

NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2024



Roundtables in Prizren and Ferizaj/Urosevac

As part of the "Advancing Human Rights through Raising Public Awareness" project, implemented by NGO ACDC, and supported by UNMIK, during February, two roundtables were organized in Ferizaj/Urosevac and Prizren.

The main objective of these meetings was to discuss with the Ombudsman, Mr. Naim Qelaj, the state of human rights at the local level, the challenges faced by citizens, and the needs that need to be addressed, including the respect for the rights of non-majority communities, as well as strengthening cooperation between the Ombudsman Institution and civil society organizations in efforts to protect and advance freedoms and human rights.



Round table with the Kosovo Police



On February 13th, NGO ACDC organized a round table discussion in North Mitrovica between the Kosovo Police and the local community. This event was attended by representatives of the police, led by the Deputy Director of the Kosovo Police for the Northern Region Veton Elshani, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, political parties, and other citizens. The roundtable allowed participants to directly address police representatives and voice their concerns, questions, and criticisms. Open discussion covered various issues and challenges related to police work in northern Kosovo, including improving cooperation, clarifying legal matters, and addressing specific challenges. The event was organized within the framework of the project "Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo-Serb Majority Communities in Kosovo," funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

Publication of OP-ED and Call for Applications

The OP-ED published in February explores the state of human rights in Kosovo, focusing on the protection of women's rights, the fight against gender-based discrimination, and the rule of law.



SRB



ALB

After successfully completing the first round of training, ACDC published a call inviting all young high school and university students (18-29 years old) to apply for the second round of soft skills training. This call is published as part of a project supported by GIZ.

The Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC), in cooperation with NGO ACDC, held an info session on February 27th at the ACDC premises in North Mitrovica. The session aimed to enhance communication with the public and provide valuable information about the KSC's mission, focusing on legal proceedings regarding crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other criminal offenses.



Public Discussion: Fostering Youth Cooperation from Diverse Communities

On 22 February 2024, the NGO ACDC, in partnership with NGO REC, hosted a public discussion at the EU House in North Mitrovica. The aim of the event was to enhance communication and collaboration among students from diverse communities, promote understanding and mutual respect, and highlight the positive impact of such initiatives on society.

The discussion featured Mr. Dusan Radakovic from NGO ACDC, Mr. Lulzim Hakaj from NGO REC, Velisa Vucurovic, a Law graduate, and Elmedina Kurti, a Representative of the Student Parliament of the University "Isa Boletini" Mitrovica.

The Italian Ambassador to Pristina, Mr. Antonello De Riu, attended the event and expressed great satisfaction with its organization. Ambassador De Riu stated that promoting cooperation among youth from different communities is essential for building trust and a shared vision of the future.

The public discussion was organized as part of a project implemented by NGO ACDC and REC, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic.



Launch of a New Platform for Communities in Kosovo



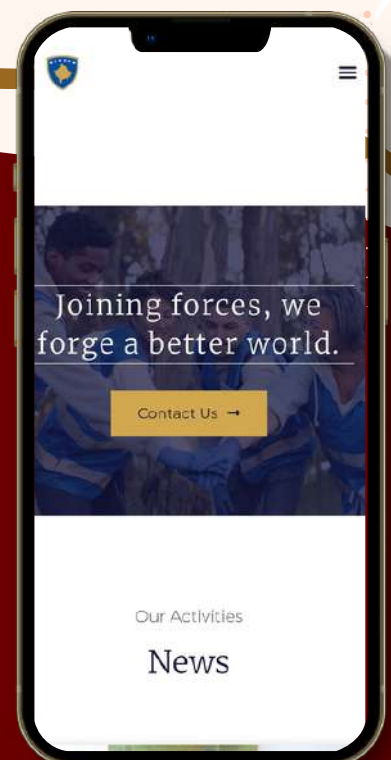
On February 28th, a conference was held in Pristina to launch a new platform for communities in Kosovo, developed by NGO ACDC in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and supported by the British Embassy and the Embassy of Switzerland, for the needs of the Office for Community Affairs. The conference showcased various resources available on the platform, emphasizing its user-friendly interface and easy accessibility and highlighted the numerous benefits it offers to both communities and organizations working towards their betterment.

ACDC's Program Director, Aleksandar Rapajić presented the platform and outlined its key features, including registration of NGOs or individuals dealing with specific community problems, allowing them to select a priority community and focus on solving specific problems; information about each community in Kosovo; mechanism for reporting violations of community rights; news about the Office for Communities, newsletter, reports, as well as public calls; availability in six languages to address every community and other important information.

The online platform, developed in collaboration with the Office for Communities, represents a comprehensive resource for non-majority communities in Kosovo. It is available in six languages, including Albanian, Serbian, Romani, Bosnian, Gorani, and Turkish, and aims to mobilize and organize citizens through strategic planning to address community issues, using online platforms, protests, creative actions, reporting, and proposing legally relevant solutions to responsible officials.



<http://zck-kpz-platform.rks-gov.net>



Together with NGO Aktiv, Institute for Territorial Economic Development (InTER), and New Social Initiative ,ACDC published a press release regarding the statements made by Albin Kurti and the political party he leads, Self-Determination.

Press Conference



Several civil society organizations, including ACDC, held a press conference in Pristina on February 8th to present key demands for improving relations between the Government of Kosovo and the Serbian community. These demands focus on resolving the status of the Association/Community of Serb-majority Municipalities and ensuring transparency and authenticity in dialogue between the government and the Serbian community.

ACDC in Media

Dusan Radakovic, Executive Director, on Kosovo Online about the use of the dinar in Kosovo



Dusan Radakovic, on Kosovo Online - on the Brussels' dialogue



Dusan Radakovic, on Kosovo Online about the process of dismissing the mayor in northern Kosovo



Aleksandar Rapajić, Program Director, on N1 - Serbs in Kosovo: "On paper" they live in prosperity, in reality - invisible



Aleksandar Rapajic on Kosovo Online about sanctions against Kosovo



Aleksandar Rapajic on Kosovo Online about negotiations in Brussels



Aleksandar Rapajic on Alternativa about the abolition of the dinar



Slobodan Stosic, Program Manager, on Al Jazeera Balkans



Ines Aljovic Mihajlovic, Program Officer, in the morning program on RTK2

