



**MARCH
2023**



**Advocacy Center
for Democratic Culture**

NEWSLETTER

March newsletter covers a wide range of topics related to our organization, from the latest news, events, and updates, to new projects, press statements, and media appearances.



Advocacy Center
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The meeting between the Ombudsperson and CSOs from the North

On March 2, on the premises of the Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture, Mr. Naim Qelaj, the Ombudsperson of Kosovo, met with representatives of civil society organizations from the north of Kosovo. The meeting aimed to assess the respect for human rights following the recent events in four municipalities in the North and discuss the role and mandate of the Ombudsperson Institution in the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

During the meeting, the NGO representatives raised human rights violations and the concerns facing the Serbian community, such as expropriation in Leposavic and Zubin Potok, security issues, the presence of Kosovo special forces in the north, the difficulties that citizens have in obtaining personal documents, hate speech with ethnic motives, etc.

Addressing the expropriation, Mr. Qelaj stated that they had received complaints, and the processes and assessments of the complaints are ongoing. Mr. Qelaj also stated that he is closely following the events in the north of Kosovo and that he would soon be visiting the north to speak with the residents and have a better understanding of what needs to be done.



Internship Program

In March, the Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC) issued a public call for young lawyers to apply for internship programs at law offices, NGOs, and other institutions. This program aims to provide an opportunity for young and aspiring lawyers to further their knowledge and skills.

During the month, interviews were conducted with the potential candidates. The interns chosen to participate will be engaged in the program for the next three months.

The program is implemented as part of the project "Enhancing Transparency and Rule of Law in Kosovo-Serb Majority Communities in Kosovo", supported by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) in Kosovo.



Contracts signed with new legal associates

On March 15, the executive director of the NGO ACDC, Dusan Radakovic, signed contracts with five legal associates who were hired to assist in clearing the backlogged cases and reducing the number of pending cases in the Basic Court in Mitrovica.

Legal associates are engaged through the NGO ACDC on the UNMIK-funded project "Further support to access to justice and human rights in the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Region".



Outdoor gym in Banje

Through the funds obtained within the "Municipalities for Youth" project, young people from Skenderaj/Srbica have completed the construction of an outdoor gym in Banje, thus making a positive impact in their community by providing a safe and fun way for young people to stay active and engaged.



NGO ACDC is pleased to announce three new projects!

Online platform for building open and inclusive society in Kosovo

With the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the British Embassy in Kosovo, NGO ACDC will promote inter-ethnic cooperation among different communities in Kosovo and provide a tailor-made online platform for the Office of Community Affairs and offer support to representatives of non-majority communities.

Promoting human rights and non-discrimination principles at the local level

Moreover, the project funded by the Council of Europe Office in Pristina will mobilize all stakeholders and create synergy for the improvement of response to discrimination in northern Kosovo.

Strengthening the environmental awareness in northern Kosovo

Within the program "Integrated Water Resources Management in Kosovo" (IWRM-K), funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Government of Kosovo, and implemented by Skat Consulting Ltd. (Switzerland) in consortium with the Environment Agency Austria (EAA), NGO ACDC will conduct a project that aims to address water-related challenges and tackle the existing and possible future problems using the methodology and approach of assistance and awareness raising.

Statements on International Days

NGO ACDC has been actively promoting and marking international days. This is an important part of the organization's broader mission to create awareness and help educate the community about topics of concern that need attention, as well as to acknowledge the achievements of humanity on a global scale.

To recognize the achievements of women, on March 8, we marked International Women's Day.



In addition, to raise awareness of the issues of racism and intolerance, on March 21, we marked the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.



Our Executive Director, Dusan Radakovic, and Program Director, Aleksandar Rapajic, recently shared their thoughts on the upcoming elections and the formation of a Community of Serbian Municipalities.

ACDC in Media

Aleksandar Rapajic and Ines Aljovic Mihajlovic on interethnic relations and the needs of the communities in North Mitrovica and Zvečan. The media talk is broadcasted within the project Promoting inter-ethnic dialogue in local self-government, financed by NED.



Dusan Radakovic for RTK2 on the internship program implemented by NGO ACDC



Dušan Radaković in the show "Kallxo Pernime" on the Community of Serb Municipalities



Dušan Radaković in the show "Kallxo Pernime" on environmental crimes.



Aleksandar Rapajic for ATV on the Community of Serb Municipalities



Aleksandar Rapajic for ATV on the elections in the North of Kosovo



Dusan Radakovic for Kallxo on the elections in the North Kosovo



Dusan Radakovic for Slobodna Evropa on the elections in the North Kosovo



Dusan Radakovic for BBS News in Serbian on the elections in the North Kosovo



Dušan Radaković for Kosovo Online on the Community of Serb Municipalities



#KallxoPernime

