



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



FIQ

Forumi për
Iniciativa Qytetare
Forum for
Civic Initiatives



Dear friends and partners of FIQ Foundation!



The year of 2017 concluded with many occurrences helping us understand the tremendous importance of civic involvement and civic activism in the state-building process of Kosovo.

When I think of inclusion, I am reminded of various categories of our society left on mercy of fortune, or of international aid. It is precisely the concerns and problems of women war victims, their economic, social and psychological challenges, difficulties which bring me pain and a strong personal responsibility; the challenges that young people isolated (through different municipalities) who get to attend different trainings on prevention of extremism and fights against radicalization without being exposed to the opportunity to participate in social, cultural and sports activities, without having the luxury of a qualitative education which can strengthen their capacities for decision making for their own lives and entering the labor market in a dignified mode; it is the air quality issue, the water contamination, the level of aggressiveness and politicization of our society all together negatively impacting the welfare of citizens in Kosovo.

We celebrated the day of March 8 protesting with women and girls of Hade community in front of World Bank Offices in Kosovo, evoking for dignified resettlement, economic empowerment, and dignified compensation, employment etc.

We continued meeting and discussing with approximately 500 citizens from 10 small municipalities in Kosovo, citizens, different communities, young people, representatives from the national business sector, from where we persuaded, that corruption, lack of waste management, political nepotism, youth unemployment, support for marginalised categories and visa liberalization were their most pressing issues. In the framework of our commitment to sustainable development, we continued to promote green energy through our program - "Green and Innovative Business Plans" arguing and advocating against the wrong orientation on investments in coal energy.

Honorable friends !

My concerns, in any case, do not remain complaints alone, because as such, they would only add to the numerous number of uncovering without offering any solution, or change.

In cooperation with our strategic partners, donors, and above all citizens of Kosovo FIQ managed to accomplish numerous important activities for which I am grateful to colleagues from FIQ, our strategic donors, RBF, Charles Stuart Mott Foundation, EU, NED, and particularly Kosovo citizens for their trust and professional cooperation within FIQ.

Dajana Berisha,
Executive Director

Introduction to Forum for Civic Initiatives - FIQ

Forum for Civic Initiatives - FIQ

Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ) is a national foundation with a long tradition of community development works to promote philanthropy for sustainable development. FIQ believes that local communities is the best place for civic activism to be developed and lead from the front in terms of sustaining economic growth, achieving social justice and enhancing the environment for its citizens and communities.

FIQ was founded in 2000 by a small group of driving spirits that saw the need to mobilize citizens in decision-making processes as a consequence of the war in Kosovo 1998-1999. FIQ has since its formation grown from being an organization working with, community safety and civic activism to a national foundation working in areas that aim to strengthen the role of citizens, such as Sustainable Development, Grant Giving and promote philanthropy for filling the economic gaps of the Kosovar society.

Vision

"Our vision is to be the engine of community development in Kosovo, working with citizens to ensure socio-economic sustainability"

Mission

"Empower citizens through philanthropy"



The Story of Hade continues as a stumble process

Hade. This small village with significant problems. Shame and sinful of injustice that have been made to these residents belongs not only to local institutions but international institutions as well . Meanwhile the government is making plans for the construction of the 'Kosova e Re' power plant near their homes, the residents of Hade have no right to build on their lands.

Launched in March with the selective demolition of homes. Although the residents protested and opposed this demolition, the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and representatives of the Municipality of Obiliq, accompanied by the Special Unit of Kosovo Police, with excavators have demolished the foundations of houses in Old Hade. Residents declare that they will protect their private property even with violent protests, as they consider this action as a violation of human rights.



A detailed description, telling the everyday life of Obiliq, Hade residents under the effect of coal burning, dust, power shortages and basic services, violent expropriation!

Meanwhile, on March 8, women and girls of Hade village in cooperation with the Forum for Civic Initiatives - FIQ protested in front of the World Bank Representation in Kosovo on the failure of the Kosovo Institutions and the World Bank for years to carry out a resettlement with dignity and all standards drafted by the World Bank itself and approved by the Government of Kosovo.



While the Government of Kosovo is not offering a solution to the residents of Hade village. Isolated from the plans of construction of the 'Kosova e Re' power plant, are estimated to be approximately 7,000 people who are economically affected by the involuntary resettlement process.

Forum for Civic Initiatives continues to stand by the people of Hade, seeking a prompt solution for compensation of all citizens affected by the involuntary displacement of the village.

In addition, the daunting investment in coal through projects such as 'Kosova e Re' will bring enormous increase of electricity price to Kosovo's households, will have consequences for the health of the local population, and will undoubtedly drag Kosovo's integration into the EU.

FIQ continues to advocate that coal is not the right choice.

Director of FIQ on behalf of KOSID has explained why Kosovo should promote and support the functionalization of Albania-Kosovo interconnection in the energy sector.



FIQ continues to advocate that coal is not the right choice.

Community Meetings and discussions on the topic “Problems Affecting the Well-Being of Residents in Kosovo’s Villages and Cities”



Forum for Civic Initiatives - FIQ has held meetings in 10 municipalities of Kosovo to identify the most priority issues faced by residents of smaller municipalities in Kosovo. Meetings were attended by representatives of residents in Fushe Kosovo, Istog, Kacanik, Kamenica, Lipjan, Malishevë, Podujevë, Shtime, Viti and Vushtrri.

One of the main findings was the need that citizens had for such meetings, where they expressed their concerns and dissatisfaction with local and central governance. FIQ has presented a report the findings, which in most cases relate to lack of transparency by local government for capital investments that do not bring local employment, improvement of the environment or municipal infrastructure, but have caused further degradation of environment and the creation of illegal landfills.

Meanwhile, for each municipality, citizens have stressed as vital, lack of jobs opportunities and economic growth, which is encouraging families, especially young people, to leave the country moving either to the capital or even to the European countries through illegal immigration.

The first step behind these findings and this report will be the establishment of a coalition with local civil society organizations (where it exists), with citizens, informal groups, village councils, schools, students with whom FIQ jointly will compile a list of settlement requests of 10 municipalities.

FIQ always close to Youth

By considering youth as the present of the country and considering the potential of young people in Kosovo, FIQ continues to cooperate closely with youth to make essential changes in society. While working in the community, the main goal is the maximum engagement and the provision of space for young people in our country. Providing opportunities to express ideas and contributions, and to share good energy for innovative and influential projects.

The Civic Initiative Forum believes in youth activism as one of the values of democracy, and commits in promoting these ideas throughout Kosovo.

Hence, the project “Young Ambassadors” aims to help young people to implement ideas for common good of the community. Together with youth, their supervisors, non-forum groups and FIQ, small project ideas for the common good of the community have been implemented. The project “Young Ambassadors” includes diversity of ideas due to participation of youth from Kosovo’s main municipalities. Providing inclusion and equal treatment for all young people living in Kosovo.

FIQ has created network of Young Ambassadors, including a total of 26 ambassadors from different municipalities of Kosovo. This network has realized 26 community projects, fulfilling the needs of the citizens of the country. The project was implemented in two phases, initially in 4 pilot municipalities: Pristina, Peja, Mitrovica South and North Mitrovica, where 16 selected ambassadors identified the best ideas presented by informal youth groups and in cooperation with FIQ have supported these young people until the realization of ideas in concrete projects.

FIQ has planned to expand the Young Ambassadors platform in other municipalities during 2017, and the project has been extended to Kaçanik and Viti.



The following list for winning projects of 2016 :

The Winning projects from Prishtina are:

1. Berat Mavriqi - *"I am 2016"*
2. Emira Polloshka - *"Improving energy efficiency in schools"*
3. Drilon Hyseni - *"Let's change our Prishtina"*
4. Liridona Morina - *" Prishtina Live Guide".*

The Winning projects from Mitrovica are:

1. Besnik Hoti – *"Dont stand-sit"*
2. Enis Berisha - *"Marking of hazardous areas along Ibër and Sitnicë"*
3. Lindata Hasani – *"Schoolyard improvement"*
4. Gazmend Ismajli – *"Bicycle parking".*

The Winning projects from Peja are:

1. Ariston Lipa – *"Animal shelter"*
2. Fisnik Kurhasani – *"Planting of decorative trees"*

Projects realized by informal groups during this year in the municipalities of Kaçanik and Vitia are as follows:

1. *"Kaçanik with books"*
2. *The project "Everything for the book"*
3. *Seats for the Kaçanik park;*
4. *Seats for the bus station in Kaçanik*
5. *Lighting of secondary school "Skenderbeu" in Kaçanik*
6. *Minibiblioteka for books in Pozheran of Vitia*
7. *Seats for the bus station in Vitia*
8. *Seats and baskets in the village of Terstenik, Viti*
9. *Recyclable baskets for primary school "Dëshmorët e Vitisë"*
10. *Games for children in the village of Sllatinë e Epërme*

Philanthropy for a Greater Welfare

FIQ in 2017 has continued its commitment of promoting philanthropy for sustainable development as well as co-ordination with governmental and non-governmental partners for the creation of supportive legislation for philanthropy. In this regard, the Office for Good Governance / Office of the Prime Minister, together with the Forum for Civic Initiatives / FIQ, organized the "National Conference on Philanthropy". This activity aims to elaborate the role of philanthropy in enhancing cross-sectoral co-operation for good governance and identify innovative approaches to address issues of sustainable development of philanthropy in the Republic of Kosovo.

The conference was attended by representatives of the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, representatives of FIQ supporters in this process, EU representatives, business representatives who have assisted and are assisting the development of philanthropy in Kosovo, members of The Council for Cooperation with Civil Society and other representatives from relevant institutions from civil society.

The approval of legislation on the support of philanthropic contributions was emphasized as essential.



Forum for Civic Initiatives honors outstanding philanthropists

For more than seven years, Forum for Civic Initiatives- FIQ, has been working for the promotion of philanthropy for sustainable development through financial investment and awareness raising for encouraging and enabling environment for the development of philanthropy. The Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ) held the award ceremony for the FIDES Award for Philanthropy in Kosovo for 2017.

FIQ with this award expresses gratitude to companies and individuals who have contributed to the common good, and believes that this award will serve as inspiration for others, making publicly understandable how to work for the good of the community. FIQ through FIDES assesses individual citizenship humanism, private sector vision to assist education and innovation, loving-kindness and permanent support of diaspora, volunteering and youth energy as well as women's protection and empowerment leaders and those of protection of the environment.

This year FIDES is dedicated to youth as FIQ works with young people throughout Kosovo, in building their capacity for decision-making, and for civic activism within communities in Kosovo.





The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Ramush Haradinaj, FIDES's special guest of 2017 who also shared the post-mortem award for Mr. Robert Elsie, said contemporary philanthropy was seen as a strategy to enrich the culture of charity, and thanked FIQ for the work to promote philanthropy as a mechanism that enhances co-operation between the three sectors - public, private, and civil - with the goal of mobilizing the right communities for sustainability and social responsibility.

"This creates the ecosystem of values that Kosovo society carries and for which FIQ takes care to promote by bringing closer people, institutions and development sectors to Kosovo," Haradinaj said.

This award was accepted by Mr. Artur Metani as a friend, R. Elsie's professional associate.

FIDES Award for national contribution "Hasan Prishtina" was given to Raiffeisen Bank Kosovo for contribution to projects that advance education, innovation and culture. The award was given by the executive director of FIQ - Dajana Berisha.

"Since the beginning of our operations, we have supported projects in education, culture, art, sports, social welfare and we will continue to work in this direction in the years to come," said – Mr. Robert Wright, Director of Raiffeisen Bank.



The FIDES Award for Environment was given to ERA Group, which have done wonderful work and constantly on environmental protection by educating young people about the environment. This award was shared by Jan Axel Voss, Ambassador of Germany to Kosovo.

"Today's diplomats have to consider environmental issues because they can cause a political problem. If Kosovo does not care about the environment, there will be problems in the future. We all already know that air pollution is a serious problem that has resulted in the loss of human lives. The implementation of policies in favor of the environment depends on all the institutions of Kosovo, but also from us and the citizens who are obliged to educate the young generations for the value of the environment and natural resources of Kosovo," - Jan Axel Voss, Ambassador of Germany to Kosovo.



FIDES Award for Contribution from Diaspora, was given to Mr. Fadil Berisha for generous support for the Albanian community in America. This award was shared by Dr. Lori E. Amy, Professor of Georgia Southern University, founder of OTTONomy who said diaspora recreates trust, care and responsibility for the common good.

"They use their achievements to create opportunities and build the future for the birthplace. And such is the nominee Berisha, who devoted his life and work to the promotion of Albanians abroad.

Ms. Liza Gashi, Program Director at Germin, accepted the award on behalf of Berisha.



FIDES Award for Women Empowerment , was given to Ms. Kadire Tahiraj for great contribution to the women's promotion, protection of women rights and economic empowerment. This award was given by Ms.Margarita Xhepa, Albanian Artist.

"As a woman, as an artist, as an Albanian is a good emotion to share this award, starting from the fact that I have been very proud of the Albanian women and their tradition of hardwork. Society development can not happen without leading of a woman or mother, the main figure in the family," Xhepa said.

Meanwhile, Kadire Tahiraj said that the message of the Center for Promotion of Women's Rights in Drenas is to admit of these women to society and through economic empowerment to open different horizons for them to live free and without prejudices.





FIDES Award for Individual Contribution, was given to Mr. Vezir Ramushi for contributing to the most marginalized groups of society - social categories, such as families with social assistance and health needs.

This award was shared by Dr. Murat Jashari, representative of the Jashari family who simultaneously welcomed the Albanian women and mothers for their courage and sacrifice, also added that Albanian philanthropist Mother Theresa and Hasan Prishtina are figures of our nation pride.

FIDES Award for "Young Leaders" was given to the "Familjet ne Nevoje" Group for voluntary contributions to families, with particular emphasis on children who come from families with social assistance and health problems. This award was shared by the well-known Albanian footballer Lorik Cana.

"These associations, their foundations with their desire, activities and the values they promote, try to be an added value not only for themselves but for all the people they work with, grow or do business, enabling us to benefit as society and nation " - Lorik Cana .

Meanwhile, on behalf of the Group, Kaltrina Zeka said she is honored with the results of work and what the group has achieved.



On the month of Philanthropy, Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ) organized the “Volunteers in Action” conference

The purpose of the conference “Volunteers in Action” was raising awareness for the importance of philanthropy and volunteer work. Given the increased interest and willingness of young people to contribute their volunteering time to the common good. FIQ with this event enabled to other organizations to share their experience in this area.

Participants in the conference were: FIQ, UNICEF Innovations Lab Kosovo, Innovation Center Kosovo, Termokiss, Down Syndrome Kosovo, XPortal ESports, Youth Council of the US Embassy and Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports.

Dajana Berisha, Director of FIQ, explained that FIQ promotes volunteering and philanthropy on a daily basis by encouraging young people to be part of civic activism but also in decision making processes for a better community.

“It is up to you as future generations to shape the social norms of our society. On a spiritual level volunteering creates the community. On economic level it provides opportunities for development and employment. Volunteers provide services that are not covered by the labor market”, said Ms. Berisha.

Philanthropy and Volunteering are core values of FIQ. One of the projects which is implemented and promote volunteering. Furthermore, of the FIDES Awards 2017, which recognizes the philanthropic contributions in the community, will be the award for youth leadership, in honor to the contribution of all those who have worked for the promotion of youth.



Open Discussion : Philanthropy for Entrepreneurship

FIQ held the open discussion "Philanthropy for Entrepreneurship" as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Week in Kosovo, 2017. The two speakers were, Dajana Berisha, Executive Director of FIQ and Besart Konushvci, founder of the platform "Academia", a social enterprise that aims at preventing plagiarism, and entails both concepts of philanthropy and sustainable development.



The participants were young people from different municipalities of Kosovo. They had the chance to know more about the program of Philanthropy that FIQ has been developing for years now. By sharing different examples, Dajana Berisha explained how philanthropy is a long-term strategic investment, not temporary, in comparison to charity that we are used to see in Kosovo. When businesses have a philanthropic approach, this helps to the long-term development of the country.

A lot of enterprises that were developed through FIQ's programs, entailing the philanthropic component by promoting an environment where business focus their work at social responsibility, and not only profit. This was also reflected at the competition "Green Ideas" that FIQ develops every year, where citizens are encouraged to apply with different innovative and green ideas for the country. Last year, the three selected winners were: "Our Roots" uses the leftover coffee to produce mushrooms. DYVO is another social enterprise that used leftover materials of nylon and Plexiglas to create different jewelers, bags, etc.

Presentation of "Kosovo Ideas" Platform to Young Ambassadors

The Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ) in cooperation with Kosovo Ideas held an informative meeting on Kosovo Ideas platform, gathering around FIQ Young Ambassadors from various municipalities of Kosovo.

The meeting was attended by representatives from organizations that developed successful fundraising campaigns within the Kosovo Ideas platform. Among them were "Termokiss", "Lumbardhi Cinema" and "BoneVet". Kosovo Ideas Platform is the first crowdfunding platform that is 100% devoted to projects of all fields of art and culture, civic engagement and sustainability, realized in Kosovo.

FIQ has been partner of Kosovo Ideas since a long period of time by providing space for jointly anticipated activities for potential beneficiaries of this platform. Through this cooperation, FIQ is working to network FIQ project beneficiaries to continue their activism and exchange experiences with project beneficiaries presented in Kosovo Ideas. After the presentations, young people had the opportunity to exchange ideas and suggestions to achieve a more efficient campaign for their ideas.



Kosovo for the first time wins “GREEN IDEAS” regional competition

The Forum for Civic Initiatives informs for the winner Besart Kunushevci on the regional competition for “Green and Innovative Business” organized in Kolasin, Montenegro from July 26-29, from Balkan Green Foundation with the support of Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

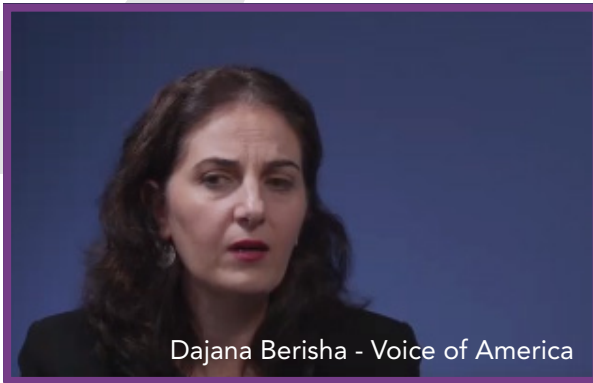
The Platform Academia conceptualized and developed by Besart Kunushevci foresees the development of a Tech Start-Up for Kosovo and all the Albanian speaking countries, aiming to prevent plagiarism in the academic system of Kosovo by supporting scientific research and minimizing waste from the use of paper. This will be the first application in Balkans that will serve as a tool to identify plagiarism.

The platform Academia was chosen from 18 regional ideas as one of the best project-proposals that will bring conceptual changes in the academic system of Kosovo. The platform will be financially supported with \$ 10.000 from Rockefeller Brothers Fund and 2,500 euro from FCI. Platform Academia was chosen as one of the three best ideas in the national competition organized by FCI “Business Ideas: Green and Innovative 2017”.

Two other competing ideas were “DYVO” developed by Nikki Murseli, and “Our Roots” ideated by Fisnik Kuqi. “DYVO” is a social enterprise which aims to design accessories by reusing Plexiglas leftover materials, and “Our Roots” is a social enterprise, aiming to cultivate Oyster mushrooms by recycling coffee.

FIQ develops the “Business Plan- Green and Innovative Ideas” competition from 2012, aiming to fostering social entrepreneurship, green economy and local employment. The “Business Plan - Green and Innovative Ideas” program is supported by Rockefeller Brothers Fund.



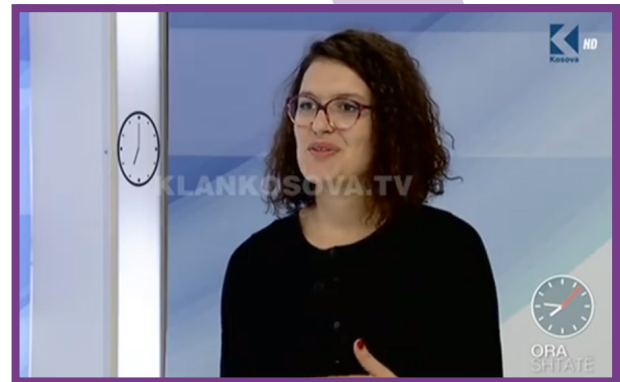


Dajana Berisha - Voice of America



Dajana Berisha mysafire në emisionin 06 LIVE - Video Dailymotion

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Filantropia për zhvillim të qëndrueshëm

Filantropia përshkruan aktin e dhënies së kohës dhe gjërave për njerëzit në nevojë dhe komunitetin, pa pritur asgjë në rikthim. Është ajo dashuria ndaj njerëzve, që...

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DONORS 2017





Staff:

Dajana Berisha
Executive Director

Kushtrim Puka
Program Manager

Sefë Govori
Finance Manager

Arieta Dragusha
Program Officer

Merita Mustafa
Program Developer and Fundraising

Vatra Qehaja
Program Developer and Fundraising

Lirika Hoxha
Zyrtare për Financa

Arlinda Azemi
Program Officer

Albesa Aliu
Program Officer

Adelinë Nitaj
Executive Assistant

Merisa Abdullahu
Intern



FIQ

Forumi për
Iniciativa Qytetare
Forum for
Civic Initiatives

Adress:

Lagja Pejton, Rr. Pashko Vasa, Nr.1,
10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë