the heads of the partner organizations and, together with the strategy of action, it will serve as a guiding document in the work of the network.

Dialogue with partner municipalities was ongoing throughout the project, but an additional effort has been made this year to ensure continued

School year	Average grade, first half	Average grade, end of year
2016/17	2.46	2.85
2017/18	2.86	3.18
2018/19	2.61	2.96

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

This component was aimed at strengthening the capacity of partner organizations to provide quality services in the field of education for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. This year the network has been focused on creating sustainability of the “Konect” network, as well as on the sustainable impact of the network on social developments in the field.

One direction of engagement this year has been the internal dialogue of partner organizations to ensure sustainable network operation over the next several years. To this end, the process launched by the end of last year for the development of the network strategy was finalized in January this year, approving the strategy for the operation of the network for the 2019-2021 period. In March 2019 the network partners met in a workshop to redefine the operation of the network, i.e. how to organize the network after the project completion. The conclusions from this workshop were translated into a network

municipalities’ support for learning centers and partner organizations. To this end, a three-day workshop with partner municipalities was organized in September 2019 where ideas were generated on cooperation between organizations and municipalities, as well as on ways of municipal support for learning centers and for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in general.

At the central level too, network partner organizations were involved in providing support to the communities they serve. Following the adoption of Administrative Instruction 19/2018 on the Establishment and Functioning of Learning Centers, a process in which the network partner organizations were active, representatives of some partner organizations as well as the EU SIMRAES 2 project manager were part of the working group this year that prepared a guide for the implementation of the administrative instruction for learning centers. This guide is to be signed by the Minister of Education in order to pave the way for the registration of learning centers.

List of grants:

Project name	Grantee	Amount
EU SIMRAES II	KEC	7,609.61
EU SIMRAES II	Nevo Koncepti	6,634.26
EU SIMRAES II	Bethany Christian Services	5,882.26
EU SIMRAES II	Syri Vizionit	8,524.59
EU SIMRAES II	SHL-Kosova	4,627.06
EU SIMRAES II	Balkan Sunflowers Kosova	10,631.28
EU SIMRAES II	Roma and Ashkali Documentation Center	5,861.66
Subtotali		49,770
Shpenzimet operacionele		
Bursat për nxënës të shollave të mesme, printim, dhe shpenzime tjera operacionelebazu në kontratën me BE	Operacionele	71,113.78
Subtotali		71,113.78
Grand totali		120,884.50

