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Democracy for Development
Demokraci për zhvillim
Demokratija za razvoj

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The beginning of 2021 has continued with the challenge of the previous year, the one that all the world was facing, the outbreak of Covid 19. Despite this challenge, D4D with its fully dedication has managed to implement all activities from existing projects but at the same time to establish new linkages with donors and start new projects, where is worthy of mention the continuation of cooperation for three more years with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prishtina.

D4D during the year 2021 was managing the implementation of twelve (12) projects. Besides the regular projects, D4D has continued to offer its expertise and organize activities which contribute to the improvement and strengthen of democratic culture in Kosovo. D4D with its team have been engaged for the election observation during the national elections in February 2021 and local elections (two rounds) in October 2021. D4D has also continued with the internship program where young people who become part of this program, besides learning about the role of civil society and its work, they have the opportunity to be trained and gain new skills from the D4D staff.

Taking into account the difficulties occurred from COVID 19, it can be said that the year 2021 has been successful and the management has achieved objectives and also maintain the continuity of the D4D's work for which is known to the institutions and public for eleven (11) years. D4D is grateful to the donors for continuous support and their trust, to its partners for the professional cooperation, and to its participants for the dedication and commitment in our activities.

POLICY ANALYSIS & RESEARCH

The Policy Research & Analysis program is designed to examine and evaluate diverse policy options with the aim of maximizing social wellbeing through better policymaking. D4D is recognized as a credible and reliable think-tank for its internal capacities in policy analysis and research. We aim to develop policy proposals that are directly applicable, authentic and inclusive of the public interest. To achieve this, D4D engages with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including central and local level institutions and civil society.

Track 2 to Europeanization: A Partnership Approach

The purpose of this project was to create linkages with EU partner organizations in the field of labor mobility and foreign policy, focusing on three levels: 1) Stir evidence-based EU Debates on labor mobility in a non-formal level with counterparts in Germany, and Greece, and focus on the common thematic issue of foreign policy with fellow think-tanks in Netherlands.; 2) Organize formal talks, debates, meetings with EU Policy and Foreign Affairs actors of targeted countries that are involved in EU policy making processes in relation to labor mobility and foreign policy; 3) Bring EU debates on labor mobility and foreign policy back to Kosovo to enrich the discussion and move it beyond the EU accession/association dimension.

D4D has managed to bring the project on track by building linkages with three European think-tanks, Clingendael Institute in the Netherlands, A Path for Europe in Germany, and Democratization Policy Council in Germany. Most importantly, D4D has increased its internal research capacities and has expanded its European network of think tanks and people. On reaching out with the media and public, D4D has partnered up with prominent TV channels, radio stations, and news outlets. During project implementation has been achieved to organize 8 (eight) Tuesday Salons with eight editorials, Publication of the [Labor Mobility: A bottom-up approach](#), Publication of the [EU Roadmap](#), eight (8) Infographics, and two conferences.

Donor: **Open Society Foundations (OSIF)**

Promoting digital services in the local level

D4D through this project will aim to increase cooperation between local level institutions, local organizations, and citizens in targeted municipalities and highlight the need for digitalization through meetings with institutions, Tuesday Salons, editorials, infographics, and produce a policy brief. The main objective was advocating on improving services in municipalities from physical to digital ones.

D4D has been focused on bringing tangible and impactful results towards the digital agenda at the local level. Through the policy paper D4D institute will push forward the strategy of Modernization of Public Administration with the propose of providing in order to improve services in public administration through digitalization. This was made

by meetings with relevant institutions and stakeholders in the targeted municipalities such as represents from assembly members, municipal officials, director of the public administration etc. D4D Has organized Tuesday Salons in respective municipalities, Omnibus questions, in person meetings for the research paper. To assess the experiences of citizens in receiving digital services at the local level and identify their needs, D4D has analyzed three municipalities in Kosovo, which are the municipalities of Podujeva, Lipjan and Drenas. Initially, public opinion was measured for satisfaction with the digital services provided in the municipalities, and here is the link to the paper: [Provision of digital services at the local level in Kosovo: Municipality of Podujeva, Lipjan and Drenas.](#)

Donor: **Increasing Civic Engagement in the Digital Agenda (ICEDA)**

ELECTIONS & POLITICAL PARTIES

The Elections & Political Parties program is dedicated to enhancing democratic processes through free and fair elections as well as democratization of political parties. D4D collaborates with key election stakeholders and is involved in a range of election related activities, from voter education and election observation, to voting trends, electoral justice, advocacy and electoral reform and improvement of the voter lists. To support the democratization of political parties, D4D has mapped the party ideologies and employs advocacy as a tool to improve legislation related to political party transparency and accountability, equal gender representation in election management bodies and youth involvement in decision-making.

Ensuring fair and inclusive Parliamentary Elections

D4D's aim with this project was to advance the credibility and integrity of elections in Kosovo, ensuring women's representation in the election processes, and motivating citizens to participate in the election process. For this purpose, D4D Institute has implemented a set of activities to promote free and fair elections, safeguard democratic standards and principles, and call for respect of COVID-19 guidelines.

D4D has supported the Central Election Commission and other relevant institutions in liaising with the relevant health authorities to design precautionary measures to ensure a safe election and voting process during the upcoming 2021 parliamentary elections.

[The Cost of inequality: Funding for election campaigns of women](#)

[candidates](#) – through this paper aims to understand the correlation between political party funding and women's political participation, based on the premise that campaign financing has a direct impact on women's electability for legislative seats. Law on Elections and Law on Political Parties do not require political parties to publish their sources of funding and donations for electoral campaigns. In such circumstances, it is almost impossible to understand the distribution of political parties funding finances for women candidates.

Second paper that has been published throughout the project implementation was related to elections during pandemic time: [Elections in the time of pandemic: Management versus Consequences](#)

Donor: **British Embassy in Prishtina**

Toxic discourse in social media

D4D has engaged throughout this project different actors such as candidates/political parties, social media platforms, civil society organizations and media on developing the Code of Conduct for the 2021 Local Elections, which will be model also for upcoming elections. The idea is to have more honest and fair election process, transparency throughout the election cycle, accountability for actions, statements, products and campaign initiatives on social media, where all individuals are respected and have basic rights, such as right to privacy, freedom of opinion, and access to information without barriers. And last but not least that all of the content production will be child-friendly, guarantees women's rights, and that there will not be any discriminatory or online violence, and is inclusive to all marginalized groups. During project implementation D4D has managed to gather political parties, media, CEC representatives and CSO to sign a

[Declaration of Good conduct on social media](#). By signing these declarations, these stakeholders undertook commitments relevant to combatting hate speech, fake news, disinformation, slanderous language and other content that could negatively affect the election environment. D4D established a monitoring mechanism composed of 10 trained students of journalism (in cooperation with AAB University) who were responsible for monitoring the commitments undertaken by the political parties, candidates, media and NGOs. The monitors were representative and inclusive of all ethnic communities in Kosovo, and were assigned to monitor specific regions and political parties and candidates. The main findings has been shared with all relevant stakeholders during launching event of the research paper: [Monitoring of the declaration for good conduct in social media during 2021 Local Elections](#)

Donor: **Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD)**

Youth representation with political integrity

Youth representation with political integrity project aims to scale-up the efforts of a previous NED project to enhance the political representation of youth, with a particular focus on young people who will take part for first-time in local election, as candidates and as voters, scheduled for 2021. This will be achieved through encouraging youth

to enter and remain in politics with high integrity through capacity development on political integrity and misinformation and disinformation risks, and increased exchange with elected Members of Parliament to motivate youth to become politically engaged.

D4D has managed to train young people and prepare them for local elections for

the positions of youth councilors, has organized regional visits with young people of political parties and advocated for the membership of youth forums in regional youth networks that deal with politics, and above all, has achieved to

put all youth of political forums to work together in implementation of the small projects for solving different issues in their community.

Donor: **National Endowment for Democracy (NED)**

GOVERNANCE & PUBLIC INTEREST

The Good Governance & Public Interest program focuses on bridging the gap between public institutions and constituents via the promotion of principles of good governance, such as institutional transparency and public accountability. D4D has experience in facilitating this process through which it seeks to foster responsiveness of local and central government to the needs and concerns of citizens. Furthermore, D4D works to encourage public institutions to improve their governance standards, and create space for public discussion and citizen involvement in holding these institutions accountable. Within the public interest realm, D4D strives to raise awareness of the importance of a wider public participation in decision-making, through advocacy and voicing of the concerns of marginalized groups.

Combating Misinformation and Restoring Citizens Trust to Media

This project aims to scale-up the effort of the NDI Kosovo initiative in raising awareness about information disorders, bring this issue to public discourse, and engage relevant stakeholders in understanding and combating information disorders.

With the tools and expertise acquired from NDI Kosovo, D4D will collect data from media outlets and produce weekly/monthly visualized reports. These reports will be used to raise awareness about the level of information present in media outlets, through infographics that will be published on D4D's official platforms (web and social media), debates on media (TV and Online), information sessions with citizens, and roundtable discussions with relevant stakeholders.

D4D will accumulate all the data gathered during the project in a final report, which will also include additional content from a citizens' survey about their perception on misinformation /disinformation in Kosovo and recommendations for relevant stakeholders. Two published papers during 2021 monitoring was one related to election and the other one regular monitoring period. Title: [Election Campaign under scrutiny](#). Seeing the large number of news articles with such characteristics and in order to identify them, D4D Institute monitored the official election campaign for the local elections which were held on October 17, 2021, as well as the election campaign period for runoff elections, that took place from 8 to 12 November. The purpose of

this report is to identify news aimed at misinforming citizens and inciting hatred against different individuals or groups, as well as to familiarize the public with the terms of misinformation and news verification. This report also provides recommendations addressed to online media, political entities, journalists and citizens.

[News Portals and Social Media Under Scrutiny](#). In addition to the election campaign, part of this research included the last three months of 2021 (October, November, December) where articles

Donor: **National Democratic Institute (NDI)**

Maternity and Parental Leave

The overall aim of the project is to enhance social justice by contributing to improved quality and intensity of social dialogue and interaction between social partners. D4D has continued the implementation of the Maternity and Parental leave project, the overall where the main aim of the project is to enhance social justice by contributing to improved quality and intensity of social dialogue and interaction between social partners. Specifically, the goal of the project is to increase awareness of the key stakeholders about the benefits of introducing a paid parental leave program into the country's new Labor law and the special law for maternity and parental leave.

While the aim of the project was to advocate for the establishment of the

related to the Special Court, the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue and Covid-19 were analyzed. The purpose of this report is to identify news that have aimed at misinforming citizens as well as inciting hatred for different individuals or groups, as well as familiarizing the public with the terms misinformation and verification of news. This report also contains recommendations which are addressed to online media, political entities, journalists and citizens.

Social Security Fund, the government has not made clear if they support this initiative or have a plan to advance the labor rights and parental leave policies through any direct political action. This ambiguous situation reflected in our approach to the labor policies and generally required from us to expand the network of organizations and labor unions to put more public pressure on the decision-making structures to support and protect the labor rights. In such situation, the project focused mostly on general citizens' information and businesses buy-in on the Social Security Fund and the financial coverage of the parental leave, rather than focus on proposing concrete recommendation on the matter to the line ministries.

Donor: **Olof Palme International Center (OPIC)**.

Enhancing women's access to employment

In the effort to increase women participation in the labor market, D4D is implementing the “Enhancing women's access to employment” in partnership with GADC in Albania, financially supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Pristina. Enhancing Women's Access to Employment project aims is to increase participation of women in the labor market through targeted advocacy in fighting gender discrimination, promoting decent jobs and implementing gender-friendly strategies that improve the presence of women in the labor market. The project provides seed funding support to grass-root organizations to build sufficient capacity and engage in a constructive and rewarding process of involving women in the workforce.

D4D within this project has achieved to increase CSOs influence over policy making relevant for the position of women

Donor: **Royal Norwegian Embassy in Pristina.**

Data 4 Women – Addressing COVID-19 impact on women's labor rights

The main goal of the project was to close the data gap on the impact of COVID-19 pandemics on the position of women in the labour market through reliable and up-to-date data, and to increase women's economic sustainability through small grants and trainings in fund-raising for community organizations. In addition, empowering small community-based

at the labor market, and implementation of the decent job agenda principle. It can be measured with the adoption of the Action plan document to increase women's participation rate in the labor market by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

Another output from this project was activity where 20 grassroots have benefited from seed funding (10 in Kosovo and 10 in Albania), This allocation of funds for seed funding for grassroots and women CSOs in implementing community initiatives in the field of enhancing women's stand in the labor market was achieved by a number of organizations, through a numerous activity with direct beneficiaries from the activities implemented.

organizations by awarding small grants for women's economic empowerment and providing online trainings on fund-raising from various donors will ensure stability for these organizations and greater networking for access to information and advocacy for women's access to the labour market and the impact of COVID-19 in this regard.

Given that the main purpose of the project was support for women affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in the labour market, through this project we have helped 9 women-led businesses, thus creating stability and growth promotion through small grants. In addition to grants, we have also provided training on social media management and business promotion, where the result of training and meetings has made them promote their businesses much more.

The achievement of the project is also highlighting the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on women's businesses, through the indicator platform, meetings with stakeholders, Tuesday

salon, omnibus questions with 2,130 respondents, infographics, animation end job shadow day.

Due to measures by the Kosovo government as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the Kosovo Agency of Statistics did not come out with the data of labor market reports, based on the calendar that they usually follow. They published only the overall report for the labour market for the year 2020, where through this data we have updated the data on the indicator platform. There was also limited official data regarding the countries of the region.

Donor: **The Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD)**

Advocacy as a catalyst for public administration reform

The aim of this project was to influence the reform of public administration in the Municipality of

Mitrovica, to increase financial transparency and to have a more active involvement of citizens in public hearings.

Through this project D4D has managed to increase the impact on citizens for the importance of participation in public hearings, based on meetings with them and the large number of distributions of awareness videos on the importance of participation in public hearings.

Also the findings of the paper published by D4D and the recommendations

of this paper are welcomed by the party which lead the Municipality of Mitrovica for the next four years, where they have expressed their interest and willingness to improve the state of public administration and to work towards a genuine reform, although this is a bit limited given that a comprehensive reform should be initiated by the central level and is not very much the competence of the municipalities.

Despite the situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, all the activities foreseen in the project proposal were held as planned. Also another challenge was the local elections that were held during this year, this influenced the publication of

the paper a little later than it was planned but still did not have a negative impact, as it was within the project implementation deadline, and it was added value that at the launch of the paper we had in the panel the deputy chairman of the political party which won the elections in the municipality of Mitrovica.

Donor: **GLPS**

DIALOGUE & REGIONAL COOPERATION

The Dialogue & Regional Cooperation program focuses on promoting dialogue as a means to enhancing communication among communities and improving inter-ethnic and regional relations. The focal point of our work is searching for ways to improve dialogue between Albanian and Serbian communities in Kosovo, overcome political disputes and resolve practical problems that affect the wellbeing of non-majority communities. D4D also contributes to normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia and engages in regional cooperation platforms with a view to creating a fertile ground for good neighborly relations in the region.

Exploring the Regional Implications of the Mini Schengen Zone

The project was implemented with aim to support and accelerate regional cooperation through Mini-Schengen Zone:

1. Provoke local and regional debate to better explain the takeaways of the Mini Schengen Zone; and
2. Provide a detailed explanation on Mini Schengen Zone and its regional implications by cooperating with regional CSO's

D4D has achieved to create a regional network of think-tanks, academia,

Donor: **Kosovo Foundation for Open Society - KFOS**

and experts of the field, from North Macedonia, Serbia, and Albania. This project was used also in raising of the awareness on the mini-Schengen process and regional cooperation in western Balkans. Encouraging local and regional debate to clarify key points of the Mini-Schengen and giving details on the mini-Schengen area and its regional implications. Paper can be found here: Mini-Schengen and Regional Cooperation: It Takes "Six to Tango" in the Western Balkans

Regional Green Youth Charter

As residents of less developed areas with high GHG emissions in the Western Balkans, selected students will get to know more about dangerous effects and economic importance for local communities of power plants that produce high GHG emissions. Throughout this project D4D will contribute in the process of establishing a regional green youth charter which will serve as a main tool for advocating for more active and ambitious approach to fighting the sources and effects of climate change in WB region and spread the successful solutions directed towards fair transition to renewable energy production and consumption to the wider audience and its implementation in other areas in the Western Balkans.

This project aimed to contribute to

regional cooperation, and strengthen regional cohesion in the WB6 region with particular focus on:

- empowering students from less developed areas with high GHG emissions in the Western Balkans to take a more active role in their local communities towards fair transition to renewable energy production;
- advocating for more ambitious agenda on reduction of GHG emissions and fair transition to renewable energy production among WB policy makers;
- raise awareness among youth in the Westerns Balkans on importance and necessity of transition to renewable energy production and examples of good practice.

Donor: **Western Balkans Fund**

TUESDAY SALON'S

Tuesday Salons contribute to building consensus on a variety of social, strategic, and political issues among both decision makers and the general audience.

D4D has continue organizing its niche activity, Tuesday Salons where most of them were organized under Chatham House Rule which allows people to speak as individuals, and to express views that may not be those of their organizations, and therefore it encourages free discussion. Due to the restriction by the pandemic situation several Tuesday salons, were organized

as open discussion for the public through the online coverage from the social media. During 2021, D4D has organized a total of 15 salons on various topics and financially supported by donors such as Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (Kosovo), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Pristina, Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS), and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS).

