



ADVOCACY TRAINING  
& RESOURCE CENTER



# THE ADVOCATE

Supporting the NGO community

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## NGO funding opportunity

### ATRC Calls for NGO Proposals for Partnership and Networking Grants, round seven

ATRC announced on August 16 a Request for Applications (RFA) for the seventh 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 deve-

lopment or ethnic reconciliation and conflict mitigation.

Duration of these grants is 5 months. NGOs are eligible to apply for grant funding up to \$16,500. *The deadline for submitting proposals is September 03, 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, Prishtina, or downloaded from the website: [\[cacy-center.org\]\(http://cacy-center.org\).](http://www.advo-</a></p>
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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](mailto:grants@advocacy-center.org).*

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

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

## ATRC New Brochure

In August, ATRC published its new brochure aiming to provide brief and comprehensive information about ATRC. The brochure is a summary of ATRC profile, training and information services, grant-giving, public dialogue events, library, NGO directory and other resources.

*The brochure can be downloaded from [www.advocacy-center.org](http://www.advocacy-center.org)*



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## Environment and community

### Local and Central Government Institutions Agree to Mend Mirusha Riverbank - a result of "Agro Eco" advocacy efforts



*Riverbank of Mirusha,  
a river that runs through Gjilan region*

Mirusha is a river that runs through Municipality of Gjilan, Kosovo. Its water has been contaminated from the leakages of the sewage system and opposes serious threat for the health of communities which live around the river.

Repairing the sewage system and mending the riverbank, the NGO "Agro Eco" has identified as urgent issues in order to prevent the spread of contagious diseases and outbreak of epidemics.

"Agro Eco" is a recently established NGO from Gjilan that aims to protect environment in the Gjilan municipality, for cleaner and

more quality water for the region. Its main priority has been mending the riverbank of Mirusha.

"Agro Eco" focused its advocacy efforts on public awareness and education on environment protection, mobilizing active citizens' participation on decision making process, and influencing government's decisions towards mending the riverbank during the period 2007-2009.

As initial action "Agro Eco" organized open debates with citizens that are affected mostly by the situation, workshops about the importance of citizen's raising concerns for environmental protection and initiated radio debates to reach wider public in the Gjilan region.

Encouraged by citizens for a more prompt res-

ponse and the need for immediate actions, "Agro Eco" continued its advocacy towards governmental institutions.

As a result, Municipality Assembly of Gjilan and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning agreed to mend Mirusha riverbank and signed a memorandum of understanding dated May 4, 2007. The memorandum defines responsibilities, contribution and financial participation of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning with a total of 225.000 €, and 47,000.00 € by the Municipality Assembly of Gjilan.

"Communication with executive body of the Municipality and advocacy efforts to have impact on government's decisions, were the main challenges we faced during our work. However, we succeeded" Shahadije Rexhepi, director of "Agro Eco," stated.

*Agro - Eco's initiative was supported by ATRC and IREX.*

## NGO Opportunity for EU Funding

Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF) will organize training for Kosovo civil society representatives on September 3rd, 4th and 5th 2007, entitled "Application Procedures for EU Funding". Participants will have the chance to learn in depth about available EU funds for the region and particularly for Kosovo during 2007-2013. The workshop will focus on the main funding sources for Kosovo under IPA, CARDS, and



NGO grants.

Furthermore, the participants can learn about tendering procedures, project cycle management under

EU funded projects, reporting and auditing procedures of the projects funded by the European Commission.

The initiative is part of the project "Civil Society Organizations in Support of Kosovo's European and Regional Integration" implemented by KCSF and managed by the Agency for European Reconstruction.

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