

# Platform for Analysis and Research

Report on the observation of the legislative bodies in Kosovo

Monitoring the work of local North Kosovo Assemblies and the work of parliamentary Committees



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## **Observations conducted by:**

Platform for Analysis and Research

NGO AKTIV and Centre for Peace and Tolerance

## **Municipal Assemblies observed:**

MA of North Mitrovica

MA of Leposavić

MA of Zvečan

MA of Zubin Potok

## **Committees observed:**

Committee on Rights, Interests of Communities and Returns

Committee for European Integration

Committee on Internal Affairs, Security and Supervision of the Kosovo Security Force

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North Mitrovica,

July 2016.



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## Municipal assemblies

### Foreword

The representatives of civil society organisations, members of the Platform for Analysis and Research, have conducted, from March 29<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, a monitoring of the work of the local assemblies of the municipalities of Zubin Potok, Zvečan, Leposavić and Mitrovica North. Representatives of 12 CSOs working in North Kosovo observed two sessions for each municipality and prepared reports on those.

The observation schedule of the local assemblies has been the following:

Date	Municipality
29.03.2016	Severna Mitrovica
31.03.2016	Zvečan
31.03.2016	Zubin Potok
31.03.2016	Leposavić
25.04.2016	Zvečan
24.05.2016	Leposavić
26.05.2016	Zubin Potok
30.05.2016	Severna Mitrovica

Sessions have been monitored by: Stevan Đokić and Ivana Vukašinović, representative of the organisation *Under a Lucky Star*; Milija Biševac, from the Youth Association *Putokaz*; Marko Rakić, representative of the organisation *Advocacy Centre for for Democratic Culture*; Miloš Timotijević and Igor Dašić, from the organisation *3E Institute*; Lazar Milić, member of the organisation *Centre for Local Communities Development*; Veroljub Petronić, representative of the organisation *Human Centre*; Dragana Aleksić, from the organisation *Centre for Training and Development*; Dušan Milunović, member of the organisation *Centre for Development of Local Communities*; Milica Đorđević, from *Wake Up Club*; representatives of the organisation *Institute for Development of Civil Society – Innovate* and of *The Upgrade Society*; and Milica Andrić, from the organisation *AKTIV*.

The monitoring of local assembly sessions were conducted with the goal of creating links between civil society organisations (CSOs) and local governments in order to achieve a greater influence of citizens in policy making at local level.



## Assembly of the Municipality of North Mitrovica

The sessions of the Municipal Assembly of North Mitrovica have been observed during the period up until Ksenija Božović, from *Civic Initiative SDP* (GI SDP), chaired this local government body. The administration of this assembly is one of the two (together with the Leposavić Assembly's administration) that has professionally performed its duties. The administration of North Mitrovica Assembly has announced the convening of the sessions, as well as sent materials for the sessions at least seven days in advance, with the material being at disposal to the observers during the sessions, as well.

The technical conditions in which the Assembly operates are modest, and according to the former President, Ms. Božović, the council members carried out their obligations and meetings in the GI SDP premises. The assembly itself occupies the premises of PE "Standard", which, apart from rostrum and projector screen, does not possess further equipment for fully fledged working sessions. Even though the rostrum does not feature an amplification system, translation to non-majority languages is ensured. Sessions are translated with consecutive translation, fact that strongly increases their length.<sup>1</sup>

The work of the Assembly itself can be assessed as transparent, above all due to the accountability of the administration, which regularly informs the citizenry on the scheduled sessions, as well as to the availability of information about the session on the website of the municipal administration.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, news about the sessions only consist of summaries of the points on the daily agenda and of the adopted decisions.

The general impression of the observers from the sessions of North Mitrovica's Assembly was that representatives of non-majority communities are more active in the discussion, but also that the whole stream of discussion is, in most cases, not constructive.

## Agenda of the Assembly Sessions

During the period in which members of the Platform for Analysis and Research have observed the work of the Municipal Assembly of North Mitrovica, the following

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<sup>1</sup> The session held on March 29th, 2016, whose main points on the daily agenda were the financial report of Mitrovica North Municipal Administration and the report of the Commander of Mitrovica North Police Station, Goran Živković, lasted from 15:15 until 18:10. The session started with 17 members and ended with only 5 of them being still present. Moreover, the vast majority of the assembly members who remained until the end were precisely from the ranks of non-majority communities.

<sup>2</sup> <https://kk.rks.gov.net/mnao/default.aspx?lang=en-US>



issues have been present on the agenda: annual financial report for 2015, report of the Commander of North Mitrovica Police Station, budget revision, motion of no confidence against the Chairperson, challenges for municipality's work, and trimestral report on the municipality's work.

## **Annual Financial Report (29/03/2016)**

The annual financial report of the Municipality of North Mitrovica was the most extensive, when compared with the other three municipalities. However, it included a number of technical mistakes. The total amount in the tables did not match the real total amount, and the figures presented in the PowerPoint presentation for specific budget lines did not coincide with the material that the council members and other attendance received. Concerning the report itself, most important were the following issues:

The total budget of the municipality for 2015 was 6.543.556,00€, while the total expenditure was 2.580.294,78€. The largest unspent amount was in the budget line for wages and salaries. In this line, of the approved 5.046.140,00€, only 1.235.376,83€ was spent, i.e. only 24,48% of the approved funds.

The amount of funds for infrastructure projects from the ministerial budget was 2.716.739,52€, while from donors (EU, Swiss Office for Development, and Norway Embassy) was spent a total of 149.662,75€.

The Chief of the Municipality Administration of North Mitrovica, who submitted the report, stated that the municipality has also its own revenues stemming from the civil registry (certificates, identification documents), as well as from the Directorate for Urban Planning and from cadastral services. The municipality has collected 27.399,70€ through its own revenues in 2015.

To the enquiry of the council members about the use of funds answered the Mayor, who, in front of the complaints for the many unspent funds, explained that it is due to the political situation in which the municipality finds itself. The main topic of discussion were infrastructure projects, as well as the salaries for education and health that are not paid to the workers, which compose the main part of the unspent funds returned to the central budget.

## **Report of the Commander of the Police Station North about the security situation (29/03/2016)**

The acting Commander Goran Živković informed the councillors that the crime rate is declining. According to his words, in 2015, 416 cases, were recorded and 473 in



2014, while in the previous years there were even up to 900 cases per year. Out of 416 cases recorded in 2015, 365 were criminal offences, and 51 were law violations. Most common are cases of theft, as these were 72 plus 75 cases of aggravated thefts. After theft, followed traffic accidents, with 118 cases.

Asked about the level of resolved cases of burned cars, the Commander stated that none was arrested with such charges.

## **Motion of No Confidence against the Chairperson (30/05/2016)**

May 30<sup>th</sup> session is the best example of the general observers' impression that in the Assembly's discussions it is the least word about problems of the municipality. So that a single point that was voted to be included in the daily agenda, about the motion of no confidence against the Assembly's Chairperson Ksenija Božović, fully marked the whole meeting. After the resolution of three Assembly members to leave their party, the presentation of the basis for a motion of no confidence, the establishment of the commission for the vote of the new Chairman, the spelling out of the reasons why the new candidate for the Chairman office is adequate, and the vote of Dejan Gurišić as new Chairman, the interest of the members of the Assembly for the remaining points of the agenda disappeared.

## **Challenges in the work of North Mitrovica Municipality (30/05/2016)**

As the Assembly members, at the beginning, did not utter a word on the issue, one representative from the ranks of the non-majority communities observed that, in spite of the importance of the topic, discussion is still missing. He himself noted that, from the point of view of his community, the biggest problems are unemployment, political instability, and returns. One of the Assembly members, representative of the Serb community, stated that one of the challenges he faces in his work is also the fact that because of the unprofessionalism of the Chairman the Assembly does not know if the local government implements its decisions.

## **Recommendations for the Municipal Assembly of North Mitrovica:**

- In addition to the brief news on the scheduled sessions of the Assembly and Assembly's Committees, announcements, as well as materials of those meetings (primarily their minutes) should be available on the website of the Mitrovica North Administrative Office.
- The sessions of the Municipal Assembly of Mitrovica North took place in the premises of PE "Standard," where the technical conditions for smooth working sessions are missing. The locale's functionality should be improved and this



should be done by ensuring the presence of an amplification system, and, consequently, the equipment for simultaneous translation of the sessions.

- The discussions of the Assembly members must be stemming from the interests of the citizens and from the monitoring of the work of local institutions. The current practice of seizing the rostrum for the sole sake of polemics between parties has to cease.







## Assembly of the Municipality of Leposavić

When it comes to technical conditions of work, these are fulfilled only by the Assembly of the Municipality of Leposavić, which disposes of modern and technically fully equipped premises, result of a USAID donation amounting to 75000€. Furthermore, the level of transparency of the Assembly's work is really high, since the sessions are recorded and broadcasted on the local TV station *MIR*.<sup>3</sup> The fact that Assembly sessions are broadcasted on television notwithstanding, the Assembly debates of this municipality are not at all dignified.

The Assembly's administration timely informed about the scheduled sessions, even though the material was not available to all the observers of the Assembly. The municipality does not have its own website, so that information about the session of its assembly is not available online.

The general impression of the observers is that party affiliation is the strongest among the Assembly members of this municipality. Intolerance between members is evident and clearly reflected in the work of the Assembly. On the other hand, observers also reported that members of the Assembly of Leposavić are the most interested in the Assembly debates.

## Agenda of the Assembly Sessions

During the period in which members of the Platform for Analysis and Research have observed the work of the Municipal Assembly of Leposavić, the following issues have been present on the agenda: annual financial report of Leposavić Municipality for 2015, and discussion and adoption of the decision on amendments and supplements to the budget of the Municipality of Leposavić for 2016.

## Annual Financial Report (31/03/2016)

Apart from the municipality of North Mitrovica, which sent back to the central budget of the Government of Kosovo almost 4 millions of Euro, also the Municipality of Leposavić had difficulties with fund expenditure, so that this municipality sent back to the central budget more than 2,5 million Euro.

According to the annual financial report of the Municipality of Leposavić, the planned and approved total revenues for 2015 amount to 4.425.687,00€. In the total revenue structure, funds from government grants amount to 4.382.798,00€ and

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<sup>3</sup> Assembly sessions are available also online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqjDtiy7MEiXIZnoaxbrWw/videos>



represent the 99,03% of the planned budget. Planned own revenues amount to 42.889,00€ and represent the 0,97% of the planned budget.

The aggregate expenditure for the period January-December 2015 amounts to 1.844.789, 22€, i.e. 41,68% of the total approved funds for 2015.

Unspent resources for the period January-December 2015 amount to 2.623.786,78€. From government grants, 2.580.897,78€ have not been spent, constituting the 98,36% of the total unused funds. Unspent own revenues amount to 42.889, 00€, i.e. 1,63% of the total unused funds.

When financing by ministries is considered, the total value based on contracts is 4.858.910, 00€, out of which 2.967.976, 94€ were implemented, while 1.890.933, 06€ were not.

From donors' funds (EU, UNMIK, and Council of Europe) a total amount of 1.076.149,34€ was granted, with 859.522,85€ spent.

### **Decision on Amendments and Supplements to the Budget of the Municipality of Leposavić for 2016 (24/05/2016)**

This point of the agenda was considered according to the letter of the Ministry of Finances with the proposal of budget revision. The Financial Director informed the Assembly members about which modifications to the budget are needed, followed by a lengthy debate. Eventually, the proposal of the Mayor did not receive the adequate number of votes, so that the revision was not approved. During the debate it became clear that Assembly members are not sufficiently informed about the budget items, nor about the original purpose of these. Moreover, there was a debate around the meaningfulness of certain projects for whom funding was already approved. This leads to the conclusion that the Assembly did not consider in detail the budget when this was adopted. Likewise, a polemic started between the Mayor and part of the Assembly around the priority of certain projects, which the Mayor proposed to reallocate.

In response to one of the many complains on the work of the Mayor and of the whole municipal administration, the Mayor stated that the low percentage of budget spending for capital investments is a consequence of the lack of personnel who knows how to prepare projects and the related documentation. Furthermore, the Mayor noted that the administration is faced with a number of obstacles posed by the Government in Pristina.



## **Recommendations for the Assembly of the Municipality of Leposavić:**

- The Assembly of the Municipality of Leposavić needs to adopt a decree on subsidies that will determine the amount of funds from the budget line for the subsidies of the Mayor, which the latter can assign to certain purposes without the approval of the Assembly (this sum currently amounts to 10 000€).
- Members of the Assembly of the Municipality of Leposavić need to adhere to the topic of the daily agenda and conduct debates according to the best interest of their fellow citizens.
- The Assembly of the Municipality of Leposavić needs to adopt a list of priority projects (and if there is one, to adhere to it), in order to avoid, in occasion of future debates on budget planning and revision, debates on the urgency of specific actions.
- When planning for the budget in the future, MA of Leposavić and the Mayor must account for the fact that the municipality has no employee in charge of project development and either calculate consultancy services into the cost of planned projects, or allocate funds for the capacity building of the existing staff.



## **Assembly of the Municipality of Zvečan**

The administration of the Municipal Assembly of Zvečan did not send any invitations to the meeting despite the request, and citizens cannot get information about the work of the Assembly, because the municipality does not have a functional website, and local media only sporadically monitor the debates of the Assembly. The materials for the meeting are only available to the Assembly members. Based on everything specified, it can be concluded that, compared with the two previous assemblies, the Assembly of the Municipality Zvečan is the least accessible to citizens.

Debates in this assembly have also been politicized, but with lower intensity. However, what was noticeable and unique in this meeting of the Municipal Assembly of Zvečan, was a “non-parliamentary” behaviour of the councillors who would often talk among themselves while another councillor has the word. On the other hand, the meeting of the Municipal Assembly of Zvečan is the only one where we had the opportunity to hear the citizens directly addressing the Assembly for help. Two citizens, members of the Albanian community, addressed the Assembly and the Mayor with complaints about the water supply and inaccessibility of the Deputy Mayor for non-majority communities. Unfortunately, the translation for those two citizens was not provided by the Assembly, the first one talked to the Assembly in Serbian, while the other one received translation from an employee of USAID, who knew Albanian. Finally, our visit to the Assembly of Zvečan was marked by the discharging of a councillor from the non-majority community who did not attend the meetings, as well as by the nominations of new councillors.

## **Agenda of the Assembly Sessions**

During the period in which members of the Platform for Analysis and Research have observed the work of the Municipal Assembly of Zvečan, the following issues have been present on the agenda: the annual financial report of the Municipality of Zvečan for the year 2015, the appointment of members of the committee of the communities, and the adoption of the action plan for Energy Efficiency of the Municipality of Zvečan.

## **Review and Adoption of the Financial Report for 2015 (31/03/2016)**

The overview of the budget expenditures for the year 2015 was postponed to next sessions, because the Municipality of Zvečan does not have a Financial Director in Kosovo's system. Therefore, the Mayor is responsible for the presentation of financial



reports. The Mayor, however, did not attend the observed meeting due to other business obligations.

## **Review and Adoption of the Financial Report for 2015 (25/04/2016)**

The Mayor presented the budget expenditures for 2015. A total of 1,179,766€ has been spent from the total budget for 2015, which amounted to €2,542,615, which means that 54% of the funds was not spent. The unspent funds regarded mainly the category of wages and salaries, since the municipality of Zvečan does not have enough employees. According to the Mayor, some of the difficulties in the implementation of the budget were the results of the budget blockade that lasted until May 2015. According to the budget lines, for wages and salaries have been spent 558.179€, for goods and services 164.509€, for utilities 22.811€, for subventions and transfers 40,065€, for non-capital investments have been spent 394.200€. In 2015, the Municipality of Zvečan registered a profit of 866€.

## **Recommendations for the Municipal Assembly of Zvečan:**

- The Chairperson of the Assembly should take into consideration the requests of citizens to be timely informed on the activities of the parliament, and enable their access to materials.
- The room in which the sessions take place is small and allows only for limited space for citizens and other attendance. It does not feature any sound system nor any basic support equipment.
- It should provide services of professional translation into Serbian and Albanian.
- The financial reports submitted to the Assembly members should be more detailed and easier to read, and, being official documents, the spelling and the grammar of the language in which these reports and all other Assembly materials are prepared should also be taken into consideration.



## **Assembly of the Municipality of Zubin Potok**

The Municipality of Zubin Potok recorded the shortest sessions of all the four municipalities. Discussions are short, and decisions are often made with a substantial majority or consensus. Similarly to the Assembly of the Municipality of Zvečan, the Chairman of Zubin Potok Assembly did not send notifications about the dates of scheduled sessions. The relative material was not available to all the audience and the room itself has limited number of seats for the public. Translation for the members of non-majority communities is ensured, but their inclusion in the debate (as for the representatives of the majority communities) is minimal. Members of the Assembly of the Municipality of Zubin Potok left an impression of disinterest and discussion on the problems of citizens is lacking. However, observers ascertained that the Municipality of Zubin Potok is the most efficient of the four municipalities, especially when it comes to spending the approved budget.

### **Agenda of the Assembly Sessions**

In the period in which members of the Platform for Analysis and Research have observed the work of the Municipal Assembly of Zubin Potok, the following issues have been present on the agenda: annual police report on the work of the Police Station of Zubin Potok, discussion and adoption of the strategy for touristic development in the Municipality of Zubin Potok, and budget revision.

### **Discussion and Adoption of the Strategy for Touristic Development in the Municipality of Zubin Potok (26/05/2016)**

The debate on the strategy for touristic development was the only point of the daily agenda that generated discussion in the two sessions observed by the members of Platform for Analysis and Research. This strategy, created with the support of the NGO InTER, includes roads restoration, improvement of public infrastructures, maintenance of bicycle paths and of the beach at the Gazivode lake, equipment of feeding stations for animals, construction of resorts, and stimulation of citizens' activism. After the presentation of the strategy, the members of the Assembly added their individual proposals to it, including a proposal to build an indoor pool, which is a project already in the initial phase in this municipality. The representatives of the Albanian village of Čabra protested, because they felt their village is excluded from the strategy. The Mayor ensured them that the activities arising from the strategy will also cover their village.



## **Recommendations for the Municipal Assembly of Zubin Potok:**

- The Assembly's Chairman needs to respect the demands of the citizens to be timely informed about the activities of the Assembly and to secure them access to the relevant materials.
- The room in which Assembly sessions are held is small and allows only for limited place for citizens and other observers. It does not feature any amplification system and no basic supporting equipment.
- Counsellors must be fully familiar with the active projects implemented in the municipality so to avoid duplication of ideas, unnecessary discussions and, most importantly to be able to monitor the execution of the budget.

## **General recommendations for local assemblies:**

The work of the four northern municipalities cannot be analysed without acknowledging the fact that the four municipalities have no proper administration who would execute their decisions. Partially functional administrations operating within Kosovo system considerably constrict the scope of both MA's monitoring competencies and its capacity to contribute to the betterment of the quality of life of the communities. This is why our recommendations for the future functioning of the MAs of northern Kosovo will, with the appreciation of the political complexity they operate in, be mostly technical.

- For the sake of transparent work of local assemblies of the four north municipalities and of the inclusion of citizens in their work it is of key importance to ensure availability of information and accessibility to the Assembly members. The assemblies of the municipalities of Mitrovica North, Zvečan, Zubin Potok, and Leposavić need to guarantee the availability of information about their work to citizens, as well as information on Assembly members: who are the elected councillors, in which constituency they have been elected, to which committees are they assigned, and how and where are to get in contact with them. This information is indispensable for citizens to know which Assembly member to turn to for the problems they face. Until municipality websites are operational, assembly administration could prepare info booklets that will contain all of the necessary information on the work of the assembly and of its members.
- The financial reports submitted to Assembly members need to contain also the accompanying documents, in addition to the list and specifications of the purchased equipment, decisions of the commissions, names of citizens that received subventions by the Mayor or scholarships.



- In order to avoid arbitrary speculation on the value of purchases and projects, it is necessary to ensure access to archives and documentation from the call for tenders to Assembly members and members itself should exercise their rights, follow closer the work of the municipality, and corroborate their suspicions of financial frauds with data and documents.
- Assembly members and wider public should be brought closer to the process of budget drafting and should be told in which phase they can be included in the process.
- Until the adoption of municipal development plans, the municipal assemblies should strive to include more citizens representing different interest groups into discussions on the projects to be submitted to for the consideration of the EU Development Fund and other donor funds.
- MAs should establish Municipal Community Safety Councils.







## Parliamentary Committees

### Foreword

Representatives of civil society organisations, members of the Platform for Analysis and Research, have conducted, from April 5<sup>th</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016, a monitoring of the work of central committees of Kosovo Parliament. Representatives of 7 CSOs working in North Kosovo observed two sessions of the Committee on Rights, Interests of Communities and Returns, Committee for European Integration, and Committee on Internal Affairs, Security and Supervision of the Kosovo Security Force.

The schedule for the observation of committee sessions has been the following:

Date	Committee
05.04.2016	Committee for European Integration
06.04.2016	Committee on Rights, Interests of Communities and Returns
19.04.2016	Committee for European Integration
19.05.2016	Committee on Rights, Interests of Communities and Returns
27.05.2016	Committee on Internal Affairs, Security and Supervision of the Kosovo Security Force
24.06.2016	Committee on Internal Affairs, Security and Supervision of the Kosovo Security Force

Sessions have been monitored by: Stevan Đokić and Ivana Vukašinović, representative of the organisation *Under a Lucky Star*; Miloš Timotijević and Igor Dašić, from the organisation *3E Institute*; Lazar Milić, member of the organisation *Centre for Local Communities Development*; Veroljub Petronić, Milovan Radović, and Darko Stanković for of the organisation *Human Centre*; Dušan Milunović, member of the organisation *Centre for the Development of Local Communities*; Milica Đorđević, from *Wake Up Club*; Milica Rakić, representative of the organisation *Santa Maria*; and Milica Andrić, from the organisation *AKTIV*.

The monitoring of Parliament of Kosovo central committees' sessions were conducted with the goal of creating links between civil society organisations (CSOs) and central government and their work in order to achieve a greater influence of citizens in policy making at central level.



## Parliamentary Administration and Sessions

In dealing with parliamentary administration, observers encountered a significant number of small obstacles that to a greater or lesser extent had an influence on the monitoring process.

The Parliament's website<sup>4</sup> is mostly translated into Serbian and includes all the information about committees, MP's, dates and agenda of sessions, and in most cases minutes from all the held meetings. What did not work properly, in the period immediately prior to the monitoring, was the part of the site for the registration of CSOs that wish to cooperate with parliamentary bodies, resulting in the fact that, to the date of writing this report, a partner organisation did not manage to register itself to the Parliament's archive. The greatest problem with the committee administration was the untimely notification on session dates. The administrations of all three committees sent the invitations for the sessions only the day before the meetings and always after 16:00. However, on the Parliament's website there is a timetable of the meetings of parliamentary committees in which specific sessions are announced earlier.

We faced difficulties also due to the lack of communication between the Committee Coordinator and reception, and even though we sent in advance a list with the people who will participate in the session, no copy of that list was delivered to the reception prior to our arrival. This resulted in group having to wait at the reception for our right to attend the sessions to be approved.

The premises where the sessions take place are modern and duly equipped, however, the galleries in some halls have a small number of places for the public and the sets of headphones for simultaneous translation do not match the number of seats in the gallery, or are not functional. The premises do not have air-conditioning systems, a fact that in summer months can represent a serious problem.

Due to the lack of translation, members of the Platform for Analysis and Research have been precluded from monitoring one session of a parliamentary committee.

The sessions themselves abound in discussions on very concrete problems and compared with local assemblies, the discussions of the committees are not much politicized. During the monitoring period, members of the Platform for Analysis and Research had twice the occasion to observe sessions in which the accountable individuals have been called in for account and reported on their work.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.kuvendikosoves.org/?cid=2,1>



## Committee for European Integration

The group was not able to deliver lots of conclusions about the work of this committee. At the first attended session, there was no translation available, while on the other one translation was ensured, but there was no quorum.

Platform for Analysis and Research filed a complaint to the Office of the Language Commissioner for violation of the Law on Language Use by the Assembly of Kosovo.

During the period of our supervision of the work of the parliamentary committees, the following points were listed on the agenda: revision of N/law number 05/L-055 about the General Auditor and the National Office for Revision of the Republic of Kosovo, with amendments of the functioning commission with regards to compatibility with EU legislation.

## Committee on Rights, Interests of Communities and Returns

The group has not encountered major obstacles in following this committee. During the monitoring period, the following issues were on the agenda: report on the work of the Office for Community Affairs by the Director Ivana Tomić; review of the draft Law on Status and Rights of Para- and Tetraplegia Persons, with the amendments of the Commission on Human Rights, Gender Equality, Missing Persons and Petitions; review of draft Law on Foreign Department of Kosovo, with the amendments of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### Report on the work of the Office for Community Affairs (06/04/2016)

The Director gave an overview on the situation from 01/09/2015, when he took office. In the very beginning he mentioned that the Office for Community Affairs is not autonomous and its decisions are not binding until other offices do not sign an agreement for the request to be approved and executed. The signatures of the Chief of Cabinet of the Prime Minister, General Secretary, Legal Office, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and Office for Budget and Finances. The Office itself works with several target groups, gives support to the communities on the ground and to CSOs from the communities' ranks, and works for the improvement of economic and social conditions. It cooperates with international organisations and institutions. As part of the budget he spoke about projects intended for the minority community. So that, for example, for installing cameras in Goraždevac for security reasons and arranging of Roma settlements, over 30.000€ were spent.



The Director's report enticed the debate on Article 11 of the Law on Civil Service, according to which 10% of the working places need to be assigned to non-majority communities in Kosovo. MPs expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that the quota is not fulfilled, while MPs of Bosniak and Turk communities pointed to the problem of fraudulent misrepresentation that still affects these two communities. Specifically and according to them, members of the majority community often declare themselves as members of Turk or Bosniak community, as to exploit the positive discrimination measures put in place for members of non-majority communities.

Ivan Tomić reported that the Inter-ministerial Group for Community Affairs was constituted last year. Besides him, other members are Deputy Prime Minister Branimir Stojanović, Ministers Lubomir Marić and Dalibor Jevtić, as well as other ministers from non-majority communities. The Group will deal with issues such as security, use of languages, and representation of communities in public institutions, agriculture, and usurped property. He also specified that decisions and recommendations issued by the Inter-ministerial Group will bear the same weight as the ones issued by the Government, in order to improve the situation in the mentioned fields and to accelerate the implementation process of the Law on Communities.

In the OCA a total of six workers are employed, from different national backgrounds. The budget of the OCA amounts to 1.200.000€, yet this is also the budget of the Prime Minister's Office, which can withdraw funds without consulting the Office for Communities.

### **Other Businesses (19/04/2016)**

Under the point Other Business, the discussion continued as in the previous session, also in relation with the representation of members of non-majority communities in public sector. The OSCE representative announced that an analysis on this issue is being prepared for the end the year and sought from cooperation with the Committee. Accordingly, the working group that monitors the implementation of the Law on Civil Service, and especially Article 11, nominated an expert from KDI, who will also analyse the representation of communities in central and local institutions and whose report will be used by the working group to issue recommendations on the matter.



## **Committee on Internal Affairs, Security and Supervision of the Kosovo Security Force**

The group did not encounter any major problems in following this committee. During the monitoring period, the following issues were on the agenda: report of representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs about the implementation of strategic security documents; report of representative of the EU about the reorganisation of Kosovo's Intelligence Agency, and presentation of the plan for a visit to the police station of North Mitrovica.

Of all three observed committees, the Committee on Internal Affairs, Safety and Supervision of Kosovo Security Forces has met the rarest.

### **Reporting of the representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs about the Implementation of Strategic Security Documents (27/05/2016)**

Hodža Valdret, coordinator of the Anti-terrorism Unit, presented the anti-terrorism strategy from 2011 to 2017.<sup>5</sup> He reported to the members of the committee that 75% of the strategy was implemented in cooperation with Kosovo's Intelligence Agency. He also pointed out that the application process for Kosovo's membership in Interpol is in progress, and they expect this to be concluded soon. According to the data he presented:

- 340 Kosovo's citizens are fighting on foreign battlefields
- 40 persons are prevented from going to foreign battlefields
- 57 Kosovo's citizens died on foreign battlefields

According to the representative of Ministry of Internal Affairs, the causes of departure of youth from Kosovo to ISIS (Iraq and Syria) are: unemployment, difficult family situation, little information about religious extremism, weak activity or lack of prevention activities in the context of education system.

When it comes to organized crime, the Ministry of Internal Affairs launched an initiative for the signing of an agreement for the suppression of organized crime between Kosovo, Italy, Estonia, Belgium, and Lithuania, and negotiations are in the final stage. Furthermore, the action "Rondo" was carried out in cooperation with 9 countries, which led to the arrest of 70 individuals.

- 74% of total processed and convicted criminal acts were in the field of organized crime

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/Strategy\\_for\\_Counter\\_Terrorism\\_2012-2017\\_ser.pdf](http://www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/Strategy_for_Counter_Terrorism_2012-2017_ser.pdf)



- Out of 161 cases, 97 individuals were arrested, while against 57 an accusation was filed.
- 240 persons are facing charges for organized crime.

Naim Redžepi, Deputy General Director of Kosovo Police, reported on the strategy for 2012-2017.<sup>6</sup>

The Strategy for Cybernetic Security, adopted in 2016 and lasting until 2019, was presented. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, in cooperation with the Computer Team for Urgent Reactions, developed and will implement this strategy.<sup>7</sup> Mr Breshaj, Coordinator of Team for Cyber Criminality, explained the principle of work of the team, which has been active from 2011. He also stated that 84% of Kosovo citizens have internet access, according to statistic data. The biggest obstacle in fighting cyber-crime is the inability of Kosovo Police to identify IP addresses.

This meeting lasted something more than two hours, which significantly affected the already modest quality of translation, especially at the end of the meeting.

## Recommendations for the work of Parliamentary Committees:

- The Parliament requires the announcement of group visits, but committee coordinators do not check their e-mail addresses and do not deliver the lists of upcoming visits to the reception. Communication between coordinators and reception has to exist, if the parliamentary administration wants to respect their own procedures and reduce the crowd at the reception. On the other hand, coordinators of the committee themselves have to be available at the e-mail addresses indicated on the website of the Parliament, and regularly check them, especially keeping in mind that official invitations for committee sessions are sent only 18 hours before the meeting, and after the end of working hours.
- Simultaneous translation in the official languages has to be provided with no exception.
- The website of the Parliament has to be completely in function, in order to respect the provisions of the *Declaration for Partnership between the Kosovo Republic Assembly and Civil Society*<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/Strategy\\_against\\_Organized\\_Crime\\_2012-2017.pdf](http://www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/Strategy_against_Organized_Crime_2012-2017.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/Drzavna\\_Strategija\\_za\\_Kiberneticku\\_Bezbednost\\_i\\_Akcioni\\_Plan\\_2016\\_-\\_2019\\_per\\_publikim\\_1202.pdf](http://www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/Drzavna_Strategija_za_Kiberneticku_Bezbednost_i_Akcioni_Plan_2016_-_2019_per_publikim_1202.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.kuvendikosoves.org/common/docs/Declaration\\_Assembly\\_Society.pdf](http://www.kuvendikosoves.org/common/docs/Declaration_Assembly_Society.pdf)



- The premises in which the meetings are held feature translation equipment, yet more headphones sets for translation should be provided.

## Participating organisations

Platform for Analysis and Research is coalition consisted of AKTIV and CPT and the following organisations:



**Center for Development of Local Communities Kosovska Mitrovica**

**Under the Lucky Star**



**3E institute**



**Youth Association "Putokaz"**



**ACDC**

Advocacy Center For Democratic Culture

**Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC)**



**Center for Training and Development**



**NGO Domovik**



**Centar za razvoj zajednica**

**Center for Communities Development**



**Human Centre**





**NGO Santa Marija**



**The Upgrade Society**



**Institute for Development of Civil Society Innovate**



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