



LEAVE
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MARK!

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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WHO ARE WE?

We are an Albanian NGO, established in January 2012, with a special focus on young generation and European values. 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 a 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 project integrating strong capacity 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 individualized approach to catalyzing change, and combine training in leadership and organizational dynamics with on-site technical assistance, mentorship and specific subject technical expertise. Organization and individual skills are both needed. Insistence on high standards of quality and accountability cannot be compromised. It recognizes the importance of developing effective advocacy skills and the effectiveness of coalitions of communities, NGOs, local government and business. ACT for SOCIETY Centre has immensely invested in human resources development. Upon its establishment, staff received comprehensive training and technical support including training retreats, training of trainers/training of consultants, regional internships, and on-the-job training that is followed by continuous professional and personal development.

We are Accredited for **EVS** (European Volunteer Service)- Sending and Coordinating Organization with code 2015-1-SI02-KA110-013235 within the European Commission's Erasmus+/ Youth in Action Program. **Its** Objectives are: Promote human rights and inclusiveness of marginalized groups having in focus gender issues, Roma community, and other vulnerable groups; Enhance youth activities, initiatives and projects; Stimulate good governance, fight of corruption and transparency; Embrace think-tank ideology and stimulate research; Active participation in international, regional and national networks; Peace – Building through Culture and Art.

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

MEET OUR TEAM



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – ARMELA PENGILI PhD. Candidate on Int. Relations. Has Studied in Social Sciences SOCIOLOGY, and MSC-International Relations. She has been trained on social issues and by the EU commission training programs. She is also a lector to an Albanian University. Mrs. Armela has been a trainer on youth programs especially on youth workers issues, gender equality projects, human rights and democracy etc. Recently, she has been engaged as a research assistant within an Albanian university.



PROGRAM MANAGER- Stela Kosova has been part of Center ACT for SOCIETY since 2016. She is the manager of Social Development and Human Right Program, and has been coordinating several projects with a specific focus on youth, gender, and youth extremism. Stela is a student in Master of Science in Administration of Social Services, Faculty of Social Sciences, Tirana University. She has been graduated in Administration and Social Policy who showed herself to be a promising young specialist, with excellent academic achievements and performance in this field. She has been engaged with national and international scientific conferences, internships, trainings, seminars and workshops related with social area.



PR/PROJECT MANAGER-XHOI BARE Finished Bachelor on International Relations. Xhoi has been trained on leadership programmers for youth leaders, on politics issues, human rights and democracy etc. He also has been a trainer on youth programmers for the leadership and human rights too, such as on design training project. Xhoi is involved in the civil society sector, and he has been part of several trainings and conferences. Xhoi continuously works on different socio-cultural projects and programs, which aim at exposing and handling the problems facing young Albanians nowadays.



COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS-FABIO HAXHIU Has studied on Nursing. He has been trained on youth programs organized from the Youth in Action and Erasmus +. He is the Coordinator of the Volunteers from Albania in our office. Fabio has been an active on supporting all the project activities implemented by AFS Centre.



PROGRAM MANAGER- FATJONA BRAHIMI She has graduated on Psychology. Fatjona has been trained on leadership programmers for youth leaders, human rights and democracy etc. She also has been a trainer on youth programmers for the leadership and human rights too, such as on design training project and gender issues.

OUR PROJECTS

EUROPEERS INFO-SESSION



Xhoi Bare, part of EuroPeers International Western Balkans Europeers, was in the city of Fier. On 8 February 2017 in Fier, he organized an info session on EuroPeers and the opportunities offered by the European Union for Albanian youth. This activity was carried out within the framework of the EUROPEERS project, undertaken by the European Commission.



Focusing on the sharing of experiences of young people who have been part of European programs and the promotion of Erasmus + Youth in Action.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE WHAT YOUTH BELIEVE?



A project funded and supported by the European Youth Foundation, Council of Europe and implemented by the ACT for SOCIETY Center, during 27 March – 31 March 2017.

This activity aimed to inform the public and as well as raise their awareness of the importance of promoting interfaith dialogue among young people. High school students performed

theatrical parts of the "theater of oppressed" format that was prepared in connection with the topic of interfaith dialogue, which featured part of our reality. Also at the end of the event was organized a leap on the topic. Since Albania is a place known for religious harmony, we believe that with the realization of such projects, we can further aim, turning Albania into the country with the best religious relationships in the world. By giving an emphasis to religious harmony, not only will we be able to strengthen it and inherit it in future generations, but we will also provide a Positive model for any other country in a positive pattern for any other country, in the context where xenophobia and religious conflicts are the theme of the day.



INTERNATIONAL HEALTH DAY



The ACT for SOCIETY Center, in collaboration with the European University of Tirana, have successfully completed the information session on "Depression; Let's talk". The event was held in the framework of the "International Day of Health" (held today in 192 other countries of

the world). In this activity was invited Dr. Fleura Shkempi, psychologist and pedagogue at UET. This briefing session was widely discussed on the topic, on the main causes of depression, the negative consequences it brings. When we can figure out if someone is affected and how can we help. Participants were generally students, but not only. There were some public figures, who gave their opinions on the subject. The interaction was high where many questions exchanged between the guest and the participants. Recently, depression has become one of the major health problems, but not only. So the World Health Organization for 2017 proposed that the activities on this day be developed on this topic.



DEMOCRACY IN MY EYES



Held on 24/05/2017, in Tirana, Albania, this project aimed to bring a new perspective of democracy, as perceived by the youth of Albania. The opportunity to be part of it was given to all of the students of Tirana's high schools.

They were invited to share their views on democracy, using art and literacy. Students had the opportunity that by application on essay, poetry, drawing, photos and videos, to express their opinion about what democracy means for them. The best works were chosen and valued by known and fields artists. The project was innovative, because forward the perspective of youth in Albania. It was organized in a form of a contest, divided in four categories:

1. Drawing 2. Video 3. Essay And for each category there were prizes.



LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Center ACT for SOCIETY in collaboration with European University of Tirana on June 2, 2017 organized a leadership workshop for young people. This workshop, aimed at youth ages 16-25, brought together Canadian facilitators and Albanian participants to develop leadership skills in a cross-cultural setting. Participants worked with facilitators in a variety of presentations, activities, and discussions, sharing their leadership ideas and reflecting on their learning along the way. This workshop helped participants develop minimal leadership skills, allow participants to feel more confident in their leadership abilities, and give participants ideas about how to get more involved in their communities as leaders. The entire workshop was held in English. Participants received a certificate at the end of the day to commemorate their learning and will also know how to get further involved with ACT for Society's projects and initiatives.



VIDEO FOR“WALL OF CONNECTION”PROJECT

Two of our Canadian interns worked on a video about “Wall of Connection” project, that we will implement on September 21, of this year, with the aim of promotion of the project. They collaborated together to bring out something new and creative, to attract young people and to share the message of peace and security. So, using their talent of drawing, and their skills of video edit, we came up with this video that demonstrates how simple people, can impact and change the history itself. The video tries to show to everyone that we should break the barriers, referred as “walls of divisions”, and everything that separates people, like stereotypes, discrimination and racism. Instead we should be inspiring connections, and the way we chose to do it is through art and music.

The video is available at our Youtube channel, ACT for SOCIETY, under the Name “MASTERPEACE”.

The link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7-snlIdEG8I&feature=youtu.be>

YOUTH AND DEMOCRACY IN ALBANIA



The ACT for SOCIETY Center in cooperation with the Luarasi University College and with the support of the international network "European Alternatives", on 6 June 2017, organized a workshop on "Youth and Democracy in Albania". As a youth-focused organization, we aim to give them the opportunity to discuss the democracy and the integrity of the electoral constituencies.

Young people had the opportunity to work in groups and suggest solutions to issues that will be addressed about democracy in the Albanian context. Special guests were field lecturers from the "Luarasi University"



INTERNATIONAL POPULATION DAY



Center ACT for SOCIETY in cooperation with the Y-PEER network, Albania, as part of the network "Youth Voice" in Albania - Youth Voice Network in Albania under the coordination of

the Observatory for Children's Rights and UNFPA Albania's support for POGRADEEC, on 11 July, 2017 organized a workshop on "Contraception" with the Roma and Egyptian community. We thank the workshop of Dr. Teuta Pipa-Specialist of Sexual and Reproductive Health.

WALL OF CONNECTION



Center ACT for SOCIETY, with the support of MasterPeace, AkzoNobel, "Abdulla Keta" High school and Libuernetik Organization, in the framework of "International Peace Day", organized the activity "Wall of Connection". This project was about art, peace and security and how youth can contribute to achieve it. The activity was part of

an international project, which today is extended to more than 50 other cities around the world, thus building one of the world's largest murals. The Wall of Connections transformed a part of the wall of the school into an artistic wall painting. This activity is a global initiative by MasterPeace International.



INTERNATIONAL ELDER PEOPLE DAY



On October 1, we visited the Old People's House in Fier. Supported by UNFPA Albania, coordinated by the Observatory for Children's Rights, organized by the ACT for SOCIETY Center, this activity brought to the elderly a group of volunteer youths from the non-public "Flatrat e Dijes" secondary school, which helped distribute some symbolic gifts as well as engaging in conversations with them. We would like to thank all the young people who joined our project and donated them to different moments of the elderly.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD



Center ACT for SOCIETY, Observatory for Children's Rights in cooperation with Librazhd Municipality - Official Site and Support

of UNFPA Albania and UNICEF Albania, organized on October 11, 2017 a workshop in Librazhd, with the aim of informing and raising awareness of the society in

about early marriage. In this activity were taken part of the doctor, local actress from civil society and public institutions such as Librazhd Municipality, Police, Education Directorate and Gymnasium "Ibrahim Muça" etc.

We thank all attendees for the presence, and especially UNFPA and UNICEF for support!

LIVE VOTE MASCOTE

Purpose of the project was that Women and Girls vote independently in order to choose their representatives in government. The goals of the project were: To raise awareness and inform, women and girls of Rroskovec city, Bishqem (Peqin) city, Prrenjas city and Mallakaster city, who are voters, on the importance of the independent vote!



To raise awareness and inform men of Rroskovec city, Bishqem (Peqin) city, Prrenjas city and Mallakaster city, who exert pressure on other family members in the voting process. To make the first voter of Rroskovec city, Bishqem (Peqin) city, Prrenjas city and Mallakaster city aware about the importance of the independently voting. To raise awareness among politicians, political forces and Municipality of Rroskovec city, Bishqem (Peqin) city, Prrenjas city and Mallakaster city not to promote the phenomenon of family voting and to include women in electoral meetings and policy making.



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

What happens when a mannequin dressed with messages against gender-based violence is placed in the center of Tirana? On 25 November 2017, within the framework of the "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women", "Y-Peer Albania", "Act for Society" Center and the Youth Voice Network in cooperation with UNFPA Albania, coordination of the "Children's Rights Observatory", organized a social experiment by placing a female mannequin in two points of Tirana.



With inscriptions in which were written messages of forms of violence exercised over women. The purpose of this experiment was to look at the passers-by when they saw the mannequin with the messages, to make them aware, but not only. During this social experiment we encountered curious people and some other indifferent people. On some faces we saw the truth of our society. On some other faces, we saw hope.

POWER UP COMMUNITY



Within the week of youth ACT for SOCIETY Center successfully completed social startup "Power Up Community". This project was realized with the financial support of Raiffaisen Invest, with the support of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, as well as the National Youth Service. This project aimed at

youth activism, enabling young people from all over Albania to apply their project ideas. Their projects were intended to change the community from where they came from. In this project, over 100 young people from all over Albania applied, with only 36 of them selected. On the first day of the project, participants, had the opportunity to present themselves and the projects. They decided jointly to divide the groups. From the instructions of the trainers were formed respectively 7 groups and each group gave them proper forms of projects. On the second day, they had the opportunity to present their projects in front of each other, where after giving feedback and receiving the latest instructions, they presented their projects to the selection committee. From these ideas, the three best ones were selected will have time until January 31 to be implemented in the respective areas. Three winning ideas came to the aid and service of three different communities: Sukth, Belsh and Durres.

DIFFERENT AND EQUAL

Successfully completed 5-day "Different and Equal" training organized by the ACT for SOCIETY Center, with support from CIJA US and in partnership with the local organization "Udhëtimi i Lirë". In



this training, attended by 30 students from the school "16 Shtatori" Shijak, discussed about different religions, young people had access to more information on their religion and their origins. They learned more about the NO HATE SPEECH movement, against the language of hatred and about the importance of religious coexistence. The young people were divided into 4 groups and they became familiar with the theater model of the "theater of the oppressed," or "theater of the oppressed". In this kind of theater, it is given the opportunity and the speculator to intervene and become part of the show, which best performed by the students of "16 Shtatori" Shijak, the last day of the activity, where the participants staged appeared before peers and school teachers.

PACT

Founded by European Union. The **PACT** project target the civil society actors from the four regions of Northern Albania—Diber, Kukes, Lezhe, and Shkoder. The specific objective is “to increase the engagement of CSOs in 15 municipalities of Northern Albania in good governance issues and fight against corruption by strengthening their capacity and funding their initiatives”. The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by ANTTARC in partnership with the Albanian Local Capacity Development Foundation (ALCDF) and Act for Society Center (AFS).

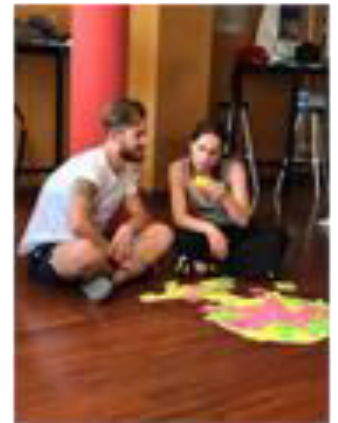


Act for Society Center, during 2017 has been part of numerous activities of Erasmus+. Here are some of them together with few moments and the countries where projects were implemented.

**ITALY, ROMANIA, BULGARIA, PORTUGAL, MACEDONIA, TURKEY
SWEEDEN, GERMANY, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA**



ERASMUS+



CONFERENCES

YOUTH PEACE AND SECURITY in the Europe and Central Asia Region



The UN Security Council on December 2015 adopted UNSCR 2250 on Youth and Peace. For the first time, the council recognized the decisive role youth could play in preventing conflicts, wars, and violent extremism. This resolution was launched by Jordan and was unanimously voted by all member states.



For these reasons, the United Nations has been campaigning for youth consultation around the world. One of them was the one held in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-25 May 2017, held in two languages, English and Russian. The main theme was

"Peacebuilding and Youth Involvement".

Under the leadership of Turkish organizers, during the 3 days, various activities were held where participants divided into groups according to the language of speech had the opportunity to express their ideas on the problems that the youth encountered in their countries



RECOGNITIONS

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST FASCISM & ANTI-SEMITISM



On the occasion of 9 November, the International Day Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, UNITED For Intercultural Action, has organized a competition for best poster - poster on the International Day Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism. In this international competition, attended by activists from many countries around the world, was bestowed as the best accomplished poster, the poster proposed by the Center ACT for SOCIETY.

The campaign website:

<http://dayagainstfascism.eu>

The link the check ranking:

<http://dayagainstfascism.eu/2017-2/poster-competition/>

OUR PARTNERS

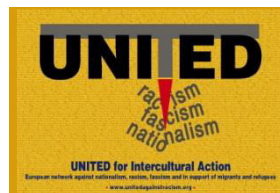
COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



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