



Forum for Civic Initiatives

*10 Years!*



ANNUAL REPORT

**2010**

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## About FIQ

The Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ) is a non-governmental organization with a focus on the rule of law that works to increase citizen participation in decision-making processes for peaceful and developed Balkan region.

FIQ is engaged in transparency and accountability of the government and in strengthening the capacity of civil society to be active and sustainable actors in exercising their oversight role.

FIQ does this through research and analysis, discussions, training and grantmaking support.

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear readers,

It is my pleasure to address to you with few words reflecting on FIQ's work for the past year.

Year 2010 was a historic year for FIQ, as it is in that year that we marked the tenth anniversary of its establishment! That year we celebrated ten years of successful and challenging work, above all, ten years of our contribution to our joint journey of state-building and peace-building and democracy in Kosovo.

For all these years, FIQ has remained a credible and respected actor in the civil society family in general, and a critical voice in protecting public interest.

During this year, FIQ managed to make FIDES Award on Philanthropy traditional in Kosovo by providing a special space to promotion of valuable contribution of Kosovan businesses. While the special thing about the FIDES Award was awarding of the Philanthropy Award named after our great humanist Anton Çetta.

In order to further increase our influence on security related work, meaning our influence on governmental policy making, we have also cooperated with other partners during this year, and we have created the Security Forum – a platform of discussion between civil society and local and international institutions on important matters of the security sector in Kosovo.

The Security Forum has, in its studies, already proved to be an influential body on security policies and actions of relevant security institutions in Kosovo.

During this year, the grants component within FIQ has continued expanding, and we managed to support initiatives of non-governmental organizations, which addressed environmental issues; improving quality of living, as well as civic mobilization to increase civic participation in the last elections.

I want to conclude my reflection on FIQ's work by thanking both our cooperators and donors for being always there for us, as well as all those who in one way or another were part of our activities during 2010.

Sincerely,  
Ferdinand Nikolla



## RULE OF LAW

The Rule of Law Programme is focused in the area of security and justice, and it aims to develop and strengthen security and justice institutions. FIQ aims to achieve this through studies and analysis concerning security and justice policy implementation, urging citizens to shape these policies, urging community to improve legal infrastructure at the local level, as well as by influencing drafting of these policies. Furthermore, FIQ advocates with respective institutions for equal access to justice for all citizens.

### 1. Increasing public oversight in Rule of Law

FIQ has been working in cooperation with seven other non-government partner organisations since 2007, and during this year it implemented the project entitled 'Increase of public oversight in the rule of law in Kosovo', funded by National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD). The goal of this project was to influence decision-makers to create a more effective accountability mechanisms and to involve citizens in assessment of security and justice institutions. This project is focused in two areas: security and justice. In the area of security, capacity building of Kosovo Police was addressed in terms of investigating human trafficking, as well as investigation of economic crimes and corruption. While as far as justice is concerned, the project was focused on access to justice and making operational of the liaison offices of courts as well as international cooperation in the field of justice.



### Briefing Parliamentary Committee on European Integration (EIC)

Data from the above-mentioned fields have been forwarded to the EIC. FIQ and partners have submitted two reports to the Committee with the aim to inform them on European Partnership Action Plan (EPAP) implementation. These reports have identified huge hold ups in implementation of determined policies. By submitting reports we intended to provide alternative data to the Committee, as well as to increase accountability of the executive branch towards the legislative.



These reports are considered to be important for the Committee in order for it to increase oversight towards the executive branch on the addressed issues.

Citizens participation in assessment of the performance of institutors.

Three series of debates within the project have been organised in five regions and one municipality (Gjakova/Djakovica). Combating human trafficking is a process that involves many institutions such as police, schools, centre for social work, etc. In addition to these institutions, citizens' impressions have also been important. In this case, Kosovo institutions have closely followed citizens' assessment of their work. Another series of debates was also on citizen cooperation with the police. This debate was preceded by a survey with 900 respondents regarding presence of corruption in the police, resulting that only 4% of these citizens gave money (bribed) to the police. However, it is of concern the fact that 26% of respondents managed to avoid punishment/penalty based on the law due to connections/acquaintances they had in the police. These experiences were mainly related to traffic police. While in debates, lots of citizens expressed their concern over their cooperation with the police, especially due to communications procedures. The Kosovo Police has also called on citizens for greater cooperation. The third series targeted children – beggars as potential victims of trafficking in human beings. In all of the debates was emphasised inability of the municipal and central institutions to ensure rights of these children as required by the Provisional Criminal Code of Kosovo, stating that it is the duty of every parent is to provide for physical and mental development of a child? If this Code is not being respected, then the institutions shall take over the responsibility for such a child, which is not the case.

One way of receiving citizens' opinion was by conducting research through various surveys. For example, Liaison Office of the Courts intends to make it easier for the minorities to access justice. Although in the same dwelling place, most of them said that they were not informed about these offices. There was a big interest of media by conveying findings of the project to a large number of citizens.

### **Publication of the report “Rule of law: capacities and functioning of the institutions”.**



This report discussed the following topics: capacity building in combating trafficking in human beings and economic crime and corruption. Whereas, as far as justice is concerned, it assesses whether courts liaison offices became operational, and international cooperation in justice.

The main view is that despite a slight progress, rule of law in these areas was not priority for the institutions of the country. At a roundtable organised upon publication the interest was high taking into account different assessments regarding functioning of these institutions.



# FORUM for SECURITY

Within the project Safeplace, Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ) in partnership with Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS), in June 2010 established the Security Forum (SF), supported by Saferworld as part of the "Safeplace" programme, funded by the Governments of Germany and United Kingdom.

The goal of the Security Forum is to serve as a platform for discussion between civil society organisations and the institutions. Its aim is to foster communication and proper study of security policies, by providing concrete recommendations on its improvement.

On October 15th, 2010, in premises of Grand Hotel Prishtina, was held a roundtable titled **"Security Sector in Kosovo after independence"**. It was the first roundtable organised within the Security Forum. In addition to other discussions, this roundtable also published a study with the same title, which provides a short overview regarding achievements and challenges of the security institutions in the country, after declaration of independence.

There were both high Kosovo institutional representatives and international ones present in this conference, including representatives from local and international non-governmental organisations, media and students.

On December 21th, 2010 the second conference of the Security Forum was held in the premises of Grand Hotel Prishtina. Initially, an assessment report was introduced (a qualitative study), on the topic of **"Integrated Border Management in Kosovo"**, prepared by FIQ and KCSS.

The report raised some dilemmas regarding key aspects that characterise difficulties in an integrated border management. From political aspect, border demarcation and transfer of responsibilities from international institutions to national authorities, is taking a long time. From technical aspect, the report highlights the lack of technological equipments and relying on donor investments.

Key panellists in this conference were representatives from the Kosovo institutions, such as: Mr. Reshat Maliqi, Director of the Kosovo Police, Mr. Bekim Mehmeti from Kosovo Customs, Mr. Artan Duraku – from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, etc. While there were also about 40 participants from civil society and international organisations and institutions in Kosovo.



## GRANTS GIVING

Mechanism of grants in FIQ is organised around three programmatic areas: Eco, Active Citizenship and Unique Ideas.

Within these programmes, FIQ supports financially non-governmental organisations, community organisations, informal groups, as well as networks which want to contribute to overall development of the society.

Through these programmes, FIQ intends to increase level of citizen engagement in improving quality of life, thus by creating sustainable communities, a clean environment and productive partnership between community, civil society, business sector and institutions of Kosovo.

During 2010, FIQ has supported projects that mobilised community in environment protection, advocacy with municipal and central institutions, as well as projects and initiatives that encouraged various civic groups to participate in National December Elections.

The project 'Euro-Ekologët' of the organisation gathered citizens of some villages in Peja/Pec to increase pressure on the institutions concerning degradation of the spring of the Drini i Bardhë River due to illegal connections and misuse of water. The pressure went up to the Ministry of Environment to protect this important natural spring.



An organisation 'Students' Lobby Ulpiana' in Lipjan has engaged students in cleaning of public spaces in the city, then prepare and placing of trash bins by students of the technical school themselves. While, the other objective was advocacy with the municipality to allocate a location for building of a city park, it got the support of the institutions and process of its implementation is still ongoing. Also, activities took place in schools like theatre in schools, with messages for protection of environment.





From the range of project that aimed at increasing of citizen participation in the elections, YIHR organisation has conducted meetings with focus groups and youth workshops, to identify causes why youth do not participate in elections. Eight street actions took place in bigger cities of the country, where conversations with citizens took place and the campaign message “Voto se s'bon ndryshe” [Vote, there no other way] was conveyed to them through brochures and posters. Also a video spot was broadcasted on national TV stations with messages directed to youth concerning the elections.



Whereas, another initiative was implemented by the Albanian – American National Council - Hope Fellowship Programme, has gathered tens of activists, who made a one day tour by bus throughout Kosovo, by meeting citizens and by transmitting messages for them to participate in the elections under a motto “Go out and Vote”.





## PHYLANTROPY

**Celebration of 10th anniversary of establishment of FIQ, and awarding of FIDES 2010 Award in philanthropy in Kosovo.**

2010 was the most special year ever for FIQ, as exactly on the night of FIDES 2010 Award, which has already become traditional in Kosovo, FIQ celebrated its 10th anniversary. 10 years of a successful and challenging work were celebrated among friends at a very pleasant, warm and solemn place. On this occasion, a documentary film titled 'FIQ 10 years' was shown, where continuous 10 years long activity was presented, from the first day since its establishment in year 2000.

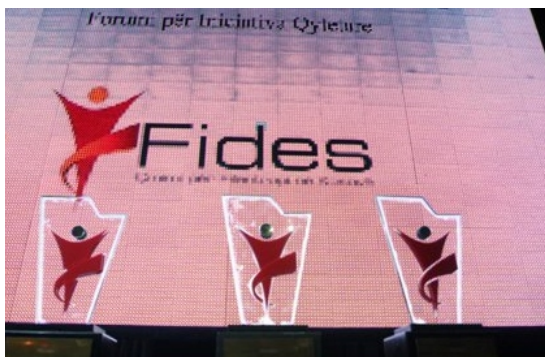


On this very day, on December 1st, 2010, FIQ for the second time has organised a big celebration of awarding of FIDES Award for philanthropy in Kosovo. This traditional Award is a symbol of big public gratitude to Kosovar individuals and business, who have continuously and cautiously supported activities and projects for the common benefit. .



By making public, names of companies, enterprises and individuals, who have supported financially projects that contributed to a common good of the people of Kosovo, this prestigious Award aims to encourage others, too, to follow this path, to invest more in improving quality of life in Kosovo.

FIDES Award 2010 became more special by the fact that the family of a big Albanian humanist, who all of his life dedicated to bringing people closer to each other and forgiving of blood feuds, the deceased Anton Çetta, without any hesitation accepted that FIQ, the individual Award for philanthropy to name the Award for Philanthropy 'Anton Çetta'. The daughter of Anton Çetta, Ms. Donika Çetta, in front of all the present made a speech on this occasion, where amongst other things, said "When we were asked by FIQ, if they could use the name of our father to name one of the Awards for philanthropy, we have accepted with pleasure. To us, it will always be a pleasure to have the name of our father be used as a symbol of gratitude for the contribution that people who engage to have a more dignifying life of our people, as he did the same thing."

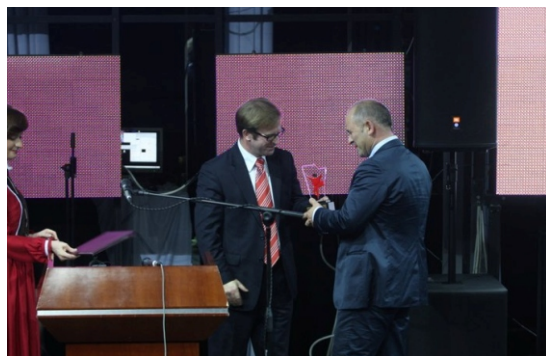


There were more than 350 people present at the exclusive ceremony organised on December 1st, to announce winners of FIDES Award. Amongst special guests, who addressed to the presents with few words and handed prizes to winners were: Mr. Haki Abazi – Western Balkans Programme Director (RBF), Mr. Dale Pfeiffer, the former USAID Director in Kosovo, while the prize “Anton Çetta” was awarded/handed out by Ms. Donika Çetta

Ferdinand Nikolla, FIQ Executive Director, said “This celebration tonight is more special than ever, as FIDES Award is being awarded on the same day when FIQ is celebrating its 10 anniversary of establishment! During these 10 years, we've been faithful to our mission; we tried to be independent and professional in our work every time, by working together with others, institutions, various local and international organisations, but in particular with our people from throughout of Kosovo. We have also remained a critical and constructive voice regarding significant processes under which Kosovo and our people have passed during the path of state-building, development and peace in the country.”



FIDES Award for national contribution was awarded to MERIDIAN Corporation LLC company from Prishtina, the company which has supported activities which are significant to society and which reflect positively, among which we specifically mention support in fixing of school, university spaces, and other different cultural and other significant activities.



FIDES Award for local contribution was awarded to Kulla Exim Sh.P.K. Company from Deçan/Decane, this company has contributed in improving the life conditions in the Municipality of Deçan/Decane by supporting cultural activities, infrastructure and youth. Dale Pfeifeer, upon awarding this prize, said that “It is encouraging the way FIQ awards the annual FIDES Award, to acknowledge publicly the generosity of businesses at the local and national level.”



Philanthropy Award 'Anton Çetta' was awarded to Mr. Milaim Jashari. This being the person who founded and is working on voluntary basis for the humanitarian association “Feniks” in Ferizaj/Urosevac, by means of which during five years he managed to build 70 houses for the homeless, while only during 2010 he built 13 houses.



Pocantico Conference Center of the RBF

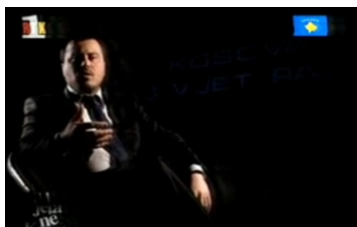
February 28 – March 2010, Tarrytown, New York

The forum convened philanthropic leaders from the region to converse, collaborate, and help contribute to the self-sustainability and regional integration of the Western Balkans. Discussions were focused on identifying the current state of philanthropy in the region; sharing best practices; and helping to formulate country-appropriate giving strategies, as well as highlighting areas of possible cross-border collaboration.

The session panelists included philanthropists, practitioners, and corporate philanthropy representatives from the U.S. private sector, the Global Fund for Community Foundations, the forum's partnering organizations in the Western Balkans, and the RBF. Participants in the forum included foundation representatives; winners of national corporate philanthropy awards; individual donors; journalists; and civil society organization representatives from Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.



## FIQ in media



## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' OPINION

### To the management of Forum of Civic Initiatives

We have audited financial statements, revenue and budget expenses of Forum of Civic Initiatives in Prishtine, Kosovo for the year ended 31 December 2010 expressed in EUR. These financial statements and supplementary financial data are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the aforementioned financial information based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the reporting forms are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the reporting forms. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the proper accounting and reporting of the data on the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial information present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position Forum of Civic Initiatives for the year ended 31 December 2010, and the results of operations in accordance with contractual agreements signed with donors and relevant laws of Kosovo.

**Lulzim Zeka**  
**Statutory Auditor**  
**BU & Partners**  
**Prishtina**



## STAFF

Ferdinand Nikolla, Executive Director

Nazim Haliti, Program Manager

Nita Luzha, Program Manager

Valdrin Grainca, Project Manager

Sefë Govori, Finance Officer

Arieta Rexhepi, Communication Officer

Amire Rafuna Gashi, Administrative Officer

Florentina Hajdari, Research Assistant

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Forum for Civic Initiatives

tel.+381(0)38 248 677

Str. Rexhep Mala 5/A

10000 Pristina, Kosovo

[www.fiq-fci.org](http://www.fiq-fci.org)

[www.safeplaceproject.org](http://www.safeplaceproject.org)

[www.forumipersiguri.org](http://www.forumipersiguri.org)