

SEPTEMBER 2026

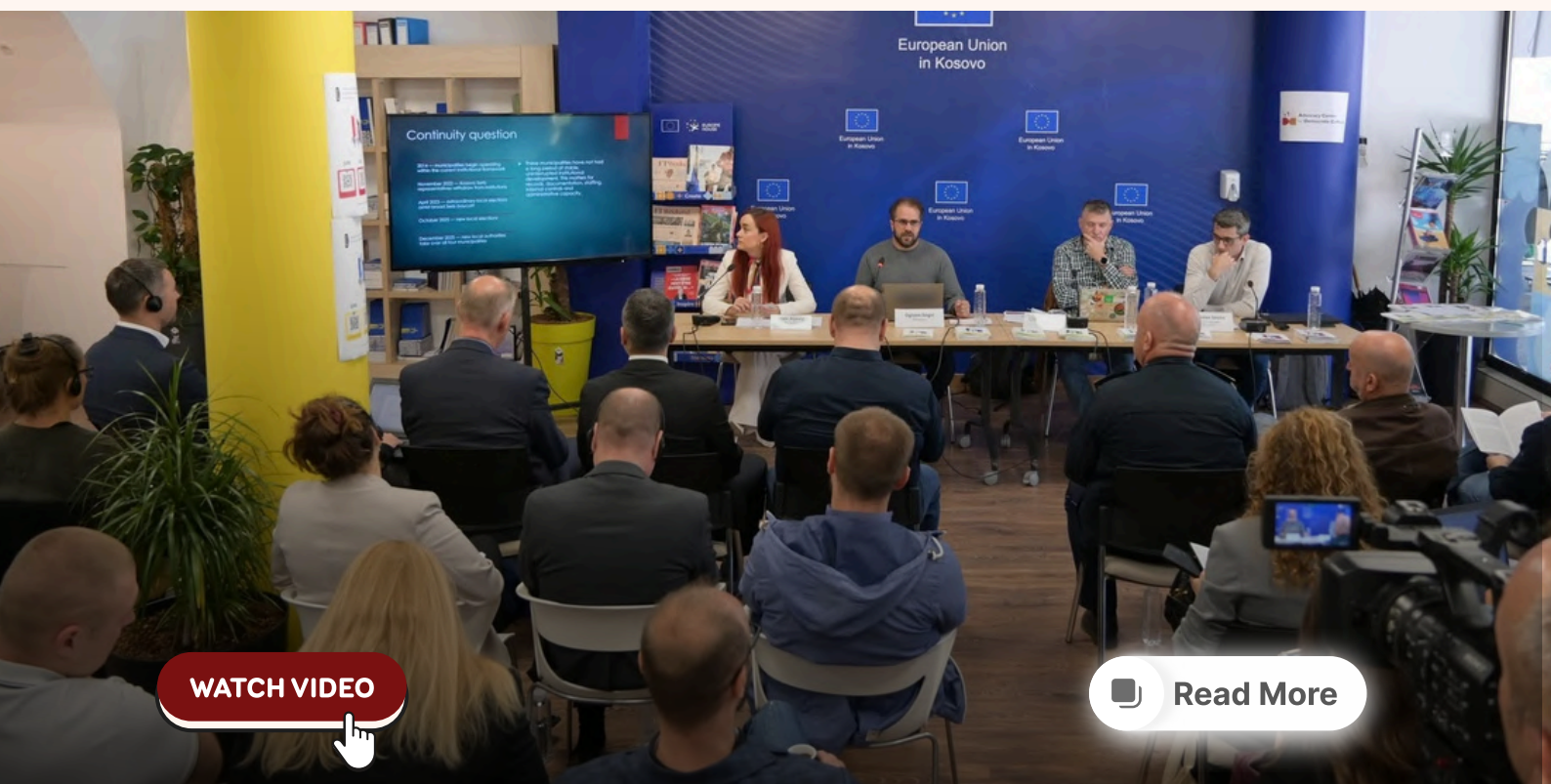
NEWSLETTER



Conference on Transparency, Accountability and Citizens' Trust in Northern Kosovo

On 30 September, ACDC organized the public conference "Transparency, Accountability and Citizens' Trust in Northern Kosovo" at Europe House in North Mitrovica, bringing together representatives of institutions, civil society, international organizations and the media, as well as experts and citizens.

Three documents addressing transparency and corruption risks in local governments, integrity and citizens' trust in the Kosovo Police, and the prevention of environmental corruption in northern Kosovo were presented at the conference. Following the presentation of the findings, participants discussed recommendations and opportunities for improving transparency, institutional accountability and citizens' trust. The conference was organized within the project "Society Against Corruption in Montenegro and the Western Balkans Region," implemented by ACDC in cooperation with BIRN Kosovo.

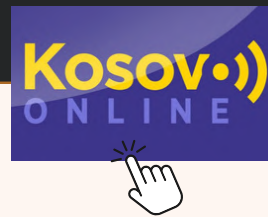


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The event and the presented analyses were also covered by the media, including Kosovo Online and Kallxo.



What did the research show?

The three policy papers provide insight into citizens' experiences and attitudes, the functioning of institutions, and key challenges in the areas of local government, policing and environmental protection in northern Kosovo.



Policy Paper I – Local Government

The findings point to problems with transparency and citizen participation in the work of local governments. As many as 71.4% of respondents believe that corruption is present at least to some extent, while 80.4% have never participated in public hearings or consultations. Public-sector employment and public procurement stand out as the areas perceived as carrying the highest risk.



Policy Paper II – Kosovo Police

The research shows a low level of trust among respondents: 54.4% negatively assess the professional and impartial conduct of the police, while 64.9% believe that the police do not treat all citizens equally. Political influence, professionalism, selective application of the law, and insufficient awareness of complaint mechanisms stand out as important challenges.



Policy Paper III - Environmental Protection

The analysis points to weak institutional coordination, insufficient data exchange and fragmented oversight in the field of environmental protection. Risks are particularly present in permit issuance, inspections, public procurement and enforcement of regulations. In response, the establishment of a joint regional platform involving the four northern municipalities for the prevention of environmental corruption was proposed.





New Initiative for Monitoring Rule of Law Institutions Presented

BIRN Kosovo and ACDC held a conference in North Mitrovica on 29 September, where a new initiative aimed at strengthening the transparency and accountability of rule of law institutions in northern Kosovo was presented.

The event was attended by representatives of the judiciary, police, civil society and the media, as well as German Ambassador to Kosovo Rainer Rudolph and BIRN Kosovo Director Jeta Xharra.

As part of the initiative, a joint multi-ethnic team was established to monitor court proceedings and the work of institutions on the ground. The aim is to contribute, through independent monitoring and public information, to greater transparency of the judiciary, institutional accountability, citizens' trust and interethnic cooperation in the Mitrovica region.



Art installation dedicated to the Ibar River

On 14 September, an art installation dedicated to environmental protection and the Ibar River was presented beneath the main bridge in North Mitrovica.

The installation was created within the project "Climate Street Art Action – Walls that Speak for the Planet."

The artwork was conceived and painted by young artists Tarija Hoxha and Katarina Kuzmanović, with mentoring support from Miljana Dunderin. Through motifs of water, earth, people and nature, the installation highlights the consequences of river pollution and the need for greater care for the environment.

The activity was part of Kosovo Sustainable Development Week (KSDW)



Youth voices for a greener North Mitrovica

On 9 September, ACDC organized the conference “Youth Voices for a Greener North Mitrovica” at Europe House, where young people presented the results of a climate walk through the city and their solutions to the problems they identified during the walk.

During the climate walk, participants mapped challenges related to waste management, maintenance of green spaces and the use of public spaces. Based on these findings, they developed three concrete proposals: a green adventure park along the Ibar River, the installation of waste-sorting containers, and a solar-powered youth corner.

Following the conference, the young participants officially submitted these three proposals to the Municipality of North Mitrovica. The activity was implemented as part of Kosovo Sustainable Development Week (KSDW).

Continuation of the "Bringing Pride to the North 2.0" campaign

During September, the project “Bringing Pride to the North 2.0” continued through activities focused on information, visibility and raising awareness of the rights and experiences of LGBTQI+ persons.

On the occasion of Bisexual Visibility Week, ACDC used an online campaign to draw attention to bisexuality, common stereotypes and misconceptions, as well as the importance of visibility and acceptance. The activities represent a continuation of efforts to address LGBTQI+ issues in northern Kosovo through accessible and educational content, with a particular focus on reducing stereotypes and discrimination.



Citizens on corruption – open discussion in North Mitrovica

Corruption and its impact on citizens' everyday lives were the focus of an open discussion organized by ACDC on 10 September at the Regional Community Safety Centre in North Mitrovica.

Participants discussed different forms of corruption, the areas in which they perceive the greatest risks, and the problems they encounter in everyday life. The discussion provided an opportunity to examine corruption from the perspective of citizens and to incorporate their experiences and views into ACDC's broader work on transparency and institutional accountability.





ACDC at a meeting of civil society representatives with the EU Ambassador

ACDC Executive Director Dušan Radaković participated in a meeting between the European Union Ambassador to Kosovo, Dirk Schuebel, and representatives of civil society organizations from North Mitrovica.

The meeting addressed current issues of importance to local communities, the role of civil society, and the challenges faced by organizations and citizens in northern Kosovo.

Continuation of the project "Building Trust through Human Rights"

On 15 September, ACDC launched the second phase of the "Building Trust Through Human Rights" project, with the support of the UNMIK Human Rights Programme. The project continues efforts to strengthen trust between communities and institutions, protect human rights, and increase institutional accountability towards citizens.

Activities include dialogue between civil society and institutions, monitoring respect for human rights, and work with local communities. Particular focus remains on the rights and participation of the Serbian and other non-majority communities.



Mediation presented to communities in North Mitrovica

On 24 September, a roundtable with community representatives was held in North Mitrovica, focusing on mediation as a mechanism for the peaceful, accessible and efficient resolution of conflicts.

The activity was organized by CSSP – Berlin Center for Integrative Mediation, in cooperation with the Kosovo Chamber of Mediators (ONDK) and ACDC, as part of Mediation Week 2026.

ACDC Website Redesigned **NEW!**

ACDC has redesigned its official website, introducing a new structure and a clearer presentation of the organization's work. The new website provides easier access to information about ACDC's areas of work, current projects and news, publications, statements, media appearances and other results of the organization.

The redesign is part of ACDC's efforts to improve its communication and make our work and results more easily accessible to citizens, partners, the media and the wider public.



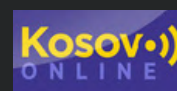
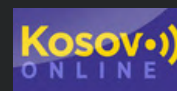
“Green Neighbours” – Young People on the Environment and Shared Priorities

As part of the project “Green Neighbours – Youth for the Environment and Coexistence,” a joint event was held focusing on the project’s results, the exchange of experiences, and discussion of the environmental priorities of local communities. Particular attention was given to the role of young people and concrete local actions that can contribute to a greener, cleaner and more pleasant Mitrovica.

The project “Green Neighbours – Youth for the Environment and Coexistence” is implemented by Education Code and ACDC through the BOOST programme, with the support of ALDA and the French Development Agency (AFD).

ACDC in the media

- ACDC Executive Director Dušan Radaković spoke to Kosovo Online about the current political crisis, the possibility of holding new elections, and the prospects for reaching a political agreement. 
- ACDC Programme Director Aleksandar Rapajić commented on the Constitutional Court’s decision and the procedures related to the constitution of the Assembly, as well as the possible consequences of the established deadlines for the election of the President. 



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