

2011 KOSOVO YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY AND PEACE-BUILDING (KYDP) PROJECT FINAL EVALUATION

The Kosovo Youth for Democracy and Peace-building Project **supported five youth-focused CSOs and built 150 young people's skills in mediation and multi-ethnic dialogue** to collaboratively pursue a common goal of participatory democracy and respect for human rights in the Prishtina, Mitrovica and Prizren regions of Kosovo.

The project had **four primary goals**:

Increase the ability of youth in Kosovo to actively participate in society and engage in their own communities;

Facilitate integration and understanding among Kosovo youth from different ethnicities and backgrounds;

Promote dialogue on issues of interest to the target groups and facilitate reaching common ground solutions to problems perceived as priority;

Train and support Kosovo NGOs in their efforts toward inclusion, respect for human rights and active engagement in society and in their ability to respond to young people's needs.

This project was funded by the European Commission and implemented in partnership with YMCA Kosovo.

"I think that we were lucky to participate in a project like this."

- Focus Group participant, KYDP

Project Outputs

13 youth leaders completed Training of Trainers seminar

150 youth trained in participatory democracy, decision-making, communication, and teamwork

27 youth teams were created to develop project proposals

10 youth teams won grants for implementation of projects with a multi-ethnic focus

Guide on youth trainings published and distributed

2 public service announcements produced

PROMOTING DIALOGUE

In the evaluation focus group discussion, young people who had participated in KYDP stressed the importance of continued projects in Kosovo. These are *their* recommendations.

1. **Engage the young** people.
2. There are many problems in the Mitrovica region right now. **Inter-ethnic youth information centers should be established** urgently.
3. **Establish Youth Information Agencies and media agencies.**
4. The Education Ministry should **think about inserting a subject in the education system related to democracy**, social inclusion and integration, social development, leadership, and communication.

A full list of their recommendations is included in the evaluation report.

INCREASING THE ABILITY TO CONNECT

KYDP was particularly successful in three impact areas.

Create Incentives for Building Relationships. Because the project grant was small, youth had to reach out to other community members for support and contributions. This forced them to contact other community groups, government officials and stakeholders. In the end, the youth raised far more resources than required, allowing them to implement multiple projects with limited help from KYDP (up to 2.500 €).

Provide Opportunities for Youth to Demonstrate their Skills. Adults interviewed mentioned repeatedly that watching the youth implement projects increased their confidence in young people and the role they can play in

the community. Because the projects included and benefitted adults also, rather than youth in isolation, the young people could show what a positive force they were for the whole community.

Plan Projects that Bring People Together Repeatedly. Youth mentioned a number of times that what helped build relationships was that they often saw youth from other ethnic groups, castes and villages, and adults—to plan projects, attend regular meetings, participate in sports competitions, and through other activities. In discussing successful projects, youth described how roads and bus shelters allowed people to interact on a regular basis when previously, they would not even say hello to one another. Both the process of implementation and the actual project would lead to repeated interaction and sustained relationships.

FACILITATING INTEGRATION | LEADING TO UNDERSTANDING



Source: This document is a summary of and taken directly from “Kosovo Youth for Democracy and Peace-building (KYDP) Project in Three Regions of Kosovo Project Evaluation Report.” A copy can be acquired at http://www.sfcg.org/programmes/ilt/dme_evaluations.html or by contacting Nick Oatley, Director of Institutional Learning at Search for Common Ground: noatley@sfcg.org.

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