



Advocacy Training & Resource Center

2 0 0 3 A N N U A L R E P O R T



www.advocacy-center.org



Advocacy Training & Resource Center

bringing out the advocate in everyone

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EAST • WEST
MANAGEMENT
INSTITUTE



Foundation for Democratic Initiative



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) was established two years ago as a key implementing partner for the USAID/EWMI Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project (KNAP). Within KNAP, our goal was to create a vibrant advocacy resource center that would increase the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to become advocates for change in Kosovo's decision-making processes. In the initial stages we focused on providing training, resources, and a platform where NGOs and decision-makers could meet and discuss issues at the forefront of Kosovo's development. As Kosovar NGO's capacity grew and they began to tackle more complex issues that lead towards good governance, ATRC responded by providing more advanced training in advocacy and public policy and by revising our mission to bring us to this "next level". While continuing to provide training, ATRC saw the need to take a lead in developing and implementing advocacy campaigns, such as guiding a coalition in drafting and advocating for the adoption of the Freedom of Information Act.

As a result of our work and our partner the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives' (FDI) grant giving program, there are currently more than 50 NGOs knocking on governing institutions' doors with draft regulations, laws, and policy analysis that will lead to a more accountable and transparent government. ATRC and its partners are united in assuring that Kosovo adopt and implement the principles of democracy.

Clearly there has been substantial progress in transforming NGOs from service providers to issue-driven actors of change. Nevertheless, one cannot ignore the fact that Kosovo is still going through times of great political uncertainty. This is best exemplified by Kosovo's unique governing structure where the lines of authority and responsibility between UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Provisional Institutions of Self Government (PISG) remain unclear. Consequently, issue driven NGOs often find themselves stuck in a governing maze of finger pointing. This was illustrated by the March 2004 violence between Albanians and Serbs where both local and international governing institutions focused their energy on blame rather than on finding a solution.

Although we have made progress in engaging civil society with mainly municipal level decision makers, much work lies ahead. Rather than resting on our laurels, ATRC will take a lead in meeting the new challenges in Kosovo's democratic development. While continuing our efforts at the municipal level, ATRC will increase campaigns at the national level. This will include advocating for more accountable elected and appointed officials (UNMIK Principal International Officers), by campaigning for public participation in the drafting of policies and laws, holding elected officials accountable by campaigning for an open election law, expanding our Freedom of Information Act program, and increasing our anti-corruption activities. Our objective is to assure that the rule of law and civic monitoring prevent elected and appointed officials from using their positions as an opportunity rather than a responsibility. These objectives will be achieved by strengthening our current network and including regional and Western based partners.

The activities and successes outlined in this annual report are the result of a committed staff and dedicated partners. We look forward to the new challenges involved with bringing out the advocate in everyone.

Sincerely,



Kreshnik Bemsha
ATRC Director

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT US

The Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) is based on the belief that an informed citizenry is the key to a democratic society, such as Kosovo is striving to become. Based in Prishtina, ATRC trains and assists non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Kosovo to professionalize their work, articulate their demands and press government structures for change. The main goals of ATRC are:

- To help Kosovar NGOs engage in successful advocacy by regularly providing information on opportunities for advocacy efforts (such as upcoming legislation, government decrees, and UN programs), Kosovar, Balkan, and global advocacy initiatives, organizational structures, and the responsibilities of local and international bodies;
- To strengthen cooperation among Kosovar NGOs by providing information about networking opportunities;
- To facilitate the exchange of information and resources among NGOs in Kosovo, the Balkans, and globally; and
- To provide Kosovar NGOs with information on human and financial resources available in Kosovo and abroad.

In order to achieve these goals, ATRC hosts a library with publications on social, political, and economic issues related to Kosovo and the Balkans. It organizes public debates and legislative briefings on pressing issues in Kosovo. ATRC also coordinates the 27-member Kosovar Advocacy NGOs Network (AvoKo), which engages in Kosovo-wide advocacy campaigns that focus mainly on democratic development and public participation.

ABOUT OUR DONORS

In order to carry out the projects and programs described in this report, ATRC depends upon financial and personnel services provided by our donors:

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
www.usaid.gov

East-West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI)
www.ewmi.org

Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI)
www.fdi-kosovo.org

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
www.acdi-cida.gc.ca

Care International (CARE)
www.careinternational.org.uk

International IDEA (IDEA)
www.idea.int

IPKO Institute (IPKO)
www.ipkoinstitute.org

ABOUT OUR PARTNERS

Our partners make possible the implementation of programs and projects by providing advice, training, expertise, and mentoring. ATRC works closely with the following organizations:

East-West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI) - www.ewmi.org

EWMI, a U.S. not-for-profit organization, promotes legal and economic reform in developing and transitional economies through technical assistance in privatization, legal and regulatory reform, institutional development, enterprise restructuring, and capital markets development. In addition, recognizing the importance of functioning civil society in strengthening the economic and legal reform processes, EWMI promotes the development of non-governmental organizations by providing grants, training, and international networking opportunities.

Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI) - www.fdi-kosovo.org

FDI is a Kosovo-based, Kosovar-run foundation that gives money to nongovernmental organizations and associations working to establish a prosperous, democratic and tolerant society. FDI supports: accountability and transparency in government, the inclusion of women, minorities and youth, training in organizational management, and environmental protection.

International Center for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL) - www.icnl.org

ICNL is an international not-for-profit organization that facilitates and supports the development of civil society and the freedom of association. ICNL assists in creating and improving laws and regulatory systems that permit, encourage, and sustain voluntary, independent, not-for-profit organizations in countries around the world.

Kosovar Institute for NGO Law (IKDO) - www.ikdo.org

IKDO is a Kosovar organization that promotes nongovernmental organization (NGO) Law as an important mechanism toward the development of civil society and the freedom of association in Kosovo. IKDO, in cooperation with other domestic and international organizations, supports the development of a legal system that protects the independence and long-term sustainability of the NGO sector in Kosovo.

Shevolution - www.shevolution.com

Shevolution is a consultancy wing of Eyecatcher Associates set up to develop systems, services, and media for women and men to work together as equals in work, life, and politics. Shevolution designs and implements training programs, needs assessment reports, and communication initiatives all over the world. Shevolution works with private sector organizations, public sector organizations, international organizations, political parties, NGOs and community groups.

Article 19 - www.article19.org

Named after Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19 works worldwide to combat censorship by promoting freedom of expression and access to official information. With partners in over 30 countries, they work to strengthen local capacity to monitor and protest institutional and informal censorship. Article 19 monitors, researches, publishes, lobbies, campaigns, and litigates on behalf of freedom of expression wherever it is threatened. They develop standards to advance media freedom, assist individuals to speak out, and campaign for the free flow of information.

Other Partners

ATRC has also developed close working relations with the Albanian National Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center (ANTTARC); Care International Kosovo; the Center for Gender Training and Research; Kosovar Research and Documentation Institute (KODI); Kosovo Exporting Agency; MJAFT! (Albania); NAAC-Hope Fellowship; SFERA-Institute for Social and Policy Studies; and Stay In Partners (SIpar).

ABOUT OUR LATEST INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

After operating under the auspices of FDI for a transition period, ATRC became a fully independent organization in August 2003. After becoming an independent NGO, ATRC and FDI reached and signed an Agreement of Cooperation. ATRC has since established the ATRC Board consisting of prominent local and international actors from non-governmental and governmental organizations (see page).

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The ATRC 2003 Annual Report gives an overview of the projects and programs that ATRC has undertaken from October 2002 through December 2003. For more detailed information about ATRC or any of its programs you can contact ATRC directly through the directory at the end of this publication or you can go to the ATRC website: www.advocacy-center.org where up-to-date information is available.





ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The ATRC Advocacy Program aims to enhance the role of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in advocacy by helping to transform them from reactive service providers into proactive agents of change. In an effort to ensure greater citizen participation in the development of Kosovar democratic institutions and practices, ATRC supports those effecting change in the political, social and economic structures both in Kosovo and throughout the region by providing a forum for networking, information-sharing, and grass roots activism. During 2003, ATRC was involved in the following advocacy projects.

Freedom of Information

The 27-member Kosovo NGO Advocacy Network –AvoKo, with ATRC at the helm, actively participated in drafting the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in Kosovo. ATRC organized the Freedom of Information (FOI) Group, consisting of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Kosovar Institute for NGO Law (IKDO), the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), and AvoKo, to influence the Prime Minister's Legal Office's work on drafting the FOIA.

FOIA was adopted by the Kosovo Assembly and promulgated by the UN Special Representative of Secretary General (SRSG) in November 2003. The promulgation marked the conclusion of the drafting process that started when NDI introduced the preliminary FOIA draft to the Kosovar public in spring 2002. Adoption of the FOIA law paved the way for ATRC's future projects, which will aim towards implementing the Freedom of Information Act.

In order to secure regional know-how and support in implementing the law, ATRC joined forces with partners in the Balkans and worldwide. On September 10, 2003, ATRC became a member of an informal regional coalition on the freedom of information. The coalition was established by Article 19 (UK) and consists of NGOs working on FOIAs in Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia, and Kosovo. As a coalition member, ATRC will implement an eighteen-month European Commission-funded project on the implementation of the FOIA in Kosovo.

ATRC also became a member of the world-wide Freedom of Information Advocates Network (FOIA Network). The FOIA Network unified representatives of national and international nongovernmental organizations working in the field of Freedom of Information. The network currently has 17 members from various regions and countries.

Dairy Association Advocacy Project

With a grant from Care International Kosovo, ATRC carried out a thirteen-week advocacy capacity building project for the Association of Milk Producers and Processors of Kosovo, which it completed in the end of June 2003.



**Our House, Our Colors:
Transparency in Economic Development Advocacy Project**

With a small grant from East-West Management Institute, Inc. and in cooperation with the Gjiilan Municipality, ATRC implemented the Transparency and Economic Development Project: Phase 1 – Mapping the Property. The campaign, informally entitled “Our House, Our Colors” initiated and stimulated dialogue between the municipality, citizens, and central governing institutions.

The “Our House, Our Colors” campaign challenged Kosovo Trust Agency (KTA) control of municipal land and development. The campaign included the creation of three billboards and 3000 fliers with a multi-colored map that illustrated if property was municipally, socially or privately owned, as defined by KTA, United Nations Mission in Kosovo, and the municipality. The fliers provided contact information for each governing agency. The maps assisted businesses, potential investors, municipal officials, and citizens in identifying potential areas for development.

The project accomplished two major goals. First, it improved the process of local government reform by including all stake-holders in the process and opening the way for municipalities to establish economic development programs. Second, it outlined the responsibilities of the two levels of government in Kosovo: the United Nations and Kosovo-elected bodies.

The project also initiated debate regarding the division of local and central government and tested the willingness of municipal representatives and the central government to address decentralization issues.

INFORMATION PROGRAM

The ATRC Information Program facilitates the exchange of information and experience among Kosovar NGOs and among leading advocacy groups throughout Europe by organizing public discussions, elevating the public image of NGOs, hosting a library and resource center, creating easy-to-use citizen's manuals, and publishing a monthly newsletter.

Advocacy Publications

Through the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) Kosovo Local Initiative Program, FDI coordinated with its partners to design three reader-friendly publications. First, FDI worked with East-West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI) and the International Center for Not for Profit Law (ICNL) to produce the "Citizen's Guide to How the Governing Authorities Work", which used a soccer metaphor to illustrate Kosovo's governing structures. Then, in cooperation with the Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC), EWMI, and Shevolution, FDI published the "NGO Guide to Working with the Media" and the "Advocacy Training Manual." These publications provided citizens with practical knowledge that they could use for greater participation in working towards a more democratic society. The publications were available in Albanian and Serbian and were distributed throughout Kosovo.

Public Discussions

ATRC holds monthly public discussions and legislative briefings in an effort to inform NGOs about initiatives they can undertake; provide a forum for the exchange of experience and ideas; provide expertise for NGOs on different issues; provide networking opportunities for NGOs; inform the public of civil society's activities; and discuss social, economic, and political matters of interest in Kosovo. When appropriate, ATRC invites the media in order to ensure that the information shared at public discussions reaches a wider audience. Therefore local and national television stations, newspapers, and radio stations have covered nearly all of ATRC's public discussions. From October 2002 through December 2003, ATRC held 16 public discussions where the following topics were discussed.

Benchmarks before Status November 2002

ATRC organized a legislative briefing with UNMIK officials on "Benchmarks before Status". At the briefing, UNMIK representatives presented the eight benchmarks Kosovo must achieve, according to the UN, in order for negotiations regarding Kosovo's final status to begin. KNAP representatives and more than 20 NGO representatives attended.



How Municipalities Work: Lessons from the Region Seminar February 6, 2003

ATRC organized a one-day seminar on in cooperation with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and with the help of EWMI/KNAP Chief Party. The seminar identified and prioritized issues pertaining to good governance at the municipal level. At the conclusion of the seminar, participants were invited to apply for a grant from FDI/KNAP. International IDEA also financially supported the FDI funded projects, including analyzing, developing, and advocating for good governance at the municipal level. More than 50 representatives of local NGOs, international NGOs and agencies, and local government representatives attended and presented at the seminar.

Increasing Accountability – Lessons from the UK April 2, 2003

At the Gjakova NGO Resource Center, Lesley Abdela, a KNAP trainer of trainers from Eyecatcher Associates / Shevolution, presented models for anti-secrecy/anti-corruption bodies that could be used in Kosovo to increase accountability and transparency among the provisional institutions of self-governance (PISG) and UNMIK.

Health Policy Analysis Legislative Briefing May 8, 2003

Fatime Arënlju Qosaj spoke about her KNAP-funded health-policy-analysis project. The progress report given by Mrs. Qosaj stimulated an interesting debate on Kosovo's health sector.



Tax Evasion Public Discussion May 22, 2003

Bedri Peci, an expert on tax issues, gave a presentation on the grave situation concerning tax evasion and tax policy in Kosovo. Mr. Peci quoted a finding by the Viennese Institute for International Economic Comparisons that 50 percent of fuel (petrol and diesel) in Kosovo is smuggled. This sparked a series of counter-statements by Customs Officials in the media. This debate occurred as The Forum, a local NGO, was conducting a project on the Customs Authority in Kosovo, making it possible for The Forum's 200 observers to look closer into the issue. The hot debate on taxes was covered by RTK and was aired on all news programs.

The Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code Legislative Briefing June 24, 2003

Agnieszka Klonowiecka-Milart, an UNMIK International Judge at the Prishtina District Court and Ismet Salihu, a member of the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code drafting group presented the two codes at the legislative briefing. The discussion facilitated dialogue between UNMIK Pillar 1 and municipal and regional Judges and Lawyers Chamber representatives.

European Convention on Human Rights July 18, 2003

Alan Simmons, from the Criminal Defense Resource Centre (CDRC) introduced the European Convention on Human Rights to participants from local NGOs. Officials from Pillar I – Department of Justice attended the event.

Health Policy Analysis Report August 26, 2003

Fatime Arënlju Qosaj presented findings from her KNAP-funded health-policy-analysis project to representatives from the Health Ministry, Parliament and Health Institutions. The report given by Mrs. Qosaj stimulated a debate on the situation of Health in Kosovo.

Privatization Process in Kosovo September 12, 2003

ATRC organized this discussion in cooperation with Kosovo Trust Agency, Kosovo Trade Union Association (BSPK) and Riinvest. Teki Shehu, a legal advisor for KTA and Arten Bajrush, Public Relations Officer for KTA, presented on the privatization process. The KTA representatives discussed issues such as the privatization process' latest developments, challenges toward achieving the desirable goals, and plans for upcoming months/years. A representative from BSPK, Ali Dragusha, questioned how the privatization process benefits factory workers. Mr. Dragusha and Muhamet Sadiku, the moderator from Riinvest, gave perspectives that differed from KTA's.



**Taking a Case to the European Human Rights Court
September 26, 2003**

ATRC organized this discussion in cooperation with Criminal Defense Resource Center (CDRC) and the Council for Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms (CDHRF). Alan Simmons from CDRC and Gazmend Nushi from CDHRF detailed how a person, group or political party can bring a case to the European Human Rights Court in Strasbourg. As a lawyer, Mr. Nushi illustrated the exact procedures for making a claim; he described a case CDHRF submitted to the Court, representing a Kosovar family against KFOR.

Code of Conduct October 16, 2003

Amy Horton from the International Center for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL) and Gjyljeta Mushkolaj from the Kosovar Institute for NGO Law (IKDO) led a workshop held at ATRC on the necessary steps for and potential benefits of writing a code of conduct. Representatives from the Kosova NGO Advocacy Network (AvoKo) attended the discussion.

Press Conference for Release of FDI 2001-2002 Annual Report October 22, 2003

ATRC and FDI organized a press conference where FDI presented their 2001-2002 Annual Report. USAID Mission Director Dale Pfeiffer and KNAP Chief of Party Fron Nazi spoke at the event. The event was covered by the three national television stations RTK, KTV and RTV21 as well as by two main daily newspapers: Epoka e Re and Koha Ditore.

KODI Publication Promotion November 18, 2003

In November, the Kosovar Research and Documentation Institute (KODI), a Prishtina-based think-tank, presented their policy analysis report entitled Kosovar Assembly: For the People or for the Party at an ATRC public discussion. The study and report, funded by KNAP/FDI, analyzed how a policy/law is drafted and implemented and the key governing institutions and players involved in the drafting process. More than 50 participants comprised of journalists, academics, NGO representatives and local and international governing authorities attended the discussion.

**Public Participation Regulation at the Local Level
December 2, 2003**

ATRC and the Kosovar Institute for NGO Rights (IKDO) organized a public discussion to discuss the process by which the recent regulation on public participation in the municipal decision-making process was drafted and to exchange their successes and challenges in drafting the regulation. Gjyljeta Mushkolaj, the director of IKDO who facilitated work on the project in all municipalities, moderated the discussion.

Human Rights and Gender December 12, 2003

To address the vibrant discussions revolving around the Kosovo delegation's decision to walk out of talks when they were given a translator with a head covering, ATRC organized a public discussion that aimed to discuss the social and political issues surrounding the event. Delina Fico, Country Coordinator for STAR Network of World Learning, opened the discussion. She stressed that it was more than a human rights issue—it also involved political and religious issues, making the situation quite complex.

Lessons Learned: Slovakia December 17, 2003

ATRC and FDI organized a public discussion on NGO and KNAP grantee experiences during their study visit to Slovakia where NGOs visited Slovakian NGOs dealing with human rights, community work, and the environment. The NGOs presented the lessons they learned from their visit. Based on these "Lessons Learned", they gave recommendations for future Kosovar NGO projects.



MEET THE DONORS PROGRAM

In an effort to address Kosovar NGO demands for a program that provides information on how to apply for grants, ATRC has designed the "Meet the Donors" program, set to begin in January 2004. Through "Meet the Donors," ATRC will showcase a different donor each month by inviting donors with programs in Kosovo and the region to present on the substance of their projects, their grant guidelines, and pointers for applying. Through this program, ATRC seeks to improve the communication between NGOs and donors. "Meet the Donors" addresses the demonstrated need among NGOs for grant-writing and strategic planning skills. The program aims to introduce NGOs to potential donors in the region, provide NGOs with information about donor grant-giving guidelines, and build NGO capacity to write grants in order to better assure their future sustainability.

NEWSLETTER
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Advocacy Training & Resource Center

THE ADVOCATE

Volume 1 • Issue 3 • January 2004

Albanian Youth Mobilize Citizens to Say "Enough"

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- "Woman Figure and beauty competition in Kosovo" public discussion 11 Feb.
- "Meet the donors: Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI)" 18 Feb.

Citizens Seek to Snuff Out Public Smoking

The Citizen League of Kosovo drafted a regulation, signed among its public figures, as part of a Kosovo-wide campaign that started in August 2003. The regulation aims to protect citizens' health by establishing measures for smoking cessation, discouraging the tobacco market of cigarettes, and banning smoking in public places. The Citizen League of Kosovo, a high percentage comprising the 30% of the population under 19 (UNEP, Department of Local Administration from 2000 data registered). Kosovo has proven that smoking presents a great danger for public health, requiring long careers of non-smokers who breathe "second-hand smoke".

The non-smoking strategy involved public debate held in consultation with the media for public health to raise awareness of the consequences involved with smoking, mobilize the public through press, as in the danger related to smoking cessation in public places. Support for the initiative, Municipal Assembly and

current system nor do they carry language relevant from existing previous regulation. Instead, having recently understood some members of MAFK staff from national a new case of cigarette fire resistance within ideas of participatory democracy. For example, while studying in Michigan, Vela, media seeking the National Albanian Citizens' Council, called CIPAK to purchase issues, he also expected to be a strong regulator contract to raise their position on issues. As the governmental representatives to voice their position on issues, the rest of the Albanian public, encouraging citizens to participate, and maintaining a high level of public participation. MAFK staff continued to be involved in lobbying activities from Albanian society such as artists, actors, students, operators, and the media. Mr. Vela said, "They created a supportive, brave, and honest individuals to come forward with issues and to criticize the government, something that was previously hard to do in this country. They had a high level of media attention that used sign and other play techniques to have a dialogue between the telecommunications center and the press. MAFK staff office to criticism unexpected using phone calls. The media would send the public were lobbying on."

By using Albania's street culture and the mobility of public culture and MAFK trained mass public participation and encouraged citizens to address issues in the public interest. "Public participation" such as "stop sign" campaigns, "bring back the children of NGOs who seek change through "parent-based" in-action".

Instead, MAFK uses traditional new technology solution strategies to mobilize groups. For demonstration, MAFK staff did not provide materials with help from a cell phone company and made available for thousands of the same education. "In this way, we are able to reach about 200 people in only a couple of hours. Many kids might also help with their own ideas about non-smoking." But citizens' claims about current issues and strategies were given for citizens to be mobilized. ATRC and MAFK are currently exploring joint projects that will address regional issues.

"THE ADVOCATE" Newsletter

In November, ATRC came out with its first version of "The Advocate" – ATRC's monthly newsletter. "The Advocate" provides information to hundreds of Kosovar NGOs on newly passed legislation, upcoming advocacy campaigns, the successes and challenges of implementing advocacy and policy projects, capacity-building and networking opportunities, recently-released publications and relevant media coverage.

ATRC LIBRARY

ATRC hosts a library with publications and training materials in English, Albanian, and Serbian in the fields of management, advocacy and lobbying, social, economic, 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. The library can be used by Kosovar and international NGOs, students of Prishtina University, journalists, governmental employees, and interested citizens.

This year ATRC doubled the number materials in its library, following a donation of materials by STAR Network of Word Learning. In November, ATRC joined the first online library network in Kosovo: www.kosovolibrarnetwork.org. Prishtina University students and professors, Kosovo Law Centre members, and the general public have easy access to ATRC's library holdings through this database. Visitors to ATRC will also be able to search this database for available resources located outside ATRC.

ATRC Library Working Hours:
Monday - Friday 09.00 – 11.00 and 15.00 – 17.00



TRAINING PROGRAM

In response to NGOs' increased demands for advocacy training, prompted also by the fact that NGOs need to accomplish certain advocacy, management, and gender awareness training workshops in order to qualify for Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI) grants, the ATRC is committed to providing a number of training workshops. ATRC, in partnership with FDI, provides the following training workshops:

- Introduction to Advocacy
- Successful Steps for an Advocacy Campaign
- Personal Communication Skills and Working with the Media
- NGO Management
- Gender Awareness
- Strategic Planning
- Public Policy Analysis
- Training of Trainers Program in Advocacy and Lobbying

From October 2002 – December 2003, ATRC trained 461 people; participants included representatives from rural areas, women's groups, minorities, and people with disabilities. These trainings can be described as follows.

Training for Other NGOs

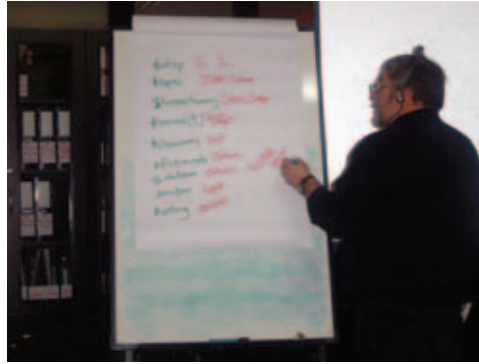
ATRC organized four training weeks for Kosovar NGOs on ATRC's four main training topics: Successful Steps for an Advocacy Campaign; Personal Communication Skills and Working with the Media; NGO Management; and Gender Awareness. Training weeks primarily targeted KNAP grantees who must fulfill training requirements in order to qualify for KNAP/FDI grants. Kosovar NGOs from Gjilan and the North Mitrovica region. This was the first time KNAP/ATRC conducted trainings in North Mitrovica.

Training in New Topics

After conducting these regular trainings for other NGOs, ATRC realized a need for additional training in new topics. ATRC met this demand by adding two new training topics: Strategic Planning and Public Policy Analysis.

The first two day training workshop, "Citizen Participation at the Local Level", was organized in cooperation with FDI in August 2003. The training targeted mainly KNAP grantees, including Training of Trainers participants and NGO leaders who displayed interest and commitment towards increasing citizen participation in the processes of decision-making at the local level. Chuck Hirt, an advocacy expert and a trainer from the Center for Community Organizing based in Slovakia conducted the training.

ATRC organized the second two day workshop, "Training in New Skills and Topics: Monitoring and Evaluation" in December 2003 together with Star Network of World Learning. The training workshop targeted women from the Kosova Women's Network as well as staff from ATRC and FDI. Jef Saussier, a top trainer in Monitoring and Evaluation from the United States, led the training.



Mentoring Program

ATRC followed up with its 2001 -- 2002 Training of Trainers Program with the ATRC Mentoring Program. As a part of this program, Lesley Abdela from Shevolution, EWMI Training Advisor Delina Fico, and ATRC Director Kreshnik Berisha conducted a series of mentoring sessions with participants in KNAP Training of Trainers Program in Advocacy and other KNAP grantees. This was the fourth in a series of mentoring sessions with Training of Trainers participants. The mentoring sessions were organized with groups of NGOs that work on similar advocacy campaigns.

Advanced Training of Trainers Skills in Advocacy Workshop

This training primarily targeted participants from last year's KNAP Training of Trainers Program in Advocacy. Two trainers from the Albanian National Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center (ANNTARC) led the training, which was held April 29 -- May 3, 2003.

ATRC TRAINING HALL

The ATRC training hall is available for use by NGOs, citizen groups, and other persons or organizations. Reservations for training hall usage must be made one month in advance.

AVAILABLE TRAINERS

ATRC has a Trainers Database with a pool of 40 international and Kosovar trainers, trained by top notch United Kingdom trainers and campaigners. These trainers are available to any interested persons, organizations, or NGOs. They provide training on subjects such as advocacy, gender mainstreaming, fundraising, and strategic planning.

For the period ending
1 August - 31 December 2003

Balance Sheet

Assets	Notes	EUR	Assets	Notes	EUR
Cash	1	9,892.33	Accounts Payable		
Accounts Receivable	2	5,124.90	Grants Payable		
Notes Receivable			Deferred Revenue		
Inventory			Mortgages and other Notes Payable		
Investments			Other Liabilities		
Securities			Total Liabilities:		
Other			Fund balance:		
Land, Buildings, and Equipment	3	35,396.04	Fund balance as of 1 August 2003	5	56,639.77
Other Assets	4	631.00	Excess (from income statement)		-5,595.50
			Total Balance:		51,044.27
Total Assets:		51,044.27	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance:		51,044.27

Income Statement

Revenue	Notes	EUR	Expenses	Notes	EUR
Contributions, gifts or grants	6	53,026.28	Program services	9	62,996.98
Fees and revenues from activities	7	4,364.50	Other Expenses	10	6,170.20
Dues			Total Expenses:		69,167.18
Dividends and interest			Net Income from Operations:		-5,595.50
Rents					
Other investment income			Taxes		
Sale of assets (less cost of sales)					
Special event revenue					
Gross sales of inventory (less cost of goods sold)					
Other revenue	8	6,180.90			
Total Revenue:		63,571.68	Net Income:		-5,595.50



FUTURE PROJECTS

Towards the end of 2003, ATRC entered into a phase of rigorous strategic planning. ATRC representatives are meeting with counterpart NGOs throughout the region as well as with Kosovar NGOs to discuss issues of concern in the region and to devise strategies for addressing these issues. Some of the topics that ATRC and its partners hope to address in the near future are as follows.

ATRC/FDI Anti-Corruption Project

High unemployment, organized crime, and the lack of education, professionalism, transparency, and accountability in politics have contributed to the growth of corrupt activities in Kosovo and the region. To address this, ATRC and its partners are developing a Regional Anti-Corruption Project with the goal of decreasing corrupt practices among institutions in the Balkans by increasing cooperation between regional NGOs. Through the provision of information, training, advocacy, and grants ATRC and its partners will help NGOs hold their respective governments accountable in combating cross-border corruption. The proposed Anti-Corruption Project's objectives are to: (i) increase the effectiveness of government institutions in addressing corruption issues and increasing transparency; (ii) increase the public awareness of corruption issues; and (iii) increase the capacity of organizations to address corruption through specialized training and grants.

UN Accountability and Transparency

In Kosovo elected officials remain accountable to both the general public and to UNMIK but lack the legislative powers found in most parliamentary systems, with the Special Representative of the Secretary General retaining absolute administrative power, accountable only to the UN Secretary General. With power shared between UNMIK and the elected provisional institutions of self-governance (PISG), the Kosovar public is left clueless as to who is accountable for what, resulting in an atmosphere of blame between UNMIK and the PISG with neither taking responsibility. The goal of a project proposed by ATRC, FDI, and their New York-based partners is to work towards the creation of a more accountable governing system in Kosovo by increasing UNMIK accountability and transparency.

Transparent Budget Process

Currently the Kosovo budget is neither accessible nor transparent. Citizens lack understanding as to how the budget works and cannot access or influence the budget, let alone demand accountability. Government officials fail to prioritize issues, drafting the budget based on available funds rather than the society's needs. The budget's process of implementation does not meet good governance practices, resulting in a failing infrastructure, water shortages, power outages, and insufficient salaries for public employees, which often lead to corrupt activities.

To address these issues, ATRC is working with budget specialists and its partners to design a project through which they will call upon government institutions to include citizens in drafting a budget that prioritizes issues in the public interest. Through a targeted multi-level public information program and advocacy campaigns, ATRC and its partners will demand budget rules and procedures that support transparency at all levels of government.

DONATIONS ACCOUNT

You can make donations for supporting ATRC's work at:

ProCredit Bank Kosovo
1110-162047-0201-74
Swift Code: MBKOC22

To contribute in the US, please make checks payable to:

EWMI/FDI Support Fund
Att: ATRC
575 Madison Ave., 25th Floor
New York, NY 10022

Contributions are tax deductible. Donors will receive letter of confirmation and, unless otherwise requested, their names and amount of the contribution will be noted in the ATRC annual report.

Advocacy \ædvəkəsi:\ (15c) n :
the act or process of influencing
decision-making to defend /
support a cause of a certain
interest group [fr.ad- + vocare
to call, fr. voc-, vox voice]...