Forum for Civic Initiatives – FIQ – is a national foundation standing for a long tradition of working with citizens. Citizen information, education and mobilization to demand transparency and accountability from decision-making institutions represent the essence of the FIQ work.

Fostering and supporting entrepreneur concepts, innovative ideas, meetings and discussions with the community, are some of our working methodologies that shape the profile of our organization, identifying the FIQ as a typical community-based foundation. When we talk about the FIQ Vision, while citizens make themselves an actor in sustainable development of Kosovo, our vision will be “to mobilize citizens in engaging in development processes through civic processes through civil activism, entrepreneurship and direct involvement in decision-making.”
DEAR FRIENDS!

Whenever I sit to write about the activities of FIQ for the year we leave behind, many emotions and thoughts rumble around with the words, contextualizing my message into three experiences which reflect best the challenges of FIQs work in the political, economic and social reality of Kosovo.

It is with pride that I take note that FIQ is transforming into a national foundation, and leading the civil sector of Kosovo with its efficiency and adaption in the processes of awareness raising and mobilization of citizens in their demand of accountability and transparency and involvement in public decision-making. The initiatives taken in 2015 can only further strengthen such a statement, and therefore, I would invite you to read through the successes of our work, and understand and join into our pride!

Dajana Berisha
Executive Director
Certainly there are moments of despair in our daily lives, while we struggle with a political environment in which the citizen is left out of any planning, aside any right to decide his own future and of the generations to come, an economic environment in which the youth make 70% of the unemployed in Kosovo, and an educational environment at a crossroad.

Yet, such moments of despair are turned into energy and hope, which lead us through the year and through our operations in the field. The citizen and the quality of his/her participation in decision-making processes are key to the FIQs vision.

It is precisely this vision that commits us further to the 33 thousand signatories of the Petition, who oppose the increase of the price of electricity, lack of transparency of the ERO, arrogance of the ruling which deepens poverty and increases the dependency of citizens on corrupt politicians. In all of my meetings with the community, in every neighbourhood, village or city, with citizens of different ages, what rejuvenates the positive energy in myself and my colleagues, is precisely the hopes that the citizens have in FIQ. It is the confidence they have in leading them towards a change in their daily lives, which gives FIQ its proper dimension, the dimension of being a factor that may bring about change!

Sincerely,
Dajana Berisha
Working with the community
Vision, commitment, passion, mobilization

The Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo decimates the will and the rights of 33 thousand citizens!

By the end of 2014, as part of Kosovo Consortium of Civil Society Organizations for Sustainable Development (KOSID), FIQ organized a petition for signatories of citizens in most municipalities of Kosovo. The petition was organized to express the discontent and opposition against the increased electricity fees and the lack of transparency of the ERO.

33 thousand signatures in 4 days!

Saga of the Petition!

In January 2015, the petition signed by 33,000 people was submitted to the Parliament, but the document was never presented before the Members of Parliament as package of specific demands of the citizens to be voted for, but over it, many amendments were made by different parliamentary committees, thereby decimating citizens’ demands.
FIQ will continue to challenge the Kosovo Assembly, to bring the petition to the attention of members of parliament, and to review the same as a package of demands signed by 33 thousand citizens.
Citizens breathing the most polluted air in Europe, with a great number of early deaths, with the largest population of cancer suffering citizens, citizens of Hade, forgotten from the local institutions, only have FIQ for support!

“We began our cooperation with FIQ several years ago, and after we were left aside by the municipality, KEK and Government. FIQ was the only hand that came by, and we have had excellent cooperation with FIQ.

FIQ was the one that pressured the Municipality, the Government. FIQ visited us, came to our protests, held meetings and everything else. We thank the FIQ organization and its director, Dajana, and not even the mayor did more than the director of FIQ for this community.”
Ragip Grajqevci, resident of the Hade Village

The Campaign “Donate a tree – Give life to a community” was organized as a fund-raising campaign within the “Energy Week”, funds to be used for planting flowers and trees in the village of Shkabaj.

FIQ was able to raise over 2500 EUR, in a way of promoting a sound environment for the resettled citizens of Hade, having them in the centre of attention, realizing and acknowledging the values of active citizenry, the solidarity of citizens in the absence of a development vision for a sustainable community, which is still suffering the consequences of a forced relocation, to open the way for the mining works for the “Kosova e Re” Power Plant”. 
Funds raised during the campaign were contributions of citizens, local businesses, domestic and international civil society organizations active in Kosovo.
Under the authorization of representatives of the Hade village, Dajana Berisha, FIQ Executive Director, invited to a visit the World Bank Inspection Panel, to investigate the resettlement of the Hade inhabitants¹.

Dajana Berisha, FIQ discussing with Gonzalo Castro De La Mata, Chair of World Bank Inspection Panel, thereby inviting the Inspection Panel to investigate the matter of forced resettlement of Hade residents in 2004, making it one of the key topics of the International Conference “Multilateral Financial Institutions – What progress concerning Human Rights and Accountability?”
The World Bank has had an active role in shaping energy plans in Kosovo since 2001. It has provided funding and technical assistance in developing the new power plant, in expanding the lignite mine, in resettlement of affected communities, and in monitoring the whole process.

Numerous complaints by local residents, left without any institutional care, present their concerns through FIQ, to various international media outlets, thereby resulting into an investigation on the matter by international journalists, and ultimately, by the World Bank Inspection Panel itself. The latter, in professional cooperation with FIQ, sent its experts to Kosovo to analyse this matter, in August 2014. The experts further recommended a full inquiry of the matter in January 2015.

\(^2\) F. Recommendation

73. Applicants and the application meet the criteria for technical eligibility as provided by the Resolution establishing the Inspection and Inquiry Panel of 1999. Also, and based on the findings above, we have found that there is a potential link between the claimed damage in the Application, and the projects, as provided by Operational Procedures of the Panel.

74. Therefore, the Panel hereby recommends the undertaking of an inquiry on the matter of claimed damages and incompliance with operational policies and procedures of the World Bank, in relation to technical assistance funded by the Bank and other activities, since they are related to the application and the process of KEP preparation. More concretely, the inquiry should review the potential incompliance of the Bank in relation to the resettlement of the Shala Neighbourhood in Hade Village, and claimed damages in the Special Economic Zone, suffered by the applicants.
The World Bank has had an active role in shaping energy plans in Kosovo since 2001. It has provided funding and technical assistance in developing the new power plant, in expanding the lignite mine, in resettlement of affected communities, and in monitoring the whole process.

Numerous complaints by local residents, left without any institutional care, present their concerns through FIQ, to various international media outlets, thereby resulting into an investigation on the matter by international journalists, and ultimately, by the World Bank Inspection Panel itself. The latter, in professional cooperation with FIQ, sent its experts to Kosovo to analyse the situation.

The WB Inspection Panel, an independent mechanism of the World Bank, visited Kosovo by the end of August 2015 to conduct a full inquiry of the operation. **It is expected that the inquiry report of the Inspection Panel is published in September 2016.**

This report is to be submitted to the World Bank management, CEO members of the World Bank Board, and the President of the World Bank, for a decision on necessary measures and liabilities of the Kosovo Government to the residents of Hade and Shkabaj.
FIQ generates over 60 jobs in Agriculture and Eco-Tourism; training and certification for 100 youth!

ATAR Agriculture and Tourism Acceleration Program for Youth is one of the most successful interventions of the Forum for Civil Initiatives (FIQ) in addressing problems of youth self-employment in Kosovo. In partnership with Scards Academy and the Faculty of Agriculture and Veteriné, and with the support of the European Commission, FIQ created around 25 new businesses in the sector of agriculture and eco-tourism, thereby enabling a training for 50 youngsters on entrepreneurship and employing 70 youth.
Fostering and promoting social entrepreneurship through green and innovative ideas – FIQ encourages the banking sector to invest in green economy


During 2015, FIQ identified and supported the three winners at the national level, who continue to be successful in their business development:

- Havushe Bajrami-Bunjaku – “99 flowers” – Manufacturing teas and aromatic and medical herbs by female household heads from families under social assistance, living in mountainous areas in villages around the Badovc Lake.
• Rron Ceka – “formon” – innovative creation of a 3D printer, by which instead of classic plastic which is dangerous and harmful for the environment, it uses as raw matter biodegradable plastic, generated from a mixture of wheat starch and potatoes.

• Ymer Dullaj – “EkoFerma” – Creation of a successful farming model for Kosovo, with a view of saving electricity, protecting the environment and revenue generation, by using biogas produced out of poultry waste, as an alternative energy source.

All three winners received a start-up grant at the amount of 2,500€ from Raiffeisen Bank Kosovo, as partner to FIQ in this project³.

Advocacy

Philanthropy for sustainable development in Kosovo!

“Month of Philanthropy” is now traditional in Kosovo.

Conference “Kosovo towards Paris COP21”

The EKOSOVA Platform, an initiative taken by the “Women’s Academy of Leadership”, an NDI and USAID Program in Kosovo, supported by FIQ, advocates for levying and investing an environmental fee back into the environment.

In this framework, as part of the Kosovo Consortium of Civil Society Organizations for Sustainable Development (KOSID), the Conference “Kosovo Towards Paris COP21” was held, thereby gathering for a discussion many public authorities, civil society organizations and relevant institutions, to develop clear objectives for political engagement against climate change, with a view of reflecting on the problem and developing guidelines to encourage government institutions to identify national commitments to respond to the obligations of the Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris.
ICIJ, Huffington Post, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Bloomberg, World Bank Inspection Panel, cooperate with the Forum for Civil Initiatives to internationalize the matter of Hade resettlement, and to resolve the matter.
In close cooperation with the Obiliq Community, FIQ internationalized the matter of forced resettlement of Hade residents, and brought to Kosovo the World Bank Inspection Panel.
FIQ, NDI and EKOSOVA advocate for levying and investing an environmental tax back to the environment
The Forum for Civil Initiatives – FIQ, published its analytical report on legislation of philanthropy and NGOs. This forum was held during the Month of Philanthropy, and aimed at gathering relevant stakeholders to a public debate on tax legislation and other legal framework applicable on the non-governmental sector.

The analysis published in the forum focused on the issues of NGO funding, and specifically whether such legislation allows non-governmental organizations to secure sustainable funding.
Ceremony of FIDES Awards for Philanthropy in Kosovo

FIDES is a traditional event promoting philanthropy, recognizing and awarding the contributions of Kosovan philanthropists of the year, thereby paving the way for more philanthropy.

The whole Month of philanthropy crowned with the FIDES Awards Ceremony 2015, the seventh in row.

For the seventh year, FIQ organized the FIDES Awards Ceremony, and also celebrated its 15th Anniversary, in the presence of the highest state and academic figures.

Cocktail reception “Philanthropy for mentoring young entrepreneurs” – 20.11.2015

The Cocktail reception “Philanthropy for mentoring young entrepreneurs” gathered many businesses and young entrepreneurs that FIQ has supported within the framework of the ATAR Project, and journalists of various media outlets of Kosovo.

The cocktail reception was held with a view of initiating a debate on philanthropy, and above all, to thank all of our partners for standing by us for 15 years, contributing to the growth of FIQ, and giving sense to our community work throughout Kosovo.
Categories and winners of the FIDES 2015 Award:

**FIDES Award for National Contribution (companies)** – awarded to the “Golden Eagle” Foundation, for having undertaken numerous humanitarian activities through 2015, to provide financial support for Autistic Children Association in Theranda, school for children with special needs in Prizren, donating medical equipment for the Paediatric Clinic in Prishtina at a value of 30,000 Euros, and the distribution of 100 student scholarships at the value of 90,000 Euros.

This Award has given away, on behalf of FIQ, by a representative of the Jashari Family, Murat Jashari.

**FIDES Award for Contribution by SMEs** – Rugove Corporation was awarded for the contribution made through the campaign “1 Like 10 cent”. The goal of the campaign was to raise funding for the Down Syndrome Kosova foundation, and raising awareness on the Down Syndrome.

The prize was given, on behalf of FIQ, by Dr. Ferid Agani, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning.
**FIDES Award for Individual Contribution** - was given to Fresk Sylhasi, an 11-year old from Prishtina, who rode a bicycle from Prishtina to Saranda, Albania, for a good cause: raise funds for the students of Theth School in Albania. This prize was given by Dajana Berisha, Executive Director of FIQ.

**FIDES Award for Diaspora Contribution** (businesses, individuals, CSOs from diaspora) - won by Shpresa Xhakli for the assistance provided to autistic children. The Albanian-American Shpresa Xhakli started a “United for Autism” Foundation in Kosovo, the first and only foundation of such kind to address the needs of the children with autism, and help raise awareness of the Kosovo society on autism. This award was given by Sadie Agani, wife of the late activist, Mr. Fehmi Agani.

**FIDES Award for Innovation** (businesses, individuals, CSOs) - given to the “formon” company, innovative creation of a 3D printer, by which instead of classic plastic which is dangerous and harmful for the environment, it uses as raw matter biodegradable plastic, generated from a mixture of wheat starch and potatoes.
The prize was given, on behalf of FIQ, by the Rector of the University of Prishtina, Prof.dr Ramadan Zejnullahu.

**FIDES Award for the best Awareness Raising Campaign** (businesses, individuals, CSOs) - won by Alketa Xhafa Mripa, for her installation “Thinking about you”, in support to the victims of sexual violence during the war in Kosovo. This prize was given by Veprore Shehu, manager of the non-governmental organization “Medica Kosova”.

A Special Prize, Professional **Integrity Prize**, was given to Mrs. Mariah Thuraja Bamieh, who stated to be very pleased to be acknowledged at a time when efforts are being made to investigate her. She also expressed her willingness to be subject to investigation and waiving immunity.

This prize was given by the Director of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund for Western Balkans, Mr. Haki Abazi.

The FIDES Awards Ceremony for Philanthropy was supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.
FIQ always close to local organizations

In 2015, **FIQ signed contracts with organizations it selected for the SIGN Sustainability Project.** Signed contracts reflect a technical grant for 5 organizations, at the value of 1000 Euros per organization, to be used for fund-raising. Such fund-raising from different sources would be supported in full by FIQ, meaning that NGOs that would raise up to 4000€ would receive another 4000€ from FIQ. This shall be made upon holding the Regional Sustainability Academy, which was held in Zlatibor, where NGOs learned about more details from experts in raising funds, mainly from local sources, now also supported and mentored by FIQ.

The aim of the project was to build NGO capacities in fund-raising, based on various and mainly local donors. SIGN Sustainability is a regional initiative funded by the European Commission.

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Charts showing grants awarded by FIQ in the last 6 years, and awardees of the FIDES award since 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRANTS 2009-2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of grants: 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average grant size: 4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount of grants: 208,741</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AREAS AND VALUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active citizenry</td>
<td>89,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Culture, Youth</td>
<td>41,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>43,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>22,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>8,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3,489</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REGIONAL DIVISION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pristina</td>
<td>132,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peja</td>
<td>26,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prizren</td>
<td>18,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gjilan</td>
<td>18,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferizaj</td>
<td>17,210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OVER 1 million Euros FIDES 2009-2014 FOR PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTIONS**
FIDES Award for National Level Contribution
Data Project Electronics

FIDES Award for Local Level Contribution
Sharrcem

FIDES Award for Media Contribution
RTV 21

FIDES Award for National Contribution
Meridian Corporation LLC

FIDES Award for Local Contribution
Kulla Exim SHPK

FIDES Award for Philanthropy
Milaim Jashari Feniks
FIDES Award for National Contribution
- Reiffesien Bank
- Procredit Bank
- IPKO

for its contribution in proliferation of information technology

FIDES Award for Local Contribution
- Elektrostublla

for the contribution in supporting community organization in improving infrastructure

FIDES Award for Individual Contributions from the Diaspora
- Melinda Rrahimi
- Ylfete Fanaj

FIDES Award for Local Contribution
- Abi Prizren

for support to sports and cultural activities, support to education of poor children, assistance to poor families, an award given by the Special Representative of the European Union/Head of EU Office in Kosovo, Mr. Samuel Zbogar.

FIDES Award for Philanthropy
- Auk Charity Club

for the support to marginalized groups, such as Down Syndrome Kosova, disabled children, Breast Cancer Campaign, Braille Alphabet Campaign, and other activities of such nature

FIDES Award for Individual Contributions
- Dr. Mynavere Hoxha

for voluntary work as a neonatologist. This prize was given away by the Norwegian Ambassador, Mr. Jan Braathu.

FIDES Award for Environmental Contribution
- Kosova Cap Project

for recycling plastic bottle caps as a source to purchase and donate wheelchairs for disabled persons. The prize was given by James Magbeth Forbes, Head of GIZ Office for Kosovo and Macedonia
FIDES Award for FILANTROPI
IPKO TELECOMMUNICATIONS

for high level Corporate Social Responsibility, given by the US Ambassador to Kosovo, Mrs. Tracey Ann Jordan.

FIDES Award for LOCAL CONTRIBUTION
from Fertaj, an organization which only in 2013, has managed to build 14 houses for the poor. This prize was given by Mr. Michael Mors, Director of GIZ for Kosovo.

FIDES Award for INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION
KëLmend Rizvanoll: 500,000€, for promoting education, culture, and science in Kosovo youth, through scholarships for distinguished students. This prize was given by Mr. Kim Mehmeti, publicist.

FIDES Award for CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE DIASPORA
for raising funds for the school gardens, given by Mr. Korabi Ahmeti, Kosovo’s first Project Manager, winner of FIDES 2012 Environmental Contribution Award.

FIDES Award for YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS
Primary School “Naim Frashëri”

FIDES Award for NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION
IPKO FOUNDATION

for contribution to education and information technology.

FIDES Award for PHILANTHROPY PARTNERSHIP
Rufki Suma

for undertaking charity activities and support to various social groups.

FIDES Award for INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION
Misina Zenunaj

for building the Youth Centre in Gramnik village in Klinje, and support to other youth activities.

FIDES Award for CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
The Ideas Partnership

for support to marginalized groups, such as RAE communities, creating jobs for the women of the communities, and inclusion of children into schools.

FIDES Award for CONTRIBUTION FROM THE DIASPORA
Lazim Destani

who gave away a part of his business profits for charity, support to cultural and educational projects, and the environment.
Others about FIQ!

Havushe Bajrami Bunjaku, Founder of the Social Business’99 Iule’

“I began collaborating with FIQ in 2014. I used the first grant to create a plantation of medical and aromatic herbs. In the Green and Innovative Business Ideas Competition, I won a grant, and I used the money to build storage facilities for the products. During this time of cooperation with FIQ, my business has developed in terms of manufacturing and quality of produce. My business engages 20 women from families under social assistance. I would thank the FIQ for empowering me as a businesswoman, and for building and developing my business, directly helping also the women of my community”

Egzon Grajqevci, Representative of the Environment and Local Development Initiative Obiliq

“Cooperation with FIQ begun in February 2013, when as a group of activists in Obiliq Municipality, we were supported by FIQ in some activities. From such cooperation, we also got to the establishment of the Initiative in Obiliq, in June 2013. Since then, we have enjoyed the support through technical grants of FIQ, which enabled our office operations. Apart from the financial support, FIQ has also helped in technical terms, providing training for qualification of staff, and further in networking with other organizations. Currently, we are working with FIQ in the Hade Project, its settlement, a process
still ongoing. I would thank the FIQ staff for their assistance in grants, enabling our operations, and their time and technical assistance provided. I also would have a request to continue the support to other organizations, because it is the only way, I believe, to create an active citizenry

“Cooperation with FIQ started already in 2013, when we competed in the regional green ideas contest, and we represented Kosovo in the region. That is where we won our 10 thousand dollar prize from the RBF. Apart from the fund and continued cooperation with FIQ, we have taken part in development and sustainability trainings, and we were awarded the FIDES prize in 2014. We are very thankful of the cooperation with FIQ so far, and I use this occasion to congratulate FIQ on its 15th anniversary in the name of “The Ideas Partnership.”

Arta Ponosheci,
The Ideas Partnership organization
Cooperation and key partnerships with local and regional networks

FIQ has developed great collaboration with different networks, local and regional, and one of those worth mentioning is the Kosovo Consortium of Civil Society Organizations for Sustainable Development (KOSID), in which the FIQ has a community-based organization role, and this obviously makes us proud, because our work at KOSID reflects the needs and demands of communities in the country.

Also, FIQ is part of the SIGN Sustainability network, a network which consists of organizations of all states in the Western Balkans, which aim to support civil society initiatives for citizens, and creating a better environment for development of philanthropy.

Recently, FIQ has become part of yet another network, and that is the Balkan Green Foundation (BGF), also a regional initiative created to advocate and promote sustainable development throughout Western Balkan.
FIQ on the media 2015

Dajana Berisha talking about the truth of forced resettlement in Kosovo – RTK

RTK – Petition against higher prices of electricity – FIQ as part of KOSID, in 2014, was able to gather not less than 33,000 signatures of citizens throughout Kosovo!!

RTK – Dajana Berisha and Egzon Grajqevci talk about the campaign taken by the whole of Kosovo for Obiliq!

kallxo.com Platform monitors the whole event of planting flowers and trees in Shkabaj – Hade e Re, Obiliq!

Tribuna Channel, Disappointment with the failure to vote on the petition signed by 33,000 citizens against rising electricity prices! Dajana Berisha and Visar Azemi – in a press conference!
RTK – Dajana Berisha – FIQ Executive Director, talking about Philanthropy Month 2015, and 15th anniversary of FIQs work with the community! 15 years of success make us proud!

Kushtrim Puka at Klan Kosova, talking about the violation of legislation in the case of Kosova e Re Plant

KosovaPress – Youngsters are awarded 2.500 euros in agriculture and eco-tourism! ATAR Project

FIDES 2015 Award Ceremony, broadcasted by RTV 21 – in the pic, Fresk Sylhasi, the youngest philanthropist in Kosovo!

Debate Jeta në Kosovë, Civil Society and Politics, Dajana Berisha from FIQ!
You can view the full debate at kallxo.com.
Staff 2015

Dajana Berisha, Executive Director
Kushtrim Puka, Program Manager
Sefë Govori, Finance Manager
Arieta Dragusha, Program Officer

Lule Bahtiri, Program Officer
Ardiana Zenuni, Communication Officer
Meivis Struga, Project Officer
Arlinda Azemi, Intern

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