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THE ADVOCATE

Supporting the NGO community

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

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ATRC town hall meetings

Kosovo Decision Makers Call Citizens to Maintain Peace and Stability during Status Settlement Process



The Prime Minister, Agim Ceku, gives explanations to Prishtina citizens about Kosovo status settlement process on May 22

Representatives of local and central government, NGO, media and business sector in five regions of Kosovo had the opportunity to gather information, make their concerns heard, and ask questions about the Kosovo status settlement process, through five town hall meetings organized by ATRC in May.

Regional town hall meetings in Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja, Gjilan and Ferizaj aimed to further and widely inform the opinion about the outcome of status settlement, which followed twenty-nine community roundtable meetings held in February and March.

The meetings also infor-

med civil society organizations and citizens about the proposal of Martti Ahtisaari, UN Secretary General Envoy in Charge of the Negotiations on the future status of Kosovo.

Local decision-makers and foreign diplomats called citizens to maintain peace and stability at the time when status for the future of Kosovo is in its final phase.

"We've made compromises. Ahtisari's proposal is a good balance. It proposes Kosovo become a state," Prime Minister Agim Çeku said at the Prishtina meeting on May 22. The proposal consists of protecting mechanisms for minority rights whether they are individual or political, Çeku added.

The Head of British Office in Kosovo, David Blunt, stated that Ahtisaari's package is the result of compromise

and divergent views. According to Blunt, the package represents the views of majority and the need for protection of minorities.

Future resolution of UN Security Council for Kosovo, Russian role in the status settlement process, challenges of implementing Ahtisari's package and functionality of Kosovo state, and decentralization process were main issues of concern raised by participants.



A citizen raises concerns about the outcome of Kosovo status settlement on May 22

For the full status proposal, visit www.unosek.org

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NGO Exhibition to "Discover Prishtina"

Young artists of Prishtina exhibited research and analyzing data about Prishtina's history and culture in an attempt to raise public awareness and participation for its city's urban environment, during a two-week exhibition on May 11-25 at Kosovo Museum.

The interactive exhibition, organized by the local NGO "Initiatives in Recovery and Development in Kosova - IRDK" under the "Discover Prishtina" project, involved citizens into dialogue about their relationship with home environment, their city's past, present and future.

According to IRDK, the exhibition aimed to engage people in promoting positive development in Prishtina by bringing together representatives of diverse sectors of community.

The "Discover Prishtina" exhibition was supported by ATRC and IREX under Kosovo Civil Society Program.



Participants at the "Discover Prishtina" exhibition on May 11

For more information contact: discoverycenter@gmail.com or visit: www.discoverycenter-ks.net.

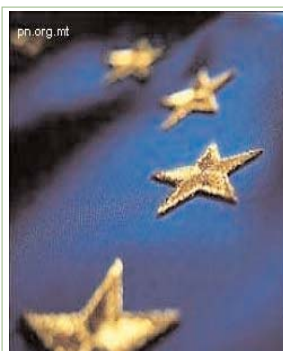
NGO funding opportunities

Olof Palme International Center Launches Its Yearly Round of Funding

Civil society organizations interested in receiving financial support for their projects are invited to submit proposals for Palme Center's funding for 2008

Coordinator of Olof Palme International Center in Prishtina, Levent Biçaku, informed local NGO representatives about the Palme Center's programs at two roundtable meetings organized by ATRC on May 10 and 11 in Prishtina and Mitrovica. Biçaku outlined funding objectives and priorities, application procedures, as well as available funds for Kosovo.

The Olof Palme International Center, a Swedish based organization, launched its yearly round of funding in May under the Western Balkans Program, funded by the Swedish Development Agency - Sida.



During 2008-2010, the Palme Center will focus its funding on citizens' participation in decision making, and ability of civil society organizations and local administrations to fully benefit from and participate in the process of EU accession

"Funding priorities include democracy, human rights and peace," Biçaku stated.

He urged NGO representatives to submit better project proposals because "the chances of being funded depend on the quality of proposals."

The Palme Center works for a free, peaceful and democratic world in which human rights are respected, Biçaku added.

For information about Olof Palme International Center's funds and application visit: www.palmecenter.org (click 'Western Balkan program') or contact Palme Center's Kosovo office: levent.bicaku@palmecenter.se.

Rockefeller Brothers Fund Supports Sustainable Development in Kosovo

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund is a philanthropic organization working to promote social change

ATRC organized two roundtable meetings between local NGOs and the representative of Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) for the Western Balkans, Haki Abazi, on May 17 and 18 in Prishtina and Mitrovica.

Abazi introduced RBF grant programs which are organized around four themes: democratic practice; sustainable development; peace and security; and human advancement.

"The Rockefeller Brothers Fund has been engaged in grant making in Kosovo since 2003. The Fund now concentrates its grant making on two of its programmatic themes: democratic

practice and sustainable development," Abazi said.

"This reflects the RBF's assessment that helping build tolerant and pluralistic democracy and promote sustainable development in the region, represent top priorities for significant impact".

How to apply, grant making process and additional information about RBF programs can be found on www.rbf.org.



Rockefeller Brothers Fund organized a conference on April 12-14 in New York about Kosovo future. In photo: President Clinton addressing the conference participants.

The donor presentation was part of an ATRC program that seeks to link NGOs with funding opportunities and donors with NGOs that have similar interests.

Local development planning

Making Ferizaj a Better Town

Representatives of local governments, informal councils, civil society, international organizations and experts gathered to discuss public participation in the context of local development planning in Ferizaj.

They met on May 23 at the roundtable discussion "Translating Democracy into Good Governance, from the Planning Perspective," organized by UN Habitat in partnership with ATRC. Participants focused discussion on ways and mechanisms to push forward civil society engagement in planning process as one of the principles of good governance, and an essential component of strategic local development planning.

They agreed that civil society ideas should be incorporated in planning documents.

The roundtable served as an opportunity of experience sharing between civil society organizations and local government authorities in finding solution for a wider civil society engagement in decision-making processes.



The town of Ferizaj, Kosovo

For more information: contact info@unhabitat-kosovo.org

Transparency and public information

Human Rights Radio Network Promotes Transparency on Local Level



Human Rights Radio Network monitors official vehicles usage in six municipalities of Kosovo

Officials in the Municipality of Prizren used public vehicles without any regulation/administrative instruction that would authorize rules and purposes of vehicle usage in Prizren. This was the case until March 2007 when Municipal Assembly adopted the "Regulation for Official Vehicles Usage in the Municipality of Prizren," as a result of ad-

vocacy efforts of Radio Network for Human Rights (RNHR).

Prizren is not the only municipality where RNHR advocates for transparency, but it is its major success.

Radio Network for Human Rights is implementing a project entitled "Transparency and the Right for Public Information about Official Documents" which covers six Kosovo municipalities: Prishtina, Fushw Kosova/Kosovo Polje, Klina, Mitrovica, Prizren and Kamënica.

The project aims to advance processes of trans-

parency on local level through media in reaching public. "The impact of RNHR on the work of Municipality of Prizren is a good indicator for the role media must play in law implementation by decision-makers for the benefit of citizens," Ekrem Qitaku, director of RNHR, said.

Eight radio stations from different regions of Kosovo representing all ethnic communities are part of the network: Vala Rinore, Yeni Donem, Contact Plus, Radio Kamënica, Radio Peja, Radio K, Kent Fm and Radio Contact.

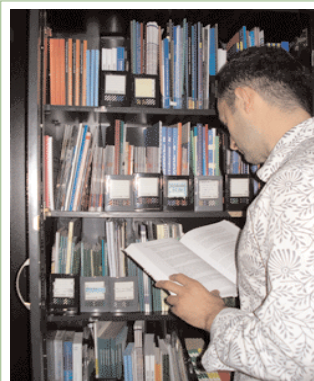
For more information, contact: rdnvalarinore@gmail.com

ATRC Library Updated with New Titles

One hundred and seventy new titles were added to ATRC library in April and May. Totally, the library hosts more than 800 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.

It holds publications and training materials in English, Albanian, and Serbian in the fields of management, advocacy and lobbying, social, economic,



ATRC library hosts more than 800 titles of books, reports and other materials in English, Albanian and Serbian languages

political, legal and health problems, gender, and the environment. The library also contains an interesting

collection of studies, reports, and directories on issues of political, economic, and social development in Kosovo published by local and international organizations.

ATRC will continue to update its library therefore different institutions and organizations are welcomed to contribute with their new publications by contacting info@advocacy-center.org or 038 244 810.

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.



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Public services

Kosovo Municipalities to be Reformed, NGOs say

Municipality officials and NGOs discussed public services of municipalities during five workshops held in April and May in five Kosovo regions, organized by Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) and supported by IREX, ATRC, UNDP and OSCE.

The workshops aimed to share good practices on public information, partici-

pation, consultation and equal opportunities, define municipal competences and strengthen cooperation between municipalities.

"For citizens it is not clear which services their municipality provide," Sazan Ibrahimimi, director of AKM said, referring to public perception of municipal services.

According to NGO representatives, local govern-

ment needs reformation.

The result of workshops will be published in a brochure, which will serve as a guideline for implementation of best practices by Kosovo municipalities.

For more information, visit www.komunat-ks.net

NGO funding opportunity

Swiss Contact Supports Agro Business and Tourism in the Dukagjini Region of Kosovo

The Swiss Contact office in Gjakova announced a tender in May for Kosovo NGOs to apply for projects in two sectors: agro business and tourism, under Women Business Development Project (WBDP) funded by Swiss Government.

WBDP aims to empower women economically through marketing and de-

veloping of services by local providers to women in the Dukagjini region. Financial contribution is maximum 4.000 € per project.

Deadline for application is June 11, 2007

For further information and application form, contact: 0390 24 290



NGO announcement

Youth Initiative for Human Rights Offers Internships for Students

The Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), office in Kosovo, has announced internships available for students and recent graduates during June-December 2007.

Interns will gain diverse

experience while working at YIHR, engaging in a variety of activities while contributing to general office tasks. Through their work, interns will have opportunities to gain knowledge about human rights

and practice the knowledge they have acquired during their studies or professional careers; and have the opportunity to attend different events as well as make new contacts.

For descriptions of general requirements, duties and responsibilities, the duration of internships and application instructions, call: 038 248 509 or email: ksoffice@yihhr.org

