



2012

ANNUAL
REPORT



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About FIQ

Forum for Civic Initiatives is a non-governmental organization focused on philanthropy, sustainable development, as well as security and safety sector. FIQ also supports active citizenship projects and environmental protection through its Grant Program. It was established in 2000 by a small group of people, who saw the need to mobilize the citizens in decision-making processes following the 1998-1999 armed conflict in Kosovo.

Within the context of political and economic changes in Kosovo, and bearing in mind the mission to increase and strengthen the citizens' participation in decision-making, FIQ re-dimensioned its vision by including in its array of activities not only issues related to safety, security and civic participation, but also other programs, such as provision of grants and philanthropy.

“FIQ believes that the philosophy of development policies in a democratic society should reflect the inclusion of citizens in order to meet the needs of Kosovo society for a genuine civic cooperation between citizens and state.”



Letter by the Executive Director

Dear readers, colleagues and friends!

Forum for Civic Initiatives has the satisfaction and honor to invite you to read, through programmed and developed activities in 2012, its vision, working program coherence and synergy that FIQ tries to implement through its cooperation with partners and other national regional and international actors.

While I'm writing down this message, I also need to reflect on the almost daily changes and dynamics faced by the Kosovo society, and consequently, the Forum for Civic Initiatives, as an organization representing the civil society that believes in the inclusion of citizens in policy and decision-making.

While Kosovo as a country with young institutions, but with a consolidated civil society tries to leap on its way towards strengthening, the political elite is in discord by leaving aside from the debates and important discussions true elites, be them apolitical, academic or cultural.

This is one of the key contradictions faced by FIQ in its programs drafted and implemented in 2012. FIQ is resilient and opposes the policies of clans and narrow personal interests that do not represent at all Kosovo civic society.

In 2012 numerous activities have taken place in FIQ aimed at boosting the civic activism in decision-making. Seminars held with the energy development community that FIQ carried out in conjunction with Kosovan consortium KOSID, unfolded the FIQ principles that complied with citizen's concerns on the energy situation in the country.

FIQ campaigns organized in cooperation with SAFERWORLD and Kosovo local partners add up to the value of FIQ efforts against illegal weapon holding and use within the Rule of Law Program.

The FIDES price as a FIQ value is a landmark of its work in promoting philanthropy. Awarding prices for individuals, companies or Diaspora representatives as acknowledgement of their work for communities in Kosovo serves as an incentive for and promotion of the culture of philanthropy and of giving for the sake of common good.

Dear readers, through my short message I would kindly like to invite you to read an extensive description of activities of Forum for Civic Initiatives as an important contributor for the democracy development in Kosovo.

Kindly yours,
Dajana Berisha
Executive Director

Programmatic Structure and Working Methods of FIQ

Philanthropy, Sustainable Development, Rule of Law, and Grant Program comprise the FIQ programmatic structure. While the methods of our work consist in research, analysis, advocacy, development of policies and project management.

Children Working for a Greener Environment, was one of the activities that FIQ carried out in primary schools of larger municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo, where children clad as flowers and trees collected funds for the improvement of their schoolyards.

Programs and Activities

1. PHILANTHROPY



FIQ believes that every citizen can play an important role in the development of society and encouraging others to do so. The impact of our work and of others who strive towards changes in this society, amongst others, can be seen through philanthropy and philanthropic deeds. In this regard, FIQ is working with companies and individuals who would wish to contribute to the society and to share the same values with us. Philanthropy in Kosovo needs to go through a rebirth. In this respect, FIQ is employing a two-pronged approach: (i) awareness raising on the importance of philanthropy and (ii) encouragement of companies and individuals to financially contribute that would in turn bring a sustainable development.



In July 2012, FIQ participated in the Forum for the Philanthropy Development in Western Balkans, organized by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, in Kolasin, Montenegro, whereby ideas from all Western Balkans countries were presented, and three best ones were awarded with an amount of funds needed for the start-up of new “green” businesses.

In November 2012, within its Philanthropy Program, FIQ organized Philanthropy Week in several cities of Kosovo. During these meetings with local businesses discussions were mainly focused in identifying the possibilities of cooperation. This activity will continue in 2013 in other cities and municipalities of Kosovo.

2. RULE OF LAW PROGRAM



FIQ is also continuing the tradition of awarding the FIDES award. This award strives to publicly recognize values and contributions for the common good made by companies, individuals and organized groups for the common benefit.

This solemn ceremony was attended by 300 participants from amongst the diplomatic core, local and international institutions and organizations, representatives of local and Diaspora businesses, as well as civil society and media. This award allows the associations, NGO's and donations beneficiaries in general to publicly express their recognition for the donators. In addition, this price will also enable the beneficiaries to enjoy a wider public support for the project that they so generously supported.

Since its establishment, FIQ has closely worked with security and safety sector, with community safety remaining as its key focus. Except for enjoying strong support by the donor community, it continues to work with partners who have also supported our work for years and their contribution has undoubtedly impacted our joint efforts.

Through this Program, we intend to continue with the strengthening of citizens participation in decision-making and safety improvement for targeted communities. Over 2012, Rule of Law Program has carried out its activities through three projects: (i) Forum for Security, (ii) Safe Place, and (iii) Improved Public Supervision.

In cooperation with its partners, FIQ published several policy analysis; most important being: "Kosovo Police Budget; needs for additional funds and better financial planning" (FIQ and GAP); "Traffic Safety Policies" (FIQ and INDEP) and "Neighborhood Police Officer; community policing and safety, their implementation and impact in the field" (FIQ). All these analysis were followed up with round tables held in 5-7 different municipalities in Kosovo, where their content was discussed and additional recommendations given, that were addressed to relevant institutions, namely those dealing with security and safety issues.



Other activities carried out within the Rule of Law Program are as follows:

Campaign against weapons “Time for Action /Koha për Veprim/”, which, according to information from different municipalities, was successful in decreasing the use of firearms in festivities.

Another campaign undertaken by FIQ in cooperation with the Kosovo Police “Get to Know your Police Officer”, also began in several municipalities of Kosovo, and it will continue in the first months of 2013. Its purpose is to give first hand information to the citizens on the new working methodology of the Kosovo Police and the police officer working in their neighborhood.



FUSHATË KUNDËR ARMËVE TË PALIGJISHME



3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FIQ saw the need to have “green and efficient” ideas more present in the public. We believe that these ideas will bring benefits to the community and will speed up the environmental and economic development in Kosovo.

The role of society is to create independent citizens. In order for the society to move forward, sustainable ideas should be more present.

FIQ would like to assume the responsibility of facilitating, advocating and promoting this development aimed at socio-economic changes for the people and their communities.

FIQ commenced with the implementation of this Program in 2012, initially in the energy sector, as a part of Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development KOSID. We strive to advocate for more transparent processes in Kosovo energy sector.

FIQ, as a part of KOSID, contributed in the civil mobilization and activism, by organizing the most endangered communities from environmental pollution to tackle their problems, hosting seminars, round tables and other important activities.



4. GRANT PROGRAM



The Grant Program is one of the strong foundations of FIQ in supporting its initiatives aimed at increasing civic participation.

In 2012, FIQ provided grants to a certain number of diverse projects in their efforts to address the problems in the country.

Support for the village Council of Smirë contributed to the improvement of community mobilization and community activities, giving incentives to community to be more active in tackling their requirements and needs.

“Animals Friends of Kosovo” has jointly implemented with municipal authorities in several municipalities an animal care project of vaccination and culling of stray dogs, thus avoiding their killing.

This project will serve to implement the best animal protection practices and avoid the danger posed by the stray dogs.

“Merimangat e Pejës” have benefited from the grant for the development of alternative tourism, by marking the tracks leading to five peaks of Rugova Mountains in Pejë and making the printed and digital maps, as well as opening of a web site for the promotion of these peaks and other attractive sites of Rugova.



Initiative for Activism, a new organization from Ferizaj, composed of former school activists, have implemented a project for the support of youth in getting acquainted with legal issues pertaining to the youth, their rights and responsibilities in the society and promoting their activism in public policies.

Womens in Business, is implementing a project in eight municipalities related to the promotion of women position and their participation in municipal budget planning processes, as well as gender equality and economic development.

NGO “Koha” from Klinë is working with 54 villages of Klinë Municipality, and organizing meeting with communities with the aim of strengthening and improving their participation and impact of citizens in identifying their needs, determining the investment priorities and distribution of public funds in line with their realistic requirements.



Association of Kosovo-Izrael Friendship "Dr. Haim Abravanel" through an artistic exhibition held in Budapest (Hungary) presented the nobility and friendship values of Albanian people for the care shown for Jew people during the Second World War.

"Crossing Bridges Production" produced three short video spots tackling the coal environmental pollution, with the aim to raise the awareness on the danger to the public health and impact that coal poses to it, as well as to oppose the governmental energy policies.



Other Activities Carried Out in 2012

Visit to Kosovo by the Friends of Earth and FIQ Visit to the Middle East

Over 2012, amidst its implementing Programs, FIQ undertook several initiatives and activities. The visit of a delegation from the Friends of Earth from the Middle East in August 2012 was one of them. FIQ hosted this visit that was aimed to exchange the experiences with different communities and institutions of Kosovo in learning about the practices of various ethnic communities in sharing jointly owned natural resources and resolution of problems in their exploitation.

In December 2012, FIQ carried out a visit to Middle East, where several meetings in different locations were held with MPs, mayors, environmental activists and community representatives with the aim of learning about their experiences in the resolution of conflicts and disagreements related to the sharing of jointly owned natural resources, education on the protection and use of water resources and environmental protection.

FIQ Participates in DokuFest Jury

In 2012, Mrs. Mexhide Spahija, FIQ Executive Director, was a member of a selection jury for DokuFest documentaries for the category Green Dox as FIQ is a part of Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development – KOSID. DokuFest is an international festival of short film and documentaries, which is the biggest film event in Kosovo. The festival is traditionally held in the beautiful town of Prizren.

FIQ Participates in the Working Group for Amendment of the Administrative Instruction on MCSCs

FIQ Deputy Executive Director, Nazim Haliti, participated in a three-day workshop of the Working Group on the amendment of Administrative Instruction of MIA 08/2009 and MLGA 02/2009 on Municipal Community Safety Councils, held in Albania on 27-29 June. The Working Group was established by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), considering the reports and continuous suggestions of several institutions and organizations, including FIQ, related to non-functioning and non-implementation of the role and mandate of MCSCs in the promotion of community safety.

Forum for Security: “Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in Kosovo – Progress and Challenges”

In March 2012, at the round table hosted by the Forum for Security, with the topic Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in Kosovo – Progress and Challenges, a research with the same title was presented.

The purpose of this research was to promote the impact of policymaking and decision-making in strengthening the control of small arms and light weapons in Kosovo. Research “Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons” analyses and assesses the progress made in drafting the legal framework for SALW control, paying special emphasis to the laws, strategies and policies, institutional capacity building, as well as putting the mechanisms in place for an effective control of SALW, implementation of laws and strategies and sentencing policy for illegal SALW holding.



Round Table “Emergency Situations in Kosovo – Civic mobilization and Institutional Capacities”

Following the huge snowfall at the beginning of 2012, Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ), supported by the Saferworld, London, hosted a round table on the topic “Emergency Situations in Kosovo – Civic Mobilization and Institutional Capacities”.

At this event, it was mainly discussed on what should be considered and emergency situation, steps to be undertaken by relevant institutions in emergency situations in line with existing legal framework, parameters for declaring emergency situation and other issues of this nature.



Seminar with Community on “Developments in Kosovo Energy Sector”

Amidst its activities in Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development- KOSID, FIQ held a seminar with community representatives from different municipalities of Kosovo on the topic of energy projects. Seminar had a satisfactory level of discussions and good territorial representation. It tabled the problems faced by citizens of Kosovo, starting from the basic ones, such as the lack of power supply, damaged power grid, high invoices and ending up with fundamental problems caused by the coal fired power plants.

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