



2014

ANNUAL
REPORT



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About us

FIQ is a national philanthropic foundation with a wide range of work with and within community. Its main mission is Sustainable Development, with the purpose of enabling social-economic development of local communities in harmony with the environment and without compromising future generations.

FIQ was established in 2000 by a group of young people with the will and dedication to mobilize Kosovo citizens to engage in decision-making processes following the aftermath of the war of 1998-1999.

FIQ strands of work were those of an organization focused on security issues and civic activism. However, in the range of political and economic changes in Kosovo and with the ability to adapt to new situations, FIQ is developing and transforming into a national philanthropic foundation exploring the role of philanthropy in fields such as Sustainable Development and Grant Giving, that contribute to further strengthen civic participation.

This annual report invites you to get informed with regards to FIQ's serious engagements throughout 2014.



Letter of the Executive Director

Dear friends,

FIQ is a philanthropic community foundation that works with citizens to develop local communities through grant giving and civic mobilization.

We are proud to say that, with our work, we help and support different communities in Kosovo to express their worries concerning current political, economic, and social situations, and in the meantime work to identify talented youth, with ideas, wishes, will, and dedication to bring the necessary changes in Kosovo.

Year 2014 marks the beginning of FIQ's programmatic transformation into a foundation that incentivizes communities to identify and mobilize their human, financial and material capacities and put them to their own service, and to that of their future.

Projects supported by FIQ through the program of Grant Giving aim to achieve concrete results inside communities, while the process which brings to supporting and implementing these projects creates, and significantly improves relations between communities (collectively) and citizens (individually).

FIQ praises collaboration with many local, regional and international partners with the final purpose being the increase of civic participation in decision making and other processes which affect our everyday lives.

- It is with pleasure that FIQ shares with you the success of collecting 33 thousand signatures in a period of only 4 days, under the Petition of CSO coalition, consumers and unions, which together oppose the increase of electricity price and lack of transparency within the energy sector.
- FIQ considers as a professional success placing the issue of displacement of almost 7,000 Hade citizens from their lands violating human rights and operational standards of the World Bank.
- FIQ is proud with its work and success on promoting social entrepreneurship through "Business plans-green ideas" for the third consecutive year.

By thanking you for the time spent reading this message, I also invite you to read more and get updated with regards to our work in the website www.fiq-fci.org

Sincerely,
Dajana Berisha
Executive Director

FIQ promotes economic sustainable development through incentivizing and supporting social entrepreneurship in Kosovo

“SaPunë” – a project that through FIQ won a grant of 10,000 American dollars



During 2013 and for the second consecutive time, FIQ launched the call for green and innovative business ideas. The winning project ideas then went on competing in the regional competition. One of the winners of 10,000 American dollars was the “Sapunë” project by “The Ideas Partnership” organization. Through this fund, “Sapunë” was able to expand its activity and now operates as a social business.

Until now, 17 women from the RAE Community in Fushe Kosova and Istog have been trained and employed in this social business. Registering their children in schools was one of the main conditions for involvement of women in this project. Until today, over 200 children from the RAE community were returned back to school.

Outputs of this project are multi-dimensional; starting with inclusion of women by employing and teaching them reading and writing, continuance of their children's' education, raising public awareness on the importance of products made by reusable materials such as the case with reusable bags as substitute for plastic bags, providing second-hand clothing to five families and other activities performed by volunteers of the organization.

FIQ continues to help in realization of the project, selling products of and promoting “SaPunë” as a business.

FIQ mobilizes local businesses in donating efficient light bulbs for the Gracke e Vogel village in Lipjan



Mobilizing local businesses towards energy efficiency and not only, is necessary to ensure participation of communities in identifying needs but also helps in increasing cooperation with local businesses.

FIQ has developed a community activity in Gracke e Vogel village in Lipjan by donating efficient lightbulbs for 69 households. This donation was enabled by FIQ's collaboration with two local businesses from Prishtina, respectively "Elen" and "Aurora" which shared a donation of over 500 lightbulbs in the amount of 1,750 euros.

This activity aimed at promoting usage of efficient appliances in order to save electricity. Apart from FIQ staff, there were also present staff from both donor companies and other activists from the Village Council.

Citizens have welcomed the activity and used the occasion to express their worry with regards to high electricity bills. This activity is only one part of the four-year work that FIQ does under KOSID that is to mobilize and include local businesses in promoting energy efficiency.



FIQ promotes innovation and importance of green economy through its annual organization of regional competition on green and innovative ideas

Three Kosovo finalists participated in the regional competition with green and innovative business ideas **"Philanthropy for green ideas"** held in Albania.

Inventa- creative business, led from 18 year old Rita Aliti who, besides her young age has managed to successfully produce more than 500 kinds of jewelry from recyclable materials and sell them via social networks. Included in the business were young people with Down Syndrome.

Ekoart – a business done entirely with recyclable materials including bottles, paper and newspapers. The business also included artwork and together, the project contained both, the innovative and unique elements.

Third business consisted of recycling plastics and paper, collection and recycling of which creates jobs for the RAE Community in Fushe Kosova.

Participants from Kosovo were able to expand their professional network by exchanging experience with participants from five countries from the Balkans. FIQ will continue to support Kosovo finalists in order for their businesses to grow, generate employment and high income, similar to the success story of "Sa Punë" project.

Current situation in the energy sector continues to be chaotic reflecting lack of a development vision that is for the long-term, is sustainable and in accordance with European standards

Over 33,000 signatures collected by citizens in the petition against the increase of electricity price is only one of the mechanisms used by FIQ to bring the issue to the attention of the Kosovo Assembly and President who agreed that the economic and social situation in Kosovo is very difficult!



In September 2014, as part of the work within KOSID, FIQ together with partner organizations in municipalities organized a petition in 22 municipalities of Kosovo with the purpose of collecting citizen signatures in a legislative initiative (petition) against the increase of electricity prices. Office of Energy Regulator (OER) in Kosovo has increased retail tariffs twice during 2014, making the burden even heavier for Kosovo citizens who cannot afford continuous increases of electricity prices due to poor social-economic conditions. KOSID, together with over 70 CSOs, consumer organizations and worker unions were gathered to advocate for a legislative initiative against the increase in electricity price. FIQ took the responsibility of organizing the petition in all municipalities and managed to collect over 33,000 signatures from citizens all around Kosovo with the purpose of presenting the request in front of the National Assembly.

On January 20th, 2015 the petition was submitted to the Assembly, more specifically to the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights, Gender Equality, Missing People, and Petitions. Although the petition's journey ended in the doors of parliamentary commission without being presented to the Assembly and voted by the MPs, the issue of the increase on electricity price became the main topic of the peaceful protest of April 18, 2015 in Kosovo.



In order for us to find the answer or the right formula towards the difficult economic situation and political uncertainty that Kosovo is in, participation, collaboration and a holistic approach are needed

FIQ explores and promotes intra-sectorial philanthropic cooperation during the Week of Philanthropy



As one of the core programs of FIQ, the Philanthropy Program aims to make possible the triangle of cooperation between the most important sectors of society and the public sector, between the private and civic sector with the purpose of including all Kosovar society in the sustainable development of Kosovo, despite the current non-sustainable model filled with polarization and fragmentation of the society.

Under this program, FIQ organized the “Week of Philanthropy” which will be turned into an annual tradition in Kosovo. Week of Philanthropy is characterized with different activities, and begins with the cocktail organized especially for journalists, to thank them for their work during 2014.

In this cocktail, the journalists followed the short documentary dedicated to philanthropy in Kosovo, created by FIQ. Following the documentary, they were able to vote on the best work from students of the University of Arts in Prishtina; the winner was rewarded with a modest amount of 200 euros by FIQ.

The exhibition included 10 works by 10 students of painting, graphic design and photography and each of them expressed something about philanthropy.



The main part of the Week of Philanthropy was the conference titled **“Youth unemployment and philanthropic initiatives to create opportunities for them”** divided into two main sections including “Youth unemployment, a critical issue- Are we offering a future to the Kosovo youth”, and “Arts, education, culture-these big contributors of important social transformations”.

The conference managed to provoke a critical debate on the importance of engaging all relevant actors to address the issue of youth unemployment in Kosovo. The panelists and participants from different fields including the private, academic and civil society sector, and new entrepreneurs had the occasion to discuss the issue of unemployment in another dimension, considered as very important by them.

Hafiz Leka, Head of the Division for Employment in the Department for Work and Employment at the Ministry of Work and Social Wellbeing: There are no real statistics in Kosovo. Poverty is high, maybe the highest in the region. In 2013 there have been registered around 268,104 unemployed people.

GAP Executive Director, Agron Demi declared that “60,000 students graduate on yearly basis, in this way forming a skilled workforce however, without access to the labor market. On the other hand, 96,000 people are employed in the public sector, making the latter sector the biggest employer in the country”.

Dajana Berisha, FIQ Executive Director stated that for the moment, migration is one the biggest problems of the country. She mentioned statistics, according to which, the number of unemployed people in Kosovo is the highest in the region, at 55.9%. Berisha pointed how, as a consequence the Kosovo youth does not see a future for themselves and this comprises the main reason for migration.

The second panel of the conference was characterized with discussions over the influence of arts, education and culture as contributors to significant social transformations. Among others, almost all panelists agreed that addressing youth unemployment should be done by all sectors including the public sector, the private one, and the civil society.

“The uncontested value of art and culture stands in the ability to mobilize a large number of citizens, information and education, without leaving aside the cultivation of Kosovo's image” - Eroll Bilibani, Dokufest

Workshop with children of different social categories



The children's activity aimed at promoting philanthropy (in the context of solidarity, communication, teamwork for a common purpose) among children. Five institutions of different social categories including the Down Syndrome Kosova Association, SOS Children's Village, "The Future" kindergarten, The Ideas Partnership, and Autism Association participated in the realization of this interesting activity consisting of two workshops. The first one had the purpose of creating end-of-year cards which will be sent to different businesses by FIQ during 2015. While writing the cards, the children also expressed their wishes on presents. In the second workshop and in cooperation with "Dancing Ballroom" school, the children danced.

Symposium for Philanthropy

Three new ideas belonging to social business nature and identified by FIQ staff through field work were presented in front of around 20 businesses, as a request for support and potential cooperation. The new ideas, selected by FIQ, were presented in front of existing businesses and are expected to be supported and start work in 2015.

2014 FIDES Awards for Philanthropy Ceremony



Haki Abazi, the Program Director for the Western Balkans, under the Rockefeller Brothers Fund stated that: RBF is honored and privileged for having the opportunity to work with the Forum for Civic Initiatives and considers it a strategic partner!

FIDES is a traditional event, under FIQ ownership and which aims to point out values of Kosovo philanthropy. By expressing public gratitude towards individual philanthropists, local and diaspora companies, FIQ has built a system of values which is continuously experiencing increase in contributions, participation, and quality of investments. Philanthropy as love for humanity and solidarity for each other needs to be fed and promoted as a value. For that reason, FIQ has already given the FIDES Award for the sixth consecutive year.

The FIDES Award for contribution on national level was given to IPKO Foundation for its contribution in education and information technology, while the **FIDES Award for individual contribution** was given to Mr. Misin Zenunaj from Klina for building the youth center in Gremnik Village in Klina and who also for supporting other activities of the youth.

2014 FIDES Award for contribution from diaspora was won by the successful businessman Mr. Lazim Destani who donated portion of his profits to charity, and supported cultural, educational, and environmental projects.

Lazim Destani: “Kosovo has many businesspeople who operate inside the country and outside of it. Individually, we are very successful but together we are flawed. I believe we should unite our forces with businesspeople of diaspora, united their capital or intellectual power and bring it to Kosovo, work day and night and send Kosovo towards the European Union”.

2014 FIDES Award for philanthropic partnership was given to the Municipality of Han i Elezit, led by Mr. Rufki Suma who is known for his engagements in philanthropic activities and the support given to different social groups.



2014 FIDES Award for Civil Society Organizations was won by The Ideas Partnership organization for its support to marginalized groups including the RAE Community by creating jobs for the women of this community and including their children in schools.

During this evening, another special award was given as well- **the award for life contribution “Hasan Prishtina”** by Mr. Murat Jashari to Kuzhini brothers, Mikel and Simon.

The Kuzhini brothers were honored with this award as recognition to their life contribution of donating their family wealth to Kosovo people.

For the occasion, FIQ Executive Director, Dajana Berisha stated: ***Together we can do much more for the citizens in need, also adding that our society needs politicians that care for the citizens and not mediocre economists.***

FIQ and Initiative for Environmental and Local Development (IELD) compile the analytic report “Public Health in Obiliq”.

FIQ, in cooperation with IELD have compiled the analytic report which aims to reveal information on the actual situation of public health in Obiliq. The study was based in official data provided by the The Main Family Medicine Centre (MFMC) in Obiliq for the period 2009-2013.

Obiliq is the place where both power plants including “Kosova A” and “Kosova B” operate. They are very old and work by using old technology that release gas emissions which in turn, have caused for high levels of air pollution. Results from our analyses show that in the midst of Obiliq citizens which have been diagnosed by MCFM, there are three main illnesses which prevail in this community: diabetes (41%), cardiovascular diseases (24%), and mental illnesses (23%). This analytic report aims to raise awareness on preventing a new power plant in Obiliq

Advocacy on respecting international standards of “Violent and forced displacement”, since the displacement of Hade citizens as part of the new project of “Kosova e re” powerplant consists of one of the main failures of the World Bank and Kosovo Government to respect international standards on “forced displacement”



On 28th of June, the Forum for Civic Initiatives organized a seminar in Hade, Obiliq based in the report of professor Ted Downing, who also holds the position of President at the International Network on Displacement and Resettlement.

The seminar was held by FIQ experts, helped by IELD local organization that was deeply engaged in this process. Participation among the Hade community was large. The purpose of this seminar was to inform the citizens with regards to the proposal made by the World Bank and Kosovo Government for the new power plant called “New Kosovo”. The citizens were informed that the project is not in accordance with international standards for displacement, or the internal rules of World Bank on displacement. In addition, the project is running high economic, social and environmental risks for Hade and other near-by villages. The negative consequences of displacement were presented in detail and included: reduction of income, damaging of school system infrastructure, decomposition of production systems, and social unrest.

Some of the main failures mentioned in the report include a) World Bank's provision of wrong guidelines to the Kosovo Government regarding displacement, by bringing the establishment and implementation of the “framework for displacement” rather than “a well prepared and comprehensive plan for displacement”, b) overestimation of institutional capacities of the Kosovo Government to manage complex processes such as displacement of people; c) lack of participation and consultations with the displaced citizens, and above all d) further impoverishment of the displaced citizens due to this process.

FIQ monitors public consultation for: “Project study of environmental and social impact assessment of building the new power plant”



Forum for Civic Initiatives monitors the public consultation organized by the Ministry of Environment and Environmental Planning in cooperation with the municipality of Obiliq and the World Bank which will finance the project, under the “Project study of environmental and social impact assessment of building the new power plant”. In this meeting, where participation levels were high starting from citizens, and local and national organizations, FIQ presented a report which contained the flaws and inconsistencies of the study with the national and international legislation.

Among others, FIQ proposed alternatives per improving this study including usage of a more advanced technology to protect the environment.

FIQ informs the University of Miami (USA) students on matters of the energy sector in Kosovo

Kushtrim Puka, manager of programs in FIQ joined students from University of Miami in their visit in Kosovo to discuss on matters of the energy and environmental sector, and economic development. FIQ presented the platform of Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development (KOSID) on energy efficiency and promoting alternative sources of energy. Advocacy in the national and international level is a core element of FIQ's mission.

Conference: Development of civil-military relations in Kosovo

This conference, organized by FIQ/ Forum for Security, in cooperation with Prof. John De Rosa aimed at incentivizing dialogue among representatives of armed forces, Kosovo Government and civil society in the context of continuous transformations of Kosovo Security Forces. The conference addressed internal and external factors which establish civil-military relations and in the meantime, cultivate a culture of intra-sectorial communication and dialogue on issues related to Kosovo security.

Youth and Members of the Kosovo Parliament discuss together



As part of the project “Youth Political Rock Debates” financed by the American Embassy in Prishtina, FIQ organized the post-electoral debate with youngsters aged between 18-24 and deputies from the Kosovo Assembly.

Discussions were mainly focused in economic development and plans of political parties related to this topic and the youth, as a vital part of the Kosovo society. It was also discussed about education and its link to economic development. The young participants were critical with regards to the uncertainty of which sectors can generate new jobs, a critic that was in line with one of the main promises provided by political parties.

They also provided remarks on the weak education policies, for not stimulating entrepreneurship with the current high interest rates, for not recognizing legally volunteer work as work experience, the need for a better channeling of remittances in investments etc. This debate was the concluding part of the campaign organized by FIQ under the motto “Click like on June 8” that aimed to increase the number of young voters in the parliamentary elections.

SIGN for Sustainability

FIQ's Regional Partnership

Within the regional network Sign for Sustainability (Network of grant giving organizations from South-Eastern Europe) where organizations from 6 regional countries take part, FIQ has organized consultations regarding minimal standards of fund raising, as well as a roundtable to present and discuss the report with policy recommendations concerning the impact of tax laws on philanthropy in Kosovo. In addition, through the Academy for Sustainability, we have supported 16 CSOs on building special capacities for fund raising. FIQ has mobilized community based, local CSOs, businesses, individuals, and respective governmental institutions to discuss and offer clear recommendations on policies regarding tax laws impacting philanthropy.

FIQ has also published the report "Tax regimes on philanthropy in Kosovo- a proposal for reform" and developed a research on the public opinion regarding development of philanthropy in Kosovo.

Meetings with communities of different municipalities

In the framework of maintaining relations and communication with civic groups, FIQ has met with community representatives in Lybeniq (Peja), Skifteraj and Budrike (Viti), Janjeve (Lipjan), and Vrelle and Banje (Istog), and got informed about civic activism in these communities as well as provided our support for initiatives and other community projects.

FIQ grants provided to small projects with diverse topics and in different municipalities aim to address immediate problems and in the meantime, help ideas with potential to bring changes and inform the public on current developments in Kosovo. As such, fields/sectors in which the program of small grants of FIQ has contributed include ideas related to environment, energy, urban traffic, modern debating formats, publications regarding international reports, culture etc.

Under the Grants Program and for the second consecutive year, FIQ has continued to support the Initiative for Environmental and Local Development (IELD) in Obiliq. As an organization of community mobilization, IELD has conducted direct activities with citizens on environmental protection and energy projects. IELD has also organized informative meetings, debates and seminars with citizens of Obiliq regarding important matters for the energy sector. In addition, we have financed the Kosovo Police campaign "Have a safe and secure trip during holidays" which addressed security in urban traffic of our fellow compatriots from diaspora during the summer season.





OJQ FLOSSK - Free/Libre Open Source Software benefited from our grant giving program in organizing TEDxPrishtina, a well-known international format of discussions and bringing of experiences from influential personalities of different fields.

Another project supported by us was the publication of the analysis on “The Dayton Conference” from Fidan Kozhani, student of political science in UP, an exciting student of international relations in the Balkans.

FIQ has also co-financed Jazz Festival Prishtina, in its tradition edition of promoting jazz music, with high international presence.

FIQ has also offered financial support to the conference where the published report on “Behavior in urban traffic” was discussed. The conference was organized by the Institute for Criminology and Criminalistics.

FIQ and international partnerships

FIQ's long experience in fieldwork places the organization in a good position to transfer and share these experiences with international partners, regional or beyond.

The year 2014 has been loaded with engagements and FIQ's contributions in a number of international events. FIQ's participation in Brussels, Washington DC, Cleveland for the 100th anniversary of American Philanthropic Foundations, Erste Foundation in Austria, study visits in Sweden, have brought to FIQ's inclusion in the "Global Foundation". Other benefits include receiving regional funds such as IPA FPA (Framework partnerships within the EU IPA funds), training the staff on specializing to train local CSOs in the field of social entrepreneurship, and compiling the model for energy efficiency.





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Iniciativa Qytetare
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