



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



*A stronger democracy requires a strong civil society.
Together we make this possible.*

We are grateful for your support:





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Consultative meeting with civil society organizations for the presentation of the Draft Strategy for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society 2025-2030. | April 2025

Letter from Leadership



Nermin Mahmut
Chairwoman of the Board
Platforma Civikos



Dardan Kryeziu
Executive Director
Platforma Civikos

The year 2025 was a year of reflection and adaptation for civil society in Kosovo. Changes in the global development sector, reduction of some traditional sources of funding, and a period of political uncertainty created a more challenging environment for civil society organizations. In this context, this year's chapter was sustainability of the sector and the need for stronger partnerships between civil society, institutions and international partners.

Despite these challenges, civil society in Kosovo continued to play an important role in protecting the public interest, promoting transparency, and creating room for civic participation. Civil society organizations contributed to important public policy discussions, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and advancing standards of democratic governance.

For the CiviKos Platform, this year was also an important moment of institutional consolidation. CiviKos held its Members' Assembly, where the annual reports were approved and the organization's new Steering Board was elected, while a new Executive Director was subsequently appointed. These developments strengthened the Platform's internal governance and created the basis for the next phase of its development. At the same time, through cooperation with member organizations, public institutions and international partners, CiviKos continued to serve as a place for dialogue and coordination for the civil society sector.

Recent developments have also shown that the sector must continue to adapt to a new reality. The growing importance of digital governance, the need for greater transparency at the local level, and the demand for broader citizen participation are increasingly shaping the way civil society organizations engage in public processes.

We are deeply grateful to CiviKos member organizations, institutional partners, and international donors who continue to support the development of civil society in Kosovo. Their commitment and cooperation are essential for maintaining an independent, active and influential sector.

Looking ahead, three priorities will guide our work in 2026:

- strengthening institutional dialogue and cooperation mechanisms between civil society and public institutions;
- supporting civic participation and local democracy;
- building a more sustainable sector and enabled to adapt to changes in the development environment.

Civil society remains one of the main pillars of a functional democracy. In a time of change and challenges, it is the cooperation between citizens, institutions, and organizations that makes this possible.



The CiviKos Platform is an initiative of civil society organizations in Kosovo, established to create and promote an enabling environment for the cooperation of the formal civil society sector and state institutions of Kosovo.

Impact by numbers



321 organizations

from all over Kosovo represented in the CiviKos Platform network



7 regions of Kosovo

where activities and information sessions were held



42 public institutions

involved in programs, training and institutional dialogue



112 professionals

trained and certified in personal data protection



16 trainers

certified for privacy and digital security



70+ participants

at regional sessions and the national conference on personal data protection



2 main workshops with 62 participants

for local democracy and Local Councils



1 national database

for representatives of Local Councils



71 newsletters

with specific opportunities and announcements for civil society organizations



1 Assembly of Members

and New Board of Directors elected for CiviKos



134,368 views and 6,253 interactions

with content from the audience on social media



Focus Group of Civil Society Organizations on Personal Data Protection in the NGO Sector. | April 2025

Year 2025 in Review

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Secretariat Work and Internal Governance

1. Strengthening Civil Society-Government Cooperation

Cooperation with the Office for Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister

During 2025, CiviKos continued to coordinate work between civil society organizations and public institutions, supporting institutional cooperation mechanisms and facilitating civil society participation in policy-making processes. In cooperation with the Office for Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister, CiviKos contributed in process of drafting the new Strategy for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society 2026–2030, also supporting the work of the working group established to draft the Government Strategy for cooperation with civil society.



Meeting to strengthen cooperation between Government and Civil Society. | July 2025

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- The work of civil society thematic groups was coordinated for implementation of the Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society.
- A workshop was organized with civil society organizations to consult on the new Strategy.
- Meetings were held with ministries and government institutions to advance the implementation of the Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society.
- Inter-institutional strategic group meetings were organized to coordinate the implementation of the strategy.
- April 2025- CiviKos, in cooperation with the Office for Good Governance and with the support of EU/TACSO, organized a consultative meeting where Draft Strategy for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society 2025–2030 was presented, emphasizing the objectives and importance of strengthening dialogue, transparency and civic involvement.
- The process of drafting new Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society 2026–2030 was supported through organization of working group meetings and consultations with civil society organizations.
- July 1, 2025, CiviKos, together with the OGG organized a meeting with representatives of civil society and public institutions to strengthen Government-Civil Society cooperation, where the impact of the suspension of USAID funds and the need to increase public funding for CSOs was discussed.
- CiviKos drafted the [Analysis of Legal framework for co-funding of EU projects.](#)

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Supporting the implementation of new Strategy for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society 2026–2030.
- Strengthening role of the Council for Government-Civil Society Cooperation as the main mechanism of institutional dialogue.
- Expanding consultations and involvement of civil society organizations from all regions of Kosovo in process of drafting the new Strategy.



“During 2025, the Office for Good Governance (OGG) within the Office of the Prime Minister has developed close cooperation with the CiviKos Platform, as the largest network of civil society organizations in Kosovo. This partnership has been particularly important in the process of drafting the new Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society, where the CiviKos Platform has contributed to the mobilization of organizations and the inclusion of their recommendations in the consultation process. The OGG appreciates the CiviKos Platform as a reliable partner in strengthening dialogue and cooperation between institutions and civil society in Kosovo.”

Habit Hajredini,
Director of the Office for Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister

2. Faith in the Digital Age: Personal Data Protection and Cybersecurity

Cooperation with the Agency for Information and Privacy (AIP)

With the support of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Kosovo through the MATRA program, CiviKos and the Agency for Information and Privacy (AIP) have collaborated to build capacities in cybersecurity and personal data protection in local and central public institutions, establishing digital privacy and security as a practical standard in institutions and civil society through partnerships, trainings and practical tools. At a time when public services and work of CSOs increasingly depend on digital platforms, this cooperation has contributed to increasing public trust through development of professional capacities, creation of practical guidelines, and expansion of discussions on privacy at the regional level.



Closing conference of the project “Strengthening Personal Data Protection and Cybersecurity in all sectors in Kosovo” | September 2025

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- A ToT training was organized, where 16 trainers were certified for digital privacy and security.
- Advanced training for DPOs was conducted, with 112 participants, of which 100 were certified.
- Inter-institutional cooperation for the implementation of privacy standards was strengthened.
- A standardized GDPR compliance reporting format was developed, with 44 reporting fields.
- Information sessions were held in 7 regions involving citizens, CSOs, businesses and public institutions, and a closing conference at national level with over 70 participants.
- An internship program was created at AIP for up to 5 young professionals.
- An information campaign was conducted throughout the year with infographics and videos on personal data protection.
- [Guide to Personal Data Protection for Civil Society Organizations](#) was drafted, with active participation of civil society and AIP.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Continued cooperation with the Agency for Information and Privacy (AIP) to strengthen institutional capacities in personal data protection and cybersecurity.
- Promotion and dissemination of CSO Guide to civil society organizations to support the practical implementation of privacy standards.
- Expand training and capacity building programs to other sectors of public institutions, including local, central and independent institutions.



“The cooperation between the Information and Privacy Agency and the Civikos Platform has been developed as a mutual partnership oriented towards a common goal: advancing standards for protection of personal data and strengthening institutional transparency in the Republic of Kosovo.

Through this cooperation, professional capacities have been strengthened and public awareness has been raised, supporting the development of a more structured and effective approach to implementation of legislation on protection of personal data and access to public documents. This joint commitment has helped consolidate institutional practices and promote a broader culture of respect for privacy and transparency in society.”

**Krenare Sogojeva Dërmaku,
Commissioner of the Information and Privacy Agency**

3. Democracy That Begins in the Community: Strengthening Civic Participation at the Local Level

Cooperation with Local Councils, Local Organizations and Municipalities

The year 2025 was characterized by a prolonged period of political and institutional instability in Kosovo, with parliamentary and local elections, difficulties in establishing government, and restrictions on administrative decision-making. In this context, local democracy mechanisms, especially Local Councils, faced ongoing challenges related to the lack of standardization of procedures, uncertainty about the compensation of council chairmen, and the lack of structured information on their composition. The National Endowment Democracy-supported project that began in 2021 continued to address these structural weaknesses through a combination of legal analysis, practical tools, institutional dialogue, and involvement of local stakeholders. This approach aims to strengthen the role of local councils as a bridge between citizens and municipal decision-making, contributing to increased transparency and citizen participation.



Regional information session in Mitrovica on the functioning of local councils. | January 2025

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Institutional dialogue has been advanced to harmonize municipal practices for the compensation of Local Council chairmen, through consultations with the MLGA, the Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers, and legal experts.
- A draft explanatory circular with practical instructions for municipalities was drafted, translating the legal interpretation into practical instructions for municipalities, although formal adoption was delayed due to the political situation.
- A regional workshop was organized in Mitrovica (27 participants) and a national workshop in Prishtina (35 representatives), where legal analysis, guidelines and a standard package of documents for Local Councils were presented.
- A focus group was held to design the national database for Local Councils and the national database for Local Councils was technically developed, enabling identification and contact with local representatives.
- Partnerships were strengthened with the Office for Good Governance and the Association of Kosovo Municipalities for the institutionalization of this platform and cooperation within framework of the activities of this project.
- The promotion of “KerkoQasje” continued and the standard package of documents was distributed to standardize the procedures of Local Councils.
- The project contributed to shifting the debate from awareness to concrete administrative solutions for functioning of Local Councils.
- In early 2025, the project was rescheduled due to the discontinuation of US funding and was approved for a cost-effective extension until September 2026.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Advancement of institutional dialogue for formal approval of explanatory circular on the compensation of Local Council chairmen.
- Public launch of the national database for Local Councils and its integration into relevant institutional platforms.
- Organizing a technical session with municipal representatives in the Collegium of Municipal Finance Directors, in cooperation with the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, to discuss the practical implementation of the recommendations for compensation of Local Council chairmen.
- Organizing workshops for members of Municipal Assemblies and municipal officials, with a focus on the use of document package and practical cooperation with Local Councils.
- Continue to promote and use the standard document package to increase transparency and functionality of councils.
- Deepening cooperation with central and municipal institutions to institutionalize mechanisms of citizen participation and oversight.
- Dissemination of interpretation on compensation of Local Councils from legal analysis and materials through the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, including publication of the database on their website.

4. Strengthening the Network and Performance of the CiviKos Secretariat

Secretariat Work and Internal Governance

During 2025, the CiviKos Platform Secretariat continued to coordinate the network's activities and support the institutional functioning of the organization through close cooperation with the Board and member organizations. An important moment was meeting of the Assembly of Members held for the CiviKos Platform, where the annual reports were approved and the new Board of the organization was elected. During the year, the Secretariat has organized and supported regular Board meetings, meetings with public institutions, donors and international partners, and has contributed to promotion of issues related to the development of civil society and its inclusion in policy-making processes. The year ended with an important achievement for the Platform and the sector, selection of CiviKos as an Enlargement Candidate Member (ECM) in the European Economic and Social Committee.



Civic Platform Members' Assembly. | April 2025

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2025

- CiviKos continued to play a key role in informing the membership, distributing 50 newsletters and 21 specific announcements on funding and engagement opportunities, strengthening ongoing communication and access to opportunities for civil society organizations.
- On April 25, 2025, the Assembly of Members of the CiviKos Platform was held at Palace of Youth in Prishtina.
- The annual work reports were adopted and the organization's new Board was elected.
- The new board consists of: Bujar Kadriu (Kosovo Disability Forum), Dren Puka (Kosovo Foundation for Civil Society - KCSF), Nermin Mahmuti (Community Development Fund - CDF), Qëndrim Hoxha (Leadership Development Association - LDA Europe) and Shkumbin Arifi (SHL Kosova).
- On May 7, 2025, the first meeting of the new Board was held, where Ms. Nermin Mahmuti was elected a Chairperson of the Board.
- At the same meeting, Dardan Kryeziu was appointed Executive Director of the CiviKos Platform.
- During the year, 4 regular Board meetings were held for the strategic direction of the organization.
- In September 2025, the Board decided to initiate the procedure for categorizing membership in CiviKos and preparing the next Assembly meeting.
- Meetings were held with public institutions to advance cooperation with civil society, including the Ministry of Justice and the Office for Good Governance.
- November 2025 - CiviKos, together with the Information and Privacy Agency, organized a meeting with representatives of the Embassy of the Netherlands, where the results of the joint project were presented and importance of inter-institutional cooperation for transparency, data protection and good governance was discussed.
- The results of joint projects in the field of transparency, data protection and good governance were presented.
- The Secretariat prepared and published [summaries of the main findings from the European Commission Report on Civil Society in Kosovo](#).
- The CiviKos Platform was selected as an Enlargement Candidate Member (ECM) within the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), enabling for the first time the direct representation of Kosovo's civil society in the European Union's dialogue and consultative processes.
- December 2025 - CiviKos organized a meeting with representatives of the Council of Europe, where the role of civil society in Kosovo and opportunities for cooperation in the field of good governance, transparency and civic inclusion were discussed.
- CiviKos participated in the panel at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Civil Society Forum 2025, contributing to discussions on the sustainability of the sector and cooperation with institutions, donors and the private sector.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Further strengthening network of member organizations and increasing their involvement in the Platform's activities.
- Implementation of Board decisions on reforming and categorizing network membership.
- Drafting the Strategy of the CiviKos Platform Secretariat.
- Expanding cooperation with public institutions and international partners to advance the role of civil society in Kosovo.



European Economic and Social Committee
Comité économique et social européen
Europese Economisch en Sociaal Comité

www.eesc.europa.eu

Photo: The Jacques Delors Building in Brussels, Belgium, which serves as the headquarters of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). | Available for editorial use only.

SUCCESS STORY

THE VOICE OF KOSOVO CIVIL SOCIETY AT EUROPEAN ROUNDTABLES

In 2025, a new door opened for Kosovo's civil society.

The CiviKos Platform was selected as an Enlargement Candidate Member (ECM) within the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), one of the main mechanisms for civil society dialogue in the European Union. For the first time, the voice of civil society organizations from Kosovo gained direct space in discussions and opinions that shape policies at the European level.

This development did not come easily. The initiative to include countries in the region was launched in 2023 for candidate countries for EU membership, while Kosovo was initially left outside of a formal membership. Through continuous engagement and advocacy for equal inclusion, it was possible for Kosovo's civil society to become part of this mechanism.

As one of the 15 representative organizations, CiviKos already contributes to European discussions, bringing the perspective of the civil sector from Kosovo and strengthening its connection to integration processes. This role is not only symbolic, as it creates real opportunities for influence, exchange of experiences, and preparation for participation in the structures of the European Union.

This moment marks more than an institutional involvement. It represents an important step towards a stronger, more connected and more involved civil society on Kosovo's European path.

Events and Publications

During 2025, our activities and projects played a defining role in strengthening the dialogue between civil society and institutions, placing sectoral cooperation at the center of the development agenda in Kosovo.



Information session to present the package of documents on the functioning of Local Councils | June 2025

OUR EVENTS DURING 2025

February 2025

- [Regional information session in Mitrovica](#) to present the package of documents on the functioning of Local Councils;
- [Meeting of the working group](#) for the drafting of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society;
- [Series of trainings on the Basics of Personal Data Protection](#) for officials of public institutions;

April 2025

- [Focus Group on Personal Data Protection](#) in the NGO sector;
- [Consultative meeting with civil society organizations](#) for the presentation of the Draft Strategy for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society 2025-2030;
- [Assembly of Members](#) of the Civic Platform;
- [Information session on Personal Data Protection](#) in Gjilan;

May 2025

- [Training on the Basics of Personal Data Protection](#) for officials of public institutions;
- [Information session in Peja](#) on Personal Data Protection;
- [Information session in Prizren](#) on Personal Data Protection;

June 2025

- [Information session in Mitrovica](#) on Personal Data Protection;
- [Training on the Basics of Personal Data Protection](#) for officials of public institutions;
- [Regional information session](#) to present the package of documents on the functioning of Local Councils;

July 2025

- [Meeting on strengthening Government - Civil Society cooperation](#);
- [Information session in Ferizaj](#) on Personal Data Protection;
- [Information session in Prishtina](#) on Personal Data Protection;

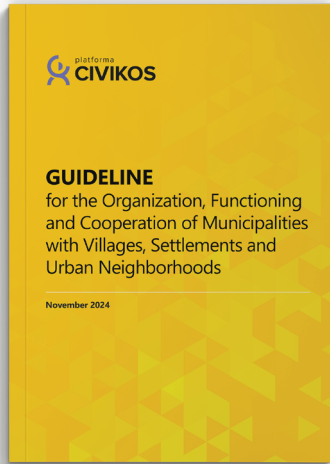
August 2025

- [Series of trainings for public officials](#) in the field of Personal Data Protection;
- [Information session in Gjakova](#) on Personal Data Protection;

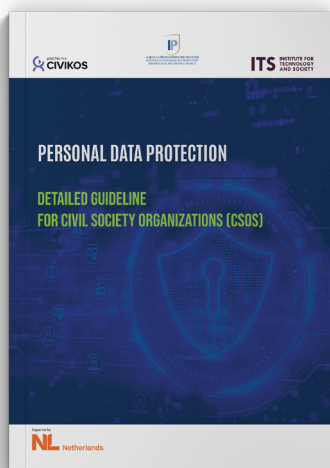
September 2025

- [Closing Conference](#) "Strengthening Personal Data Protection and Cybersecurity in all sectors in Kosovo";

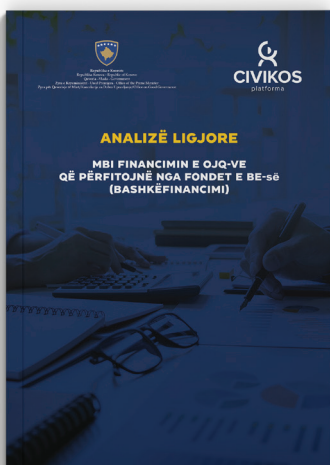
PUBLICATIONS DURING 2025



[Guide for the organization, functioning and cooperation of municipalities with villages, settlements and urban neighborhoods](#)



[Personal Data Protection Guidelines for Civil Society Organizations](#)



[Legal analysis for co-financing NGOs from EU funds](#)



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