



Advocacy Training & Resource Center

# The ADVOCATE



**USAID**  
NGA POPULLI AMERIKAN  
OD AMERICKOG NARODA

Supporting the  
NGO community



Volume V • Issue 2 • February 2007

## CONTENTS

### Page 2

ATRC Calls for NGO Proposals for Partnership and Networking Grants

Civil Society Calls for Credible and Transparent Investigation of the Protest

"Prevalence of Gender-Based Violence in the Peja Region"

Albanian Journal of Politics

### Page 3

Women's Peace Coalition sends letter to Martti Ahtisaari

"Government Should Stimulate Citizens to Pay Taxes"

Prishtina's International Summer University 2007

### Page 4

European Adult Education Association Helps NGOs to Work Together

NGO Coalition Drafts Strategy for Cooperation with Montenegro Government

The State and NGOs in the EU Accession Process

**New funding opportunities, news, events, trainings, etc**

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

St. Agim Ramadani Nr. 15  
2nd Floor Prishtina, Kosovo  
Phone/Fax: +381 (0) 38 244 810

## ATRC Provides Opportunity for Kosovo Citizens to Gather Information about Ahtisaari's Proposal

ATRC in cooperation with thirty local NGOs will organize community roundtables in 30 municipalities of Kosovo and seven regional town hall meetings during the next two months, in an attempt to inform civil society organizations and citizens about the content of the Kosovo settlement proposal.

These public events are an opportunity for citizens to gather information, make their concerns heard, and ask questions about the proposal of Martti Ahtisaari, UN Secretary General En-

voy in Charge of the Negotiations on the future status of Kosovo.

Ahtisaari unveiled his package proposal on February 2, after a year of negotiations between Prishtina and Belgrade in Vienna, Austria.

The panelists participating in ATRC roundtable meetings will be individuals who have specific expertise on the proposal. Local and central government, NGO, media and business representatives, will participate the meetings, as well.

"The aim of the Compre-

*hensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement is to define the provisions necessary for a future Kosovo that is viable, sustainable and stable. It includes detailed measures to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of communities and their members, the effective decentralization of government, and the preservation and protection of cultural and religious heritage", the executive summary of Ahtisaari's status proposal says.*

For the full proposal, visit [www.unosek.org](http://www.unosek.org)



Mr Ahtisaari unveiled his proposal to the Pristina Team of Unity on February 2

## ATRC Trains NGOs on Project Proposal Writing

ATRC trainers conducted a proposal writing workshop on Feb. 26-27, participated by local NGO representatives interested to apply for the fifth round of Partnership and Networking Grants of IREX/Kosovo Civil Society Program. The workshop enabled participants to develop projects from initial ideas to establishing goals and objectives, proposal implementation plans and budgeting.

The training was part of this year's workshop series, which is open to all registered Kosovo NGOs, as ATRC clients. NGOs that are not registered, but are interested in receiving ATRC services (free of charge for Kosovo NGOs), can fill in the registration form that is available on [www.advocacy-center.org](http://www.advocacy-center.org).

For more information, contact [training@advocacy-center.org](mailto:training@advocacy-center.org)

This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of ATRC and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

## New publications

### "Prevalence of Gender-Based Violence in the Peja Region"



Women's Wellness Center of Peja published on February 12 a study on the prevalence of multiple forms of gender-based violence undertaken in the Peja region of Kosovo in August 2002. It includes preliminary findings from a field assessment in nine villages in the Peja region.

For the full report, contact [pejawwc@yahoo.com](mailto:pejawwc@yahoo.com)

### Albanian Journal of Politics

The 2006 volume of the Albanian Journal of Politics was published on February 8 covering gender, history, politics and migration issues of Albanian society.

The journal was focused on European identity of Albanians and on Southeastern Europe as a historical region. The Albanian Journal of Politics is a peer reviewed academic publication of the Albanian Political Science Association. The purpose of the Journal is to provide a publication venue and an academic forum for the study of Albanian politics and society.

For more information, visit <http://ajp.alpsa.org>.

Source: *Balkan Academic News*

### NGO funding opportunities

## ATRC Calls for NGO Proposals for Partnership and Networking Grants

ATRC announced on Feb. 17 a Request for Applications for the fifth round of the IREX/Kosovo Civil Society Program Partnership and Networking Grants for Kosovo NGOs.

Partnership and Networking Grants will be awarded to eligible NGOs whose proposals contain a strong partnership and networking component between NGOs and NGOs and other sectors (local or central government, private businesses).

Projects should also address critical issues in any of three grant target areas: transparency and anti-cor-

ruption, community development or ethnic reconciliation and conflict mitigation.

Duration of these grants is 6-9 months. NGOs are eligible to apply for grant funding up to \$25,000. *The deadline for submitting proposals is March 15, 2007.*

A comprehensive and detailed RFA package (including program description, eligibility criteria, application timelines, selection criteria and review process, required application forms and proposal guidelines and format) may be obtained from ATRC at Agim Rramadani, Nr.15, Prish-

tina, or downloaded from ATRC's website: [www.advocacy-center.org](http://www.advocacy-center.org).

The Kosovo Civil Society Program (KCSP) is a three-year initiative funded by USAID and implemented by IREX. The goal of the program is the further development of Kosovo civil society and the NGO community in becoming a vibrant and viable sector that plays a significant role in representing Kosovo's diverse citizenry and shaping public policy.

For more information, call 038 244 810 or e-mail [grants@advocacy-center.org](mailto:grants@advocacy-center.org).

### Kosovo civil society's reaction to the violent protest in Prishtina on Feb.10

## Civil Society Calls for Credible and Transparent Investigation of the Protest



The violent protest in Prishtina on Feb. 10

Civil society representatives discussed aftermath of the protest organized on Feb. 10 in Prishtina by Self-Determination, a movement campaigning for immediate independence.

Two demonstrators died of injuries sustained in clashes after Kosovo and UN police fired teargas and rubber bullets to stop a crowd storming government buildings. The aftermath of this protest

was discussed on Feb.14 at a roundtable meeting organized by "Civic Initiative."

The meeting aimed to initiate a public debate about the police violence against demonstrators.

The discussion focused on the police's reaction at the protest; transparency of the investigative committee; and who should take responsibility for the death of two demonstrators.

They demanded that representatives from Ombudsperson's Office and civil society to be included in the investigative committee in order to guarantee credibility of the report.

"These events are not fa-

cing the proper reaction, especially from the third sector, civil society", publicist Shkëlzen Maliqi said.

In addition, participants concluded that:

*The death of two citizens, injury of dozens of demonstrators and disproportional reaction of security forces damage efforts of building a democratic society that respects human rights.*

*Investigations initiated by governing institutions should identify responsibility of decision-makers responsible for security in Kosovo. Government of Kosovo, UNMIK and other decision-makers responsible for security should immediately prohibit the use of rubber bullets by police...*

For the full letter, contact: [initiativeqytetare@gmail.com](mailto:initiativeqytetare@gmail.com)

**Education****Prishtina's  
International Summer  
University 2007**

University of Prishtina supported by Academic Training Association will organize the 7th edition of Prishtina's Summer University from July 16th until August 3rd 2007.

The interested candidates to attend Summer University can pre-register in order to be informed about the application procedure. To pre-register, visit: [http://www.stuc.uva.nl/ata/student/registration/prereg.asp?inpSU\\_id=1](http://www.stuc.uva.nl/ata/student/registration/prereg.asp?inpSU_id=1)

Prishtina's Summer University in 2007 will provide 15 academic courses on Law, Economics, Philosophy, Arts, Medicine, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Social Sciences, Physical Education, etc. Participants will be awarded with certificates which include ECTS credit. Participation is for free!

For more information, visit: [www.uni-pr.edu](http://www.uni-pr.edu) or [www.academictraining.org](http://www.academictraining.org).

Source: *Balkan Academic News*

**Women's Peace Coalition sends letter to Martti Ahtisaari****"Supporting a Just and Lasting Solution for Kosovo"**

The Women's Peace Coalition sent Martti Ahtisaari, UN Secretary General Envoy in Charge of the Negotiations on the future status of Kosovo, a letter on February 12 supporting the independence of Kosovo.

The letter is signed by Kosova Women's Network and the Women in Black Network of Serbia which launched the Women's Peace Coalition in March 2006 as an independent citizens' initiative.

The letter read:  
*Women from Kosovo and Serbia established the Women's Peace Coalition to monitor negotiations regarding Kosovo's final political status. As efforts to resolve the future status of Kosovo intensify, we believe it is necessary to remind you, the negotiation teams, and the international commu-*

*nity of some very essential points.*

*First, the future status of Kosovo must be resolved taking into consideration the will of the Albanian majority population. Kosovo's path to European Integration must occur outside the borders of the Serbian state, and must include the full protection of individual and collective human rights for all citizens of Kosovo and Serbia.*

*Second, cultural sites should not be used as political tools toward the homogenization of communities in Kosovo. This will lead to the isolation and division of*



*Peace Coalition of Women from Kosovo and Serbia sent Ahtisaari a letter on Feb.12 supporting the independence of Kosovo*

*communities, which could contribute to future violence. Instead, cultural sites should be considered part of a heterogeneous history that involves all ethnic groups and be used to promote joint ownership in all communities' inter-ethnic heritage as well as their shared future...*

For the full letter, visit: [www.womensnetwork.org](http://www.womensnetwork.org).

**NGO initiated public dialogue event****"Government Should Stimulate Citizens to Pay Taxes"**

NGO, media and business representatives gathered at ATRC on February 16 to discuss the role of citizens towards public taxes at a cross-sector roundtable discussion, organized by the local NGO "New Millennium."

The roundtable discussion focused on how citizens' taxes affect budget sustainability, overall development and improving the quality of public services.

"Kosovo citizens are not aware of the importance of paying taxes in order to have a sustainable and effi-



*NGO, media and business representatives discussed the role of citizens towards public taxes on Feb.16*

cient budget system," Saki Imeri, Deputy Director of Tax Administration of Kosovo said. He urged citizens to pay taxes "because capital investments are financed by public taxes".

Lumir Abdixhiku from "Riinvest Institute" criticized the government for its

wrong fiscal policies. "Government has not initiated any project that would stimulate citizens to pay taxes," he said.

Representatives from civil society stressed that better public services would encourage more people to pay taxes. According to them, compliance with taxes requires good governance.

This roundtable meeting was supported by ATRC.

For more information, contact: [ojqmileniumiiri@yahoo.com](mailto:ojqmileniumiiri@yahoo.com)



**Executive Director**  
RREZE DULI  
rreze@advocacy-center.org

**Financial & Administration  
Manager**  
GANI ASLLANI  
gani@advocacy-center.org

**Grant Manager**  
TEUTA LUXHA  
teuta@advocacy-center.org

**Grant Officer**  
KUSHTRIM KALOSHI  
kushtrimk@advocacy-center.org

**Grant Officer**  
XHAFER AHMETI  
xhafer@advocacy-center.org

**Grant Finance Manager**  
SAFETA XHEKOVIC  
safeta@advocacy-center.org

**Training & Consultancy  
Services Manager**  
DONIKA SALIHU  
donika@advocacy-center.org

**Trainer & Consultant**  
AFERDITA SURROI  
aferdita@advocacy-center.org

**Trainer & Consultant**  
KUSHTRIM ISLAMI  
kushtrim@advocacy-center.org

**Trainer & Consultant**  
NORA SUSURI  
nora@advocacy-center.org

**Communication & Outreach  
Manager**  
ARJETA DOROCI  
arjeta@advocacy-center.org

**Program Officer**  
NATYRA ZHJEQI  
natyra@advocacy-center.org

**IT and Database Manager**  
ARSIM KOSUMI  
arsim@advocacy-center.org

## Education

### European Adult Education Association Helps NGOs to Work Together

European Adult Education Association (EAEA) is a European NGO with 114 member organizations from 41 countries working in the fields of adult learning.

EAEA advocates for adult learning and for NGOs working in this field. It organizes information seminars to raise awareness about activities of EU programs and policy developments. EAEA also organizes training about sources of European funding for adult learning.

EAEA promotes the development of adult learning at European level and lobbies to international bodies so that they adopt plans and policies which respond to the needs of the adult population in Europe. It encourages co-operation in adult learning in Europe and helps NGOs to work together and play an active role in the international scene. The main roles of this association are policy advocacy for lifelong



*EAEA advocates for adult learning and for NGOs working in this field*

learning at a European level; publications and training; international co-operation; etc.

EAEA Eastern Europe Link Office: Katalin Varga (contact person); Budapest, Hungary; e-mail: [mnt@nepfoiskola.hu](mailto:mnt@nepfoiskola.hu)

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

Source: EAEA

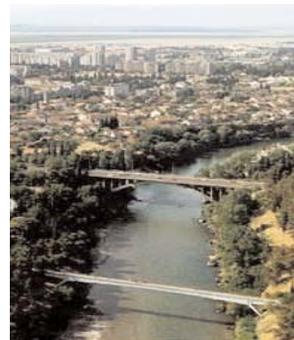
## NGO/government cooperation

### NGO Coalition Drafts Strategy for Cooperation with Montenegro Government

The NGO Coalition "Cooperation for a Common Goal" prepared in December the draft Strategy of Relations between the Government and NGOs in Montenegro.

This coalition also prepared the "NGO Code of Conduct" and "Structure of Public Funding for NGOs".

These papers can be read



*Podgorica, Montenegro*

at the Coalition's web-site: <http://www.koalicijanvo.cg.yu/>

"Cooperation for a Common Goal" was founded in May 2006 to establish institutional mechanisms for co-operation between NGOs and the Government.

Source: *One World Southeast Europe*

## New publication

### The State and NGOs in the EU Accession Process

Alumni Association of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies in Sarajevo, Bosnia, published in February the results of a research on the role of NGO sector in EU integration processes in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia.

This publication is entitled "The State and NGOs in the EU Accession Process in Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina: through partnership to success". The link to download it is: <http://www.acips.ba/TheStateandNGO.pdf>

Source: *Balkan Academic News*