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Advocacy Center
for **Democratic Culture**

NEWSLETTER



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PUBLIC CONFERENCE - PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION



On May 19, on the premises of the International Business College in North Mitrovica, the NGO Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC) organized a public conference "Prevention of Corruption". The conference addressed the institutional response to corruption in the northern municipalities, with particular emphasis on access to information of public importance and the role of the Ombudsman Institution of Kosovo in reducing corruption. The panelists were Mr. Naim Qeljaj, Ombudsman of Kosovo, Mr. Miloš Marković, Judge of the Basic Court in Mitrovica, and Mr. Dušan Radaković, Executive Director of ACDC.



MOBILE LEGAL CLINIC IN STRPCE

As part of the project "Initiative for Education against Domestic and Sexual Violence", NGO ACDC organized an activity in Strpce 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. 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 ACDC.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION WITH LAW INTERNS

On the last day of May, NGO Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture - ACDC organized a public discussion with young lawyers. The discussion aimed to introduce young law interns at the Basic Court in Mitrovica, and present their experience in judicial institutions, difficulties they face due to differences in judicial systems, and ways to overcome them. Interns Milena Mitrović, Bojana Srblijak, and Veliša Vučurović participated in the public discussion.

The discussion is part of the project "Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo-Serb Majority Communities", funded by INL, and implemented by the NGO ACDC in partnership with the NGO AKTIV.



MOOT COURT TRIAL PREPARATION

During this month, the interns engaged in the project "Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo-Serb Majority Communities" were conducting initial activities and preparing a case for a moot court trial which will be organized in June in the Basic Court in Mitrovica.



MOU SIGNED WITH NORTH MUNICIPALITIES

NGO ACDC has signed MoUs with the north municipalities, Leposavic, Zvecan, Zubin Potok, and North Mitrovica. MoUs are signed within the current and future projects that are connected to the improvement of the work of the municipality as well as institutions that fall within its competence.



MOU SIGNED WITH NGO SANTA MARIA



NGO ACDC Executive Director, Dusan Radakovic and NGO Santa Maria signed a Memorandum of understanding within the ongoing projects related to promoting and supporting women's rights.

VISIT OF THE US AMBASSADOR

The executive director of NGO ACDC, Dusan Radakovic, met with the U.S Ambassador in Kosovo, Mr. Jeffrey M Hovenier on his first municipal trip outside of Prishtina. During this trip, Ambassador Hovenier met with representatives of other non-governmental organizations as well to discuss the current situation in Mitrovica and its future.



TRAINING SESSIONS

Within the project "Facilitating Access to Justice and Promoting Human Rights in the Mitrovica Region", supported by UNMIK, training on gender equality was held with the municipal human rights/gender/non-discrimination/communities/return officers from the municipalities of Mitrovica/ë South, Skenderaj/Srbica, and Vushtrri/Vucitrn.

As part of the project Promoting Interethnic Dialogue in Local Government, NGO ACDC conducted a set of training with the members of the Communities Committee in North Mitrovica, including municipal representatives and civil society. The goal of the training was to empower the Committee, by training its members on project cycle management, advocacy, and outreach.



M4Y

In May, the process of applying for grants from \$ 4,000 to \$ 15,000 was completed. Informal youth groups have applied for projects that will benefit the community. During the application process, our trainers held regular consultations with participants and assisted them in the writing process. This project is being implemented in ten municipalities in Kosovo, and NGO ACDC is in charge of the municipalities of Vushtrri / Vucitrn, Skenderaj / Srbica, Zvečan / Zvečan, and Ranilug / Raniluk.

MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE CULTURAL DIVERSITY

As of next month, NGO ACDC will develop a public campaign to raise public awareness and promote intercultural awareness, understanding, and respect for diverse cultures and cultural expressions.

OP-EDS ON YOUTH CHALLENGES IN LITERATURE AND PROMOTION OF READING

in the text entitled "Youth and Literature: Preserving History through Poetry", a young poet from northern Kosovo, Anđjela Virijević wrote about what motivates young poets from the north of Kosovo, where they get their inspiration, and what are the themes of their poems.

Slobodan Masic, a writer from Kosovo wrote an Op-ed on challenges that young people face in literature.

The project Supporting Young Writers in Intercultural Dialogue and Promoting Cultural Diversity is supported by the EU funded project Regional Network for Cultural Diversity - READ

PUBLIC CALL AND OP-EDS ON THE ISSUE OF THE MISSING PERSONS

In May, NGO ACDC launched a writing competition calling on authors to write OP-EDS to promote regional reconciliation and address the issue of missing persons in the Kosovo conflict. The winning texts were published on the NGO ACDC website.

Lulzim Hakaj, the co-founder of REC, drew attention to the importance of resolving the issue of missing persons as one of the main pillars of dealing with the past and the inevitable involvement of relevant institutions that can contribute to solving this problem.

Dragana Živković, a member of the Association of the Missing persons, referred to the right to reconciliation based on forgiveness, the right to reveal the truth and unification so that justice can win, as well as the fight for unforgettability and truth, regardless of which god we pray to or which language we use.

Silvana Marinkovic, coordinator of the Association of Missing and Abducted Persons from Gracanica, referred to the fact that the pain and suffering of every family are the same. In the following text, Silvana Marinkovic, will ask everyone to unite for a better future and a happier coexistence of future generations.

Miroslav Markovic emphasized the fact that the missing persons must be the basis for reconciliation between the two sides, a bridge that connects justice and reconciliation and serve as a reminder of the suffering that should never be repeated.