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New links for funding opportunities can be found on ATRC web site:

<http://www.advocacy-center.org/>



### ATRC formalizes new partnership with IREX Kosovo Civil Society Program

In September, ATRC formalized a partnership agreement with the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) to support the development of Kosovo NGOs under the USAID funded Kosovo Civil Society Program. During the past few months, we have been working to

increase our resource capacities and expand our service portfolio to better serve the needs of NGOs. Through our enhanced role as a full-service NGO training, resource and information center, ATRC is working to strengthen the autonomy, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of the NGO sector as a major catalyst in the development of a vibrant civil society and responsive democratic governance.

As a service organization, ATRC's programs are designed to meet the current and evolving needs of our NGO clients. Our support services include basic and advanced training and



ATRC, IREX and FDI information meeting in Prishtina

consultancy in key areas of NGO organizational development, management, advocacy and fund raising; electronic information resources via our updated website, marketing and communication, public dialogues and roundtables, coalition building, and facilitation of cross-sectoral partnerships and cooperation.

In November, ATRC conducted five Proposal Writing Workshops for NGOs interested in applying for the first round of IREX/FDI Partnership and Networking Grants. Workshops were held in Pristina and North

Mitrovica and attracted 148 participants representing 108 from all regions of Kosovo.

Welcome to the latest addition of The Advocate, ATRC's bi-monthly electronic newsletter for and about the Kosovo NGO com-

munity. We hope you find it informative and useful. Your comments and feedback are always appreciated. If you have a success story or short article about the impact of your work that you would like to contribute to future issues of the Newsletter, please contact us.

We look forward to working with you and welcoming you to ATRC.

To learn more about ATRC's expanded services and discuss how we can be of assistance to your NGO, We invite you to visit us at the Center or contact us on 038 244 810.

### NGO Funding Opportunities

#### World Bank funds innovative ideas leading to job creation in West Balkans

 The World Bank invites all interested organizations, associations and institutions to submit innovative ideas for job creation in the formal sector. The best proposals from Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro will receive some USD 35,000 per project, through the 2006 West Balkan Development Marketplace program. The West Balkan Development Marketplace reflects the World Bank's determination to support employment as

one of the biggest challenges faced by all countries in the region.

The West Balkan Development Marketplace 2006 is open to a wide range of people: civil society groups, social entrepreneurs, private foundations, government agencies, academia and private sector. In each of the participating countries, assessment teams comprised of prominent individuals will select finalists. Special consideration will be awarded to projects which demonstrate the ability

to foster employment of youth and regional and/or cross-border cooperation. Proposals should be submitted by e-mail, regular post or delivered in person by 5:00 PM on January 30, 2006.

*More information regarding this program, eligibility and assessment criteria, how to apply, key dates, etc. can be found on:*

*<http://www.worldbank.org> or please contact World Bank Kosovo office; Shpend Ahmeti, [sahmeti@worldbank.org](mailto:sahmeti@worldbank.org), tel. 038 249 459/248 780.*

**NGO Flash News****"Civic Courage" debate with Svetlana Broz**

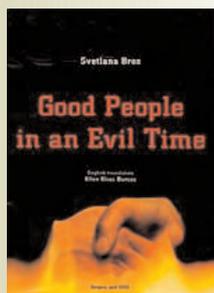
The issue "Civic Courage" was discussed on November the 30<sup>th</sup> in the Art Gallery between Dr. Svetlana Broz, the niece of former president of Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito and Kosovo citizens. The debate was organized by the Republican Club and Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms.

Ms. Broz spoke of her experiences and mentioned practical examples of civic courage.

At the outbreak of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992, Ms. Broz volunteered as a cardiologist, where she began interviewing for the book that describes human experiences during the Bosnian War. These experiences were published in her book "Good People in an Evil Time", published in 1999. The book is translated in many languages.

Director of Sarajevo based NGO GARIWO, Svetlana Broz is well known for her lectures in different countries about the importance of civic courage.

Over the past years she has been lecturing at various Universities and International Institutes in United States of America, as well as in London, Berlin, Geneva, Lausanne, Graz, Prague, Milan, Bolzano, Warsaw, Trento, Verona, Amsterdam, Den Hague, Braunschweig, Marseille, Lillehammer, Oslo, etc.



Dr. Svetlana Broz book "Good People in an Evil Time"

**ATRC and ÇOHU public debate****"Corruption in our Society: What do we do to fight it?"**

**"It is not time to put up faceless bill boards but to implement laws that fight corruption", Igballe Rogova, representative of Kosovo Women's Network stressed in the debate**

ATRC and the local NGO, Organization for Democracy, Anticorruption and Dignity 'Çohu' organized a cross sector public debate on December the 5<sup>th</sup> at ATRC offices, to discuss and review the mechanisms used in Kosovo to combat corruption.

NGO, government and media representatives were present in the debate, moderated by Anton Ndreca, "ÇOHU" member.

Panelists for the debate were Habit Hajredini - Office for Good Governance, Bashkim Rrahmani - Foundation for Democratic Initiatives "FDI", Igballe Rogova - Kosovo Women's Network, Sejdi Osmani - RIINVEST, and Fatmire Terdevci - Koha Ditore.

Discussion was opened by Barbara Hall, COP of IREX Kosovo Civil Society Program who discussed the role of Civil Society in Combating

Corruption. Ms. Hall stressed that NGO credibility and legitimacy are most crucial for an effective role of civil society in combating corruption.



Participants debating corruption in Kosovo

Panelists commented on the need for a strong anticorruption civil society coalition. Although, Mr. Hajredini, Office for Good Governance said that important laws have been drafted and adopted in Kosovo to fight corruption, other participants responded that NGO sector and media need the implementation of laws and access on official documents. Sejdi Osmani presented RIINVEST opinion sur-

vey published in November the 5<sup>th</sup> about the extent and consequences of corruption in Kosovo. The survey shows that 72% out of 600 small and medium enterprises, involved in the survey, think that corruption is widespread in Kosovo. The lack of institutional mechanisms and unapplied laws are among basic sources of corruption, this survey concluded.

Journalists can not continue investigation on corruption because of the denial to have access in official documents, Koha Ditore journalist, Fatmire Terdevci stressed. Most of the panelists and participants agreed that Kosovo society needs the implementation of the anticorruption law, the prosecution of corrupted individuals, a strong broad based coalition and more debates, to achieve effective anti-corruption fight.

**ATRC, FDI and IREX roundtable****"Diplomacy, Negotiations and Civil Society"**

ATRC, FDI and IREX organized a roundtable meeting with Kosovo NGO representatives and Miroslav Lajčák, General Director for Political Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia on December the 6<sup>th</sup> at ATRC offices. The discussion was about the role of civil society in laying the ground work for a multiethnic Kosovo. Mr. Lajčák shared his country's experience focusing on Slovakian NGOs and their partner role with the government.

Director for Political Affairs in the Foreign Ministry of Slovakia stressed the important role civil society can play in strengthening the dialogue



Roundtable with NGO representatives and Mr. Lajčák at ATRC

and setting the pace for reconciliation and establishment of a multiethnic Kosovo.

"You should get out of clichés and start communicating real concrete things, how to live next to each other", Lajčák said.

NGO representatives mentioned that civil society played a good role in key processes in post war Kosovo, especially

in strengthening the interethnic dialogue.

Lajčák informed the participants that Slovakia offers to organize a meeting in Bratislava between Kosovo and Serbian NGOs in order to seek how NGOs from both sides are able to communicate with each other.

From 2001 till 2005, Miroslav Lajčák served as Ambassador of Slovakia to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (later Serbia and Montenegro), Albania and Macedonia.

Funding Opportunity for Kosovo NGOs that are interested to apply for Slovakian Government funds can be found on <http://www.foreign.gov.sk>

**NGO Flash News****All together against human trafficking**

Women Lawyers' Association "Norma" and the International Organization for Migration "IOM" held a workshop on October the 2<sup>nd</sup> at ATRC offices focusing on the purpose and target of the trafficking of human beings.

Participants, representing eight local NGOs from different towns of Kosovo and different ethnic groups, including Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian, Turkish and Roma analyzed different case studies of human trafficking.

In addition, they watched and discussed the film "Lilja 4-Ever", directed by Lukas Moodysson.

The film is a true story on a trafficking case about two children, Lilja and Volodya, who live in a country that was once part of Soviet empire.

UNMIK regulation 2001/4 "On the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons in Kosovo" was introduced to the participants, as well.

This regulation defines 'trafficking in persons' to mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits - "for the purpose of exploitation."

This workshop is part of the IOM project "All together against human trafficking".



The film "Lilja 4-Ever" directed by Lukas Moodysson

**New Appointment****Fatos Bytyçi is elected the new chairman of Association of Professional Journalists of Kosovo "APJK"**

Fatos Bytyçi, journalist of Radio and Television of Kosovo, was elected the new chairman of Association of Professional Journalists during the second assembly meeting on October the 23<sup>rd</sup> held at the Grand Hotel, Prishtine.

Bytyçi vowed that, during his one year mandate as the chairman of this association, will work hard to ensure better working conditions for all Kosovo journalists.

"We will work in favor of all journalists' interests for better protection, in order to put an end to the violence against journalists, cameramen and photo reporters", Bytyçi said. The assembly elected seven members of the board out of thirteen candidates.

Elected board members are: Fatos Bytyçi, Astrit Gashi, Syzana Bytyçi, Ibrahim Rexhepi, Lindita Camaj, Berat Buzhala dhe Artan Mustafa.

Representatives from USAID and International Federation of Journalists greeted APJK assembly.

"The role of all must be the protection of journalists and the improvement of their working conditions", Oliver Money, representative of the International Federation of Journalists said. The USAID Director of Democracy Office, Miles Toder told journalists that the public should appreciate the role of good journalism.

The Association of Professional



The voting in APJK

Journalists, established in 2002, is a nonprofit organization that aims to increase the professionalism of Kosovo journalists and media. This is the only Kosovo association that protects the rights of journalists and it has more than 360 members.

APJK is a member of International Federation of Journalists.

**Gender Studies Center sent to UN a report on violence against women in Kosovo**

**In cooperation with five Kosovo Women's Network members (Asebe, the Center for Protection of Women and Children, Safe House Gjakove and Women's Wellness Center), Kosovo Gender Studies Center compiled and sent to UN this report on October 15<sup>th</sup>, to inform them about violence against women in Kosovo. Excerpts from the report below contain good practices of Kosovo women in combating violence against women**

Kosovo women in civil society advocate for legislation against violence against women, provide counseling and aid to support women who suffer from violence, and raise awareness about the issue. A few examples of good practices are:

**Good Practices on Behalf of Safe Houses**

Following the war, the Center for Protection of Women and Children assisted 1,960 victims of war rape, including 29 young women who were helped to abort forced pregnancies from the war. Kosovo women in civil society have successfully established and maintained five safe houses in different regions of Kosovo.

*Kosovo Women Network Campaign against Violence against Women*



UN is doing a worldwide research on violence against women, including Kosovo

In 2001, this network coordinated a campaign, which utilized art and theatre to increase public knowledge about the problem of violence against women, including domestic violence, rape during wartime, date rape, trafficking, and prostitution.

**Lilja Forever Campaign**

In 2004, a coalition of local and international organizations coordinated the "Lilja

Forever" awareness-raising campaign about the trafficking of women and girls.

**Legal Support**

Kosovo women in civil society have organized legal support for victims of violence.

**Addressing Post-War Trauma among Men and Women**

Following the war, Kosovo activists provided psycho-social support to victims of violence. Activists noticed significantly lower levels of violence against women in areas where activists made a concentrated effort to work with traumatized men as well as women after the war.

*For the full report or more information, please contact the Kosovo Gender Studies Center at 038 540 719 or visit [www.kgscenter.org](http://www.kgscenter.org).*

**NGO Flash News****Security Sector Management**

Kosovo Institute for Policy Research and Development "KI-PRED" published on November the 7<sup>th</sup> a report on enhancing civilian management and oversight of the security sector in Kosovo. This Report Surveys the Provision and Oversight of Security in contemporary Kosovo, examining the ways in which the security architecture can be developed so that ordinary Kosovars have a meaningful say in its management and oversight. It begins by detailing the current deficit in civilian oversight in the territory before contrasting current arrangements with those of the recent past and identifying priorities that must be addressed if governance is to become more democratic in the future.

The argument is made that whatever its other merits, Kosovo's security architecture fails the democratic test since Kosovars continue to be at the receiving end of security services over which they have little ownership or control and they cannot therefore be said to be democratically or sustainably governed. Until the international administration in Kosovo deals with the exclusion and under-representation of Kosovars in the provision, management and oversight of security, the international community's peace support operation there cannot claim success. The avoidance of genuine local involvement and civilian democratic oversight after an initial period of stabilization has come to inhibit the political development of the territory, probably to the detriment of its long-term stability.

The report comes at a time when final status talks are beginning on Kosovo's future and when UNMIK has commissioned a ground-breaking 'Internal Security Sector Review', which aims to lay the foundations for an effective and democratically accountable security system in Kosovo. The difficult challenges that lie ahead for this review are a key focus for the report.

Full Text:

<http://www.kipred.net/UserFiles/File/SecSectorManagement.pdf>

**Active Citizenship****Avonet building a linking bridge between citizens of Ferizaj and their legislators****Interview with Avonet coordinator, Shaban Shabani**

Shaban Shabani is an active citizen of Ferizaj, whose involvement in important developments of civil society has directly affected the life of his community by bringing citizens and their legislators together to improve local community conditions.

Shaban's involvement in civil society issues began when he was 17 years old with activities to reconstruct a park in the centre of the town. Now, four years later, Shaban as a coordinator in advocating on behalf of Ferizaj citizens through the NGO net, Avonet, in order to bring significant improvement in the community life. Avonet impartially monitors the municipal assembly of Ferizaj in implementation of local laws and regulations. According to Shaban, this impartiality is the main reason

that Avonet is a successful and trusted NGO network.

"Avonet spent two years to build up the confidence in pu-

to be more responsive to citizens' concerns. These recommendations led to the Municipal Government's decision to open their meetings to the public. In addition, the assembly has appointed a youth officer who works with youth groups on their concerns.

Avonet also publishes voting records of assembly members to inform citizens on the positions taken by each councilor.

From the initial involvement in the reconstruction of a park till his current advocacy for greater public participation in decision making, Shaban's involvement in civil society activities has become an inseparable part of his daily life. He has a clear message for Kosovo civil society - "Unless you are active, your rights defined by law will never be realized".



Avonet, consisting of four Ferizaj NGOs, "Advocacy Center for Progress", "Handikos", "Youth Future" and "Etika", was founded in 2002.

blic and also to convince local authority to take us seriously", Shaban said.

Some of Avonet major achievements in Ferizaj have includes the opening the Municipal Committee on Policy and Finances to public, publishing 7 periodic and 2 yearly monitoring reports with specific recommendations to the local municipal assembly on ways

**Human Rights****Documentation of human rights through cinema****Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms "CDHRF" organized the sixth edition of International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights which, was held in Prishtina from December 5 - 10**

Thirty films were shown during the festival, most of them international.

"The icon of tears", has won the best Kosovo documentary film prize.

It is a film about Ferdane Çerkezi from Gjakova, whose four sons and husband are missing since the war in Kosovo. Despite the fact that the corpses of the dead are being brought back from Serbia on a

daily basis, she still hopes that her husband and sons will return alive.

"Seoul Train" has won the best international documentary film prize, which tells desperate attempts of the citizens of North Korea as they try to get out of their country.





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## *International Civil Society Developments*

### **Helsinki Commission Urges Russian Parliament to Rethink NGO Law**

**In a 370-18 vote, the State Duma approved on November 24<sup>th</sup> in the first reading the bill that would require all NGOs to re-register with a state commission**

The U.S. Helsinki Commission has urged Russia's parliament to rethink the law controlling non-governmental organizations.

In a letter to the speaker of the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, the Commission said the planned new law "would have a chilling effect on civil society in the Russian Federation, including the functioning of non-governmental organizations focused on human rights and democracy...and seriously undermine the rights of individuals in Russia to freedom of association."

Although the first reading of the proposed new law was passed, it but must go through several further readings and be signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin before it becomes law.

Mr. Putin has pledged to protect civil society amid this controversy about the activities of non-governmental organizations.

He said he would ensure that any steps taken would "not inflict damage on civil society in Russia".

NGOs in Russia say it will significantly curb their activities.

More than 1,000 NGOs have been urging the house to reject the bill.



Mr Putin is anxious about foreign funding of political groups in Russia

*Source: Helsinki Commission and BBC News, World Edition*

### **Croatia's innovative example of NGO/government partnership**

**Croatian Parliament in 2003 enacted the Law on the National Foundation for Civil Society Development, which is one of the most innovative examples of NGO/government partnership in the Central and Eastern Europe**

The Croatian Parliament enacted the Law on the National Foundation for Civil Society Development on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The enactment of the Law marks a critical step forward for the development of civil society

and the financial sustainability of NGOs in Croatia. Croatia's National Foundation for Civil Society Development is considered one of the most innovative examples of NGO and government partnership in the Central and Eastern Europe region. According to the Law, the Foundation is established as a public law whose mission is to serve and strengthen civil society in Croatia. The Foundation supports innovative programs as developed by NGOs and in-



Zagreb, the capital city of Croatia

formal, community-based initiatives. With financing from state budget funds, Croatian lottery funds, private donations, income from economic activities and certain other sources, the Foundation works to promote the sustainability of the sector, cross-sector cooperation, civic initiatives, philanthropy, and voluntarism. Core activities of the Foundation include: (1) education and publications, (2) grant giving, and (3) public awareness campaigns. The Foundation is governed

by a management board consisting of both government and civil society representatives; the majority of the board positions are reserved for civil society representatives. To ensure that grant-making

decisions, whether made by the National Foundation, the ministries, or the local governments, are made according to established standards of transparency, a Code of Good Practices for Grant Making has been prepared and adopted by Parliament, with The International Center for Not-For-Profit Law and USAID support.

*Source: The International Center For Not-For-Profit Law*