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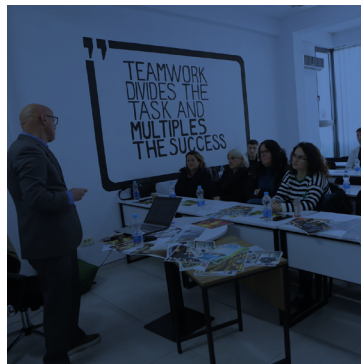
Democracy for Development
Demokraci për zhvillim
Demokratija za razvoj

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Qëllimi i koalicionit

- Koalicioni për Vëzhgimin e Mediveve Online dhe Rrjetëve Sociale synon të adresojë ndikimin e rregullimeve të informacionit në proceset zgjedhore në Kosovë.
- Ky koalicion do të fokusohet në monitorimin dhe analizimin e rregullimeve të informacionit që mund të çojnë integritetin e mjedistit zgjedhor.
- Koalicioni monitorues do të përqendrohet në identifikimin e rrethit të rrezikuar.



DEMOCRACY FOR DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

In 2024, D4D **initiated** the implementation of its new strategic plan, which places a strong emphasis on its two core programs. Given that 2024 was highlighted with considerable challenges for the non-governmental sector—primarily due to a significant shortage of funding. Despite these obstacles, the organization demonstrated resilience and effectively managed its resources, ensuring the continuation of its operations. Over the course of its 14-year journey, D4D has remained stable in its commitment to promoting democratic culture, and this year was no exception, as the organization continued to drive impactful activities supported by its dedicated partners.

Even in the face of above mentioned difficulties, D4D's management executed its new strategy with precision, enabling the organization to swiftly adapt to the anticipated changes. This strategic agility not only allowed D4D to meet its objectives but also proved instrumental in securing new donors and facilitating the launch of new projects. By aligning its efforts with the evolving needs of the sector and proactively addressing the challenges of the year, D4D continued to strengthen its position as a leader in democratic development and social change.

The main program pillars of D4D are:

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

Below is a list of the projects that are implemented throughout the year 2024. These projects represent key initiatives that are either in progress or scheduled for completion within this timeframe. Each project plays a crucial role in achieving our strategic goals and contributing to the overall development and success of our organization or initiative.

PROJECTS

2024

Core Grant

Donor	Period	Amount
Smart Balkans	2023 - 2024	70,000.00 €

The institutional grant has supported the organization in implementing activities of interest, which have helped citizens in the decision-making process. Within the framework of the activities carried out, D4D has consistently worked in the field of research and data analysis, aiming to provide an accurate picture of the real situation within the community. Based on data collected from the field, the organization has offered concrete recommendations to institutions, aiming to address and improve issues of public interest, thus directly influencing the quality of citizens' lives.

At a time when the lack of consensus among social groups has been present in all spheres of life, these discussions have served as important platforms for constructive and genuine debate. Through these, opportunities for advocacy and effective addressing of social challenges have been created, helping to find sustainable solutions.

Main Achievements:

Women in Electoral Processes

The conference “Women in Electoral Processes: Ensuring Inclusive Democracy,” organized by the Democracy for Development Institute (D4D) in cooperation with the Central Election Commission (CEC), took place at a time when political parties were preparing candidate lists for the 2025 parliamentary elections. This conference served as a powerful call for gender equality in representation, institutional stability, and democratic sustainability.

Annual Report 2024

Marking Democracy Day

The Democracy for Development Institute (D4D) organized a roundtable discussion titled “Elections and Technology: Impact on Modern Democracy.” Experts, policymakers, and civil society representatives participated in this event, examining the challenges and opportunities provided by technological innovations, including aspects of security, transparency, and public trust.

Organization Strategy

The evolution of D4D’s approach, supported by a comprehensive analysis of its results and achievements over the past five years, reflects a well-considered response to new challenges. By collaborating with internal teams and external stakeholders, the organization proactively engaged in the development of its strategy. This proactive approach involves forecasting external developments that may impact future trajectories, along with meticulous internal planning involving policies and personnel.

D4D’s success is underscored by the careful crafting of strategies, inclusive consultation with relevant stakeholders, and the integration of valuable feedback. Notably, two distinctive programs have emerged as tangible results: the Participation and Governance Program (including Elections, Political Parties, and Regional Cooperation) and the Public Interest Program (dedicated to Gender Equality and Addressing New Challenges). Through these initiatives, Democracy for Development has not only strengthened its organizational foundations but also positioned itself as a catalyst for positive change, actively contributing to the improvement of democratic processes and social welfare. D4D Started its implementation in 2024.

Father of the Year for 2024

Through this grant, it was possible to continue promoting shared parental leave through an advocacy activity for the eighth consecutive year. This year, as in every other year, the "Father of the Year for 2024" award ceremony took place, where three fathers were honored. The purpose of this award is to send the message that parents should collaborate and share responsibilities and time to care for their children, fostering a stronger emotional bond between

parents and their children, specifically fathers, while also promoting a review of the parental leave model proposed by the government.

Undervalued Economy: “Women Don’t Have Time to Change the Country: They Are Busy with Household Chores”

D4D conducted research, analysis, and the publication of an important research paper, facilitated by the institutional grant we successfully secured. This grant allowed for a professional review by an expert. Although the survey aims to provide insights into what people think and believe about shared work, unpaid work, who should do it, and who is responsible for it in Kosovo, Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia, the survey also presents limitations of this research, as the number of respondents was not evenly distributed by gender, age, education, or other independent variables.

Trust in Politics – Perception of Representation in Kosovo 2012-2023

D4D is committed to making politics more rational and less emotional, focusing more on political issues and less on individual charisma. To continue our work from 2011 until 2023, D4D has intensively analyzed voter behavior since the last elections. After the first draft of the paper, a focus group was held with organizations working on elections, local and international organization representatives, and their comments were included.

Made in Kosovo Corners (MiK)

Donor	Period	Amount
USAID Compete	2023 - 2024	99,080.00 €

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 Achievement:

D4D together with Skins Agency in 2024 has concluded successfully the project. D4D was responsible in identifying key criteria for the brand strategy, conducting thorough research, and providing essential data and insights to Skins Agency, which helped in the creation of a cohesive branding framework. D4D's expertise in data collection and analysis ensured that the strategy was grounded in a deep understanding of Kosovo's unique business environment, market opportunities, and global positioning.

In particular, D4D's research focused on understanding the specific challenges and strengths of Kosovo's business sectors. The collaboration resulted in a strategic direction that aligns with the country's economic goals, while also addressing the needs of international markets and potential investors.

The culmination of these efforts was the launching of the "[Made in Kosovo](#)"¹ platform in April 2024.

¹ <https://made-in-kosova.net/>

Empowerment of youth municipal assembly members and building public trust on local authorities

Donor	Period	Amount
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	2022 - 2024	101,000.00 \$

The general objective of the project was that young people elected to municipal assemblies to be equipped with sufficient knowledge and skills to represent with responsibly the interest of citizens. Throughout this project D4D will aimed 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 offered to 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.

Main Achievement:

Young members of municipal Assembly Academy

During this project, five workshops were held, providing 108 participants (60 male, 48 female) with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills in key areas. These included improving communication abilities, raising public awareness about the work of the local assembly, and utilizing social

media. Additional topics covered included public procurement, budgeting, and gender-responsive budgeting.

Information Session

Five information sessions were organized in this period which have gathered around seventy-four **74 participants (49 M 25 F)**. These sessions had aim to promote the platform “goodgovernance.info”² which was presented and was highlighted as a need in Kosovo to bring local decision-makers closer to the citizens. Considering that in Kosovo there are public officials who have difficulties to understand good governance when performing their daily duties and the standards that must be adhered to during the exercise of their official duties. This platform will help these youngsters in filling the knowledge gap of municipal officials, helping public representatives and citizens, as both parties will constantly be able to verify the proper functioning of procedures and relations in public institutions.

Initiatives taken from the young members of local assemblies

D4D has organized one conference with the young members of municipal assemblies something that was organized in this format for the first time. In this conference young members had to present their work, challenges that they face and what are the initiatives taken in their mandate. In this conference the participants who were part of Academy have taken in total **more than 65 initiatives** where **30** from them have been voted pro.

Ideas for Change

D4D successfully **engaged 30 young individuals** from various political parties through this initiative, fostering collaboration among youth from different political backgrounds. These participants worked together to design and implement local initiatives aimed at addressing the specific needs of their

² <http://goodgovernance.info/eng/>

Annual Report 2024

communities. Over the course of one month, with the guidance and oversight of D4D, a total of six impactful initiatives were carried out across multiple cities in Kosovo. These initiatives tackled a range of issues, from social development to community welfare, and were carefully planned to create meaningful change in the targeted areas.

Infographics

7 infographics were produced from the data gathered from survey conducted with more than 80 young members of municipal assembly for their work in the period of two and a half years.

Fostering Youth Participation in Political Processes

Donor	Period	Amount
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	2024 - 2026	93,000.00 \$

Through this project, D4D will try to foster and increase the involvement of young people in political decision-making and public life, while actively promoting a deeper sense of civic responsibility and engagement among the youth in Kosovo. This initiative aims to empower young individuals within political parties by providing them with the knowledge, skills, and platforms necessary to participate in the political processes that shape their communities and the country.

Encouragement of young people's engagement in local governance can result in an increased understanding and interest among young people in civic and political affairs, fostering active citizenship. Moreover, youth representation in local governments has proven to be an important factor in increasing the youth's trust in local political officials.

In terms of building the capacities of youth running for the first time in local elections, D4D aims to support the first time runners, providing them training, workshops, coaching, and mentorship in shaping and increasing their skills, engagement approaches, representation and knowledge, as well as hubs and platforms where they will be able to engage, build trust in public by proactive communication with previous successful local governors who are an outcome of D4D training, their representation in the social media and e-communication with citizens about their political intentions and activities.

Mapping and understanding information disorders in Kosovo

Donor	Period	Amount
National Democratic Institute (NDI)		

The objective of the project was to monitor and analyze the social and online media environment in Kosovo, focusing on specific categories such as developments in the North, dialogue Kosovo-Serbia, political landscape, online violence against women, hate speech, and foreign influence. The main findings were published quarterly highlighting the dominant narratives in the media. The project also aims to increase citizen's awareness about information disorders by initiating solution-oriented discussions, such as publishing reports, organizing discussions, creating infographics, and organizing breakfast briefings with journalists to discuss disinformation risks in Kosovo.

Main Achievement:

Throughout 2024, a total of **ten reports** were published, accompanied by **three publishing events** designed to showcase the findings. In addition, **three breakfast briefings** were held with journalists, providing a platform for in-depth discussions, and **four editorials** were written to further highlight key topics related to the project.

As a culmination of the project, a comprehensive **final report was released**, summarizing the entire monitoring period and offering detailed insights. This final report was presented during the NDI DisiCon-2024 conference, where the main findings were discussed and analyzed in depth with media representatives and journalism students. The DisiCon event also provided participants with a valuable opportunity to explore the work and impact that D4D has achieved throughout the project, showcasing the organization's contributions to the field.

Promoting digital services in the local level

Donor	Period	Amount
KFOS	2024 - 2025	20,000.00 €

This project has started in September 2024 and is designed to foster greater transparency, inclusivity, and civic participation in municipal processes in Kosovo, while simultaneously advancing the digital transformation of local government services. The initiative will be carried out through three key objectives, each aimed at improving government responsiveness and ensuring that digitalization benefits all segments of society, including marginalized groups.

Objective 1 “Enhance transparency and citizen engagement, inclusion & satisfaction” will include an opinion poll, as needs assessment to conclude that all online services must have feedback rubrics with transparent results. Two focus groups will brainstorm ways to prevent the exclusion of categories at risk. An in-depth assessment in two municipalities will identify municipal resources for faster progress on the way forward towards a Municipal Digital Agenda.

Objective 2 “Societal dialogue for Municipal Digital Agenda to improve services” will mobilize all stakeholders around the same goal to reflect community needs, including digitally-marginalized groups. A dashboard is to reflect the State of Local Digitalization to track and

monitor progress over time and point to areas lagging behind - to serve as a MEL to track measurable progress.

Objective 3 “Awareness and advocacy and promote sustainable innovation” will develop infographics to ensure that digitalization becomes a household topic. Most visible are the annual awards which are to grant recognitions to successful examples of digitalization. Our experience in merit-based recognitions (e.g. father of the year) tells us that committing to annual awards is effective as municipalities will work harder in the coming year seeking to improve their public reputation.

From Energy to Health

Donor	Period	Amount
National Democratic Institute (NDI)	2024 - 2025	40,000.00 \$

The civil society group aims to tackle corruption in the Renewable Energy Market, as well as medical waste and expired medications management in Kosovo. Both of these concerns are linked to environmental protection, a lack of competent management, and corruption. This project aims to improve the legal framework for managing renewable energy and medical waste, while also increasing efficiency through effective management. The objective is to improve the bureaucratic procedures for managing Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and medical waste in Kosovo, identify and address environmental violations and corruption related to obtaining permits, and improve efficiency through legal frameworks and good management. This will reduce the risk of further environmental exploitation and health deterioration due to identified issues.

Main Achievement

The project successfully organized **ten roundtable discussions** across various Kosovo Serb municipalities. In addition, **five research papers** have been drafted as part of the project's ongoing efforts.

Support to the Assembly of Kosovo in Inquiry Committee Proceedings and Legal Drafting

Donor	Period	Amount
Swiss Embassy	2024 - 2025	119,791.00 €

The D4D in the end of 2024 has started a new project supported from the Swiss Embassy in Kosovo and the main aim is dedicated to strengthening the Assembly of Kosovo's productivity, ensuring inclusivity across all segments of society. Central to our mission is the advancement of gender equality and the protection of minority rights within Kosovo's legislative framework.

The project has focus on two main objectives:

Objective 1: Inquiry Committee

To enhance the effectiveness, transparency, and impact of Inquiry Parliamentary Committees within the Assembly of Kosovo through improved legislative frameworks and capacity building.

Objective 2: Legal Drafting and Multilingualism

To ensure legal accuracy and accessibility by increasing the clarity, precision, and high-quality translation of laws into all official languages.

Empowering the Workforce: Advocacy for Decent Employment in Kosovo

Donor	Period	Amount
Swedish Institute	2023 - 2025	78,900.00 SEK

The objective of this project was to advance decent employment in Kosovo through the Coalition for Social Justice and Socio-Economic Rights. The main focus was on influencing government institutions, including the Ministry of Finance and Labor, businesses, the Labor Inspectorate, and trade unions, with the aim of creating positive changes in the labor market. Policy development based on evidence, monitoring labor laws, and the work of the National Socio-Economic Council were the key mechanisms for achieving the project's goals.

To accomplish these aims, the project utilized monitoring mechanisms, collaboration with trade unions, awareness-raising activities, and dialogue with relevant actors within the framework of the tripartite social dialogue. The impact of the project was evaluated through monitoring government policies, implementing recommendations, and measuring employee satisfaction levels in the private sector.

Main Achievement:

Meetings with Stakeholders and the Prime Minister Regarding the Labor Law and Parental Leave

During the project's implementation, D4D consistently emphasized the importance of Joint Parental Leave through various discussions, conferences, and workshops. Between July and September, the organization held meetings with representatives from political parties and organizations to highlight the urgent need to advance the Labor Law in Parliament. In October, as part of the Women's Economic Forum, a meeting was held with the Prime Minister of Kosovo, where the necessity of changes to the Labor Law was stressed. The need for a meeting with the Minister of Finance to discuss these changes was also emphasized.

Discussions on Economic Development and the Elimination of Social Inequalities

The Office of the Prime Minister invited representatives from the Women's Economic Forum (FEG) to discuss opportunities for boosting economic development and eliminating social inequalities that hinder women's and girls' economic independence. One of the main topics discussed was the Labor Law, with a particular focus on provisions for maternity and parental leave. D4D emphasized that changes to this law would not only create more opportunities for women's active participation in the economy but would also increase fathers' involvement in early childhood development.

Advocacy for Changes to the Labor Law and the Inclusion of Women in the Labor Market

In 2024, as a member of the Women's Economic Forum, D4D continued to actively advocate and lobby for necessary changes to the Labor Law, working closely with decision-makers. This effort was carried out through meetings with various actors, including political entities, media appearances, and the creation of infographics that highlighted the active role of women in public

Annual Report 2024

life. Within the activities of the Forum, D4D also moderated a conference where the Deputy Minister of Finance promised that, in the next government mandate, legislation would be proposed to address parental leave, taking into account the contributions of organizations working in this area. (Link to the conference).

Father of the Year 2024 Award

The annual ceremony for the "Father of the Year 2024" award was held as part of the project, where three fathers were honored. The selected stories, along with many other nominated ones, emphasized the need for policies that enable family equality in Kosovo. The purpose of this award is to send a message that parents should collaborate and share responsibilities and time for child care, as well as to encourage a revision of the government's proposed model for parental leave. Such an approach would allow for a more balanced distribution of leave between both parents and ensure paid parental leave to encourage more active involvement from fathers in child care. A positive development this year was the fact that nominations and awards were extended to all seven regions of Kosovo, including smaller municipalities. This expansion demonstrated a positive shift in the acceptance of equal responsibilities in both professional and family life, beyond the concept of joint parental leave.

Critical Thinking for AI generation: Media Literacy for the Public Interest

Donor	Period	Amount
LUX Development	2024 - 2026	100,000.00 €

The goal of the project is to enhance media literacy among kids, parents, and school professionals, as well as build capacity in real-time reporting and fact-checking for local media and the Independent Media Commission (IMC).

This aims to promote media responsibility, openness, and critical involvement to combat disinformation. The goal is to educate youth, families, school professionals, and the public about responsible digital content consumption, implement European fact-checking standards for licensed media outlets through the Independent Media Commission (IMC), and combat gender disinformation. The project has started on December 2024.

Countering discrimination, hate speech and gender-based violence

Donor	Period	Amount
European Union Office in Kosovo	2023 - 2024	19,322.50 €

D4D as partner of the project together with ATRC (leading organization) and Internews Kosova, aimed together throughout this project and implemented 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 Achievement:

In 2024, three remaining Tuesday salons were held, marking the conclusion of the activities implemented by D4D. Through these salons, specific groups focused on the topics of disinformation, hate speech and gender-based violence, have provided an opportunity to engage in discussions on how to prevent these phenomena. These discussions successfully gathered an audience of **over 50 people**.

Citizen participation 4 Better Decision

Donor	Period	Amount
GLPS	2024 - 2025	13,000.00 €

Through this project D4D aimed to increase the activism of citizens, raise awareness and improve the inclusion of citizens in decision-making from the institutional side. D4D aimed to improve the performance of Podujeva and the participation of citizens in the formation and implementation of public policies to increase the response of local public policies in addressing the needs and concerns of citizens, increasing the transparency and accountability of municipality.

Main Achievement:

In the framework of this project D4D has managed to organize successfully 2 Focus Groups, 2 Trainings, 4 Tuesday Salons, and produce 5 Infographics and one Exit Poll (survey). research paper.

With all of these activities D4D has developed a report which serves as a contribution to advancing open local governance and addressing the expectations of the residents of Podujevë/Podujeva for a more responsible and efficient local administration.

Fact-Checking Services for Media Publications on the Justice System in Kosovo

Donor	Period	Amount
BIRN	2024	2,000.00 €

The project aimed to strengthen transparency and trust in the justice system in Kosovo by providing fact-checking services for media publications. The project sought to address issues of misinformation and ensure that information regarding the justice system is accurate and reliable.

The objective of the project was to establish a sustainable mechanism for verifying information related to the justice system, including increasing collaboration between the media, justice institutions, and civil society organizations.

Main Achievement:

Raising Awareness on Justice and Misinformation Issues

The salon activities have contributed to increasing awareness about the importance of information verification and the impact of the media on the justice system.

Empowering Collaboration Between the Media and the Justice System

Discussions in these salons have fostered cooperation between the media and justice institutions, creating a platform for the exchange of ideas and proposals to improve transparency and access to information. This has the potential to result in the development of more effective policies and the strengthening of public trust in the justice system.

Stronger Voices for Better Choices – Youth Hub for Western Balkan and Turkiye

Donor	Period	Amount
EU	2024 – 2027	95,000.00 €

Through this project D4D has become a partner of other states from WB Region and Turkiye which animates young people to become acquainted with the opportunities to get involved in public life, encourage their involvement, whilst motivating the decision-makers to open room to the involvement of young people - these are the main long-term objectives of this Project.

By continuously monitoring the level of youth involvement in decision making, and informing the public about it, the youth organisations that are part of this Project will become a relevant source of information on the position of young people in their countries. Through public advocacy campaigns, this network of organisations will exert influence on decision-makers to create conditions for involving young people in decision making.

Involving other youth organisations in project activities will create a strong regional network of organisations actively advocating changes in youth policies in their countries. aimed to increase the activism of citizens, raise awareness and improve the inclusion of citizens in decision-making from the institutional side.

Tuesday Salon's

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 2024, D4D has organized a total of 15 salons which gathered more than **250 participants**.

