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Advocacy Center
for **Democratic Culture**

NEWSLETTER



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STREET ACTION IN PRISHTINA

for Democratic Culture

As part of the project "Initiative for Education against Domestic and Sexual Violence", the Center for Legal Aid and Regional Development CLARD, in cooperation with NGO Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture ACDC and Kosovo Law Institute, organized a street action in Prishtina aiming 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 event was attended by the representatives of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), citizens, and the media.



@ clardkosovo | Facebook



This activity marked the completion of the project and was preceded by a series of initiatives all over Kosovo municipalities aiming 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.

CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY

@ KCSF | Facebook

On September 15, a contract signing ceremony with grant beneficiaries within the 'EJA Kosovo' program was held on the premises of the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF). Grant agreements were signed with fifteen organizations from all over Kosovo, including NGO ACDC, which was among eight beneficiary organizations of the grant for organizational development.



The overall goal of the project is 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.



ALBANIAN LANGUAGE COURSE

Within the organizational development grant, a 12-month program of an Albanian language course will be delivered in order to equip the ACDC team with language skills that will be of paramount importance for upcoming activities. In September, ACDC hired an external associate to conduct Albanian language classes for ACDC staff for the next 12 months.

This grant is supported by the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF) program 'EJAKosovo', co-financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Sweden, and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

VISIT OF THE EMA STUDENTS

During the study visit to Kosovo, a group of international students of the European Master's Program in Human Rights and Democratization (EMA) visited the NGO ACDC office in North Mitrovica, where we presented to the students the work of our organization and answered their questions during a lively discussion.



The students expressed great interest in the general situation in Kosovo, the integration of the judiciary into the legal system of Kosovo, and the implementation of the Brussels Agreement.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

On September 29, NGO ACDC organized a conference that focused on the functioning of the integrated judiciary in the Kosovo Serb areas. The panelists were Jovana Filipović, a Lawyer from Gračanica, Stefan Milentijević, Judge in the Basic Court in Mitrovica, and Doruntina Mehmeti, a researcher at Kosovo Law Institute. The conference served as a final event of the project entitled "Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo - Serb Majority Communities".



WOMEN'S NETWORK MEETING

In September, meetings with members of the newly established Network of women from the north of Kosovo continued in order to plan future activities and discuss previous initiatives. The aim of the Network is to advance women's rights and their inclusion in decision-making at both local and central levels.



"Women for women - united in power" project, implemented by Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (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.

M4Y OUTREACH CAMPAIGN



During this month, ACDC continued with an outreach and mobilization campaign with young people from Zvečan/Zveçan, Srbica/Skenderaj, Ranilug, and Vuçitrn/Vushtrri. The objective of the campaign is to provide targeted beneficiaries (youth groups) with information about the opportunities this project offers and encourage participation.

Additionally, the monitoring of projects that are being conducted by grant winners in the first cycle of M4Y continued in order to ensure that the implemented projects benefit the target population.



VISIT OF THE NED REPRESENTATIVES

In September, representatives of the National Endowment for Democracy – NED, Kaltrina Selimi, Christian Bardales, and Aleksej Demjanski visited the NGO ACDC. The purpose of the visit was further cooperation as well as coordination of activities within the project „Promoting Inter-Ethnic Dialogue in Local Self-Government“, implemented by NGO ACDC.

The National Endowment for Democracy-funded project aims to promote interethnic engagement in local government in North Kosovo. Local project initiatives that address the needs of local communities have been developed and prepared in cooperation with the Community Committees and residents in North Mitrovica and will commence in the upcoming months.



A group of NGOs, including ACDC, issued a press release regarding the verdict against a student from Belgrade, Nikola Nedeljković, for the alleged crime of "provoking ethnic hatred and intolerance".

As an organization that deals with the rule of law, we expressed great concern about the unequal application of law to members of different communities in Kosovo.

Read the full statement in Serbian, Albanian and English.

[SRB](#)

[ALB](#)

[ENG](#)