



ANNUAL REPORT

2018 EDITION







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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S GREETINGS

"ATRC's success is undoubtedly dedicated to its values and mission, and that is reflected in our work and commitment to our colleagues and partners."

2018 has been another year of growth and success for ATRC. Throughout the year, ATRC was engaged in numerous projects aiming to strengthen the role of NGOs, public institutions, and citizens. ATRC has been advocating at local and central institutions on issues of general interest based on its four main programs:

Grant Management Program; Capacity Building Program; Advocacy Program; and Information Program. Additionally, we have been focused on the continuation of existing programs and also on starting new ones in collaboration with various stakeholders from different sectors.

On behalf of ATRC, I thank donors and supporters who enabled us to contribute to the democratic development of our country as well as to regional development.

ATRC's success is undoubtedly dedicated to its values, mission, and vision, and that is reflected in our work, professionalism, and commitment to our employees on one hand, but also reflects through our continuous cooperation with our partners, ensuring that professionalism, dedication, and primacy will be a guide for our further journey.

Sincerely,

*Kushtrim Kaloshi*



## PROFILE

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.

To help Kosovar NGOs engage in successful advocacy by providing, on a regular basis, information on:

Opportunities for advocacy efforts (such as upcoming legislation, government decrees, UN programs, etc.) advocacy initiatives to join in Kosovo, the Balkans and globally

organizational structures and responsibilities of local and international bodies

To strengthen cooperation among Kosovar NGOs by providing information about networking opportunities.

To facilitate exchanges of information and resources among NGOs in Kosovo, the Balkans and globally.

To provide Kosovar NGOs with information on human and financial resources available in Kosovo and abroad.

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. It also provides training for all Kosovo NGOs.

We work to strengthen the autonomy, effectiveness, sustainability and the impact of CSOs in Kosovo's society.

## OUR MISSION

Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) is a Kosovar non-governmental and non-profit organization that works in increasing citizen and civil society participation in decision-making, as a prerequisite for a developed democratic society and regional stability.

ATRC aims at strengthening the role of NGOs as agents of change in the society; increase the capacity of NGOs and civic initiatives to undertake advocacy campaigns; and contribute in creating governing institutions that meet international standards.

ATRC works with NGOs, civic initiatives, public administration and political institutions regardless of religion, political affiliations, ethnicity, age, capability and sexual orientation.

ATRC accomplishes its goals through advocacy, training, information exchange and networking in and out of Kosovo.





## BRIEF HISTORY OF ATRC

ATRC was established in October 2001 as a key implementing partner for the USAID/EWMI Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project (KNAP). Initially, it was part of the Forum, but later moved under the auspices of the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI), which led to its independence as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in June 2003.

The initial goal of ATRC was to create a vibrant advocacy training and resource center. During 2002 – 2005, ATRC leads a network of 27 Kosovar NGOs called AvoKo. In September 2005, ATRC formalized a partnership agreement with the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) to support the development of Kosovo NGO's under the USAID funded Kosovo Civil Society Program. Through our enhanced role as a full-service NGO training, resource and information center, ATRC is working to strengthen the

autonomy, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of the NGO sector as a major catalyst in the development of a vibrant civil society and responsive democratic governance.

It has established an extensive Information Program, consisting of frequent public discussions; a monthly e-newsletter, “The Advocate”; advocacy publications; and a diverse library, with over 600 titles. As a part of its Capacity Building Program during Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project (KNAP), ATRC has trained over 700 NGO representatives with its 40 available trainers.

Since, 2005, ATRC has its own trainers and consultants who trained over 500 NGO representatives in key areas of NGO organizational development, management, advocacy and fund raising.





## WHAT DO WE DO?

- We serve as a full-service NGO advocacy, training, resource and information center.
- We work to strengthen the autonomy, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of the NGO sector.
- Our programs are designed to meet the current and evolving needs of our NGO clients.
- We provide basic and advanced training and consultancy in key areas of NGO organizational development, management, advocacy and fund raising;
- We provide electronic information resources via our updated website, marketing and communication, public dialogues and roundtables, coalition building, and facilitation of cross-sectoral partnerships and cooperation.
- We facilitate dialogue between Kosovar NGOs and international and Kosovar governmental structures.
- We offer training space and services for Kosovar and international NGOs based in Kosovo.
- We provide training for municipality officials, as well, in areas of organizational development, management, strategic planning, communication and media relations, etc.

# WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

ATRC serves the community of Kosovar NGOs that are engaged in efforts to bring positive change in their community. Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC), works closely with the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), which is partnering with ATRC to strengthen local capacity and support the development of Kosovo's civil society through long-term mentoring, training, grant-giving, and technical assistance.

ATRC has developed working relations with a large number of Kosovar NGOs, international agencies, local unions, as well as with a number of key Kosovar decision-makers, including members of the central governing bodies.

## DONORS

U.S Agency for International Development (USAID)

Global Community Engagement Resilience Fund (GCERF)

U. S Department of State - Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

European Commission (EU)

Swedish International Development Cooperation

Agency (SIDA)

Save the Children Kosovo/a





## KEY FIGURES

**6** PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

**7** COVERED MUNICIPALITIES

**2.4M** REACHED INDIVIDUALS

**120** RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED  
BY POLICY MAKERS

# ENGAGEMENT FOR EQUITY PROGRAM - E4E

Engagement for Equity (E4E) empowers marginalized groups in Kosovo by providing grants and technical assistance to local CSOs representing these groups, and by strengthening their ability to influence the development and implementation of policies affecting these communities.

In September 2018, E4E launched the Round VII of grants inviting local CSOs to apply in one or more of the five program themes:

- 1) Women in Governance and Economy;
- 2) Empowering Women through Enhanced Awareness of Women's Property Rights;
- 3) Increased protection and awareness of vulnerable populations' rights;

- 4) Expand Participation of Persons with Disabilities (PwD); and
- 5) Expand Youth Participation.

Throughout 2018, E4E engaged and helped in establishing and organizing various activities with local CSOs.

The organizational capacities of grantees have been improved for more than 40% in various fields including Program Management, Financial Management, Human Resources, and Advocacy; the social enterprise Deshira has been established which employs people with intellectual impairments; supported the Pride Week and Pride Parade in Prishtina.

## 84 GRANTS ISSUED TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING KOSOVO WIDE ON

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

WOMEN IN AND ECONOMY

WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHT

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

EXPAND PARTICIPATION OF PWD





## KEY RESULTS

**120** policy recommendations adopted by policy makers on women in governance and the economy, women's property rights, and rights for PwD, youth, and vulnerable populations' rights.

**21** changes made as a result of advocacy or monitoring activities of targeted legislation.

**13** pieces of secondary legislation adopted at municipal and central levels.

Over **1.8** million people engaged in civic education mainly through the media regarding women's property rights, women in governance and economy, prevention of violent extremism, LGBT, and PwD Rights.

**8,400** youth engaged from communities at high risk from violent extremism through strategic communication and media, working groups, discussions, and theater performance.

**43** research papers published on women and governance, women's property rights, LGBTI rights, and PwD.

Over **60** success stories published to portray role models of vulnerable and marginalized groups that impact behavior change in the society.

Administrative Instruction that regulates the rights, procedures and obligations of voluntary work in Kosovo

Strategy of Women Entrepreneurs 2017-2022 in the municipality of Drenas, Rahovec and Kamenica

Extension of Administrative Instruction that enables the free Registration of Joint Property on behalf of both spouses.

Seat gained on the National Council for Economic Development to represent women's economic empowerment.

National Action Plan (November 2016 –November 2018) for LGBTI Rights Action Plan for People with Disability in municipality of Prishtina

Medical Social Commission Regulation that improved the criteria for status and benefits of the blind

Administrative Instructions that regulates gender equality in three municipalities.

Concept document for Comprehensive Law for persons with disabilities

Action Plan for preventing violent extremism in two municipalities



## E4E PROVIDED TECHNICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO 74 GRANTEES THROUGH:

**34 IN-HOUSE WORKSHOPS** on Project Cycle Management, Financial Management, Advocacy and Coalition Building, Monitoring and Evaluation, Human Resources Management and Practices, Procurement Policies and Procedures, Business Model Canvas, Strategic Communications and Social Behaviors.

**40 INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUILDING SERVICES** on Strategic Planning, Advocacy, Project Monitoring and Evaluation, Performance Evaluation, Project Management, Fundraising, Organizational Management, Financial Procedures and Reporting to Donors.

**10 SPECIAL PROVISION TRAININGS/CONSULTANCIES** for grantees dealing with LGBTI rights on Advocacy and Implementation of anti-discrimination Law, Situation Testing of Discrimination, Monitoring and Documenting, Reporting of Human Rights Violations, Media Strategies, Tools for Increasing LGBTI Visibility, Media Monitoring and Gender Identity

**104** Organizational Documents are developed and upgraded through technical and organizational development assistance to E4E grantees





## WITH PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY FOR A KOSOVO WITHOUT RADICALIZATION

This program is supported by the Global Community Engagement Resilience Fund (GCERF) and is implemented by the ATRC-led Resilient Community Consortium with five other local NGOs. In the first year of work, the Consortium has taken numerous of actions with various institutions to contribute towards diminishing motives and incentives for radicalization that may lead to violent extremism. The intervention has mainly targeted two groups: 1) Returnees, prisoners and their families; and 2) General youth population.

In 2018, our actions have reached to around 225k individuals out of which 59% Men and 41% Women. Our work has created sustainable impacts and improved social cohesion, community agency, equal access to opportunities, and sense of purpose of vulnerable individuals towards radicalization and violent extremism.

In 2018, we reached more than 350k individuals  
out of which 59% Men, 41% Women

223,193	TOTAL REACHED INDIVIDUALS
214,999	INDIRECT REACHED INDIVIDUALS
8194	DIRECT REACHED INDIVIDUALS
130,755	REACHED MEN
92,438	REACHED WOMEN

During the first 9-months of the Consortium’s functioning, the program’s intervention strategy has contributed towards the following impacts:

- 8194 people directly engaged from institutions and vulnerable communities towards radicalization and violent extremism through media campaign, research projects, workshops, roundtables and capacity building trainings.
- 214 999 people indirectly benefited from the Consortium’s awareness raising work on preventing radicalization and violent extremism.
- The Consortium’s research and media work (articles and TV shows) have enhanced the social cohesion and improved public narrative through counter-

radicalization and violent extremism narratives in media and public discussions.

- The Consortium’s research and training activities have strengthened the community’s resilience through increasing the equality on the access to opportunities.
- The Consortium’s workshops and capacity building trainings have contributed to strengthen the community agency through an increased thematic capacities of the local decision-making institutions on the prevention of violent extremism among youth.





## PROTECT CHILD

PROtectCHILD is a Project funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and implemented by ATRC in partnership with Save the Children in Kosova/o. Through this project, ATRC aims to increase awareness of the wider population for the Law on Child protection with special emphasis on the banning of corporal punishment.

During 2018, ATRC presented the content and process of the Law on Child obligations deriving from it in relation to municipalities and other enforcers of the law, as well as the need for inter-institutional cooperation for the practical implementation of the law when

approved by the Parliament. The activities will continue to be implemented throughout 2019 in order to cover all planned municipalities in Kosovo.

Additionally, ATRC will continue broadcasting TV spots and articles in local and social media regarding children's rights and the need for children's law improvement.

In 2018, Protect Child reached 585,320 individuals, 45% Women, 55% Men, 25% children

505,604

REACHED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

79,400

REACHED THROUGH LOCAL MEDIA

365

PARTICIPANTS IN 16 MUNICIPALITIES

9

PUBLISHED ARTICLES





# JUSTICE IN JUSTICE



In 2018, Justice in Justice reached  
more than 20,000 individuals  
52% females, 48% Males

Justice in Justice project aimed to educate citizens about the legal system and to encourage Kosovo's civil society and citizens to advocate for positive reforms in certain fields of the justice sector. Moreover, the project promoted public accountability by helping citizens to seek justice when Kosovo's institutions and/or its representatives violate their rights.

In all of its events, Justice in Justice brought together citizens with members of Civil Society, Members of Parliament, Government, and Justice sector representatives. Overall, in these events it was discussed the implementation of Article 69 of the Law on Public Financial Management and Accountability; the importance and need to

approve the Administrative Instruction of this article; and the introduction of complaint mechanisms against officials who violate their responsibilities and human rights.

Additionally, throughout the project, ATRC advocated to the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance to adopt the Administrative Instruction in order to provide clear guidelines regarding the implementation of Article 69.

20,000

REACHED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

200

IN FIVE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

3

PARTICIPANTS IN 16 MUNICIPALITIES

2

EXPERTS' ROUNDTABLES







## CBC-CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

The purpose of CBC-Cross Border Cooperation Kosovo - Macedonia is to contribute to economic development and social inclusion in the cross-border areas of the East region of Kosovo, as well as Northeast and Skopje regions of Macedonia, through income generation of start-ups and micro-enterprises.

This project will be implemented from 2018-2020 with the following objectives:

- To enhance competitiveness by stimulating competition and innovative practices of export-oriented handicraft start-ups and micro-enterprises.

- To support cross-border clustering of handicraft artisans and micro-enterprises by supporting the cooperative presence on developed export markets.

- To utilize information technologies for online selling of handicrafts.

- To include vulnerable and marginalized groups in the labor market and contribute to their economic empowerment.

## In 2018, CBC held several activities with small and potential businesses in Kosovo and Macedonia



110

PARTICIPANTS IN TOTAL

50

ARTISANS IN EVALUATION MEETING

60

WORKSHOP AND MINI-FAIR

2

HANDICRAFT CORSES



## ENV.NET

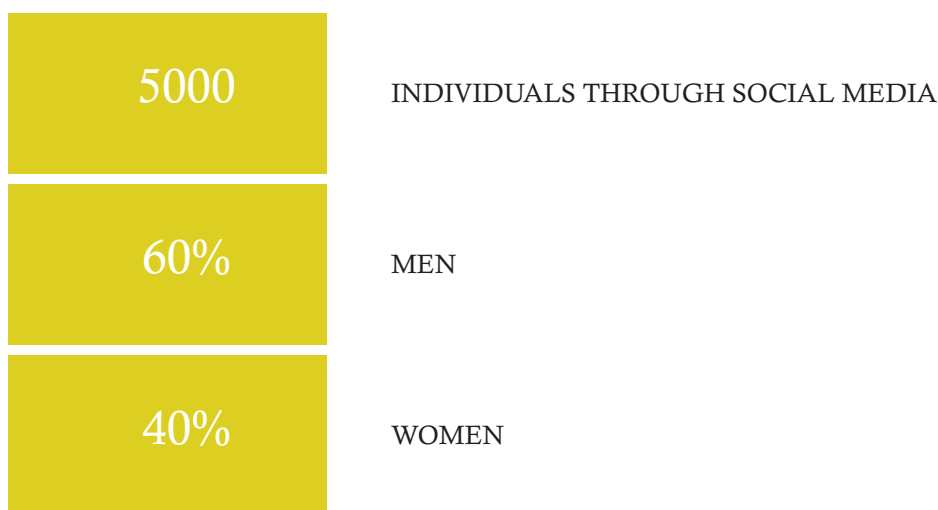
ENV.net Factoring the Environmental Portfolio for WB and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda was established five years ago and grew into a regional actor influencing public sector reform processes in the environmental sector. The project is meant to further consolidate its role at the regional level, by contributing to the improvement of environmental policies in compliance with the EU standards.

ATRC conducted systematic monitoring of the environmental policy implementation in Kosovo. This process will result in findings and evidence to feed into the written contribution

for EU Country Progress Reports. Also, ATRC prepares a monthly Newsletter aiming to increase interest by highlighting main developments related to the environment, climate change and circular economy, and ultimately to mobilize action or influence particular decision-makers.

In order to increase awareness on particular environmental issues, ATRC organized 2 field trips in places that represent the degradation of the environment; published 4 articles; and organized one roundtable with 20 environmental NGOs.

A financial support scheme was provided to support CSOs and media to apply with project proposals contributing to the improvement of environmental policies



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Bringing out the  
advocate in  
everyone

**atrc**  
Advocacy Training & Resource Center  
www.advocacy-center.org

## INFORMATION PROGRAM

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

### Bulletin "Advocate"

ATRC, on quarterly bases, continues with the publication of the 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](http://www.advocacy-center.org).

### Library

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

### ATRC website

ATRC enriches website with new information, making it more convenient for users in Albanian, English and Serbian. In 2018, the web site has been visited 68,569 times.



# FINANCIAL REPORT



## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedure that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the annual financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

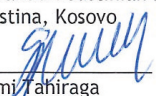
We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

BDO Kosova L.L.C.

March 28, 2019

Perandori Justinian no 120

Pristina, Kosovo

  
Sami Tahiraga  
Engagement Partner



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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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This report was made possible by the contribution of the ATRC staff, the contents are the responsibility of ATRC.  
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ATRC Annual Report 2018 material prepared by ATRC staff.



A large, bright yellow triangle is painted on a dark asphalt surface. The triangle is oriented with one vertex pointing towards the top right. The lines are thick and slightly irregular, suggesting they were hand-painted. The background is a textured, grey asphalt.

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