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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)

## "Kosovo our Home"

### Civil Society Participates in Public Discussion on Draft "Spatial Plan for Kosovo 2005 - 2015+"

The Director of the Institute for Spatial Planning (ISP), Ilir Gjinolli, discussed the draft document "Spatial Plan for Kosovo 2005 - 2015+" with civil society representatives at a roundtable organized by ATRC on May 23.

Through a visual presentation, Gjinolli informed participants about the spatial development strategy of Kosovo, which is based on: a) development of a strong urban network for economic development, b) development and conservation of natural resources, and c) development of strategic links.

"The Spatial Plan is a document that should promote the common interests of Kosovo residents, accelerating economic development, improving the quality of life and simultaneously protecting natural resources and cultural heritage," Gjinolli said.

Throughout his presentation, Gjinolli emphasized that this document will remain flexible.

The Institute for Spatial Planning in the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning compiled this draft document. Presently, the public can participate in

suggesting revisions prior to the document being handed over to the government.

The Spatial Plan for Kosovo 2005 - 2015+, entitled "Kosovo our Home," is a result of joint efforts between the government, experts in different fields and civil society representatives, under the coordination of ISP.

*Citizens can send their comments or suggestions to: [komentet.planihapesinor@yahoo.com](mailto:komentet.planihapesinor@yahoo.com) or [komentet.planihapesinor@ks-gov.net](mailto:komentet.planihapesinor@ks-gov.net)*



## "Europe Wait for Us!"

On May 9, more than 50 children from Prishtina ended their carnival at the National Assembly office, holding European flags and cheering "Europe wait for us," to mark the Day of Europe.

The pupils of primary school "Faik Konica" met with Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu, who vowed that their future will be in Europe.

"Everyone calls Europe the old continent, but you children will make this continent younger," Sejdiu said.

NGO "INTEGRA" organized the carnival as part of its project called "Europe Wait for Us!". The project aims to promote freedom of movement, raise awareness

about the European integration process and initiate debates on this issue between citizens and governing structures of Kosovo.



*The meeting of Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu with dozens of children on the Day of Europe, May 9*

## New NGO Publication

### “Intelligence Agencies of Kosovo: Dismantling, Osmosis or Integration?”

The Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED) published a new policy brief about intelligence agencies in Kosovo on May 10.

The publication included information about political party intelligence agencies and challenges for one intelligence service for Kosovo, such as politicization, inter-governmental relations and designing an appropriate, enforceable legal framework. It also recommended principles for building Kosovo's future intelligence service, such as setting the legal framework, limiting responsibilities and designing accountability mechanisms.

“As the structure of Kosovo's future institutions is being discussed, it is only a matter of time until Kosovo's intelligence service is addressed. How current organizations are put to an end is essential for the development of new structures, which need to be built properly, on a legal footing, with a clear mandate and even clearer lines of accountability,” the publication said. This project was supported by Freedom House and USAID.

*The publication is available at [www.kipred.net](http://www.kipred.net)*

## NGO funding opportunities

### Olof Palme International Center Urges Kosovo NGOs to Submit Better Project Proposals

Coordinator of Olof Palme International Center in Prishtina, Levent Biçaku, informed local NGO repre-



Information about Olof Palme International Center's funds and application procedures can be found at [www.palmecenter.org](http://www.palmecenter.org)

sentatives about the Palme Center's programs at a meeting organized by ATRC on May 16. Biçaku outlined funding objectives and priorities, application procedures, as well as available funds for the Western Balkans.

“Funding priorities include democracy, human rights and peace,” Biçaku stated. He said that “Kosovo will be a hi-

gher priority for regional Palme Center funding.” He urged NGO representatives to submit better project proposals because “the chances of being funded depend on the quality of project proposals.” August 15 is the deadline to apply for Palme Center's this year funding.

Donor presentations are part of an ATRC program that seeks to link NGOs with funding opportunities and donors with NGOs that have similar interests.

## NGOs Discuss Decentralization Process

Lutfi Haziri, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government Administration, briefed local NGO representatives about the latest developments in the decentralization process in Kosovo, during a roundtable discussion on April 26. The meeting, organized by ATRC, aimed to discuss civil society's contribution towards the

decentralization process.

Haziri emphasized that the Kosovo government and Serbia are discussing local government administration reforms to better serve the needs of all citizens.

“The principals of the Kosovo delegation regarding decentralization are based on interethnic relations for an integrated environ-

ment,” he said.

Decentralization based on a multiethnic society sets the pace for functional and financially sustainable municipalities, Haziri noted. He referred to good decentralization practices in Macedonia and Slovenia.

Participants commented that Kosovo would be unstable if it were to be separated ethnically.

## Civil Society Continues Contribution towards Accountable Governance in Kosovo

On May 12, ATRC organized a roundtable discussion between Ramush Haradinaj, leader of the political party “Aleanca për Ardhmërinë e Kosovës - AAK,” and local non-governmental organizations to discuss the latest political developments in Kosovo.

Haradinaj praised the role that civil society has played in successful developments in Kosovo, urging it to “continue its

contribution towards better and more accountable governance.”

Participants suggested that political parties should better understand the role and importance of civil society. They mentioned the problems Kosovo society is facing, such as unemployment, student protests at the University of Prishtina and corruption in public institutions.



Ramush Haradinaj discusses the latest political developments in Kosovo with local NGOs on May 12

## NGO Initiated Debates

### “Kosovo in Europe”

ATRC and Youth Initiative for Human Rights organized on May 18 a discussion between Stephen Heintz, President of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) and civil society representatives, entitled “Kosovo in Europe.” The discussion focused on developments regarding negotiations about the future status of Kosovo, European Union integration, interethnic relations and the role and contribution of civil society in supporting official dialogue.

“RBF will continue to focus primarily on Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro, while reserving flexibility to support exceptional regional and cross-frontier efforts,” Heintz said.

For more information, see [www.rbf.org](http://www.rbf.org)



Representatives of RBF and civil society discuss situation in Kosovo on May 18

### “Interethnic Dialogue”

Civil society and government representatives discussed on May 11 the issue of interethnic dialogue, which they consider to be a precondition for stability and prosperity in Kosovo. This issue was discussed at a cross sector roundtable meeting, held in Prishtina and organized by the Western Balkan Initiative.

For more information, contact the Western Balkan Initiative: 038 247 689

## Farmers Cross Ethnic Lines, Form Cooperative

Serbian and Albanian farmers have lived side by side as neighbors in Rahovec municipality for decades. They tended their land and sold their products independently. With only a bit of land, sometimes selling their products was difficult.

“Collecting and selling agricultural products is very difficult for farmers. A cooperative provides farmers with a place to collect and distribute products, which enables them to sell their products more easily,” Sylejman Balaj, a farmer and President of the cooperative Agrokop, said.

The Kosova Development Center (KDC), a NGO from Gjakova that seeks to improve the social economy of agricultural communities, began a project to support cooperation between different ethnic groups in Rahovec last fall.

KDC facilitated meetings between farmers of different ethnic groups; offered trainings on agriculture, which they could attend together; and, tried to provide

support wherever it was needed. KDC also assisted the farmers in preparing their statute so that they could register.

“They decided to work together,” KDC Executive Director Ismet Isufi explained. “We didn’t push them. We just supported them.” He explained that communities must choose to come together on their own. While NGOs can support this, they cannot force this process, he said.

After nearly six months of informal talks, 20 farmers from Rahovec formally registered their agricultural cooperative, “Agrokop,” in May. In order for it to work, each farmer had to give their land, some money and agree to organize together.

The cooperative is the first of its kind in Kosovo. The Executive Director is Marjon Šaciq, a Serb, and the President is Sylejman Balaj, an Albanian. There are eight Serb and twelve



“A cooperative enables farmers to sell their products more easily”

Albanian members.

“The cooperative will employ new people in agricultural services, bring farmers together and provide them with trainings and consultancy,” Balaj said.

Working together has many benefits for the farmers. They can buy inputs and prepare their land together, which will decrease individual farmers’ costs. By pooling their products, they can sell to larger buyers and make more income. Their agreement can motivate other communities to work together in the future, according to Isufi.

This project was made possible with support from the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives and funded by USAID.

## Kosovo Journalists Protest on World Press Freedom Day

Dozens of Kosovo journalists protested the new Administrative Instruction for implementing the Law on Access to Official Documents for a half hour in front of the government building in Prishtina.

The Association of Professional Journalists of Kosovo (APJK) organized the protest to mark World Press Freedom Day on May 3.

“The Administrative Instruction does not fulfill the purpose it should; it does not enable easy access to



World Press  
Freedom Day



official documents,” Fatos Bytyçi, Chairman of APJK said.

As a sign of dissatisfaction with the Administrative Instruction, signed in April by

the Ministry of Public Services, journalists at the protest threw copies of this instruction into a garbage bin and burnt them.

World Press Freedom Day was first proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 at a time when new democracies emerging from the Cold War were beginning their struggles to overhaul their former system of governance. It aimed to highlight one of the most important institutions to be developed - a free press.



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## NGO Anticorruption Coalition Distributes Posters, Warns that Kosovo Can Become “A Banana Republic”

The Anticorruption Coalition distributed posters throughout Kosovo on May 8, informing citizens about the risks that the incumbent corrupt political structure presents. The activity is part of a campaign implemented by the “Organization for Democracy, Anticorruption and Dignity - Çohu” and its local NGO partners.

The posters read “United around Corruption” and “Banana Republic of Kosovo,” which “intend to show the contradiction between patriotic phrases used by politicians and the real jeopardy in which Kosovo finds itself on its route towards a quasi-mobster manner of governance,” the media announcement issued by Çohu said.

The Anticorruption Coalition was established on May 4 and includes the following local NGOs: Çohu, Urban FM, Llap Civic Initiative, Initiative for Peace, Youth Center of Dragash, Fisnikët, Elita, Kcic, Alarm Movement, KEK Independent Trade-Union, Syri i Vizionit, Avonet and Community Building Mitrovica.

For more information, contact [organizata-cohu@yahoo.com](mailto:organizata-cohu@yahoo.com)



### Building Trust in NGOs

#### Greater Public Trust Can be Built by Adopting Codes of Conduct

Among the general public, there is greater trust of groups who do not place profit as their number one goal. NGOs are therefore more trusted than companies. Trust is a non-displaceable and vital part of relationships and the image of NGOs.

Public trust of NGOs comes from two main sources: performance and accountability. Performance means the useful social value placed on projects which support positive and enduring change. NGO codes of conduct are one tool that can support accountability.

NGOs should adopt codes of conduct for two reasons. They can defend NGOs against criticisms of being secretive, non-transparent about funding sources, less than rigorous with management procedures and practices

and without democratic processes. By establishing definite standards of ethical behavior, corporate governance and financial transparency, codes enable NGOs to build their support bases and give them greater credibility and authority in their activities.

NGOs in several countries now work under codes of conduct.



Source: Global Development Research Center

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