



25
NDI
KOSOVO

YEARS
OF

MAKING
DEMOCRACY
WORK

1999 - 2024



“ That first winter was long and cold. There was little or no electricity, which meant no light, no heat, no Internet, no generator, and no car. It tested our patience a little bit, but it made us engage with people wherever there was electricity, warmth, and coffee. I learned so much from those people—about what they had gone through, what was at stake, and the resilience that had led them to the point where independence was on the horizon. ”

Ross Reid

On the opening of the NDI office in Kosovo in 1999

First NDI Kosovo Country
Director, 1999-2001



This banner was created for the International Day of Democracy in 2011, still displayed at the entrance of NDI Kosovo office.

FOREWORD

NDI's work in Kosovo over the last quarter century is driven by the belief that a resilient democracy that delivers for all its citizens. Our programs have focused on empowering citizens, building the capacity of political actors, and supporting transparent and accountable governance. Over the years, Kosovo's democratic institutions have developed to give citizens a stronger voice in shaping their future - and NDI has been proud to be a partner every step of the way.

I am deeply grateful to all those who have been part of this important journey, including our committed team, local partners, and donors. I would also like to extend a special thanks to our Country Directors, whose strategic vision and leadership have been instrumental in guiding our efforts and delivering such an impactful program.

Your collaboration and support have been key to the successes we've achieved together. Thank you all.

Robert Benjamin

Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe Programs

This booklet stands as a visual testament to the milestones we've achieved, the challenges we've confronted, and the unwavering dedication of our extraordinary team and partners in fostering democracy in Kosovo. It captures only a fraction of the extensive work carried out by NDI in Kosovo, but reflects our varied and impactful programming and the vibrancy and commitment of our innovative partners. Our work is driven by a shared vision - to build a more inclusive, transparent, and accountable democratic process in Kosovo.

We are especially grateful to the generous support of USAID, which has been with us through these 25 years.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all who have been part of this journey and to all our generous donors. Your support and collaboration have been essential in realizing these accomplishments. Thank you!

Ambassador Nancy Soderberg

Senior Country Director NDI Kosovo, 2020 - present

Engaged more than

40,000



Kosovo citizens, through training & civic initiatives

Supported more than

40



political parties and initiatives

Supported more than

180



NGO's in building their capacities

Worked in all

38



Kosovo municipalities

Worked with all

7



Kosovo non-majority communities, engaging over 2500 participants

More than

7000



women increased their public profile

More than

4700



youth engaged in political processes

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NDI team 2006

NDI IN KOSOVO

As Kosovo began its path toward independence and democracy, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) opened its Pristina office in October 1999, just as the country emerged from conflict. From day one, NDI has been a committed partner in Kosovo's democratic journey, working alongside its people every step of the way.

Over the past 25 years, NDI has played a crucial role in fostering democratic values in Kosovo. NDI's work has included observing elections, enhancing parliamentary affairs, and supporting political party development, with a special emphasis on empowering women and youth. Since 1999, NDI has been dedicated to helping Kosovars build a strong and vibrant democracy through citizen engagement, election monitoring, gender inclusion, and promoting information integrity. See a brief history of NDI [here](#).





Honoring the legacy of

Madeleine K. Albright



Madeleine K. Albright

1937-2022



Madeleine K. Albright served as the chairman of the NDI from 2001 until her passing in 2022, leaving a profound legacy of championing democracy and human rights worldwide. As a former U.S. Secretary of State, Albright brought her vast diplomatic experience to NDI, reinforcing its mission to promote democracy and good governance globally.

Under her leadership, NDI expanded its work in supporting democratic institutions, fostering inclusive political participation, and empowering women and marginalized groups. Albright was a fierce advocate for democratic resilience in the face of rising authoritarianism, and her tenure at NDI solidified the organization's role as a global leader in advancing democracy. Her legacy continues to inspire efforts for democratic progress and civil liberties around the world.



Madeleine Albright 
@madeleine

Thank you to the people of Kosovo for welcoming @BillClinton & me to Pristina to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the war. I am proud of how far you've come, and will keep working through @NDI to help you strengthen your democracy. May Kosovo prosper & live in freedom & peace


*Pristina, Kosovo
June 12, 2019.*



“... NDI stands for such a special thing, and that, of course, is Madeleine Albright. We lost her recently, but who could forget the massive role she played in making us all sit up and take notice to defend democracy.”

Christiane Amanpour

*CNN's chief international anchor
address to NDI's DISICON conference, April 2022*

A photograph of Madeleine K. Albright speaking at a podium in the Kosovo Assembly. She is wearing a dark suit and a pearl necklace. The podium features the Kosovo coat of arms. In the background, several men are seated at desks, some wearing headsets. The room has dark wood paneling and gold accents.

“ I am proud that the National Democratic Institute has been able to work with many of you in helping to strengthen political parties, to support this central Assembly and build civil society. And I can assure you that we will continue to assist you in every way we can. ”

Madeleine K. Albright

Albright’s address to the Assembly of Kosovo

On July 5, 2005, Madeleine K. Albright addressed the Kosovo Assembly during her first visit after the war. She praised Kosovo's progress toward democracy and encouraged further efforts to build a united, prosperous society rooted in the rule of law, inclusivity, and a government that serves all its citizens.



**Making Democracy
Work in Kosovo since
1999**

*A truly democratic
society thrives when
every citizen is
empowered to
participate.*

Zgjedhjet - Izbori
2009

DT
FID
INPO
KCIC
KDI
KHCS Mother
Theresa
KIPRED
Syri i Vizionit

Working To Strengthen
And Expand
Democracy Worldwide

Punimë për fuqizimin
dhe zgjerimin e
demokracisë në Botë

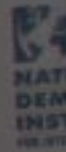
AID
AMERIKAN
G NARODA

Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa
Gefördert durch Deutschland
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
Supported by Germany

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Embassy of Switzerland



USAID
NGA POPULLI AMERIKAN
OD AMERICKOG NARODA



Rockefeller
Fund
Independent World

INSTITUTE FOR
Sustainable
Communit

ROYAL NORWEGIA



Susan Fritz
USAID



Imet Kryeziu
Democracy of Kosovo



Laura Nichols
NDI

Election Monitoring





To build confidence in Kosovo's electoral process, NDI has played a pivotal role in training and supporting local civil society organizations. By organizing and deploying hundreds of observers across the country, NDI has helped the integrity of elections since the first municipal elections in 2000. Since 2016, local organizations have taken on these crucial tasks, continuing the tradition of robust election oversight.

NDI has been honored to support Kosovo's democratic journey through numerous municipal and parliamentary elections. In collaboration with Democracy in Action, a coalition of local organizations, we have worked tirelessly to uphold the principles of free and fair elections.

NDI's efforts include introducing the Parallel Vote Tabulation methodology and implementing comprehensive election monitoring, reflecting NDI's unwavering commitment to transparency and integrity in Kosovo's electoral process.



VÉZHIGUES



VÉZHIGUES



A DO?
RRUGË?

A DO?
RRUGË?

DO?
SHKOLLË?

SHKOLLË?

GADI



2005

**Establishment of Kosovo
Democratic Institute (KDI)**



In 2005, as part of an ongoing effort to help citizens organize and become active in politics, NDI supported the establishment of the Kosovo Democratic Institute (KDI). KDI is a Kosovar NGO committed to holding elected representatives accountable for performance and informing citizens about legislative processes. Since the establishment of KDI, NDI has continued to support the organization.

Civic Forum

NDI's Civic Forum program was instrumental early on in empowering Kosovars to actively engage in the democratic process. By fostering a deep understanding of democratic principles and facilitating direct interaction between citizens and public officials, the program has helped communities identify and address local challenges through strategic advocacy initiatives. The Civic Forum has particularly focused on youth engagement, recognizing the importance of equipping the next generation with the skills and values necessary for sustained democratic leadership in Kosovo.

Through this program, NDI empowered citizens, particularly marginalized groups, to influence political processes that directly impacted their lives. By fostering citizen-centered activism and building developmental partnerships, NDI helped local groups engage with government institutions, advocate for policy changes, and hold officials accountable. This work was crucial because it strengthened democracy, promoted social justice, and ensured that the needs of vulnerable populations were addressed. NDI's approach shifted power dynamics in favor of citizens, making political systems more inclusive and responsive to public needs, which was essential for sustainable development.

2002 CIVIC FORUM STATS



13,800

*Participants were engaged in the
Civic Forum*



116

*Civic Forum
grassroot groups*



20

Municipalities

*Civic Forum participants, in turn,
mobilized up to:*

16,000

Citizens



Conflict Transformation

On 2015, NDI implemented the Conflict Transformation Program in Kosovo, fostering interethnic dialogue and cooperation between ethnic Albanians and Serbs. Through initiatives like Playback Theater workshops, NDI provided a platform for participants to share personal stories of conflict, transforming them into performances that encouraged empathy and healing. By bringing together individuals from divided communities, NDI helped create sustainable relationships and mutual understanding, using art as a powerful tool to address deep-seated divisions and promote peace in post-conflict Kosovo.





Building Anti Corruption Capacities in Civil Society



Since 2021, NDI has been working to build domestic coalitions of good governance groups, social cohesion and economic development CSOs, and other communities, including women, youth, ethnic non-majorities, and LGBTQI+, to engage in collective action on legislative and fiscal reforms. These coalitions work to improve government responsiveness, raise public awareness through regional and international dialogue, and establish domestic and cross-border links to sustain advocacy efforts.



ASSEMBLY OF KOSOVO

*A truly democratic
society thrives when
every citizen is
empowered to
participate.*



Strengthening Kosovo's Democratic Foundations

Declaration of Independence of Kosovo in 2008.



Since 2001, NDI has partnered to support Kosovo's institutional and legislative development, particularly after Kosovo's independence in 2008. In 2009, the Kosovo Assembly Support Program (KASP) was initiated to help the Assembly meet its long-term goals. KASP built upon previous efforts to develop the Assembly's structure, including rules of procedure, committee operations, and staff organization. NDI also provided technical support for better legislative management through staff operation manuals, promoted public participation via the Civil Society Liaison Office, and supported oversight of laws and budget implementation.



Additionally, NDI worked to enhance legislative transparency through outreach programs and by fostering collaboration between committees and civic groups. The Institute's assistance also focused on on-the-job mentoring for Assembly staff, ensuring the continuation of the reforms implemented during the previous programs. NDI worked with the Assembly leadership and secretariat to improve the management of parliamentary groups in order to help them translate policy priorities into legislative action, advance the quality of legal analysis and policy research to ensure more informed decision making across committees, improve parliamentary oversight mechanisms with a particular focus on budgetary oversight, and increase parliamentary transparency and openness.

During the first decade after the Assembly's creation, NDI worked to help it develop key mechanisms. Among the early steps were the Question Period and Member Statements, where NDI played a key role in establishing and institutionalizing these two important parliamentary oversight tools. Strengthening the Assembly's oversight function and creating opportunities for more direct interaction between MPs and the Government.

In 2006, NDI provided guidance and technical assistance to the Assembly's first investigative committee for the Law on Parliamentary Investigations. In addition to advocating for the use of parliamentary investigations as a tool to hold the executive accountable for its actions and decisions, NDI assisted the Assembly in drafting its first law on parliamentary investigations, which was adopted in 2010.

Later, in 2010, NDI helped establish the Committee for Oversight of Public Finances to ensure accountability and transparency in the use of public funds. NDI worked with parliamentarians to define the committee's mandate and procedures. The committee quickly assumed a key role in scrutinizing government spending, promoting good governance, and strengthening public trust in financial management.



2005

**Establishment of the
Women's Caucus**



In July 2005, NDI supported the establishment of the Women's Caucus, marking a key moment for advancing gender equality in Kosovo's parliament. The Caucus, consisting of women MPs from all parties, has been instrumental in advocating for legislative reforms, promoting women in leadership roles, and addressing critical issues like domestic violence, women's health, economic empowerment of women.

Notably, the Caucus has been a key partner for the Week of Women events and made significant strides in 2024 by hosting regional meetings focused on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.

With NDI's ongoing support, the Caucus has led with numerous activities on crucial issues, including election reform, violence against women in politics, and media portrayal of women.





New Member Orientation

Since the first legislature, NDI and its partners have supported the Assembly in organizing the New Member Orientation Program for newly elected MPs. The primary objective of the NMO is to familiarize and prepare MPs with the organizational structure and functioning of the Assembly, the role and mandate of an MP, as well as their duties and responsibilities. To institutionalize this practice, NDI developed the New Member Orientation Manual, which serves as a valuable guide for the Assembly's administration in organizing the NMO process.



Rules of Procedure of the Assembly

In 2022, the adoption of the new Rules of Procedure by the Assembly of Kosovo marked a significant step towards a more accountable and transparent Assembly. This milestone came about through cooperation between the Assembly leadership, parliamentary groups, the Committee on Legislation, and the support of NDI in strengthening legislative, oversight, and representative functions. The new Rules empower Assembly members and Committees to improve performance and hold the government accountable. They also promote broader consultations, inclusivity, and transparency, ensuring MPs have the resources to fulfill their duties and laying the foundation for a Code of Ethics to strengthen accountability and professionalism.



Supporting the Assembly's Administration

Ever since the establishment of Kosovo's Assembly in 2001, NDI has provided extensive support to its administration, including capacity-building training, drafting internal regulations, and reforming services to enable MPs to make better-informed decisions. Since 2012, NDI has supported and trained staff for the newly formed Division for Research, Library, and Archives (DRLA), transferring responsibilities from NDI's Parliamentary Research Service (PRS). With the aim of expanding the services of the DRLA, in 2015, NDI and its partners supported the Assembly in establishing the Budget and Financial Analysis Unit. In 2017, NDI supported the creation of the Legal Advisors Unit to strengthen the legislative drafting process.



Support to Parliamentary Committees

Since the establishment of Assembly NDI supported, NDI has played a key role in supporting the Parliamentary Committees of the Assembly of Kosovo to improve their oversight and legislative functions. With NDI's assistance, Parliamentary Committees have significantly enhanced their oversight of the Government, particularly through the monitoring of implementation of legislation, a process initiated for the first time in 2006. Additionally, the Committees have been strengthened in their capacity to review and oversee the state budget. In collaboration with the Assembly's administration, NDI has developed essential manuals and handbooks, including those for legal drafting and legislative analysis, public hearings, and the oversight functions of Parliamentary Committees. Through the Legal Fellows Program during 2011-2012, NDI provided valuable expertise to Parliamentary Committees in the legislative drafting process, helping to improve the quality of legislation. Furthermore, NDI supported the creation of a legal framework that enables committees to engage external experts, thereby increasing the technical and professional capacities of the committees in carrying out their duties.



Support to Parliamentary Caucuses

Since 2014, NDI has played an important role in organizing and building the capacities of the political staff of parliamentary caucuses and MPs through tailored and specialized training, exchanges with other parliaments, and the development of internal regulations for the caucuses. One of the most successful platforms for capacity building of political staff is the Party Caucus Staff Academy, which has helped the Assembly staff develop critical skills to enhance the effectiveness of the Assembly. Additionally, NDI supported the creation of the legal framework for the engagement of political staff for parliamentary caucuses, personal staff for MPs, and assistants to committee chairs. These initiatives have been crucial in strengthening the connection between political parties and parliamentary caucuses, enabling a more effective transfer of party policies and programs into the legislative activities of the caucuses.



Introduced International Day of Democracy. - 2009

Since 2009, NDI has supported the Kosovo Assembly joining the celebration of this global initiative, promoting and upholding the principles of democracy.

A group of people, including men and women in professional attire, are gathered in a wood-paneled room, likely a legislative assembly. They are engaged in conversation, with some individuals looking towards the camera and others looking at each other. The room features dark wood paneling, a large mirror on the wall, and a wooden podium on the right side. The lighting is warm and focused on the group.

Establishment of the Assembly's Visitor Center - 2012

In 2012, with the support of NDI, the Assembly opened its Visitor Center, a dedicated space to showcase the Assembly's history, past MPs, and various gifts from international officials. The Center serves as an informative space for citizens to learn about the legislative process.





Forum for Parliamentary Transparency and Openness



Supported by NDI, the Forum for Parliamentary Transparency and Openness was established in 2015 following the Kosovo Assembly's adoption of the global Declaration for Parliamentary Openness, to enhance parliamentary transparency and accountability. Since then, NDI has supported a number of important steps, including the Open Parliament Action Plans, creative technology-based tools to help inform the public about legislative business, and expanded direct engagement of MPs with voters. The Legislative Tracking System, E-Profiles of Parliamentarians, official social media channels, National Town Hall meetings, Civic Education Programs targeting students, regular publication of detailed reports of expenditures are some of the concrete measures that have not only turned the Assembly into the most transparent, accessible and accountable institution in the country, but also into a model for parliaments of the region.



Town Hall meetings

With NDI's assistance, MPs, parliamentary staff, and civil society members have implemented various tools to promote public engagement. Since 2015, NDI has supported the Assembly Days initiative, facilitating town hall-style meetings between MPs and citizens. This initiative, part of the Assembly's Forum for Parliamentary Transparency and Openness, improves communication and enhances government accountability.



“ These meetings must be organized more often, because citizens need to talk to their elected representatives on a regular basis. ”

South Mitrovica citizen attending a town hall meeting



Civic Education Program

Since the establishment of the Civic Education program in 2019, NDI has helped it foster active citizenship among youth. The Civic Education Teachers Academy provided secondary school teachers with training on democracy and parliamentary roles. This initiative promotes collaboration between students, teachers, and MPs through interactive activities, aiming to enhance governance accountability and rebuild public trust. NDI also helped develop the Kids Corner and supported the creation of educational materials, including brochures, posters, and videos, to raise public awareness of the Assembly's role in democratic governance.



Legislative Tracking System

Since 2017, this electronic system has enabled members, committees, caucuses and the public to track draft laws at all stages of their drafting process. All documents pertaining to the legislation under review and the laws adopted by the Assembly are available on this platform.

A photograph of three women sitting at a long table in a meeting room. They are looking at documents and smiling. The woman on the left is wearing a maroon hoodie, the woman in the middle is wearing a white shirt, and the woman on the right is wearing a white t-shirt. There are several water bottles on the table. The background is a plain wall with a coat rack.

Enhancing media access and legislative transparency

NDI has played a pivotal role in enhancing the relationship between the Assembly of Kosovo and the media by facilitating formal training for accredited journalists, creating a working group to revise media regulations, and organizing workshops with assembly staff to better understand the legislative process. These initiatives have led to improved media access, better coordination, and the development of useful tools like the Legislative Tracking System. NDI's efforts have fostered a more constructive and informed dialogue between the Assembly and journalists, contributing to a more transparent and effective democratic process.



Kosovo joins Open Government Partnership - 2023

Kosovo's membership in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a direct result of efforts by the Kosovo Assembly's Forum for Parliamentary Transparency, facilitated by NDI. "Joining OGP gives Kosovo a proven platform to bring together a diversity of stakeholders and deliver transformative reforms that make the government deliver better for citizens and strengthen the democratic backbone" - said Paul Maassen, OGP's Chief, Country Support.



Post-Legislative Scrutiny

Since 2023, NDI has been actively involved in supporting Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) efforts to improve parliamentary oversight of laws after their enactment. NDI has provided training, resources, and technical assistance to members of the Kosovo Assembly, focusing on building capacity for reviewing the implementation and impact of legislation. This ensures laws are effectively enforced and align with intended policy outcomes. The program helps to enhance government accountability, improve legislative processes, and promote transparency, making Kosovo's democracy more responsive and efficient.



Establishment of the Parliamentary Institute - 2023

In 2023, the Presidency of the Assembly of Kosovo approved the establishment of the Parliamentary Institute, following a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NDI and the Speaker of the Assembly. The Parliamentary Institute is designed to support MPs by providing accurate, impartial information and research, as well as library and legislative archive services. It aims to enhance legislative debate and decision-making, improve public understanding of the Assembly's role, and encourage citizen participation through democratic education programs.



House Democracy Partnership

Launched in 2009, the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), in cooperation with NDI, has played a significant role in strengthening the capacity of the Assembly of Kosovo through a variety of programs and activities. HDP programs focused on enhancing parliamentary effectiveness, transparency, and accountability. Key areas of support include providing training and resources to enhance the functioning of Parliamentary Committees. This includes improving legislative drafting, oversight capabilities, and fostering more effective policy deliberation.

It has also focused on enhancing party caucuses by promoting clear platforms, internal communication, and bipartisan cooperation, while improving parliamentary oversight to better scrutinize government actions. Additionally, HDP has organized exchanges and study visits for Kosovo parliamentarians to the U.S. Congress, offering valuable insights into best practices in democratic governance.





Since 2007, NDI's Western Balkans Legislative Strengthening Initiative (WBLSI), assists parliaments in strengthening their law-making, oversight, and representation capacities. NDI organizes forums to support regional cooperation and information sharing, fostering a network between the Western Balkan legislatures and their European Union counterparts.





**Political Parties,
Gender & Inclusion**

*A healthy democracy
requires vibrant,
responsive, and
accountable political
parties.*

Since 1999, NDI has trained members of all political parties in Kosovo, helping them develop through dialogue, cooperation, and workshops on party organization, campaign strategies, and policy development. NDI's Political Parties Support Programs aims to strengthen the connections between citizens, political parties, and representatives in the Assembly to encourage government bodies to be more responsive to public interests by increasing the participation of women, youth, and non-majority communities in politics and promoting public engagement in the legislative and electoral processes.

NDI helped political parties build organizational structures, respond to citizen demands, and promote inclusivity, with special attention to women, youth, and non-majority communities participation. NDI also worked to overcome barriers to women's and youth political participation by strengthening their political skills and enhancing their engagement with media and the public.

NDI has worked with Kosovo's political parties to make them more inclusive, and democratic. This has included leadership training, policy development workshops, and technical support to help parties develop issue-based platforms. NDI has emphasized the importance of internal party democracy, helping to ensure that party decisions are made in a transparent and participatory manner, and that party platforms reflect the concerns and aspirations of the broader population.

A core aspect of NDI's work has been advancing women's political leadership and gender equality. Over the last quarter century, NDI has provided training and support for women candidates, equipping them with skills to advocate for greater women participation in electoral and other political processes, and supported political parties and institutions to become more gender-inclusive. These efforts contributed significantly to an increase in women's representation in Kosovo's political institutions and paved the way to respond more comprehensively to violence against women in politics.



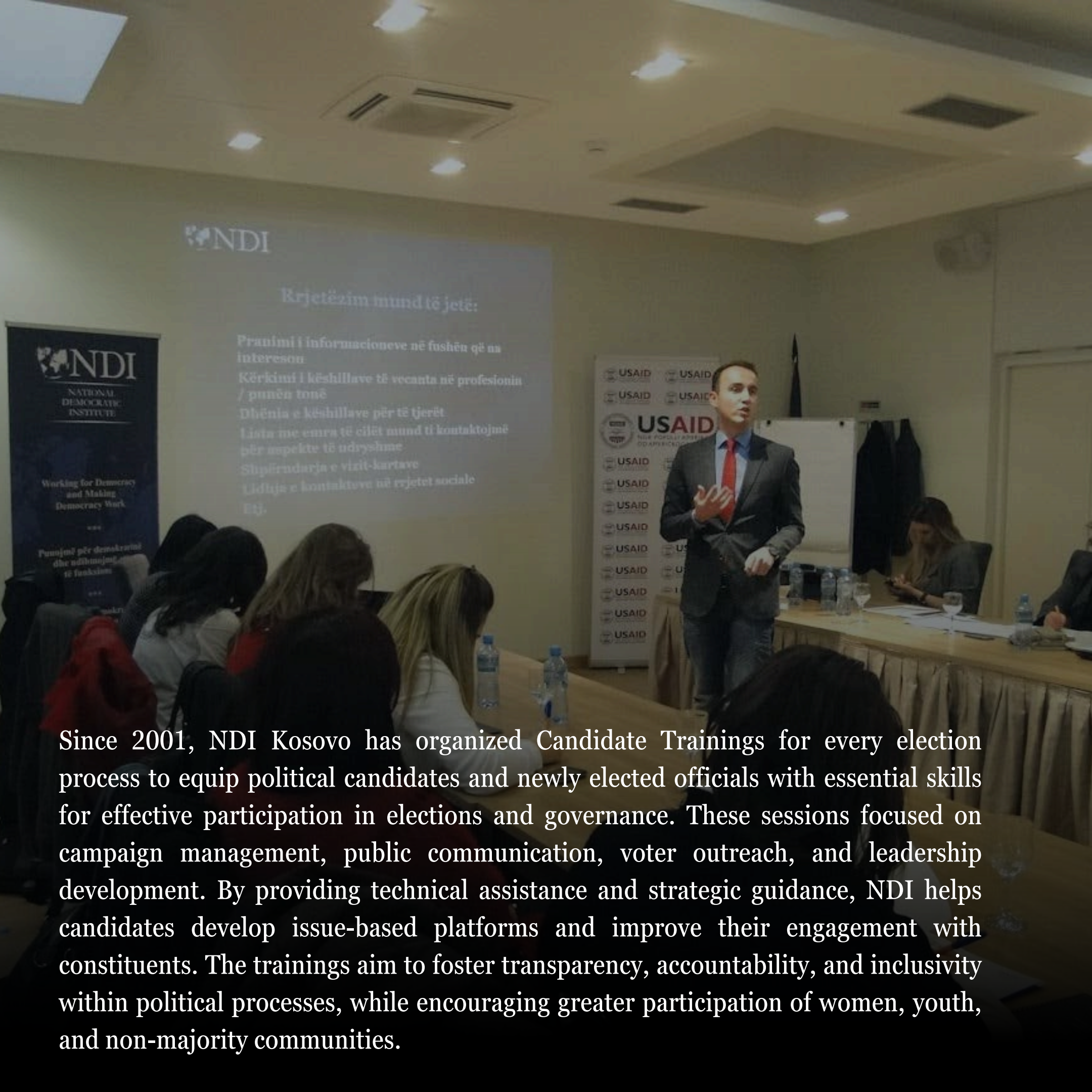


Supporting tomorrow's leaders

Since 1999, NDI in Kosovo has been pivotal in building democratic institutions and fostering civic engagement. Through its Women's Leadership Academy, Women's Political Academy, New Media School and Youth Leadership Program, NDI has trained women and youth from across Kosovo, including Serbian-speaking communities, in political engagement and advocacy. These programs aimed to empower emerging leaders to drive positive change within their communities and political parties. More on the initiatives can be read [here](#).



Candidate Training



NDI

Krjetëzim mund të jetë:

Pranimi i informacioneve në fushën që na intereson
Kërkimi i këshillave të vecanta në profesionin / punën tonë
Dhënia e këshillave për të tjerët
Lista me emra të cilët mund ti kontaktojmë për aspekte të udryshme
Shpërndarja e vizit-kartave
Lidhja e kontakteve në rrjetet sociale
Etj.

Since 2001, NDI Kosovo has organized Candidate Trainings for every election process to equip political candidates and newly elected officials with essential skills for effective participation in elections and governance. These sessions focused on campaign management, public communication, voter outreach, and leadership development. By providing technical assistance and strategic guidance, NDI helps candidates develop issue-based platforms and improve their engagement with constituents. The trainings aim to foster transparency, accountability, and inclusivity within political processes, while encouraging greater participation of women, youth, and non-majority communities.

USAID
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Regional Political Party Initiative

NDI works with 30 parties in the Balkans across the three main political “families” as part of its Regional Political Party Initiative. Policy schools for Liberal, Center-Right and Social Democratic parties have trained upwards of 200 party leaders in the mechanics of policy development.

NDI is helping political parties in the Balkans develop their identities in line with contemporary Social Democratic, Liberal or Center-Right ideologies, as well as coherent public policy consistent with EU practices, and cultivate new leaders among women and youth.

NDI also helps develop cross-party ties among women and young people. Center-Right parties have founded a network of youth forums. Social Democratic women have created a network to help each other in projects. Liberal women leaders have also formed a regional training and policy development forum. Parties across all spectrums from Kosovo are regular participants of all regional forums.

A woman with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark red sweater, has her right hand raised in the air. She is looking towards the left. The background is a blurred crowd of people, with another hand raised in the upper right. The overall scene suggests a public gathering or a meeting.

***A truly democratic
society must be inclusive
of all voices.***



From the beginning, one of the cornerstones of NDI's mission has been the empowerment of women and youth, grounded in the belief that a truly democratic society must include all voices.

For the past 25 years, NDI has been dedicated to advancing this mission in Kosovo by providing leadership training, public speaking workshops, and advocacy programs that prepare women and youth for leadership roles in both public and political life. This work has contributed significantly to a more inclusive and dynamic political landscape in Kosovo.

However, there is still much to be done to achieve full participation for women and non-majority communities in Kosovo's democracy. NDI remains committed to fostering inclusivity by integrating gender and diversity into every facet of its initiatives, addressing the intersectionality of identities. Through this approach, NDI ensures that women and marginalized groups continue to play a central role in shaping Kosovo's political future.



AVA E GRUAS-NEDELJA ŽENE-WEEK OF WOMEN



USAID
AMERIČANSKI
SADRŽAJI

WEEK OF WOMEN

Since 2012
Week of Women



Since 2012, NDI Kosovo's Week of Women (WoW) conference has been a pivotal event for developing leaders of all genders.



This annual program equips participants with critical skills, builds extensive networks, and connects them with both peers and elected officials. By fostering dialogue, promoting accountability, and preparing leaders, WoW is a transformative experience, empowering participants to apply their newfound skills in real-world scenarios. Its alumni form a powerful network supporting women across many sectors.



LEAD WITH INCLUSION

INTERSECTING POLITICS AND ECONOMICS



Week of Women in numbers

Since 2012, NDI has hosted 11 editions of the Week of Women Conference, bringing together participants from political parties, civil society, business, media, and academia. Each year, WoW includes a series of policy dialogues that occur throughout the event, offering a highly recognized platform for mentorship, peer support, and networking. These dialogues are a cornerstone of NDI's efforts to enhance women's roles in public life and foster collaboration across diverse sectors in a multiethnic environment.

1200+



Women, men, youth and non-majority communities participated

100+



Alumni who have run for office

22



Alumni taking on roles as Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Senior Government Advisors, Speakers of Local Assemblies, and Deputy Mayors

30+



Alumni elected as Local Councilors in the 2021 elections

6



Alumni elected as Members of the Parliament in the 2021 elections



2012

**International Women's
Summit in Pristina**





In 2012, NDI supported the Women's International Summit in Pristina, hosted by then-President Atifete Jahjaga. The summit brought together over 200 women leaders from around the world, culminating in the creation of the "Pristina Principles."

These principles focused on removing barriers to women's participation in politics, economic opportunities, and access to safety and justice. The Pristina Principles continue to inspire Kosovo's quest in ensuring that women's rights and voices are respected across all areas of society.



Women's Leadership Academy

From 2012 to 2020, NDI hosted the Women's Leadership Academy (WLA), a six-month intensive program aimed at empowering women in political processes through skills-building, mentorship, and policy development. The WLA enhanced women's leadership by focusing on issue identification, research, and advocacy. Participants from different municipalities and political parties created cross-party initiatives on topics like single mothers, education quality, environment protection, domestic violence, drug abuse etc. Through training and networking, they developed policy briefs and engaged with political and civil society leaders to promote inclusive leadership.





New Media School

From 2013 to 2019, NDI supported the New Media School, training young activists in social media strategy and advocacy. Participants applied their skills in advocacy campaigns, raising awareness on key issues and demonstrating the impact of digital activism in Kosovo. Some of the campaigns are—“Facedog Kosova,” “Save the Cave,” “Mos e Dhez” (don’t smoke), “Half of the Population - Right Representation,” etc.



406

volunteers



12

*government
actions*



3

*years of coaching
and mentoring*



27

field activities



Women Political Academy

From 2015 to 2020, NDI organized the Women Political Academy (WPA) to enhance understanding of political processes and promote greater political participation among women from the Serbian community. The WPA was a six-month program designed to provide tools and knowledge to reduce barriers to women's empowerment.

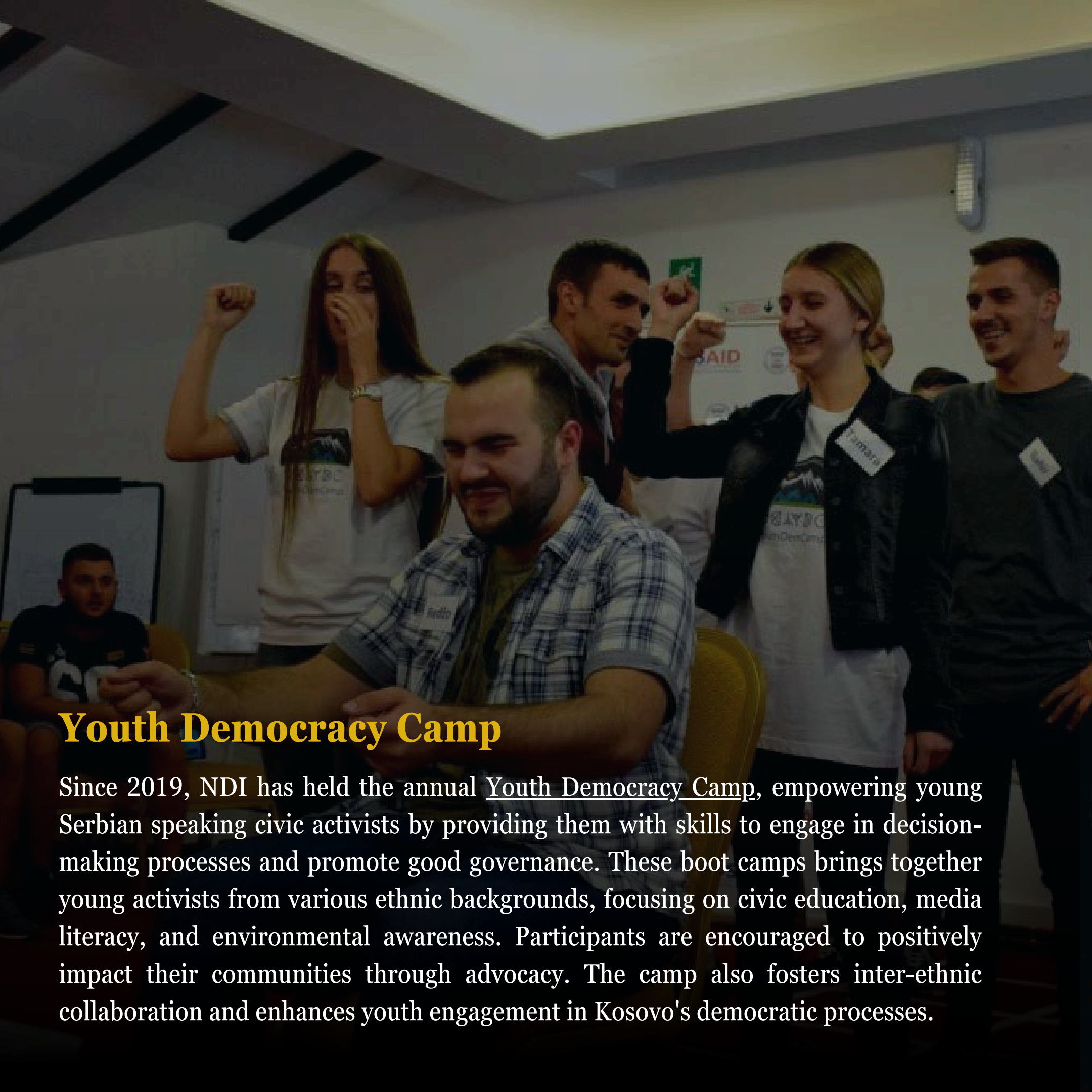


This program brought together political and community activists, offering them opportunities to improve their knowledge in areas such as policy development, research methods, cooperation with civil society organizations, communication strategies, and constituency outreach, particularly in preparation for elections. They also addressed community needs including implementation of gender equality law at the local level, traffic safety near schools; declaration on gender budgeting, Safe House for Safe Future, My language My Right.



Youth Empowerment in Political Processes

In 2018, NDI organized the Youth Empowerment in Political Processes (YEPP) program, aimed at promoting greater engagement among Serbian speaking non-majority communities. The program focused on empowering young activists from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. Through YEPP, NDI supported a cohort of political and civic young leaders across Kosovo, helping them design and lead advocacy initiatives to improve their communities and increase their political participation.



Youth Democracy Camp

Since 2019, NDI has held the annual Youth Democracy Camp, empowering young Serbian speaking civic activists by providing them with skills to engage in decision-making processes and promote good governance. These boot camps brings together young activists from various ethnic backgrounds, focusing on civic education, media literacy, and environmental awareness. Participants are encouraged to positively impact their communities through advocacy. The camp also fosters inter-ethnic collaboration and enhances youth engagement in Kosovo's democratic processes.





Gender Policy Strategic Network

Launched in 2021, the Gender Policy Strategic Network (GPSN) is an initiative facilitated by NDI, focused on strengthening gender-responsive governance in Kosovo. The Network brings together political leaders, civil society representatives, and activists to develop strategies that promote gender equality and women's participation in political decision-making. GPSN fosters collaboration across political and societal lines, aiming to strengthen women's participation and bring women fully into the country's democracy through spearheading gender equality legislation and policy initiatives. Through discussions and initiatives, it helps ensure gender considerations are integral to policy development.



A group of people, mostly women, are gathered on a rooftop terrace. They are looking towards a stage area where a large screen displays a woman speaking. The terrace has a green carpet, potted plants, and a view of a city skyline. The sky is clear and blue.

Leadership Mentorship Program

NDI Kosovo's Leadership Mentorship Program, launched in 2022, empowers aspiring women to advance their political careers by providing valuable mentorship and support. Through a direct channel of guidance, this program fosters collaboration among women in politics and public life, helping them sustain their roles and build networks across both local and national levels. By connecting participants with experienced leaders, the initiative enhances their political capacities and contributes to a more inclusive and representative political landscape in Kosovo.



Leadership
Mentorship Program

ID



The "Wall of Shame" is an art installation created under auspices of the Women's Caucus in response to the rising violence against women in politics (VAW-P) in Kosovo. Conceived by Eliza Hoxha, a Member of Parliament and a respected artist, the installation was unveiled in 2022 during the Women Peace and Security Forum. It features a stark display of verbatim quotes of sexist and threatening comments directed at women MPs online.

Supported by NDI, the "Wall of Shame" aims to raise awareness, spark discussions, and drive legislative action to combat online violence and improve the safety of women in politics.



Gender, Economics, and Politics Summer School



The Gender, Economics, and Politics Summer School, organized since 2023 by NDI Kosovo and the Agency for Gender Equality, is an educational program designed to empower young leaders from all communities by gaining a deeper understanding of how gender affects economics and politics in shaping democratic governance. The program focuses on gender equality, economic empowerment, political leadership, and policy development. Through interactive lectures, workshops, and discussions, participants engage with key concepts and theories of feminist economics, gain skills to engage in decision-making processes and advocate for gender-responsive policies.



Youth Leadership Program

From 2013 to 2019, NDI Kosovo promoted the inclusion of non-majority communities in political processes through grassroots advocacy, political party development, and effective parliamentary representation. NDI's Youth Leadership Program trained young activists from Serbian speaking non-majority communities in skills like advocacy, issue identification, and public outreach. Participants designed and implemented advocacy campaigns addressing local concerns like recycling, traffic safety, and community development.





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EDYN European Democracy Youth Network

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European Democracy Youth Network (EDYN)



Since 2021, the European Democracy Youth Network (EDYN) promotes youth engagement in Kosovo's political processes, emphasizing the importance of youth in strengthening democracy. Kosovan youth have significant potential to drive change, with leaders urging political parties to provide young people with greater representation and space for action. EDYN supports collaboration among youth across Europe to safeguard democratic processes, human rights, and constructive political dialogue.



A collage of various event photos including conferences, seminars, and group photos. The images show people in professional settings, some speaking at podiums, others in group discussions, and large audiences in lecture halls. Logos for NDI and USAID are visible in several photos.

Information Integrity

A woman with curly hair, wearing a dark suit, is seated in a wooden chair and speaking into a microphone. She is smiling and looking towards the right. In the background, other people are seated in a room with wood-paneled walls, some wearing headsets. The scene appears to be a professional conference or meeting.

***Accurate information
is essential for a
strong and fair
democracy.***



NDI is committed to improving information integrity in Kosovo and through the Western Balkans. Since 2019, NDI has worked to address information disorders that weaken democratic values and contribute to political division, anti-Western narratives, and misogyny. By building local capacities to detect and combat information disorders, NDI fosters a more reliable and resilient information environment, working with media, tech companies, political parties, and civil society organizations.

Through events like the national Information Integrity Forum (IFF), Regional Information Integrity Forum (RIIF), and the Information Integrity Conference - DISICON, NDI provides platforms for discussions, sharing best practices, and coordinating efforts to ensure the accuracy of information in the Western Balkans.



JOURNALISTS
INFORMATION
INTEGRITY
ACADEMY

WES
LIFE
RADIO
DATA
NEWS
WEB
FORUMS
MEDIA
FRIENDS
MOBILE
FLICKR
PEOPLE
RE-MOVED

ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS OF KOSOVO

USAID
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Association of Kosovo
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DEMOCRACY
INSTITUTE
FOR INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS

Building partnerships and capacities of local organizations

Since its establishment, NDI Kosovo has been instrumental in building the capacities of local organizations. Under the Information Integrity program, NDI currently supports eight partner organizations in developing their abilities to monitor, create, and educate society, including youth and journalists, on information integrity in Kosovo.

A photograph showing three individuals in a professional setting. On the left, a woman with glasses and a light-colored top is leaning forward, looking at a document. In the center, a woman with dark hair, wearing a yellow blazer, is smiling and looking at the same document. On the right, a man with a beard and a grey blazer is looking towards the document. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor meeting or conference room.

Since 2021, with support from NDI, the Association of Journalists of Kosovo (AJK) has enhanced young journalists' skills in information integrity through its Journalists Information Integrity Academy and ongoing media training. Additionally, Democracy Plus (D+) has published the Vulnerability Index of Disinformation, while Democracy for Development (D4D), monitors and analyzes information disorders in Kosovo. As part of awareness-raising efforts, NDI also supports TV shows, such as, Behind the Screens, produced by ADS/HIBRID, and youth awareness raising by Aktiv, to promote media literacy and balanced perspectives, to advance information integrity and media ethnic barriers in Kosovo's media landscape.

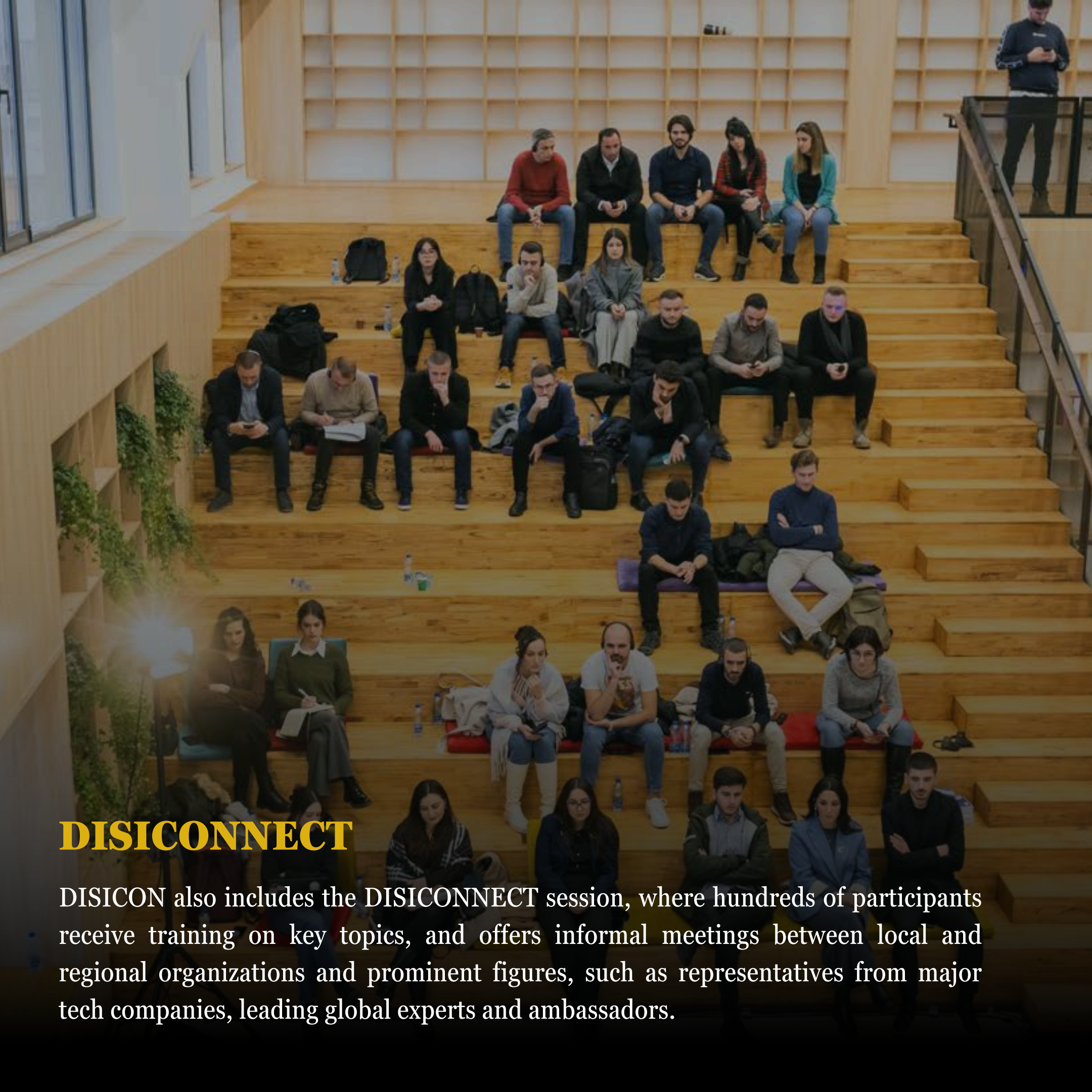


Since 2019

**Information Integrity
Conference - DISICON**




Since 2019, NDI Kosovo's Information Integrity Conference, DISICON, has become a leading platform in the Western Balkans for in-depth discussions on information integrity challenges. Held twice a year, DISICON brings together tech and media experts, political parties, government officials, civil society, and citizens to discuss solutions and make recommendations. To date, seven editions of DISICON have been organized.



DISICONNECT

DISICON also includes the DISICONNECT session, where hundreds of participants receive training on key topics, and offers informal meetings between local and regional organizations and prominent figures, such as representatives from major tech companies, leading global experts and ambassadors.

Time: 11:30 - 13:00 CET (GMT +1)

LIVE ON 

DISICON in numbers

So far, NDI Kosovo has held 7 DISICON editions, each with a special focus you can check out here:



100

worldwide speakers joined the conference



300

students, journalists and members of political parties are trained



1000

participants from all six Western Balkans countries, the E.U. and the U.S. joined the conference



1,700,000

total reach, views and interactions



Information Integrity Forum

Launched by NDI in 2021, the Information Integrity Forum (IIF) plays a vital role in tackling challenges in Kosovo's information space and finding solutions. This informal group, with members from civil society, media, and government, focuses on issues such as malign foreign influence, cybersecurity threats, information disorders, and media literacy gaps, aiming to develop effective solutions. NDI also facilitates connections between the IIF and major technology platforms, as well as European partners, to address Kosovo-specific concerns and provide training on relevant platform features.





Regional Information Integrity Forum

Supported by NDI, six Western Balkan countries participate in the Regional Information Integrity Forum (RIIF), established in 2020, to strengthen information integrity across the region. RIIF brings together government bodies, media, civil society, and tech experts to collaborate, share best practices for addressing information disorders, and enhance regional cooperation. The Forum aims to improve information-sharing and promote transparency, ultimately creating a more reliable and resilient information environment in the region.



Meeting of the RIIF in June 2024, attended by CSO's from six Westerns Balkans countries and Ambassadors to Kosovo from the E.U., Canada, Finland, Croatia, and Slovenia.



Building Information Integrity in non-majority communities

Since 2023, NDI has engaged in a program to deliver credible information and create opportunities for non-majority communities to understand and engage meaningfully in democratic processes in the Western Balkans. The program provides training, research, analysis, and strengthens networks of NGOs and media across various sectors, to promote information integrity. By promoting accurate information and democratic participation, the program fosters public trust in democratic values, mitigates threats to the information environment, and reduces the spread of false narratives in the region.



Cybersecurity



NDI Kosovo has taken a proactive approach to strengthening cybersecurity capacities and building resilience across various sectors. As part of its ongoing efforts, NDI Kosovo has worked with civil society organizations to formulate and contribute key recommendations to the National Strategy on Cybersecurity. In addition to strategic policy development, the team has facilitated a series of practical initiatives, including cybersecurity simulations designed to equip participants with hands-on experience in managing potential cyber incidents. These simulations have been complemented by specialized training sessions tailored for a diverse range of stakeholders, including young journalists, civil society representatives, members of political parties, and staff from the Kosovo Assembly.



**With appreciation for
25 years with an
extraordinary team!**

NDI Kosovo Country Directors who have made all of this possible!

Watch their testimonials below.



Ross Reid
1999-2001



Scott Bates
2001-2002



Heather Kashner
2002-2004



Tom Bridle
2004-2005



Chad Rogers
2005-2007



Carlo Binda
2007-2010



Laura Nichols
2010-2011



Alexander Chavarria
2011-2020



Nancy Soderberg
2020-present





This booklet was created to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Kosovo. The results and activities highlighted within this booklet represent only a selection of the numerous initiatives and efforts undertaken by NDI in Kosovo. For a comprehensive overview of NDI's work, please visit our website www.ndi.org/kosovo or contact our office directly at kosovo@ndi.org.

*NDI Kosovo programs have been made possible with generous support of our donors.
We extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to them for their
invaluable contributions.*



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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



British Embassy
Pristina



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR
DEMOCRACY

SUPPORTING FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD



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NATIONAL
DEMOCRACY
INSTITUTE

Leadership Forum

USAID

2015

EQUITY

25
NDI
KOSOVO

**MAKING
DEMOCRACY
WORK**