

Advocacy Center
for **Democratic Culture**

NEWSLETTER

NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

After a few years, Aleksandar Rapajić has returned to our team, now in the position of Program Director.



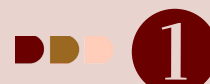
Aleksandar is a law graduate who has been an active member of civil society for over 20 years and has many years of experience in the fields of reconciliation and transitional justice, until recently he was chairman of the Consultative Council for Communities, actively engaged in the rights of non-majority communities in Kosovo, and has experience in many other areas. His experience will be crucial for the progress of the NGO ACDC in the future.

NEW PROJECT

This month, a new project named **"Women for Women - United in power"** has started. The project aims to empower women from non-majority communities to participate in decision-making processes and raise awareness about the importance of their inclusion. The project aims to support the inclusion of more women in the judiciary, police, and politics. 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 the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

ACDC OPENS ITS OFFICE IN BELGRADE

On January 12, 2022, ACDC officially opened its office in Belgrade. The opening of the office in Belgrade aims to strengthen regional cooperation. ACDC's Executive Director, Dusan Radakovic, hopes that the regional approach will be even better and will contribute to improving the efficiency and impact of the ACDC at the regional level. The opening of the office in Pristina is due at the beginning of February.



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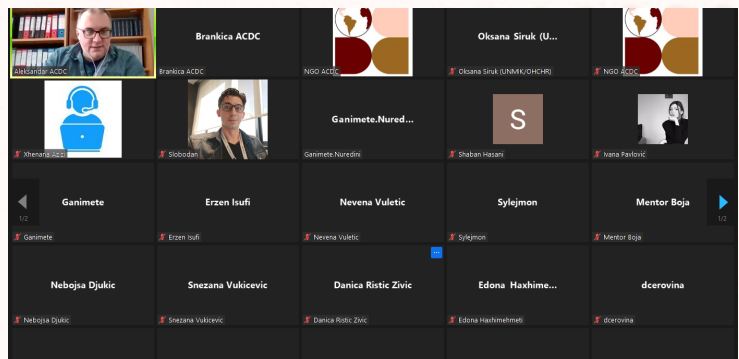
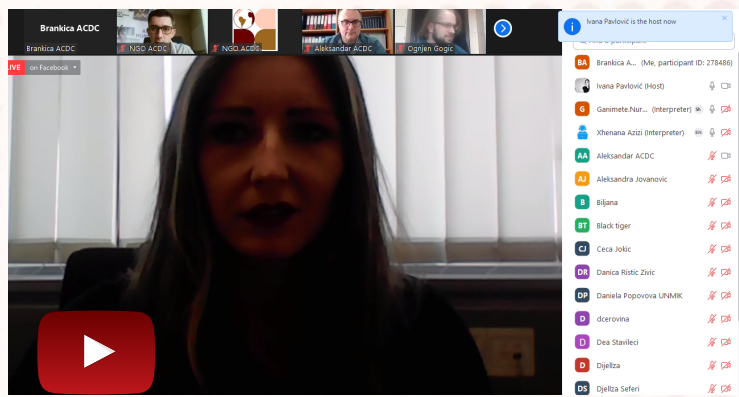
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TRAINING ON LANGUAGE RIGHTS

On January 19th, NGO ACDC organized a training session entitled „Respecting language rights in Kosovo”, as a part of UNMIK funded project “Facilitating Access to Justice and Promoting Human Rights in the Mitrovica Region”. The lecturer was Ms. Ivana Pavlović, Senior Capacity Building Officer at the Office of the Language Commissioner.

Ms. Pavlović introduced the participants to the work of the Office of the Language Commissioner. The practical side of the training included separate group discussions and presentations by the participants on topics of Problems in the use of official languages in Kosovo institutions and Language rights - Human Rights.



PRESS RELEASE

Members of the Empirika Platform, including Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC) issued a joint statement to express their deep concern over the effects of new measures introduced by the government of Kosovo regarding entry requirements that came into effect on the 22nd of January 2022. The whole statement is available on our [webiste](#).

MEETING WITH THE ACA DIRECTOR

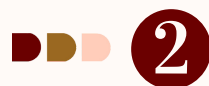


Within the scope of the mandate of the Agency for the promotion of transparency and cooperation with all external actors, the Director of the Anti-Corruption Agency, Mr. Yll Buleshkaj hosted a meeting with representatives of non-governmental organizations in Kosovo, whose field of activity is also activities against corruption, protection of whistle-blowers and conflict of interest with a special role. ACDC's Executive Director, Dusan Radakovic took part in the meeting.

RTS - TV SHOW



In January 2022, a TV show dedicated to property problems in Kosovo was broadcasted on RTS. The executive director of ACDC, Dusan Radakovic, talked about the problems internally displaced persons are facing and spoke about the recently opened website imovinakosovo.org that aims to help everyone who has a problem in Kosovo to exercise the property rights.



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MEETINGS WITH THE MAYORS OF RANILUG, SKENDERAJ AND VUSHTRRI

Within the project "Municipality for Youth (M4Y)", Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture held meetings with the Mayor of Ranilug, Ms. Katarina Ristić Ilić, the Mayor of the Municipality of Skenderaj, Mr. Fadil Nura, and the Mayor of Vushtrri, Mr. Ferit Idrizi.



The project team used the opportunity to acquaint the mayors with the purpose and goals of the project, as well as to ensure the cooperation of the municipalities for the implementation of the project.



Ms. Katarina Ristić Ilić confirmed the support of the municipality to the project M4Y. Mr. Fadil Nura expressed the readiness and openness of the municipality to such a project, while Mayor Idrizi also showed great interest in the project and project activities.



MEDIA APPEARANCES

Radio Kontakt Plus

Program Director Aleksandar Rapajić, and Project Manager Slobodan Stošić were guests on Radio Kontakt Plus. They presented the M4Y and invited young people to join the project.

The "M4Y" project is currently being implemented in 10 municipalities across Kosovo, and ACDC is in charge of four - Zvečan, Ranilug, Vushtrri and Skenderaj.



RTK2 Morning Program

"Young people always have good ideas, they just need to be implemented, and they need someone to encourage them. The project implemented by Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture is here to support all of them to realize the right things together" said Aleksandar Rapajić, Program Director and Slobodan Stošić, Program Manager in the RTK2 Morning Program, while presenting M4Y project.

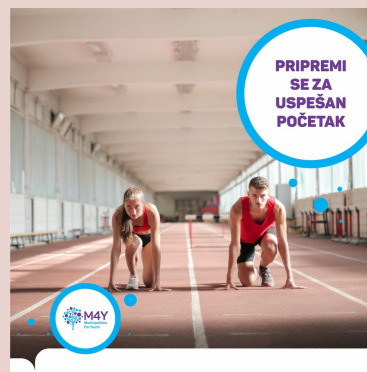
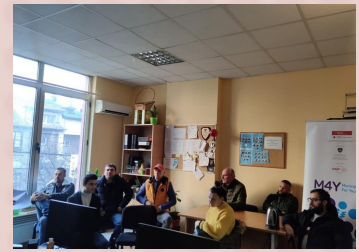


M4Y - OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

During this month, ACDC continued with an outreach and mobilization campaign with students from Zvecan, Skenderaj, Ranilug and Vushtri.

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

The M4Y Project is financed by the Japan Social Development Fund at the World Bank, with the Ministry for Local Government Administration as an implementing agency and Community Development Fund as an implementing partner.



PUBLIC DEBATE MEDIATION AS A LEGAL MECHANISM

On the last day of January, Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture organized a public debate as part of the project entitled "Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo - Serb Majority Communities". The debate focused on the legal mechanisms and legislation available to the citizens of Kosovo. Panelists were Ines Aljović, legal expert and mediation officer and Mentor Boja, President of the Chamber of Mediators of the Mitrovica region. The project "Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo-Serb Majority Communities", is funded by INL, and implemented by the NGO ACDC in partnership with the NGO AKTIV.

