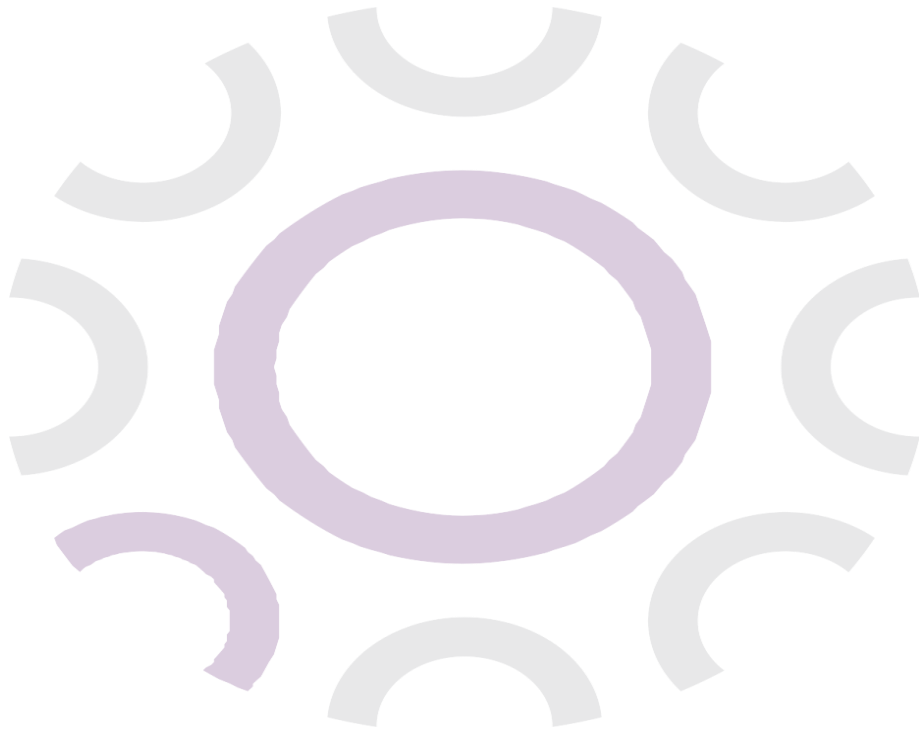




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Forumi për
Iniciativa Qytetare





ANNUAL REPORT 2023

About FIQ

Since 2000, FIQ has been dedicated to the development of an active, healthy citizenship model, built on the voluntary engagement of citizens, supporting and advocating for individuals, formal and informal groups in both rural and urban areas, with the aim of guiding policy-making at both local and central levels towards the meaningful inclusion of citizens. As such, FIQ's working model over the years has been a symbiotic collaboration with citizens, a model that has enabled a large number of protests against the "Kosova e Re" power plant; the filing of a lawsuit against the World Bank with the Inspection Panel regarding the forced relocation of citizens from the village of Hade in the municipality of Obiliq, which ultimately led to the withdrawal of the World Bank and Contour Global from the construction of the TEC Kosova e Re.

FIQ's working model enabled the collection of over 33,000 signatures within 5 days across Kosovo, against the decision to increase electricity prices, forcing the Kosovo Assembly to discuss the resolution with citizens' demands for the reversal of the decision to double electricity prices. FIQ's working model over the years, based on strategic collaboration, support, and capacity-building for local NGOs, especially those outside of Pristina, has made it possible to identify the revitalization of the civil society sector with an inclusive, non-monopolistic approach, oriented towards creating conditions for sustainability rather than permanent dependency.

The revitalization of the civil society sector in Kosovo requires new actors, fresh ideas, and certainly, well-tailored training based on the individual needs of local organizations and the conditions under which new community initiatives emerge and are created. This partnership model of FIQ with local NGOs, informal groups, researchers, and students paved the way for the creation of spaces and the development of free training packages through the Kosovo Core Center/FIQ (supported by EUOK).

The identification of innovative ideas and the development of a green economy, despite the focus on investments in coal; the promotion of the legal framework and the acceleration program for self-employment for youth, women, and girls; the development and promotion of social entrepreneurship across all municipalities in Kosovo; the development of an original model for startups in agriculture, environment, ICT, and ecotourism; the enhancement of the advocacy capacity of local NGOs, all give FIQ the dimension of a hub—a center that welcomes citizens in need, youth organizations interested in developing their organizational capacities, environmental experts, employment specialists, journalists from Kosovo, the Western Balkans, the EU, or beyond the continent, with the primary goal of empowering the civil society sector in Kosovo as one of the vital indicators of the quality of democracy in the country.

Address by Dajana Berisha, Executive Director of FIQ

Dear friends,

Dear colleagues and esteemed partners,

I am pleased to present the Narrative Report for 2023 of the Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ). This year has been a testament to our commitment to fostering positive and sustainable change and empowering communities to drive progress in Kosovo. Through FIQ's initiatives, we have supported causes that bring tangible change, strengthen civic engagement, and uphold human rights and social justice.

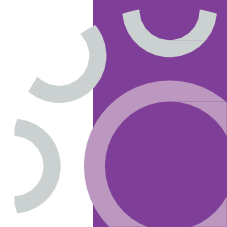
In 2023, we focused on key areas: increasing youth participation in democratic processes, strengthening community resilience, and advocating for political reforms. Our programs engaged hundreds of individuals, equipping young people and citizens with skills and platforms to lead initiatives addressing real issues impacting their communities. From workshops on civic engagement to advocacy training and policy dialogues, our impact is measured not only in numbers but also in the stories of empowered individuals taking initiatives in their neighborhoods and regions.

An important achievement this year has been the expansion of our partnerships. By working closely with local governments, NGOs, and international organizations, we have built a coalition of support that amplifies our efforts and extends our reach.

This report highlights these achievements as well as the challenges we have faced. Together, they shape the path forward. As we continue to strengthen civic voices and empower change, I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our team, the trust of the community, and the invaluable support of our partners.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment, and let us continue working together for a more engaged and empowered Kosovo.

Thank you.



We began 2023 with the most significant ceremony in Kosovo's civil society, the FIDES Award for Kosovar Philanthropy.

On January 18, 2023, the Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ), in the presence of numerous friends from civil society organizations, the business sector, representatives of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, and with the support of SIGAL UNIQA GROUP AUSTRIA - Kosovo, organized the Kosovar Philanthropy Evening - FIDES 2022. This evening marked the first celebratory event at the Civil Society House, the first hub center for all NGOs in Kosovo. In her speech, Executive Director Ms. Dajana Berisha emphasized that, for 13 consecutive years, FIQ has promoted philanthropy as a system of values, a mechanism supporting sustainable development in Kosovo, and a tool that facilitates long-term engagement of philanthropic individuals and companies in decision-making processes in Kosovo. We invite you to learn more about the winners of the **FIDES "Hasan Prishtina" Awards for 2022**: 1.**Edita Dula** - Winner of the FIDES "Hasan Prishtina" Award for Individual Philanthropic Contribution 2.**Fatime Imeri Berisha** - Winner of the FIDES "Hasan Prishtina" Award for Contributions from the Diaspora 3.**Dukagjini Bookstore, represented by Arba Lluka** - Winner of the FIDES "Hasan Prishtina" Award for Corporate Philanthropic Contribution 4.**Eco Solution Research, represented by Alberina Gashi** - Winner of the FIDES "Hasan Prishtina" Award for Contributions to Scientific Achievement and Innovation





We were in Montenegro together with our partners from EYSET.

We were in Montenegro at the Design Thinking Lab of the #EYSET project. We met with our partners from Partners Albania for Change and Development, Cabildo de Gran Canaria, Diesis Network, Controvento Società Cooperativa Sociale, ADP-Zid, and the Forum for Civic Initiatives, as well as over 20 young employees and representatives from youth organizations supporting the social inclusion and employment of young people with and without #disabilities.

Through the #DesignThinking methodology, we were creating more inclusive and accessible support tools to improve youth employment, particularly in the tourism sector.

Soon, we will develop the project's #toolkit, which will summarize the competencies, skills, and methodologies developed during the workshop.





FIQ contributes to a more democratic society.

We have launched our next collaboration as a partner with the organization CEDE - Center for Education and Development of Environment, in relation to the project "Improving the living conditions of asylum seekers in Kosovo." Our project aims to enhance coexistence and integration between asylum seekers and the local community in Magure.



We held a meeting with the residents of the village of Magure and asylum seekers at the asylum center in this location, where we presented our project to them and received extremely valuable feedback regarding their concerns and needs as communities. In the coming months, we will continue to implement our project with dedication, according to our plans.



The EYSET Project and the successes of FIQ

🚀 Successful Training for Youth in Business and Tourism! 🌍🌸 #EYSET22

We organized an excellent training for young people in collaboration with six European countries: Belgium, Spain, Italy, Montenegro, Albania, and with the participation of our organization FIQ from Kosovo.



The project “Promoting Interethnic Dialogue and Social Cohesion: Empowering Women, Minorities, and Youth for Reconciliation in Kosovo”

In 2023, FIQ began implementing the project "Promoting Interethnic Dialogue and Social Cohesion: Empowering Women, Minorities, and Youth for Reconciliation in Kosovo". As part of this project, we organized a series of trainings and roundtable discussions. One of the key activities was the **Training on Transitional Justice and Interethnic Dialogue in the Pristina Region**.

Held in the city of Pristina, the training aimed to deepen participants' understanding of transitional justice and interethnic dialogue. The focus was on **Transitional Justice**, exploring the challenges and successes of its implementation within the specific context of Kosovo. The training also addressed **interethnic dialogue**, emphasizing its importance for building social cohesion and overcoming the various challenges in our society.

The training also made a distinction between **dialogue** and **debate**, discussing the characteristics and significance of dialogue compared to debate for resolving disagreements. These were two of the first activities carried out in 2023, with additional activities continuing into 2024.









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