

Advocacy Center
for **Democratic Culture**

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

The report presents projects and activities implemented by the Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture during 2022

WWW.ACDC-KOSOVO.ORG



Introduction

Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture - ACDC is a nongovernmental organization founded and registered in December of 2011. The purpose of the organization is to support civil activism in the Mitrovica region and all-around Kosovo through organizing educational and cultural activities as well as improving the social life of citizens regardless of age. The organization's work was based on the population's needs from different communities that live in Kosovo.

Through implementing numerous projects, NGO ACDC was able to effectively achieve its organizational mission for 2022. As in past years, NGO ACDC initiated numerous workshops, researches, training, media campaigns and conferences. During 2022, there were 11 projects in total being implemented.

Table of Contents

Initiative for Education against Domestic and Sexual Violence in Kosovo	3
Facilitating Access to Justice and Promoting Human Rights in the Mitrovica Region.....	3
Enhancing Institutional Response to Corruption in northern Kosovo.....	4
Dealing with the past and reconciliation in Kosovo by raising awareness on the issues of the missing persons	4
Supporting Young Writers in Intercultural Dialogue and Promoting Cultural Diversity	5
M4Y Municipalities for Youth - Empowering Youth through Civic Engagement.....	5
Women for Women - United in Power	6
Promoting Interethnic Dialogue in Local Government.....	7
Further Support to Access to Justice and Human Rights in the Mitrovica Region	7
Organizational Development Grant.....	8
Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo-Serb Majority Communities in Kosovo.....	9

Project 1

Initiative for Education against Domestic and Sexual Violence in Kosovo

Timeframe: 01.09.2021. - 01.10.2022

Funded by: Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

Partner organization: Center for Legal Aid and Regional Development ("CLARD") and Kosovo Law Institute and



The aim of the project was to increase citizens' awareness of the importance of prevention and action against domestic and gender-based violence with an overarching goal to protect women as the most vulnerable group.

Activities: Street actions "Mobile Legal Clinic" all over Kosovo municipalities

Project 2

Facilitating Access to Justice and Promoting Human Rights in the Mitrovica Region

Timeframe: 15.09.2021. - 21.06.2022.

The project Facilitating Access to Justice and Promoting Human Rights in the Mitrovica Region was funded by UNMIK and aimed to improve work conditions at the Basic Court of Mitrovica and increase capacities for the promotion of human rights in the Mitrovica region.

Activities:

- Furnishing and equipping a courtroom at the Basic Court of Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica branch in Leposavić/Leposaviq and Zubin Potok.
- Training on human rights, including human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, for graduate students, young legal professionals, and civil society activists in northern Kosovo.
- Awareness raising campaign on the mandate and work of the Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo and, in particular, the role and contact details of the relevant local offices in the Mitrovica region.
- Retention of the services of ten translators/interpreters, four legal associates at the Basic Court of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica and one legal associate at the North Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Division of the Court of Appeals
- Training and mentoring of municipal Legal Officers from northern Kosovo on applicable administrative legislation.

- Training for municipal human rights, gender, non-discrimination, communities, returns officers from the Mitrovica region (North and South) on Human Rights.
- Provision of services of two legal associates assigned to the Kosovo Free Legal Aid Agency Office in northern Kosovo.

Project 3

Enhancing Institutional Response to Corruption in northern Kosovo

Timeframe: 01.11.2021.- 31.10.2022.

This grant was supported by the 'Civil Society programme for Albania and Kosovo' financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and managed by Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF) in partnership with Partners Albania for Change and Development (PA).

Overall objective of the project was to reduce corruption in northern Kosovo, through strengthening institutional awareness and knowledge on corruption, specifically on available legal mechanisms against corruption.

Activities:

- Baseline research
- Tailored trainings
- Public Town-Hall meetings
- Public Conferences
- Coordination Mechanism
- Working visits
- Public/Media campaign

Achieved results:

- Public perception on corruption in northern Kosovo is measured
- Representatives of local self-governments in northern Kosovo are empowered to combat corruption at local level.
- Public awareness and knowledge on corruption and anti-corruption mechanism is raised through public outreach campaign.

Project 4

Dealing with the past and reconciliation in Kosovo by raising awareness on the issues of the missing persons

Timeframe: 01.03.2022. - 14.06.2022.

The project "Dealing with the past and reconciliation in Kosovo by raising awareness on the issues of the missing persons" was implemented within the sub-granting program "Support to Local Civil

Society Organizations - Transitional Justice and Confidence Building Initiatives in the Western Balkans - RECOM Reconciliation Network" supported by the European Union.

The project aimed to support reconciliation in Kosovo by raising awareness of missing persons from all communities, identifying citizens' attitudes towards missing persons and reconciliation in Kosovo, preserving the culture of remembrance of missing persons, and involving the whole community, civil society, and local governments as a step towards reconciliation.

The project included the following **activities**:

- Focus groups
- Media appearances
- Op-Ed Writing Competition
- Closing conference.

Project 5

Supporting Young Writers in Intercultural Dialogue and Promoting Cultural Diversity

Timeframe: 01.04.2022. - 31.07.2022.

The project was funded by the EU through the project Regional Network for Cultural Diversity READ, implemented by Goethe-Institut Skopje together with its partner organizations: Association Krokodil (Serbia), Center for Balkan Cooperation- Loja (North Macedonia), Instituti ILibrit dhe i Promocionit (Albania), Kalem Culture Association (Turkey) and Qendra Multimedia (Kosovo).

The overall objective of the project was to further support and strengthen the regional cooperation of young writers, literary community and reading culture in four northern municipalities in Kosovo and promote mutual understanding and respect for diverse cultures and cultural expressions through the campaign designed to raise awareness about cultural diversity.

Activities:

- Workshops with Young Authors
- Op-Eds
- Media Talk to Promote Reading Culture
- Public Campaign to raise public awareness and promote intercultural awareness
- Cultural Diversity Conference

Project 6

M4Y Municipalities for Youth - Empowering Youth through Civic Engagement

Timeframe: 01.09.2021. - 01.02.2023

Funded by: Government of Japan through the support received under the Japan Social Development Fund administrated by World Bank

Implementing agency: Republic of Kosovo, Ministry of Local Government and Administration
 Implementing partner: Community Development Fund (CDF)



The main goal of the project "Municipalities for Youth (M4Y)" was to empower young people to fully participate in the planning and implementation of local socioeconomic activities. Through various skills building, volunteering and training activities, the project provided young people with the necessary skills to effectively design and implement youth-led community development projects.

This project was implemented in ten municipalities in Kosovo, while NGO ACDC was in charge of the municipalities of Vucitrn/Vushtrri, Srbica/Skenderaj, Zvečan/Zveçan, and Ranilug/Raniluk.

Project 7

Women for Women - United in Power

Timeframe: 10.01.2022. - 10.01.2023.

The project, implemented by ACDC, has been supported by Reactor - Research in Action and their partners through the Action "Furthering Gender Equality through the EU Accession Process". This Action is funded by the European Union and co-funded by Sweden.

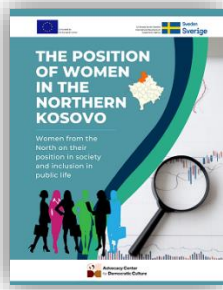
The overall objective was to empower women coming from non-majority communities and living in North Kosovo to participate into decision making processes and raise awareness among men about the importance of their inclusion.

Achieved results:

Result 1: Public awareness was raised on importance of inclusion of women from non-majority communities in political and social processes, particularly EU Accession Process, and on importance of Gender Equality;

Result 2: Women's Network was established in northern Kosovo, bringing together women from different institutions and civil society organizations.

Result 3: Participation of women in relevant institutions and in decision making processes at local level was regularly monitored and reported and women's inclusion and Gender Equality was promoted.



Activities:

Activity 1: Comprehensive study on inclusion of women from non-majority communities in judiciary, police and politics.

Activity 2: Advocacy Meetings

Activity 3: Media campaign - Women and decision making

Activity 4: Networking of women in police officers, judges, prosecutors and politicians from non-majority community

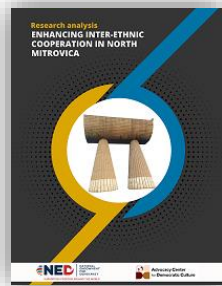
Project 8

Promoting Interethnic Dialogue in Local Government

Timeframe: 01.02.2022. - 31.01.2023

Funded by: National Endowment for Democracy – NED

The aim of the project was to promote interethnic engagement in local government in North Kosovo, and facilitate inter-ethnic cooperation among communities in North Mitrovica municipality.



Activities:

1. A survey to gauge the perception of interethnic cooperation amongst North Mitrovica's minority groups.

2. Focus groups with the Serbian, Albanian, Bosniak and other communities within the municipality to determine their stances on interethnic cooperation.

3. A comprehensive report detailing the findings from the focus groups and survey results.

4. Training for the Communities Committee members, civil society organizations, and municipal representatives on project management and advocacy.

5. The Communities Committee's local action plan developed to enhance the capacities of and propose measures to empower the Committee.

6. Meetings between community leaders and local civil society organizations facilitated to develop three small-scale project initiatives.

7. Two public conferences for community leaders, municipal representatives, civil society, and media organizations.

Project 9

Further Support to Access to Justice and Human Rights in the Mitrovica Region

Timeframe: 19.08.2022. - 19.06.2023.

Funded by: UNMIK

The aim of the project was to improve work conditions and increase translation/interpretation capacity of the Basic Court of Mitrovica, increase capacities of the Kosovo Free Legal Aid Agency Office in North Mitrovica and promote, strengthen, and support the Ombudsperson's role and mandate.

Activities:

- Retention of the services of six translators/interpreters and two legal associates at the Basic Court of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica and one legal associate at the North Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Division of the Court of Appeals.
- Training on Bar Examination in Kosovo for a group of minimum twelve young lawyers from the non-majority communities in northern Kosovo.
- Furnishing and equipping a courtroom at the Basic Court of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica branch in Skenderaj/Srbica.
- Provision of services of two legal associates assigned to the Kosovo Free Legal Aid Agency Office in northern Kosovo.
- A forum of Cooperation between Ombudsperson Institution and Civil Society.
- Public Media Campaign and Human Rights Outreach.
- Research on the Impact of Corruption on Human Rights.

Project 10

Organizational Development Grant

Timeframe: 01.09.2022. - 31.08.2023.

Funded by: Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF)

Aim of the project was to increase the capacity of the organization's staff in order to create a clear direction of organizational development using specific tools and resources that will contribute to the growth of the organization, increase the level of capacity, strengthen the internal management system and contribute to better access to project users.

Achieved results:

- Increase the sustainability and functionality of the organization through strengthening the capacity of the organization.
- Encourage and advocate for sustainable cooperation between local/central authorities and the community in decision-making processes and strengthening the rule of law in order to improve the lives of citizens, as well as reduce corruption at the local and regional level.
- Effective human and technological resource management.

Activities:

- A1: Albanian Language course
- A2: Training on drafting of a PR and Media Strategy
- A3: Training on drafting the advocacy strategy
- A4: Training on organizational management
- A5: Training on ethnic sensitive approach
- A6: Training program “Fund raising and lobbying”
- A7: Drafting action plan and strategy

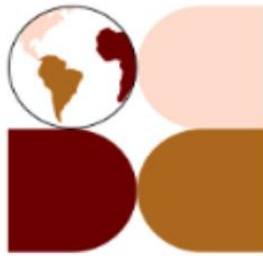
Project 11

Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo-Serb Majority Communities in Kosovo
Timeframe: 30.09.2021. - 30.09.2023.

Funded by: Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

Partner organization: NGO AKTIV

The overriding objective of the project was to enhance the depth and quality of the participation of citizens’ participation in decision-making processes through a series of actions geared at the establishment of sustainable mechanisms that will enable project stakeholders to monitor the work of local institutions. The project was divided into two components: 1) Anti-Corruption and citizens’ participation in decision making processes in Kosovo-Serb majority municipalities and 2) support to the administration of justice in Kosovo-Serb majority areas.



Advocacy Center
for **Democratic Culture**

ADVOCATING
CHANGES FOR
BETTER SOCIETY

ЗАСТУПАЊЕ
ПРОМЕНА ЗА
БОЉЕ ДРУШТВО

NDRYSHIMET
AVOKUESE PËR
SHOQËRI MË TË MIRË



Cika Jovina 3, North Mitrovica
Prote Mateje 48, Belgrade
Fehmi Agani 168/5, Prishtina



office@acdc-kosovo.org
ngoacdc@gmail.com

www.acdc-kosovo.org