NSI Executive Director as a “Talking Woman”

On March 9, Europe House presented a publication “Talking Women – One year of EU support to gender equality and women empowerment in Kosovo”. The publication is a result of a yearlong initiative of EU Gender Talks, featuring 12 interviews with 12 inspiring women from Kosovo, including NSI executive director Jovana Radosavljević.

New Social Initiative is humbled for being recognized as a leader in both talking and doing gender equality. Our approach to gender equity is all-rounded: we lead with the example of the female leadership and a team, we mainstream gender across all of our portfolios and projects showcasing that gender is a cross-cutting matter regardless of the subject and we advocate for gender mainstreaming through legal, institutional and social apparatuses.

In the interview Jovana reflects on social and institutional challenges women, youth and LGBT face, that no one is spared from, including herself:

“I have faced many obstacles in my professional path. I have invested time and energy in my education to be confident of who I am and what I know. If I had not invested in education and worked hard, I am not sure I would have been confident enough to take on the professional challenges that I have today. Today, I am breaking the invisible barriers in my surroundings. I run a successful NGO. I make executive decisions. I have men in my team who do not consider themselves superior because of their gender. I encourage women around me to engage more and want more.”

Meetings With Mitrovica North And Zubin Potok

E-municipalities are online portals initiated by NSI, with the support of PAX, intended for citizens of four northern municipalities to get informed, connect with their representatives and engaged in decision-making processes. The portals showed to be one of the main gears in bringing local institutions and their constituencies closer. To ensure the continues success of the portals, NSI hosted meetings with representatives of municipalities Mitrovica North and Zubin Potok to discuss the handing-over process. NSI will remain at full disposal to the municipalities for assistance in managing and improving the portals.
March was a big month for NSI, as, after over a year of dedicated work, we had the pleasure of hosting an online launch of the Kosovo Trustbuilding Platform. Kosovo Trustbuilding Platform is a virtual space dedicated to building trust in Kosovo, developed NSI with the invaluable support of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. The Platform collects information on initiatives, achievements, opportunities, and champions of trust-building in Kosovo, promote positive stories and track the implementation of the recommendations developed during the United Nations Kosovo Trustbuilding Forum held in Ljubljana, Slovenia in May 2018.

Available in Albanian, Serbian and English languages, the Kosovo Trustbuilding Platform has been tracking the implementation of 135 recommendations developed by the Trustbuilding Forum participants and, along with it, 300+ initiatives and 240+ actors. Either manually or through a search function, you can easily search trustbuilding initiatives by actor, theme, location, status or by the SDG they are contributing to.

**Asking the Hard Questions – NSI on the Job Training**

A political expert Shpetim Gashi facilitated one of engaging and thought-provoking on the job training for NSI staff, titled “Everything you need to know about Kosovo in four hours but you were afraid to ask”. The training was held on March 6, divided into two sections. The first included discussion on the genesis of the Kosovo problem during 1989-1999, international intervention, independence, dialog and the inter-ethnic relations, and the second discussion on political scenery in Kosovo post-2013.

**What do people think on TRC?**

On March 4, Integra hosted a presentation of “Public Perception Survey and Public Dialog about future Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Kosovo” to which NSI partnered in developing. The publication includes an analysis of the risks and opportunities of the future TRC and proposes a set of policy recommendations. The findings revealed that a large majority of citizens are not familiar with transitional justice concepts, or the initiative for establishing the TRC in Kosovo. On the positive, once enplaned, they demonstrated support for such initiative, emphasizing that it needs to act fully independently, have an inclusive and victim-centered approach and report transparently.

- 70% of citizens never heard about the idea of setting up the TRC in Kosovo
- 62% of citizens never heard about Right to Truth for victims of past human rights abuses
- 80% of citizens think that it is important for victims and their families to know the truth

**Important Update: NSI Works Remotely as a Response to Covid-19 Pandemic**

As of March 16, NSI adopted a Covid-19 policy, which includes following measures: working remotely; communicating and meeting online; hosting all activities online; not traveling or participating at in-person events. For the full policy update, please follow this link.