

## **Law on Freedom of Association in Non-Governmental Organizations**

### ***Detailed analysis of amendments voted by Members of Parliament (Courtesy translation)***

Initially, it is important to note that from the 37 amendments proposed by the Commission, 36 were voted by the Kosovo Assembly during the second reading on 7 November 2018, becoming part of the final version of the Law. The only amendment that was not voted is amendment 12, which foreseen the doubling of fines for NGOs as set out in Article 29, paragraph 3.

Of the adopted amendments, some are of a linguistic and technical nature, and as such will not be commented in the document. The following are a detailed explanation of the substantive amendments and the problems that each of them brings.

**AMENDMENT 5 - (ARTICLE 16, PARAGRAPH 2, DELETING WORD "THREE (3)", AND REPLACED WITH WORD "SEVEN (7)".**

Associations, in their basic meaning, imply a volunteer group of persons with common interests, purposes or activities. As a rule, a group cannot be considered only one individual, but two or more, who should join for advancing their common interests. For this reason, good practice requires that at least 2 founders are needed for the establishment of the association. The Venice Commission's Guide to the freedom of association states that "for the establishment of an association an agreement between two or more persons is sufficient",<sup>1</sup> as defined by the legislation of different countries such as Franca<sup>2</sup> or Estonia.<sup>3</sup> The only cases that have been found during the analysis of this request by countries that require more than 2 or 3 founders to establish the association are Germany and Turkey, which require 7 founders. Both of these states are the most populated states of the continent, with a population of more than 80 million, while Germany defined this obligation in 1896,<sup>4</sup> long before they began to detail the international principles and practices in this field.

Drafted shortly after the start of international administration in Kosovo and built on good European practices, since 1999 the legal framework in Kosovo requires at least 3 founders for the establishment of associations. Rather than maintaining or advancing this good practice built for 2 decades now, Amendment 5 limits the freedom of association, making it difficult to establish associations because the increase in the minimum number of founders.

The Committee reasoning for this amendment is that "the number of members has increased due to the needs for internal governance of the NGO" is unjustified for many reasons. Initially, the internal governance of the NGO is an internal affair of the organization, which should not be subject to state intervention. Independence of internal governance also extends to the definition of internal structures. This is part of the international principles,<sup>5</sup> but also the Law on NGOs, which in Article 13, paragraph 6, stipulates that "public institutions do not interfere with the rights and freedoms of the NGO and the persons exercising their right to freedom of association." Neither the Law on NGOs nor any other domestic or international document defines the structure of an association or the number of persons belonging to different structures. Furthermore, associations - as well as other NGOs - are not required to have different positions, such as Executive Director. Their only obligation is to have an authorized representative, who is responsible for communication with state bodies.

**AMENDMENT 6 - (ARTICLE 17, PARAGRAPH 2, DELETING WORD "ONE (1)", AND REPLACED WITH WORD "THREE (3)".**

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<sup>1</sup> See the Venice Commission Guidelines to Freedom of Association, point 148

<sup>2</sup> See the Republic of France Law on contract of association from year 1901, Article 1

<sup>3</sup> See the Estonia Act on Non-Profit Associations of 1996, Article 5

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.koeblergerhard.de/Fontes/BGBDR18961900.htm>, Article 56

<sup>5</sup> See the Venice Commission Guidelines to Freedom of Association, point 171, 174, 175

While the associations enable the union of persons/members, foundations are a form of non-profit organization that is characterized by the fact that they have no members. Traditionally, foundations are characterized by property or wealth that is dedicated to a particular purpose. Different countries, based on historical context or current needs, have different rules for foundations, but the only universal feature is that foundations can be founded by one (1) person,<sup>6</sup> or by will. This is also defined in the Law on NGOs, which explicitly defines foundations as “organization without membership, established for managing property or wealth, for the realization of legitimate aims for public benefit or mutual interest.” While it is based on property or wealth, the number of founders is completely insignificant and does not produce any practical effect except for the difficulty in establishing them.

Moreover, the fact that testament is one of the founding ways of the foundation, including Kosovo (Article 17, paragraph 3 of the Law on NGOs), makes this amendment incomprehensible and dysfunctional. It is not clear whether the authors of this amendment have thought that in the cases of establishing the foundation by will, if it is sufficient to have only the will of one (1) person, or should the wills of three (3) persons be the minimum?

Due to the difficult economic situation, Kosovo has a low number of foundations, where from 1999 to date, from about 10,000 NGOs, only about 300 are foundations. But in the international foundation practice, the most common examples are foundations founded by an individual, a company, or a will (again of an individual). The increase of the minimum number of founders of the foundation, besides the conceptual problem, implies that the Republic of Kosovo officially establishes a restrictive approach to them, greatly hindering the use of this form of organization for the advancement of various issues in the public interest.

On the other hand, for the reasons outlined above about the NGO's independence in internal governance, the Committee reasoning that “the number of members has increased due to the internal governance needs for NGO” is not based, while the use of the word “Member” in reasoning related to foundations is conceptually wrong.

**AMENDMENT 7 - (ARTICLE 18, PARAGRAPH 2, DELETING WORD “ONE (1)”, AND REPLACED WITH WORD “THREE (3)”.**

The problem of this amendment is similar to the problems explained for Amendment 6 on Foundations, with the only difference is related to institutes, instead of property and wealth, the base for establishment and functioning of institutes are knowledge, service, argument. Consequently, even in the institutes, the number of founders is insignificant since this form of organization has no members.

Similarly to the foundations and for the above-mentioned reasons as to the independence of NGOs in internal governance, the Committee reasoning that “the number of members has increased due to the internal governance needs of the NGO” is unsustainable, while the use of the word “member” in justification on institutes is conceptually wrong.

**AMENDMENT 8 - (ARTICLE 19, PARAGRAPH 2, FOLLOWING THE WORDS “EACH FOUNDER” ADDED ARE WORDS “AND VERIFIED BY NOTARY” – THE TEXT AFTER IS DELETED.)**

The fact that most civil society organizations decide to register as an NGO makes the registration process one of the key moments of the legal framework on this sector. Former UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Association Maina Kiai regards as “good practice of NGO registration procedures that are simple, not difficult, fast and free of charge. Registration laws should be non-discriminatory and registration should not be more burdensome, bureaucratic and time consuming for NGOs than for businesses.”<sup>7</sup> Kosovo since 1999 has had a very easy and positive registration procedure, with the exception of the registration deadline, which for 60 days has been one of the longest in Europe and beyond. With this law, the deadline for registration is shortened to 30 days, while the NGO Department

<sup>6</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Report: Comparison of treatment of businesses and associations by states (A/70/266)

in MPA has recently started using online registration practice, in accordance with smooth access to registration.

Contrary to this consistent approach of Kosovo for almost two decades, the obligation to certify the founding act to the notary hampers the NGO registration procedure both in administrative and financial terms. In addition, this additional requirement is in complete contradiction with the principle of equal cross-sectoral treatment,<sup>8</sup> because the obligation for verification of founding act does not exist for businesses or political parties either.

Moreover, the commission's reasoning that this obligation is added "to avoid misuse", and text was added ""and verified by notary" is completely unsustainable. Since the beginning of the functioning of the NGO registration system in 1999, neither the Department for NGOs nor the organizations that monitor this process have reported misuse of the founding acts and the registration process. Consequently, the Committee reasoning for this amendment is completely unclear.

The provision clearly defining the representative authority of legal entities when registering their associations is included in the draft law in order to clarify the problem and avoid problems in interpretation and implementation. For this reason, removal of the sentence "for juridical persons, the founding act is signed by the authorized representative of the legal person" without any specific reason makes it difficult to exercise the freedom of association by legal entities.

AMENDMENT 17 - (ARTICLE 37, PARAGRAPH 1, DELETED WORDS "RECONSTRUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT" AND WORDS "ERADICATION OF POVERTY".)

States usually tend to promote activities that serve the common good and benefit those organizations that carry out such activities. NGOs that engage in public benefit activities have different denominations depending on where they are operating, including "charities", "tax free organizations" "public benefit organizations", etc. While each country has peculiarities in different elements, the basic meaning of this concept is that the state defines several areas of public interest, and if the organization engages in those areas, the state provides them with some entitlements. The entitlements are mainly tax/fiscal nature, in public funds or in the use of spaces and public properties, to facilitate the work of these organizations in the public interest. To ensure that these entitlements are not misused, but are really used to serve the public interest, these organizations usually have additional reporting obligations compared to other organizations without this status.

In Kosovo, the term "organizations with a public benefit status" is used, while this concept is operational since 1999, with UNMIK Regulation No. 1999/22 on the Registration of NGOs. Over the years, a large number of initial benefits have been removed, while the same reporting obligations remain largely. In recent years, out of about 10,000 registered NGOs, only about 250 NGOs have Active Public Benefit Status.<sup>9</sup> On the other hand, areas that are defined as in the public interest have been changed to reflect social developments in Kosovo. However, change has always meant adding new areas, never moving away from existing ones.

Removing economic development and poverty eradication through Amendment 17 is contrary with international practices, but especially with Kosovo's national strategies and policies in addressing these two areas. Economic development is a national priority of all governments and all political parties in Kosovo, while poverty eradication is also priority, given the high percentage of Kosovo's citizens living in poverty, including extreme poverty. Moreover, since this law is the only one that defines (providing the definition) of public interest, the removal of these two fields implies that Kosovo does not consider economic development and the eradication of poverty as a public interest.

In addition, removing economic development and poverty eradication from the list of public benefit activities opens way for a very dangerous situation where Microfinance NGOs would not be part of this status, thus not required to report to the NGO Department on their public benefit work. Taking into

<sup>8</sup> See the Venice Commission Guidelines to Freedom of Association, point 156

<sup>9</sup> Kosovo Civil Society Index 2016, p. 32

account the experience and issues with this part of NGOs, in particular based on the Constitutional Court Case KO 97/12 on the Law on Banks, and combined with the amendment of the provisions on transfer of assets of terminated NGOs (see elaboration for Amendment 31), such a change becomes highly controversial.

The Committee reasoning is that "these two expressions have been deleted, given that public benefit NGOs have not undertaken any primary activity for these two areas" is completely unsustainable and unfounded. Hundreds of organizations in Kosovo have been established and contributed in particular to these areas, while a detailed analysis of the NGO's Public Register<sup>10</sup> shows that currently about one third of Public Benefit Status NGOs are active in economic development and disappearance of poverty, without including the field of reconstruction/rehabilitation.

AMENDMENT 18 - (ARTICLE 37, PARAGRAPH 2, DELETED SECOND SENTENCE "NGO ACTIVITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT ONLY IF PERFORMED PRIMARILY FOR THE GOOD OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS);

See the reasoning for Amendment number 17;

AMENDMENT 19 - (ARTICLE 37, PARAGRAPH 3, DELETED WORD "PRELIMINARY" AND WORDS "OR LATER");

NGOs are free to set their own goals independently, while complying with the demands of a democratic society.<sup>11</sup> This right is not limited to the moment of establishment and registration, but extends throughout the organization's lifespan. As such, the decision to focus on a particular field can be taken on the occasion of the establishment, or later. This includes cases when an NGO can decide to focus on a field qualifying as a field of public interest during its work after registration.

In Kosovo, a considerable number of NGOs have already reached the second decade of their existence. During this period the external context has changed and NGOs normally have to adapt to this context. Limiting the possibility of applying for a status for public benefit only in the case of registration by removing the possibility of filing a claim later on will prevent NGOs from recognizing their contribution to the public interest if this is not the case at the moment of registration.

The Committee reasoning is that "on the occasion of the initial registration of an NGO or later it is deleted because it no longer has a defined deadline" is unclear and unsustainable. The term "later" should not have a deadline, because it aims to define only the moment after the registration, not the time-frame or term for any other deadline. Since the NGOs themselves have no deadline, their ability to claim status for public benefit, whenever they see it necessary, cannot be limited in time.

AMENDMENT 21 - (ARTICLE 37, PARAGRAPH 5, DELETED)

In comparison with regular NGOs, there may be special reporting requirements for Public Benefit Status NGOs.<sup>12</sup> The basis of additional requests is the support provided to these NGOs by the state through the entitlements provided by this status, while the reason lies in minimizing the misuse of these entitlements on behalf of this status. However, the entire concept of public benefit status, including reporting obligations, is based solely on the entitlements offered to holders of this status. Without these entitlements, the status for public benefit makes no sense.

The Law on NGOs, in Chapter VII, sets out additional reporting obligations for NGOs with Public Benefit Status. The annual reporting of these NGOs gives the Department of NGOs an insight to ensure if these NGOs can continue to maintain this status, or they should be suspended or withdrawn completely. However, these additional obligations have meaning only based and in exchange for the relevant

<sup>10</sup> List of local NGOs registered in Kosovo <https://ojq.rks-gov.net/KerkoOJQ.aspx>, downloaded on 9 November 2018

<sup>11</sup> See the Venice Commission Guidelines to Freedom of Association, point 47 and point 86

<sup>12</sup> Council of Europe Recommendations on the Legal Status of NGOs, point 62

entitlements. Even so, the benefits for NGOs with public benefit status have been minimal for more than a decade. Concretely, the same provision that has already been removed by Amendment 21 has existed in the Law on the freedom of association of NGOs<sup>13</sup>, giving the right to organizations with public benefit status to have tax and fiscal incentives, except those who essentially are payments for municipal public services. Concrete entitlements should have been defined through specific tax and customs legislation, such as the Law on Corporate Income Tax, the Law on Personal Income Tax, the Law on VAT, etc. Despite having had different provisions on this issue, these laws have been and continue to be incompatible with the Basic Law on NGOs from which this status derives. Consequently, the benefits from tax and fiscal facilities are almost non-existent. Consequently, although there are many more NGOs in Kosovo that meet the conditions for having public benefit status, only a part of them hold this status, and more for image reasons than any concrete benefit. In recent years, efforts are being made to address this problem, not only by civil society organizations but also by the Government itself, through the recognition of this problem and involvement as a separate activity in the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society.

The provision completely removed in Amendment 21, makes completely non-implementable the complete public benefit status, namely all Chapter VII of the Law.

The Committee reasoning that "it is deleted, because no NGO can enjoy the right to tax and fiscal incentives" is completely ungrounded and inaccurate for all the reasons explained above. Furthermore, because this amendment in practice removes the status of public benefit, decision-makers should make sure that such a major decision is not based on misunderstandings, but is well studied in the reasons and consequences that can, produce, and the messages it can send about Kosovo's approach to Western democratic values.

AMENDMENT 23 - (ARTICLE 38, PARAGRAPH 5, SUBPARAGRAPH 5.5 AND 5.5.1. COMPLETELY DELETED)

See the reasoning for Amendment number 17.

AMENDMENT 30 - (ARTICLE 41, SUB-PARAGRAPH 1.2, DELETED WORDS "INSOLVENT", REPLACED WITH WORD "NON-ACTIVE");

Insolvency and non-active are completely different concepts, which do not only have linguistic but substantial differences and have a direct impact on the NGO sector.

Specifically, if the solvency is related to the inability to pay the claims, consequently it has a completely financial character. In the legal system of Kosovo, the law is clearly defined in the Law on Bankruptcy, where it is determined that "non-solvency" and/or "insolvency" is the financial condition in which an entity is generally unable to repay claims when matured or when its liabilities exceed the value of the assets".<sup>14</sup> In addition, international principles require that in the case of bankruptcy, the same rules apply to other legal entities.<sup>15</sup>

On the other hand, inactivity is not clearly defined in any law or normative act, but generally has much wider meaning, and includes many elements beyond the financial one. International principles speak of "prolonged inactivity", which is stressed that it is very difficult to define and ascertain, and may include cases of failure for many years to hold meetings or submit annual reports as required by law.<sup>16</sup> Precisely the difficulty in defining this situation has made international principles to be superficial but cautious in recommending that this cannot be used as a basis for extinguishing an NGO, except in cases of prolonged inactivity, and that being ensuring that the ascertainment of this condition is not the result of communication failure between the organization and the state.

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<sup>13</sup> Article 17.4 of Law 04 / L-057 on the freedom of association of NGOs

<sup>14</sup> Law 05 / L-083 on Bankruptcy, Article 3.1.26

<sup>15</sup> See Venice Commission Guidelines to Freedom of Association, point 246

<sup>16</sup> See Venice Commission Guidelines to Freedom of Association, point 246

Also, international principles define "court decision" as the only external basis for extinguishing an organization.<sup>17</sup> With Amendment 30 and the inclusion of "inactivity" as the basis for extinguishing an NGO, it is possible for someone outside the organization - apart from the court - to assess this situation. This gives room for arbitrary decisions and contrary to the constitutional right to freedom of association.

Beyond the violation of the freedom of association, even in practice it is impossible for this provision to be implemented. The Kosovo NGO Public Register contains basic information on registered NGOs, but not on their activity. This register fulfills the basic function of accurate coverage of the number of registered and unregistered NGOs, but information on whether an NGO is active or not, as well as the total number of active NGOs, is not the purpose for this registry. Moreover, as noted above, in the absence of any universal criterion, the concept of active NGOs is open to interpretation, hence unworkable as a legal norm. For example, if the financial activity was to be taken into account during the last year, such information could be provided by CBK or TAK, but would leave out all those NGOs that are active on a daily basis, but their activity is based on voluntary work. Similarly, NGOs are entitled and may not engage in any activity for a certain period of time, but only be activated when needed (eg, organizations that monitor the elections may need to be activated every 4 years, and not stay active constantly).

Based on all of these, the Committee reasoning that it is "replaced with adequate expression" is not sustainable.

AMENDMENT 31 - (ARTICLE 41, PARAGRAPH 2, IS REFORMULATED AS FOLLOWING: "IN CASE OF TERMINATION OF THE NGO, REMAINING ASSETS AFTER COVERING THE REMINING OBLIGATIONS OF NGO ARE DISTRIBUTED TO ANOTHER REGISTERED NGO IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO OR OTHER INSTITUTIONS WITH THE SAME OR SIMILAR PURPOSE".

It is a general rule that the remaining assets of the NGO are to be distributed in accordance with the statute or the decision of the highest governing body, as well as the non-distribution limitation provided for in the non-profit principle. Consequently, this asset cannot be given to the founder, director, officer, member, employee, or donor of the NGO. These conditions are even stricter if the NGO has had tax incentives, the donations it has received were public or government grants, whereby the remaining assets are given to another NGO, which has the purpose of same or similar as mentioned in the Statute or upon the proposal of the highest governing body. International principles emphasize that "the freedom of the organization to determine who will inherit its assets is subject only to the prohibition of profit distribution that may have been realized between its founders and its members. Regarding the transfer of assets acquired through tax relief or other public benefits, it would be legitimate for that asset to be distributed to organizations with similar objectives."<sup>18</sup>

As can be seen, there is a clear distinction in the obligation to distribute the remaining assets of extinct NGOs: 1) NGOs that did not have any benefit from the state are only obliged to implement the non-profit principle; 2) NGOs that have benefited from the state, are obliged to transfer the remaining property to an NGO with similar purposes. The latter to make sure that the purpose of state support is not alienated (e.g. if the state has given premises to an association of persons with special needs, in case of termination of this association this premises cannot be passed to a business association). The previous law on NGOs in Kosovo and the version before the amendment have made a clear distinction through two separate provisions: in the previous Law, through Article 21.3 for NGOs that benefited from the state and Article 21.4 for other NGOs; in the current Law, through Article 41.2 (before amendment) for NGOs that have benefited from the state and Article 21.4 for other NGOs and through Article 41.4 for other NGOs.

<sup>17</sup> See Venice Commission Guidelines to Freedom of Association, point 242

<sup>18</sup> See Venice Commission Guidelines to Freedom of Association, point 258

Also, both of these provisions ensure that assets collected by NGOs are not alienated but remain in the same sector. This was also one of the key elements of the Judgment of the Constitutional Court on the issue of transformation of microfinance NGOs.<sup>19</sup>

Related to the above, adding the word "institution" without explicitly clarifying whether it is a public institution or not, opens the way for a very dangerous situation where NGOs could distribute their remaining assets also to private institutions/businesses, a practice which is totally against the non-profit principle as well as the above mentioned Judgment of the Constitutional Court. With Microfinance NGOs undertaking numerous initiatives to legalize such a modality, and combined with both removal of the distinction elaborated above and changes to the list of public benefit activities (see elaboration for Amendment 17), such a change becomes highly controversial.

Finally, by amending paragraph 2 of Article 41, but not removing paragraph 4 of the same article, these two provisions are in conflict one with another.

Based on all this, the Committee reasoning that it "has been reformulated to clarify to whom the property is transferred after the extinction of NGOs" is not sustainable, because that issue is then even more ambiguous.

#### AMENDMENT 37 - (ARTICLE 47, PARAGRAPH 3, DELETED.)

According to Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, citizens should have the opportunity to form legal entities for the fulfillment of their social goals.

The three main functions of NGOs are:

- 1) Capital Accumulation and Distribution of Donations;
- 2) Community based activities and membership;
- 3) Provision of services or arguments / knowledge and non-profit performance.

It is important that there are appropriate legal forms that meet the specific financial and managerial needs of all these three functions. None of the states, however, have a legal form where a function is delegated to only one legal form. In most European countries, each function can be exercised through more than one legal form. Explanations for Amendments 5, 6 and 7 clarify the differences between the concepts and also differences between associations and foundations, as a legal form based on membership, respectively property and wealth.

While these two functions have been fulfilled so far by the previous Law on NGOs, the fulfillment of the third function has not been possible in terms of the legal form of registration and organization. Because of this lack, many NGOs that did not have membership or property or assets to manage were forced to choose one of the existing forms of organization. For example, many think-tanks operating in Kosovo are registered either as associations (though not based on membership) or as foundations (although not intended to collect and distribute donations). Not reflecting their true nature, during these activities, these NGOs have been constantly having problems of different nature.

For these reasons, the Law on NGOs for the first time included the third NGO registration form, that of the institute. On the other hand, Kosovo has about 10,000 registered NGOs, many of which would choose this form of registration if it had been available when they were registered. In order not to discriminate against already registered NGOs, and in particular to avoid the functioning of NGOs in artificial and / or inappropriate forms of organization, the NGO Law (before the amendment) foresees a transitional period during which the existing NGOs, should be enabled to choose institute as form of their organization. In accordance with international principles and Law on NGOs provisions on domestic

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<sup>19</sup> See the Judgment in case KO 97/12 in the Constitutional Court on the Constitutional Review of Articles Related to the Legal Subjectivity of NGOs in Law 04 / L-093 on Banks, Microfinance Institutions and Non-Bank Financial Institutions.

governance, this decision is left to the highest NGO body. Also, this change is only foreseen for one direction, namely transferring to the institute, and not choosing other forms of organization.

Amendment 37, completely removing the paragraph that makes this change, makes the reason for including the institute un-implementable as new form for registration of NGOs for all already registered NGOs in Kosovo, discriminating them and put these into unfair competition with NGOs that are going to be registered in future.

Based on all of this, the Committee reasoning "it is deleted because it is unnecessary for an NGO to change its form of organization in this period" is not sustainable because the need for such a change is evident.

#### **Used resources:**

1. Venice Commission Guide to Freedom of Association (in English) - <https://www.osce.org/odihr/132371?download=true>
2. Recommendation of the Council of Europe on the legal status of non-governmental organizations in Europe (CM/Rec(2007)/14) (in English) – <https://rm.coe.int/16807096b7>
3. Report of UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Association: Comparison of the treatment of businesses and associations by states (A/70/266) (in English): <http://freeassembly.net/rapporteurreports/sectoral-equity/>
4. European Convention on Human Rights (in English) - [https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf)
5. Legal analysis and level of implementation of Law on freedom of association in NGOs in Kosovo (KCSF 2015) - [https://www.kcsfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/17\\_04\\_2018\\_6476286\\_Analize\\_ligjore\\_dhe\\_e\\_zbatimit\\_e\\_Ligjit\\_per\\_OJQ\\_Dokument\\_punues\\_SHQ.pdf](https://www.kcsfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/17_04_2018_6476286_Analize_ligjore_dhe_e_zbatimit_e_Ligjit_per_OJQ_Dokument_punues_SHQ.pdf)
6. Kosovo Civil Society Index 2016 (KCSF 2016) - [https://www.kcsfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/05\\_11\\_2016\\_3646225\\_Indeksi\\_Kosovar\\_i\\_Shoqerise\\_Civile\\_2016\\_KCSF-1.pdf](https://www.kcsfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/05_11_2016_3646225_Indeksi_Kosovar_i_Shoqerise_Civile_2016_KCSF-1.pdf)

#### **Supporting organizations** (according to alphabetical order):

1. 7 Arte
2. Aksioni për nëna dhe fëmijë
3. Arena Mediale
4. Asociacioni i Gazetarëve të Kosovës (AGK)
5. Asociacioni Nacional i Autizmit në Kosovë
6. Balkan Sunflowers Kosova (BSK)
7. Balkans Policy Research Group (BPRG)
8. Community Building Mitrovica (CBM)
9. Demokraci për Zhvillim (D4D)
10. Demokraci Plus ( D+)
11. Down Syndrome Kosova (DSK)
12. EdGuard Institute
13. EKOVIZIONI
14. Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe (EC Ma Ndryshe)
15. Fondacioni Kosovar për Shoqëri Civile (KCSF)
16. Fondacioni Trashëgimia Kulturore pa Kufij (CHwB)
17. Forumi Kosovar i Aftësisë së Kufizuar
18. George Williams Youth Association në Kosovë (GWY - YMCA)
19. GERMIN
20. Gruja Ashkane për Gratë Ashkalike (GAGA)
21. Grupi per Studime Juridike dhe Politike (GLPS)
22. HANDIKOS Kaçanik
23. HANDIKOS Prishtinë

24. Humanitarian Law Centre Kosovo
25. Iniciativa Kosovare për Stabilitet (IKS)
26. Iniciativa për zhvillimin e bujqësisë së Kosovës (IADK)
27. Instituti Demokratik i Kosovës (KDI)
28. Instituti i Kosovës për Drejtësi (IKD)
29. Instituti Kosovar për Kërkim dhe Zhvillim të Politikave (KIPRED)
30. Instituti Kosovar për Qeverisje Lokale (KLGJ)
31. Instituti për Politika Zhvillimore (INDEP)
32. Instituti për Studime të Avancuara (GAP)
33. Instituti RIINVEST
34. Internews Kosova
35. IPKO Foundation
36. Këshilli i Mediave të Shkruara të Kosovës (KMSHk)
37. Këshilli Rinor Kosovar (KYC)
38. Komuniteti Termokiss
39. Kosova - Women 4 Women (K-W4W)
40. KosovaLive
41. Kosovo Architecture Foundation (KAF)
42. Lets do it Kosova
43. Lets do it Peja
44. Lëvizja FOL
45. Lëvizja për Zhvillim Sociale (LZHS)
46. Nilasit e Ballkanit (NS)
47. Nisma e të Rinjëve për të Drejtat e Njeriut - Kosovë (YIHR)
48. Oda Ekonomike Amerikane në Kosovë
49. OJQ Integra
50. OJQ KOHA
51. OJQ Rritu
52. OJQ TOKA
53. Organizata për Demokraci, Anti-Korrupsion dhe Dinjitet (ÇOHU!)
54. Organizata për rritjen e cilësisë në arsim (ORCA)
55. Programi për të drejtat civile Kosovë (CRP/K)
56. Public Organization for Local Initiatives and Supports (POLIS)
57. Qendra e trajnimeve dhe burimeve për avokim (ATRC)
58. Qendra Kosovare për Studime Gjinore (QKSGj)
59. Qendra Kosovare për Studime të Sigurisë (QKSS)
60. Qendra për Arsim e Kosovës (KEC)
61. Qendra për Barazi dhe Liri të Komunitetit LGBT në Kosovë (CEL)
62. Qendra për studime të avancuara (FIT)
63. Romane Gjuvlja ko Angluno Vektor (RGAV)
64. Romane Romnja
65. Rrjeti Ballkanik i Gazetarisë Hulumtuese (BIRN)
66. Rrjeti i Edukatorëve Bashkëmoshatar (PEN)
67. Rrjeti i Grave të Kosovës (RrGK)
68. Rrjeti i Organizatave të Grave Rome, Ashkali dhe Egjiptase të Kosovës (RROGRAEK)
69. SBUNKER
70. Shkolla Politike e Prishtinës (PIPS)
71. Shoqata e Intelektualëve të Pavarur, Deçan
72. Shoqata e Kontabilistëve të Çertifikuar dhe Auditorëve të Kosovës (ShKÇAK)
73. Shoqata e TIK të Kosovës (STIKK)
74. Syri i Vizionit
75. VIZIONIDA
76. We Have e Dream (WeHAD)
77. Women's Alliance for Integration (WAI)