



Forum for Civic Initiatives



Annual report 2009



About FIQ

FIQ is a nongovernmental organization focused on the rule of law that works to increase citizen participation in decision-making processes, to develop a region in the Balkans where peace and justice reigns.

FIQ is committed to transparency and accountability of the government and strengthening the capacity of civil society for being active and stable players in the exercise of its supervisory role.

FIQ does this through research and analysis, discussion, training and awarding grants..

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to reflect on the successful work of FIQ during the past year. FIQ achieved its goal of being a critical voice and a correct partner in institutional and social development, in joint efforts for a more functional state, by combining advocacy projects, working with citizens, monitoring and measuring the effectiveness and accountability of public administration, studying institutional actions on our way towards Europe. We have awarded two grants to support environmental initiatives and citizen participation in the electoral process.

FIDES Award for Corporate Philanthropy 2009, was a special and historic event that concluded our working year and has put in place a new system of showing gratitude and appreciation to those who have helped and supported the common good in this country.

Like other years, we managed to develop projects and activities with partner organizations in different regions of the country, strengthening further our partnerships and approach of cooperation. FIQ was part of the critical voice of NGOs on important issues, which responded to wrong or harmful policies in Kosovo.



Outside of our official planning, we maintained contacts with the communities where we worked before and we are proud that we supported some of them with their claims against the institutions which did not pay attention to the needs and priorities of citizens. We continued to encourage debate on security issues, just as we previously offered our capabilities in drafting strategic and legal documents in this field.

I would like to thank all those with whom we continued to work in order to build the values that serve institutional and civic responsibility.

Dear donors, thank you for your continued support to FIQ in realizing its mission!

Sincerely,

Ferdinand Nikolla

I. RULE OF LAW



Within this program, which aims to increase civil society's role in overseeing the institutions of the rule of law in order to make them more effective and more accountable towards citizens, we organized the following activities during 2009:

Safety in schools of Han i Elezit and Kacanik

Improving security in schools and strengthening the sense of civic ownership towards resolving the security problems and creating a safer environment and a more effective educational system, still occupies a very important part of our scope of work.

Since 2005, FIQ has developed projects to improve safety conditions in schools in Prishtina, Ferizaj and Gjilan. A very important strategy to improve security in these schools that has existed so far and still remains so, is the proper functioning of the School Council, and other important structures such as parents, teachers, school principals, police, education departments, NGOs and other municipal bodies in charge.

Violation of school rules, bullying, beatings, the presence of cold weapons and firearms are still occurring in our schools. Analyses have shown that the perpetrators of these acts were mainly young people under the age of 20. The fact that this phenomenon is present not only in high schools but also in primary schools, is alarming. The problem of violence, lack of response or integrated national strategy, the socio-economic status, and family problems continue to be problems which have not yet been resolved, although many institutions including NGOs and other activists have tried to address this issue.

From February until November 2009, supported by Caritas Luxembourg, FIQ in cooperation with the high school Student Councils "Skenderbeu" and gymnasium "Dardania" in Han i Elezit, engaged in addressing security problems in school and managed to resolve some of the main problems identified by the student councils and community representatives of the two municipalities. Among others, FIQ in these schools had addressed the problem of lack of discipline and security within / outside school, and the lack of a relaxing outdoors environment for students.

Failure to comply with administrative instruction on school disciplinary measures

"Code of Conduct and disciplinary measures for high school students is an administrative directive issued by the Ministry of Education (MEST) for the second time in the spring of this year (2009). This instruction is intended to define the rights, duties, prohibited acts, participation at classes and disciplinary measures and procedures and their implementation on students who violate the code of conduct. It has been clearly noted that this paper finds no viability in these schools, so upon students' request, this document, which was put into the frame and hung on the walls of classrooms and school corridors, has been discussed widely between students, parents, teachers, principals and representatives of all competent institutions to identify causes of non-compliance of this code and to find the proposals to improve the situation. These discussions brought into attention the issue that schools should enable the active work of the School Council and other mechanisms in order to enable full implementation of the "Code of Conduct. They should also create conditions for cultivating a culture of debate among teachers and students, which aspect seems to be much less developed.

Placement of seats in school yards

In order to support other activities and potential requests that will emerge from the joint work in these schools, FIQ allocated a small fund, which was used by these schools to purchase seats for students, which were placed in school yards. Thus, there were purchased 13 seats for the two schools in Kaçanik and 11 others for the gymnasium of Han i Elezit.



Accountability of democratic institutions in Kosovo's civil society

During the period October 2008 - September 2009, funded by National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a project was implemented which aimed to promote accountability and effectiveness of democratic institutions in Kosovo, and to strengthen the monitoring capacity of civil society. The project took place in Peja, Gjakova, Prizren, and Gracanica. Partner Organizations in



this project were: Syri i Vizionit in Peja, Center for Business Community Development (CBDC) in Gjakova, Communication for Society Development (CSD) in Gracanica, and the Peace and Human Rights Council (PHRC) in Prizren.

The project aimed to measure the accountability and efficiency of national institutions, taking data of the experiences of citizens with local institutions, so that these experiences / results be shared with the general public and its institutions, in order for the latter to increase accountability and improve services to citizens. In the report that was published at the end of the project, among others, the main findings were:

- Each citizen has confirmed that there were and still are problems in relations with institutions, also confirming that they have relatives who have different problems, indicating a high level measure of general citizen reviews of difficulties in accepting public services.

-Citizens have cited lack of officials to serve responsibly, the presence of corruption and an increasing tendency to install giving bribes for performing small services, the escape from responsibility and duties, creating often conjecture for the uninformed citizens on the service procedures.

-Many citizens have cited the institution of the municipality as the main cause of their problems. They have cited problems they had with the municipal administration, but in this context they have also shown concerns on their infrastructure in their places of residence. Although there has been no quantitative survey in the project, the interviews made, institutions which citizens have most problems with are listed as follows: Civil Service, KEK, Police, Municipality, the Court, and others.

A safe place

FIQ and Saferworld, two partner organizations since 2005, continued this year with its project in the area of security. This project aims at promoting the control of small arms and light weapons for creating safer communities in Kosovo. This project is being conducted in Kosovo since 2006 and has been financially supported consistently by the German and UK Governments.

Promoting public awareness & debate on the implementation of the Law on Weapons

Between 10-23 December, FIQ and many other partner organizations such as: Kosovar Center for International Cooperation (KCIC), Peace and Human Rights Council (PHRC), and Initiative for Progress (INPO), and, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) of the Kosovo Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Saferworld organized separate debates to inform and discuss the implementation of the new Law on Weapons in Gjilan, Prishtine, Prizren and Ferizaj municipalities..

Participants included representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Kosovo Security Force (KSF), Parliamentary Committee on Internal Affairs and Security, Kosovo Police, EULEX Police, KFOR, ICO, UNDP, OSCE, ICITAP, local government, Municipal and District Courts and Prosecution, Correctional Service, Detention Centre, Kosovar Federation of Hunters and Hunting Associations, NGOs, community representatives and media representatives (TV Tema, TV Liria, TV Festina, TV Prizren, TV Besa, TV Men, TV Vali, Radio Theranda, Radio Deutsche Welle, newspapers Koha Ditore, Express, Zeri and Kosova Sot).

These were lively debates in which participants expressed different views and experiences on a range of related issues, such as the estimated numbers of SALW in illegal possession, confiscation practices, including the official statistics on voluntary surrender and the statistics on casualties from SALW use since 2000. Debate also examined whether the presence of SALW is a consequence of the Kosovo war or its cultural traditions, raising cases of illegal and irresponsible hunting and what

intervention is taking place by the police in the cases of celebratory shootings. Interest was also expressed in illegal market as a consequence of gaps found under UNMIK's regulations, and the implementation of UNMIK's prosecutions by the courts.

Sharing Community Security lessons and experiences with neighboring communities

FIQ and Saferworld in cooperation with NGO's Syri i Vizionit, Peace and Human Rights Council (PHRC) on 4th and 9th of December organized roundtables between representatives from villages in Raushiq and Lubinje, with whom FIQ and Saferworld have been working, and their neighboring communities. The purpose was to share lessons and experiences, and present the benefits of community engagement in improving safety/security in their respective villages. Participants included the representatives of neighboring villages, Community Policing Unit of the Kosovo Police, NGOs, local government, and were covered by local media.





Representatives from Raushiq and Lubinje made short presentations of their experiences and the processes and principles that shaped them. Presentations were followed by group-work designed to demonstrate how the process of identifying and prioritizing safety/security issues works, and how stakeholders and responsible institutions are identified and get involved when addressing and solving local priorities.

As a result of this, participants in Prizren voted in favor of electing a council that will represent the villages of Zhupa willing to cooperate with all stakeholders and responsible institutions. Participants asked Saferworld, FIQ and PHRC to support them in this initiative and in future liaison with local and central institutions.

Roundtables on Community Safety – actors, opportunities and challenges

FIQ and Saferworld on the 19th and 21st of December, in cooperation with Initiative for Progress (INPO) organized roundtables on Community Safety in Kaçanik and Shtime municipalities. Participants included the Mayor of Shtime municipality and a municipal spokesperson, representatives of Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSC), Community Safety Action Teams (CSAT), Community Policing Units of the Kosovo Police, NGOs, village representatives, religious leaders and national and local media.

FIQ's and Saferworld's presentation of CS experiences, including citizen perceptions on community safety and comparative analyses from the tracker surveys, were followed by lively and fruitful discussions.

Among the key issues discussed in Kaçanik were the role of the MCSCs, the role of civil society and other actors, and the lack of cooperation found between institutional actors. In general, there was agreement that improving community safety requires continuous engagement and collaboration between all the actors. One of participants said “we are very active and we have undertaken a number of initiatives but the chain of cooperation is broken, therefore we need to advocate for more cooperation and support by local government”.

In Shtime, the Mayor made a comprehensive presentation on the work of the MCSC's, its composition, cooperation with other actors, and future plans. The Community Policing Unit made a presentation on safety/security issues in Shtime municipality. Participants discussed about the role of the MCSC's and other actors and the need to intensify/improve community safety generally.

Ferizaj campaign for community safety.

During the period 3 to 11 September 2009, FIQ, Saferworld and INPO, in cooperation with the high school students' councils in Ferizaj launched the awareness campaign on the harmful impact of weapons in Kosovo, called "**act wisely, without pistols!**" There was organized awareness activities, including lectures, public discussions, media campaign and symbolic performance on consequences associated with use of weapons in society, as well as general concerns about the safety of their citizens. School environment and concerns of students, parents and other factors relevant to creating a safer and a more suitable environment for learning were also an important part of this campaign.



Monitoring the implementation of EPAP (Action Plan for European Partnership)

In November 2009, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD), FIQ began this project with the aim of increasing public oversight in the rule of law. Involvement of civil society and parliament in oversight is the main goal of the project.



Within the scope of the rule of law, the project focuses on security (anti-trafficking, customs and police) and law (functioning of the Court Liaison Offices, regional cooperation in justice, and reforming the judicial system), on which topics the Action Plan for European Partnership (EPAP) focuses.

Among FIQ partners in this project are: Kosovo Institute for Justice (KLI) / Prishtina, Initiative for Progress (INPO) / Ferizaj, Kosovo Center for International Cooperation (KCIC) / Gjilan, the Academy for Training and Technical Assistance (ATTA) / Prizren, Mitrovica Development Community (CBM) / Mitrovica, the Center for Business Development Community (CBDC) / Gjakova, Syri i Vizionit (SiV)/Peja.

FIQ has already established cooperation with the parliamentary committee for European integration and together have agreed that the findings of the report shall be used by the committee to exercise oversight role more effectively towards governmental executive institutions, which are responsible for implementing the EPAP- and accelerating the Kosovo agenda towards the Kosovo integration into the EU.

II. GRANT AWARD

Financial support for the initiative "Tiny but clean" from Prishtina

During two days of the Festival of Freedom, which took place outside the city of Prishtina, FIQ funded the initiative "Tiny, but clean" in the value of 1260 euro for the organization of an education campaign on the importance of environmental protection.

In a huge tent decorated with the inscription "ECOLOGICAL GARDEN" various artists created some sculptures "recycled" from plastic and metal materials. This initiative had raised the awareness for taxation of plastic bags, these bags which are free in Kosovo. Several hundred signatures were collected during these two nights. Those who signed the request (petition) were given a rag bag with the slogan "I'm not a plastic bag. Several hundred bags were distributed during the festival, and hundreds were left for future activities.

Although "ECOLOGICAL GARDEN " was just a part of the massive two-day concert, it brought a unique and compelling purpose to the festival, and this was taking care of the environment. " ECOLOGICAL GARDEN "was visited by hundreds of festival participants, who showed interest for the "green" movement in Kosovo, though it seems to be small in this phase.



Support youth to participate in Strpce local elections

In November 2009, FIQ awarded a grant of Å4,500 for local a NGO in Strpce, 'Futura Plus' to promote awareness and information campaign aimed at encouraging youth of Shtërpçë to participate in local elections of November / December . While many economic and pragmatic problems overload the municipality, such as unfinished privatization, illegal construction, threatening environment and high unemployment, most of the Serb population is preoccupied with political defining of them as an ethnic group.

III. PHILANTHROPY DEVELOPMENT AND FIDES AWARD

Fides award for best Corporate Philanthropy 2009 in Kosovo

Supported by Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) on 9 October 2009, FIQ announced a competition for the award of corporate philanthropy. The award is the first of its kind ever given in Kosovo and will be traditionally held. With this award, FIQ has begun to establish a new system of showing gratitude and appreciation to those who have helped and supported the common good.



FIDES award and our activities on development of philanthropy in Kosovo aims to promote true partnership and collaboration between the business sector, non-governmental organizations and people, to cooperate for improving the quality of life in Kosovo.



In an exclusive ceremony organized on December 1, we announced the winners of the award with more than 200 invitees present.

Among the special guests who addressed the participants of the ceremony and handed out the awards to the winners were: President of Kosovo, Fatmir Sejdiu, Head of ICO / EUSR, Peter Feith and deputy chief of the mission of U.S. Embassy in Kosovo, Michael Murphy. The President of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Stephen Heintz, also greeted the audience with a speech.



FIDES award for contributing to the national level was won by Data Project Electronics Company from Prishtina, the company that has supported important social activities, for youth, sports and homeless people and empowerment of women in social and public life in Kosovo.



FIDES award for contribution at the local level where the company operates was won by the company **Sharrcem** from Hani i Elezit, a company that has contributed to

improving the living conditions in the municipality of Hani i Elezit and Kacanik, by supporting cultural activities, art, education, infra-structure and youth.



FIDES award for media contribution was granted to RTV 21 respectively the TV show “**Edhe unë jam Kosovë**”, a show about the life of families living in poverty, providing a powerful impetus to the business sector interest in providing assistance to families in poverty and aims at minimizing poverty and fighting all forms of discrimination.

From this year on, the tradition for gratitude to the Kosovo philanthropy shall be a part of Kosovo society values, and we can all together make this tradition life forever. Let FIDES be an inspiration, motive to care for ourselves and others. Let FIDES become an open door for all those who want to contribute to the common good. –were the closing words of the ceremony.



Partners

Atta, Prizren

Communication for Social Development (CSD), Graçanica

Community Building Mitrovica (CBM), Mitrovica

Directorate for Education, Ferizaj

Directorate for Education, Gjilan

Initiative for Progress (INPO), Ferizaj

Council of Gërmova village, Viti

Council of Lubinje e Epërme village, Prizren

Council of Palaj village, Obiliq

Council of Raushiq village, Pejë

Students' Council (KNF), Ferizaj

Students' Council (KNGJ), Gjilan

Peace and Human Rights Council (PHRC), Prizren

Council for Human and Minority Rights, Obiliq

Kosovo Center for International Cooperation (KCIC), Gjilan

Center for Business Development Community (CBDC), Gjakovë

Youth Network of Gjilani (RrRGJ), Gjilan

Saferworld, London

Syri i Vizionit (SiV), Peja

Donors

Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD)

Caritas Luxembourg

National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF)

Saferworld

Audited financial statements



Forum for Civic Initiatives Pristina, Kosovo

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the fund accountability statement of *Forum for Civic Initiatives* (“the FIQ”) for the year ended December 31, 2009. The fund accountability statement is the responsibility of *Forum for Civic Initiatives*' management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the fund accountability statement based on our audit.

Except as discussed in the following paragraph(s), we conducted our audit of the fund accountability statement in accordance with *U.S. Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, as well as International Financial Reporting Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the fund accountability statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the fund accountability statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the fund accountability statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, program revenues, costs incurred for the year ended 31 December 2009 in conformity with the basis of accounting described in Note 2.

This report is intended for the information of the FIQ's management and the FIQ's donors. However, upon release by the FIQ, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

BU and Partners
05 February 2010
Prishtina, Kosovo



Staff

Ferdinand Nikolla
Executive director

Katrien Leemen
Program director

Nazim Haliti
Program manager

Albert Jusufi
Program manager

Valdrin Grainca
Project manager

Sefë Govori
Finance manager

Nita Luzha
Communications and fundraising officer

Ardiana Basha
Administrative officer

Other staff members in 2009:

Nora Zejnullahu, Petrit Zogaj, Ramadan Ilazi, Mexhide Demolli,
Bardha Gashi, Mrika Limani



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