



NEWSLETTER



MAY 2025



May 9–11, Prevalac/Prevallë– The final youth camp under the Youth Empowered through Inclusive Schools and Societies (YESS) program was successfully held by ACDC. The camp brought together participants from previous camps in Prizren, Gračanica/Gračanicë, and Bogë. During the three-day program, participants attended language workshops (Serbian and Albanian), team challenges, creative games, and reflection sessions. The goal was to foster intercultural dialogue and language skills through both formal and informal learning. This event marked the symbolic conclusion of a months-long youth exchange cycle.

This program is part of the project “Youth Empowered through Inclusive Schools and Societies (YESS),” funded by the UN Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund and implemented by UNICEF and IOM Kosovo.



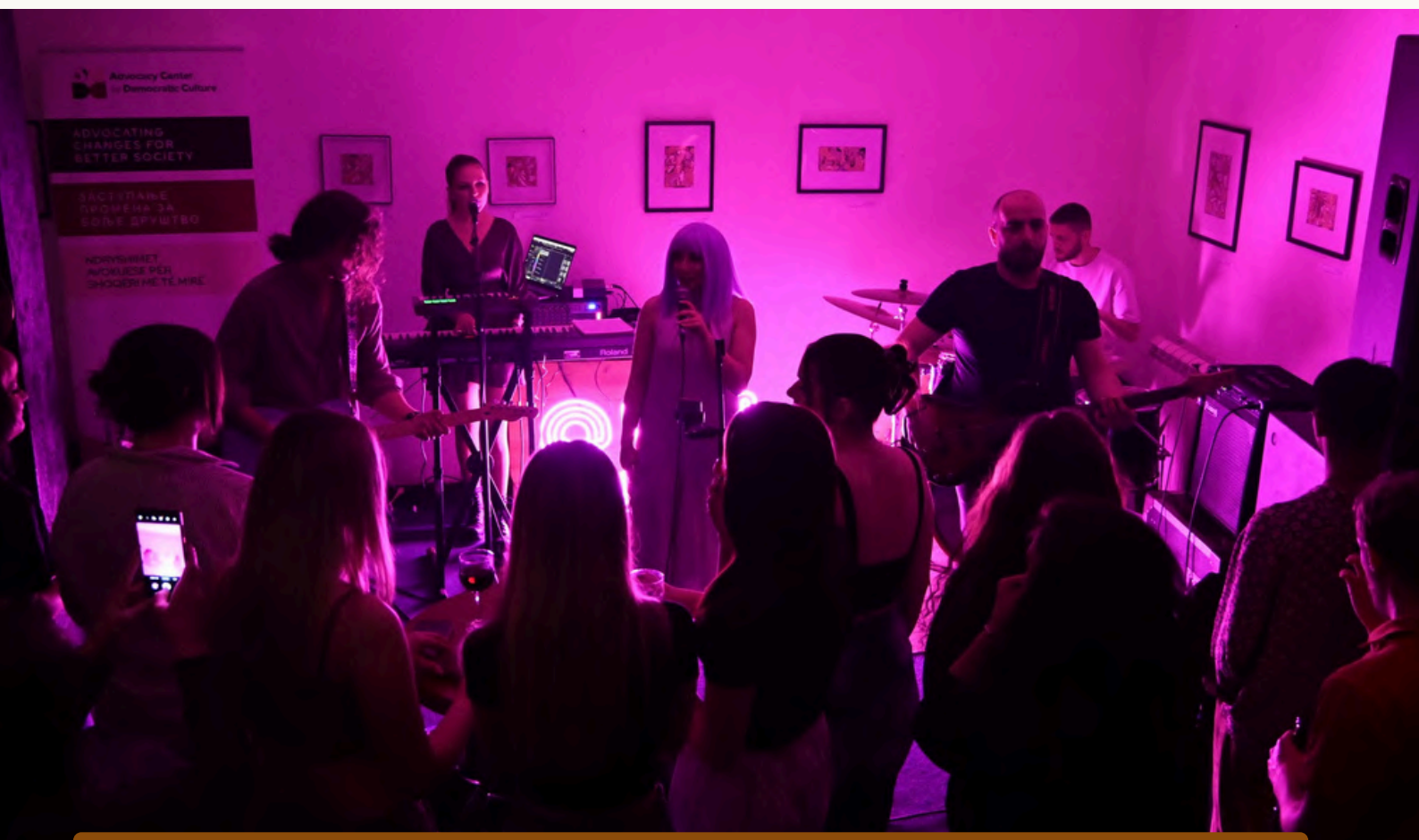
May 16, Belgrade – ACDC and BIRODI co-organized a conference on perceptions and mutual attitudes between Serbs and Albanians in North Kosovo and the Preševo/Presheva Valley. The research highlighted ethnic nationalism, low institutional representation, and concerns about future conflict. Dušan Radaković (ACDC) and Zoran Gavrilović (BIRODI) presented the findings and emphasized the need to focus on everyday issues rather than high-level politics.



May 22, North Mitrovica – At a conference on mediation organized by ACDC, panelists Ganimete Xhelili and Bekim Ismaili emphasized the importance of mediation as a fast, cost-effective, and efficient tool for resolving civil disputes. They stressed the need to strengthen mediator capacities and promote this practice among citizens to ease the burden on courts and improve access to justice.



May 27, Gračanica/Gračanice – ACDC organized a roundtable with Ombudsperson Naim Qelaj and representatives of organizations working with persons with disabilities from the Serbian community. The focus was on access to rights, translation of laws, education, employment, and the inclusion of Serbian community representatives in the National Disability Council. The aim was to encourage inclusive policies and direct dialogue with institutions.



May 31, PKC Akvarijus – As part of a cultural promotion project, ACDC hosted a concert by Mitrovica-based band Something Went Wrong. The band performed songs from their debut album along with covers of alternative hits. Known for their electro-pop sound, they contribute to revitalizing the cultural scene in North Mitrovica.

MEETINGS WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS:

Aleksandar Rapajić, Program Director at ACDC, participated in a meeting with EU EOM representatives, who presented their final report on Kosovo's parliamentary elections along with key recommendations.



Aleksandar Rapajić also attended a meeting with U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Ana Prattipati during her visit to northern Kosovo, where topics included regional security and stability.



Dušan Radaković participated in a meeting with Ambassador Gerard McGurk and other CSO representatives, where the importance of building mutual trust, social cohesion, and resilient communities was discussed.



ACDC Executive Director Dušan Radaković participated in the working session of the Forum for Dialogue between the Ombudsperson Institution and CSOs, where the 2025/2026 Work Plan was presented, focusing on the rights of non-majority communities, children, women, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQI+ community, and efforts against discrimination and violence.



NEW PROJECT

8. May, Podgorica – Andrea Todić, ACDC's project manager, signed a grant agreement as part of the project Bringing Pride in the North, implemented through the regional program "Together for LGBTQI+ Equality." Funded by the EU and led by CGO with partners from several countries, the project aims to promote equality, visibility, and social inclusion of LGBTQI+ individuals in northern Kosovo through art, research, dialogue, and institutional cooperation.



MONITORING AND ADVOCACY

ACDC joined a campaign led by NGO Aktiv focused on monitoring the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages in Kosovo. The analysis shows that while civil society maintains high standards in respecting language rights, institutions continue to neglect the legal obligation for equal use of Serbian and Albanian. More at: aktiv.org

TWO NEW OP-ED ARTICLES PUBLISHED ON ACDC'S WEBSITE:



Music as a Response to Division – on culture as a tool for overcoming societal divides



Unforgettable Youth Camp Experience – a personal story highlighting the impact of interethnic exchange and learning

STATEMENTS AND PUBLIC RESPONSES

In May 2025, a series of concerning security and institutional developments impacted the rights, safety, and trust of citizens—particularly the Serbian community—in Kosovo's institutions. In response, five civil society organizations from northern Kosovo—ACDC, Aktiv, NSI, InTER, and CASA—issued joint statements and public appeals calling for institutional accountability and the protection of human rights.

- Joint appeal to EULEX and international actors – in response to alarming reports of harassment targeting women and girls in North Kosovo.
- Open letter to the Ombudsperson – requesting clarification on public statements that downplay the seriousness of harassment cases.
- Support for Aktiv's statement – condemning unfounded and dangerous accusations targeting Serbian civil society organizations.
- Statement on selective use of force and ethnic bias – in reaction to an incident during a student graduation celebration in North Mitrovica.
- Letter to UNICEF and the Ombudsperson – expressing concern over the public release of compromising photos of a young adult by Kosovo Police.

Statement on the Kosovo Assembly deadlock – ACDC supported a joint CSO call for urgent political responsibility and functional democratic institutions. SRB - ALB

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