

atrc.

ADVOCACY TRAINING
& RESOURCE CENTER



USAID
NGA POPULLI AMERIKAN
OD AMERICKOG NARODA



THE ADVOCATE

Supporting the NGO community

Volume V • Issue 6 • July 2007

CONTENTS

Page 2

ATRC Calls for NGO Proposals for Partnership and Networking Grants, round six

The Regional Environmental Center Assists NGOs Design Development Plans Friendly to Environment

"Kosovo to be a National State"

Page 3

"We Can Work as Well," Disabled People Remind Kosovo Society and Authorities

Prishtina Citizens Don't Trust Their Town Municipal Assembly

"Kosovo: the Unprecedented State"

Page 4

New Book about Democratic Transition in Croatia

Stop Pressure towards Media, Mjaft Movement calls

ATRC Library

New funding opportunities, news, events, trainings, etc

can be found on ATRC web site:
www.advocacy-center.org

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

ATRC Expanded Training Services to Develop Sub-sectors of Civil Society

ATRC trainers and consultants conducted nineteen customized trainings in 2007 for five NGO sectors aiming to strengthen capacities of civil society sub-sectors in Kosovo.

NGOs dealing with youth, health, pension, disability and Roma Ashkali & Egyptian (RAE) women issues attended different types of training workshops.

One hundred and seven representatives of youth NGOs participated customized trainings on project cycle management, good governance, basic financial management, and advocacy & coalition building. These are the fields that the youth sector needs to be trained mostly, according to Alban Krasniqi, director of Kosovo Youth Network.

ATRC assisted in capacity building of ten NGOs working on health issues. Representatives of this sector received trainings on project proposal design, and introduction to advocacy & coalition building. One to one consultations were provided ba-

sed on needs of the trained organizations.

ATRC has identified Pensioners' organizations as one of the crucial sub-sectors of civil society.

Through strategic work planning of 2 pensioners' associations, ATRC has initiated institutional building for this sector aiming to support pensioners' organizations in becoming an organized, credible and visible sub-sector and a more effective voice for pension reform through collaborative actions.

Women Network of RAE communities is another sector of civil society that ATRC focused its support in organizational capacity building through training workshops on project proposal design, role of NGOs in civil society, monitoring and evaluation, good governance, basic financial management, and advo-

cacy & networking.

In June, training team started to work with the Kosovo's Blind Association as a response to this association's need in developing a working strategy and project proposal writing.

ATRC will continue to support NGO sectors through basic and advanced training and consultancy in key areas of NGO organizational development, management, advocacy and fund raising.

For more information, contact training@advocacy-center.org



A training session in the town of Gjakova on May 31

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.

Forum 2015

"Kosovo to be a National State"

"Forum 2015" organized a symposium on June 26 to discuss European identity of Kosovo. The symposium also aimed to further discuss the notions: nation, people, state, citizenship, etc. The panelists included national and international experts on identity issues.

"Paying regard to the majority of Albanians, Kosovo should be a national state, unlike Bosnia," professor Paul Garde, an expert on Balkans related issues said.

Muhamet Mustafa, representative of Forum 2015, stressed that Kosovo already has its European identity, not only based on its geographical position but also on current and past cultural and social facts, citizens' perception and vision for the future.

"Kosovo's involvement in the political map of Europe would contribute to its European identity," the panelists agreed.

Representatives from civil society, international institutions and organizations, university experts and media participated.

"Forum 2015" is a coalition between Kosovo Foundation for Open Society - Soros and Riinvest Institute that aims to unite civil society activities in Kosovo towards Euro-Atlantic integration.

For more information, contact: riinvest@riinvestinstitute.org

NGO funding opportunity**ATRC Calls for NGO Proposals for Partnership and Networking Grants, round six**

ATRC announced on July 19 a Request for Applications (RFA) for the sixth 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 (such as local or central government, private business sector).

Projects should also address critical issues in any of three grant target areas: transparency and anti-corruption, community development or ethnic reconcilia-

tion and conflict mitigation.

Duration of these grants is 6 months. NGOs are eligible to apply for grant funding up to \$18,000. The deadline for submitting proposals is August 3, 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 Ramadani, Nr.15, Prishtina, or downloaded from the website: www.advocacy-center.org.

The Kosovo Civil Society Program (KCSP) is a three-

year initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the International Research and Exchange Board (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

The Regional Environmental Center Assists NGOs Design Development Plans Friendly to Environment

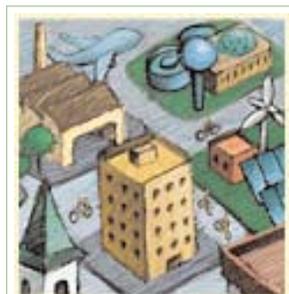
Representatives of the Regional Environmental Center (REC) in Prishtina informed local NGOs about their new project "Sustainable Kosovo: capacity building of environmental civil society", at an information meeting organized by ATRC on July 13.

The project aims to train NGOs dealing with environmental issues in Ko-

sovo in order to establish a vital, critical and cooperative movement that is capable to help socio-economical reconstruction and design development plans friendly to environment.

Zeqir Veselaj, representative of REC in Prishtina, outlined project objectives, activities, expected results, as well as opportunities for environmental NGOs such as training, public awareness campaigns, and study visits outside Kosovo. The project will last 3 years.

For more information, contact info@kos.rec.org



Kosovo field office of the Regional Environmental Center focuses its work on civil society development and capacity building, environmental policy making, ecological agriculture, environmental engineering (air quality), waste management (prevention and recycling), local environmental action plan, sustainable development practices, and information dissemination

New NGO publication**"Kosovo: the Unprecedented State"**

The Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED) published in July a new policy research paper, entitled "Kosovo: the unprecedented state."

The publication included information about ethnic cleansing and attempt of genocide, dissolution of the common state, illegal downgrade of Kosovo's status, a clearly defined territory with distinct boundaries, will of the majority to split, open status under international protectorate, democratic state running capacity...

"This paper argues that Kosovo's quest to independence is a unique case, hence it entitles Kosovo to break independent without violating international law. The case made here is based on a number of arguments, from the specific political dynamics that have brought Kosovo to this day, its legal and moral right to state succession from former Yugoslavia as a federal entity, to the attempted genocide and consistent brutal treatment of the Albanian majority for decades", the paper's introduction said. "For most analysts, the dilemma is no longer "whether" Kosovo will become independent, but "when" and "how".

The publication is available at www.kipred.net

"We Can Work as Well," Disabled People Remind Kosovo Society and Authorities

Association of disabled people "HandiKos" initiated a Kosovo wide debate about employment right for these citizens to remind Kosovo society and decision-makers that "they can work as well".

HandiKos organized fourteen roundtable discussions in seven regions of Kosovo during February - June 2007 focusing on legal infrastructure related to disabled people, and administrative procedures for their employment.

The discussions resulted with several recommendations which were presented by HandiKos on June 21 at the Prishtina roundtable meeting, attended by representatives of civil society, local and central institutions, and business sector.



"Employment of disabled people should not be considered a social demand. Citizens with disabilities must have equal employment opportunity rights based on their professional abilities," Halit Ferizi, Handikos Director said.

Participants criticized Government's approach, saying that governing insti-

tutions are available to listen but not to accept suggestions from disabled persons' organizations. "Public perception towards disabled people is negative and there is no will among employers to hire this group of citizens," they added.

There isn't any Strategic or Action Plan on local, regional or national level to deal with employment issues of disabled people in private or public sectors... the recommendations included. For the whole document, contact Handikos prishtine 038@hotmail.com

ATRC supported this initiative through IREX Kosovo Civil Society Program, funded by USAID

NGO poll**Prishtina Citizens Don't Trust Their Town Municipal Assembly**

Citizens of Prishtina urge municipal officials to work on behalf of citizens' interests, according to a poll conducted by the NGO "New Millennium"

Most of the Prishtina citizens are not satisfied with their town public funds management and the work done by Municipal Assembly, a poll conducted by New Millennium NGO re-

sulted, which included 300 citizens representing 15 different neighborhoods of the capital town.

The poll, conducted in April and published in June, was part of the project "Citizens' Trust towards Municipal Assembly of Prishtina," supported by ATRC and IREX.

28.3 % of respondents were totally unsatisfied with

municipal administrative services, whereas 56.7 % said to be partially satisfied, Nehat Billacaku, director of the New Millennium said.

The poll included several recommendations from citizens, who urged municipal officials to work on behalf of citizens' interests and not their individual ones, be transparent on what they do, prevent corruption, stop illegal constructions, and change the managerial staff.

For more information, contact: ojqmileniumiiri@yahoo.com



Executive Director
RREZE DULI
rreze@advocacy-center.org

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

Grant Manager
KUSHTRIM KALOSHI
kushtrimk@advocacy-center.org

Grant Officer
XHAFER AHMETI
xhafer@advocacy-center.org

Grant Officer
NATYRA ZHJEQI
natyra@advocacy-center.org

Grant Finance Manager
SAFETA XHEKOVIQ
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

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

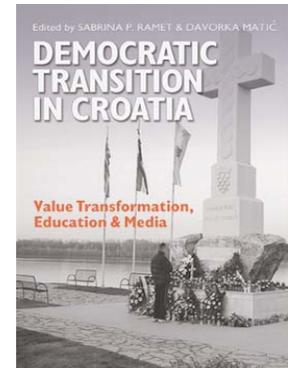
Regional civil society developments

New Book about Democratic Transition in Croatia

With the fall of communism and the breakup of Yugoslavia, the successor states have faced a historic challenge to create separate, modern democracies from the ashes of the former authoritarian state. Central to the Croatian experience has been the issue of nationalism and whether the Croatian state should be defined as a citizens' state (with members of all nationality groups treated as equal) or as a national state of the Croats (with a consequent privileging of Croatian culture and language, but also with a quota system for members

of national minorities).

Sabrina Ramet, professor of political science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and Davorka Mati, head of the department of sociology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, have gathered a series of studies by important scholars to examine the development of Croatia in the aftermath of communism and the war that marred the transition at a new book published on June 25, entitled "Democratic Transition in Croatia: Value Transformation, Education, and Media.



"For more information:
<http://www.tamu.edu/upress/BOOKS/2007/rametcroatia.htm>
Source: Balkan Academic News

Albania

Stop Pressure towards Media, Mjaft Movement calls

"Mjaft" Movement condemned "the pressure of Albanian government towards free expression" through a press release, published on July 17.

"The movement condemns

the unjustifiable politically biased fines that the Government claims from Top Channel TV and calls for immediate cancellation," the press release said. "We support the right of free

speech and the free media in Albania, considering it one of the main pillars of society...

For more information, visit:
www.mjaft.org



Around 50,000 citizens of Albania protested in Tirana against Government's pressure towards media, at a peaceful demonstration organized by "Mjaft" movement in April

ATRC Library

ATRC library was updated with one hundred and ninety four new titles in July. Totally, the library hosts 994 titles of books, reports and other materials about advocacy, civil society, leadership, gender awareness, human rights and more. Kosovo and international NGOs, university students, journalists, governmental employees and interested citizens have access to the library.

Users can have access to librarian database online at www.advocacy-center.org (click services) to check the complete list of all titles and availability.

