



SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES FOR CIVIKOS PLATFORM 2020











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INTRODUCTION

2020 has been the most challenging year of modern times not only for Kosovo, but also for the entire world. Normal life was suspended after being challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, and did not return even after a full year in isolation and extraordinary circumstances. Governments around the world, including in Kosovo, have taken extraordinary measures during the pandemic, such as isolation in order to manage the pandemic.

Democracy, freedoms and human rights, the scope of action for civil society have been directly affected by these measures. Civil society organizations and human rights safeguards have made efforts to do their job amid strict measures put in place to prevent COVID-19.

According to CiviKos, the scope of civil society functions in Kosovo was limited during the pandemic. However, civil society organizations - especially those that are members of the CiviKos Platform - have fulfilled their mission of being a bridge between citizens and government. It was exactly civil society organizations that were on the front line, providing services starting from provision of information for citizens to providing food and hygiene packages for citizens in need. Meanwhile, the other front line has taken care of monitoring the measures and preserving the space for civil society operation.

Numerous campaigns were initiated during this time, and one of them was also by CiviKos Platform itself where with member organizations raised awareness of compliance with the anti-covid measures. Such campaigns continue today in various areas including that of a private sector.

During 2020, Kosovo has gone through an unprecedented political crisis by changing three governments. The political crisis has led the country to early elections. This has greatly affected the work of civil society beyond the management of the crisis caused by the pandemic. Reforms have been suspended and very little has been discussed about substantial issues. After a year of political crisis, Kosovo is awaiting the establishment of a new government. It leaves us to only hope that the new government will bring political stability so that civil society can function and contribute to major processes of democratic transformation of the country in function of Kosovo's EU membership.

CIVIKOS PLATFORM BOARD

CiviKos Platform Board Members

- Taulant Hoxha Chairperson
- Feride Rushiti Member
- **Petrit Tahiri** Member
- Luljeta Demolli Member
- Bujar Kadriu Member
- Zana Hoxha Member

BOARD MEETINGS

At the beginning of 2020, CiviKos Platform held the first Board meeting since the change of management of CiviKos Platform.

During the meeting it was discussed about the current situation of CiviKos, as well as the developments since the election of the director of the CiviKos Platform. Special emphasis in this meeting was placed on annual narrative and financial report of the CiviKos Platform. Upcoming challenges to the work of the CiviKos Platform and new opportunities in order to improve the service for member organizations. Furthermore, cooperation with the Government was discussed (Strategy 2019-2023). Respectively, the implementation of the Strategy, the Role of CiviKos and the members of the civil society in the Council.

Part of the discussions was also about the upcoming Assembly meeting of the membership and mandate of the Board. The next meeting was scheduled to take place next month to finalize preparations for the next Assembly of Members, but the lockdown measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has had a detrimental effect in this regard by postponing this meeting for unspecified period of time.

In this meeting present were: Mr. Taulant Hoxha (KCSF), Ms. Feride Rushiti (QKRMT), Mr. Petrit Tahiri (KEC), Ms. Sihana Xhaferi (KFOS), Ms. Luljeta Demolli (QKSGj), Ms. Donika Emini and Mr. Dardan Kryeziu (CiviKos).

For personal reasons, Ms. Sihana Xhaferi resigned from the Board.



CIVIKOS PLATFORM WITH NEW IMAGE

2020 has been a year of great challenges and changes. For CiviKos this year has been the year of the new image, where after a great work by the CiviKos team together with the contracted company, CiviKos has rebranded the organization. The rebranding was officially launched in October 2020.



COOPERATION WITH MEMBER NGOs

The CiviKos Platform is growing rapidly, which also reflects the willingness of new organizations to be part of CiviKos. Currently, CiviKos has 265 member organizations. During 2020, 12 non-governmental organizations joined.

Cooperation with member organizations has been very active during 2020 and occurred in many forms and dimensions.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, during the total lockdown the CiviKos Platform promoted online the activities of its member organizations during the emergency situation caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Promoting the work of member organizations has been a great incentive for the whole community to contribute in various areas. The CiviKos platform has used its social media accounts to promote its organizations.

CiviKos Campaign #CSORESPONSE2COVID

Executive Director of CiviKos Platform - Mrs. Donika Emini, held regular meetings with the national institutions to promote the work of civil society organizations in times of pandemic. Among the regular meetings was also the meeting with the Secretary General in the Ministry of Local Government Administration, with purpose to reaffirm the support for the CiviKos Platform in the latest project aimed at preserving the environment for Civil Society in times of Pandemic and promoting the work of Civil Society organizations in response to COVID-19.



Few of the member organizations that were promoted by the CiviKos Platform, within the project "Reshaping of Civil Society in Kosovo as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic" supported by KFOS, are:

- 1. Action for Mother and Children AMC
- 2. Kosovo Democratic Institute KDI
- 3. YMCA in Kosovo
- 4. The Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims
- 5. ArtPolis
- 6. Community Development Fund CDF
- 7. Kosova Education Center KEC
- 8. "Syri i Visionit"
- 9. Democracy for Development D4D
- 10. Open Data Kosovo
- 11. Peer Educators Network PEN
- 12. KCSF
- 13. IPKO Foundation
- 14. Germini
- 15. Center for Counseling, Social Services and Research SIT
- 16. Democracy Plus
- 17. Solidar Suisse Kosova
- 18. NGO Zana
- 19. Kosovo CSR Network
- 20. NGO Aktive
- 21. "EC ma ndryshe"
- 22. NGO "Mundësia"

The CiviKos platform during the quarantine period stayed close to member organizations through visits and providing support to their projects. One of the member organizations visited in June 2020 was YMCA in Kosovo for their innovative project in Pjetërshan, where YMCA is developing the Non-Formal Education Center for Youth and Children - Camp Pjetërshan. YMCA also manages the Youth Center in Gjakova, the Charity Shop and the Center for Social Enterprise Development.



ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

Aiming to discuss the impact of the pandemic #COVID19 on the work of civil society in Kosovo, CiviKos Platform held online discussions within the project "Reshaping Civil Society in Kosovo as a consequence of the pandemic COVID-19" supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society - KFOS.

influence of COVID-19 in the work of Civil Society in Kosovo.

The global pandemic COVID-19 has had a major impact on the work of civil society organizations in Kosovo. The measures taken by the Government of Kosovo redefined the work and operation of the civil society sector. While the main focus was on adapting and transitioning to online work to ensure continuity in the work of civil society, little attention has been paid to the implications that these measures will have on shrinking the space for civil society organizations to function.

The following issues were discussed during the meeting:

- What was the impact of the pandemic on the work of civil society in Kosovo?
- Reshaping the work of civil society: what is the contribution of this sector in times of pandemic?
- Funds for civil society organizations: could there be a contraction in funding due to the global economic crisis?

The panel members of this online meeting were: Mr. Taulant Hoxha - Executive Director, Kosovo Civil Society Foundation (KCSF); Mrs. Visare Gorani - Program Manager, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SIDA; Mr. Veton Mujaj - Executive Director, "Syri i Vizionit". Moderated by Mrs. Donika Emini - Executive Director, CiviKos Platform.



COVID-19 AND MEDIA: The role of journalists in the global pandemic

CiviKos platform held another online meeting where it discussed the role of journalists and media in the global pandemic, challenges and difficulties of reporting, access to information and also transparency of institutions in times of crisis, with panel members: Ms. Dorentina Thaci - KTV, Ms. Gentiana Hasani -T7, Ms. Jehona Zhitia – RTK, and input by Ms. Flutura Kusari – Media lawyer/ECPMF.



The global pandemic COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the work of the media in Kosovo. In order to inform the public during this unprecedented period, the media have played an important role in actively covering the health crisis in Kosovo following COVID-19. However, the ever-changing nature has left journalists with many challenges in providing accurate information to the public, it made it more difficult to access information and has raised debates about adhering to ethical standards with a focus on privacy.

The following issues were discussed during the meeting:

- How transparent were Kosovo's institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic period?
- How much has the pandemic affected the lives of citizens? What was seen from reports coming from the field?
- What were the difficulties encountered during the field reporting?
- Have measures been taken to protect journalists on the field during the pandemic, and has there been respect for ethical standards with a focus on privacy?

COVID-19: Transparency in public procurement in times of pandemics



The next online meeting organized by the CiviKos Platform discussed the topic of the public procurement in times of pandemic, with panel members: Ms. Albulena Nrecaj, Executive Director – "Iniciativa për Progres" – INPO; Mr. Arton Demhasaj, Executive Director - Organisation "Çohu /Preporter"; Facilitated by: Ms. Diana Metushi Krasniqi, Program Manager – "Instituti Demokratik i Kosovës" (Kosova Democratic Institute/Transparency International Kosova).

The COVID-19 pandemic requires public authorities to procure products and services from the private sector with unprecedented urgency. In addition to procurement in the health sector, the circumstances created by COVID-19 have had an impact on other procurement activities and the lack of transparency has further increased the risk of corruption.

Thus, the following issues were discussed in this meeting:

- What were the challenges of civil society in analyzing public procurement during the pandemic?
- How much did the e-Procurement platform facilitated research?
- Should the Government had increases transparency during this period?
- Could civil society contribute to good governance in times of emergency?
- What can we do to further improve our procurement processes, systems, and data?
- How much has the pandemic affected the implementation of Procurement plans and current projects of institutions?
- The pandemic is not ending. What next? What should civil society do to oversee and prevent mismanagement? Should the government have increased cooperation with civil society, especially during the pandemic in monitoring and disclosing data?

OP-ED

OP-ED have been one of the innovation activities of the CiviKos Platform during 2020, with an impact on society. A total of three (3) OP-EDs were published, which were part of the project: "Reshaping of Civil Society in Kosovo as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic" implemented by the CiviKos Platform, and supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS).

"Cooperation of civil society with the Government to focus on the dialogue process" written by Albert Krasniqi and published in Sbunker.

"In addition to exercising their activity as individual organizations, civil society organizations have advanced in terms of organization by synergies through creation of networks for certain topics. Today we encounter these networks advocating for gender equality, contributing to the transparency of elections, or even the protection and advancement of children's rights." You can read the full OP-ED here.

BOTIME / S'TATUS / OP-ED / NËPËR TEH / BLLOGJE / PËRBALI

Bashkëpunimi i shoqërisë civile me Qeverinë të fokusohet në procesin e dialogut

1.

Shoqëria civile paraqet një nga shtyllat kryesore të funksionimit të një shoqëria demokratike. Roli i shoqërisë civile është vital për demokracinë. Organizatat e shoqërisë civile paraqesin një mënyrë alternative të mbrojtjes së interesave të qytetarëve, kanalizimit të pikëpamjeve të ndryshme, prezantim të interesave tek vendim-marrësit apo edhe të ofrimit të shërbimeve sociale. Ky rol kaq i gjerë i shoqërisë civile në sferën publike nuk ka kaluar pa u kontestuar. Për disa studiues, akterët e shoqërisë civile kanë fituar shumë pushtet politik pa qenë të zgjedhur apo të emëruar nga askush. Shikuar nga perspektiva teorike, organizatat e shoqërisë civile janë pjesë e demokracisë pjesëmarrjes dhe jo demokracisë përfaqësuese. Ato nuk janë trupa të zgjedhur por grumbullime të qytetarëve rreth një qëllimi të caktuar. Legjitimiteti i tyre buron nga pjesëmarrja në procese publike për çështjet të cilat i adresojnë.

23 qershor 2020



Albert Krasniqi



"Inverted year for transparency in public procurement in Kosovo" second OP-ED written by Diana Metushi Krasniqi, published in Sbunker.

But how was the situation in period Kosovo? During the February-July 2020. over 180 closed emergency procurements conducted. Moreover, transparency in public spending, for which Kosovar society had fought decades, was completely suppressed. You can read the full OP-ED here.

BOTIME / S'TATUS / OP-ED / NËPËR TEH / BLLOGJE / PËRBALL

Viti i mbrapsht për transparencën në prokurimin publik në Kosovë

Derisa bota po diskutonte rreth rrezikut me një armik të ri, e të pa dukshëm, që po shpërndahej me një hov marramendës. Kosova ende ishte në diskutime për themelimin e qeverisë. Dukej sikur ne nuk e kishim për ngut të përgatiteshim për atë me të cilën po ballafaqohej i gjithë globi. Kishim gajlen e ndarjes së pozitave dhe prioriteteve qeveritare, e jo parapërgatitjen për ballafaqimin me këtë armik të pamëshirshëm. Por kjo nuk është histori e re për ne. Qeverinë e Kosovës ende e befason dëbora në dhjetor. Ndoshta kjo pse Kosova për shekuj ishte ndër vendet më të izoluara, dhe thjeshtë në vete kemi krijuar një bindje se ajo çfarë ndodhë në botë, vështirë që arrin tek ne.

Tre ditë pasi Organizata Botërore e Shëndetësisë kishte shpallur COVID-19 një emergjencë të shëndetit publik në nivel ndërkombëtar, në Kosovë, më në fund u themelua Qeveria. Derisa tregjet globale po mbylleshin, oferta po zvogëlohej e kërkesa po rritej, Qeveria e re e Kosovës ishte

06 gusht 2020 13:39



Diana Metushi Krasniqi





The Role of the State in the Financial Inclusion of NGOs: Why are commercial banks removing NGOs from the list of clients? written by Dren Puka for the Civikos Platform, and was published in Sbunker.

Almost half of the active NGOs in Kosovo operate with zero annual revenues (45%), while the costs of maintaining a bank account for an organization go up to 200 EUR per year. Although the vast majority of NGO funding comes from foreign donors, led by the European Union with member states and the United States, and public funding, NGOs are considered risky entities for terrorist financing. You can read the full OP-ED, here.

BOTIME / S'TATUS / OP-ED / NËPËR TEH / BLLOGJE / PËRBALL

Roli i Shtetit në Përfshirjen Financiare të OJQ-ve: Pse bankat komerciale po i largojnë OJQ-të nga lista e klientëve?

Gati gjysma e OJQ-ve aktive në Kosovë operojnë me zero të hyra vjetore (45%), derisa shpenzimet për mirëmbajtje të llogarisë bankare për një organizatë shkojnë deri në 200 EUR në vit. Edhe pse shumica dërrmuese e fondeve për OJQ vijnë nga donatorët e huaj, ku prijnë Bashkimi Europian me vendet anwtare dhe Shtetet e Bashkuara të Amerikës, dhe fondet publike, OJQ-të kosniderohen si entitete me rrezik për financim të terrorizmit.

06 gusht 2020



Dren Puka



Në kuadër të angazhimeve për luftim të terrorizmit në vitet 2014 dhe 2015 patën ndodhur disa zhvillime të rëndësishme dhe të pa precedent për sa i përket kufizimeve për punën e OJQ-ve në Kosovë dhe ndërhyrjes së drejtpërdrejt e të organeve shtetërore dhe bankave komerciale në punën e tyre.

Fillimisht, në vitin 2014 me kërksesë të organeve të sigurisë Departamenti për OJQ pati pezulluar punën e 14 organizatave të shoqërisë civile, nën arsyetimin se ekziston dyshim i bazuar që veprimtaria e OJQ-vë të

COOPERATION GOVERNMENT - CIVIL SOCIETY

Council for Cooperation between Government and Civil Society

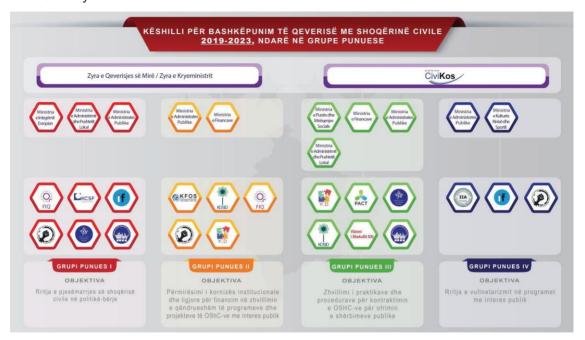
Council for cooperation between Government and Civil Society is the main mechanism that coordinates the process of government cooperation with civil society. *The Council has 29 members*, 15 members are from civil society, democratically elected by the civil society organizations themselves through the Civikos Platform, and 14 members are directly appointed by the government.



Aiming to create a more favorable environment for the functioning of civil society in Kosovo, the Government of Kosovo has drafted two strategies for cooperation with Civil Society (2013 - 2017) and (2019 - 2023). These documents have listed four strategic objectives whose implementation is monitored by the Council. The full document of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society 2019-2023 can be found <a href="https://example.com/her



Visual presentation of the institutional organization for the coordination, supervision, evaluation and reporting of the Strategy for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society 2019–2023.



Here are presented the working teams divided according to the objectives of the strategy. Here you can see which organizations are working with relevant ministries to create the most favorable environment for operation of Civil Society in # Kosovo.

CiviKos Platform together with the Office for Good Governance - OGG within the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo have facilitated the implementation of the first Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society 2013-2017.



The Secretariat of the CiviKos Platform monitored the implementation of this strategy, where through the infographics below are presented the main achievements and challenges in the implementation of the strategy for the four strategic objectives[ss1].

STRATEGJIA QEVERITARE PËR BASHKËPUNIM ME SHOQËRINË CIVILE 2013-2017 **OBJEKTIVI STRATEGJIK 2** Sistem i ndërtuar i kontraktimit të shërbimeve publike për organizatat e shoqërisë civile Të arriturat Sfidat · Lejimi i certifikatës së OJQ-së për t'u përdorur si një dokument • Grupi i Përbashkët Punues për Përcaktimin e Standardeve dhe i pranueshëm në procesin e prokurimit publik është e vetmia Parimeve për Kontraktimin e Shërbimeve Publike për OShC është themeluar në Maj të vitit 2015. Ekipi përbëhet nga 23 arritje në këtë drejtim. Ky avancim ka ndodhur pasi është ndryshuar Ligji për Prokurimin Publik në mars të vitit 2016. anëtarë nga qeveria dhe shoqëria civile. Në përgjithësi, grupi i punës ka qenë jashtëzakonisht jo-aktiv, me vetëm një takim të organizuar në tetor 2015. Asnjë takim pune nuk është organizuar në vitin 2016 dhe 2017 STRATEGJIA QEVERITARE PËR BASHKËPUNIM ME SHOQËRINË CIVILE 2013-2017

OBJEKTIVI STRATEGJIK 3

Sistem i ndërtuar dhe kritere të përcaktuara për përkrahje financiare për OShC

Të arriturat

Éshtë miratuar Rregullorja, sipas së cilës janë përcaktuar kriteret, standardet dhe procedurat themelore për financimin publik të OJQ-ve me qellim të "krijmit të një sistemi transparent dhe të përgjegjshëm" të financimit të projekteve dhe programeve të OJQ-ve, me kusht që ato të sjellin vlera të dukshme dhe të shtuar sociale dhe përmirësojnë cilësinë e jetës dhe të zhvillimit në vend. Në mars të vitit 2016, ZQM në bashkëpunim me Ministrinë e Financave (MF) ka përgatitur dhe publikuar Raportin për Mbështetjen Financiare Publike për OJQ-të nga Institucione te Republikës së Kosovës për Vitet 2015-2016. Për shumë analistë të politikave dhe aktivistë të shoqërisë civile kjo shihet si një sukses i madh politik duke marrë parasysh mungesën e transparencës në të kaluarën.

Sfidat

- Sistemi i ndarjes së fondeve publike siguron transparencë por ende nuk ka sistem të llogaridhënies se si shpenzohen grantet qeveritare nga OSHC-të përfituese.
- Në raportet vjetore ende nuk ka një ndarje në mes të kontraktimit të shërbimeve, subvencioneve dhe granteve.
- Ende nuk ka një vendim që Qeveria e Kosovës të marrë përgjegjësinë për krijimin e një skeme automatike të bashkëfinancimit për përfituesit e shoqërisë civile të garantëve të siguruara nga Komisioni Evropian (KE).

STRATEGJIA QEVERITARE PËR BASHKËPUNIM ME SHOQËRINË CIVILE 2013-2017

OBJEKTIVI STRATEGJIK 4

Sistem i ndërtuar dhe kritere të përcaktuara për përkrahje financiare për OShC

Të arriturat

- Është bërë analiza ligjore dhe studimi mbi vullnetarizmin. Ato përbëhen nga një vlerësim i nevojave dhe një profil i vullnetarizmit.
- Është hartuar një analizë e politikave që plotëson studimin mbi vullnetarizmin, i cili do të përdoret për të ofruar një udhërrëfyes për hartimin e Ligjit për Vullnetarizëm.

Sfidat

• Ende nuk është hartuar një politikë e Qeverisë e cila e rregullon Vullnetarizmin në Kosovë.

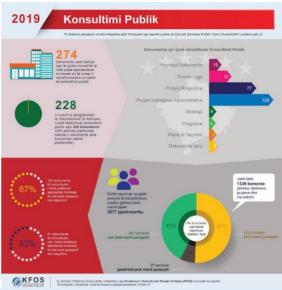


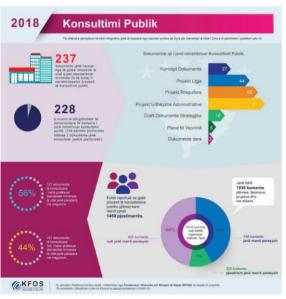
Ky aktivitet i Platforma Civikos është i mbështetur nga Fondacioni i Kosovës për Shoqëri të Hapur (KFOS) në kuadër të projektit. "Ri-formësimi i Shoqërisë Civile në Kosovë si pasojë pandemisë COVID-19". Increase the participation of civil society in policy-making is the first objective of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society 2019 - 2023.

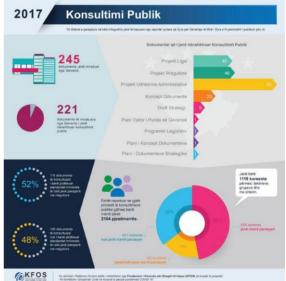
Regulation No. 05/2016 on Minimum Standards for Public Consultation Process was adopted in 2016. The online platform for Public Consultation was launched in February 2017. On this platform can register all persons who have the interest and will to influence policy-making.

This platform is accessible through this link: https://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/

Some data generated from the report published by the Office for Good Governance (OGG) regarding public consultation for 2017, 2018, and 2019 through infographics.







Activities with members of the Council for implementing the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society

In January 2020 CiviKos Platform held an information session with members of civil society that part of the Council for Civil Society-Government Cooperation.

This information session was held by Mr. Taulant Hoxha - Executive Director of the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation and former members of the Council during the period 2013-2017. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the new members of the Council about the history and general principles of work of the Council for Cooperation Government - Civil Society, the role of Council members - based on the experiences of the previous Council, as well as the possibilities of the current Council, according to strategic objectives.

Reporting on the implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society 2019-2023.



Launch of the Online Platform for Public Funding of CSOs

In March 2020, the Office for Good Governance in cooperation with CiviKos organized a conference to launch the online platform for public funding of CSOs, which platform will increase transparency in the allocation of public funds.

You can visit the Platform on this link here.



Meetings with Civil Society

Regular meeting of the Council for Cooperation Government - Civil Society

Council for cooperation between Government and Civil Society held few meetings during this year, last one was held in December 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to present and discuss the main developments during the pandemic period in the process of cooperation between the Government and Civil Society, the main findings on achievements and challenges in implementation of the strategy during this period, the work of the Council and presentations by team coordinators on implementation of the objectives and activities planned for 2020 in the Action Plan.

Regular meetings with the Office for Good Governance

Representatives of the CiviKos Platform held a meeting with the Office for Good Governance - OGG, and the representative from the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare to discuss the activities of Objective 3 of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society 2019-2023. The pandemic has hindered the normal development of activities foreseen by the work plan. Together with its partners, CiviKos remains committed to achieving the strategic objectives set out in the Strategy.



Online DISCUSSION: "(Non)Inclusion of NGOs in the Economic Recovery Package"

At the request of several member organizations, the CiviKos Platform has organized an online discussion: "(Non)Inclusion of NGOs in the Economic Recovery Package", on December 16, 2020.

This discussion was organized in cooperation with the Office for Good Governance (OGG/OPM) and aimed to gather representatives from the Government of Kosovo and

representatives of civil society organizations with purpose to deconstructing the package for economic recovery with focus on civil society sector.

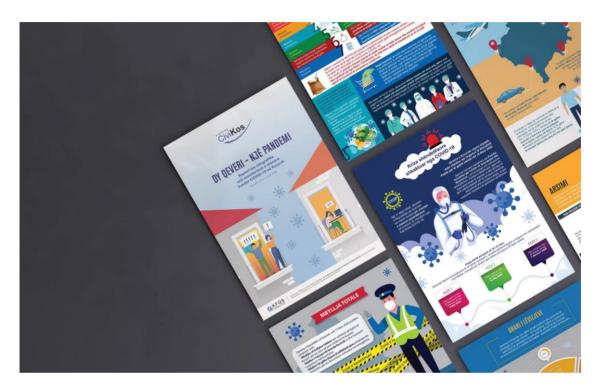
The discussion was facilitated by the CiviKos Platform, while the penal members were: Z. Besnik Tahiri - Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo; Mr. Habit Hajredini - Director of the Office for Good Governance in Office of the Prime Minister.



Infographic report "Two Governments - One Pandemic"

In October 2020 CiviKos Platform published the report "Two Governments - One Pandemic" illustrated with infographics, about monitoring measures against COVID-19 in Kosovo. The report covers the period March-August 2020 and contains the decisions of the two governments - for strict lockdown and problematic o-pening.

You can find the complete report here.



The second wave - Measures of the Government of Kosovo

The CiviKos platform has continuously been monitoring the Government's measures regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. Infographic on monitoring the measures of the Government of Kosovo against #COVID19, based on the DECISION: "on special measures for protection from COVID-19 pandemic", NO. 01/39, Date 01/11/2020, added to the report "Two Governments - One Pandemic" as a addition.

Find the infographic here.



What does the European Commission's Progress Report say about civil society? - Infographics

Following the publication of the Kosovo Progress Report. The CiviKos Platform Secretariat has translated and adapted the main findings of the Civil Society Progress Report.

In this infographic you can read the main findings. Find the infographic here.



Advocating for improvement of the access to banking services by NGOs

Meeting with the Governor of the Central Bank of Kosovo

Following the requests of many civil society organizations addressed to the CiviKos Platform regarding the problems that NGOs are facing in accessing banking services in Kosovo, the representatives of the CiviKos Platform, Donika Emini and Dardan Kryeziu, together with Dren Puka from KCSF - at the same time a member of the working group from civil society for the review of legislation against money laundering and terrorist financing, met with the Governor of the Central Bank, Mr. Fehmi Mehmeti, in March 2020.



During this meeting, the Governor was informed about some of the problems that NGOs are facing with commercial banks, starting from the process of opening bank accounts, their maintenance to the expensive fees that banks are applying for maintenance of accounts for NGOs.

Mr. Mehmeti informed us that the Central Bank of Kosovo is working on a regulation, which regulation will unify the prices of banking services in Kosovo. In this occasion, he invited Mr. Dren Puka to participate in a meeting between the CBK and representatives of commercial banks operating in Kosovo where he will address the problems raised by civil society.

NGO access to financial services, with a focus on identifying the beneficial owner

In September 2020, CiviKos Platform with support from the International Center for Notfor-Profit Law (ICNL) and the European Center for Non-profit Law (ECNL) organized a meeting between stakeholders about NGO access to financial services, focusing on identification of beneficial owner.



NGOs in Kosovo continue to face problems with banking services. The financial exclusion of NGOs is a global phenomenon and the denial of access to civil society financial services affects a range of human rights. Regulation of beneficial owner is another challenge for NGOs.



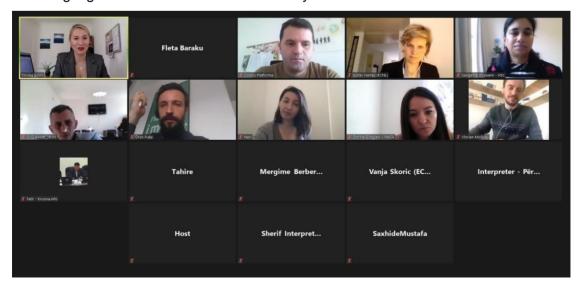
In addition to representatives of NGOs, at the table were also present representatives of public institutions, such as: Ministry of Internal Affairs - Department for NGOs, Financial Intelligence Agency, Central Bank of Kosovo and representatives from the Kosovo Banking Association.

Experts from the 'Human Security Collective' shared some good European practices regarding the identification of the beneficial owner.

CiviKos, together with partner organizations and with relevant institutions such as the Central Bank, the Kosovo Banking Association, the Financial Intelligence Unit will work together to facilitate NGO access to banking services.

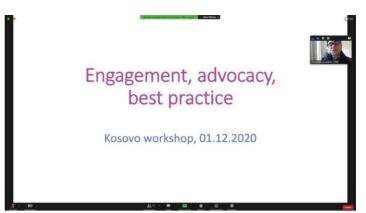
Workshop: Impact of anti-money laundering and terrorist financing legislation on the work of civil society in Kosovo

CiviKos Platform together with the European Center for Non-profit Law (ECNL), on December 1, 2020 organized a half-day workshop for civil society organizations in Kosovo to get a better understanding on the impact of anti-money laundering and terrorist financing legislation in the work of civil society in Kosovo?



Dren Puka from KCSF made a presentation on:

- Processes that Kosovo is going through on legislation review in this field?
- Problems of NGOs in accessing services in commercial banks;
- Involvement of civil society in this process.



Ms. Sangeeta Goswami from Human Security Collective - Holland and Ms. Eszter Hartay from European Centre for Not-Profit-Law brought practices from the different European countries.

RYCO: Facilitated selection of the youth representative on the Steering Board of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, in August 2020 has announced an open call for the selection of the Youth Representative on the Steering Board of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO).

The CiviKos platform facilitated the selection process of this representative.



Thirrje e hapur për përzgjedhjen e përfaqësuesit të të rinjve në Bordin Drejtues të Zyrës Rajonale për Bashkëpunim Rinor (RYCO) Afati i fundit për të kandiduar apo për të nominuar, 5 Gusht 2020.

The meeting of the commission for counting the votes of the candidates for the youth representative in the Steering Board of RYCO was held on August 18, 2020, consisting of: Mr. Xhevat Bajrami – MKRS/MCYS, Mr. Dardan Kryeziu – CiviKos, and Mr. Arianit Jashari – former RYCO Board Member. Whereas, as observation members were Mr. Flakadon Osmani and Mr. Egzon Pacolli.

After counting the votes, the commission concluded that the total number of voters was: 245 votes by e-mail, 143 votes by mail (sealed envelopes).

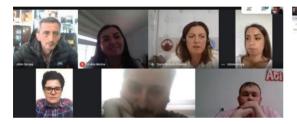
After counting the votes, Edis Prapashtica was selected as the youth representative on the RYCO Board with 172 votes.

ENHANCING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CAPACITIES WITHIN PROJECT FOR TRANSPARENT, EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE MUNICIPALITIES

CiviKos Platform, on February 3, 2020 had opened calls for civil society organizations operating at the local level, as well as members of Local Councils, and other informal groups interested in gaining advanced knowledge in public procurement monitoring, to use the opportunity from workshops on applicable learning. These workshops provided by CiviKos and experts from member organizations aim to empower civil society in monitoring public procurement and exposure to corruption at the local level.

The most proactive CiviKos Platform project implemented under the USAID Project for Transparent, Effective and Accountable Municipalities.

On May 12, 2020, the new series of support to local organizations with a new methodology for monitoring public procurement at the local level. Due to the pandemic, the first meeting of organizations from the Prizren region took place online, facilitated by Diana Metushi Krasnigi.



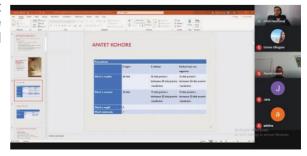


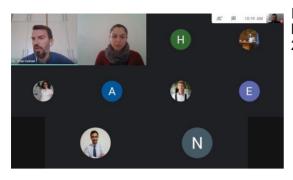
After that the first meeting of organizations from the Mitrovica region was held, which was also held online with the facilitator Visar Prebreza.





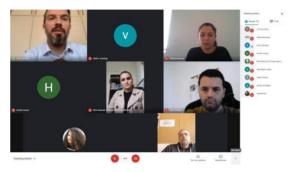
In May 2020, it was continued with the first meeting of organizations from the following cities: Peja, Gjakova, Klina, and Istog with facilitator Arton Demhasaj.

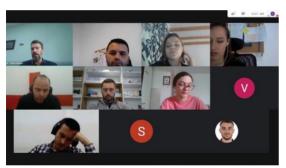




In the city of Ferizaj, the first meeting with local organizations continued on May 28, 2020, facilitator Albulena Nrecaj.

While in June 2020, the meetings started with the organizations from Gjilan and Kamenica, with facilitator Albulena Nrecaj.





Also in Prishtina, on June 5, 2020 began the first meeting with organizations of the Prishtina region, with facilitator Visar Prebreza.

On September 15, 2020, the CiviKos Platform organized a two-day training on public procurement monitoring with participants from civil society organizations from the North Mitrovica region.



CAMPAIGN #PUTYOURMASKON

CiviKos Platform in cooperation with ARTPOLIS, Democracy Plus, PEN - Peer Educators Network, KCSF - Kosovo Civil Society Foundation, and YMCA in Kosovo launched the online campaign #PutYourMaskOn aimed at raising awareness of Kosovo citizens about the importance of using masks in public places.

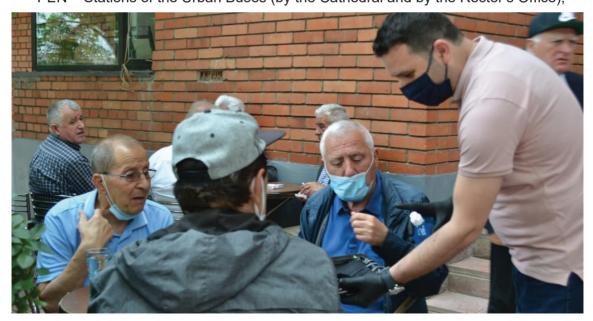




The online campaign #PutYourMaskOn started on June 16, 2020 with a symbolic act of distribution of some masks in several points in the city of Prishtina.

The locations where the masks will be distributed were:

- CIVIKOS Platform str. "Tringë Smajli";
- ARTPOLIS In front of the National Theatre:
- DEMOCRACY PLUS Str. "Justiniani" (in front of the entry to underpass);
- PEN Stations of the Urban Buses (by the Cathedral and by the Rector's Office):



- KOSOVO CIVIL SOCIETY FOUNDATION (KCSF) Palace of Youth (in front of Newborn);
- YMCA Str. "Qamil Hoxha" (near Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports).

Following the launch of the online campaign and the act of distribution of masks, the CiviKos Platform encouraged civil society organizations to promote this online campaign and undertake similar actions in all cities of Kosovo.

This campaign was carried out voluntarily by the CiviKos Platform in cooperation with other organizations, various local media, where many citizens and public figures joined to raise awareness and protect health.





The campaign continued in Vushtrri, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren, and other cities in Kosovo.

As part of the campaign #PutYourMaskOn, the CiviKos Platform donated masks to The Ideas Partnership and Balkan Sunflowers Kosova in Fushe Kosova, centers that provide activities for children and youth of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities living in Fushe Kosova. This activity was carried out within the project: "Reshaping of Civil Society in Kosovo as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic" supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS).



INFORMATION SERVICE FOR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

During 2020, 101 information bulletins were disseminated, out of which 51 regular weekly bulletins.

The audiences that receive the information service are all member organizations of the CiviKos Platform, in which occasion the e-mail is sent to 402 Albanian-speaking and 20 Serbian-speaking users.



