

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

A year of major
transformation



Kosovo Foundation
for Open Society



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for Open Society

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1. INTRODUCTION

2022 was marked by global upheavals that brought to light the urgency of the work that is done by the Open Society Foundations across the globe. The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ensuing security and energy crisis affected the entire European continent, pushing the European Union to take swift steps in acknowledging a shift in global relations and the need to keep partnering countries closer. As a result, the EU member states took swift steps to provide candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova, open talks with North Macedonia and Albania, give candidate status to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and finally approve visa liberalization for Kosovo.

In this political backdrop, the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society continued its deep involvement in building democratic institutions and an open society in Kosovo through supporting initiatives towards European reform and regional cooperation, the integration of ethnic minorities, as well as the implementation of the Green Agenda. As in previous years, the Foundation was hands-on involved in policy debates, supporting multiple publications of research and policy papers, organizing closed and public debates with various stakeholders, and advocating for change on multiple levels of governance. More importantly, the Foundation continued its support for civil society in Kosovo by providing grants in the three aforementioned thematic areas for both organizations and individuals.

In this regard, one of **the major achievements** in the past year was the Foundation's effort to establish **the Green Action Space**— a physical and virtual platform to research and discuss pressing climate and environment issues. In partnership with Riinvest Institute, the Foundation established GAS in late 2021 and launched it together with its educational and capacity-building component, **the Green School**. As a result of the direct engagement of the Foundation's management and staff, the Green School was established as a leading platform for the education of activists, policymakers and journalists on current climate change issues. The Green School marked its first cohort's graduation in 2022 and will continue its work with the second cohort throughout 2023.

In addition to the Foundation's advocacy towards the implementation of the Green Agenda, another marked achievement was the Foundation's continued efforts within its Re-connecting Communities Program with **the Open Initiative**, a coalition of Kosovo Serb organizations. Throughout the year, the coalition of ten organizations provided their much needed input into key issues that affect the lives of the Serb community in Kosovo by producing analyses and organizing debates, advocating for policy change at the local and central level.

In 2022, the Foundation also continued working with its flagship project, **the Kosovo Research and Analysis Fellowship**, which provides young policy experts and academics with mentorship and financial support to produce policy research. As the fifth cohort marked the publication of its final output, an academic volume edited by leading experts on South Eastern Europe, "Confronting Multiple Crises: Local and International Perspectives on Policy-making in Kosovo," the sixth cohort of the fellowship began its work which will continue throughout the next year.

Finally, throughout the past year, the Kosovo Foundation also underwent an internal transformation as part of Open Society Foundation's global reorganization to meet new demands and challenges. The transformation process shifted the Foundation's focus to internal issues and restructuring, inadvertently affecting the external impact of the Foundation. A noticeable difference from the previous year was the curtailing of the core funds, which limited the scope of the foundation's activity throughout 2022. Finally, in coordination with global Open Society structures and as a result of a lengthy internal process, starting from 2023, the Foundation will shift its focus on regionally-integrated interventions— a new approach to the work it has done since its establishment as a national foundation in 1999. While the largest part of the Foundation's work will be executed in coordination with other national foundations in the Western Balkans, the Foundation will continue to support local initiatives on a national level through grantmaking and advocacy initiatives.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Kosovo Foundation for Open Society financial statement for the period
January 1, 2022- 31 December 2022.

No.	Budget Line	Budget €	Expenses €	%
1	OSF Core, Network and VSP Contribution			
	Cross Thematic Program	683 823,81	683 823,81	100,00
	Tie-off Grants	647 862,06	647 862,06	100,00
	Voluntary Separation Program	352 600,14	352 600,14	100,00
	Administrative Expenses	288 315,67	288 315,67	100,00
Sub-Total 1:		1,972 601,68	1,972 601,68	
2	Third-Party Funds			
	- Karl Kubel Stiftung - Prospect 3	97,999,91	97 999,91	100,00
	EU- Balkan Tender Watch	25 057,85	25 057,85	100,00
	OSFA - PV Panels in Schools in the Western Balkans	58 402,00	58 402,00	100,00
Sub-Total 2:		181 459,76	181 459,76	
Total		2 154 061 €	2 154 061 €	

Incurred expenses according to programs - in Euro

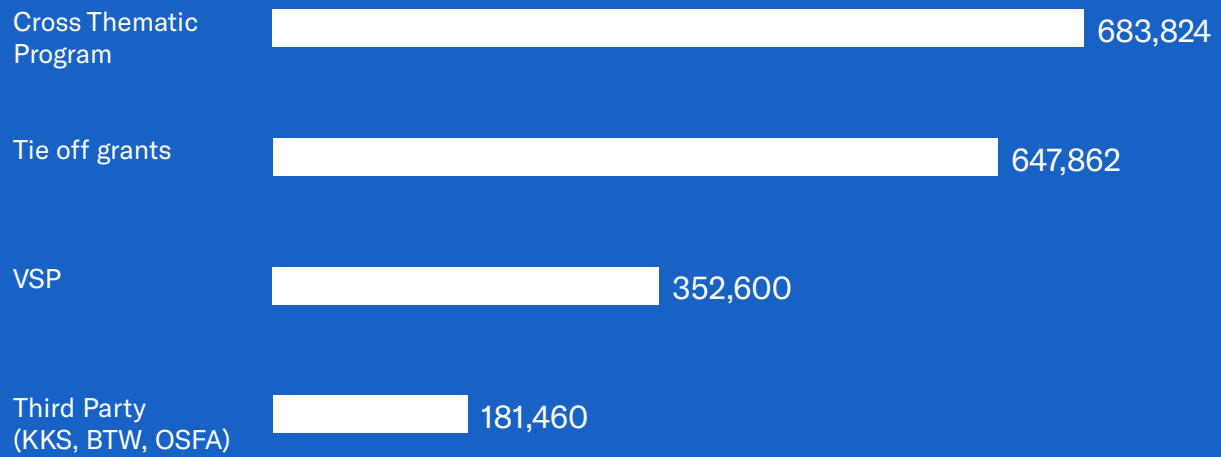


Fig.1. Incurred expenses according to programmatic divisions

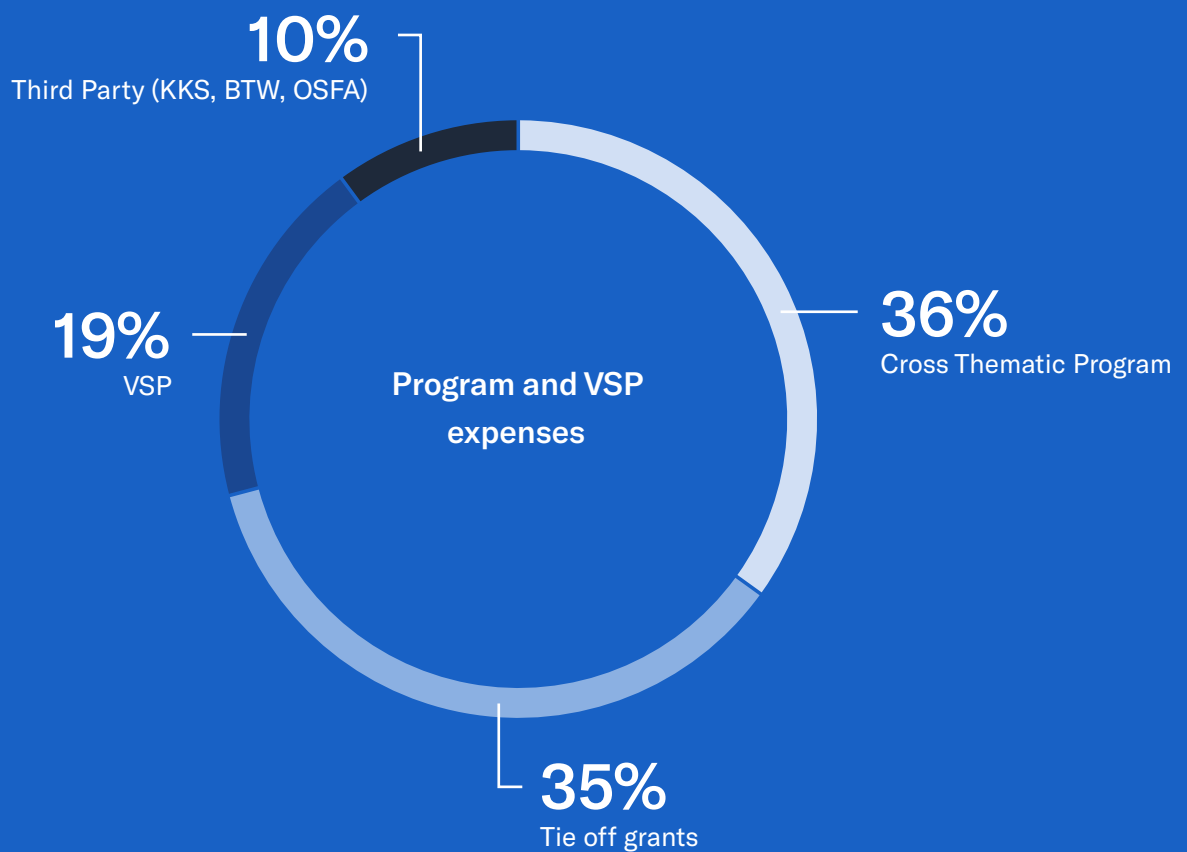


Fig 2. Incurred expenses according to program, funding sources and transformation costs

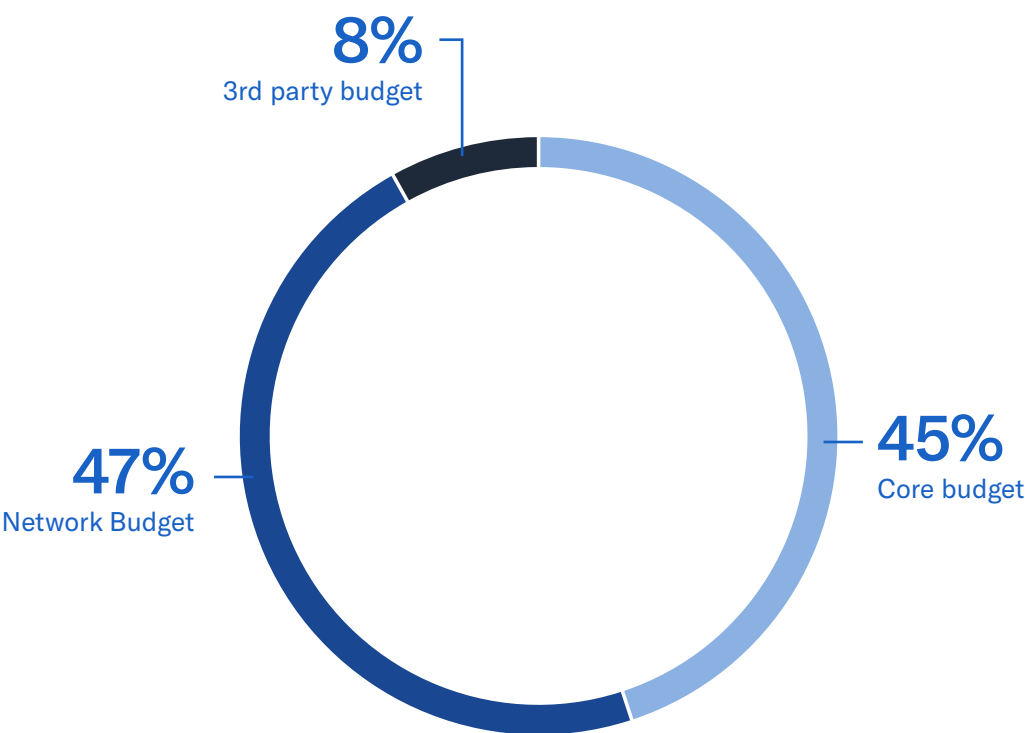


Fig.3. Incurred expenses according to sources of funding

Detailed financial report for 2022

Project title	Grantee	Amount in Euro
The Green Corridor	Manifesta Pristina 14	10,000.00
Green School II	Riinvest Institute	44,720.10
Kosovo Research and Analysis Fellowship Prishtina workshop (March 2022)	Operational	7,822.35
Investigative Journalism School 2022	ÇOHU	10,000.00
Workshop ÇOHU and KRIK " School of Investigative Journalism – Environmental damage" 27-31.05.2022	Operational	13,744.09
Workshop with CiviKos Secretariat, Office for Good Governance of the Prime Minister on the Council of Cooperation bw Government and CSOs, 1-3.06.2022	Operational	3,689.00
The Other Serbia 3	Admovere	9,970.00
Book publication “Galeria Dodona Prishtine 1997-1999”	Alisa Maliqi	3,070.18
KRAF kick-off workshop and regional conference 23-26.11.2022	Operational	10,871.63
KRAF consultancy		12,000.00
KRAF supervision		6,227.05
KRAF supervision		7,835.24
KRAF supervision		6,000.00
Kosovo Research and Fellowship Stipend		4,210.00
Kosovo Research and Fellowship Stipend		3,684.21
Kosovo Research and Fellowship Stipend		4,100.00
Kosovo Research and Fellowship Stipend		4,426.97
Kosovo Research and Fellowship Stipend		4,448.76
Kosovo Research and Fellowship Stipend		3,684.21
Kosovo Research and Fellowship Stipend		4,288.54
Kosovo Research and Fellowship Stipend		4,400.00
Diplomatic Dialogue	Forum for Ethnic Relations (FER)	4,920.00
Tirana Foreign Policy Forum - Regional Cooperation	AIS -Albania Institute for International Studies	2,900.00
CEC Mitrovica	NGO “ Aktiv”	10,605.18
CEC Gracanica	FDMC – Forum for Development and Multiethnic Collaboration	9,500.00
Workshop on Sporazoom 7-8 April 2022	Sporazoom – Operational	2,674.51
Workshop on Open Initiative 8-10 April 2022	Open – Operational	3,094.96
Strategic Planning Group	Strategic Planning Group	2,073.67
CEC Gracanica	FDMC – Forum for Development and Multiethnic Collaboration	7,260.00
CEC Mitrovica	NGO “ Aktiv”	9,310.00
Strengthening Social Dialogue in Kosovo	NGO CASA – Center for Affirmative Social Actions	42,180.00
Key Issues - Video Formats	KIM Radio	4,700.00
Subtotal:		278,410.65

Transformation Expenses		
Tie off – Transformation Grant	Riinvest Institute	457,200.00
Tie off – Transformation Grant	KEC- Kosovo Education Center	188,800.00
VSP- Voluntary Separation Program (Network & Core)	KFOS Staff	437,933.93
Subtotal		1,083,933.93
Program expenses Conference, meetings & workshops		
Karl Kubel Stiftung workshop 25-28.04.2022	Operational	8,568.32
Green School workshop 20-22.05.2022	Operational	2,846.87
Gjeraqina Tuhina & Augustin Palokaj EU meeting	Operational	1,735.35
AIIS April-December Meetings in Tirana	Operational	4,608.29
Program Retreat Thessaloniki 01-03.04.2022	Operational	5,641.95
Karl Kubel Stiftung workshop 03-05.11.2022	Operational	7,920.02
Sao Paolo Conference for sustainable energy	Operational	7,659.29
Belgrade conference 30.11-02.12.2022	Operational	2,487.53
Geneva & Brussels Meeting	Operational	9,734.96
Berlin Meeting 15-18.12.2022	Operational	7,144.83
Klan Arena KFOS event	Operational	2,973.30
Open/Sporazoom Meeting 18-21.08.2022	Operational	8,792.71
Western Balkan Retreat	Operational	1,231.22
Other expenses for meetings, workshops etc.	Operational	4,232.51
Subtotal		75,577.15
Other professional fees	Operational	28,791.95
Publications	Operational	27,776.06
Fixed assets	Operational	3,817.50
Other Program – Administrative Expenses related to projects	Operational	20,726.93
Program staff expenses	Operational	165,251.84
Subtotal		246,364.28
Total Program Expenses		1,684,286.01

3. THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

In 2021 the Open Society Foundations began the work of transforming the global network of foundations established by the billionaire philanthropist George Soros. In close collaboration with the Open Society Foundations' Global Board, the organization's leadership began the arduous task of reorganizing and adapting a global structure of thematic and regional programs, as well as a number of independent foundations and offices, to make them fit to respond to a rapidly shifting political landscape. With the mission of making the organization more agile and nimble, the transformation process led to the restructuring of Open Society Foundations worldwide, as well as the departure of many colleagues. In 2022, the transformation process extended to the Western Balkans entities, where the issue of the future of the national foundations was addressed.

In Kosovo, Open Society Foundations had first started their work through a branch office to the Soros Foundation for Yugoslavia, initially established in Belgrade in 1991. After the Kosovo war ended, this office was turned into an independent national foundation, formally established at the end of 1999. In the past three decades Open Society Foundations has been present as a donor in Kosovo and the region primarily through its five independent national foundations, as well as through its support provided directly from thematic and regional programs based in Budapest and later on Berlin.

As independent foundations, the organizations in the region cooperated in joint initiatives and projects, and in rare occasions, worked directly with partners in other countries in the region. The leadership of the regional foundations met regularly for coordination purposes, and until the Covid-19 pandemic struck, all the staff of the five foundations, as well as colleagues from other Open Society Foundations programs, met on an annual basis at the Western Balkans Forum. Nevertheless, each foundation reported back to its own Executive Board and drafted and implemented separate mid-term strategies with specific thematic

foci and priorities. The national foundations in the region differed also in terms of their operations, varying in size and scope of work, as well as management of third-party funding.

As part of the transformation process, executive directors of each national foundation were consulted at various stages of the decision-making process on the eventual transformation, despite the fact that the final decision rested with the senior leadership of the Open Society Foundations. Multiple models for the reorganization of the Foundations were discussed throughout late 2021 and in the early 2022 without a final decision being taken. By May, a transformation outline was introduced urging all national foundations to proceed with opening of the Voluntary Separation Program (VSP), which would enable staff who would like to depart voluntarily from the Foundations, to do so with a generous financial compensation for their contribution. The VSP in the Kosovo Foundation was opened in June 2022, with six members of the staff departing as a result.

As a result of ongoing discussions about the future programmatic focus of the Open Society Foundations, the Kosovo Foundation also decided to close specific programs and exit them responsibly by providing tie-off grants for partnering organizations. A more detailed explanation of the tie-off grants provided by KFOS is given in the next subsection.

Discussions about the future of the foundations in the region continued well into autumn of 2022. Finding room for improvement in the way that the national foundations had operated in the past, senior leadership of the Open Society Foundations found that the impactfulness of the offices in the region could be increased through a strategic and operational overhaul. In January 2023, senior leadership announced that the national foundations would continue to exist as independent legal entities in each country, but would come together to draft a single strategy for the region and operate in a regionally-coordinated manner under the leadership of the Regional Director.

3.1 TIE-OFF GRANTS

As part of the transformation and streamlining process, the Open Society Foundations across the globe had to assess with honesty and pragmatism where their work had the biggest impact. Such a process inevitably led to the conclusion that the Foundations could benefit from limiting the scope of their work and channeling their support to areas where the Foundations' could play a role in tipping the scales. In order to exit certain areas of work with responsibility towards stakeholders, partners and grantees, as well as preserve the legacy of the work the Foundations have done, the transformation team introduced the possibility of providing support for spinning off programs and projects, and providing financial grant support to partners to continue the work (through tie-off grants). In Kosovo, the Foundation decided that two major areas of work could be transferred to key partnering organizations through tie-off grants.

Domestically, the major programmatic shift was the Foundation's exit from its work in higher education and the anti-corruption and transparency program. These two programs, which had been staple areas of work for the foundation for the past decade, had supported CSO engagement in Kosovo in seeking accountability and integrity in the public sector. As part of the Foundation's work in these two fields, KFOS has also established two coalitions with other CSOs from Kosovo: a. the ProOpen Coalition for Open Data and Accountability in Public Procurement and b. The Coalition for Integrity and Transparency in the University (KITU). To preserve the legacy of the work of these two coalitions, as well as other programmatic work implemented directly by the Foundation in the past, the Foundation provided the two partnering organizations with tie-off grants, namely Riinvest Institute and the Kosova Education Center (KEC).


KFOS and Riinvest Institute have a long history of cooperation. As one of the oldest CSOs in the country, Riinvest Institute has been a key partner for KFOS in multiple operational projects and programs. In 2003, the two organizations established the advocacy platform Forum2015, which soon became a well-respected space to present policy analyses and foster debate among local and international stakeholders. Another key area of cooperation between KFOS and Riinvest was public procurement and anti-corruption, with the

cooperation producing several projects and research papers that tackled large infrastructural projects such as the construction of a new coal-fueled power plant and the concession of the Prishtina airport.

To continue multiple strands of work in which KFOS was involved in, Riinvest has received a tie-off grant for the next 18 months to support their work in (1) anti-corruption projects, in particular in cases of large strategic investments, that have become a permanent source of corruption scandals; (2) increasing transparency in government institutions and public administration as a continuation of joint efforts from the past three years in Open Data and Open Government Partnership (where Kosovo is not yet a member); and (3) organizing Forum2015, as the co-founder of the platform almost two decades ago.

The other 18-month tie-off grant was given to the Kosova Education Center (KEC), which was established in 2001 after the Foundation's education program was spun off to be able to increase its reach and impact, KEC quickly managed to become and remain the largest and biggest promoter of education development in the country. Through KEC, OSF supported programs such as Step by Step, Reading and Critical Thinking, School Administration and Higher Education, which became the most organized platforms of a modern education system in post-war Kosovo. In this sense, KFOS and KEC are deeply interlinked and have done immense joint work in the field of education in the past two decades.

In the next year-and-a-half KEC will take over work in these fields: (1) Research, monitoring and advocacy projects related to the goals and objectives of the Coalition for Integrity and Transparency in the University (KITU), in close collaboration with public universities, the Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders; (2) Continued work in the QAIN project by monitoring academic performance of public and private universities and support for student organizing within these institutions; (3) Administering KITU and empowering the performance of its members; ensuring sustainability from other donors in the area and expansion of activities to a regional level.



As part of the transformation and streamlining process, the Open Society Foundations across the globe had to assess with honesty and pragmatism where their work had the biggest impact. Such a process inevitably led to the conclusion that the Foundations could benefit from limiting the scope of their work and channeling their support to areas where the Foundations' could play a role in tipping the scales.



4. ANCHORING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO EU STANDARDS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

During the past year, despite its internal processes, the Foundation continued to be actively engaged in grantmaking and operational projects within the EU integration and regional cooperation program. Focusing on continuing legacy projects such as the Kosovo Research and Analysis Fellowship (KRAF) and organizing policy debates, the Foundation managed to organize **two major regional workshops** in Prishtina, a few closed meetings with officials, two public promotions of KRAF fellowship outputs (book and papers), and a series of roundtable discussions on various issues such as visa liberalization and regional cooperation. In addition to its operational efforts implemented in coordination with partners, the Foundation also supported Kosovo-based organizations and individuals with small grants that highlighted good neighborly relations with Serbia, or contained a regional component of cooperation (such as the investigative journalism school organized by Çohu **and KRIK**), and research projects that focus on the legacy of the 1990s. Below are some of the major achievements of this program during 2022.

4.1 KOSOVO RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS FELLOWSHIP (KRAF)

For the sixth year in a row, the Foundation continued implementing its flagship operational project Kosovo Research and Analysis Fellowship (KRAF). The fellowship, which was established to support young researchers from the countries in the region as well as EU member states which do not recognize Kosovo's independence, continued to challenge stereotypical

representations of Kosovo and expand the production of knowledge about the country. In 2022, the Foundation concluded the work with the fifth cohort of the fellowship, continued its support of alumni engagement, and selected and launched a sixth cohort.

In March, the 12 selected fellows of the fifth cohort, coming from a variety of academic backgrounds, conducted their field research in Kosovo, kicking-off their visit with an intensive workshop in Prishtina. The fifth cohort consisted of fellows from across Europe, including researchers from Spain, Romania, and Poland. Throughout the year, the group produced dozens of opinion articles, presented in front of academic and policy circles, and finally published an edited volume with original research titled "Confronting Multiple Crises: Local and international perspectives on policy-making in Kosovo". The final event for the project cycle was held on November 24, when the edited volume was promoted in the Center for Narrative Practice (CNP) in Prishtina with a panel composed of three of the fellows, Marta Szpala, Hana Bacaj and Ana Krstinovska, one of the supervisors, Gëzim Krasniqi and moderated by the academic supervisor of the fellowship, Dr. Ioannis Armakolas. The event was attended by dozens of experts, and was also covered by local media. The promoted volume, edited by the fellowship's academic coordinator and multiple supervisors, showcases timely and original interventions that respond to the age of polycrises—an epoch marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, Ukraine's invasion, and security and energy crises. The open access book has so far been distributed to local bookshops and libraries in Kosovo, and made available online on KFOS's website.

In addition to the work produced by the fifth cohort of KRAF, the alumni of the fellowship continued to work on policy papers and advocacy. Throughout 2022, the Foundation published four policy briefs produced by alumni teams composed of two fellows as standalone publications that tackled relevant issues from visa liberalization to sports diplomacy. One of the policy briefs, produced by José Carpintero Molina and Juan Manuel Montoro, titled “Kosovo and the Spanish speaking world: Exploring roads to engagement when recognition is blocked,” was presented in a closed meeting with the Kosovo Minister of Foreign Affairs and was widely distributed in foreign policy circles. On November 24, the Foundation organized a public discussion regarding another policy paper written by two alumni, Dr. George Kyris and Juan Manuel Montoro, titled “Kosovo’s sport diplomacy: Accessing the international, building the national”. In addition to a stellar panel of sports experts from the region, the event brought together sports representatives, athletes and government officials to discuss how sports can help put Kosovo on the map.

Simultaneously, the Foundation worked closely with the academic supervisor in structuring the sixth cohort of the fellowship. In October, the Foundation opened a call for applications for the new cohort of the KRAF fellowship with a limited scope of themes and requesting applicants to produce policy briefs, instead of an edited volume. Out of almost one hundred applications, the selection committee chose 8 new fellows to do research and write policy briefs on topics ranging from foreign affairs, to regional cooperation and energy poverty and security. All the fellows were invited to a kick-off workshop in Prishtina in late November where they had the opportunity to meet their supervisors, the coordinators of the project as well as attend public and closed lectures related to their research topics. The work of this cohort is expected to be finished by mid 2023.

4.2 VISA LIBERALIZATION FOR KOSOVO: THE ENDGAME

Kosovo institutions began the dialogue on visa liberalization with the European Union over 10 years ago. While the citizens of the other Western Balkan countries had enjoyed visa-free travel to the Schengen zone since 2009 and 2010 respectively, Kosovars continue to be the only citizens west of Belarus that need to apply for visas to travel to visit their families or friends in Europe.

The Foundation has been heavily involved in advocating for a visa-free regime for Kosovar citizens from the outset, but it particularly increased its engagement in 2015 when it gathered 25,000 signatures for a petition towards the EU to make the visa-free regime a reality. In 2022, with the Czech Presidency intending to put the matter on the agenda, it quickly became clear that while there was an opportunity for the European Council to finally give the green light for visa liberalization for Kosovo, there was also potential for some member states to put new conditions and delaying the process even more.

In an attempt to address these potential traps, in February, 2022 the Foundation published a policy brief produced by two of its KRAF alumni, **Zoran Nechev and Donika Emini “Visa Liberalization: Kosovo’s Saga on the EU Path”**. The paper was well-circulated amongst policy circles and helped vocalize the sense of disappointment Kosovars had towards the broken EU promise, although there was no public launch or discussion of the paper.

In July, KFOS grantee, the **European Policy Institute of Kosovo (EPIK)**, together with the **Clingendael Institute**, organized a panel discussion “**Kosovo’s EU path: What progress in visa liberalization and the Belgrade-Prishtina dialogue**” in the Hague. The discussion drew high-level policymakers from the Netherlands as well as brought together voices from the Kosovo civil society sector to the center of Dutch politics. The cooperation, which was supported both by the Open Society Foundation in Berlin and KFOS, produced a joint paper that tackled the remaining doubts of Dutch officials who had been opposed to visa liberalization in the past.

Once the Czech Presidency put the issue on the agenda for October 2022, the Foundation turned its attention to other potential obstacles Kosovo could face from member states that were skeptical about Kosovo's rule of law progress. With rumors circulating that Spain, Sweden and France would put new conditions before offering visa liberalization, the Foundation organized a panel discussion in Prishtina on November 14 with the title **"Visa Liberalization for Kosovo: The Beginning of the End?"**, during which the two Brussels-based analysts Gjeraqina Tuhina and Augustin Palokaj presented their policy brief "The Grand Finale". The event was attended by dozens of experts and was covered by most national media in Kosovo.

In late November, the EU member states' ambassadors agreed that Kosovo would be granted a visa-free regime with the introduction of the new electronic registration system ETIAS, and no later than January 1, 2024.

4.3 REGIONAL COOPERATION AND KOSOVO-SERBIA DIALOGUE

Throughout 2022, the Foundation was actively involved in supporting projects that aligned with Kosovo's EU integration aspirations—preconditions for which are normalization of relations with Serbia as well as better regional cooperation overall. While not focusing directly on the dialogue process itself, the Foundation supported grantees to facilitate a dialogue over the way forward and offer alternatives to establishing and maintaining good neighborly relations.

One such initiative was Admovere's project **"Sërbia Tjetër" (The Other Serbia)**, a series of publications of writings by Serbian public intellectuals who had opposed the Milosevic regime throughout the 1990s. In 2022, the organization published its third installment **"The Other Serbia: Srdja Popovic"**, which has been published in three languages and distributed in Prishtina and promoted online through S'bunker platform. The book will be promoted in Belgrade in 2023 during the "Miredita Dobardan Festival".

While throughout the year Kosovo and Serbia relations were marked with tensions and disputes over car license plates and barricades, and resulted in the mass departure of Kosovo Serbs from public posts and institutions, the year also marked a positive turn for regional cooperation. While a trilateral summit of the Open Balkan initiative accompanied by the Open Balkan Wine Vision, a regional wine fair, was held in Belgrade in September, the major development of the year was the reinvigoration of the Berlin Process under the auspices of Chancellor Scholz. On November 3 in Berlin, the six Western Balkans countries signed two new deals allowing for freedom of movement of citizens with IDs, and recognition of professional diplomas and certificates.

In support of such initiatives of good collaboration and to promote a vision forward, the Foundation supported a series of high-level debates in Belgrade, Tirana and Berlin throughout December. In Belgrade, the Foundation supported the **Forum for Ethnic Relations (FER)**, to organize the **Diplomatic Dialogue "Regional cooperation as a 'peace project'"** on December 1. The panel included author Veton Surroi, Dusan Janjic, President of FER, and Zoran Drakulic, President of the Serbian Business Club Privrednik. The panel drew a high-level audience of the diplomatic corps and policy experts from Serbia.

In Tirana, the Foundation supported the Albanian Institute for International Studies (AIIS) to host the **Tirana Foreign Policy Forum: Regional cooperation and European integration in times of war** on December 9, where Surroi was in a discussion with Alba Çela, executive director of AIIS. Finally, jointly with the Democratization Policy Council (DPC), KFOS hosted a closed roundtable in Berlin **"The future of regional cooperation after the Berlin Summit: Towards a comprehensive, political strategy?"** at the Paul-Lobe-Haus (part of the German Bundestag complex) on December 16. The discussion brought together a dozen participants, MPs/staffers from the ruling coalition parties, a representative of the German MFA, representatives of the party foundations of the ruling coalition parties (FES, HBS, FNS), from OSF Berlin and important Berlin-based think tanks active on the Western Balkans (like the Aspen Institute Germany).



5. THE GREEN PROGRAM

During 2022, the Green Program focused on three main objectives. First, the Foundation and its partner Riinvest Institute resumed the Green Talks with the aim to raise awareness and initiate debates for issues related to the Green Agenda for Western Balkans and start exerting pressure on policy makers to advance this agenda. On the other hand, together with the implementing partner Riinvest Institute, the Foundation started the second generation of the Green School in December 2022, which aims to empower public officials, civil society employees, media and businesses with issues related to environment protection and the fulfillment of commitments made under the Western Balkans Green Agenda. The first workshop was held in Durrës in December, followed by the first lecture held in Prishtina. The school is expected to finish with the second cohort in May 2023.

Furthermore, as part of the joint funds from OSF, a study was conducted in 2021 to explore the potential of using small-scale rooftop solar technology in some primary schools in Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia. In Kosovo, Iliria and Qamil Batalli schools were selected. At the end of the year, the solar panels were up and running and a fraction of the energy was covered by self-production. The project will continue throughout 2023. The project aims to broaden the income sources for public schools, strengthen self-governance and ownership of social programs, support the transition to sustainable energy, increase social inclusion in education, and create environmentally friendly schools.

5.1 THE GREEN CORRIDOR – MANIFESTA 14

In 2022 the Foundation supported the nomadic biennale Manifesta 14 to establish the Green Corridor. The “Public After All” study led by Carlo Ratti Associati found that the poor state of public spaces and vehicle dominance in Prishtina negatively affects the mobility

of vulnerable citizens. The Green Corridor initiative, a collaboration between Manifesta 14, the Municipality of Prishtina, and UN Habitat, aimed to improve public spaces by transforming a part of a railway track into a pedestrian path connecting neighborhoods and the city center. The Green Corridor was opened on July 22, 2022 and had a positive impact on residents and visitors of Prishtina by providing a green and accessible pedestrian space, reclaiming an unattended public area, serving as a model for urban transformation, and promoting community awareness and building. The Green Corridor will continue to connect city zones and offer a safe space for the community. Manifesta 14 and its partners plan to activate the area through community projects and events.

5.2 GREEN TALKS

The Green Talks project, initiated in November 2021, endeavors to educate, and enlighten public policy makers and relevant stakeholders on the implications and challenges posed by the Kosovo government’s commitments under the WB Green Agenda. Utilizing the Green Action Space platform, specifically its Research and Advocacy components, the project will focus on the primary aspects of the Green Agenda action plan.

To that end, the project will bring together experts in the field to deliberate on the commitments and opportunities presented by Kosovo’s participation in the Green Agenda declaration, as well as its challenges in comparison to other signatories. Furthermore, the project research team will publish six thematic policy briefs, each covering one of the five pillars of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, including decarbonization, circular economy, depollution, sustainable agriculture, and the protection of nature and biodiversity.

During the reporting period, four of the six thematic policy briefs have been presented and discussed, delving into the future of coal in Kosovo, the Republic of Kosovo's energy strategy, the potential benefits of Kosovo-Albania energy cooperation, and the future of gas in Kosovo. The remaining two themes will be addressed during the first quarter of 2023.

5.3 GREEN SCHOOL II

After the successful completion of the first cohort of the Green School - held from November 2021 to May 2022, in which 30 participants from civil society, state institutions, and businesses have successfully completed the lecture cycle, the Foundation decided to continue its support to the initiative by funding a second cohort of the school. The format of the second cycle will be similar to the first one, including lectures, thematic workshops, discussions, and roundtables. Additionally, the school aims to encourage debate and partnership among various interest groups regarding the challenges and implications arising from Kosovo's Government commitments to the Green Agenda.

To have a greater impact on public policy awareness and formation and to draw lessons from the first cycle, the second cycle of the Green School is proposed to be organized in the following combined format:

1. The second cycle of the school, entitled "Green School," with various participants from: (i) NGOs; (ii) media; (iii) businesses; (iv) post-university students in related fields; and, 2. The focused training cycle, entitled "Training with representatives of public institutions," with participants from: a. Departments of Ministries; b. Representatives from government agencies (such as: Kosovo Energy Efficiency Agency; Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency; Kosovo Mining Agency); c. Representatives from independent agencies (such as: Water Services Regulatory Authority; Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals; Energy Regulator Office). Lectures of the second cohort started in December 2022 with a kick-off workshop in Durres, Albania, and will continue implementation through April 2023. During the reporting period, the kick-off workshop and the first lecture were held.

5.4 PV PANELS IN SCHOOLS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS - KOSOVO

The goal of the project is to decrease the reliance of public schools on funding and support from the central government. In 2021, a study was conducted to explore the potential of using small-scale rooftop solar technology in schools located in Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The project aims to broaden the income sources for public schools, strengthen self-governance and ownership of social programs, support the transition to sustainable energy, increase social inclusion in education, and create environmentally friendly schools. This will be achieved by:

- ✧ Empowering communities: Allowing communities to generate their own power and reduce their dependence on centralized utilities, which can give them more control over their energy supply and make them less vulnerable to disruptions or price fluctuations.
- ✧ Promoting local ownership: Encouraging ownership of energy assets by individuals or communities, rather than large corporations, which can promote a more equitable distribution of economic benefits and help to build stronger, more resilient local economies.
- ✧ Encouraging citizen participation: Fostering greater citizen participation in energy decision-making, as individuals and communities become more active in the planning, financing, and operation of energy projects.
- ✧ Reducing carbon emissions: Helping to reduce carbon emissions by increasing the share of renewable energy in the overall energy mix, thus contributing to the mitigation of climate change.
- ✧ Democratizing energy markets: Creating new opportunities for small-scale producers to participate in the energy market and compete with large utilities, thus democratizing energy markets.

During the reporting period, two primary schools in the Municipality of Prishtina have been equipped with solar panels. The Iliria School and Qamil Batalli School have installed capacities of 18.90 kW and 20.25 kW, respectively. The annual production of the Iliria School is 21,608 kWh equivalent to 2,499.31 EUR, and the annual production of the Qamil Batalli School is 24,937 kWh equivalent to 2,199.5 EUR. These figures were calculated using the average cost of electricity in Kosovo.

The solar panels at the Iliria School were installed on December 8, 2022, and those at the Qamil Batalli School on December 29, 2022, with both schools now producing energy to meet around 30% of their demand.

The implementation of this project has successfully achieved its goal of reducing the dependence of public schools on central government contributions and subsidies. Additionally, the project will help to support ecological transition and enhance social inclusion in education. The financial impact of the project is significant and will have a positive impact on the schools' budget and is expected to have a long-term positive impact on the schools' sustainability.

During the implementation of the project, however, it was discovered that the property on which Iliria school is located is not officially transferred to the municipality at the cadaster. Despite this, the project team has been in contact with officials from the Municipality of Prishtina to resolve the issue. Until the property is legally transferred to the municipality, the school will not be able to obtain a permit from KEDS to feed excess electricity generated by the solar panels back into the grid. This will result in financial losses (or forgone benefit) for the school, estimated at approximately 788 EUR per year.

5.5 RECONNECTING MITROVICA - CEC MITROVICA AND CEC GRACANICA

The Reconnecting Communities program has continued in 2022 to support the interethnic dialogue between Serbian and Albanian population. KFOS has continued to support the two (Centers for Civic Energy (CEC) in North Mitrovica and Gracanica, which promotes dialogue and transparency by creating a

culture of democratic participation. The two centers, which are managed by NGO Aktiv and by the Forum for Development and Multiethnic Cooperation, FDMC, use their resources to support other organizations and informal groups by organizing various events, with a focus on the Serbian population in Kosovo. CECs aim to organize open community-based dialogue and promote freedom of expression to better understand the main social and political processes in Kosovo. They also aim to help Kosovo Serbian civil society organizations and strengthen their capacity to represent and engage in decision-making processes at both local and central levels. To that effect, during 2022, the Center for Civic Energy in North Mitrovica hosted a total of 62 activities with over 1,165 participants, whereas the Center for Civic Energy in Gracanica hosted a total of 86 activities with over 966 participants.

The activities outlined in the project proposals were successfully carried out. The promotion of dialogue between Serbs and Albanians was implemented at events held by NGO Aktiv, Forum for Development and Multiethnic Collaboration and other organizations during the project period. Events such as focus groups, workshops, conferences, and podcasts promoted dialogue between the two sides and highlighted the problems of ingrained stereotypes and the dilemmas they can create in the process of bringing together communities living in divided societies, as well as facing the past.

Supporting and organizing open dialogue between civil society and decision-makers was carried out through events organized by other organizations and formal and informal groups held in both Centers for Civic Energy and through the Zoom platform. These events aimed at strengthening the capacity of civil society, cooperation with representatives of international organizations, non-formal actors, and providing support to vulnerable or socially marginalized groups.

5.6 ENHANCING SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN KOSOVO

Within the efforts of the Reconnecting Communities program, in late 2022 the Foundation supported NGO Casa with a grant to support a social dialogue between government representatives and social actors from non-majority communities, and also to create new instruments of social communication that would have a greater impact on the public and reach a larger number of people. The initiative takes the current state of ethnic relations in Kosovo, which is almost two and a half decades after the end of the conflict, and still a deeply divided society with ongoing tensions and social segregation along ethnic lines, as a starting point. The main objective of the project is to contribute to the strengthening of social cohesion in Kosovo society through promoting the culture of open and free dialogue as the fundamental method of resolving problems in ethnic relations. This will be achieved through: 1. Supporting and strengthening existing initiatives of direct dialogue between relevant institutions of the Government of Kosovo and representatives of non-majority communities, as well as 2. Improving open public dialogue on issues that burden ethnic relations in today's Kosovo.

During the initial stages of the project, which started in December 2022, the main objective was to establish the foundation needed for its successful implementation. This involved identifying external consultancy that was necessary to ensure that results were delivered in an efficient and effective manner. One of the key accomplishments during the inception phase was the identification of the technical expertise and equipment necessary for producing podcasts. This is a critical aspect of the project, as it ensures that the podcasts are of high quality and can reach a wide audience.

In terms of advocacy and dialogue, the focus was on finding existing efforts to promote the interests of local communities to decision-makers at the central level. Additionally, opportunities were sought to expand these advocacy efforts on an international scale. This is an important component of the project, as it ensures that the voices of local communities are heard and their needs are addressed at all levels of governance. In the coming period, the organization will shift its focus to implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs.

5.6 KEY ISSUES - VIDEO FORMAT - KIM RADIO

Another project dealing directly with the Kosovo Serb community is the KIM Radio project on turning the findings from the "Key Issues" publication into digestible video clips. The project will formally end in April 2023, aims to stimulate citizens' involvement in obtaining greater knowledge about life and prospects in Kosovo, by way of collaboration between Civil Society Organizations and the media. The aim is to enhance citizens' awareness and initiate a social discourse on subjects that are crucial for enhancing the quality of life for citizens, through their involvement in the creation of TV shows.

Over the course of several research studies, the aim is to create three video clips that shed light on the challenges faced by Kosovo Serbs in realizing their basic rights. These challenges include, but are not limited to, difficulties in functioning within the framework of dual administrative-state systems, particularly in the areas of health and education, the dominance of a single political party that undermines democratic principles, and the pervasive issue of corruption.

The partner will produce short media documentaries, each lasting up to 15 minutes, in the form of research-type television content. These formats serve as a platform for citizens to voice their concerns and seek solutions, with the active participation and collaboration of the media and civil society organizations. The video content will be published on their website, www.radiokim.net, in both video and text formats, ensuring that it is accessible to both local and global audiences. The content will also be shared on social media platforms, with the anticipation of further discussions and debates on these critical topics and the opportunity for a diverse range of perspectives to be heard. Currently, KIM Radio is in the midst of the recording phase, as per the plan.

6. THIRD-PARTY FUNDED INITIATIVES

(Re)Integration of repatriated and vulnerable Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Peja/Pec and Suhareka/Suva Reka (PROSPECT 3)

The Project Prospect 3 has progressed in the Pejë and Suhareka municipalities of Kosovo during the reporting period, with the aim of supporting the country's strategy for integrating the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. The overarching objective of the project is to promote the rights of these communities in Kosovo, with a particular emphasis on their return from EU countries, such as Germany, and to facilitate their integration into Kosovan society. To accomplish this goal, the project has taken upon itself to improve access to education, employment, health, and social services in four neighborhoods in the two municipalities, where the communities reside, as a step towards increasing their economic and social participation and integration.

The project has four intervention areas, each defined as a specific project goal:

1. Ensure that Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in the four target locations have regular access to education (preschool, elementary and low secondary level).
2. Improve the health and quality of life of participants from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.
3. Enhance employment prospects for the targeted Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, including returned families.
4. Strengthen the capacities of organizations providing education, health, social welfare, and employment services to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians, and to advocate for a better position for these communities in Kosovo society.

The target group of Project Prospect 3 consists of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in four neighborhoods in two municipalities, totaling approximately 2,200 residents. The targeted communities are in the 7 Shtatori neighborhood and the village of Vitomiricë in the Pejë Municipality, as well as the village of Gelancë and Leshan/Tërne in the Suhareka Municipality. Each of the four locations has an elementary school that provides preschool education for children and serves the community with educational services. The project will be completed in 2023 and is supported by the European Union.

The project's conclusion was initially planned for October 30th, 2022. However, there was a need to extend the project for a period of 6 months, until April 30th, 2023. In the continuation phase, the project activities aim to restore the connections between institutions and community members that were disrupted due to the pandemic.

During 2022, the project implemented a range of measures and activities in the fields of education, health, and employment. These were carried out in collaboration with targeted groups, partner NGOs and relevant stakeholders to ensure sustainability after the conclusion of the project. The activities were conducted in support of families in economically and socially disadvantaged communities in the areas of: 1) education, specifically providing intensive support for learning, and recreational educational activities for children during the summer months; 2) health, providing access to health services for community members, with a focus on women and girls; 3) employment, continuing to improve access to the digital job platform, and 4) advocacy activities in the project-covered municipalities.

With the start of the new school year, KFOS through local partners has started with two groups of activities: awareness-raising and intercultural. With regards to awareness-raising activities, local partners have started awareness campaigns to promote regular attendance and enrollment of children in first grade. They have begun visiting homes and organizing meetings with parents, often involving education officials from the municipality. They have also prepared and distributed awareness materials, including information on health care and protection during the

pandemic. As for intercultural activities, aimed at reducing and eliminating prejudice and stereotypes, local partners have begun to develop activities bringing children from different communities together to understand each other's cultural traditions through games, various competitions, art, etc. To help children from communities with difficulty learning, the community's youth and young adults have started to help children from communities with difficulties in learning, preparing them for work with children, and helping with their homework.

The amount of grants and expenses for KKS project in 2022

Project name	Description	Amount in Euro
Prospect 3	NGO "Nevo Koncepti", NGO "Syri i Vizionit" implementation of educational activities, health and social mediation, and networking and advocacy and approved expenses from donor.	97,999.91



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