

**ADVOCACY TRAINING &
RESOURCE CENTER**



**RAPORTI VJETOR
ANNUAL REPORT**



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LETTER FROM ATRC DIRECTOR

Dear partners,

The year 2016 for ATRC was another year of success, growth and expansion of its activities not only within Kosovo but also abroad. During this year we engaged in parallel in several directions: the continuation of existing programs and projects, through proper and professional implementation of the planned activities; maintaining and strengthening relations with current donors and expanding programs with new projects through the creation of partnerships with other organizations within and outside the territory of Kosovo. ATRC's future and long-term sustainability, with the aim of advancing services, professionalism in service delivery, and addressing the needs of citizens and groups in need, were drafted.

This year, ATRC has engaged in the implementation of a number of activities and projects aimed at strengthening the role of NGOs, exchanging information among NGOs, governmental institutions, donors, officials and citizens, and advocating in local institutions and national program on issues of general interest based on its four main programs: the Grant Management Program, the Capacity Building Program, the Advocacy Program and the Information Program.

ATRC's commitment to the development and support of non-governmental organizations has continued this year through capacity building and at the same time supporting their implementation in the framework of the E4E Commitment for Equality funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

At the same time, ATRC has conducted a number of trainings, workshops and individual consultations from which NGOs, citizens and institutions have benefited. ATRC has continued with the organization of advocacy campaigns at local and national level, aiming at strengthening the role of citizens in decision-making, greater participation of citizens in the development of democratic institutions and practices, contributing to the improvement of relations between civil society and institutions as well as facilitating mechanisms for civic engagement.

On behalf of ATRC, I thank donors and supporters that with their support enabled us to contribute this year to the democratic development of our country as well as to regional developments. I thank the United States Agency for International Development - USAID, the European Commission, the US State Department through the International Public Law and Public Policy Group (PILPG).

ATRC's success is undoubtedly dedicated to and reflects on the work, professionalism and dedication of its employees on the one hand, but also reflects on professional and continuous cooperation with our partners, such as non-governmental organizations, institutions, donors and international agencies, who we thank for their support, ensuring that professionalism, dedication and primacy will be a guide in our further journey.

Kushtrim Kaloshi
Drejtor Ekzekutiv

ABOUT ATRC

ATRC is a Kosovar non-profit organization, committed to increase the participation of citizens and civil society in decision making, as a prerequisite for a developed democratic and stable regional society. ATRC aims to strengthen the role of NGOs as agents of change in the society; to increase the capacity of NGOs and civic initiatives; to undertake advocacy campaigns and contribute in creating governing institutions based on international standards. ATRC works with NGOs, civic initiatives, public administration and political institutions regardless of religion, political affiliations, ethnicity, age, capability and sexual orientation.

Since its founding in 2001, ATRC (Advocacy Training and Resource Centre) assisted Kosovar NGOs to increase their professionalism, articulate their needs and to advocate to government structures on important matters for Kosovar society. ATRC accomplishes its goals through four major programs: 1. Capacity Building Program, which aims to provide training and consultancy, to raise the capacity of civil society representatives and public institutions in Kosovo in the field of organizational development, project management, advocacy and participatory governance. 2. Grants Management Program, which aims to help local non-governmental organizations through grants, aiming to change public policy, initiate laws and regulations, new practices to the best interest of public education and awareness campaigns on various issues such as transparency and accountability, environment, minority rights, etc. 3. Advocacy Program, ATRC solely and in partnership with other organizations, consistently initiates advocacy campaigns at local and national level, aiming to identify issues in the community, to further on advocate for such issues, and finally as a result to find a solution. 4. Information Program, supports the exchange of information between NGOs, government institutions, donors, officials and citizens. This is implemented through public discussions, conferences, donors, publications and ATRC website.

ATRC believes that building coalitions and crosssector partnerships are key pillars for achieving the goals and our mission. Therefore, ATRC is in constant collaboration with numerous NGOs in Kosovo, is part of advocacy campaigns aiming to develop the democracy and public participation in decision making, as well it is part of networks at local, regional and international level.

PARTNERS

During 2016 ATRC continued cooperation with organizations of various government institutions at local and national level, Kosovar and international non-governmental organizations, in the initiation and implementation of joint projects.

Institutions and government agencies that ATRC has cooperated with during 2016:

Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC)
 Ombudsperson office
 Ministry of Economic Development / Energy Department
 Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
 Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, Environment and Spatial Planning in Kosovo Parliament
 Municipality of Gjilan
 Municipality of Kamenica
 Municipality of Vitia

Regional non-governmental organizations that ATRC has cooperated with during 2016:

- Instituti i Kërkimeve Urbane - Shqipëri
- SEE Change Net - Bosnjë dhe Hercegovinë
- EDEN, Ekolëvizja dhe CO-PLAN - Shqipëri
- CZSS dhe Public Interest Advocacy Center - Bosnjë dhe Hercegovinë
- Society for Sustainable Development Design dhe Forum for Freedom Education - Kroaci
- Association for Policy Research Analytica - Maqedoni
- Eko-Svest dhe Environmental Citizens' Association - Maqedoni
- Green Home dhe MANS - Mali i Zi
- Fractal, CEKOR dhe EASD - Serbi
- Fondazione Punto.Sud - Itali
- TEMA - Turqi
- EEB - Belgjikë

SUPPORTERS

ATRC supporters during 2016 are as the following:

Agjensioni i Shteteve të Bashkuara për Zhvillim Ndërkombëtar (USAID) <http://www.usaid.gov/kosovo>

Departamenti Amerikan i Shtetit përmes Grupit të së Drejtës dhe Politikave Ndërkombëtare Publike (PILPG) www.justiceandthepeople.org

Komisioni Europian/The Balkan Trust for Democracy- BTD/The United Nations Development Programme- UNDP http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index_en.htm/ <http://www.gmfus.org/balkantrust/> <http://www.ks.undp.org/>

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Topics covered in training program:

- Project Proposal Designing
- Project Cycle Management
- NGO Management and Fundraising
- Advocacy and Coalition Building
- The role of NGOs in Civil Society
- Good Governance
- Leadership and Management
- Strategic Planning
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Relations between NGOs and Media
- Effective Communication
- Communication with Clients
- Basic Financial Management
- Public Relations and Marketing
- Conflict Management
- Negotiations
- Participatory Governance
- Cooperative Planning
- Participatory Budgeting
- Legal infrastructure that reflects the work of municipalities in Kosovo
- Mechanisms of citizen involvement in decision-making processes
- The functioning of local government
- Community planning projects
- Gender equality

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCIES

Unlike formal trainings which are dedicated to a larger audience, consultancies are designed to address the specific needs of individuals and organizations in particular. For this reason, ATRC practices the method of combining two services: training with individual consultancies, aiming to better meet the needs of any beneficiary and simultaneously increase the effectiveness of its program.

During 2016 were conducted seventy (70) individual consultancies for USAID/ATRC grantees under the project Engagement for Equity - E4E, on project implementation and financial management.



GRANTS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Engagement for Equity Program - E4E

Engagement for Equity Program - E4E funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) will continue to support civil society organizations to implement projects. ATRC through grant administration strives to improve integration of vulnerable and marginalized groups, to strengthen civil society's role in raising critical democracy and governance issues and in influencing the development and effective implementation of policies affecting these communities. The overall goal of the Engagement for Equity Program - E4E is to improve integration of vulnerable and marginalized groups and to strengthen civil society's role in raising critical democracy and governance issues and in influencing the development and effective implementation of policies affecting these communities.

ATRC assistance for grantees is based on five thematic areas:

- Women in governance and economy;
 - Empowering Women through Enhanced Awareness of Women's Property Rights;
 - Increased protection and awareness of LGBT community rights;
 - Expand Participation of Persons with Disabilities (PwD);
 - Expand Youth Participation / Expand Youth Participation to Counter Violent Extremism;
- E4E Program Components and Services to be provided to the Grantees:
1. Provision of Grants;
 2. Targeted Technical and Organizational Development Assistance.

Through the provision of grants and assistance for technical and organizational development, E4E program plans to support local CSOs that represent the interests of vulnerable and marginalized groups by focusing on the following:

Advocacy and awareness campaigns, in collaboration with stakeholders from different segments of society and government;

Engagement in compiling policy recommendations on issues of democracy, governance and economic empowerment, derived from consultations with members of vulnerable and marginalized groups, a broader base of citizens and other relevant stakeholders;

Monitoring and tracking the implementation of legislation, reforms and targeted initiative, which are of great importance for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Through the support of a broad group of CSOs representing the interests of vulnerable and marginalized groups, E4E program expects the improvement of women's participation in governance and economy; empowering women through awareness about their rights to inheritance and co-owned property; improving the situation of the LGBT community by empowering the community; increasing the participation of PWD 's in decision making, so that they advocate for putting their interests on the government main agenda and encourage young people to become active in public life, raising their voice on issues affecting them not only in present, but also in the future.





PROVISION OF GRANTS

E4E Program anticipates awarding up to \$ 1,750,000.00 through approximately 50 grant awards, up to March 2017. E4E Program will award three types of grants for each of five thematic areas: Large Grants, Medium to Small-Scale Grants and Rapid Response Funds. Large Grants are expected to range from \$ 75,000 up to \$ 100,000, Medium grants are expected to range from \$ 25,000 up to \$ 50,000, Small Scale Grants are expected to range from \$ 10,000 up to \$ 25,000 and Rapid Response Funds are expected to range up to \$ 25,000.

During 2016, ATRC launched two (2) Rounds of regular Requests for Applications (RFAs), and a single three-year call for Rapid Response Funds. Request for Applications were published in local and national media, and broadcast on national television stations, ATRC website, and facebook, in Albanian and Serbian language and are distributed through email to Kosovo NGOs. ATRC Informed wider public through information sessions in nine key regional centers of the country: Pristina, Prizren, Gjilan, Gjakova, Peja, Gracanica, Shtërpce, Mitrovica and North Mitrovica.

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) selected eight (8) local organizations for funding for the second Round of Grant, eight (8) local organizations for the third Round of Grant and fifteen (15) local organizations for the fourth Round of Grant. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) consist of three external member. On February 15, ATRC signed agreement with eight (8) local organization, beneficiaries of the second Round of Grant, on June 2 ATRC signed agreement with eight (8) local organization, and beneficiaries of the third Round of Grant, and on December 1 ATRC signed agreement with fifteen (15) local organization, beneficiaries of the fourth Round of Grant. During 2016, ATRC signed agreement with one local organization grant beneficiary of Rapid Response Fund.



AWARDEES OF SECOND ROUND OF GRANTS

Woman's Right

Project Title: Enhancing participation of women in North Mitrovica

Organization Location: North Mitrovica

Project Location: Zubin Potok, Zvecan, Leposavic, north Mitrovica

Project Duration: 12 months

Theme: Women in Governance and Economy

Project Goal: Increase women's participation in Northern Kosovo, including Zubin Potok, Zvecan, Leposavic, and north Mitrovica

Project funds: \$34,995.00

ARTPOLIS

Project Title: Increasing community awareness on women's property rights by using Art as a tool

Organization Location: Pristina

Project Location: Twenty (20) municipalities in Kosovo

Project Duration: 12 months

Theme: Empowering women through enhanced awareness of women's property rights

Project Goal: Raise awareness through public education for both men and women about the benefits of formalized property rights and encouraging the change of existing attitudes towards women's property rights

Project funds: \$41,380.00

Handikos Mitrovica

Project Title: Little from self: much for PwD

Organization Location: Mitrovica

Project Location: Mitrovica, Vushtri, Skenderaj

Project Duration: 12 months

Theme: Expand participation of persons with disabilities (PwD)

Project Goal: Advocate and promote business activities and enterprises for work/study training programs for unemployed PwDs and monitoring of the implementation of the law no: 03/L-019 on Vocational ability, rehabilitation and employment of Pwd, professional training and retraining and employment

Project funds: \$39,989.00

Syri i Vizionit

Project Title: Women's Support Project

Organization Location: Peja Project Location: Peja, Decan, Junik, Istog

Project Duration: 15 months

Theme: Women in Governance and Economy

Project Goal: Improvement of governance, parliamentarism and entrepreneurship at local and national level, advancing and building capacities and empowering women in public, private and non-governmental sectors, and improvement of their positions in institutions and businesses.

Project funds: \$49,400.00

Support Centre for People with Mental Disabilities - Center for Independent Life

Project Title: Youth with mental disabilities together for a better life

Organization Location: Peja

Project Location: Peja, Istog, Decan

Project Duration: 12 months

Theme: Expand participation of persons with disabilities (PwD)

Project Goal: Promote social integration, participation and development of personal autonomy of children and young people with mental disabilities

Project funds: \$19,650.00

Initiative for Progress - INPO

Project Title: Inclusion of youth in vocational education development

Organization Location: Ferizaj

Project Location: Pristina, Mitrovica, Peja, Gjakova, Prizren, Gjilan, Ferizaj

Project Duration: 12 months

Theme: Expand youth participation

Project Goal: Develop youth through enhancement of local policies on professional education

Project funds: \$48,870.00

Emancipimi civil ma ndryshe - EC ma ndryshe

Project Title: Prizren, a barrier - free city

Organization Location: Prizren

Project Location: Prizren region

Project Duration: 12 months

Theme: Expand participation of persons with disabilities (PwD)

Project Goal: Increase the participation of persons with disabilities and young people in designing a barrier - free Prizren.

Project funds: \$49,322.00

Center for Social Groups Development - CSGD

Project Title: Supporting rights for LGBTI community in Kosovo through engagement of Kosovo Institutions

Organization Location: Pristina

Project Location: Pristina

Project Duration: 18 months

Theme: increased protection and awareness of LGBT community rights

Project Goal: Support the implementation of anti-discrimination policies related to LGBT community in Kosovo in all levels of society and especially in workplace.

Project funds: \$38,445.50

AWARDEES OF THIRD ROUND OF GRANTS**Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development - CLARD**

Project Title: Legal aid in cases of women ownership rights and building capacities of new women lawyers

Organization Location: Prishtina/Priština

Project Location: Kosovo

Project Duration: 10 months

Theme: Empowering women through enhanced awareness of women's property rights

Project Goal: Provision of free legal aid to the citizens of Kosovo

Project funds: \$31,655.00

Communication for Social Development - CSD

Project Title: Women's rights in a democratic society

Organization Location: Gračanica/Gracanice

Project Location: Novo Brdo/Novobërdë, Ranilug/Ranillug, Parteš/Partesh, Klokot/Kllokot, Štrpce/Shtërpce and Gračanica/Gracanice

Project Duration: 12 months

Theme: Empowering women through enhanced awareness of women's property rights

Project Goal: Documentation and reporting on cases of property and inheritance rights of men and women

Project funds: \$41,480.00

Democracy Plus

Project Title: Increasing law efficiency for the youth through monitoring

Organization Location: Prishtina/Priština

Project Location: Kosovo

Project Duration: 6 months

Theme: Expand youth participation

Project Goal: Empower and involve young people in public life by improving the policies and implementing legislation.

Project funds: \$17,150.00

Down Syndrome Kosova

Project Title: Strengthening of persons with disabilities (PwD) community through increased participation in institutional policies and social life

Organization Location: Prishtina/Priština

Project Location: Kosovo

Project Duration: 12 months

Theme: Expand participation of persons with disabilities (PwD)

Project Goal: Increase the awareness of PwD rights and unify the legal protection, by ensuring PwD inclusion

through constructive dialogue with legislators.
Project funds: \$35,037.00

The Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims - KRCT

Project Title: Equal economic empowering for all women in Kosovo

Organization Location: Prishtina/Priština

Project Location: Kosovo

Project Duration: 12 months

Theme: Women in governance and economy

Project Goal: Ensure that women/victims of sexual violence enjoy equal rights and opportunities to participate in the government and economy by improving their representation, education and employment.

Project funds: \$48,042.00

Kosovo Center for Social Emancipation - QESHK

Project Title: Educational integration and legal development

Organization Location: Prishtina/Priština

Project Location: Kosovo

Project Duration: 12 months

Theme: Increased protection and awareness of LGBTI community rights

Project Goal: Increase the visibility and the rights of the LGBTI community in Kosovo via public awareness and LGBTI community empowerment.

Project funds: \$37,755.00

Institute for Development - Riinvest

Project Title: Partnership for empowering participation and performance of women in business project, by establishing the Women Economic Forum, drafting the National Agenda for Women in business and advocating for relevant issues

Organization Location: Prishtina/Priština

Project Location: Kosovo

Project Duration: 18 months

Theme: Women in governance and economy

Project Goal: Enhance the position of women in business, as employers and employees alike, by creating a joint advocacy platform for the issues at hand and a national agenda addressing the engagement of women in business and economy.

Project funds: \$80,140.00

Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Kosovo - YIHR

Project Title: Curriculum Review

Organization Location: Prishtina/Priština

Project Location: Kosovo

Project Duration: 16 months

Theme: Expand youth participation

Project Goal: Influence and change the approach of the Kosovo society to human rights.

Project funds: \$80,000.00

AWARDEES OF FOURTH ROUND OF GRANTS

Security Policy Research Center - SPRC

Project Title: Promotion of civil society in the fight against extremism in Kosovo

Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština

Location of Project: Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kaçanik/Kaçanik, Mitrovicë/a (south), Peja/Peć
 Project Duration: 12 months
 Topic: Enhanced youth participation in preventing violent extremism
 Project Purpose: Contribution to a safer and more democratic society by active participation in policies and decision-making in Kosovo.
 Project Funds: \$82,989.00

Kosova - Women for Women

Project Title: Women, agents of inheritance rights
 Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština
 Location of Project: Viti/Vitina, Kaçanik/Kaçanik, Štrpce/Shtërpçë and Ferizaj/Uroševac
 Project Duration: 12 months
 Topic: Empowerment of women through awareness raising on women's ownership rights
 Project Purpose: Education of women and men in rural areas on women's rights to property and inheritance, and empowerment of women to claim such rights.
 Project Funds: \$47,755.47

COD Kosovo in partnership with Light House and Kameni Cvet

Project Title: Right for Active Participation and Inclusion of People with Disabilities - RAPID
 Location of Organization: North Mitrovica
 Location of Project: North Mitrovica
 Project Duration: 12 months
 Topic: Enhanced participation of persons with disabilities
 Project Purpose: Full inclusion of people with disabilities (PWDs) into community and in decision-making processes in North Mitrovica by supporting them to advocate for their rights and affecting overall socio-economic development
 Project Funds: \$32,000.00

Public Organization for Local Initiatives and Supports - POLIS

Project Title: Common contribution for women's rights to joint inheritance
 Location of Organization: Lipjan/Lipljane
 Location of Project: Prishtinë/Priština, Lipjan/Lipljane, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Obiliq/Obilić, Glllogovc/Glogovac, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Shtime/Štimlje, Štrpce/Shtërpçë, Kaçanik/Kaçanik, Hani i Elezit/Elez Han
 Project Duration: 12 months
 Topic: Empowerment of women through awareness raising on women's ownership rights
 Project Purpose: Information on inheritance rights, and support to women to enjoy their rights to inheritance
 Project Funds: \$39,134.50

Kosovo Centre for Gender Studies - KCGS

Project Title: Gendered stances in civil society and the private sector
 Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština
 Location of Project: Kosovo
 Project Duration: 12 months
 Topic: Women in governance and economy
 Project Purpose: Support to civil society and private sector to increase gender sensitivity
 Project Funds: \$31,584.40

Visual Arts Centre Multimedia - MM

Project Title: Treatment of violent extremism through social theatre

Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština

Location of Project: Prishtinë, Kaçanik/Kaçanik, Han i Elezit/Elez Han, Vushtrri/Vucitrn/Vucitern, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Pejë/Peć, Prizren, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Obiliq/Obilić, Gjilan/Gjilane, Lipjan/Lipjane, Mitrovicë/a, Suharekë/Suva Reka, Gjakovë/Đakovica

Project Duration: 12 months

Topic: Enhanced youth participation in preventing violent extremism

Project Purpose: Awareness raising of Kosovo youth on the issue of violent extremism, through arts

Project Funds: \$43,560.00

Kosovo Center for Business Support - KCBS

Project Title: Inheritance rights for women, empowerment

Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština

Location of Project: Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kamenicë/a, Viti/Vitina and Novobërdë/Novo Brdo

Project Duration: 11 months

Topic: Empowerment of women through awareness raising on women's ownership rights

Project Purpose: Implementation of ex officio legal obligations on service of acts of death for judicial procedures.

Project Funds: \$38,952.29

Quality Institute for Research, Analysis and Training- iCHAT

Project Title: We inform to prevent

Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština

Location of Project: Ferizaj/Uroševac, Kaçanik/Kaçanik, Prizren, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Mitrovicë/a, Vushtrri/Vučitrn

Project Duration: 6 months

Topic: Enhanced youth participation in preventing violent extremism

Project Purpose: Awareness raising of youth in preventing involvement in violent extremism

Project Funds: \$15,920.50

Human Rights Radio Network - HRN

Project Title: It is time to de-stigmatize disabled persons: let us begin to talk about it

Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština

Location of Project: Kosovo

Project Duration: 8 months

Topic: Enhanced participation of disabled persons

Project Purpose: General public awareness raising on the disabled people, through radio-information

Project Funds: \$43,707.78

HANDIKOS Prishtina

Project Title: Disability in local policies

Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština

Location of Project: Prishtinë/Priština

Project Duration: 12 months

Topic: Enhanced participation of disabled persons

Project Purpose: Improvement of access conditions and involvement of disabled persons in the Municipality of Prishtinë/Priština

Project Funds: \$33,000.00

Sbunker

Project Title: Fighting violent extremism through a Critical thinking Program

Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština

Location of Project: Prishtinë/Priština, Prizren, Mitrovicë/a, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Gjakovë/Đakovica and Ferizaj/Urosevac

Project Duration: 12 months

Topic: Enhanced youth participation in preventing violent extremism

Project Purpose: Fighting violent extremist positions in youth, by promoting critical thinking, values of freedom and democracy, and respect for human rights

Project Funds: \$44,755.00

GAP Institute

Project Title: Review of gender-based discriminatory policies in the labour market

Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština

Location of Project: Kosovo

Project Duration: 12 months

Topic: Women in governance and economy

Project Purpose: Elimination of gender-based discrimination in the labour market, and creation of equal opportunities in employment

Project Funds: \$43,599.20

Democracy for Development - D4D

Project Title: Women for Development - Activation for women in the labour market

Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština

Location of Project: Kosovo

Project Duration: 12 months

Topic: Women in Governance and Economy

Project Purpose: Advocacy to address gender gaps in the extent of working activities, by engaging political leadership and the private sector

Project Funds: \$46,947.60

Active Women of Gjakova - FAGJ

Project Title: Access of Women to Property

Location of Organization: Gjakova/Đakovica

Location of Project: Gjakovë/Đakovica, Deçan/Dečani, Junik/Junik, Dragash/Dragaš

Project Duration: 8 months

Topic: Empowerment of women through awareness raising on women's ownership rights

Project Purpose: Awareness raising of women and girls to enjoy their rights to inheritance and increased institutional responsibility in this regard.

Project Funds: \$23,970.00

Balkan Investigative Reporting Network - BIRN

Project Title: Empowerment of women to claim their rights to inheritance

Location of Organization: Prishtinë/Priština

Location of Project: Kosovo

Project Duration: 12 months

Topic: Empowerment of women through awareness raising on women's ownership rights

Project Purpose: Monitoring, advocacy for laws, initiation of public debate through media on the issues of family and inheritance law, by raising awareness of women and girls, wider public and public institutions.

Project Funds: \$44,540.00

AWARDEES OF RAPID RESPONSE FUND

Kosovo Association of Blind Persons

Project Title: Addressing Unpredictable Changes Affecting the Lives of the Blind

Organization Location: Prishtinë/Priština

Project Location: Kosovo wide

Project Duration: 2 months (01 July - 31 August, 2016)

Theme: Expand participation of persons with disabilities (PwD)

Project Goal: Analyze the amendments initiated by Office of the Division for Medical Commissions (DMC) of Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW) in the Regulation on the Functioning of the Medical-Social Commission (RFMSC), taking into account the effect in the lives of the beneficiaries of blindness scheme and of the Law on Blind Persons.

Project funds: \$ 9,794.22

OTHER ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN THE FRAME OF THE E4E PROGRAM

HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTEGRATION OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN KOSOVO

On 8 December 2016, ATRC in partnership with USAID marked the International Day of Human Rights through the conference "Human Rights and Integration of Marginalized Groups in Kosovo". The conference aimed to engage key actors dealing with marginalized social groups in Kosovo, promote the concept of human rights and inclusive society, raise awareness of issues of marginalized groups, and increase the opportunities for these groups to enjoy their rights in the society of Kosovo.

In this conference were given recommendations by civil society and Kosovo institutions in support of marginalized groups such as women, youth, LGBTI and people with disabilities. The conference also contributed to raising the public's awareness of advancing the rights of marginalized groups and social inclusion, developing co-ordination and establishing cooperation between civil society organizations (CSOs) and Kosovo institutions dealing with fundamental rights of human and marginalized groups.

The conference was organized as part of the USAID-Equality Commitment (E4E) Program, which aims to improve the integration of vulnerable and marginalized groups, while reinforcing the role of civil society in highlighting critical issues of democracy and governance, and impact on the effective development and implementation of policies affecting these communities.

INCREASE PARTICIPATION OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN KOSOVO

On February 11, 2016, ATRC in partnership with USAID organized a conference on "Increasing the participation of marginalized groups in Kosovo". The conference aimed at involving key stakeholders dealing with marginalized social groups in Kosovo, to create concrete opportunities and mechanisms for involving these groups in social life.

The conference provided recommendations from NGOs, experts and representatives of institutions to support marginalized groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, and the LGBT community in Kosovo.

The conference was part of the Equality Commitment Program - E4E, funded by the United States Agency for International Development - USAID and implemented by ATRC.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR TECHNICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ATRC has developed a diversified portfolio for technical and organizational development assistance, which includes the training provided by ATRC and the capacity-building services of each individual grant recipient, as well as special services for the winners of grants dealing with LGBTI community rights.

ATRC has provided ongoing assistance to grant beneficiaries through capacity building and technical support in matters pertaining to their respective projects and organizational management.

EVALUATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPACITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS

During 2016, ATRC evaluated the organizational capacities of 16 organizations, beneficiaries of second and third round grants, in order to identify the short-term needs for the successful implementation of the program as well as the longer-term needs associated with the sustainability of the organization. Based on the results of the evaluation, ATRC in cooperation with the organizations have drafted the Capacity Building Plan for each organization.

Based on the capacity building plan, ATRC through the E4E External Consultants has assisted organizations in improving and developing their policies, drafting strategic plans and manuals, and providing individual training and consultancy. Through this assistance, six organizations have developed their Strategic Plans, five organizations have developed procurement process manuals, three organizations have upgraded / developed the Employee Policy Manual, ten organizations have upgraded / developed their financial policies, four organizations have improved / developed the organization's policies and an organization has prepared the Advocacy Manual. Also, organizations have benefited from individual training / consultancy on organization management, human resource management, fundraising, advocacy, strategic planning and financial management.

During this year, ATRC, within the E4E program, has also contributed to capacity building of grantee organizations, which implement projects in the area of Growth Protection and awareness of LGBTI community rights by providing workshops and consultations in the field of LGBTI community rights.

WORKSHOPS HELD FOR BENEFICIARIES OF ATRC GRANTS

ATRC has held the Financial Management, Project Management and Advocacy workshops for beneficiaries of each grant round. The workshops aimed to increase the organization's capacity for financial reporting, drafting an accounting system and improving financial controls, developing advocacy skills, and building coalitions necessary to develop effective advocacy work and effective project management.

Also, ATRC has organized a joint training program for all grant beneficiaries in order to increase the capacity of human resource management organizations, including the importance of policy formulation and their application in practice.

COORDINATIVE MEETINGS BETWEEN GRANTS BENEFICIARIES

During this year ATRC has held coordinating meetings with grantees to identify possible solutions to potential challenges, identify opportunities for cooperation between organizations, develop activities and advocate for common issues.

COOPERATION WITH USAID PROGRAMS

ATRC has worked closely with other USAID partners, in particular with the Property Rights Program - PRP and USAID EMPOWER Private Sector. ATRC is part of the Gender Coordination Group (GCG), established by PRP and Women's Economic Empowerment, established by USAID EMPOWER Private Sector.

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

To ensure greater citizen participation in the development of democratic institutions and practices ATRC, in partnership with other and single organizations, continuously initiates advocacy campaigns at the local and national level, aiming to identify problems in communities to turn to strong advocacy issues and as a result to find the deserved solution.

The advocacy program also provides a platform for networking, information exchange and activation with other NGOs from Kosovo and the region.

During 2016, ATRC has been involved in these projects:

- Justice and citizens
- Sustainable Energy Policy in South East Europe (SEE SEP)
- Development of ENV.net in the Western Balkans and Turkey
- Environmental Protection and Waste Management
- Supporting Agribusinesses in the Region of Gjilan

JUSTICE AND THE PEOPLE

During the reporting period, the Justice and People campaign supported by the Advocacy Training and Resource Center and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) provided a total of 18 inclusion activities, including: Roundtables of Experts, Public Education Seminars, Trainings Advocacy, Civic Initiatives, Conferences, Educational Video, Launch Calls for Competition and Produced Project Documents. In total, these contact events brought together 1,947 people; 1180 females and 767 males.

1. EXPERTS ROUNDTABLE

During the reporting period ATRC facilitated 5 expert roundtables on challenges to citizen participation in, confidence in, and access to the Kosovar justice system. These roundtables brought together more than 350 participants. The purpose of the expert roundtables was to encourage dynamic discussions on key issues impacting citizens' confidence in the justice system, explore areas of consensus and points of impasse between citizens and government officials, and develop creative solutions and approaches to furthering the public's confidence in the justice system. These Roundtables explored topics such as: (1) criminal procedure and gaps between rights and implementation; (2) judicial, prosecutorial, and law enforcement accountability; (3) strategies for increasing public engagement; and (4) victims' rights. All the roundtables feature special guests such as Ambassadors, KJC Chairman, Ministers and other relevant officials and stakeholders. The roundtable discussions served as an important platform to identify shortcomings in Kosovo's justice system. The expert roundtable discussions, along with advocacy workshops conducted by the ATRC, assisted the Justice and the People Campaign in identifying pertinent public policy reform issues and formulating advocacy strategies for promoting reform. These roundtables always received a significant attention from the media, there were more than 280 news updates reported on National Local TV stations radio and daily newspapers. After the delivery of the roundtables ATRC has produced expert roundtable reports based on the ideas proposed and discussed at the roundtables and disseminated the expert roundtable reports to the participants and a list of key interested parties that may include individuals, local organizations, and government officials.



2. ADVOCACY WORKSHOPS

During the reporting period ATRC conducted eight advocacy workshops. ATRC together with coordinators from local NGOs' sought participants from diverse groups, including women and minorities, to create a dynamic forum for stakeholders to exchange opinions, hold discussions, and work towards effective cooperation on unresolved issues.

The workshops trained civil society and grassroots leaders on a number of subjects including: (1) general principles relating to advocacy campaigns; (2) how to effectively implement campaigns, with a focus on the Project's campaign; (3) promoting legal and judicial reform; and (4) educating citizens on their rights. The overall purpose of the workshops was to build the capacity of the participants to draft policy recommendations, negotiate with government officials, and advocate for the solutions to identified challenges. These workshops taught civil society leaders technical skills required for effective advocacy and policy changes.

The Advocacy in Kosovo Workshops supported the development of three follow on advocacy projects. These projects were developed by workshop participants, who identified pressing security and safety concerns within their communities, developed recommendations for addressing their concerns, and developed an advocacy plan to have their recommendations accepted and implemented. The follow on advocacy projects were initiated in the municipality of Rahovec, Obiliq, Gjakova and Gjilan. Out of 4 follow on advocacy initiatives only 2 managed to get successfully implemented



3. PUBLIC EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

ATRC organized and conducted over 50 public education workshops throughout Kosovo with the aim to reach diverse population. The primary goals of these workshops were to increase citizen confidence in the justice system thereby promote accessibility, transparency, and independence of these institutions; to encourage discussion on the key issues impacting citizens' trust in the justice system; and to develop appropriate solutions and approaches furthering the public's trust in the justice system. Furthermore, the workshops aimed to inform citizens on the rights of crime victims, complaint mechanisms, and juvenile rights and educate them on criminal procedures. All these workshops featured representatives from Community Safety Action Teams, Victim Advocates, Defense Attorneys, Prosecutors, Judges and representatives from Kosovo Police. These workshops served as a bridge to fill in the lack of communication between random citizens and officials, they were welcomed very positively by participants and based on evaluation forms they proved to increase confidence towards justice system and performance of officials. Challenges that campaign encountered during these workshops were mainly technical, such as event premises, lunch but other than that, these activities were the highlight of the project.





4. CITIZENS COURT MONITORING PROGRAM

ATRC together with PILPG implemented a citizen court monitoring program designed to improve citizen understanding of criminal proceedings. This program sought to educate citizens on criminal proceedings by having them observe the proceedings and report on their perceptions of the criminal process. Interested citizens spent four hours observing a criminal trial and, afterwards, completed and submitted a form report designed by the Campaign. The form asked citizens to assess significant aspects of the court's performance ranging from issues being discussed in the proceedings to the physical conditions of the courthouses. The Campaign targeted a broad range of geographic and demographic groups to participate in the program, with a particular focus on youth and university students. After collection of 304 citizen reports, the Campaign prepared a report of the findings of monitoring program, highlighting citizen perceptions and suggesting areas for improvement. After the preparation of the report, the Campaign has organized a press conference to launch the report and also conducted additional 2 public education workshops in the municipality of Gjilan and Gjakova. These workshops brought together around 50 youngsters who had the opportunity to discuss more about their experience while observing the hearings. The workshops served as a forum where young people had the opportunity to discuss their challenges with institutional officials and share their perceptions for Court Observation Initiative.



5. PRESS CONFERENCES

The ATRC organized press conferences with national, regional, and local television stations and radio station. The press conferences educated citizens on how to access the justice system and engage in the advocacy process as various aspects of the Campaign are announced.

6. EDUCATIONAL AND ADVOCACY VIDEO SEGMENTS

The campaign implemented a series of eight educational and other advocacy video segments on justice sector issues. The advocacy videos built awareness of and support for the program's policy recommendations. These videos were geared toward a youth audience. During 2014, the Justice and the People Campaign has worked on 10 episodes of the "Drejtesi n'Shpejtesi" series, or "Justice in a Hurry". These videos aimed to raise awareness on the topics of justice system reforms; The topics of these episodes were: Rights of Crime Victims; Complaints to the Ombudsperson Institution; Rights of Detainees; Rights of Accused Parties; Rights of Domestic Violence Victims; The Right to Receive Legal Aid; Citizen's Complaints against Police Officials; Citizen's Complaints against Judges and Prosecutors; Citizen's Complaints against Lawyers and Citizen's Complaints against Eulex Officials.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICY IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE (SEE SEP)

ATRC in the quality of the national partner for Kosovo, in cooperation with SEE Change Net (Bosnia), EDEN and Ekolevizja (Albania), CZSS and Public Interest Advocacy Centre (Bosnia), Society for Sustainable Development Design and Forum for Freedom Education (Croatia), Association for Policy Research Analytica, Eko-Svest and Environmental Citizens' Association (Macedonia), Green Home and MANS (Montenegro), Fractal and CEKOR (Serbia) continued the implementation of the project Sustainable Energy Policy in Southeast Europe, funded by the European Commission, UNDP and The Balkan Trust for Democracy. The project aims to increase cooperation between civil society organizations and strengthen citizens to influence policies and practices for a more sustainable energy system in Eastern Europe, in line with policies and key EU directives. During 2015 ATRC implemented several activities including Energy Model, Energy Community Reform, Call for Evidence Report and Red Flag on Energy Efficiency Report.

During the reporting period of December 2015 - November 2016 ATRC implemented several activities of the SEE SEP project which resulted to be successful in terms of delivering the message they aimed and achieving their objectives.

Activities included Energy Model, Energy Community Reform; training session for advisors in Zagreb; participation in consultative session in EU Office for contributing into the forthcoming Stabilisation and Association Process Dialogues (SAPDs) on Transport, Environment, Energy and Regional development; conduct interview with 10 families and prepare analyses of collected data for Energy Poverty report, participate in the Preparatory Conference for Energy Community Treaty in Sarajevo among others.

All implemented and organised activities aimed to increase the SEE SEP Partners' capacity to engage with policy makers by utilising "best practice" analytical tools such as OPEERA energy model, policy products and watch dog reports.

Activities were advocated towards the general public, including people from diverse communities of Kosovo and various group ages. In addition, they outreached energy stakeholders and relevant energy government officials, which could use the model as an analytical and policy tool for energy related decisions. Furthermore, ten families were visited during this period for assessing their living conditions, especially energy efficiency and poverty.

During the reporting period there was no expert direct contribution required due to the planned activities.

However, during the implementation of the launching event, there was a fruitful discussion on the reports and the outcome and recommendation they provided. Common issue of discussion was the need for complementing the energy legislation in Kosovo through inclusion of the notion energy poverty and categorizing of the vulnerable groups that would benefit from this. Representatives of civil society and experts raised the issue of inability of government for supporting programmes that would have impact on the energy efficiency and reducing energy poverty mainly among socially challenged families. Present in the event were officials from KEDS (energy distributor), Riinvest institute, INDEP institute, USAID, GAP institute, RTK public TV, etc. This project was considered as an important one for the region and its continuation would have been an asset to all.

There was a launch of Red Flag Report on Energy Poverty and Watch Dog report organized on 18th November by ATRC in Prishtina with participation of CSOs, journalists as well as some representatives of public institutions. ATRC also participated in several events in energy field organized by public institutions, international agencies as well as CSOs. The Energy Roadmap and Energy Poverty was translated and printed in hard copy in Albanian language. Both documents were distributed among stakeholders in hand.

During the reporting period, there was a publication of two reports Energy Roadmap and Energy Poverty, as well as the finalizing of the data of energy model.

Energy Roadmap Report is translated in Albanian language, printed as well as launched and distributed. In order to collect data for the energy poverty report, there were interviews conducted with ten households in Obiliq Municipality selected as the most vulnerable one. The report on Energy Poverty was distributed to the participants during the launching event, to the ten households part of the interview, local media, and civil society organizations dealing with energy.

There are many results worth mentioning in this matter such as: for the first time in Kosovo we have managed to raise the topics on

corruption in energy sector in Kosovo

the role of international financial agencies in energy sector in Kosovo and region

energy efficiency and the measures to be taken

energy poverty

Energy Model is considered of big longterm importance for public institutions as well as business community for long term planning in energy sector. The Model is in the process of being published by the Ministry of Economic Development and all interested parties will have access to it.

Energy Poverty Report specifically the discussions in the launching event will be used as advocacy topics for ATRC and other stakeholders in the future. Issues to be advocated for will mainly be the inclusion of energy

poverty concept in Kosovo legislation; and legal regulation of categorizing of vulnerable groups to benefit from reducing energy bills.

The launching of the Watch Dog Report was communicated to the media through press release. The release was sent to Kosovopress, Telegraf, Indexonline, Economia online and infocus. This article <http://www.ekonomiaonline.com/ekonomi/biznes/kosova-e-shqiperia-humbje-te-medha-ne-energji-elektrike/> is the only media coverage in Kosovo regarding the report on sustainable energy: How far has SEE come in the last five years? South East Europe Energy Watchdog Report 2016

In all advocacy activities organized there were invited to participate also civil society representatives among others. From total number of involved people directly and indirectly more than one hundred were reached. 80% of the reached were citizen, experts, NGO and media. Total reached were 123 people.

During the events organized, there were several stakeholders involved such as Ministry of Economic Development, Department for energy and energy efficiency, officials from KEDS (energy distributor), Office for energy regulatory, Riinvest institute, INDEP institute, USAID, German Chamber of commerce, GAP institute, RTK public TV, etc

From 13-14 of October 2016 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, there was the last official event from the SEE SEP project, the Energy Poverty workshop organized. Kushtrim Kaloshi, the ATRC Director presented the situation with Energy Poverty in Kosovo at this regional workshop organised by our partners See Change Net from Bosnia and Herzegovina and DOOR from Zagreb, Croatia. Slavica Robić from DOOR presented the final document from these four years of our project titled "Energy poverty in South East Europe: Surviving the cold". All the partners also invited journalists from their respective countries to participate in this workshop and visit an Energy Community event. Faton Salihu, journalist from National Public Media RTK participated from Kosovo. The journalist was selected based on his experience in energy and economic field and also based on the references by the management of RTK. The journalist did not prepare any special report on the event but however it was agreed that RTK during 2017 will provide space for reportage for energy in general and the energy poverty more specifically.

After the support from the European Union ends, ATRC will continue promoting energy model and providing the needed explanation on its usage to the potential users. The promotion will continue also in the Ministry of Economic Development web page as well as ATRC web page. We will also continue participating in the events on energy organized in Kosovo by different stakeholders.

The project itself as a whole and in particular the activities mainstreamed cross-cutting issues through the approach applied and topics covered such as: corruption that is part of good governance, energy efficiency and energy poverty that is part social economic development and human rights.

During the field trip activity on energy poverty the above mentioned issues were addressed. So we monitored energy poor categorized houses, by visiting them and explaining to them what does energy poverty means. Several of these families lacked proper living conditions which is the fundamental violation of human rights. We were able to provide help by installing new bulbs, water filters and window isolation, so that we could somehow help with their conditions. Furthermore we provided to them information on why energy efficiency is important, so basically we contributed to increase in awareness and education.

The reports help people understand how living in a corrupted system is a violation of democracy and good governance. It limits the resources we are all entitled to cherish, thus action is needed (and the project showed how to act and be responsible) so that we foster democracy.

This was the first time ATRC was engaged in developing an excel energy model and in collecting enormous data for energy. There is no public agency in Kosovo that has so many data within a package as much as our energy model does. Partners of ATRC that were involved in the process have benefited from the data received, from the publication and findings as well as they used the reports as basis for advocacy.

The project partners involved in this project implementation have different experience in different fields. This is proven to be an added value for this project. Different experiences from different partners were complementary with each other in the process of project implementation towards reaching its objectives. Regular communication through online means served for avoiding any misunderstandings and strengthened the partnership ATRC has during the reporting period cooperated and coordinated several activities in the energy field with many stakeholders as EU Office in Prishtina, German Economic Chamber of Kosovo, USAID in Kosovo, British Embassy, in Prishtina, Municipality of Obiliq, and Ministry of Economic Development respectively Department of Energy and Energy Efficiency.

During the reporting time ATRC has cooperated with a number of CSOs and experts which are permanently engaged in energy sector in Kosovo, such as: KOSID, academics from University, independent energy experts and journalists.

ENERGY MODEL

During the reporting period of December 2015 - November 2016 ATRC implemented several activities of the SEE SEP project which resulted to be successful in terms of delivering the message they aimed and achieving their objectives.

Activities included Energy Model, Energy Community Reform; training session for advisors in Zagreb; participation in consultative session in EU Office for contributing into the forthcoming Stabilisation and Association Process Dialogues (SAPDs) on Transport, Environment, Energy and Regional development; conduct interview with 10 families and prepare analyses of collected data for Energy Poverty report, participate in the Preparatory Conference for Energy Community Treaty in Sarajevo; etc.

All implemented and organised activities aimed to increase the SEE SEP Partners' capacity to engage with policy makers by utilising "best practice" analytical tools such as OPEERA energy model, policy products and watch dog reports.

ATRC also agreed with the Ministry of Economic Development that the Energy Model will be published on the Ministry webpage and jointly with the Ministry there will be a promotion in media for the usage and importance in using the model by businesses and public institutions. Also, it is requested that ATRC organize a presentation of the model for Ministry Departments for usage of the model calculator. This will be done during 2017.

The collected data during the preparation of the energy model calculator that was discussed with different stakeholders, based on regular contact with them, were used in different reports and indirect tool for different activities. ATRC participation in more than 10 events organized by others, was a very good opportunity for project promotion and its results in energy field.

Activities were advocated towards the general public, including people from diverse communities of Kosovo and various group ages. In addition, they outreached energy stakeholders and relevant energy government officials, which could use the model as an analytical and policy tool for energy related decisions. Furthermore, ten families are visited during this period for assessing their living conditions, especially energy efficiency and poverty

In Kosovo there is no energy model and the long term planning in energy are without professional calculators. The Energy Model created is considered by the Ministry of Economic Development as a useful tool to be used for future energy planning not only by the Ministry but also for other potential investors. Therefore the Ministry of Economic Development agreed to put the Model on their webpage.

ATRC contributed with the translation and adaptation of the texts for web tools, Carbon Calculators, My 2050 video game.

https://www.see2050energymodel.net/index.php?country=Kosovan&en=&page=2050_interactive&game_12=

ATRC managed to update and finalize the sectorial power point presentations by March 2016, following several changes and data confirmation inside the energy model in the meanwhile from the initial point that the presentations were delivered to energy experts. Outputs produced can be referred to updated power points uploaded on google drive. Presentations are the final version of data presentations, and are now in line with the final version of the excel energy model.

ATRC have been actively involved in preparation of the roadmap documents including provision of comments. ATRC together with partners from Albania have jointly translated and did proofreading of the Roadmap Advocacy and Roadmap Technical in Albanian.

<http://advocacy-center.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/RRUGA-DREJT-BE-se-APO-RRUGA-DREJT-ASKUND-1.pdf>

<http://advocacy-center.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Te-mbijetuarit-gjatë-të-ftohtit.pdf>

<http://advocacy-center.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/RRUGA-DREJT-BE-se-APO-RRUGA-DREJT-ASKUND.pdf>

The experience of ATRC in the energy field, proves that there are many areas of intervention that could be done by the civil society: advocating for increasing the governmental investments in energy efficiency; subventioning of banks and businesses in energy efficiency; amending the legislation for energy poverty; raising the awareness of people in using properly energy and energy saving.

As mentioned, energy poverty is a new and unknown notion in Kosovo legislation as well as among people. As a result of this, none of the stakeholders that were contacted during the project was aware of the factors that could contribute to energy poverty and the measures that could reduce as well as avoid this.

SEE SEP project was the only reason of establishing the cooperation in the energy field with above mentioned stakeholders and we believe that it will continue in the future.

Cooperation with these institutions regarding the SEE SEP project resulted in ATRC being recognized as a stakeholder of the Ministry and others and therefore we have been regularly invited to the events on energy.

In order to contribute to the energy poverty red flag report, ATRC conducted 10 households surveys in Kosovo. Household survey was conducted with 10 families in Obiliq Municipality, Department for Social Welfare. Obiliq municipality was selected due to the thermo power plants being located there. The selection of households was done together with the Municipality of Obiliq. The selection criteria were social and economic situation, and area of living. We were able to provide help by installing new bulbs, water filters and window isolation, so that we could somehow help with their conditions. Furthermore we provided to them information on why energy efficiency is important, so basically we contributed to increase in awareness and education.

<http://advocacy-center.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Te-mbijetuarit-gjatë-të-ftohtit.pdf>

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENV.NET IN WEST BALKAN AND TURKEY

The project "Development of the ENV.net in West Balkan and Turkey: giving citizens a voice to influence the environmental process reforms for closer EU integration" started on December 2012 and shall run until December 2016. It is implemented by punto.sud (Italy) as leading organization and ATRC (Kosovo), Co-PLAN (Albania), Environment Ambassadors for Sustainable Development - EASD (Serbia), TEMA (Turkey), European Environmental Bureau - EEB (Belgium), 4x4x4 Balkan Bridges Skopje (Republic of Macedonia) as implementing partners. The project purpose is to achieve a greater commitment and capacity of the ENV.net partners to give citizens a voice and influence public sector reform processes in the environment sector through analysis, monitoring and advocacy and in welcoming the standards of the environment acquis. The project strategy is expected to consolidate the ENV.net role in fostering the state-civil society dialogue at national and regional levels, in analyzing and monitoring the on-going process reforms and finally at providing actual opportunities to give citizens and CSOs a voice in the environmental reform process and in the integration with EU.

On 22nd of September, ATRC together with Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Municipality of Prishtina and Kosovo Police gathered in front of Ministry of Environment to mark "International Day without Vehicles". Around 50 volunteers joined in marking this day together with some primary school children. After the speech, people that participated in the event took a ride with bicycles provided by the Ministry throughout the city. Participants wore t-shirts with the day's message and volunteers put some messages in the trees on the main streets of the city. This event was followed by local media as well.

Secretary Permanent of Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, based on the article 38 of the Law Nr. 03/L-189 for State Administration of Kosovo, based on the article 17 of the Regulation Nr. 02/2011 took the decision of establishing a Council for organizing and marking the 22 September World Day without vehicles. ATRC is a member of this Council together with other representatives.

In order to mark 05th June World Environment Day, there were several activities organized. The activities were mainly organized in Germia Park in Prishtina. The activities were organized in cooperation between ATRC with the Prishtina Municipality, NGO Mileniumi i Ri, NGO Green Art as well as other NGOs. Main activities were: Promotion of art through recycled materials; distribution of brochures for Germia Park; promotion cycling as environmental friendly mean; lectures for children on the recycling process and energy efficiency; health promotion as well as information on environmental protection for the participants in the Park.



Initiative “Let’s clean Kosova” on 24th May organized its cleaning campaign in entire Kosovo. This initiative is a citizen initiative that deals with activities for protecting the environment in Kosovo, addressing environmental problems and organizing cleaning actions. “Let’s clean Kosova” is part of a global “Lest Do It World” that is present in 110 countries in the World.

In order to mark this important day, more than 60.000 volunteers in 30 Municipalities were engaged in order to eliminate 147 illegal dumping sites and other garbage filled areas. More than 5.000 tons of garbage resulted to be collected during a one day activity.

The Balkan Green Foundation (BGF), in collaboration with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the European Office in Kosovo/EUSR, organized a high-level regional conference to discuss matters regarding sustainable development, climate change, and Western Balkan countries pathway towards Europe. ATRC participated in the conference.

The conference tackled energy, climate change, and environmental policies, in the context of the Western Balkans. Specific focus is afforded to national strategies on energy and climate change, targets and obligations within the Energy Community Treaty, and the potential of a liberalized energy market. Ministers of the Environment and Energy/Economic Development from the region presented their commitments for the abovementioned topics, especially with regard to the Paris agreement.

Additionally, representatives of the European Commission and other EU institutions addressed achievements and what path each country should undertake towards a sustainable energy policy. High-level representatives of agencies working on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the Secretariat of the Energy Community Treaty, and IFIs, highlighted the targets, commitments, achievements, and joint means of financing environmentally friendly energy projects throughout the region.

The conference was organized in three panels. First Panel - The Aftermath of the Paris Agreement: perspectives from the Western Balkans and the EU; Second Panel - The Western Balkans 6 Connectivity Agenda: Regional market, An Integrated Solution; Third Panel - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources.

On 04th of March ATRC participated in the Conference organized by Urban Research Institute (URI) in Kukes (Albania). Conference was part of the project Environmental Protection and Waste Management implemented jointly by ATRC and URI and supported by European Commission Delegation in Albania. In this final conference results of the project activities were presented and recommendations for future needs. Objective of this project

is: 1: Stimulate sustainable economic development and environmental protection through promotion of recycling and waste management in the border region of Kosovo and Albania; 2: Empower cooperation and partnership amongst and between citizen, enterprises and institutions for preparing and implementing projects and joint initiatives.

During March, ATRC, as part of the ENV.net project activities selected three sub-grantee organizations that will implement three projects during the spring period. The projects implemented are:

Protecting rivers from pollution and degradation (Main objective of the Project aims to raise the awareness of institutions but also of citizen for environmental protection in general with specific focus on rivers in Gjakova, Peja and Rahovec (rivers Lumbardhi i Pejës, Drini e bardhë dhe Lumit Erenik)

Germia Yesterday and Today (Through the activities of the project will identify properties built in occupied areas, identification of environmental degradation, waste management and generally park by the responsible authorities. Activities will be implemented in cooperation with NGOs and citizen sympathetic to the park, but also with other institutions).

Environment protection from unused medicines (Specific objective of the project is to raise the awareness of population about the health and environment risks of the disposal of unused medicines as normal waste.

ATRRC participated in the meeting upon invitation sent by EU Office in Kosovo to interested organizations from local civil society in Kosovo to contribute their knowledge and information into the forthcoming Stabilization and Association Process Dialogues (SAPDs) on Transport, Environment, Energy and Regional Development.

The main purpose of the meeting was to gather ideas and viewpoints of the civil society on the above issues, in view of the preparations for the SAPD discussions with Kosovo authorities. Topics discussed were:

Energy

What are the key developments the energy sector in Kosovo?

Where do you see the major challenges and can provide main policy recommendations?

Environment

What are the key developments (policy, legislative) in the area of environment since spring 2016?

Major challenges, key priorities and policy recommendations in the areas of:

Waste management

Air pollution

Water management

Nature protection

Transport

Transport sector in Kosovo (key policy/legislative developments)

Major challenges and policy recommendations in the areas of:

Road transport/road safety

Rail transport

Aviation

Municipality of Prishtina has installed 6 sensors for measuring air pollution in six different points in the capital of Kosovo. So far there were only 2 points. According to local authorities, through this measurement of air pollution, citizen of Prishtina will be informed about the environment they live in as well as about what could they do in future to have cleaner air to breathe. This is only a pilot project and more sensors will be placed in the near future as well. So far, the Prishtina Municipality has also taken several important measures for environmental protection such as order for over 50 new busses for urban traffic causing less pollution, modernizing of public lightening, revitalization and expanding of green areas, tree planting, etc. Prishtina city is considered to one of the cities fighting climate changes.

SUPPORT TO AGRIBUSINESS OF THE GJILAN REGION

Project "Support to Agribusiness of the Gjilan/Gnjilane Region" is a project supported by European Union and is implemented by CARE International in partnership with ATRC and Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality. The project is focused on three (3) main pillars: Activities for Agriculture Development, Activities for Economic Development

and Activities for Advocacy and Lobbying. The project aims to utilize the new developments in Kosovo, in Gjilan/Gnjilane region, as well as to provide cooperation of producers and businesses between the Kosovo's economic regions. The action that will be implemented by CARE as the applicant and Municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane and Advocacy Training and Resource Centre (ATRC), as co-applicants seeks to contribute to economic regeneration and creation of favorable conditions for business development in Gjilan/Gnjilane region.

R.4 Increased capacities of local businesses in advocacy and lobbying for favourable conditions in business development

The project component for the achievement of the expected result 4 was implemented by the project co-applicant Advocacy Training and Research Centre ATRC in cooperation and communication with the project team and BSC staff.

As planned, all activities have been conducted during this reporting period:

Activity 4.1: Conduct an assessment of current capacities in advocacy and lobbying among local companies in Gnjilan/Gnjilane region, including potentials for advocacy for legislation support concerning Gjilan/Gnjilane region

As planned, ATRC conducted an assessment of current capacities in advocacy and lobbying among local companies in Gjilan region.

This assessment is based on direct interviews that have been conducted based through the questionnaires with target groups respectively randomly selected businesses in many areas of the city as well as in rural parts of Gjilan region. During the period of two months, ATRC conducted total of 146 interviews and did the analysis of the same, came up with conclusions and provided some recommendations in the final assessment report. Initially, the questionnaire was developed containing 38 questions. The helped in collecting of information regarding structure of the business, its size, their cooperation with municipal bodies, their needs for their capacity building as well as for their interest for receiving interns in different professional fields, as well as for their requests in general. There were direct meetings organized with randomly selected businesses in close cooperation with Municipalities. For this assessment an NGO Agro-eko was also engaged. This was due to their presence in Gjilan Municipality. They engaged several activists that visited businesses and conducted interviews.

Assessment was conducted in four Municipalities of Gjilan region: Gjilan, Kamenica, Viti and Novoberde. Number of interviewers was divided as per the size of Municipality: Gjilan (106), Kamenica (20), Viti (10) and Novoberde (10). Special emphasis was given to gender balance as well the representation of minority groups.

Activity 4.2: Design and implement a capacity building program on advocacy to interested business groups and associations, farmer producers of the project and interested high school graduates and students

On the basis of the assessment report (activity 4.1), ATRC in close cooperation with CARE and Business Support Center in Gjilan Municipality in partnership with Gjilan Municipality selected local companies for the capacity building program with aim to increase their internal capacities on advocacy and lobbying skills. In this regard five "Advocacy and Coalition Building" trainings were conducted. The trainings were organized in Gjilan Municipality and Novoberde Municipality by ATRC.

The aim of the trainings was to increase advocacy capacities of representatives from local businesses in Gjilan on issues regarding their businesses (compiling recommendations for policy papers, negotiation with governmental officials, advocacy for changes in local policies, etc). Present in the trainings were 146 participants from different local companies, business support centre staff as well as some students. The training was very welcome and they are looking forward to further their knowledge in practice. Topics covered during the training were: Introduction of the Business Support Centre in Gjilan including their role and responsibilities; Advocacy-steps of advocacy process; Advocacy Issues, objectives, allies and opponents; Advocacy strategy and compiling the message; Media approach; Operational Plan of the campaign and narrative plan.

Activity 4.3: Establish advocacy and lobbying strategy, action plan and implementation mechanism for improving conditions for business development in the Gjilan/Gnjilane region, with participation of all applicants of the action (CARE, Municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane and their business support center and ATRC).

As planned ATRC in coordination with CARE ad Business Support Center as well as Gjilan Municipality organized and conducted workshop on strategy development for 33 business representatives of Gjilan Region. During the Workshop participants were very active and through the participatory methodology they were able to contribute towards identifying the major problems they face on their day to day work. Upon identifying the problems they came up with the list of possible solutions they considered important as well as prioritized them based on their opinion. Also ways and steps for preparing the action plan for tackling these identified issues were discussed with them. Detailed advocacy campaigns steps were gone through with them.

Major achievement considered as a result of total of five trainings and one workshop is that the participants learned that there are different tools that could help them get together in order raise their problems as a group and advocate and lobby for it.

Activity 4.4: Support one advocacy action of the BSC Gjilan/Gnjilane and other local actors aiming at improving conditions for business development in Gjilan Region

ATRC have managed together with the participants to identify several issues that need advocacy activities as well as lobbying. Also, together with them we were able to prioritize some of them that would need faster response from the Municipalities. Joint letter have been prepared and delivered to the respective Municipalities covered by their respective project containing requests by the business representatives. Requests were: removal of municipal taxes for businesses; allocation of subsidies on time and by respecting predefined criteria; improve the information system for open application calls to the businesses; publication of the list of beneficiaries of grants and or subsidies in order to increase the transparency; increase the investments in infrastructure that would create better opportunities for businesses; revise the criteria for application in order for smaller businesses to have the possibility to apply.

Indicator 1 # of people trained

During the project implementation total of 179 people have been trained. This number does not include the number of participants in the survey conducted numbering 146.

Indicator 2 increase in the # of initiatives undertaken in advocacy and lobbying

Awareness of the people on their ability to influence change through advocacy and lobbying activities has increased. As a result of this, joint letter have been prepared and delivered to the respective Municipalities covered by their respective project containing requests by the business representatives. Requests were: removal of municipal taxes for businesses; allocation of subsidies on time and by respecting predefined criteria; improve the information system for open application calls to the businesses; publication of the list of beneficiaries of grants and or subsidies in order to increase the transparency; increase the investments in infrastructure that would create better opportunities for businesses; revise the criteria for application in order for smaller businesses to have the possibility to apply.

Indicator 3 # of local policies changed or promoted as a result of the project

This indicator is very much dependent on the results of the indicator 2. Advocacy and lobbying activities have been implemented as planned and it is now on the Municipalities and the board weather they will respond to the business representative's requests. Even through the project is finished, ATRC will follow up on this issue.

4. INFORMATION PROGRAM

ATRC program for information is implemented through public discussions, conferences, donor presentation, publications and the ATRC website. The program supports information exchange between NGOs, government institutions, donors, officials and citizens.

Bulletin "Advocate"

ATRC in quarterly bases, continues with the publication of electronic newsletter The Advocate, which contains the main activities developed during that period. The Advocate is distributed electronically to NGOs, media, governmental and local institutions and partners as well potential supporters within and outside Kosovo. "The Advocate" can be downloaded from the ATRC web page: www.advocacy-center.org

Library

ATRC Library owns more than 1,060 titles, reports and other materials in Albanian, English and Serbian on advocacy, civil society, leadership, human rights, gender awareness, etc. For more information log on ATRC website: www.advocacy-center.org.

ATRC website

ATRC enriches website with new information, making it more convenient for users in Albanian, English and Serbian. In 2015, the web site has been visited 69,372 times.

Annual Report 2015

ATRC prepared Annual Report 2015, which provides information to supporters, partners and the public about the activities conducted by ATRC. The report describes the statement of work and activities from January to December 2015.

All ATRC publications can be found in ATRC offices or downloaded from its official webpage: www.advocacy-center.org;

FINANCIAL REPORT



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of Advocacy Training and Resource Centre

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Advocacy Training and Resource Centre (ATRC), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2016, and the statement of revenue and expenditure, statement of changes in net assets and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

Scope of the Audit

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ATRC as of December 31, 2016 and the results of its operation for the year then ended in conformity with International Standards on Auditing.



ATRC STRUCTURE

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President of the Board

KRESHNIK BERISHA
Board Member

Prof. Dr. ISA **ELEZAJ**
Board Member

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