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## ATRC SIGNED CONTRACT WITH 12 AWARDEES OF USAID/ ATRC GRANT INCREASING CITISENS' AWARANESS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

On February 03, 2014, ATRC formalized partnership with 12 awardees of USAID/ ATRC grant Increasing Citizens' Awareness and Participation in the Justice, of the Round II, implemented by ATRC and financed by USAID. During this workshop grantees introduced their projects that are going to implement. ATRC staff presented the narrative and financial forms to be used during the project implementation, as well as periods of reporting, and USAID Mandatory Standard Provisions for Non-US, Nongovernmental Recipients. In workshop participated two representatives from each 12 grantees, the responsible members for the project implementation and for the financial management. In the end of the workshop 12 local organizations signed the contracts with ATRC.

Awarded Local Organizations of the Round II are:

### On court monitoring projects, aimed at enhancing court-community relations:

1. POLIS, from Lipjan. Project "Justice with citizen's access to fair judicial services II", focuses on monitoring court branch in Lipjan of Prishtina basic court on heritage cases, with focus on women.

2. Qendra për Politika dhe Avokim - QPA. Project "For more transparent judiciary",

focuses on monitoring court branches in Rahovec and Klina of basic courts in Gjakova and Peja about cases of environmental degradation, with a focus on the degradation of Drini i Bardhë River.

3. AGRO - EKO, Gjilan. Project "Effective Court-Justice for Citizens", focuses on monitoring the Basic Court in Gjilan regarding carry out of divorce and child custody cases.

4. Lisi, Shterpce. Project "Justice for all citizens", focuses on monitoring court branch in Shterpce of basic court of Ferizaj about communication with citizens and parties in the procedure

5. Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture- ACDC, North Mitrovica. Project "Raising the awareness on the importance of citizens' participation in the justice system in Mitrovica region", focuses on monitoring the basic court of Mitrovica located in Vustri, on Courts proceedings and the transparency of the Court's work, in particular if the rights of the minorities are respected (right to use the native language).

6. ELITA, Viti. Project "Women are entitled to their share", focuses on monitoring the court branch in Viti of the basic court in Gjilan on heritage cases with focus on women.

7. Prehja, Skenderaj. Project "Citizen closer to justice (II)", focuses on monitoring the court branch in Skenderaj of basic court of Mitrovica on domestic violence cases.

8. Network of Peace Movement NOPM, Kamenica. Project "Monitoring language compliance, property and improving participation of non-majority communities in justice system", focuses on monitoring the branch court in Kamenica of basic court in Gjilan on language compliance and application of legal property rights, with the focus on non-majority communities.

9. Shoqata e Intelektualëve të Pavarur- SHIP, Deçan. Project "Monitoring of the court branch in Deçan of basic court in Peja", focuses on monitoring of the Basic Court in Peja, Deçan Branch, regarding illegal logging of forests, regarding illegal logging of forests.

The Advocate is the quarterly publication of the ATRC, which aims to inform nongovernmental organizations, donors, medias, representatives of institutions etc, for the activities conducted at ATRC and its partners. We hope and wish that this publication will be in function to inform and better coordination of activities between ATRC and other nongovernmental organizations in Kosovo.

Publication was made possible by the good will and preparedness of ATRC staff.

**ON PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OUTRICH PROJECT AMINED AT COMBATING CORRUPTION AND INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND FAIRNESS AMOUNG JUSTICE SECTOR IN KOSOVO:**

10. Communication for Social Development- CSD, Gracanica. Project "Is there justice after injustice?" Focuses on raising public awareness of citizens of Gracanica, Klokot, Ranilug and Partes about the functioning of the judicial system, and exercising their constitutionally guaranteed rights and improving communication and collaboration between community - local government - judicial authorities - civil society.

11. EC Ma Ndryshe, Prizren. Project "Linking communities to justice providers?" Focuses on Increasing Citizen's participation of Prizren in justice sector, Improving access to information for Prizren citizens Developing Outreach Campaign for the Basic Court of Prizren;

12. Kosova in EU, Prishtina. Project "Awareness of Citizens for Justice and Privatization Process in Kosovo", focusing on increasing access of the Kosovo's Social Owned Enterprises employees and other parties of interest in privatization process to the court system, respectively to the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court, regarding the benefits, contests and implementation of their legal rights guaranteed by Law and implemented by the Special Chamber of Supreme Courts



**COOPERATION BETWEEN KOSOVO JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS and LOCAL ORGANISATIONS CONTINUE**

On 07 March, 2014, Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) organized first round table between representatives of Justice Institutions and newly awarded grantees of USAID/ ATRC project "Increasing Citizen's Awareness and Participation in the Justice System". The aim of the workshop was to bring representatives of Kosovo Judicial Institutions and grantees together in sharing information regarding the court legal infrastructure, new law on courts, access to court system, legal mechanisms available for court monitoring, best communication practices with the courts. Also grantees had opportunity to introduce their projects in front of the representatives of justice institutions. The roundtable was highly evaluated from both Kosovo Judicial Institutions and Representatives of Grantees. Overall opinion was that this was the rarely opportunity for both sectors to meet and share their ideas on improving Judicial System in Kosovo.



Present from Kosovo Judicial Institutions were: Hydajet Hyseni (Kosovo Judicial Council), Sadri Krasniqi (Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Zef Prendrecaj (The Office of Disciplinary Counsel) and representatives of 12 USAID/ ATRC grantees of round II.

**JUSTICE AND THE PEOPLE CAMPAIGN CALL UPON CITISENS TO JOIN IT'S LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE BY PROVIDING THEIR SIGNATURE IN SUPPORT OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE LAW ON PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The goal of this initiative is to permit recovery of just compensation for violations of human rights committed by the state, including both economic and non-economic damages. The Campaign proposes the amendment of the Article 69 of the Law to permit recovery of non-economic damages for human rights violations committed by the state. The Law currently permits recovery of economic damages only, such as property damage and wage loss. Often the most significant damages resulting from a human rights violation are pain and suffering, which are non-economic. To achieve this goal, the Campaign will collect over 10,000 signatures in favor of the amendment. In order to collect the required 10,000 signatures, the Campaign has created a network of partner organizations, which will collect the signatures of citizens throughout the territory of Kosovo



**JUSTICE AND THE PEOPLE CAMPAIGN REPRESENT THE HASANI FAMILY IN SEEKING JUSTICE AS CRIME VICTIMS OF A FATAL ACCIDENT CAUSED BY THE KOSOVO POLICE OFFICER**

On Friday, January 17, 2014, the Justice and the People Campaign organized a Press Conference to announce its representation of Mr. Fehmi Hasani and his family as crime victims in the trial of Officer Sabri Ferati of the Kosovo Police. On September 19, 2013, Mr. Fehmi Hasani and his family were involved in an automobile accident near Podujevo. The accident occurred when a Kosovo Police Cruiser, driven by Officer Ferati, pulled into oncoming traffic and, traveling at a high rate of speed, collided with the family's vehicle. Mr. Hasani's two sons were killed in the accident, and he, his wife, and another family member were severely injured. On November 21, 2013, Officer Ferati was criminally indicted on the charge of endangering public traffic in connection with the accident. He is currently being held in pre-trial detention.

**INFORMATION MEETINGS IN GJILAN, NOVOBERDO, KAMENICA AND VITIA**

ATRC held information meetings with municipal officials and civil society representatives of four municipalities of Gjilan region: Gjilan, Novoberda, Kamenica and Vitia. The purpose of these meetings was to inform municipality mayors, municipal assembly members, municipal officials, local councils and civil society representatives regarding ATRC activities within the project "Active Citizens - accountable and transparent Municipalities", supported by Olof Palme International Center.

During these meetings, special emphasis was given to application of participatory budgeting, through involvement of citizens in this process, from the planning stage of the budget to its implementation. Mayors of Vitia and Novoberda and Deputy Mayors of Kamenica and Gjilan expressed willingness to cooperate with ATRC, in order to increase citizen's participation in decision-making processes. Although, local councils and representatives of civil society accentuated the necessity of application of this process, which will contribute on enhancing transparency, responsibility and accountability as well as the proportional distribution of capital investments.

**ATRC ORGANISED WORKSHOP FOR MUNICIPALITY AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES OF GJILANI REGION**

ATRC within the project "Active Citizens - Accountable and Transparent Municipalities", supported by the Olof Palme International Center, organized 12 workshops on Cooperative Planning and Participatory Governance and Budgeting. Participants in this workshop were municipality authorities, Municipal assembly members and civil society representatives as well.

The purpose of the workshops was to discuss about the involvement of citizens in decision-making process and establishment of Consultative Committee. During the workshop ATRC presented "Participatory Budgeting" guideline, prepared by ATRC. This guideline contains examples and recommendations for municipalities and civil society organizations and citizens regarding Participatory Budgeting.



### ATRC INITIATED ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IN NOVOBERDO MUNICIPALITY

Within the project "Active Citizens-Transparent and Accountable Municipalities", supported by Olof Palme International Center, ATRC is advocating for establishment of Consultative Committees in Municipality Assemblies of Gjilan, Novoberda, Kamenica dhe Vitia. This committee will be mechanism for sustainable and continuous cooperation between municipalities' and citizens, stated on Law for Local Self Government.

While other municipalities are in process of establishing of this mechanism, Municipality of Novoberda in the third meeting of the Municipal Assembly held on April 24, 2014 has decided to establish Citizens Consultative Committee



Chairperson of Novoberda Municipality Assembly stated that establishment of Citizens Consultative Committee will give citizens the opportunity to be involved in decision-making processes in local level: *Initiative for establishing Citizens Consultative Committee was proposed by ATRC, during the meetings and workshops held with Mayor and Municipality Assemble members. We agreed that it's our obligation and we will give citizens the opportunity to be part of decision-making processes in local level, through establishing the Citizens Consultative Committee.*

ATRC at this meeting presented the request for the establishment of this committee as well as the organization and its functioning, according to Administrative Instruction for the Organization and Functioning of Consultative Committees in Municipalities. This Instruction aims through consultative committees in municipalities to involve the citizens and other stakeholders to participate actively in the decision making processes in local level.

ATRC will continue to advocate for establishing this mechanisms in other three Municipalities and will assist and monitor the process of organizing and functioning of Citizens Consultative Committees

### ATRC ORGANISED A ROUND TABLE ON : "THE IMPACT OF TRANSPORT ON AIR QUALITY IN PRISHTINA MUNICIPALITY

On March 26, 2014, ATRC, in the framework of the regional project Env.Net organized the roundtable "The impact of transport on air quality in the municipality." In the roundtable participated the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of European Integration, Municipality of Prishtina, Ombudsman, independent agencies and institutes, and organizations of civil society. Through the discussion of this topic, ATRC has sought jointly with representatives of institutions, civil society and environmental experts to analyze the situation about air quality in Pristina and identify alternatives to reduce or eliminate pollution.

At the beginning of the roundtable, ATRC has presented the findings of a monitoring / evaluation of the situation, and then representatives of the Ministry of European Integration, Municipality of Prishtina, the Ombudsman, the Hydro-meteorology Institute of Kosovo and civil society organizations have made separate presentations panels.

The roundtable participants concluded that transport in Prishtina is assessed as the second polluter after Obiliq power plants. Among the main causes of this condition are old cars, poor quality fuel oil, not good public transport and generally insufficient control of air quality. Representatives of civil society institutions agreed that they should work more on taking concrete steps to improve the quality of air transport.

**FAILURE TO KKEP UP WITH EU CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICIES WILL MOVE SOUTH EAST EUROPE AWAY FROM THE EU,**

Before the EU Council debates *A framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030*, proposed by the European Commission, NGOs called for much stronger environmental and climate commitments in the upcoming revised Treaty of Energy Community, which brings together the Western Balkan countries, Ukraine and Moldova, during a public hearing taking place in the European Parliament.

The EC's climate proposal calls for a binding target of 40% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030 and has been criticised by the European Parliament and others for its lack of ambition. Therefore, all eyes will be turned to the European Heads of States tomorrow, when they convene to further discuss the future of EU climate and energy policy. Although most of the countries of the Energy Community are striving to become EU members in the next decade – Serbia and Montenegro have already opened negotiations while others are expected to follow – none of the countries have adopted greenhouse gas reductions targets.

Garret Tankosić-Kelly, Principal of SEE Change Net, and one of the panelists at hearing *An Energy Community for the Future*, emphasizes that failure to adopt EU 2020, 2030 and 2050 targets will only move South East Europe away from the EU path. "SEE countries want to be part of the EU, and not taking on these standards now will make it harder and more expensive to do so in the future. A week might be a long time in politics, but a decade is nothing in energy planning. This is the conflict of interests we face."

The case of Croatia has clearly demonstrated what kind of drastic changes countries will face with adapting their legislation according to the EU *acquis*, leaving limited space for public participation and a number of uncertainties in fulfilling the obligations, particularly those related to climate and energy.

However, the Energy Community has so far been largely focused on transposition and implementation of the EU energy *acquis* while only patchy bits of environmental legislation have been adopted.

"It is essential to include the whole range of Directives covering industrial emissions and air quality, but also energy-related water, waste and habitats legislation if the Energy Community is to be part of a European energy market with a level playing field for all participants", commented Angela Klauschen, a policy expert at the World Wide Fund For Nature. "Signatory countries must comply with all relevant EU social, environmental and climate legislation through automatic and systematic updates of the Treaty. The current situation, in which only a small portion of the *acquis* has been adopted by the Energy Community countries means that there is a danger of 'emissions leakage' or 'energy grabbing'", she added.

We believe that countries of the region should be supported with development of their energy strategies in line with long-term EU goals, in order to ensure that only appropriate investments leading to decarbonisation and the sustainable use of renewable resources are encouraged. This approach would enable social and economic cohesion and distribution of benefits from energy production and consumption, which would tackle energy poverty and enable an increase in sustainable employment.

"No true progress and democratization of our societies can be achieved without an open and frank debate of all actors", said Dragana Mileusnić of Climate Action Network Europe. "Thus, we call for civil society representatives from various sectors to be allowed to participate at Energy Community meetings and for implementation of the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. Finally, we call for stronger measures against corruption and illegal subsidies in the energy sector", she concluded.

This activity is organized in the framework of the Sustainable Energy Policy in South Eastern Europe. The project is implemented by ATRC in Kosovo and partner organizations in six countries in the region and supported by the European Commission, The Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD) and UNDP .

## ATRC MONITORS THE RETURN OF THE DISPLACED PERSONS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

ATRC in partnership with UNHCR, continued to monitor the process of the returnees from third countries which in close coordination with the Kosovo Police and the representative of UNHCR in Kosovo monitor the Border Points and Prishtina Airport with the aim of collecting necessary data for all cases of the return of Kosovars from third countries, whether voluntary or forced return. The data collected from ATRC will consistently be given to the UNHCR central office.

[www.advocacy-center.org](http://www.advocacy-center.org)

### MISSION OF ATRC

ATRC is a Kosovar non-profit organization, aimed at increasing the participation of citizens in general and the civil society in particular in decision-making through offering services and active collaboration with stakeholders in the country and abroad as one of the basic conditions for a developed and democratic society .

### ATRC MAJOR PROGRAMS

1. Capacity Building Program, which aims, through training and consultancy offers, to increase the capacity of NGOs in Kosovo with regards to the general advancement of the organizational development, project management, development of successful advocacy campaigns, etc..
2. Grants management program, which aims to help local non-governmental organizations through small grants primarily in advocacy campaigns at local and national level.
3. Advocacy Program, through various projects ATRC seeks to advocate on national and local institutions for various problems which are preoccupation and concern of the citizens in general.
4. Information, through which the ATRC aims to provide information electronically on the website, about the public discussions and round tables, construction of coalitions, partnerships and mediation. ATRC in this regard also provides a library with 1756 different titles, such as publications on social, political and economic issues related to Kosovo and the region, analysis, studies, research and other important documents on the scope of NGOs in general , generated by nongovernmental organizations inside and outside of Kosovo.

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