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Democracy for Development
Demokraci për zhvillim
Demokratija za razvoj

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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THE DEMOCRACY FOR DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

The Democracy for Development (D4D) Institute was established in April 2010 by a group of analysts who increasingly worried that the state-building exercise had neglected democracy. D4D seeks to contribute to Kosovo's state consolidation through a set of institutional programs that promote democracy as the ultimate principle and practice.

D4D's vision is to promote an active and educated citizenry that participates fully in the public space and utilizes the public arena of representation and decision-making to deliberate and build consensus over resource allocation that is efficient, smart, long-term, and that brings about equitable development. To make headway, D4D first offers its research findings to interested stakeholders, which is followed by a paper with recommendations, wider national dialogue, and advocacy with authorities, and pressure through the media.

Changes for the future path

The main program pillars of D4D were:

- ▶ Policy Analysis & Research
- ▶ Elections and Political Parties
- ▶ Governance & Public Interest
- ▶ Dialogue & Regional Cooperation

During 2023 D4D has gone through the review of its Strategy 4 Development 2023-2027.

Based on the results and achievements of D4D as an organization, in the last 5 years, the new approach toward the newly introduced pillars and fields of operation derives from a thorough analysis conducted. From 2019 to 2023, D4D has carried out approximately thirty (30) Research and Policy Briefs and has realized more than 100 roundtable discussions with local organizations and grassroots community organizations. In the framework of our direct discussions with citizens, D4D has realized 116 salon discussions throughout Kosovo, counting nearly 2000 participants. While connecting the citizens with decision-makers, D4D has also achieved to extract the expressed needs of citizens, which has allowed us to update our approach. In this framework, D4D has realized 50 trainings on different aspects with approximately 1300 participants, which aimed to raise awareness, and increase the capacity of citizens and targeted groups. More than 200 women in both civil society organizations (CSOs) and business has been trained and increased their

capacities. Empowering women in these fields has a significant positive impact on communities where they operate. Also, the grant-giving component to support women-owned businesses and CSOs with 20 grants, has been crucial for their growth in the community. Throughout this period, based on organizational internal assessments and operational plan revision, D4D has evaluated that new challenges are preoccupying society, such as information disorder and green agenda, which became issues that directly interfere with and impact the lives of citizens.

Thus, a results-based approach to all aspects of D4D is presented starting with Administration and outreach, followed by the Cross-Cutting Agenda and the new thematic organization around two pillars:

- ▶ **Participation & Governance (Elections, Political Parties & Regional Cooperation)**
- ▶ **Public Interest, Gender Equality & New Challenges**

Achievements in the last five years through numbers



30

Research & Policy briefs



100

Roundtable discussions



50

Training sessions



116

Salon discussions

1300

Participants

2000

Participants

200

Women working in CSOs and private sector empowered through training



20

Grants for women led CSOs and businesses

POLICY ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

INSTITUTIONAL GRANT

Donor	Smart Balkans
Period of implementation	January 2023 – December 2024
Budget	70,000.00 €

This institutional grant is designed to enhance the organization's ability to adapt to external changes and streamline the creation of essential documents. With this grant D4D will produce activities and papers which will help.

In the year 2023, Democracy for Development (D4D) demonstrated its commitment to progress by not only drafting the 2023-2027 strategy but also formulating a comprehensive communication strategy tailored to the organization's requirements. Its significant involvement in shaping labor law, election law, and fostering increased citizen participation in public discourse solidified its position as a crucial player in these domains.

Main achievements

Strategy 4 Development

The newly introduced Strategy Plan for D4D unfolds systematically, commencing with a Methodology, followed by the articulation of Vision and Approach. The contextual analysis, a critical component, provides a shared understanding of the framework that delineates the challenges D4D aims to address.

Father of the year 2023

Through this grant it was possible for us to continue to promote shared parental leave through an advocacy activity for the 8th time in a row. This year, like every other year, the annual “Father of the Year” awards ceremony, in which three fathers were awarded. The stories of the selected fathers, and many of those nominated for this award, are indicators that parents in Kosovo need such policies that enable them to have a better balance between private life and work, and achieve equality within the family.

Underrated economy “Women have no time to change the nation: they are busy with housework”

D4D has accomplished the research, analysis, and publication of an important research paper, facilitated by the institutional grant we successfully secured. This grant allowed us to undergo a professional peer review conducted by an expert. The impact of this paper on society is evident through its valuable recommendations for policymakers, providing insights into effective strategies to mobilize women in the labor market.

Translation of Trust - Perceptions on Representation in Kosovo 2012-2023

D4D engages to make politics more rational and less emotional and more about policy and less about individual charisma. So to continue our work from 2011, through 2023 D4D has worked intensely on analyzing behavior of voters since the last elections. For this purpose, has being purchased question through omnibus format during June and has a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of $\pm 3\%$, with 1065 respondents in all Kosovo including data separated for gender, urban and rural, income, education.

Challenges and way forward

D4D through the institutional grant will focus more on its main pillar of research and recommendations for decision makers.

MADE IN KOSOVO CORNERS (MIK)

Donor	USAID Compete
Period of implementation	October 2023 – May 2024
Budget	100,000.00 \$

In this project D4D in cooperation with Skins Agency had the main aim to recognize the challenge of promoting economic sectors within Kosovo's Diplomatic Missions (Embassies). Even the project had several activities, D4D was the leading organization for the implementation and the main activity on which was focused was to gather the information from the representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chambers of Commerce in Kosovo and other relevant stakeholders which will give better understanding of the specific challenges and opportunities faced by the appropriate stakeholders, as well as identifying the key priorities for the MIK corners and will allow us to understand which of the companies from the export-oriented sectors will be chosen to be presented at the MIK corners.

Main achievements

- ▶ Producing brand new approach for Kosovo's PR Strategy

Challenges and way forward

- ▶ The main challenges during the implementation has been occurred the cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign affairs, whom are really busy any any times impossible to review and approve proposed documents.

RESILIENCY PLUS

Donor	Inspires subgrant program
Period of implementation	March – August 2023
Budget	10,000.00 \$

Through this grant, D4D has improved its entrepreneurial mindset and outreach communications by hosting focus groups with staff, board and stakeholders of D4D, to analyze the strategy of the organization regarding new fundraising opportunities for D4D and communications and outreach through hired experts, whom has provided experimental and innovative approaches on the concerning situations, especially on communication strategy for D4D.

Main achievements

- ▶ Working groups to discuss the new strategy and the early draft as organization to be more resilient to the changes.

Challenges and way forward

- ▶ Implementing the new Outreach strategy, which helps the organization to be more present in new approach in social media accounts.

ELECTIONS AND 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.

EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND BUILDING PUBLIC TRUST ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Donor	National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
Period of implementation	May 2022 – April 2024
Budget	101,000.00 \$

The general objective of this project is that young people elected to municipal assemblies will be equipped with sufficient knowledge and skills to represent responsibly the interest of citizens. Throughout this project D4D will aim to raise awareness of local young assembly members to fight corrupt practices in public procurement at the local level and increase accountability of young local representatives toward citizens.

Through this project, D4D will offer members of municipal assemblies aged under 35, the opportunity to have good performance while exercising their mandate, and better represent the interests of their local community with a particular focus on youth issues. Selected municipalities for implementation of this project are Prishtina, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Ferizaj, and Prizren, which are the seven main municipalities in Kosovo.

Main achievements

- ▶ Public procurement informal group

Challenges and way forward

- ▶ Upcoming local elections in 2025

GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC INTEREST

INSTITUTIONAL GRANT

Donor	Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF)
Period of implementation	January 2022 – December 2023
Budget	77,600.00 €

This project is divided into two different components. One of the components is focused on Good Governance Principles towards first-time local assembly councilors while the other component is focused on tackling hate speech towards women, LGBTI+ community, persons with disabilities and minorities.

The first component aims to better inform first-time councilors on the principles of good governance, and activate them more in the society. For this purpose, D4D presented the Good Governance platform, which could ease their work to get all information they need for the assembly meetings.

The second component aims to tackle hate speech. The main target groups are the journalists and editors, where the main aim is to enhance their skills throughout the training. D4D has also monitored social media through two different platforms and published a report per year.

Main achievements



Challenges and way forward

It was an institutional grant, now only monitoring on a volunteer basis of councilors work and performance will still continue. During this project there were not any challenges that put the project on difficulties.

Annual reports: Tackling racist and sexist hate speech



Agora discussions



Informative sessions on good governance



Training sessions



Paper launch event



COMBATING MISINFORMATION AND RESTORING CITIZENS TRUST TO MEDIA

Donor	National Democratic Institute (NDI)
Period of implementation	July 2023 – June 2024
Budget	40,000.00 \$

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.

NDI Kosovo employed two software tools (Mediatoolkit and Crowdtangle), which greatly enhanced the process of media article review and data collection. 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.

Main achievements



6 Published reports

The main findings from Democracy for Development (D4D) and Picasa's report on Gendered Disinformation in Kosovo, were presented in DISICON's 6th edition.

- <https://d4d-ks.org/en/activities/online-and-social-media-monitoring-of-the-september-december-period/>



2 Conferences

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZInEPRdHWx0>
- <https://kallxo.com/lajm/d4d-mediat-kosovare-perkthejne-lajme-nga-serbia-pa-i-verifikuar/>



3 Infographics

- <https://d4d-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/December-1.pdf>
- <https://d4d-ks.org/infografikat/pezullimi-i-vizave/>



24 Media appearances

Challenges and way forward

Increase of hate speech during potential national elections as well as the disinformation related to the developments in the North of Kosovo. Working on informing and educating people about these issues through publishing reports and spreading the awareness and reports through the media.

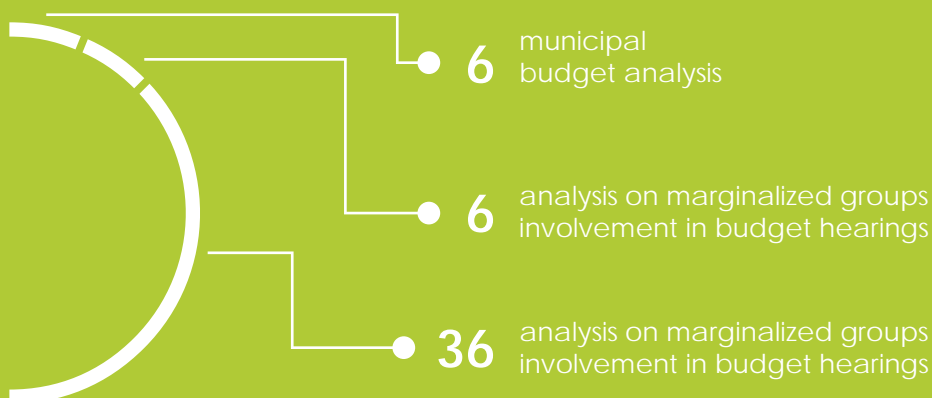
IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASED CITIZENS' SATISFACTION

Donor	Helvetas /Demos programme
Period of implementation	October 2023 – February 2024
Budget	21,600.00 €

Synergize with CSOs to hold municipalities accountable to prepare and monitor the budgetary hearing processes by analyzing municipal budgets and presenting them to citizens in a user-friendly manner with the aim to facilitate better citizen participation in budget hearings.

Moreover, as a continuation of achieving the above mentioned objective, DEMOS in partnership with D4D aims to contribute to the "Increasing citizens' information about municipal budgets" within a period of seven months, which aims to better inform citizens about the budgets of targeted municipalities in general and in their localities in particular.

Main achievements



MATERNITY AND PARENTAL LEAVE

Donor	Swedish Institute
Period of implementation	July 2024– December 2024
Budget	22,179.33 €

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.

Main achievements

- ▶ Contributing in the discussions for shared parental leave
- ▶ Father of the year Award Ceremony

ENHANCING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

Donor	Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prishtina
Period of implementation	December 2021 – May 2024
Budget	233,503.00 €

In the effort to increase women participation in the labor market, D4D is implementing the "Enhancing women's access to employment" 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, raising awareness among women from rural areas on their employment rights, increasing capacities and motivation to be active part of 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.

Main achievements

(2) Two round of comments sent to Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers on Employment Policy Strategic Document 2022-2024

20+ Meetings held with respective institutional representatives on the National Strategy for Employment and Labor market as part of institutional advocacy

(1) Policy Brief on National Strategy for Employment

(1) Conference held on National Strategy for Employment and women in the labor market:

(2) Two (2 day) Training sessions for CSOs working on economic empowerment of women and businesses:

(10) Ten small grants awarded to grassroots organizations that work on the economic empowerment of women:

(1) One Practical Guide for Women Entrepreneurs

5 Interns engaged

(3) Three Training on Networking skills for women in local organizations and small businesses

(1) Information Brochure on Social Dialogue and Decent Work Agenda

(1) One Training on Social Dialogue and Decent Work Agenda

Regular meetings with Women MPs and Stakeholders (institutional and non-governmental)

(2) two Regional Conferences held and Researches Published as a cooperation of 5 regional partners on women in the regional labour market

(2) Regional Committee Conferences on the state of women's position in the regional labor market

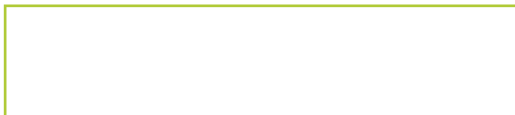
(6) six infographics developed

(5) Five Tuesday Salon Discussions Held

(5) Five Editorials Published

(9) Nine TV Shows, Media and Debate appearances

(4) Four Media Articles Published:



Challenges and way forward

The main challenges faced in this project is the connected with the nature of the problem that it entails. The issue of women's economic empowerment in Kosovo continues to meet very low interest for intersectional solution by both society and the institutions.

As D4D during this project has identified a number of issues that hinder women's participation in the labor market, the frequent change of governments, lack of continuity and lack of a common strategy, in addition to lack of actions undertaken in both laws and policy implementations represent the main challenges for women and their economic empowerment and equal participation of women in the labor market.

The rights of women are fundamental human rights, indivisible from other rights, and working rights are the right to realizing subsistence and development, also part of fundamental and indivisible international human rights. Moreover, women's rights are one of the main pillars of democracy and a precondition for development. Therefore, the only way forward is persistency and consistency in institutional advocacy and increased awareness among women and the society about the importance of women's equality in the society.

IDENTIFYING AND EXPOSING CORRUPTION: CHALLENGES IN KOSOVO'S PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Donor	National Democratic Institute (NDI)
Period of implementation	January 2022 – December 2023
Budget	22,165.00 \$

This project is being implemented through a coalition of organizations where D4D is the lead. Through this project D4D is aiming to identify and expose corruption related to the Healthcare Insurance Fund, focused on the Program for Medical Treatment Outside of Public Healthcare Institutions. Through analysis and research the goal of this project is to strengthen the legal basis for medical treatment outside of public institutions and increase efficiency through good management.

Through this project we aim to advocate for revision and strengthening of the legal basis for medical treatment outside of public institutions, also to identify and expose corruption within this program and to increase efficiency.

COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION, HATE SPEECH AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Donor	European Union Office in Kosovo through ATRC
Period of implementation	January 2022 – December 2023
Budget	19,322.50 \$

D4D as partner of the project together with ATRC (leading organization) and Internews Kosova, aim together throughout this project and foreseen activities to increase institutional transparency and accountability and enhance citizen's awareness and mobilization to counter discrimination, hate-speech and gender based violence. During the project D4D will be responsible in organizing ten (10) Tuesday' Salons and one (1) training with youth representatives from the youth forums of political parties.

Main achievements

- ▶ 10 (Tuesday salon discussions)

ACTIVE YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Donor	Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sport
Period of implementation	January 2022 – December 2023
Budget	5,870.00 €

Engaging young people for advocacy at relevant institutions through discussion in salons and editorials, preparing them for the labor market through networking with business representatives, participation in training and the opportunity for practical work, promoting the youth workforce through promotional video and recommendation work.

DIALOGUE AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

ENHANCING SECURITY THROUGH ENERGY ALLIANCE - A JOINT ACTION

Donor	Western Balkan Fund (WBF) and co-funded by European Union
Period of implementation	June 2022 – September 2023
Budget	5,870.00 €

The Energy Security Alliance intended to establish an interactive platform for information, discussions, analysis, academic research, expertise, training, policy recommendations, advocacy and networking on all aspects of energy security in Kosovo and in collaboration with the Albanian Institute for International Studies (AIIS) - Albania and European Policy Institute (EPI) -North Macedonia.

The Energy Security Alliance main aim was to support and promote contemporary energy security policies based on new energy sources such as renewable and green energy. The policy forum will merely focus on Kosovo's developments in energy security, with concrete recommendations to be prepared for decision-makers and the respective executive agencies.

TUESDAY SALON'S

Donor

Different

Tuesday Salons of D4D are organized under Chatham House Rule. This rule allows people to speak as individuals, and to express views that may not be those of their organizations, and therefore it encourages free discussion. During 2023, D4D has organized a total of 21 salons which gathered around 400 participants.

Main achievements

- ▶ 21 Salons
- ▶ 19 Editorials
- ▶ 10 Livestreams on Facebook with around 49k views

Editorial Link:

- ▶ <https://d4d-ks.org/editorial/lufta-kunder-dezinformimit-lufte-e-te-gjitheve/>

Web Link:

- ▶ <https://d4d-ks.org/sallonet/fuqizimi-i-komuniteteve-rendesia-e-ndergjegjesimit-per-vaksinimin-kunder-hpv-se/>

Livestream Link:

- ▶ <https://www.facebook.com/d4d.ks/videos/656110863054075>

For more information, visit us at:

www.d4d-ks.org



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S c a n m e !

