



**Advocacy Center**  
for **Democratic Culture**

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2021**

The report presents projects and activities implemented by the Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture during 2021

[WWW.ACDC-KOSOVO.ORG](http://WWW.ACDC-KOSOVO.ORG)

Project 1.

Long-term cooperation between the American Corner Mitrovica - the city library Vuk St. Karadžić and the NGO ACDC

01.05.2018. - 31.08.2021.

The American Corner of Mitrovica - Vuk St. Karadžić City Library operates on the model of public libraries during the year. The ACM Book Collection consists of publications in English that contain a wide variety of information about the United States. The fund includes professional literature, fiction, etc., and part of the collection is also available on Kindle devices.

Educational programs, creative workshops, lectures, etc. are organized in the ACM space.

To organize these programs, cooperation was achieved between ACM - city library Vuk St. Karadžić and the NGO ACDC. The cooperation began in 2018, within which the NGO ACDC provided accounting services and procurement of materials needed to organize and implement the program. These services are conducted within the implementation of many educational and creative programs such as "Media literacy", "English for lawyers", "Meet the library", "Youth Safety on the Internet", "How to start your own business" etc.

In the period from 2018 to 2021, the NGO ACDC also worked on the procurement of technical equipment, promotional material, procurement of books, and other library materials that are needed for the work of the institution.

Project 2.

Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo-Serb Majority Communities

01.09.2020. - 10.09.2022

The overriding objective of the project was to enhance the depth and quality of the *participation of citizens' participation in decision-making processes* through a series of actions geared at the establishment of sustainable mechanisms that enabled project stakeholders to more closely and effectively monitor the work of local administrative bodies and courts. The project was divided into two components; one dealing with citizens' participation in decision-making processes and the other with support to judicial institutions, with each component led by an organization with specific competencies in those areas.

Specific objectives under component 1:

- ✚ **Specific Objective 1:** To increase capacities for anti-corruption action at local level through empowerment of CSOs and their networking into a Local Anti-Corruption Council, which will also include representatives of local self-governments and media.

- ✚ **Specific Objective 2:** *To contribute to the establishment of local mechanisms for inclusion of citizens' in the decision-making process at local level.* This will be achieved through the establishment the Local Anti-Corruption Council to ensure transparency in decision-making processes and act as a bulwark against corrupt practices. This will lead to better transparency at local level will contribute to lowering corruptive behavior by various public institutions in K/Serb majority areas in Kosovo.
- ✚ **Specific objective 3:** To increase knowledge and awareness on importance and means of inclusion of citizens in the decision-making process at local level. The objective aims to undertake a wide scope of activities in regard to the awareness raising activities including the representatives of local self-governments in K-Serb majority municipalities in Kosovo, citizens' and CSOs on mechanisms tailored to enhance public participation in the decision-making.

### Project 3.

Support to integration of young lawyers from non-majority communities in Kosovo  
**01.10.2020. - 31.01.2021.**

NGO Center for the Advocacy of Democratic Culture - "ACDC" in partnership with the Swiss Embassy conducted a project "*Support to the integration of young lawyers from non-majority communities in Kosovo*" with the aim of strengthening the position of young lawyers in northern Kosovo and their role in an independent judiciary.

The project was implemented through the following activities:

- ✚ The NGO "ACDC" organized five (5) webinars with a group of 12-15 young lawyers, with the aim of informing them about internships and employment opportunities after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✚ In order to identify the main obstacles and challenges that stand in the way of the integration of young lawyers, NGO "ACDC" designed a questionnaire in cooperation with law firms in northern Kosovo. The findings and results of the survey were adequately processed in a Assessment Report with precise recommendations and shared with all relevant institutions.

Project 4.

Establishment of effective cooperation between CSO-s with Court presidents and Chief Prosecutors and promotion of legal aid services

**01.09.2020 – 01.08.2021**

Lead applicant: Center for Legal Aid and Regional Development (“CLARD”)

Partner organization: Kosovo Law Institute and NGO Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC)

Main objectives:

- ✚ Improve the capacity of Kosovo civil society to address gaps and inefficiencies in the justice and rule of law sector with a particular focus on management and administration of Basic Courts/Prosecution Offices civil society monitoring of the justice sector (both formal and informal), and public legal awareness.
- ✚ Promote rule of law and justice sector reform through dialogue between Civil Society Organizations and court presidents, chief prosecutors, judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, and other relevant policymakers and stakeholders.
- ✚ Support public discussion and education focused on demanding more effective, transparent and accountable governance in Basic Courts/Prosecution Offices.
- ✚ Educate civil society on their role as a government watch dog.
- ✚ Provide legal aid services to the vulnerable groups in Kosovo.

Project 5.

Human rights education program “Human rights horizon”

**1st of March - 31st of October 2021.**

Overall objective of the project is to empower young people and promote the active participation of all members of the school community (teachers, students) to integrate human rights values and principles into all areas of school life and to provide an overview of the most important issues related to human rights and a description of the competences of the major human rights bodies, together with a convenient compilation of all relevant human rights instruments.

Specific objectives

- ✚ To empower young people and promote the active participation of all members and communities of the school community in integrating human rights values and principles into all areas of school life in Kosovo
- ✚ To enable young people to know their human rights and responsibilities and to become inspired to protect and defend their rights, rights of others and serve as catalysts for positive change in their communities, based on values such as equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation.

#### Expected results

- ✚ R1: Active citizens from all communities in northern Kosovo are encouraged and supported in the development of a global culture of human rights by educating and empowering young people, teachers and the wider school community to create human rights values more appreciated in Kosovo.
- ✚ R2: Understanding, respect and enjoyment of human rights, critical thinking and active citizens promoted universal human rights values through advocacy campaign #humanrightschampions and exposed critical thinking through op-eds

#### **Project 6.**

##### **Strengthening protection of property rights in Kosovo 1st of April 2021 until 30 of September 2021**

Project had main objective to increase role of civil in order to advocate for property issues in Kosovo. It will establish cooperation among CSO's from Kosovo and Serbia with the relevant institutions, aiming to improve the protection of property rights in Kosovo. Moreover, it will empower CSOs in Kosovo to monitor and report on protection of property rights in Kosovo and will also train a group of young lawyers to advance property rights in Kosovo, through engagement in Free Legal Aid programs.

Project is implemented by: Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC) and Center for Social Dialogue and Regional Initiatives (CSDRI)

Project 7.

Improving the performance of the judiciary and the access to justice in Kosovo

Further support to the integrated judicial institutions in Northern Kosovo

01.09.2020. - 28.02.2021.

Project 8.

United against #COVID19

01.01.2021. - 30.06.2021

The overall goal of this project is to contribute to the improvement of the socio-economic situation of non-majority communities in the municipality of North Mitrovica by identifying socially vulnerable populations and creating assistance packages that will contribute to overcoming economic and health barriers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. all households in different ways.

Specific objectives

- ✚ The project will mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, primarily against vulnerable minority groups in North Mitrovica, to better cope with the effects of the pandemic and to enable economic empowerment for a longer period after the end of the pandemic.
- ✚ Assistance in achieving institutional cooperation between civil society organizations and local self-government institutions through the exchange of data and the goal of accurate identification of socially vulnerable populations.
- ✚ Mitigating the economic impact on local governments through cooperation between CSOs and the Office for Community Affairs through the implementation of aid packages for socially vulnerable groups in the territory of North Mitrovica.

Expected results

- ✚ R1: Socially vulnerable families from non-majority communities have been identified and institutional cooperation has been established between CSOs and institutions at the local level.
- ✚ R2: A package of assistance to vulnerable groups from the communities of K-Serbs, K-Albanians, Bosniaks, RAE, Turks, and Gorani in the municipality of North Mitrovica has

been prepared through the involvement of socially responsible individuals in the implementation of activities.

- ✚ R3: The economic blow to socially endangered families has been mitigated through implemented packages of medical, chemical, and food assistance to socially disadvantaged families from the territory of North Mitrovica.

Project 9.

The Role of Young Writers in Intercultural Dialogue

01.04.2021. -30.09.2021.

**The project is supported by the EU funded project Regional Network for Cultural Diversity - READ implemented by Goethe - Institute Skopje.**

The project is based on the continuous need in northern Kosovo for uninterrupted cultural cooperation of young writers and further increase of public knowledge to enhance intercultural dialogue. Overall objective of the project is to support and strengthen the regional cooperation of young writers, literary community and reading culture in four northern municipalities in Kosovo. Target groups are young literature artists' communities in northern Kosovo, literature students, writers, local media and reading audiences from 4 different communities in Northern Kosovo. The project was created on the idea to engage young authors of different ethnic backgrounds from the north of Kosovo with extensive experiences in writing and promoting reading, as well as creating contacts and opportunities for future publishing. Duration of the project is 6 months, from April to October.

Main goals:

- ✚ To empower young authors from north Kosovo region to engage in broader dialogue in integrative approach regarding cultural cooperation of different ethnicities in Kosovo.
- ✚ To contribute to increasing public knowledge and awareness on the significance of young authors in the process of intercultural dialogue through promotion of reading and literature in northern Kosovo.

Project 10.

M4Y Municipalities for Youth

01.09.2021. - 01.02.2023.

**Project is financed by Government of Japan through the support received under the Japan Social Development Fund administrated by World Bank**

The M4Y project is an USS 2.79 million grant from the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) administered by the World Bank.

Improve the socioeconomic inclusion of at least 3,000 marginalized youth in vulnerable communities in Kosovo, through youth-driven civic engagement and skills building activities.

Provide demand-driven youth services at the local level.

Give youth opportunities to develop and demonstrate soft/employability skills.

- Implementing agency: Republic of Kosovo, Ministry of Local Government and Administration
- Implementing partner: Community Development Fund (CDF)

Project 11.

Facilitating Access to Justice and Promoting Human Rights in the Mitrovica Region  
September 2021 – June 2022

**Funded by UNMIK:**

The project had the following activities:

- ✚ Furnishing and equipping a courtroom at the Basic Court of Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica branch in Leposavić/Leposaviq and Zubin Potok.
- ✚ Training on Bar Examination in Kosovo for a group of minimum twelve young lawyers from the non-majority communities in northern Kosovo.
- ✚ Training on human rights, including human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, for graduate students, young legal professionals, and civil society activists in northern Kosovo.



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- ✚ Awareness raising campaign on the mandate and work of the Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo and, in particular, the role and contact details of the relevant local offices in the Mitrovica region.
- ✚ Retention of the services of ten translators/interpreters at the Basic Court of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica
- ✚ Retention of services of four legal associates at the Basic Court of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica
- ✚ Retention of services of one legal associate at the North Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Division of the Court of Appeals
- ✚ Training and mentoring of municipal Legal Officers from northern Kosovo on applicable administrative legislation.
- ✚ Training for municipal human rights, gender, non-discrimination, communities, returns officers from the Mitrovica region (North and South) on Human Rights.
- ✚ Provision of services of two legal associates assigned to the Kosovo Free Legal Aid Agency Office in northern Kosovo. One legal associate will be tasked with working with groups in vulnerable situations, including non-majority communities, persons with disabilities, K-Roma, K-Ashkali, and K-Egyptian communities, LGBTI, etc.
- ✚ Promotional campaign (in Albanian and Serbian) on the work of the legal associates on local radios.

### Project 12.

Enhancing Institutional Response to Corruption in northern Kosovo

01.11.2021. - 31.10.2022.

**This grant is supported by the ‘Civil Society programme for Albania and Kosovo’ financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and managed by Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF) in partnership with Partners Albania for Change and Development (PA).**

Overall objective of the project is to reduce corruption in northern Kosovo, through strengthening institutional awareness and knowledge on corruption, specifically on available legal mechanisms against corruption.

Targeted beneficiaries: Local self-governments in northern Kosovo; Citizens; Civil society; Media.

Main activities:

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- ✚ Baseline research
- ✚ Tailored trainings
- ✚ Public Town-Hall meetings
- ✚ Public Conferences
- ✚ Coordination Mechanism
- ✚ Working visits
- ✚ Public/Media campaign

### Project results:

- ✚ Public perception on corruption in northern Kosovo is measured
- ✚ Representatives of local self-governments in northern Kosovo are empowered to combat corruption at local level.
- ✚ Public awareness and knowledge on corruption and anti-corruption mechanism is raised through public outreach campaign.