



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



About FIQ

Since 2000 FIQ has been working hard to develop an active, healthy citizenship model built on voluntary citizen engagement, support and advocacy for individuals, formal and informal groups in rural and urban areas with the aim on guiding the local and the central level of policymaking towards quality citizen involvement. As such, over the years the FIQ's working model in close cooperation with citizens has enabled a large number of protests against the 'Kosova e Re' power plant; the filing of a lawsuit with the World Bank Inspection Panel regarding the compulsory relocation of citizens of the village of Hade Obiliq municipality resulting in the withdrawal of the World Bank, Contour Global from the construction of TPP Kosova e Re.

FIQ's working model enabled the gathering of over 33,000 signatures across Kosovo in 5 days, against the decision to increase electricity prices in the country by forcing the Assembly of Kosovo to discuss the resolution with the demands of the citizens for changing the decision for the double price increase of electricity. Over the years FIQ's work model is based on cooperation, support and capacity building support of local NGOs mainly outside Pristina, thus identifying the need for the civil society sector work to recognize the inclusion rather than monopolization, the sector should be oriented towards creating conditions for sustainability rather than permanent dependence.

Refreshing the civil society sector in Kosovo requires new actors, new ideas and of course tailor-made training depending on the individual needs of local organizations and the conditions under which new grassroots initiatives arise and emerge. This model of FIQ's partnership with local NGOs, informal groups, research individuals, students paved the way for the creation of spaces and the design of free training packages through the Kosovo Resource Center/FIQ (supported by EUoK).

Identifying innovative ideas and developing green economy despite orientations for coal investment; fostering the development of the legal framework and at the same time accelerating the self-employment program for youth, women, and girls; development and promotion of social entrepreneurship in all municipalities of Kosovo, developing an original model of startups in agriculture, environment, ICT, ecotourism; increasing advocacy capacities of local NGOs give FIQ the dimension of a hub – a center that welcomes needy citizens, youth organizations interested in developing their organizational capacities, environmental experts, employment, Kosovo journalists, Balkans Western, EU or beyond the continent with the primary aim of strengthening the civil society sector in Kosovo as one of the vital indicators of the quality of democracy in the country.

Throughout our lives and activities, we have understood, realized and are promoting the need to create a culture of trust in one another, in public authorities (through accountability and involvement, donors (through the creation of mutual partnerships) because trust helps in facing local or national, individual, or collective challenges and as such contributes to the development of social cohesion in Kosovo society.



Address of Dajana Berisha, Executive Director of FIQ

Dear friends,

Last year marked many moments of success for the Forum for Civic Initiatives and all partners, associates in various areas and sectors.

FIQ recognized and developed new partnerships thus contributing to the enrichment of the civil society sector with new community organizations. Already more than 30 new NGOs with different profiles constitute new reality for municipalities such as: Ferizaj, Gjiilan, Ranillug, Prizren, Kamenica, Peja, Prishtina, Mitrovica, Gracanica, Drenas Novobërdë, Kaçanik etc. in sectors such as education, health, environment, sports, culture, human rights, entrepreneurship, agriculture, ICT, etc.

Thanks to the strategic partnership with EUoK - the EU Office in Kosovo, FIQ has already been transformed into a fully-fledged resource hub in the service of the community NGOs, but not only. Already the Kosovo Resource Center/ FIQ is the address of many NGOs throughout Kosovo, independent researchers and scholars, the media, partners in the region, and beyond.

In the capacity of representing the entire network of local NGOs outside Prishtina, FIQ regularly participates and contributes with expertise and knowledge in the Government-Civil Society Cooperation Council.

In the course of promoting entrepreneurship, FIQ is an innovator in the development and successful promotion of the accelerating the self-employment program for youth in Kosovo. In 2019 we had the pleasure to support new entrepreneurs in many municipalities of Kosovo with 160,000.00 Euros.

Of course, 2019, just like in the past years, ended with the most significant and meaningful event, FIDES prizes for philanthropic contribution at the individual, corporate level in Kosovo and the Diaspora.

However, at the end of my message to all of you readers, friends and associates, let me mention one of the most culminating moments - the emergency engagement in raising funds and helping the victims of the earthquake of November 26, 2019 in Albania. It was a momentous event that highlighted FIQ's capacity and ability to self-organize, quickly mobilize and distribute humanitarian aid to victims and families in need.

I am convinced that the success of FIQ would recognize negligible results, if our vision were not combined with the ability to collaborate with others!

Thank you for all the support!



160,000 Euros for young entrepreneurs

Self-employment, entrepreneurship of youth, women and girls continues to be the focus of FIQ's work.

The Forum for Civic Initiatives, together with Link Campus University from Italy, have continued the successful project “Accelerating the Self-Employment for Youth in Kosovo”, funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo. After selecting the most promising ideas for success, 20 grants of 8000 Euros were awarded to young entrepreneurs in the fields of agriculture and information technology. At a special ceremony, the prizes for the winners were awarded by FIQ Program Director, Kushtrim Puka, and the Head of the Political Sector at the EU Office in Kosovo, Ricardo Ferri.



The Forum for Civic Initiatives together with three beneficiaries of the project “Accelerating self-employment and entrepreneurship in Kosovo”, conducted a study visit in Rome at the Link Campus University, which is also a partner of the #ATAR2 project. Participants from Kosovo were welcomed by the founder and president of the Link Campus, Vincenzo Scotti, and Eldriona Daci, as part of the Link Campus project.

Our entrepreneurs had the opportunity to meet the Italian entrepreneurs who are part of the business accelerator, Innova, the entrepreneur and expert in the field of arts, Michele Gerace, and attend the very important presentation and discussion with one of the founders of Forward Fooding, Max Leveau

Fjolla, Argnesa and Rinor presented their business ideas to entrepreneurship experts from Link Campus, Dario Carrera and Carola Pennacchiotti. The mentor of the participants during the presentations was the founder and executive director of ARMNet, Simeone Demelas.



Study visit to Italy of FIQ beneficiaries

Rinor Shabani, one of the participants in Italy, says that initially he was very skeptical whether he will be one of the project beneficiaries and that it is the first time that he benefits from any project and he is extremely pleased with the communication and everything surrounding the project. Meanwhile, Fjolla hopes that “there will be many more projects like this, where young people could benefit like us, from FIQ and the ATAR2 project”. Argnesa, stated her pleasure that she had the opportunity to cooperate with FIQ and, in addition to the grant, benefited from training and visits to Italy.

The #ATAR2 project is funded by the European Union, managed by the European Union office in Kosovo and implemented by FIQ and LINK Campus University.



FIQ contributes to a more democratic society

Through the project “Fostering sustainable organizational development for CSOs in Kosovo” funded by the European Union and consisting of three components; Sustainability Academy, the Resource Center and the grant scheme, the Forum for Civic Initiatives have managed to promote the voice of Civil Society Organizations for the development of democracy and the improvement of social life.



Throughout 2019, the Sustainability Academy has become the main source of information for civil society organizations. Over 100 organizations have participated in the academy's training package specifically on capacity building in order to provide them with the skills and competencies required to develop and successfully implement the advocacy initiatives.

This year, FIQ has opened its doors by creating a Resource Center and offering a conference room and a free meeting room where over 100 organizations have conducted administrative work to achieve their goals and objectives.



As part of the project, FIQ awarded 15 grants to civil society organizations with initiatives that have contributed to the development of areas such as education, environment, philosophy, medicine, art, sports and psychology. As a result of the first phase, 4 thematic coalitions of CSOs have been established which will cooperate for future initiatives.

The government's strategy for cooperation with civil society has been launched.

The government's strategy for cooperation with civil society 2019-2023 has four main objectives, the most important of which is to enhance the participation of civil society in policy-making. Other objectives of this strategy include increasing accountability and transparency in public funding for CSOs, developing practices and procedures for contracting CSOs to provide public services, and increasing and promoting volunteering in public interest programs. Dajana Berisha, as the Representative of the Kosovo Resource Center for Civil Society, said that the cooperation between the Government and the Civil Society is still fragile despite the substantive assistance of the EU Office in Kosovo. This is because the most NGOs operating outside the capital lack comprehensive approach. The future of this cooperation should recognize new dimensions, aimed at transparency in decision-making, inclusion, real representation of true constituency and all this with the ultimate goal of having real impact on the ground, achieving social cohesion in society and for the de-facto orientation of Kosovo towards the EU.



FIQ continues traditional lectures on philanthropy

FIQ, during 2019 continued to organize lectures on Philanthropy in Kosovo. These lectures were organized in various schools and faculties, where young people had the opportunity to learn more about philanthropy, on the form of donations of money, philanthropic practices and sectors that need improvement. Young people continue to express innovative ideas with an impact on everyday life, and their beliefs about the shared values that are realized through philanthropy. As usual, they reflect on activities they would like to engage in personally, and their vision for the coming years in Kosovo. The positive energy conveyed by young people is the strength of change for the country.



KOSID organizes the conference “Withdrawal of the World Bank from coal investments in Kosovo and the current situation of the environment and energy sector”

The Kosovo Consortium of the Civil Society for Sustainable Development (KOSID) successfully organized the conference “Withdrawal of the World Bank from coal investments in Kosovo and the current situation of the environment and energy sector”. This conference provided opportunities for a dialogue between local and international parties with expertise in the field of environment and energy, regarding its effect on environmental policies and energy efficiency.

Climate change has already become an integral part of KOSID’s advocacy work. The withdrawal of the World Bank from coal investments in Kosovo highlighted the need for an open and comprehensive discussion with local and international actors with expertise in the field of energy, environment, regional cooperation and Kosovo’s European future in the EU.



What after the withdrawal of the World Bank from coal investments?

What could be the role of OPIC/DFC in supporting the development of Kosovo?

The Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development, KOSID, and partners in the United States and Europe are publishing the second letter sent to OPIC/DFC (US Government Financial Institution for Private Investment) on why they should not support the construction of coal-fired power plant “Kosova e Re” and focus on sustainable development and renewable energy in Kosovo.

KOSID’s advocacy activities against coal investments in Kosovo have argued that possible support for the new coal-fired power plant would run counter to OPIC’s policies that oppose coal and encourage renewable energy support; the U.S. Congress has called on OPIC to support and prioritize renewable energy and clean energy projects; the new coal-fired power plant cannot meet the OPIC statute to stop supporting projects with unreasonable impact; KOSID proposes to OPIC cheaper and more economically viable alternatives that are available to meet Kosovo’s energy needs.



Grants for youth in Kaçanik

The Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ) through the PREX project aims to provide more opportunities for youth engagement in Kaçanik, their employment and self-employment, provide access to community resources through youth NGOs, educational exchanges, networking and assistance to volunteer groups based on activism.

By targeting all these elements through our interventions, FIQ aims to involve young people in the process of sustainable development, through a proactive approach which prevents any risk that may be encountered in these groups of young people. The project started in September 2017 and will continue until 2020, once all the planned objectives have been met. During this project, no less than 2300 young individuals from the municipality of Kaçanik will benefit.

As a result of the project activities, it is expected that at least 20 new enterprises will be established, creating new jobs, and at least 20 youth organizations or forums will be reactivated and transferred through the Community-based Academy program.

Visit to PREX beneficiaries, through photos



FIQ publishes the legal framework analysis for social enterprises in Kosovo

The Forum for Civic Initiatives has published the analysis of the legal framework for social enterprises in Kosovo, compiled by Qerkin Berisha, legal expert. This analysis addresses the Law on Social Enterprises, mainly from a legal point of view, including the form of organization, registration and obtaining the status of social enterprise and obtaining the status of social enterprise. In addition, the provisions of this law have been analyzed from the aspect of their practical applicability, addressing the controversial issues and those that require further clarification.

FIQ undertakes charitable action for those affected by the earthquake in Albania

Sympathizing with the pain and sorrow of the citizens of Albania, the Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ) has opened its doors for aid from the citizens of Kosovo. The director of the Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ), Dajana Berisha, told EkonomiaOnline that such an initiative aims to show solidarity with those affected by this tragedy. “I think it is a very humane initiative for what has happened in Albania. Citizens know that the massive earthquake has caused damages in the Municipality of Durrës, whole surrounding villages of this municipality; there are casualties in the beach areas, including children, therefore we have taken this initiative”, she says with tears in her eyes. With tears in her eyes, Berisha said that it is a good feeling looking at the citizens of Kosovo as they come to aid the residents affected by this earthquake. “It’s an extraordinary feeling, it’s very humane and ultimately we are a single nation, we are human and we feel the same way, especially sorrow, so for me it means a lot because in half an hour people have started to bring what was necessary for the victims and the affected families, blankets, winter clothes and bed covers, because tents have already been erected in Durrës”, she said.



The Month of Philanthropy

During October-November 2019, the Forum for Civic Initiatives organized the Month of Philanthropy with a number of activities.

The women's philanthropic forum preceded the activities that marked the now traditional month of Philanthropy. As such, this forum brought together women from various fields, who discussed their challenges and successes. Under the auspices of Dajana Berisha, Executive Director of FIQ, very successful women, representatives from three sectors, the public, civil society/academia and diplomatic representatives elaborated on women's leadership and their ability to mobilize financial support to advance young women in various fields of development in Kosovo. The panelists for the 2019 Women's Philanthropic Forum were Dajana Berisha, FIQ Executive Director; Leonora Kusari, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); Kaltrina Zeka, Group for Families in Need; Gyli Beqiraj, Radio Television 21; Havushe Bunjaku, Founder of the Social Enterprise 99 Flowers; Klodiana Karaj, Embassy of Albania and Teuta Fazliu, Ministry of Local Government Administration.



The publication of the Kosovo Legislation Analysis regarding philanthropy and NGOs was another activity that was organized during the Month of Philanthropy. The analysis, developed by the legal affairs expert, Mr. Qerkin Berisha addresses the ways of financing NGOs and the need for further institutionalization of philanthropy.

During her introductory speech, Dajana Berisha, Executive Director of FIQ, stressed that civil society in Kosovo is mainly financed and funded by foreign donors, public institutions and less by the private sector. Given that foreign donor support has declined in recent years, and there may be further declines in the future, the civil society sector should be oriented towards finances and funds provided within Kosovo.

After the presentation of this analysis, there were numerous discussions, especially about public funds, which upon the publication of all donations, have reached the value of 20,000,000 Euros a year (2018), for which until 2017 we did not know who has benefited from these funds. In this regard, participants agreed on stricter and more concrete calls for applications and changes to monitoring following more precise rules. This is also because of transparency and accountability of the institutions regarding these funds, which are in fact funds coming from Kosovan taxpayers, and removing doubts that the funds are awarded to certain clans and groupings.



FIDES 2019

For the eleventh year in a row, the Forum for Civic Initiatives organized the FIDES 2019 Philanthropy Award Ceremony. In a warm atmosphere, in the premises of the National Museum of Kosovo, philanthropists of the year were honored with the award, those who have systematically contributed to the common good.

The FIDES 2019 Awards Ceremony was opened by Mrs. Dajana Berisha, Executive Director of the Forum for Civic Initiatives, who, among other things, in her occasional speech said: “We wish this philanthropy dinner to be a good omen for resolving the political situation that Kosovo is going through.

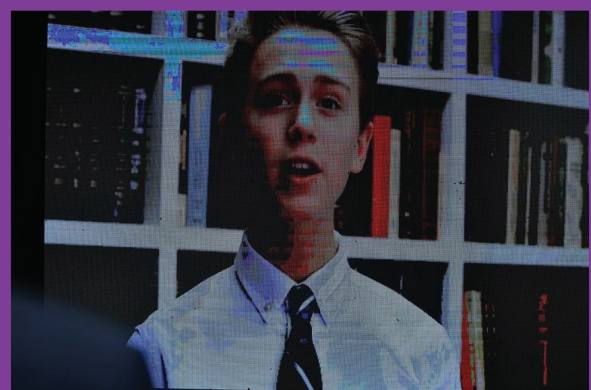
”The FIDES prize for national contribution “Hasan Prishtina”, with full merit was awarded to our heroes, who put their lives on the line, showing readiness to come to the defense and rescue, as the task may require, of our brothers across the border, the Kosovo Security Force. This prize on behalf of FIQ was awarded by Mr. Albin Kurti, who in his address said “This prize reminds us that our daily tasks seem like a pointless routine. The work of the teacher, the police officer may seem ordinary but it is vital for students and citizens. I feel honored to award the Hasan Prishtina prize to our soldiers, the KSF, who showed dedication and professionalism by rescuing people in Durrës and Thumanë. You are the real soldiers, even Hasan Prishtina would be proud if he were here today”, said Kurti.

FIDES 2019 prize for corporate contribution; for investments in ecology, in the creation of parks in different centers of the country, strategic investments in education and health were awarded to AL TRADE Center. This prize on behalf of FIQ was awarded by Mr. Vjosa Osmani.

The FIDES 2019 prize for individual contribution, fundraising and investment in basic infrastructure in some primary schools in Kosovo, went to Caleb Jones, a young man from America who, in his address, thanked FIQ for the prize, saying he was amazed with our work and at the same time said that this prize will be a great impetus for the continuation of his projects in the future in our country. This prize on behalf of FIQ was awarded by Mr. Ray Nayler from the US Embassy in Kosovo.

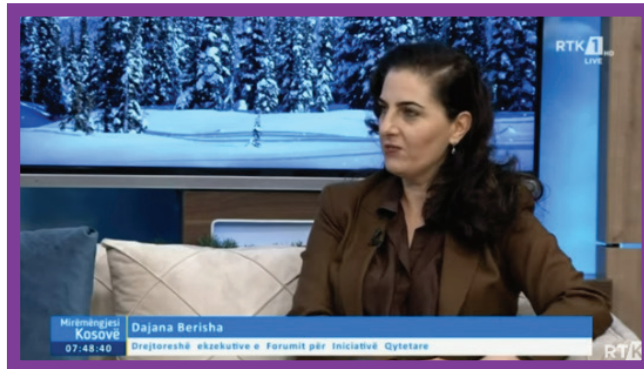
The FIDES 2019 prize for contribution from diaspora, for social and cultural investments, went to Arta Krasniqi Trepca. This prize on behalf of FIQ was awarded by Mr. Nasrin Pourghazian from the Swedish Embassy in Kosovo.





FIQ in media





FIDES 2019

FIQ-i ndan çmimet FIDES 2019, FSK-ja shpërblehet për ndihmën e dhënë Shqipërisë LIVE

More from Ekonomia Online
Autoplay next video

FIQ-i ndan çmimet...
Ekonomia Online





FIQ

Forumi për
Iniciativa Qytetare

www.fiq-fci.org