



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Dear friends,

Kosovo is facing successive challenges-political, economic, environmental, educational, health related!

It is inevitable that we as individuals or as a society will be concerned by the fact that the fragility of democracy is fiercely challenged by corruption, unemployment, nepotism, miserable state of the education, gender differences, and above all by the lack of political consensus on adopting a growth model that would support country's sustainable development.

Friends,

FIQ works with all groups of citizens (old and young, educated or not, employed and unemployed, women, men looking for a hope for a better life, involuntarily displaced communities demanding their rights for compensation or dignified resettlement).

Loss of trust in local policy-making institutions, and frustration with international institutions which found themselves unable to understand the local context, unable to coordinate their efforts for sustainable development and unable to deny cooperation with corrupt politicians is felt in all municipalities.

With corruption having fortified shields of pseudo political elites, making them literally invulnerable and immune to legal punishment, protests, and petitions, as only left means for expression of the social revolt, fail to yield any results.

Private property is manifestly violated and no level of the judiciary is capable of stopping such violation or bringing to justice individuals responsible for acts of usurpation, and violent expropriation.

Common goods are degraded in the name of economic development. Procurement laws are violated in the name of strategic investments. Public discussion on topics related to development is closed thus creating an informative darkness, forcing citizens to choose the least appealing means of ensuring economical survival.

In this governmental chaos and lack of development vision, FIQ, in cooperation with local partners, creates and implements programs to support the involvement, mobilization, and inclusion of citizens and to give measurable results in the field as the best strategy to somehow shake off the APATHY of citizens.

Philanthropy, as an expression of solidarity with our fellow citizens, comes to our aid and in this perspective we are determined to institutionalize the extraordinary strategic role of philanthropy in Kosovo.

Friends, Kosovar society is on the verge of a depression which should be stopped! I invite you to join the Forum for Civic Initiatives in its work with citizens!

Dajana Berisha
Executive Director





About us

Forum for Civic Initiatives - FIQ is a foundation with a long tradition of community work. Established in 2000, FIQ retained its character as a typical grass-root organization, whose work is focused on welfare of Kosovo citizens, mobilizing and empowering them to demand transparency and accountability from decision-making institutions.

Promotion and support of entrepreneurship in service of sustainable development, youth empowerment, citizen mobilization and their involvement in decision-making, development of community philanthropy, and rebuilding of the social fabric in communities are basic pillars of the work of our organization. When talking about the vision of the FIQ, until citizens have become the leading actor in the sustainable development in Kosovo, our vision will be to "mobilize citizens to engage in development processes through civic activism, entrepreneurship and direct involvement in decision making."



atar

**Agriculture & Tourism
Accelerator for Youth**



“These are the times when innovation is a must, inclusion becomes imperative, cooperation requires vision, persistence, commitment and human compassion in order to be able to provide the necessary space for development” - Dajana Berisha

Agon Qorolli- Mushroom farm

"Never give up, never surrender, and you will win. I dreamed to start my enterprise in farming ever since i was a little boy! I played the game Super Mario a lot, and when I ate the mushrooms I felt I would become stronger, bigger! I never gave up my dream, and now I do not have to search for mushrooms behind Super Mario small boxes, I can see them already growing in my farm! I am becoming greater! All this has become possible with the support of FIQ, hard work and modesty".

#youcanmakeithappen



Saranda Musa Greenhouse

"I believe that agriculture is one of the most noble professions. To work in the land, to cultivate plants and at same time to feed yourself from the earth means to love what you do"





Ilirdon Rexhepi
Garlic and onion cultivator

"To achieve success, your goals need to be greater than the obstacles."



Arbnora Kllloqi
Raspberry cultivator

"When I heard about ATAR, I saw this project as a great opportunity for me and many others to gain new experiences, and to develop our ideas into new enterprises. This is why I applied for the program".

Young Ambassadors develop projects in energy, tourism, culture



The event was organized with the participation of more than 200 young people from across Kosovo, representatives of the informal groups and young volunteers.

16 young ambassadors from four different municipalities in Kosovo have supported their peers to carry out concrete projects to improve life in the communities. The projects were presented during the closing event of the "Young ambassadors" programme which received great interest from young people from all over Kosovo who aspire to lead similar projects in the future.

The aim of the project "Young Ambassadors" is to promote and strengthen youth activism. The project has been implemented in four pilot municipalities: Prishtina, Peja, and South & North Mitrovica, where selected 16 ambassadors identified the best ideas presented by informal groups of young people and in collaboration with FIQ later supported these groups to turn ideas into concrete projects.

During the symposium young ambassadors presented six of the projects implemented in various fields such as tourism, culture, security, and energy.

We are very proud to have realized this project, while the support offered is a huge boost for us to continue with such projects in the future – said Besnik Hoti, a young ambassador from Mitrovica, who presented the project "Do not stand-Sit."

We had a great interest of young people to lead similar projects. So you can see that with encouragement, support and willingness to listen to their ideas and to include young people, they are always ready to give their contribute, - said FIQ volunteer Florent Kastrati.

Investing in youth, our vision for sustainable development

FIQ leads the first locally run employment scheme

25 youngsters from around the country have launched their businesses in agriculture and tourism, thus providing jobs for tens of young people, within the first locally run employment scheme supported by European Commission Office in Kosovo. This grant scheme, known as ATAR, prioritizes on supporting the most vulnerable groups of the unemployed in Kosovo, and is an excellent model of inter-sector cooperation to improve the employment situation in Kosovo. Age of applicants varied from 16 to 29 years.

The project has resulted in promotion of entrepreneurship among the young unemployed, especially the young beneficiaries of social assistance scheme. FIQ in cooperation with the Faculty of Agriculture, (University of Prishtina), the Tourism Agency, the European Commission and the Regional Employment Offices, has identified and trained young people to become economically independent. This 18-month project has certified 50 participants in entrepreneurship and new venture development in agriculture and eco-tourism; it also continues to provide mentoring and business development support to 25 newly launched enterprises, also assisting them to connect with existing businesses to exchange products or experiences.

A total of 400 applications were received for the programme, and the winners were selected on basis of innovation and market potential.

FIQ in media



FIQ Executive Director discusses ATAR on RTK morning programme
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWz7MrWhxn4>

FIQ in media



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsN2xnMU8lc>



Pasdita në Tribunë - Dajana Berisha, Drejtoresha e Forumit për Iniciativa Qytetare, FIC

Tribuna Channel

YOUTUBE.COM

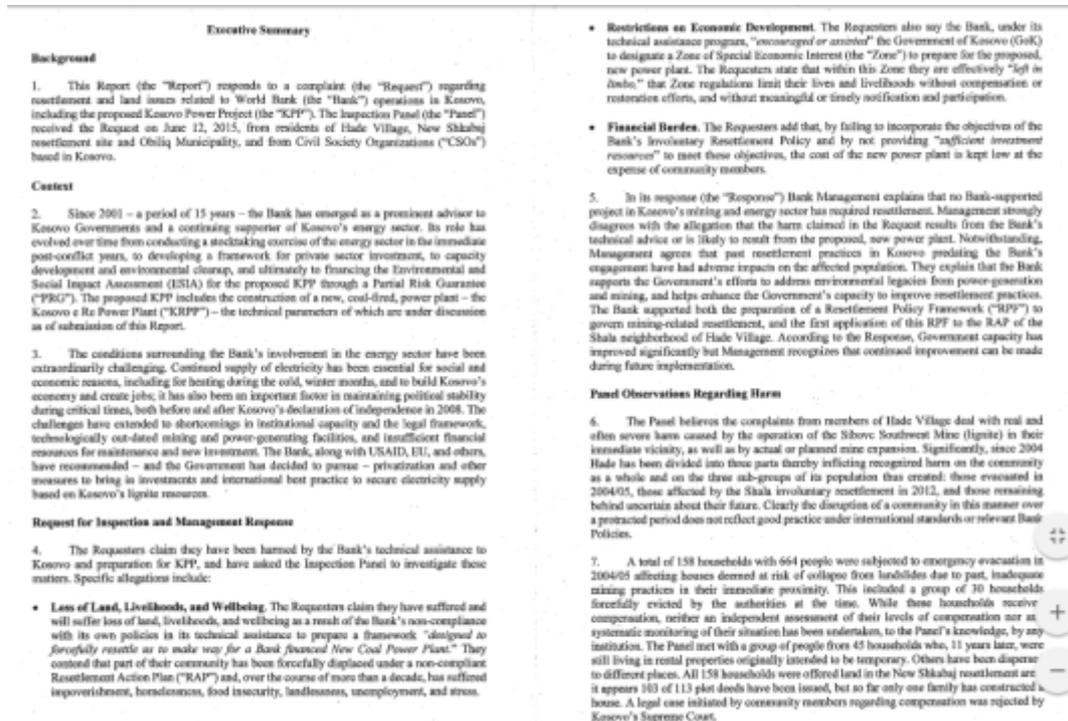
In Tribuna Chanel for support that FIQ provides for development of youth activism.

FIQ –always close to the most endangered communities

Legal battle for Hade village continues in Washington

Forum for Civic Initiative continues to stand by the people of Hade, seeking a prompt solution for the compensation of all citizens affected by the involuntary displacement of the village. As a result, World Bank management discussed

during its fall meetings the findings of the inspection panel, which had visited Kosovo at the invitation of FIQ. This panel has warned the management about multiple violations which occurred during the resettlement process in this area.



World Bank Inspection Panel published a report identifying significant, non-recoverable damage incurred during the Hade resettlement, whose purpose was to make way for mines which would supply coal to the new power plant "Kosova e Re." The Panel concluded that the World Bank management had not complied to the operative procedures of the Bank, during the implementation of this process.



Kosovan villagers to take coal mine woes to ECHR | Climate Home - climate change news

After the World Bank ducks responsibility for harm caused by botched coal...

CLIMATECHANGENEWS.COM | BY KARL MATHIESEN - JOURNALIST

FIQ in media



International media report on Hade case



Kërkohe seancë për Haden ose do të ketë protesta | | Gazeta e Re

Konsorçiumi Kosovari i Shoqërisë Civile për Zhvillim të Qëndrueshëm, ka prezantuar sot gjetjet e raportit Hetues të Panelit të Inspektimit të Bankës...

Photo



Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development, has presented the findings of the report of the WB Inspection Panel on involuntary resettlement of residents of Hade. The residents have requested that Assembly holds an extraordinary session on this topic; otherwise they will start protests. Relocation of residents of Hade began in 2004; extensive breaches of human rights accompanied the process while

the living conditions in what was to become the new home of the displaced failed to meet the basic infrastructure prerequisites. Relocation process stopped shortly after the conclusion of the first phase, leaving more than 7 thousand residents in limbo.



Photo

Work in Hade is presented during the Global Philanthropy Forum held in South Africa



FIQ

Forum for Civic Initiatives

Involuntary resettlement making a case for great grass root activism in Kosovo!

FIQ is the first Kosovo community foundation. Since 2000 FIQ has educated, developed and mobilized civic engagement in Kosovo.

The mission of the Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ) is to support and promote the development of civil society in Kosovo. FIQ is a non-profit organization that provides training, technical assistance and financial support to local organizations and individuals who are working to improve the lives of the people of Kosovo.



Workshop on the impact of the 2008-2009 financial crisis on the economy of Kosovo. Photo: FIQ

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Community meeting in Pristina, Kosovo. Photo: FIQ



Protest in Pristina, Kosovo. Photo: FIQ

Workshop on the impact of the 2008-2009 financial crisis on the economy of Kosovo. Photo: FIQ



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Protest in Pristina, Kosovo. Photo: FIQ

The impact of the 2008-2009 financial crisis on the economy of Kosovo has been significant. The crisis has led to a sharp decline in economic activity, a loss of jobs, and a decrease in government revenue. This has had a devastating impact on the lives of the people of Kosovo, who are now facing poverty and unemployment. FIQ is working to help the people of Kosovo cope with the crisis and to build a more resilient economy.

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World Bank broke own rules as Kosovo coal development left villagers in destitution

The World Bank broke its own rules and contributed to the suffering of hundreds of Kosovars who were forced from their homes to make way for a coal mine, a...

FIQ in media

A detailed report on how WB violated its own rules in case of involuntary resettlement of Hade.

The announcement of Obiliq as zone of special interest, according to the Inspection Panel, is not in accordance with international practices. Moreover, the panel said that the delays in the resettlement process and the differential treatment of residents is not in accordance with international resettlement standards or policies of the World Bank. Residents, backed by the representatives of KOSID, have announced protests if their demands are ignored. Hade case is also being investigated by the Ombudsman who is working to uncover violations of human rights and environmental risks to which citizens living in the municipality of Obilic have been exposed.

"This zone can be renamed as Chernobyl of Balkans," said Jashari, implying decade-long environmental problems caused by the work of the national energy supplier, KEK.

On the initiative of FIQ, Kosovo
Assembly Environment...
Committee visited the resettlement
zone and the new village of Hade.



Within its mission as a grass-root organization FIQ has met citizens and local representatives in municipalities which face serious problems of poverty and environmental destruction. In 2016 numerous meetings were organized with citizens of Elez Han, Drenas, Deçan and Obiliq. These initiatives of FIQ are intended to help mobilize the community to demand better living conditions and to enjoy their human rights, as granted by Constitution.



Citizens have highlighted the problems of sluggish economic development, unemployment, and the bad state of environmental situation in these municipalities. Despite the fact that the development strategy of the Kosovo government had predicted that the reopening of giants like Sharrcem, Ferronikeli, and Saloniti would improve the economic situation of citizens, in reality this has only worsened the situation further, and the citizens themselves have had very few benefits from the promised development. Especially in case of hydropower plants in Deçan, citizens have complained about many negative consequences that this privatization has brought such as: the destruction of the river bed and water pipes, abuse of water by the privatiser, damage of city roads, and failure of the company to keep the promises for employment and infrastructure improvement, leaving residents without drinking water. The municipality of Deçan has thrown the Austrian company to court.

Ministry of Environment has apparently not been able to control the activity of quarries in these municipalities either.

"Quarries have destroyed the working land, green areas, and are creating unbearable noise-we can hardly sleep", said citizens of Drenas municipality accusing the Ministry and ICMM of granting licenses without public debate, violating the will of the people". FIQ is holding community meetings in all regions of the country in which the welfare of citizens is at risk

Forum for Civic Initiatives honors outstanding philanthropists



For more than six 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 an enabling environment for the development of philanthropy. In December, FIQ organized the traditional award ceremony FIDES, which honors the work of outstanding

philanthropists, organizations, and businesses in Kosovo, which supported the activities and projects of common interest.

The winners said that for them these awards, in addition to acknowledging their contribution also represents support, and inspiration to continue their work for the common good.



FIQ awarded the national prize for philanthropic contributions – “Hasan Prishtina” to Girls Coding Kosova

“We thank FIQ for recognizing our work. Girl Coding helps increase the participation of girls in IT and has currently 700 girls working as programmers” Blerta Thaqi



FIDES award for contribution at community level was given to: Bonevet

“This award is very significant for us as it recognizes our two year work to improve the IT education in Kosovo and to enable the young people of our country become more competitive in this field, thus improving our economic prospects and the future of our beautiful, young country”
Leke Zherka

FIDES award for individual contribution was given to: the activist Marta Prekpalaj

"I have received many international awards for my work such as the award of the Peace Foundation in Geneva in 2006 but this is the first award ever given to me by my own people, my own country and it has a special place in my heart" Marte Prekpalaj



FIDES award for contribution from Diaspora was given to: Albanian-German Business Union

"Diaspora plays an important role for many families but I am glad to talk here about a case where the engagement of Diaspora for Kosovo goes further, contributing to the development of the society as a whole. Increasing the participation of women in labour force is beneficial not only for its own cause but for development of country as a whole".
Christina Gehelsen





The special award FIDES 2016 was given to: young actors Andi Bajgora and Lum Veseli

"We realized a dream by reaching the heights of film industry, the Oscars, and this makes me very happy. We presented the plight of our nation and shared our history with the world" EshrefDurmishi



Fides
2016

FIQ presents its work with communities at the first Global Summit for Community Philanthropy

#shiftthepower

On the eve of our most remarkable event FIDES 2016 to mark the month of philanthropy, FIQ Executive Director Dajana Berisha has presented our work at First Global Summit for Community Philanthropy, which is sponsored by the Global Fund for Community Foundations and the Global Alliance for Community Philanthropy, and aims at initiating a change process that would lead towards the embracement of a new paradigm that would place people advancement at the forefront of the Foundations' undertakings.

Global Summit
on Community
Philanthropy

1-2 December 2016

Johannesburg





Meetings at community level to build a stronger culture of philanthropy

Forum for Civic Initiative (FIQ) has organized round tables with the theme: "Philanthropic contributions and their importance" in Ferizaj, Peja, Prizren, Mitrovica, Gjilan, and Gjakova. During the roundtable discussion the participants highlighted the strategic role that philanthropy has in community development. The aim of these round tables has been the development of a culture of philanthropy in a more organized manner and mobilization of the community to recognize merits of those who have contributed so far. Participants, in addition to emphasizing the importance of philanthropic contributions for improvements in fields, such as health, education and support of entrepreneurial initiatives, have also emphasized the need to further develop the culture of giving by improving the legal environment to support those who donate their time and resources.

Memorandum for the development of philanthropy



FIQ is committed to preparing the legal framework that will provide legal support to individuals and organizations that make philanthropic contributions. In December we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office for Good Governance, within the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo to cooperate in drafting and approval process of the concept paper on philanthropy.

Volunteering a power and value of Kosovo's youth and an indicator of commitment to the future



Volunteering is one of the most important pillars of modern philanthropy and one of the main drivers of positive changes in the community. In 2016, fifteen young volunteers have joined FIQ, giving their time to help FIQ to organize activities marking the month of philanthropy and also encouraging their peers to contribute to the development of volunteerism and civic activism. Their successes are already apparent with the realization of the first film to raise awareness about problems of adolescents in Kosovo and organization of the Young Ambassadors Symposium which has inspired hundreds of young people to join initiatives for a better community.

Green and Innovative

The 3 winning ideas from the competition "Business Plans Competition - Green and Innovative 2016" turn into success stories.

Winners of the competition "Green Ideas" for 2016 have already begun to develop their ideas. Meanwhile, the winner of last year -Ron Ceka – who created 3d printers in which, the classic, dangerous plastic which is harmful to the environment, is replaced by the biodegrading plastic created by mixing of wheat and potato starch- used as raw material-also won the first prize in the regional competition, with the financial assistance of which he will be able to further develop his idea.

The three winning ideas for this year are:

Argjira Krasniqi – "ECOHouse" – Building of an ecological house utilizing modern methods in combination with natural resources for construction material, using renewable energy sources, and developing the house as a long-term sustainable solution for families living in poor socio-economic conditions.

Luan Hasanaj – "HAMBAR Online" – Opening an online store with a wide variety of natural and organic local food products, with a reusable and biodegradable packaging. Besides aiming to reduce waste from food and non-ecological packaging, this idea will also have a direct impact in mobilizing local farmers for growing and selling local produce.

Merita Abdullahu – "Hydroponic growing of lettuce" – Building a new farm for the hydroponic cultivation of lettuce, which besides the innovation element in the cultivation system, has a positive effect in the environment as a result of non-usage of fertilizers and pesticides, as well as a direct impact in the increase of yield and quality.



Staff 2016

Dajana Berisha
Executive Director

Kushtrim Puka
Programs Manager

Sefë Govori
Finance Manager

Arieta Dragusha
Program Associate for Sustainable Development

Merita Mustafa
Program Developer and Fundraising

Vatra Qehaja
Communication and Fundraising Officer

Arlinda Azemi
Program Officer for Philanthropy and Sustainable Development

Lirika Hoxha
Finance Officer

Donors



Rockefeller
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GIZ



Balkan Trust for
Democracy (BTD)



The National
Endowment for
Democracy (NED)



Saferworld



Caritas



Catalyst

Partners



GLPS



BIRN



KOSID



INDEP



Saferworld



GAP Institute



SIGN Network

Pejton, 10 000 Pristina, Kosova
St. Sejdi Kryeziu, Block 20, no. 3
Tel: +381 (0) 38 248 677

www.fiq-fci.org



FIQ

Forum for
Civic Initiatives

www.fiq-fci.org