



Advocacy Center  
for Democratic Culture

# NEWSLETTER

## NEW PROGRAM OFFICER

Ines Aljović Mihajlović, a new program officer, is a rising civic activist. Ines has eight years of work experience in the civic sector of Northern Kosovo. She has worked in several NGOs where she has acquired relevant knowledge and skills. Her numerous areas of interest include women's rights, primarily non-discrimination based on gender equality and the rights of vulnerable social groups.

Ines will work as a program officer at NGO ACDC, and she is ready to learn new things and develop new skills that will help her upgrade and advance herself and her professional career.



## SURVEY ON THE EFFICIENCY OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM



In March, the NGO ACDC conducted a survey aimed at finding out citizens' views on the efficiency of the justice system in northern Kosovo. The results of the research will be presented next month.

## NEW PROJECT

The project "Dealing with the past and reconciliation in Kosovo by raising awareness on the issues of the missing persons" is 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 aims to support reconciliation in Kosovo by raising awareness of missing persons from all communities. During March, focus groups on how to reduce the politicization of missing person issues were held.



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Centar za zastupanje demokratske kulture  
ACDC - poziva mlade pravnike da se prijave na:

## Program stažiranja za mlade u pravosudnim institucijama



## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In March 2022, Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC) announced a public call for internships for young lawyers in judicial institutions.

The goal of the program is to enable the greater participation of young lawyers to acquire new knowledge and skills in judicial institutions.

During the month, interviews were held with potential candidates. The 10 most successful candidates will be selected to work as interns in judicial institutions and law firms for the next three months.

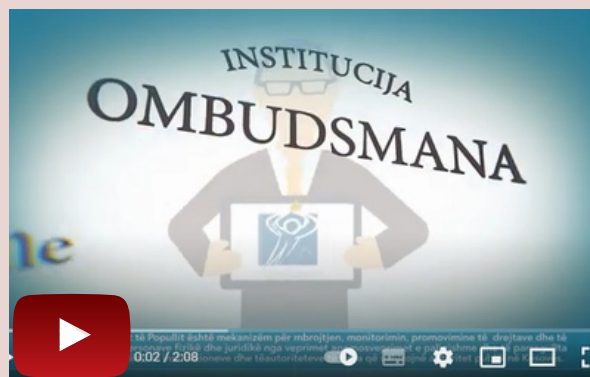
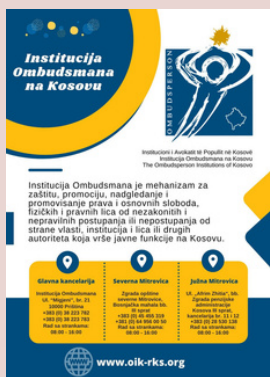


The program is part of the project "Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo-Serb Majority Communities", funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), and implemented by the NGO ACDC in partnership with the NGO AKTIV.

## MEDIA PROMOTION OF THE OIK

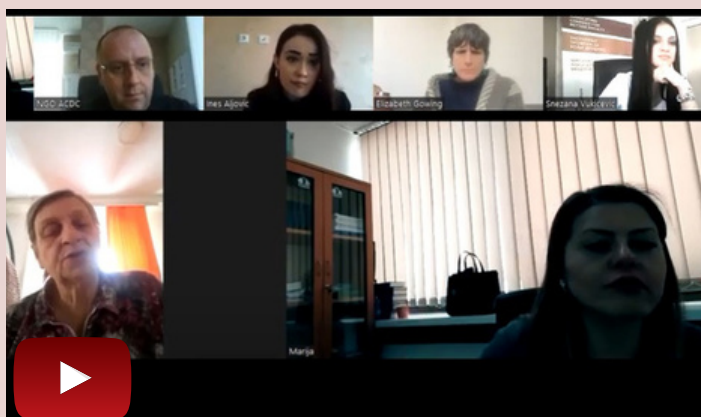
As part of a campaign aimed at increasing the visibility of the Ombudsman Institution in northern Kosovo, a promotional TV spot was developed, as well as information brochures providing information on the work, role, and contact details of relevant local offices in the Mitrovica region.

Informative brochures are available in Serbian and Albanian language:



## PUBLIC LECTURE

On March 8, the NGO Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture - ACDC marked Women's Day by organizing a public lecture entitled "The Role of the Ombudsman Institution and Women's Rights." The lecturers were Mrs. Marija Radulović, Deputy Ombudsman, and Ms. Radmila Kapetanović, women's law activist. Topics discussed were women's rights, gender equality as well as the role, obligations, and responsibilities of the Ombudsman institution.



The campaign is part of the project "Facilitating Access to Justice and Promoting Human Rights in the Mitrovica Region", supported by UNMIK.



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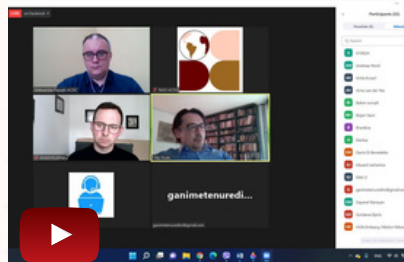
## STUDY VISIT

As part of the project “Enhancing Institutional Response to Corruption in northern Kosovo”, on March 15th, NGO ACDC organized a Study Visit to the Anti-Corruption Agency of Kosovo and Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF). The purpose of the visit was to acquire comprehensive knowledge on the mandate and the scope of work of the Agency and the programs of the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF). Study visit included NGO ACDC representatives, civil society activists, young lawyers, and students from Northern Kosovo.



## CONFERENCE „UKRAINIAN CRISIS - THE IMPACT ON KOSOVO“

On March 18, 2022, the NGO Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture - ACDC organized a conference entitled "Ukraine Crisis - The impact on Kosovo." The panelists were Filip Rodic, a political analyst from Belgrade, and Andrii Kryshal, a Ukrainian citizen currently residing in Pristina and an international project coordinator at the PCI (Peaceful Change Initiative). Mr. Rodic and Mr. Kryshal spoke about the current situation in Ukraine, its impact on Kosovo, and the Belgrade-Prishtina dialogue. The imposition of sanctions on Russia, the influence of international peacekeeping forces in Kosovo and Ukraine, and the consequences of the Ukrainian crisis were also discussed during the conference which attracted a great deal of attention from local, regional, and international organizations.



**PRESS RELEASE** 

Joint statement by the CSOs from Kosovo and Serbia on the potential consequences of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine for the Western Balkans. 


## NDI WORKSHOP - ANTI-CORRUPTION SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY (ACSCS)




NGO ACDC participated in the first workshop within the program Anti-Corruption Support to Civil Society (ACSCS) organized by NDI (National Democratic Institute). The program brought together NGOs from Kosovo that have been active in the fields of anti-corruption, transparency, protection of minority rights, environmental protection, and journalists who have investigated well-known cases in Kosovo.



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## MOBILE LEGAL CLINIC - FREE LEGAL AID FOR THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As part of the project "Initiative for Education against Domestic and Sexual Violence", on March 22, 2022, the ACDC conducted an activity called "Mobile Legal Clinic" and set up a booth in Zvečan. This activity aimed to raise citizens' awareness of the problems of gender-based and domestic violence, as well as to provide the necessary information on the use of free legal aid for victims of violence. The project is implemented by the Center for Legal Aid and Regional Development (CLARD) in cooperation with the Kosovo Institute of Justice and the NGO Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC).



## THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE AGENCY FOR FREE LEGAL AID AND NGO ACDC

On 10.03.2022, Mrs. Anita Alaj Kalanderi, Executive Director at the Agency for Free Legal Aid signed a cooperation agreement with Mr. Dusan Radakovic, Executive Director of the non-governmental organization - Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture - ACDC. The purpose of the agreement is cooperation in carrying out capacity building, strengthening the integrity and transparency of the work of the agency.



## PRESENTATION OF THE MANUAL FOR FREE LEGAL AID

As part of the USAID Justice Program, the conference was held to present a manual on free legal aid. One of the panelist was Mr. Dušan Radaković in front of the Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC). At the conference, all panelists expressed the readiness for further cooperation and further improvement of the Free Legal Aid Agency, while Dusan Radakovic stressed the importance of the project and the Free Legal Aid Agency as one of the steps for better functioning of the entire legal system of Kosovo.



## M4Y - TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

On March 28th, 29th, and 30th, training for trainers was held within the project M4Y. A total of 45 trainers have gained project management skills and soft skills and will be able to transfer them to young people in the target municipalities.



The first cycle of training will be held from April 2 to 5, while the second will be between April 7-9.

The M4Y project will enable selected municipalities to address youth socioeconomic needs through targeted initiatives and services while strengthening the cooperation between youth and local governments.

Participating youth will be trained to identify, design and implement solutions that reflect young people's local priorities.

## TRAINING ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DISCRIMINATION

Four training sessions with municipal human rights / gender / nondiscrimination / communities / returns officers from the municipalities from North Kosovo and Vučitrn/Vushtrri, Srbica/Skenderaj, and South Mitrovica were held in March. The trainers were Mrs. Marija Radulovic, Deputy Ombudsperson, and Mr. Avni Alidemaj, Professor at the Universum College. The training is part of the project "Facilitating Access to Justice and Promoting Human Rights in the Mitrovica Region", supported by UNMIK.

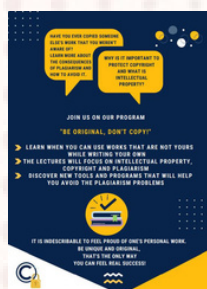
## FOCUS GROUPS

As part of the project "Women for Women - United in Power", during March, NGO ACDC organized two focus groups with women in judiciary and police and continued the research on the position of women in the north of Kosovo that will be published in the coming months.

The project 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.

## "BE ORIGINAL - DON'T COPY"

NGO ACDC Executive Director, Dusan Radakovic, was a lecturer on the program implemented by American Corner Mitrovica. The program is called Be Original, Don't Copy and the lectures are focused on intellectual property, plagiarism, and copyright.



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