

Annual Report 2019

ACT for SOCIETY Center



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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 selfreliant 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.

ACT for SOCIETY Center 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 EUcommission 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 & PR – Xhoi Bare

Xhoi graduated in International Relations at the European University of Tirana and is currently a Master of Science in European Policies and Governance at the Institute of European Studies. He is the Program Manager of Democracy and Anti-Corruption Program, and also a team leader in "Men and Boys as Partners in Promoting Gender Equality and Prevention of Youth Extremism and Violence in the Balkans" under the framework of CARE International in Balkans Xhoi has been trained on leadership programs for youth leaders, politics issues, human rights and democracies, project management and peer education, and is a trainer in youth programs on human rights, gender equality and violent extremism. the civil society sector since 2013 and has been part of more than 50 trainings and conferences. Xhoi continuously works on different socio-cultural projects and programs, which aim at exposing and handling the problems facing young Albanians today.



Meet our team

Program Manager – Eleni Nanaj



Eleni Nanaj is the Program Manager of Human Rights and Social Development Program, and coordinated projects with specific focus on youth, gender, leadership and violent extremism. She is currently leading the project "Men and Boys as Partners in Promoting Gender Equality and Prevention of Youth Extremism and Violence in the Balkans" under the framework of CARE International in the Balkans. Eleni is also a Master of Science degree in Administration of Social Services, Faculty of Social Sciences at Tirana University. She has graduated in Social Work where she has shown herself to be a promising young specialist, with excellent performance. She has been involved in the civil society sector since 2014, and every experience has been different from one - another. She has been a Supportive Teacher for Children with Special Needs in Elementary Schools, working on projects for children without parental care and piloting of Foster Care in Albania. Eleni has expertise in project management, strategic planning, and research.

Project Coordinator – Nertila Mecani

Nertila Meçani is graduated in Psychology at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Tirana University. She is the ESC Project Coordinator of the office.. Nertila was part of a short-term EVS in Turkey where she worked with children with disabilities. She has been trained in program management, human rights and democracy and has expertise in working with children. Nertila has been involved in the civil society sector since 2016 working primarily as a volunteer and she has been part of training and conferences. Her devotion and skills have shown her to be a promising young professional.



Our projects



“Young Men Initiative”

The Men and Boys as Partners in Promoting Gender Equality and prevention of Youth Extremism and Violence in the Balkans or *Young Men Initiative II (YMI II)* is our new project for 2018. The 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. The project objective is to enable positive and peaceful societies for young people in [Serbia](#), [Kosovo](#), [Albania](#) and [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), that support gender equality and decrease interpersonal violence and its extremism.



The project’s specific objective is to improve Youth NGOs and government capacities to [integrate Program Youth - Life Skills Educational Curriculum](#) in current educational and youth policy strategies and strengthen governmental and civil society efforts related to inclusion of youth vulnerable to extremism. This year we implemented Program Y in “Ismail Qemali” highschool. We trained [young people](#) from this school with Y Manual and identified individuals who will act as peer educators.



Our campaign

"Be a man"



"Be a man" lifestyles campaign, which aims to reinforce key messages of the Young Men Initiative and encourage changes at the school level and beyond. The campaign is supported by variety of educational materials, social media and activities organized and conducted by the students, members of "Be a man" clubs (abbreviated BMC).

Members of "Be a man" clubs are both young men and women, and in the region they gather several hundred active members. In the Balkans, there are currently 40 active "Be a man" clubs with 1,500 active members.



Leading philosophy of the Young Men Initiative is that young men should not be seen as an obstacle to peace and gender equality, but as key allies in the promotion of non-violent, healthy relationships and communities. Young women, as active members of the community, should be active participants in society, as well as agents of change.



Are u OK?

"Be a man" club in cooperation with ACT for SOCIETY Centre and the CARE International Balkans has launched a campaign aimed at starting the conversation on mental health of young people.

supportive environment for young people.



Challenge: to encourage observers, but not to burden them with new responsibilities.

THE GOAL OF THE CAMPAIGN:

Promotion of prosocial behavior among young people in high school (14 to 20 years old). To change culture, make the school a



Masterpeace Albania



Inspired by
MASTERPEACE
Creating peace.
Together.

- **Masterpeace Albania** has joined **MasterPeace Global** in 2013. The aim of masterpeace is to use the soft power of music, art, sports and games to mobilize and inspire young people also to promote peace worldwide.
- We have organized every year meetings and various activities for **International Peace day**; such as marching, murals and gatherings with the youngsters.
- Since October 2018, we are part of the project **ACT - Artist Create Together** which aims to make the society more aware about SDG's through music, summits, wall of connections and storytelling.



Artists create together



As part of the ACT - **Artists Create Together** project, a two year project funded by the **Dutch Foreign Ministry** during 2019 we organized several activities:



We organized three summits: The first one was the kick off of the project in collaboration with different stakeholders who shared their perspective and their work about gender equality and youth in Albania. **The second summit was YLC** – Youths Leaders Conference organized with **MCW** which aim was to increase the skills and knowledge of young leaders about globalization, SDGS and gender equality situation in Albania.

The third summit was PEACE, JUSTICE, GOOD INSTITUTIONS their impact to gender equality a student's summit which aim was to produce a book with their papers about the topic.



We were part of the organizing team of **"Tirana Art Fest 4"**, the biggest youth art competition in Tirana and the documentary-music video of WildFire together with **Van Velsen** and **Olta Boka**. Also we trained more than 100 youths about storytelling and collected 30 stories from youths of Pogradec and Tirana.



YOUTH AND ADOLESCENCES



Day ACT for SOCIETY started a study called " GENDER DIFFERENCES IN PARENTING STYLES AND ITS IMPACT ON PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP IN ALBANIA ". Founded by UNFPA Albania and Sweden Sverige part of "Youth and Adolescents" this study aims to analyze parenting styles, gender-related differences, and their impact on parent-child relationships. Information about this project gathered from young people aged 15-19 and their parents through various research instruments (questionnaires, focus groups and in-depth interviews). The questionnaire information is assumed to be collected from about 813 young men and women, mainly high school students and students, as well as about 1626 parents (mothers and fathers) in the 12 countries of the country. The lunch of the Study will happen in 15th May International Day of Families. of Families.

International days



16th June – INTERNATIONAL FATHER'S DAY



To mark this day devoted to **parental figures** important in **everybody's** life, we organized an activity with the young people, part of our center and the "Be Man" Club. The **youngsters** discussed about the relationship that they have with **their parents** and showed different ways that they communicate with them. They talked about the importance of being a **parent** involved in their **children's** life.



International days



12TH August – INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

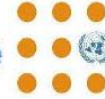
To mark this day devoted to youngsters, we organized an activity with the young people of “Cerrik”. We discussed the role of youth in transforming education, the role of peer education in [SRHR](#), [CSE](#), volunteering for their rights, the role of the young men for achieving [ASRH](#) and empowering their peers and What young people can do more to improve the situation. We also had an online campaign on all social networks in the framework of “[International youth Day](#)”. The theme of the campaign was “[Youth Activation and Awareness of Their Rights](#)”. The duration of the campaign was August 1st and ended on 12th August, the “[International Youth Day](#)”. During these 12 days different quotes about relevant topics were published on social networks every day.



International days



Sweden
Sverige



Ending
Violence
Against
Women

11TH of October 2019 (INTERNATIONAL DAY OF GIRLCHILD)

To mark this day devoted to *girl child*, We organized an activity with young men and women, children, parents and teachers. It was interactive and life like, involving children and parents in the fun games that promoted the rights of the *girl child* and the rights of all children. At the end of the activity children read the list of the rights of the *girl child* from the cards we had created and each individual present at the activity was given cards to take home and read them to other children/ young men and *women* who were not present.



The cooking show activity

In the framework of the 16 Days of Activism, the youngsters of the Be a Man Club and the volunteers of the **ACT for SOCIETY Center** organized the “**Cooking Show**” activity. With the initial idea of showing that not only women cook, but also men are a very important part of household chores, but also adapting to the situation in Albania, young people cooked to help people that were affected by the earthquake in Vore. The earthquake left them homeless and they are living at social centers. The Food that was cooked by young women and men was distributed to 60 people in Vore.

(Dance themes Activity)

As part of the 16 Days of Activism, on **National Youth Day**, ACT for SOCIETY Center in collaboration with YPeer Albania and Siluhatte Dance organized an event for young people affected by the earthquake in Durres who are staying at Harmony Hotels Group in the city of Durres. Dance themes were prepared for them, including **gender-based violence**, **songs** and **games** for children with some winners and gifts.

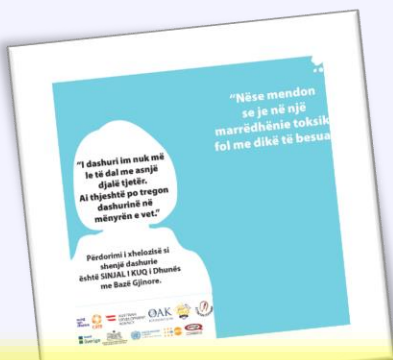


RED FLAGS CAMPAIGN

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Red Flags campaign started in the framework of the 16 Days of Activism to raise awareness of young men and women aged 15 -29 on everyday GBV Red Flags to spark conversation and challenge the mentality.



Power Up Community 2



ACT for SOCIETY Center supported by **Raiffeisen Invest** implemented the project **"Power Up Community 2"**. The Power Up Community 2 project aims to empower young people through a better contribution to their local communities. It is a format that encourages young people from different areas of **Albania** and with great desire to contribute to solving the problems of society through their innovative ideas.



Initially, participants were introduced to the project through its presentation and made applications with their own ideas. After selecting the best ideas, among a large number of applications, the selected participants were invited to the 2 day training that took place at the **Tirana Youth Center** on 6-7 June 2019.



"Making the Labour Market Working for Young People"



ACT for SOCIETY Center was part of a new project with **"Risi Albania"**. Our role was to coordinate 20 participants for the project: motoring group of media products with information and orientation on the labor market, supported by the **Risi Albania** project, funded by "Swiss Development Cooperation". The purpose of this **Risi Albania** project is to contribute to increasing employment opportunities for women and young men (15-29) in Albania. One of the ways is to increase access and improve information on labor market opportunities through the media as a valuable resource for young people, particularly on **education**, **careers** and **occupations**. A five-month monitoring process was developed with the group of participants to monitor the **quality** and **attractiveness** of the programs.



Conferences



Netherlands Enterprise Agency



“Conference in the city of Kruja”

ACT for SOCIETY Center was a partner in hosting the third Young Leaders Conference of **MCW Global**, from May 5th – 7th in Krujë, Albania. The conference focused on supporting **young leaders** between the ages of 18-26 develop projects aimed to tackle regional specific issues in Europe, such as gender equality and youth migration. In attendance were 25 participants from the Balkan region, challenged by similar concerns in their communities. The conference was divided into three sections: **Leadership**, **Global Citizenship**, and **Vision Planning**. The young leaders were challenged to think about the social composition of their communities and the unique issues they face locally. Participants went through leadership training, the process of vision planning, and discussed the importance of global citizenship as a way to address major issues facing the world.



Conferences



Youth Conference: Strengthening Youth and Youth for Sustainable Development.

Date: 17th of May 2019

The event gathered young **men and women** from the "Ismail Qemali" High School, "Mersin Duqi" High School and students from the "University of Tirana". Young men and women from different communities and with various problems had the opportunity to collaborate and interact in joint activities by learning from each other and also challenging each other.

The event had this structure: At the beginning there was an open discussion among **students, pupils** and event leaders on basic skills for **young people**, as well as about conflict solving skills, using effective **communication** and **tolerance**. After these discussions, we had some workshops with **young people**, putting in place 'conflict solving skills using effective **communication** and **tolerance**'. During the workshops, it was noted that young people had barriers to communication and solving problems. Although in the end they managed to perform the tasks assigned to the group and to solve the problems posed, when they began analyzing the group work process, the participants emphasized the things that did not work well - not the things that went well, which made their activities their successful. Based on these conclusions, we will continue our work with young people and young people to prevent **violent behavior** by using their education and offering them on positive thinking and developing conflict resolution skills by using effective **communication and tolerance**.



Expertises

During 2019 ACT for SOCIETY Center has been expert on:

exhibits on:

Trainings

Conducted
several
workshops

Seminars

“Young Leaders Access Program” organized by “MCW Global”

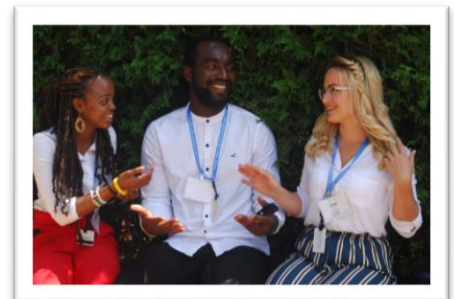


ACT for SOCIETY staff member, **Eleni Nanaj** was accepted in the “Young Leaders Access Program” organized by **MCW Global**. The year-long program prepares young people, 18 to 26, to become **leaders** of change in their communities through **leadership development**, **global citizenship**, and vision planning. During the program, participants go through the process of “**vision planning**” where they identify an issue facing their community and then produce an actionable plan.

This year’s retreat was held in **New York City**, New York and **Burlington, Vermont** from Tuesday, July 23 to Thursday, August 1, 2019. At the retreat, participants gained inspiration and insights from case studies presented by **leaders** in **academia**, **civil society**, **development**, and **business** through a series of workshops, discussions and experiential learning. Graduates are eligible to apply for the “**Alumni Ventures Fund grant**”.



To prepare vision plans, participants are paired with Access Program alumni, who guide and mentor them throughout the year, helping them transform personal passion into a concrete project. The Program begins with a 10-day **intensive summer retreat**.



Erasmus+ Trainings

During 2019 we have been part of several trainings in different countries :



Trainings

Directly: 2,570
Indirectly: 120,000

**We have trained more than
2,570 active participants in
different activities such as :**

- *Conferences;**
- *Trainings;**
- *Awareness campaigns;**
- *Workshops;**

Our donors



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Our Partners



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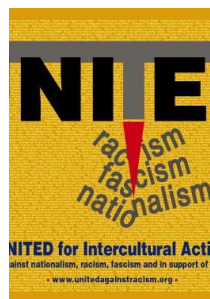
Universiteti
Europian i
Tiranës



We are part of:



MenEngage
boys and men for gender equality



**Anna Lindh
Foundation**
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**NO HATE
SPEECH
MOVEMENT**

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