



Advocacy Training & Resource Center

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## Government for, Civil Society against Building a New Power Plant in Kosovo

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

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Representatives of the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM), Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP), opposition political parties and civil society gathered at ATRC to discuss the government's plans to build a new power plant in the municipality of Kastriot, Kosovo. The public discussion, organized by ATRC on Jan. 19, asked, "the new thermal power plant Kosovo C - economic development or environmental pollution?"

When the government became involved in building the new thermo power plant in 2006, it received criticism, especially from environmentalists.

Government representatives present at the ATRC

discussion, Ardian Gjini - Minister of MESP and Agron Dida - Deputy Minister of MEM, said the project was essential for economic development in Kosovo. Minister Gjini also argued that the modern thermal power plant would decrease air pollution.

Representatives from the opposition parties and civil society expressed their skepticism. They argued that the plant is an old project from the 1970s and that it would have a severe negative impact

on the environment.

The Municipality of Kastriot is already one of the most polluted areas in the region, according to Nazif Shala, an official for environmental issues in this municipality.

*"The level of air pollution in the Municipality of Kastriot is 400 times higher than EU standards allow," Nazif Shala said.*



The thermal power plant in Kastriot, Kosovo

## ATRC Publishes Training Workshop Calendar for 2007

ATRC will continue to support NGOs through training, grant-giving and information services in 2007. The training program will include basic and advanced training and consultancy in organizational development, management, advocacy, fundraising and media relations.

In Jan., ATRC published a training workshop series calendar for 2007. Thirteen workshops have been scheduled on the topics of

project proposal writing, project cycle management, NGO management, introduction to advocacy and coalition building, good governance, marketing communications, the role of NGOs in society and NGO-media relations. (See the dates on [www.advocacy-center.org](http://www.advocacy-center.org).)

ATRC training services are free of charge to Kosovo NGOs registered with ATRC. NGOs can register by downloading and com-

pleting the NGO Client Registration Form available on the aforementioned website.

Through trainings, ATRC aims to provide NGOs with the tools, know-how and expertise to develop their full potential and achieve their strategic goals in an effective and sustainable manner.

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

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**Social dialogue****Pensioners Demand Urgent Solution to Their Social Status**

The Independent Union of Pensioners and Work Invalids of Kosovo (IUPWIK) urged governing institutions to take seriously their situation. "Pensioners cannot survive with 40€ per month," they said. They repeated their demand for pension reform at a roundtable discussion organized on Jan.16 by IUPWIK with support from ATRC.

**New NGO coalition****Two Ferizaj NGOs Form Coalition for Democratization**

Two NGOs from Ferizaj, "Youth Services" and "1 plus 2," established the Coalition of Organizations for Democracy - KOD on Jan. 10. KOD aims to democratize political and social processes in Ferizaj by encouraging citizens to voice their needs.

**NGO funding opportunities****World Bank in Kosovo Announces Small Grants Program for 2007**

*The theme for this year's small grants program is education*

The World Bank office in Prishtina launched the Small Grants Program in Jan. to award Kosovo NGOs that support education initiatives through their active involvement in the public realm and development processes.

The program will support activities that have the primary objective of civic engagement toward strengthening the voices of diverse groups and promoting the inclusion of a broad array of citizens' initiatives in development policies

and processes.

The Small Grants Program should be used to help address challenges to providing equal educational opportunities for vulnerable groups and to strengthen school management through active community participation. The program will pay special attention to improving policy-making processes by involving the public in consultations.

The program complements and facilitates the social development agenda of the World Bank by provi-

ding grants to civil society organizations.

The World Bank in Kosovo will provide grants between US\$5000 and US\$10,000 under the Small Grants Program.

*The deadline for applications is Feb. 28, 2007.*

For more details, visit [www.worldbank.org/kosovo](http://www.worldbank.org/kosovo)

**"Advocacy in Practice to Support Equality"**

*Learning from the experience of American international human rights activist Alice Mead*

ATRC organized on Jan. 12 a roundtable meeting between the American human rights activist Alice Mead and civil society representatives entitled "Advocacy in Practice - from the experience of an international activist."

During the meeting,

Mead showed her documentary film "Kosova and the Death of Yugoslavia" and discussed advocacy issues with participants. The film documents violations of Kosovo Albanians' human rights and their demands for equality during the regime of former Yu-

goslav President Slobodan Milosevic. Mead used the film to advocate for Kosovo Albanian rights during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"I am not free, if you are not free," Mead said at the discussion. "My freedom is not only for me. If we all are not free, we're not equal. Advocacy is about being equal."

Mead also wrote a book about Kosovo entitled *Adem's Cross* and through advocacy contributed to the release of political prisoners and war hostages from Serb prisons. Mead advocated to the U.S. Senate, Congress, and world political bodies for the release of prisoners.



*American human rights activist Alice Mead advocated to the U.S. Senate, Congress, etc for the release of Kosovo Albanian political prisoners from Serb prisons*



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## ATRC initiated public dialogue events

### Youth and Sports Palace of Prishtina to Serve the Needs of Youth

ATRC organized a cross sector roundtable discussion on Dec. 14 that raised questions as to who the Prishtina Youth and Sports Palace serves and the current status of youth programming. The Youth and Sports Palace management closed the Youth Center there on Oct. 20, despite criticisms from youth groups.

At the discussion, representatives from the Youth Department of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of Kosovo, Directorate of Culture in the Municipality of Prishtina, Kosovo Youth Network and Youth Center agreed that the Youth Palace should serve the needs of youth as well as other cultural and sports activities.



*Management of Youth and Sports Palace of Prishtina closed the Youth Center there on Oct. 20, despite criticisms from youth groups*

The Youth Palace management and Kosovo Trust Agency are responsible for the current situation, they said.

### Government and Civil Society Discuss the Return of Displaced Families in Kastriot

Government and civil society representatives discussed accomplishments in the process of returning families to the Municipality of Kastriot at a public discussion organized by ATRC at the Municipal Assembly of Kastriot on Dec. 13. Participants reviewed the Ministry for Communities and Returnees' strategy

for returning displaced families to their homes in Kastriot.

The Ministry for Communities and Returnees has provided basic living conditions for displaced families by rebuilding destroyed houses, according to Deputy Minister for Communities and Returnees Ibish Bajrami. "There are cases

of displaced families returning to their homes in this municipality," he said.

The Serb participants were not convinced by the ministry's efforts. They said the ministry's strategy was wrong. "They built houses, but did not provide anything else."

### Civil Society to Raise Citizen Awareness about Cultural Heritage Protection

Citizens of Prizren, NGO representatives and municipal officials debated issues related to the protection of cultural heritage sites in Prizren during a public discussion organized by ATRC on Jan. 12 at the Prizren Municipal Assembly.

Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Angelina Krasniqi and Deputy Mayor of Prizren Erxhan Shpat participated in the meeting.



*Citizens, NGOs and municipal officials discussed the protection of cultural heritage sites in Prizren on Jan. 12*

According to Krasniqi, the Ministry of Culture has invested in Prizren's historical sites as much as the budget allowed. "Degradation of culture heritage areas is a reality not only in Prizren, but in all Kosovo municipalities," she said.

She urged civil society organizations to focus more on raising citizens' awareness about protecting cultural heritage sites in Kosovo.