



Annual report on the activities of the NGO ACDC for 2024.

The Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC) from North Mitrovica is dedicated to promoting democracy, protecting human rights, and strengthening the rule of law in Kosovo. Throughout 2024, ACDC implemented a series of activities aimed at enhancing human rights, legal protection, and social inclusion in Kosovo.

INTRODUCTION:

During 2024, ACDC organized numerous events, including roundtables, conferences, seminars, public discussions, and youth camps, focusing on the rule of law, interethnic cooperation, human rights protection, and environmental justice.

In the field of justice, ACDC held meetings and conferences dedicated to the functioning of the judicial system in northern Kosovo, including an analysis of the consequences of the withdrawal of Serbian judges and prosecutors.

Additionally, as part of efforts to strengthen the rule of law and community security, ACDC organized meetings with the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK) and the Kosovo Police to increase transparency within security institutions and build public trust in their work. Public discussions provided citizens with the opportunity to express concerns, while police and inspectorate representatives presented their work, accountability mechanisms, and procedures for handling human rights violations.

In the field of human rights and democratization, roundtables and conferences were held with the Ombudsperson of Kosovo, civil society, and institutions to raise awareness about hate speech, discrimination, and the rights of non-majority communities. An online platform for public consultations and reporting human rights violations was also developed.

Interethnic cooperation was a key theme through youth camps, cultural visits, and educational programs that connected young people from different communities.

In the area of environmental justice, through the EcoUnity project, ACDC empowered women and youth from multiethnic communities in northern Kosovo to actively participate in promoting environmental rights and sustainable practices.

Regarding social participation and information dissemination, ACDC organized activities aimed at increasing public participation in legislative processes, informing non-majority communities about visa liberalization, and raising awareness about property rights, tax relief, and legal aid.

All these initiatives were part of a broader strategy to strengthen democratic values, the rule of law, and an inclusive society in Kosovo..

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Improving human rights through raising public awareness

Duration: September 2023 - June 2024.

Funded by: UNMIK

Objective: Improving the human rights situation in northern Kosovo by enhancing cooperation, access to legal mechanisms, and raising public awareness of their rights. A particular focus was placed on facilitating access to justice and enabling civil society's active participation in human rights protection mechanisms.

Key activities:

- Organizing round tables on human rights and protection mechanisms.
- Creation and implementation of forms for reporting human rights violations.
- Strengthening cooperation between civil society and the institution of the Ombudsperson of Kosovo.
- Media campaign on the importance of access to justice and legal protection of non-majority communities.

Support for access to justice in the north of Kosovo

Duration: August 2023 – June 2024

Funded by: UNMIK

Objective: Improving access to justice in northern Kosovo by continuing the provision of translator/interpreter services and engaging legal associates at the Basic Court in Mitrovica. The project also contributed to strengthening the rule of law by increasing free legal aid capacity and empowering young lawyers from non-majority communities.

Key activities:

- Hiring translators and legal associates in the Basic Court in Mitrovica.
- Preparation of the Manual for the bar exam intended for non-majority communities.
- Support for the work of the Office of the Kosovo Agency for Free Legal Aid in North Mitrovica.
- Organization of conferences and public meetings on judicial integration.

Interethnic camps: Connecting through language and culture

Duration: July 2024 - June 2025

Funded by: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Objective: The project was designed to enhance interethnic understanding and cooperation among youth through interactive activities in a series of weekend camps. The aim was to create

a space for fostering empathy, tolerance, and shared values through education, joint activities, and intercultural workshops.

Key activities:

- Organizing a series of camps for youth from different ethnic communities.
- Social media campaign promoting positive stories of intercultural cooperation.

EcoUnity - Empowering Women and Youth for Environmental Justice in Northern Kosovo

Duration: August - December 2024.

Funded by: UNDP

Partner organization: Education Code

Objective: The project aimed to empower women and young people from multi-ethnic communities in the north of Kosovo to actively participate in the promotion of environmental rights and sustainable practices.

Key activities:

- Organizing educational workshops and advocacy meetings on environmental rights and sustainability.
- Collaborating with local entrepreneurs to improve environmentally responsible business practices.

Encouraging inter-ethnic cooperation through monitoring and reporting on cases of war crimes

Duration: July - December 2024

Funded by: Internews Kosovo

Objective: The project aimed to improve transitional justice and interethnic cooperation by documenting war crimes trials and raising public awareness of justice processes. The goal was to build trust in institutions and encourage open dialogue on justice and reconciliation.

Key activities:

- Monitoring of trials for war crimes and preparation of analytical reports.
- Publication of 20 articles based on monitored court processes.

Building inter-ethnic bridges among young people in Kosovo

Duration: March - April 2024

Funded by: IOM and the European Union in Kosovo

Objective: The project aimed to foster interethnic cooperation and dialogue among youth in Kosovo through cultural and communication initiatives. It provided a platform for youth from different ethnic communities to come together, share experiences, and collaboratively work on initiatives promoting reconciliation and long-term stability in the Mitrovica region.

Key activities:

- Visit to Serbian and Albanian cultural heritage
- Planning community service projects that involve young members from both communities working together to improve the shared environment.
- Bridge building camp for interethnic understanding and cooperation

Empowering youth for human rights: Building sustainable communities in northern Kosovo

Duration: March - November 2024.

Funded by: CDF Fund for Community Development through the HumanRightivism program, funded by Sida

Objective: The project aimed to empower young people from non-majority communities in northern Kosovo through human rights education and advocacy skills development. Educational activities encouraged youth to actively participate in decision-making and advocate for positive change in their communities.

Key activities:

- Organization of a four-day seminar on human rights and advocacy.
- Launching advocacy initiatives in local communities.
- Public awareness campaign via social media.
- Final conference.

Beyond borders: Promoting understanding and awareness of the visa-free regime for Kosovo

Duration: March - July 2024.

Funded by: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Objective: The project aimed to inform non-majority communities in Kosovo, particularly the Serbian community, about the visa liberalization process and its benefits. Through informative sessions and media campaigns, the public was educated on the rules and procedures for traveling to the Schengen Zone.

Key activities:

- Organizing informative sessions on Kosovo's visa-free regime.
- Creating and distributing promotional materials.
- Public awareness campaign via local media and social networks.
- Final conference.

Integrative culture for the reconciliation of minority communities in Kosovo

Duration: December 2023 - June 2024

Funded by: Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

The project aimed to foster intercultural cooperation among youth in Kosovo, with a special focus on non-majority communities in northern Kosovo. It sought to empower vulnerable groups, promote cultural diversity, and enable young people from different ethnic backgrounds to build mutual trust and overcome prejudices through artistic and creative activities.

Promotion of human rights and the principle of non-discrimination at the local level - II

Duration: December 2023 - April 2024

Funded by: Council of Europe Office in Pristina

Objective: Raising public awareness of hate speech and encouraging an institutional response through the mobilization of all relevant actors in the north of Kosovo. Through research and public campaigns, the project seeks to identify the dominant narratives of hate speech and their consequences on the community, as well as to strengthen local institutions, civil society and the media in the fight against discrimination and intolerance.

Key activities:

- Research on public perception of hate speech.
- Campaign to raise awareness about the mechanisms of protection against hate speech ..
- Creating synergy between relevant actors for a joint response to the challenges of hate speech.

Facilitating inter-ethnic cooperation among students in Kosovo

Duration: December 2023 - August 2024

Funded by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Italy

Partners: NGO REC

Objective: Fostering reconciliation and building trust between students from North and South Mitrovica through joint activities and initiatives. The project enabled young people to share experiences, get to know different cultures and overcome prejudices through cooperation and educational activities.

Key activities:

- Research on young people's perception of inter-ethnic cooperation.
- Organization of public conferences and debates.
- Visits to cultural and religious facilities in Kosovo .

Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo-Serb Majority Communities in Kosovo

Duration: November 2023 - November 2024

Funded by: INL - Bureau for International Cooperation in the Fight against Narcotics and Law Enforcement

Partner: NGO Aktiv

The aim of the project was strengthening the transparency of the judicial system, encouraging the inclusion of young lawyers from non-majority communities and raising citizens' awareness of their rights.

Key activities:

- Internship program for young lawyers.
- Training for passing the bar exam.

Door -to-door information campaign in 4 northern municipalities

Duration: June 2024 - May 2025

Funded by: ATRC - Advocacy Training and Resource Center

Partners: SHPRK, INJECT

Objective: Empowering vulnerable communities in the north of Kosovo by providing key information on property rights, legal assistance and available tax benefits.

Key activities :

- Formation and training of the campaign implementation team.
- Door-to-door campaign in 600 households.

Access to Justice for All: Improving Access to Free Legal Aid in northern Kosovo

Duration: September 2023 – March 2024

Funded by: Ministry of Communities and Returns

Objective: The project aimed to facilitate easier access to legal protection by informing citizens and strengthening free legal aid capacities. The focus was on empowering communities and improving their connection with institutions.

Key activities:

- Organization of legal counseling and information sessions.
- Information campaign on free legal aid.
- Inclusion of women and youth in legal initiatives.

Increasing the employability of the Serb and Bosniak communities

Duration: August 2023 – May 2024

Funded by: GIZ

The aim of the project was empowering young people from the Serb and Bosniak communities through professional training and employment opportunities. Through the development of professional competences and a better connection with the labor market, the project provided young people with greater competitiveness and long-term employment opportunities.

Key activities:

- Organization of vocational training for young people.
- Cooperation with the Employment Office and the economic sector.

Strengthening legal protection and civic participation for non-majority communities in Kosovo

Duration: October 2024 - March 2025

Funded by: IOM Kosovo

Objective: The project aims to address legal and participatory gaps affecting non-majority communities in Kosovo. By improving legislation, policies and public engagement, it contributes to building a more inclusive and just society where the rights and interests of non-majority groups are recognized and protected. Special emphasis was placed on improving access to justice, providing support in the legislative process and raising awareness of the rights of non-majority communities.

Key activities:

- Review and analysis of current legislation with the aim of identifying gaps in legal protection.
- Formation of a multisectoral working group that gathers representatives of institutions and civil society for the purpose of implementing recommendations.
- Public awareness and information campaigns through social networks and media.

www.acdc-kosovo.org

