



ADVOCACY TRAINING  
& RESOURCE CENTER

# THE ADVOCATE

Supporting the NGO community

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## Consolidation of Kosovo's New Constitution

### Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo Comes into Force

On June 15 2008 at a solemn ceremony organized by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, the new constitution came into force. Kosovo's leaders and many civil and military representatives of international community in Kosovo attended the ceremony, which started with execution of the Anthem of the Republic of Kosovo.

This is the first official ceremony to be started with execution of the Anthem of the Republic of Kosovo.

Through the consolidation of the Constitution, local institutions are expected to

take responsibilities which until now have been under the administration of the United Nations which is expected to be reorganized in accordance with political developments in Kosovo.

Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC), as part of drafting process of the Constitution, organized 42 public debates with citizens in Kosovo's municipalities in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Constitutional Commission.



For more information, visit: [www.kushtetutakosoves.info](http://www.kushtetutakosoves.info)

## ATRC Celebrates Seventh Anniversary of Its Successful Work

Advocacy Training and Resource Center - ATRC celebrated the seventh anniversary of its successful work and by this the new beginning in support of civil society after Kosovo's independence.

Through this occasion, ATRC in its new offices welcomed representatives of institutions, donors, diplomacy offices, NGO partners of ATRC, etc. ATRC will continue its efforts to contribute in state building where rule of law and regional cooperation dominates, and European integration doesn't remain an aspiration only.

Donors and representatives of different institutions promised that the support towards ATRC will continue in the future as well. Participants that attended this ceremony visited new offices of ATRC.

For more detailed information, contact: [info@advocacy-center.org](mailto:info@advocacy-center.org)

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## Public Debates

### Consultancies and trainings supported by UNDP

United Nations Development Program - UNDP / Roma Regional, as part of the fund of supporting projects of non-governmental organizations for RAE community, in June selected ATRC to conduct training workshops entitled "Leadership and Management" and "Clients Oriented". The training workshops dedicated for officials of the Ministry of Return and Communities, aimed to build capacities about organizational development for officials of this ministry.

ATRC training team was also engaged in offering a series of consultations for nongovernmental organizations of RAE community of Ferizaj and Prizren.

Through the process entitled Learn by doing, ATRC staff completed around 20 project proposals drafted by this community. Services were organized by UNDP / Roma Regional aiming to build capacities of these groups on the field of project proposal design.

It is important to stress that ATRC, supported by UNDP-UNV, held trainings for "Coalition Building" as well for local NGO representatives. For this reason, in June were held five trainings in five regions of Kosovo in: Prishtina, Peja, Prizren, mitrovica and Gjilan. The training workshops were organized to facilitate the process of coalition building for "Volunteering work" and were based on local NGO initiatives and needs in these regions. For more information, contact: [training@advocacy-center.org](mailto:training@advocacy-center.org)

## Forests Are National Wealth, Let's Protect Them

Entitled "Public Awareness about the Protection of Forests", ATRC in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development - Department of Forestry organized in May and June several lectures and debates with villagers and primary school students of the municipalities of Kamenica, Istog and Suhareka.

Interruption and prevention of destroying forests, raising awareness among citizens about their protection and not destruction, were the discussion topics during the lecturers and debates.

The aim of the meetings was to prevent the further damage of forests which are being cut without any criteria.

Hysen Abazi, Director of the Forestry Department, stated that policy for protection of forests is on our interest and forests should be seen as national wealth of today, tomorrow and the future.

He said that forests are vital and strategic wealth for the life of people and as such do not represent only wood wealth, but also water, thousands of species that protect climate, flora and fauna, because forests produce the oxygen we breath every second.

Students and villagers that attended these meetings expressed their interest for forests and concerns towards the damage of forests.

They noted that forests management in Kosovo is not good enough due to the lack of inter-institutional cooperation.

It is time for all institutional mechanisms, including civil society and media to coordinate their activities aiming to save the remained forests as the increased trend of cutting trees by illegal wood transporters risks the whole destruction of forests in Kosovo.

For more information, contact [info@advocacy-center.org](mailto:info@advocacy-center.org)



### Training Program

## Multilevel Social Conflict Resolution Trainings Expand Effectiveness

The increase of knowledge of civic administration and civil society representatives about conflict management was the primary aim of the trainings entitled: "Conflict Management" held by Advocacy Training and Resource Center - ATRC, as part of the "Multilevel Social Conflict Resolution" project. The two-day interactive trainings were focu-

sed on conflict management consisting of different presentations and group discussions, which provided opportunity for participants to share their management experiences.

During the training process, theoretical-practical topics were introduced such as: understanding conflict, conflict working, social

conflicts, changes and democracy, roles, communication and development of international cooperation, etc.

Shyhrete Reçica, a training participant from Lipjan, says: "this is a useful training because during the training process, ....

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## Training Program

### Multilevel Social Conflict Resolution Trainings Expand Effectiveness

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..... particularly during different exercises, we have the opportunity to identify our conflict problems which we encounter on daily basis at our workplace". The training also provided opportunity for participants of different municipalities to network

with their counterparts from other municipalities to exchange ideas, experiences etc.

The project, supported by Olof Palme International Center, has been implemented since January this year and will be implemented in 15 Kosovo municipali-

ties. Representatives of civil society, local government and the community in general are the project beneficiaries. Since then, ten training workshops were held while the project will continue to be implemented until the end of December 2008.

#### International event

### EUCLID - European Meeting of the Third Sector Leaders

Organized by EUCLID Network, in June 2008 in Brussels was held the yearly meeting of 100 leaders of third sector in Europe.



Rreze Duli, ex-director of ATRC, invited by EUCLID NETWORK, evaluated that the aim of this international level meeting was to encourage a better cooperation between European institutions and civil society for a united Europe, by offering network and a better practice among 100 leaders of the third sector and European

Council officials.

According to Duli, the aim of EUCLID NETWORK is to develop, unite and support civil society leaders in Europe, aiming to make this sector a very professional one.

Representatives of the European Parliament and other European institutions were

the panelists, such as: Patrizia Toia, John Bouis, Pat Samuel, Jean-Marc Roirant, etj. Other documents were read as well for the interest of this meeting.

By the end of presentations, participants visited the European Parliament where they met members of the Parliamentary Group for Social Economy of the European Parliament.

For more information, visit <http://www.euclidnetwork.eu>

### ATRC Library Contains Important Collections for Readers

Advocacy Training and Resource Center - ATRC is also dedicated in spreading information through publications, collecting and lending different researches, funds creation and their maintenance, information sources sharing with other institutions of common interest, etj.

Currently, this organization is developing its library, which has around 1000 titles of books, newspapers, magazines, reports, studies, etc. The publications are mainly in English, Albanian, Serbian, German and other languages. This li-

brary contains interesting collections of studies, reports and guidelines for political, economical and social issues in Kosovo published by local and international organizations.

Most of the publications were published after the year 2000. Collection of publications are a result of cooperation with governmental and nongovernmental institutions such as KIPRED, Riinvest, UNDP, Human Rights Center of UP, Humanitarian Right Fund, Council for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms, Kosovo Education

Center, Kosovo Trust Agency, REC, UNICEF, and many other organizations.

ATRC Library will continue its work in the future while offering efficient services to local and international organizations, students of the University of Prishtina, journalists, governmental staff and to every interested citizen.

For more information, contact: [info@advocacy-center.org](mailto:info@advocacy-center.org)