



Advocacy Training & Resource Center

# The ADVOCATE



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can be found on ATRC web site: [www.advocacy-center.org](http://www.advocacy-center.org)

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## Pension reform

### Pensioners and Miners Demand Adoption of Draft Pension Law

Pensioners, miners, representatives of government and civil society gathered at ATRC on March 28 to discuss pension system in Kosovo, focusing on social situation of miners, during a public discussion organized by ATRC and Association of Retired Invalid Miners of Kosovo (ARIM).

Naser Avdiu, Chairperson of ARIM stated that miners are facing severe living conditions "without being supported by the government".

Aziz Abrashi, former director of the mining plant "Trepça" reminded participants the miners' contribution for the economic development of Kosovo. He added that "miners were the first who initiated the issue of Kosovo independence under Milosevic regime. Thus, it is unacceptable this layer of society to end with such epilogue of not having enough food and medicine." Abrashi suggested the miners to get organized and advocate for fulfilling

their social demands.

Participants concluded that pension system needs urgently to be reformed and urged government to adopt and implement draft law on pension and invalidity insurance.

According to them, in Kosovo exist enough resources to fund pension insurance.

## NGO news

### Civic Initiative for Protection of the Town of Prishtina Raises Students' Awareness about Illegal Constructions

Civic Initiative for Protection of the Town of Prishtina (CIPTP) is implementing a new project aiming to raise awareness among school students about illegal construction in Prishtina. "Under this initiative, the students will be informed about urban infrastructure of their town", Zijadin Gashi, chairperson of CIPTP, said referring to the project, which will end in June. CIPTP is an NGO that aims to stop illegal constructions in Prishtina.

The initiative is supported by ATRC and IREX under Kosovo Civil Society Program, funded by USAID.



Civic Initiative for Protection of the Town of Prishtina aims to stop illegal constructions in the capital town of Kosovo

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**New NGO publication**

**"Governance and Competition in Higher Education in Kosovo"**

The Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED) published in March a new policy research paper about governance and competition in higher education in Kosovo.

The publication included information about the importance of higher education, youth unemployment and demographics, pre-university education, teaching, understanding of reform, international standards for higher education, politicization, quality setting and assurance, higher education of communities and the University of Mitrovica, financial policies...

"Most Kosovars think that education is one of the most serious issues plaguing the society," the publication said. "The challenge is how to transform the university from a nation-building tool to a meritorious competitive institution".

This project was supported by Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

*The publication is available at [www.kipred.net](http://www.kipred.net)*



*Most Kosovars think that education is one of the most serious issues plaguing the society, the publication says*

**NGO funding opportunities**

**Swiss Contact Creates Opportunities**

Claudia Ulrike Gminder representing Swiss Contact informed local NGOs about the Swiss Contact's programs at a meeting organized by ATRC on April 4. Gminder outlined the project for women in business, funding objectives, priorities and application procedures.

"Women Business Development Project aims to contribute to the participation of women in the formal economy in Kosovo emphasizing on women's income generation in growth-oriented sectors," Gminder stated.



*Swiss Contact is a NGO that supports economy developing projects*

Swiss Contact, a non-governmental and non-profit organization with head office in Zurich Switzerland, is present in Kosovo since November 2000. It supports economy developing projects in 28 world countries

*Information about Swiss Contact's funds and application procedures can be found at [www.swisscontactkos.org](http://www.swisscontactkos.org)*

Donor presentations are part of an ATRC program that seeks to link NGOs with funding opportunities and donors with NGOs that have similar interests.

**Civil Society Calls the New Power Plant "Kosova C" a Modern Fairytale**

"Forum 2015" organized a roundtable discussion on April 19 at the Grand Hotel in Prishtina entitled "A Modern Fairytale, Kosova C-2100," participated by representatives of local, international institutions and civil society.

The roundtable focused on sensitive aspects related to long-term development of energy sector in Kosovo.

Members of the Forum recommended Kosovo Government to postpone the deadline for building the new thermal power plant "Kosova C" because, as they say "to build such a new power plant is needed more time for a more detailed study about the positive and negative impact of this project".

When the government be-

came involved in 2006 in building a new power plant, it received criticism, especially from environmentalists.

Luan Shllaku, head of the experts' team which drafted the report "A Modern Fairytale, Power Plant 2100 Megawatt," said that in Kosovo are being planned new thermo-energetic capacity building that jointly with the expansion of lignite digging would affect negatively the environment.

"Forum 2015" is a coalition of Kosovo Foundation for Open Society - Soros



*Environmentalists criticize government's plans to build a new power plant in Kosovo. Photo: the thermal power plant in Kastriot, Kosovo*

and Riinvest that aims to unite civil society activities in Kosovo towards Euro-Atlantic integration.

*For more information, visit [www.riinvestinstitute.org](http://www.riinvestinstitute.org)*



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## Introducing a local NGO

### "Handicap Kosova" Works for Active Participation of Disabled People in Social Life



Association of paralytic children "Handicap Kosova" is a humanitarian non-governmental organization founded in 2001, which aims to increase public awareness about disabled people in Kosovo; integrate this group in society; evaluate their health, social and material situation; motivate a more active participation in social life; and build capacities of NGOs dealing with disability.

"Handicap Kosova" considers that "disa-

bled people are being discriminated because of the lack of legal protection and non-acceptance of this group by the society."

Therefore, "Handicap Kosova" works for involvement of disabled people in society with equal rights as all Kosovo citizens. This NGO tries to organize disabled people by informing them about opportunities through which they can advocate for a better living environment.

It achieves its goals through project implementation, partnership with other stakeholders and advocacy. Handicap Kosova's projects included research about poliomyelitis in Kosovo, festival about international day of children, TV and radio programs about disabled persons, capacity building of associations of disabled people, etc.

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## Human rights

### Balkan Human Rights Network Calls for Research Articles for Its 2007 Annual Yearbook of Human Rights

The Balkan Human Rights Network (BHRN) calls for articles and book reviews for the seventh edition of its Yearbook of Human Rights. The yearbook, an annual publication, promotes and explores Balkan countries' achievements and experiences in the implementation of human rights. Every year BHRN chooses one topic in the public discourse in the Balkan region. This year's issue is "Millennium Development Goals as a Challenge to Human Rights NGOs in the Balkans - Youth Employment".

Research articles from a variety of perspectives,



theories, approaches, or methodologies are welcomed. Submissions are encouraged from regional hu-

man rights community, with special consideration given to voices or perspectives from human rights practitioners and young scholars. Research papers should present country profile in relation with the given topic.

For further information, contact [secretariat@balkan-rights.net](mailto:secretariat@balkan-rights.net) or visit [www.balkan-rights.net](http://www.balkan-rights.net).

For more information about Millennium Development Goals visit: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

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