

# *ANNUAL REPORT 2021*



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## WHO ARE WE?

*ACT for SOCIETY Centre, was established in January 2012. ACT for SOCIETY Centre believes in the power of change. It aims at making this change happen through "...new, creative, and effective strategies and initiatives..." ACT for SOCIETY Centre recognizes that Albanian's young democracy must become increasingly self-reliant and lead its own development. In the current situation, the pressing need is to encourage greater capacity development, awareness, and participation by Albanian institutions and local communities. ACT for SOCIETY Centre also believes that best results are produced through the right combination of development projects integrating strong capacity building development, thus enabling project actors and beneficiaries to implement effective and efficient projects that also provide for impact on society and sustainability of results. ACT for SOCIETY Centre experience suggests that any strategy to achieve these ends, must incorporate an individualised approach to catalysing change, and combine training in leadership and organisational dynamics with on-site technical assistance, mentorship and specific subject technical expertise. Organisation and individual skills are both needed.*

## MISSION

*ACT for SOCIETY Centre Mission is to enhance the healthy lifestyles and stimulate the sustainable development of society, its work consists of promoting culture, advocating for democracy and human right issues, connecting young's, stimulating active participation in the social life and decision-making processes.*

# MEET OUR TEAM



**Armela Pengili**

Executive Director



**Nertila Meçani**

Program Manager



**Sindi Bande**

Financier



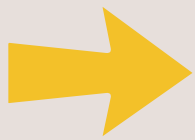
**Eliot Sulcaj**

Project Coordinator



**Krista Sila**

Project Coordinator



# OUR PROJECTS



## *Future for you(th): Young people as leaders of life skills education in the Balkans*

*Young Man Initiative Movement Future4Youth aims to bring diverse voices of civil society, informal citizens groups, parents, teachers and other stakeholders around the same goal – to address and advocate for violence prevention, gender equality, life skills and health education in schools across the Balkans.*



*Young Men Initiative (YMI) is a regional platform of organisations, convened by CARE International Balkans. It started as a project in 2006 and it is being implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Serbia, Croatia, Kosovo and Albania. It builds on CARE's*

*comprehensive and programmatic efforts to prevent interpersonal and gender-based violence as well as to promote gender equality in the region.*

*CARE and partners have introduced Program Y methodology at schools all around region and obtained accreditation in BiH, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo by relevant educational ministries, meaning that the Program Y methodology relies on violence and social problems prevention, gender equality, human rights, health education and promotion of personal and social growth as a key component of Life Skills Education in schools.*



*In 2021, the implementation of the second phase of the project for Albania has started. Phase in which the cooperation agreement was signed with two highschools in Tirana, Besnik Sykja and Sinan Tafaj and also the first year sessions have started. So far it has been a successful*



*implementation and this has also led to our Be a Man Club expanding. The Be a Man Club members have been through many adventures together this year with lots of different team building activities making their bond as a group even stronger.*



## *Adolescent and Youth, raising awareness and advocacy on GBV*

*Youth and Adolescence is an project in collaboration with Albania Community Assist in the framework of the UN Joint Program “Ending Violence against Women” founded by Government of Sweden and implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA in partnership with Albanian Government”. This project has 2 main components. Young Men Initiative Scaling Up project builds upon CARE’s comprehensive and programmatic effort to fight interpersonal and gender based violence (GBV) as well as to improve gender equality in the region and address preventative issues related to youth extremism and violence. It was funded by UNFPA Albania to continue its work in Kruja Municipality in “Skenderbeu” High School. An important component of the project during last year was the study “GENDER DIFFERENCES IN PARENTING AND THEIR IMPACT ON PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS IN ALBANIA”. The study on gender differences in parenting and how they affect the daily life of parent-child relationships in Albania, was prepared by the Center “ACT for SOCIETY” with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) office in Albania in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Social Protection and in coordination with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, under the United Nations Joint Program “End Violence Against Women and Girls”, funded by the Government of Sweden and which is being implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA in partnership with the Government of Albania.*



## *ACT on Hate*

*The “ACT on Hate” is an completed project that contributed to positive behavioural change among youth in peripheral and rural Tirana towards the fight against hate speech and the creation of counter-narratives. This project went in line with previous initiatives targeting youth, gender issues, and gender-based violence and combined lessons learned with a new approach in fighting hate speech.*



*It aimed to:*

- 1. Increase capacities among youth in peripheral and rural Tirana to identify, analyze and report cases of hate speech and/or hate-induced violence, including those online.*
- 2. Increase collaboration levels between youth-school administration-responsible institutions (The Commissioner Against Discrimination, The Ombudsman, AMA, Directories of Police, Public Defendants, etc).*

*During the Year this project had many valuable trainings and activities*

- 1. Online trainings with experts focused on understanding Human Rights*
- 2. 5-day training in Kruje focused on Communication techniques, Cyberbullying and Online security were discussed*
- 3. Meetings with institutions that are directly related with Hate speech and discrimination*
- 4. Short awareness-raising video summarising all the messages and the overall goal that the project aimed to achieve*



# ➔ My future is now.

Project “My Future is Now” aims to encourage democratic and civic participation of youngsters with lower education, who until now did not join any voting and community work and could be regarded as “eurosceptics”. Through a bottom-up approach of “Engage, Connect and Empower”, the aim is to help them open up, understand the opportunities for social and community work and meet their peers in other EU countries.

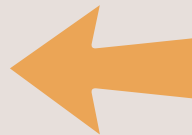
The main activities take place in 3 streams:

1. To engage and encourage youngsters to be involved in democratic and community building activities
2. To connect different youngsters with a variety of perceptions to create a broader and better understanding.
3. To empower youngsters via knowledge on processes and EU achievements and opening new networks and platforms to start projects and activities.





# ARTIVIST STAFETË



*“ARTIVIST STAFETË” is a project funded under the grant for Support to Active Citizenship by the European Commission and is funded by the European Union. The project is implemented locally by OMSA Albania and ACT for Society Center, in partnership with Dutch organisations MasterPeace and Stichting art.1.*

*This project aims to (i) improve the environment for active citizenship and civic participation by providing civil society sector organisations (CSOs) with tools to grant marginalised groups and side-lined voices in Albania with instruments to infiltrate the mainstream narrative and democratic dialogue at a local, Albanian and European level. Furthermore, the project seeks to stimulate activism through capacity building, and by creating a nation-wide network of civil society organisations advocating for increased democratic representation of minorities.*

*Therefore, the Artivist Stafetë Project relates to several priority sectors and themes; specifically: Democracy and government; Competitiveness and innovation; Education, employment and social policies; Cross border cooperation and regional cooperation, as well as specific themes from the call, particularly Local democracy, decision making, elections and political participation; Access to quality local public services and policies for groups most at risk of vulnerability, including children and youth in the post-Covid-19 context; Human Rights (women, children, LGBTIQ+, minorities, elderly, non-discrimination, freedoms etc.); Employment, support to social businesses, inclusive education, particularly if related to post; COVID19 crisis; Justice, integrity, fight against corruption; and Local development.*





## *EU for Gender Equality in Albania*



Bashkimi Evropian për  
**Barazinë Gjimore**  
 në Shqipëri

*“EU for Gender Equality in Albania: Implementation of the EU Gender Equality acquis” (EU4GE) is a United Nations Joint Programme (UNJP) developed by UN Women and UNFPA and funded by the European Union (EU) through the UN Albania SDG Acceleration Fund.*



*This two-year (April 2021 – March 2023) intervention reflects the EU commitment on gender equality as a principle underpinning its external relations within the framework of Albania's accession to the EU and with a focus on the*



*negotiation process. With the overall aim of enhancing transposition of the EU Gender Equality acquis and achieving gender equality outcomes in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (particularly SDG 5), it focuses on strengthening gender and socially responsive governance outcomes at central and local levels, in line with international human rights norms and standards such as CEDAW, the Istanbul Convention, and the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review. Specific emphasis is placed on supporting the Government of Albania in responding to the significant and gender-specific socio-economic challenges which result from the measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. In doing so, the action adheres to the principles of international guidance on gender-responsive recovery.*

# INTERNATIONAL DAYS

- 8th of March- International Women's day

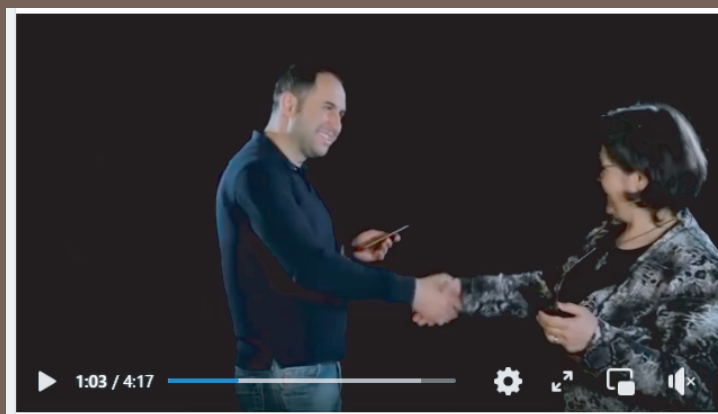
*ACT for Society in International Women's day shared three stories of strong independent women, how the pandemic affected them and their jobs and how they managed to go through it.*



*16th of May- International Family day*

*In the framework of International Family Day, Act for Society has prepared a video where individuals of different ages express their views about the family and its importance.*

*This video was made by Act for Society Center with the support of CARE Balkans and UNFPA Albania.*



*30th of July- International Friendship day*

*A picnic with the Be a Man Club in the framework of International Friendship day*



*12 of August- International Youth Day*

*Team building activity in the framework of International Youth Day*





## October 11 - International Girl Child Day

Be a Man Club members came out to distribute awareness leaflets and to inform more people about this day!



## 16 Days of Activism

Social media posts about violence statistics in Albania, how the Pandemic impacted the situation and also messages from our Be a Man members.

"Female Saloon" a meeting with Elga Mitre talking about Violence against women.

Movies that matter, the youngsters saw an educational movie and later had a discussion about the importance of freedom of speech.



# Conferences/ Training

*ACT on Hate Camp/Training. This was a 5-day Camp in the framework of ACT on Hate Project. During the 5 days topics that included Communication techniques, Cyberbullying and Online security were discussed. Also the participants were taught to Identify Hate Speech cases and developed strategies on how to prevent it.*



*"All Clubs Together" an event organised on the National Youth Day. Part of this event were Members of Be a Man Club from 10 cities where this project is implemented.*

*This event focused on young people from all BMC, as a way for them to get to know each other, share experiences and share values.*

*Part of the event were: Dr. Christian Steiner- Ambassador of Austria in Albania, Mrs. Elsa Hastad-Ambassador of Sweden in Albania, Mrs. Elsona Agolli- Representative of UNFPA.*



# STUDIES

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN PARENTING AND THEIR IMPACT ON PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS IN ALBANIA



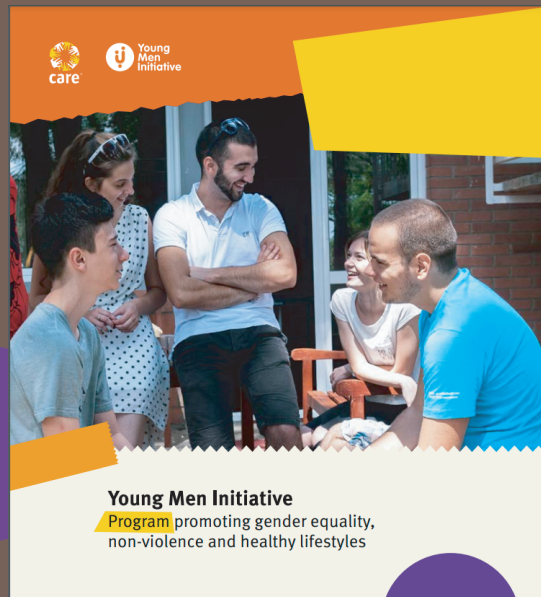


*The study on gender differences in parenting and how they affect the daily life of parent-child relationships in Albania, was prepared by the Center “ACT for SOCIETY” with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) office in Albania in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Social Protection and in coordination with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, under the United Nations Joint Program “End Violence Against Women and Girls”, funded by the Government of Sweden and which is being implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA in partnership with the Government of Albania.*

*The idea for such a study arose from the daily work of the Center “ACT for SOCIETY” in the framework of the implementation of the initiative to involve boys and young people in actions that promote gender equality and justice, through the implementation of the program supported by CARE International “Young Men Initiative”. Inspired by the positive achievements of changes in the behaviour of boys involved in this educational program implemented in several schools in the country, as well as driven by the need to highlight the importance of treating children equally regardless of gender, age or any other individual characteristic, for a healthy family and a nonviolent society, we decided to take the first step to explore how and where gender differences in parenting in Albania take place, how parenting styles and differences in behaviour towards girls and boys in the family are understood by parents and children themselves, what are the factors that promote these gender differences, what effects they have on the process of growth and development of girls and boys, etc. In the preparation of the study methodology, we also relied on the international practices of evaluating parenting styles, thus wanting to present a product that is valuable and updated from the research point of view.*

# Young Men Initiative

*Program promoting gender equality, non-violence, and healthy lifestyles*



*The Young Men Initiative (YMI) project started in 2006 and it is being implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Kosovo and Albania. The project builds on CARE's comprehensive and programmatic effort to prevent interpersonal and gender-based violence as well as to promote gender equality in the region. YMI is targeting youth to build their knowledge and attitudes concerning gender equality and healthy lifestyles and to decrease levels of all types of violence. YMI started with a small size qualitative research exploring young men's attitudes and behaviours, then over the years grew into a comprehensive program with different components targeting young people, parents, teachers, educational workers, university students, journalists and other important stakeholders. Since the beginning, the YMI has directly worked with over 120,000 youth in over 230 high schools and over 1,600 high school teachers, while various educational programs and campaign activities reached 750,00 people throughout the Balkans.*

## Policy Brief No. 2

*Program Y – Evidence and implications*

### Policy Brief No. 2

Program Y - Evidence  
and implications

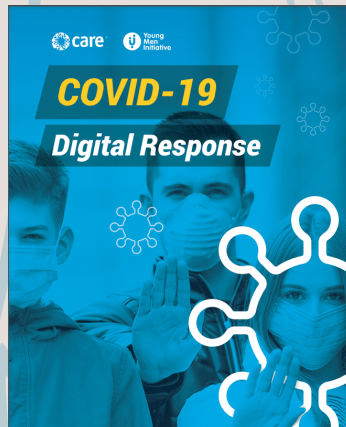


The Program Y policy brief offers information on the relevance of introducing programs based on the development of life skills and an overview of the key results achieved through the implementation of the comprehensive health promotion and violence prevention program – Young Men Initiative. The results presented in this document are extracted from evaluation studies conducted in Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo\*.

*Adolescence is a transitional period of intensive psychophysical development. During this period, adolescents have very pronounced intellectual, physical and other abilities, but also certain antisocial behaviours and unhealthy habits that can diminish these abilities and leave long-term or lasting consequences on them, their lives, as well as the communities in which they grow up. Program Y and Be a Man Clubs contribute to the development of life skills that enable young people to overcome the difficulties they may face, but also motivate young people to expand their influence on their peers outside of school, and thus extend their influence to the communities and society in which they live.*

## Covid-19

### Digital Response



*The ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 has had a major influence on YMI's activities, since all of the project targeted countries were under complete lockdown during the period March-May, and most are currently under safety and prevention measures, which include partial curfews, minor restrictions of movement and other civil liberties, including social and cultural gatherings and events. Considering that the project activities mainly focus on working with youth in communities and educational institutions across the region, the COVID-19 crisis has significantly impacted project implementation. The case study captures and documents the process of YMI's adaptation to the COVID-19 pandemic during the period March-July 2020, outlining the process and providing recommendations and lessons for the future.*

*This case study serves as a unique product developed by CARE and partners, and represents a unique contribution and source for other organisations that are going through the same process of adaptation.*

Erasmus+ 2021

MORE







*The core activity of the MORE was a training course from 25<sup>th</sup> October to 02<sup>nd</sup> November 2021, where 29 participants from 9 countries: Uk, Albania, Hungary, Ukraine, Greece, Latvia, Italy, Belgium, Spain, coming from 10 organizations (Asfar, Act for Society, Tamazpont Mopka, Vzayemopomich, United Societies of Balkans, Project Net, Giosef, Creativity Platform, System and generation International Association, Asociación Las Niñas del Tul ) reflected and worked together with 2 trainers- on the implementation of an educational tool for conflict management. In total there were 5 participants from Center Act for Society.*



**Mediation on Responsibilities and Exploitation**

Erasmus+ project 2020-2-HU01-KA105-079057

## Youth, Sport and Health



*Act for Society Center in cooperation with partners from Finland and Georgia organised a youth exchange on 'Youth, Sport and Health' on October 17-23, 2021 in the city of Kruja.*

*The aim of this project was to deepen the understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. During the exchange we focused on outdoor activities and learned to do our best through different types of sports.*

*During this youth exchange, young people (aged 17-19) and group leaders from Finland, Albania and Georgia gathered in Albania to participate in the youth exchange. The aim was to provide participants with new skills, knowledge and attitudes towards sports and healthy lifestyles, as well as to strengthen participants' intercultural skills.*



# OUR DONORS





# OUR PARTNERS



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