



ANNUAL REPORT
2023



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CiviKos	CiviKos Platform
CSO	Civil Society Organization
MO	Office of the Prime Minister
OGG	Office for Good Governance
Strategy	Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society
MLGA	Ministry of Local Government Administration
MFLT	Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MJ	Ministry of Justice
IPA	Information and Privacy Agency
KCSF	Fondacioni Kosovar për Shoqëri Civile
USAID	The United States Agency for International Development
CEA	Civic Engagement Activity
NED	National Endowment for Democracy
EU	European Union
ECNL	European Centre for Not-for-Profit Law
CDF	Community Development Fund

INTRODUCTION

During 2023, the work of the CiviKos Secretariat has been based on strengthening cooperation with public authorities, as well as providing services to member organizations. The commitment of the CiviKos Secretariat aimed to promote inclusive environment and committed to increasing transparency and effectiveness in the cooperation between civil society and the government, respectively the implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society 2019-2023.

The work of CiviKos for this year included strengthening the role of the Council for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society, by engaging in accelerating the implementation of strategic activities by promoting a productive dialogue between all stakeholders. The close cooperation with the Information and Privacy Agency in the area of personal data protection and access to public documents has brought new perspectives by expanding the cooperation with the public institutions of Kosovo. Furthermore, during 2023, CiviKos continued with the social audit component in cooperation with DEMOS in four municipalities of Kosovo, directly involving citizens in decision-making processes.

The efforts of CiviKos reflected in a sustainable commitment to serve member organizations and to create an environment as favorable as possible for the operation of civil society in Kosovo. This commitment was carried out in close cooperation with member organizations and representatives of Civil Society, part of the Council for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society.

During 2023, CiviKos has started drafting secondary legislation for the contracting of services for civil society organizations within the HumanRightivism project, supported by the Embassy of Sweden in Pristina through the Community Development Fund - CDF. This joint efforts by CiviKos, the Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers, the Office for Good Governance, the Prime Minister's Office will ensure long-term system for contracting of organizations providing social and family services.

The functioning of the CiviKos Secretariat is supported by the Institutional Grant from Smart Balkans and by various international donors such as USAID, NED, SIDA, GIZ and the UN. These partnerships have enabled the implementation of various thematic projects that address important issues for Kosovar society.

1.COOPERATION CIVIL SOCIETY - GOVERNMENT

1.1 Council for Cooperation between Government and Civil Society

Like every other year, also during 2023 the CiviKos Platform has played an active role in strengthening the cooperation between civil society and public institutions. The CiviKos Secretariat provided continuous support to the Council for Cooperation between Civil Society and Government, which aims to strengthen cooperation between the Government and Civil Society and to ensure the monitoring of the implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society. The Council held three meetings during 2023, which were organized with facilitation the CiviKos Platform, chaired by the Deputy Secretary General of the Prime Minister's Office, the Executive Director of the CiviKos Platform and the Office for Good Governance.

In addition to regular meetings of the Council, meetings of the working teams and joint meetings with team coordinators were also held. During the year 2023, each team, Team 2 (which covers the field of public financing of Non-Governmental Organizations - NGOs) and Team 3 (which covers the field of contracting NGOs in the provision of services) held one meeting, where it was discussed the undertaking of actions by the institutions, in striving implementation of the activities foreseen within the respective strategic objectives. Moreover, in order to coordinate the operation of the Council and Strategy implementation process, including the evaluation process, as well as the necessary steps for the development process of the new strategy, two joint meetings were held during 2023 with coordinators of the Council's working teams.



Photo 1: Regular meeting of the Council for Cooperation Civil Society - Government

1.2 Citizen Engagement Activity (CEA)

During 2023, the CiviKos Platform continued with the implementation of activities within the Civic Engagement Activity (CEA), this project which started in 2022 and is implemented by the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF) in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Kosovo. CiviKos Platform is a partner of KCSF in the implementation of this program. These activities include: Leadership of the four thematic groups established by CiviKos, regular meetings with the General Secretaries of the ministries and the Prime Minister's Office, the preparation of periodic monitoring reports on implementation of the Governmental Strategy for cooperation with civil society, as well as the process of evaluating the implementation of the Strategy.

Thematic groups of civil society

The thematic groups with civil society representatives, established by the CiviKos Platform, in line with the four objectives of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society, have carried out their work by organizing workshops which included discussions about developments related to the objectives of the Strategy, including here also the contribution in providing recommendations for the concept documents that have been in the process of public consultation, and which were related to the relevant objectives of the Government Strategy.

During the year 2023, a total of 12 regular workshops of thematic groups were held, where each group held three workshops during this year. During this time, the members of the groups worked on identifying the main shortcomings related to the implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society 2019-2023 and providing recommendations for its implementation, as well as on identifying the activities that should be included in the new Strategy. As a result, two documents were drafted, which were sent to the Office for Good Governance and the Council for Cooperation between Civil Society and Government:

- Recommendations of thematic groups regarding the effective implementation of the Strategy.
- Recommendations of thematic groups for addressing challenges/issues of civil society in the new Strategy



Photo 2: Thematic group 1



Photo 3: Thematic group 2



Photo 4: Thematic group 3



Photo 5: Thematic group 4

Meetings with the secretary generals of ministries and the Prime Minister’s Office

In the framework of the implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society, the CiviKos Platform has also contributed through the organization of meetings with the Deputy Secretary General in the Office of the Prime Minister and with the general secretaries of key ministries for the implementation of the Government Strategy, such as: Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers; Ministry of Local Government Administration; Ministry of Internal Affairs; and Ministry of Justice. These meetings operated as formal dialogue platforms, where CiviKos has advocated for the efficient implementation of strategic activities, which are the responsibility of these ministries. Additionally, these meetings helped in the operability of the Council for Civil Society-Government Cooperation, which includes the secretaries of the ministries and institutions mentioned above. As a result of these efforts, during the year 2023, the responsible ministries have been enabled to start the implementation of some key activities foreseen by the Government Strategy for Cooperation between Civil Society and Government.



Photo 6: Meetings with Deputy Secretary General of the Prime Minister's Office



Photo 7: Meetings with Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice

Mapping of Civil Society Organizations in Kosovo

In order to identify the expertise and potential of Civil Society Organizations in Kosovo to contribute to the implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society 2019-2023, the CiviKos Platform has prepared the report “Mapping of Civil Society Organizations in Kosovo” in which the organizations (members and non-members of CiviKos) are compiled according to their scope of activities, based on the four strategic objectives of the Strategy. The Report was published in February 2023 and can be found [here](#).

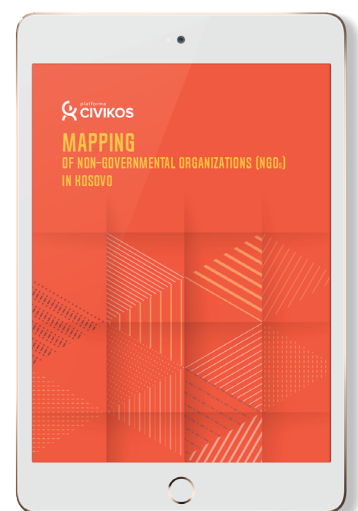
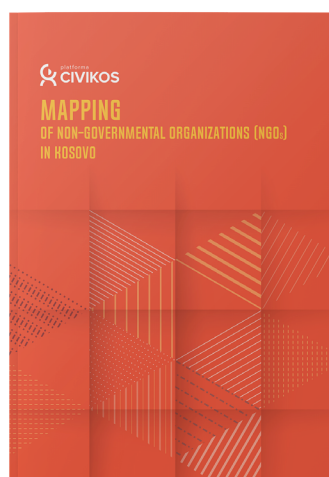


Photo 8: Report - Mapping of Civil Society Organizations in Kosovo

Monitoring the Implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society 2019-2023

The CiviKos Platform, throughout 2023 carried out regular monitoring of the implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society 2019-2023, highlighting the main achievements and shortcomings in the implementation of the Strategy, and recommendations for improvement in this process. The findings from this monitoring are reflected through periodic reports which are prepared and published every six months. During the year 2023, two monitoring reports of the Strategy were published, where during the first half of the year the report with the findings on the implementation of the Strategy throughout the year 2022 was published, while during the second half of the year the report with the findings on the implementation of the Strategy for the period January- June 2023.



Photo 9: Implementation Monitoring Report the Strategy throughout 2022, you can find [here](#).



Photo 10: Implementation Report for the implementation of the Strategy for the period January-June 2023, you can find [here](#).

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

As the year 2023 marked the end of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society, the CiviKos Platform has developed the process of evaluating the implementation of the Strategy. This process was developed through the support provided to the Office for Good Governance within the Office of the Prime Minister, through the engagement of experts for the preparation of the evaluation report of the implementation of the Strategy, which report contains the findings related to the implementation of the objectives of the Strategy and the recommendations for further action in the process of developing the new Strategy. The findings in this report have been prepared based on data collected by the Office for Good Governance, either through data provided or through official reports prepared, then data from reports and documents from other relevant institutions, monitoring reports on the

implementation of Strategy prepared by CiviKos platform, as well as other relevant reports prepared by CiviKos and other civil society organizations in Kosovo. Experts have also conducted individual interviews with representatives of institutions and representatives of civil society organizations in Kosovo. To conclude this process, a focus group was also held in October, with representatives of relevant stakeholders from institutions and civil society (including representatives of thematic groups established by CiviKos), where the initial findings of the evaluation were presented and on this occasion these findings were validated and recommendations for further action were received.



Photo 11: Focus group with representatives of civil society and institutions

1.3 Selection of members from civil society in various public bodies

The Secretariat of CiviKos Platform during the 2023, as in other years, at the request of various public institutions, has facilitated the selection of civil society members in various public bodies.

During 2023, CiviKos has facilitated the selection of civil society members for these public institutions:

- Call for nominations by OCDs for representatives of civil society in the Council for Democracy and Human Rights from the Office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo;
- The selection of two (2) civil society representatives as participants in the process of evaluating grants and subsidies for the year 2023 in Municipality of Pristina;
- The selection of two (2) members of civil society for the Board of the Millennium Challenge Account MCA-Kosovo, led by the Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers;
- The selection of representatives of civil society in the working group for the drafting the concept for the establishing the Museum for the Documentation and Presentation of the Crimes of the former Yugoslavia and Serbia against the Albanians in Kosovo;
- The selection of representatives of civil society in the evaluation commission of the process and verification of NGO applications to enter into partnership with the Free Legal Aid Agency (FLAA) led by the Ministry of Justice;
- The selection of civil society representatives in the Joint Monitoring Committees of the three Cross-Border Cooperation programs, with Albania, Montenegro, and North Macedonia, led by the Ministry of Local Government Administration;
- The selection of the youth representative of Kosovo in the Management Board of the Regional Cooperation Youth Office (RYCO), led by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

2. INCREASING COOPERATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY WITH CITIZENS

2.1 The Project “Strengthening Local Voices Through Active Participation”

The beginning of 2023 included a series of coordination meetings with various partners to plan the activities and areas where CiviKos Platform will contribute within the project “Strengthening Local Voices Through Active Participation”. This project, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), has the goal to increase participation of citizens in local decision-making and increase cooperation between community grassroots organizations, active citizens and local public institutions. In September 2022, the project was approved for the continuation of activities for another year, including 6 more municipalities, and in September 2023, the project continued with a two-year plan. Namely, until October 2025.

Cooperation with central institutions

One of the main components of this project since its inception is the cooperation with Information and Privacy Agency (IPA). Among the first activities within this cooperation for this year was the creation of informative infographics about the mandate of the IPA and the two laws that IPA monitors, in order to inform citizens and NGOs about these areas and issues that can be addressed to AIP. These materials were distributed on social networks and during regional discussions that CiviKos, IPA and member organizations of CiviKos organized in the 7 regions of Kosovo. Namely, in Gjilan, Ferizaj, Mitrovica, Peja, Gjakova, Prizren and Prishtina.

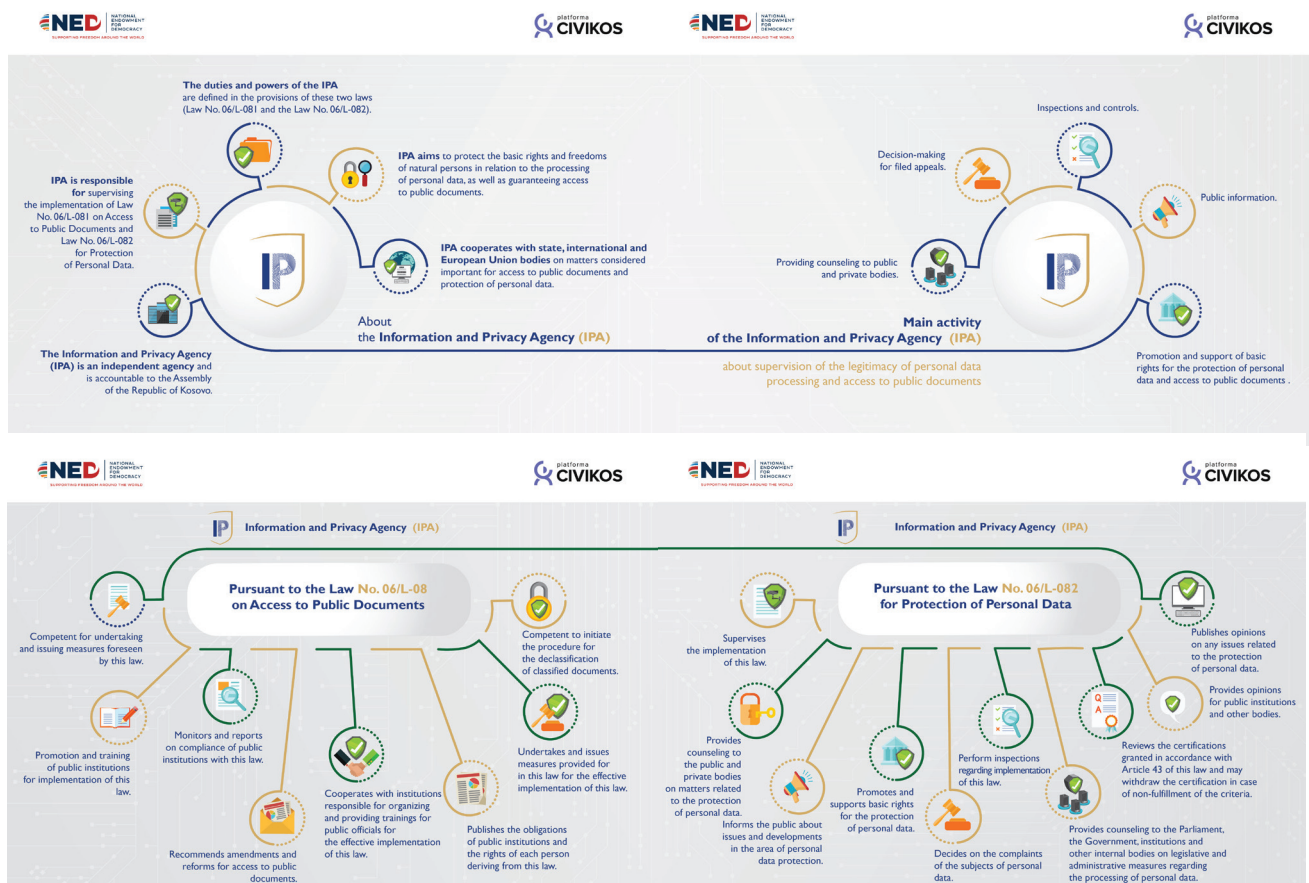


Photo 12: Information Materials about IPA



Photo 13: Informative discussion in the region of Gjilan

The cycle of regional informative discussions started with the region of Gjilan. The event simultaneously marked Privacy Week with a panel composed of the IPA Commissioner, Mrs. Proud Sogojeva Dermaku and the Mayor of the Municipality of Gjilan, Mr. Alban Hyseni.

Representatives of local organizations, businesses, and other active citizens from the respective regions showed great interest in getting to know their rights, personal data protection issues and procedures for filing complaints as well as requests for access to public documents.



Photo 14: The Panel during Informative discussion in the region of Gjilan

The cycle of informative regional discussions was concluded with the region of Prishtina, and with it another successful year of this project. The event also coincided with the marking of the Week of Access to Public Documents and the publication of the report Analysis of the Legal Framework and Implementation in Practice of the two areas covered by the Information and Privacy Agency. Namely, Access to Public Documents and Personal Data Protection (Find the report here).

The panelists of this discussion were Mrs. Krenare Sogojeva Dermaku, IPA Commissioner, Mr. Lulzim Rafuna, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Kosovo, and Mr. Qerkin Berisha, the legal expert engaged for preparing the report. Panelists and attendees discussed the experiences, challenges, and demands of the public, private, and civil society sectors regarding better enforcement of laws that IPA oversees as well as opportunities for multilateral cooperation.



Photo 15: The Panel during Informative discussion in the region of Prishtina



Photo 16: Informative discussion in the Region of Prishtina



Photo 17: Report - Analysis of the Legal Framework and Implementation in Practice of the two areas covered by the IPA

Promotion of KerkoQasje.com Platform

During this year, the CiviKos Platform continued updates on the KerkoQasje platform to maintain its relevance and increase its use, in coordination with the IPA. Towards this goal, materials and [promotional video](#) were developed for digital communication channels. In addition, CiviKos has presented the KerkoQasje platform at the POINT Conference in Sarajevo, as the platform for facilitating requests for access to public documents. This conference, the largest of its kind in the region, aims to promote the engagement of civil society and the use of technology for transparency and accountability.



Photo 18: Presentation of the KerkoQasje.com platform at the Point Conference in Sarajevo

Cooperation with local governments and local organizations

The main component of this project was field work with active citizens, local organizations, Village and Neighborhood Councils, as well as local governments. Namely, the second year of this project envisaged this work in six other target cities: Dardane, Fushe Kosova, Vushtri, Mitrovica, Klina and Gjakova. Before any planning of activities in these municipalities, the CiviKos Platform had initially selected the member organizations from these municipalities as partners for the implementation of the activities: NGO Access, CBM, NGO Zana and NOPM.



Photo 19: Meeting in Kamenica

After initial coordinations with the partner organizations, the CiviKos team also met with the municipal officials of each target municipality to inform them about the goals and activities of the project. The discussions focused on the cooperation with the local Civil Society for increasing the participation of citizens in local decision-making, but also the compatibility of

the local level with the minimum standards of public consultation, as foreseen by the central level. After these meetings, it was noticed that some of the municipalities have started to publish their documents and calls for public consultation on the electronic platform.



Photo 20: Meeting in Vushtri



Photo 21: Meeting in Mitrovica

Two-day workshops with representatives of Local Councils and Civil Society Organizations

During the period between March-June, the CiviKos Platform, in cooperation with partner organizations from the target municipalities of the project, organized two-day workshops with representatives of Village and Neighborhood Councils and local organizations. The goal of these meetings was to increase knowledge about the mechanisms of citizens' participation in decision-making processes at the local level, and the ways of advocating and influencing policies at the local level. These workshops served to prepare for the municipal budget hearings that began in June and were finalized in September. After completing a series of workshops and monitoring of budget hearings, CiviKos Platform prepared informative materials with the aim of raising citizens' awareness about the importance of local decision-making processes.



Photo 22: Two-day workshops in the Municipality of Mitrovica



Photo 23: Two-day workshops in the Municipality of Fushe Kosova

WORKSHOPS ON INCREASING THE CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION ON LOCAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES



Photo 24: [Data from two-day workshops in 6 target municipalities](#)

2.2 Social Audit in Kamenica, Rahovec, Lipjan and Peja

The CiviKos Platform with the support of the project Decentralisation and Municipal Support (DEMOS), a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), co-financed by Sweden and Norway, and implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation-Kosovo, has supported four groups of citizens in four partner municipalities; Peja, Lipjan, Kamenica and Rahovec, to monitor 4 capital projects supported by the performance grant.

The social audit as a tool to demand accountability to citizens by the municipal authorities is based on fundamental principles of democratic and good governance, which means that the process was participatory, comprehensive, transparent, with access to the necessary information, and that the decision makers and policy-makers are held accountable.

The projects selected within Social Audit

The four projects from the four partner municipalities; Peja, Kamenica, Rahovec and Lipjan selected for social audit are:

- Karagaç Park restoring in the Municipality of Peja;
- Project for water distribution for the villages of Hogosht and Lisocke in the Municipality of Kamenica;
- Construction of infrastructure for people with special needs in the municipality of Rahovec (Rahovec, Xerxe, Fortese, Krushe e Madhe, Celina, Hoqe e Vogel, Opterushe, Malesi e Vogel, Ratkoc, Dejn and Qifllak); and
- Construction of the Water Reservoir and Rehabilitation of the Water Supply Network in Janjevo, in municipality of Lipjan.

Publishing Social Audit Reports in four partner municipalities

After the finalization of the Social Audit reports supported by Demos in the four municipalities, where citizen groups have monitored capital projects, CiviKos organized the presentations of the results of the four social audit reports in the target municipalities: Kamenica, Peja, Rahovec and Lipjan. These presentations were held in various venues such as Municipal Assembly halls and Mayors' Offices, with the participation of members of the social audit team, civil society activists and local organizations, ensuring broad participation and engagement.



Photo 25: Report and infographics “Karagaç Park restoring in the Municipality of Peja”

CiviKos in cooperation with DEMOS, after a series of presentations in the respective municipalities, have published the four reports of the Social Audit Groups. The report “Regulation of Karagaç Park”, a vital space for residents’ recreation, was published in Peja. In Lipjan, the report on the monitored project “Construction of the Water Reservoir and Rehabilitation of the Water Supply Network in Janjevo” was presented, aiming to improve the water supply for the residents. In “Construction of Infrastructure for People with Special Needs” was published

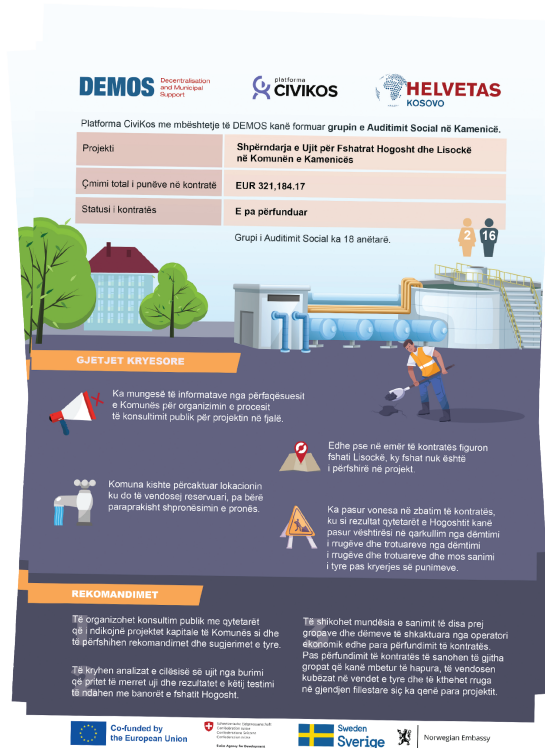


Photo 26: Report and Infographics: “Project for water distribution for the villages of Hogosht and Lisocke in Municipality of Kamenica”

in Rahovec (Rahovec, Xerxe, Fortese, Krushe e Madhe, Celina, Hoqe e Vogel, Opterushe, Malesi e Vogel, Ratkoc, Dejn and Qifllak) focusing in improving infrastructure for people with special needs. In Kamenica, the report Distribution of water for the villages of Hogosht and Lisockë in the Municipality of Kamenica was published, emphasizing the importance of drinking water supply for the villages of Hogosht and Lisockë. These reports have brought to the respective municipalities the perspective of the citizens of Kosovo who, through the Social Audit process, have monitored various capital projects.

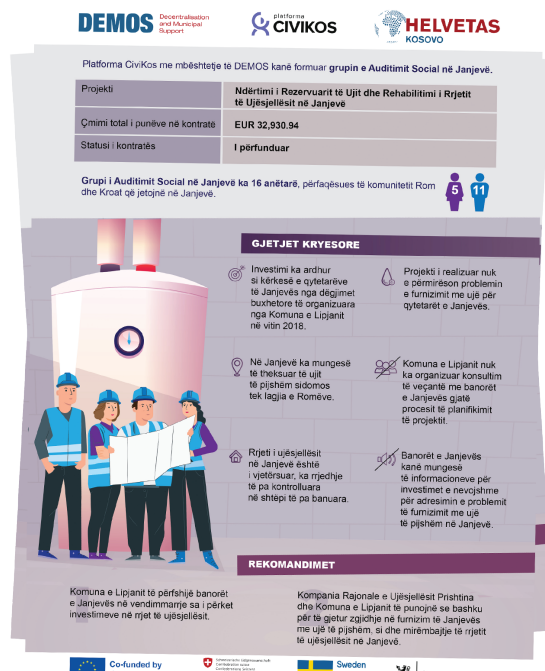


Photo 27: Report and Infographics “Water Reservoir Construction and Rehabilitation of the Water Supply Network in Janjevo, in the Municipality of Lipjan”

Promotion of reports and monitoring of addressing the findings of citizens from the four relevant municipalities

CiviKos promoted the Social Audit reports through the weekly newsletter and social media, creating infographics for each report summarizing key findings and recommendations. These infographics were shared with 290 member organizations through a weekly newsletter sent to 500 email addresses. In addition, CiviKos used its Facebook page to share the full reports and infographics, aiming to raise awareness and engage a wider audience on the importance and impact of social audit reports in the four municipalities.



Photo 28: Report and Infographics: “Building infrastructure for people with Special Needs in Municipality of Rahovec”

After the publication of the four Social Audit reports in the four partner municipalities, CiviKos with the support of Demos took steps to follow the progress and ensure that the recommendations were implemented in the four municipalities. This data collection process aimed to provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of the social audit process and contribute to the continuous improvement of governance practices.

- You can find full report “Water distribution for villages of Hogosht and Lisocke in the Municipality of Kamenica” [here](#).
- Full report: You can find “Karagaç Park restoring in the Municipality of Peja” report [here](#).
- You can find full report “Construction of infrastructure for people with special needs in the municipality of Rahovec (Rahovec, Xerxe, Fortese, Krushe e Madhe, Celina, Hoqe e Vogel, Opterushe, Malesi e Vogel, Ratkoc, Dejn and Qifllak)”; [here](#).
- You can find full report “Construction of the Water Reservoir and Rehabilitation of the Water Supply Network in Janjevo, in municipality of Lipjan” [here](#).

2.3 Regulation of a sustainable system of contracting services for NGOs

CiviKos in its efforts to advance dialogue and cooperation between civil society and the government started a new project with the Community Development Fund (CDF), financed by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), within the Human Rightivism project. This project aims to create secondary legislation for the process of contracting services for NGOs.

One of the main steps within this cooperation is the establishment of a working group by the Ministry of Finance, consisting of members of the government and representatives of civil society. This working group has a mandate to draft secondary legislation for the process of contracting services in Kosovo

The first workshop, held on December 2 in Vila Germia, marked the official start of the drafting of the Administrative Instruction for the process of contracting services by NGOs in Kosovo.



Photo 29: Workshop held in December 2023



Photo 30: Workshop held in December 2023

3. INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CIVIKOS PLATFORM SECRETARIAT AND MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

3.1 The management of Kosovo Funding Portal platform is transferred to CiviKos

On March 1, 2023, CiviKos Platform organized an event for the transfer of the Kosovo Funding Portal from the OSCE mission in Kosovo, who developed the portal at the local partner CiviKos Platform.



**Kosovo
Funding
Portal**

This platform, the first of its kind in Kosovo, aims to increase access and transparency of opportunities for funding civil society organizations. It is a simple tool for users that brings together donors and civil society organizations in one place.

In this event, there were various donors, representatives of civil society organizations and journalists. This portal was delivered to CiviKos by the OSCE Ambassador to Kosovo Michael Davenport. Participants emphasized the importance of increasing access to funding opportunities for all civil society organizations, including small and medium-sized ones operating at the grassroots level, as well as organizations representing non-majority communities and vulnerable groups.

The Funding Portal contains information on donors for grants and other information on civil society in Kosovo. Provides a database for donors and users. All civil society organizations, citizens and journalists can register for free, as well as donors can register for free. This portal is enabled by the Smart Balkans Institutional Grant Scheme. The Kosovo Funding portal can be accessed at: kosovofunding.org

3.2 Institutional Support for CiviKos from the Grant Scheme “Smart Balkans”

The Institutional Grant financed by Smart Balkans has been a key factor in supporting the CiviKos Platform to carry out a series of improvements and expansions of its capacities.

This financial support has made it possible to update the internal documentation, including the policies and procedures that regulate the operation of the organization. This process has helped increase transparency and strengthen internal management and accountability structures.

In addition to updating the documentation, the grant has enabled CiviKos to improve and expand its information service. This enabled the provision of better quality and more accessible information to members and partners, including the distribution of newsletters and updating the organisation’s website to reflect changes and novelties.

One of the most important achievements with the help of this grant has been the management and operation of the Kosovo Funding Portal. This platform aims to simplify access to

information for civil society organizations in Kosovo, providing a rich database for funding opportunities and connecting donors with organizations seeking funding.

Updating internal documents and procedures of CiviKos

CiviKos, within the institutional grant supported by Smart Balkans, updated CiviKos internal documents and procedures, ensuring the implementation of transparent and accountable standards for effective management of the secretariat.

Updating Internal Documents: CiviKos has completed and enhanced the documentation for internal operation. This has included the drafting of the Financial and Procurement Regulations, which incorporate the latest procedures and standards ensuring increased transparency and accountability.

3.3 Advocacy for policies against money laundering and terrorist financing in Kosovo

The CiviKos Platform with the support of the Human Security Collective organization, also during 2023 continued with advocacy activities in the area of policies against money laundering and terrorist financing, as well as the impact on the work of Civil Society in Kosovo.

Two-day Seminar on Terrorism Financing Risks

On February 6 and 7, 2023, the CiviKos Platform participated in a workshop aimed at evaluating data on the risks of terrorist financing within non-profit organizations. The seminar, which was part of the Project Against Economic Crime in Kosovo (PECK III), focused on supporting key contributors in gathering information for a detailed risk assessment of the CSO sector in Kosovo, using the Methodology of Council of Europe.

Global Policy Information Brochure

CiviKos prepared a brochure that addresses the impact of global anti-money laundering and terrorist financing policies on non-governmental organizations. This brochure covered various aspects, including FATF recommendations, the legal framework in Kosovo and guidelines for NGOs to protect themselves from abuse for terrorist financing, [here](#).



Photo 31: Information Brochure

Advocacy for policies against money laundering and terrorist financing in Kosovo

The CiviKos platform with the support of the Human Security Collective organization continued with advocacy activities in the area of policies against money laundering and terrorist financing, as well as the impact on the work of Civil Society in Kosovo.

On November 3, 2023, CiviKos organized the workshop “Policies against money laundering and financing of terrorism in Kosovo” - Impact on the work of CSOs in Kosovo.

This workshop was led by Mr. Dren Puka from the Kosovar Foundation for Civil Society (KCSF), also a member of the working group for completing the amendment of the legislation against money laundering and the financing of terrorism in Kosovo.

The participants had the opportunity to be informed about anti money laundering and the financing of terrorism policies in Kosovo, and the impact these policies have on the work of Civil Society. During the workshop it was also discussed about the sectoral risk assessment, and the importance of the participation of civil society organizations in this assessment process that Kosovo is going through.



Photo 32: Policies against money laundering and terrorist financing in Kosovo - Workshop

3.4. Information service of the CiviKos Secretariat towards member organizations during 2023

During 2023, the Secretariat of CiviKos has provided the regular weekly newsletter to member organizations. Weekly newsletter with information such as; grant opportunities, opportunities to participate in trainings, various seminars, networking opportunities, as well as information relevant to civil society is sent to member organizations on a weekly basis throughout the year.

CiviKos has taken important steps to develop and improve its services to member organizations, including:

- **Improvement of the Information Service:** Based on the results of the research conducted through the questionnaire, CiviKos has made appropriate improvements in the information service. This has included channeling information and improving the design of the weekly newsletter.

- **Restructuring of the Weekly Newsletter:** The weekly newsletter was restructured and

given a new design to increase the volume and quality of information sent. Using Mailchimp has made it possible to provide a more user-friendly design.

CiviKos has organized focus group and individual meetings with member organizations, such as meeting in the region of Gjilan, to get their opinion and contribution about provided services. Furthermore, individual meetings were held with member organizations to get their opinion about improving services.

- During 2023, 52 newsletters were sent to member organizations.

In the framework of efforts to expand and deepen cooperation with various institutions and to increase the value of services offered to member organizations, CiviKos has taken concrete steps in cooperation with the Office for Communities in the Office of the Prime Minister of Kosovo. On May 4, 2023, a coordination meeting took place between the CiviKos Platform and representatives of the Prime Minister's Office, including Mrs. Elizabeth Gowing, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Communities, and Manuela Petrovic, Assistant in the Office of the Prime Minister on Community Affairs.

During the meeting, cooperation and sharing of relevant information for civil society was discussed, especially in relation to grants offered by the Government of Kosovo.

The inclusion of this information in the weekly newsletter of CiviKos, and later inclusion in the Kosovo Funding Portal will help raise awareness and facilitate the access of member organizations to these resources, contributing to strengthening their capacities and realizing projects that aim to address the needs and challenges of different communities in Kosovo.



Photo 33: Meeting with representatives of the Office for Community Affairs - Prime Minister Office of Kosovo

3.5 Findings of the EU Report on Kosovo 2023

CiviKos Secretariat has summarized in a separate infographic finding of report from the European Union (EU) for Kosovo, respectively the main messages for civil society.

MESAZHET KRYESORE TË RAPORTIT TË PROGRESIT PËR SHOQËRINË CIVILE (SHC) PËR VITIN 2023



TË PËRGJITHSHME - FUNKSIONIMI I SHOQËRISË CIVILE NË KOSOVË

Në përgjithësi, shoqëria civile operon në një mjedis të favorshëm. Shoqëria civile vazhdon të marrë pjesë aktivisht në konsultimet publike dhe kontribuon në proceset politikëbërëse dhe monitoruese. Përpjekjet e autoriteteve publike për të përfshirë publikun në proceset vendimmarrëse janë të mirëpritura dhe duhet të rriten edhe më tutje. Qeveria duhet të sigurojë që çdo proces i konsultimit publik të përmbushë standardet minimale, parimet dhe procedurat e vendosura nga rregullorja relevante. Duhet të mirëmbahen përpjekjet për rritjen e transparencës dhe llogaridhënies në financimin publik të organizatave të shoqërisë civile.



RRETH ORGANIZATAVE TË SHOQËRISË CIVILE

Një shoqëri civile e fuqizuar është komponent kyç i çdo sistemi demokratik dhe vazhdon të njihet si e tillë nga institucionet publike. Shoqëria civile mbetet një partner i rëndësishëm në kornizën e përgatitjes së Kosovës për anëtarësim në BE, duke qenë se kontribuon në dizajnimin, zbatimin dhe monitorimin e reformave që ndërlihen me BE-në, dhe merr pjesë në platformat e politikave dialoguese të Stabilizim Asociimit. Roli i saj në promovimin e ndryshimit social, duke ndërtuar besimin dhe promovuar bashkëpunimin shumëpalësh është gjerësisht i pranuar. Shoqëria civile gjithashtu luan rol kritik në avokimin për të drejtat e personave me aftësi të kufizuara, barazinë gjinore, dhe të drejtat e personave që ju takojnë komuniteteve jo-shumicë.

BASHKËPUNIMI SHOQËRI CIVILE - QEVERI

Përveç disa përparimeve në procesin e konsultimit publik, nuk ka zhvillime signifikante në zbatimin e Strategjisë Qeveritare për Bashkëpunim me Shoqërinë Civile 2019-2023.



KONSULTIMI PUBLIK

Qeveria ka bërë disa përpjekje për të përfshirë shoqërinë civile në politikëbërje. Në vitin 2022, platforma online për konsultime publike është avancuar me disa elemente duke facilituar pjesëmarrjen e personave me aftësi të kufizuara. Shumica e akteve legjislativë të miratuara nga qeveria janë vendosur për konsultim publik. Organizatat e Shoqërisë Civile (OSHC-të), palët e interesuara dhe publiku janë angazhuar në konsultimet publike në nivelin qendror pothuajse katër herë më shpesh se në vitin 2021. Në të njëjtën kohë, zbatimi i disa standardeve, parimeve dhe procedurave të specifikuar në Standardet Minimale të Konsultimit Publik ka vazhduar të ngecë. Konsultimet publike në përgjithësi janë realizuar në nivelin qendror, në formë të shkruar dhe atë elektronike përmes platformës online. Rekomandohet që të rritet përdorimi i formave tjera të konsultimit publik. Institucionet lokale nuk i përdorin mjaftueshëm këta mekanizma.

FINANCIMI PUBLIK

Zbatimi i Rregullores për Financimin Publik të OJQ-ve është duke u përmirësuar gradualisht. Përkundër përfshirjes në agjendën legjislativë të vitit 2022, ndryshimet e Rregullores nuk janë inicuar. Platforma online është avancuar me vizualizim të të dhënave bazuar në ofruesit, përfituesit dhe territorin e zbatimit, dhe tani është e lidhur me Platformën për Mbështetjen e Donatorëve ndaj Shoqërisë Civile. Kosova mund të përfitojë nga rritja e transparencës dhe llogaridhënies në financimin publik për OJQ-të. Nevojiten më shumë përpjekje për të përditësuar regjistrin e OJQ-ve dhe për të siguruar që sistemi elektronik i organizatave jo-qeveritare të Kosovës është plotësisht i besueshëm.



VULLNETARIZMI

Ambienti për vullnetarizëm duhet të përmirësohet, përfshirë zhvillimin e një kornize të përshtatshme legjislativë, në përputhje me standardet ndërkombëtare dhe duke ndarë resurse financiare dhe humane për programet e vullnetarizmit për rininë.

KORNIZA LIGJORE PËR PARANDALIMIN E PASTRIMIT TË PARAVE DHE FINANCIMIN E TERRORIZMIT

Në vitin 2022, qeveria inicioi procesin e vlerësimit të rrezikut sektorial të financimit të terrorizmit për organizatat jo-qeveritare, duke përfshirë shoqërinë civile. Kjo punë duhet të përfshihet në rishikimin e Ligjit për parandalimin e pastrimit të parasë dhe financimit të terrorizmit. Qëllimi është që të hiqen barrierat e panevojshme për raportim të OSHC-ve, të zbuten masat e tepërta kontrolluese për OJQ-të me rrezik të ulët, të hiqen kufizimet në dhurimet në para të gatshme, dhe të eliminohen barrierat në qasjen në shërbimet bankare dhe financiare. Regjimi tatimor për OSHC-të konsiderohet se i plotëson pjesërisht standardet relevante bazuar në vlerësimin bazë për vitin 2021 të Asistencës Teknike të BE-së për Organizatat e Shoqërisë Civile (TACSO).



* Mesazhet kryesore të gjeturave të Raportit të Progresit për vitin 2023 për sektorin e shoqërisë civile janë përkthyer dhe përshtatur nga Sekretariati i Civikos për nevoja të organizatës dhe nuk është përkthim zyrtar i Komisionit Europian.

