



NEW SOCIAL INITIATIVE

NEWSLETTER

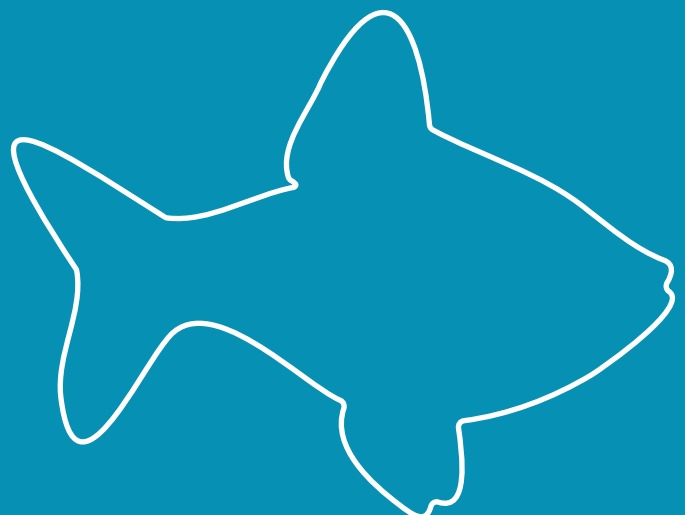
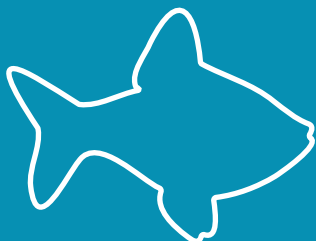
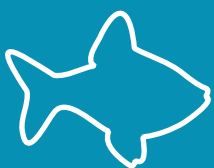
July & August
2024

NSI in partnership with Alternativna publishes two new op-ed

Rina Kadiri and Jasmine Harmston wrote an op-ed, titled: "Equality on Paper, Inequality in Practice: Kosovo's Ethnic Minorities". This op-ed points out the gap between Kosovo's promise of equality and the reality faced by ethnic minorities like the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. Even though the law says everyone should be treated fairly, these groups still face unfair treatment, poverty, and barriers in education and jobs. The article suggests that change needs either stronger government action or community efforts to support these minorities, as simply raising awareness isn't enough to solve these problems.



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Ardita Xhemajli's op-ed, "The unseen struggles of Kosovo's youth", focuses on the challenges faced by young people in Kosovo as they work to bridge ethnic divides and promote a more integrated society. Growing up in a divided and often tense environment, Kosovo's youth face resistance from their communities, communication barriers, and the rise of nationalism. Social media, while a powerful tool for activism, also spreads misinformation and deepens mistrust. Additionally, political corruption and a lack of transparency discourage youth engagement in politics. Despite these challenges, the efforts of young activists are crucial for Kosovo's future, though they often go unnoticed amid louder political tensions.



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This content was funded by a grant from the U.S. Embassy in Pristina. The opinions, findings, and conclusions stated herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the State Department.

Radosavljević and Radovanović in a conference on disinformation

Jovana Radosavljević and Milica Radovanović took part in the conference "Information Ecosystem and the Fight Against Foreign Influence and Manipulation of Information." The event brought together experts to address the growing challenges of disinformation and the spread of foreign influence in the region.

Radovanovic contributed as a panelist in the first session, "The State of the Information Ecosystems in the Western Balkans Region,"

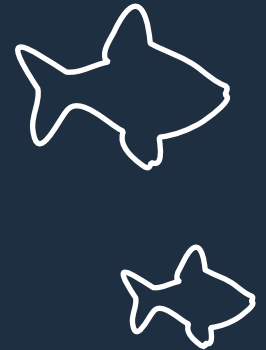




where she shared her views on the current media landscape and how it is affected by manipulation and foreign interference. She also took the opportunity to present NSI's Combatting Disinformation in the Western Balkans (CDWB) funded by FPI and focused on enhancement in the quality of reporting and fact-checking, the strengthening of regulation without curbing free speech, and the increase in transparency of media and media ownership

Šljuka in a workshop on women inclusion in Dialogue

Aleksandar Šljuka took part in a workshop "Gender Perspective and Women's Inclusion in the Normalization Process and Policymaking." The workshop, organized by the Council for Inclusive Governance in cooperation with UNMIK focused on the importance of including women's views and gender equality in the efforts to create peace and develop policies. It brought together people from different ethnic and professional background from Kosovo and Serbia to discuss how to make sure women's voices are part of these important processes.



Radosavljević in a roundtable on how to contribute to the Dialogue

Jovana Radosavljević took part in a closed expert roundtable hosted by the EU Special Representative in Kosovo, Ambassador Tomáš Szunyog, aimed at exploring how the EU can contribute to fostering community dialogue between Kosovo's diverse communities and with Serbia. During the discussion, experts, including Jovana, shared insights on the role of dialogue in building trust through development initiatives and service delivery. The roundtable also identified gaps in current community engagement efforts that could benefit from EU support, while addressing how political, economic, and security developments might influence the success of future dialogue initiatives.

9 Years with NSI

In July, we celebrated NSI's 9th birthday. We want to thank all the partners, team, donors, and community for your amazing support, and we look forward to new collaborations and success stories!



Radosavljević in dealing with the past workshop

Jovana Radosavljević recently participated in the Civil Society and Think Tank Forum 2024, held in Skopje as part of the Berlin Process' 10th anniversary. The forum brought together key civil society and think tank representatives from across the Western Balkans to discuss and develop policy recommendations on pressing regional issues.



Jovana was an active member of the "Dealing with the Past and Reconciliation" working group, facilitated by Youth Initiative for Human Rights Serbia. This workshop focused on addressing historical injustices, promoting conflict resolution, and fostering reconciliation within the region. The group engaged in in-depth discussions to create concrete recommendations, which will later be presented and discussed with



government officials during the Main Forum in Berlin. Through her participation, Jovana contributed valuable insights towards building a more cooperative and harmonious future for the Western Balkans



KPDS social media campaign

In August, we launched the social media campaign for the Kosovo Peace and Democracy Summit, sharing key updates about the event. Throughout the month, we've highlighted insights, including details about the panelists, moderators, and the focus of each panel discussion.

Follow our KPDS social media channels and stay tuned for more exciting updates!



New Projects

In July, we launched an innovative project called Dialogue, Solutions, Future (DSF), led by New Social Initiative in partnership with the Institute for Social Policy Musine Kokalari. Funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, DSF aims to promote civic dialogue and peacebuilding to support the normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo, which is essential for regional cooperation and EU integration. The project includes activities such as informal dialogue sessions, development of hypothetical negotiation position papers, mock negotiations, Dialogue Policy Task Groups, the Kosovo Peace and Democracy Summit, and the publication of op-eds.

In August, we launched the “Enhancing Economic Resilience in Northern Kosovo through Targeted Training and Strategic Advocacy” project, funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives under the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development. This project is designed to support micro and small businesses in northern Kosovo. Its two main objectives are to provide operational support to struggling businesses through targeted training programs and to identify the challenges they face in the region. By doing so, the project seeks to advocate for better integration and create a more favorable micro-economic environment, helping to revitalize the local business landscape.

Podcast: Radosavljević on Transitional Justice

Executive Director Jovana Radosavljević joined Radio KIM for an insightful podcast episode to discuss the Transitional Justice Strategy. She critiques the strategy's approach and discusses its broader implications for reconciliation and ethnic relations.



→ Listen here



July Meetings

Our Executive Director, Jovana Radosavljević and Program Manager, Milica Andrić Rakić met with Head of EU Mission to Kosovo, Tomas Szunyog, for his farewell visit, where they discussed about the situation in Kosovo, and about the importance of dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.



Jovana Radosavljević was part of the meeting of the Gender Policy Strategic Network (GPSN) where members and representatives from NDI Kosovo, USAID Kosovo, and the Swiss Embassy in Kosovo reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality and ending gender-based violence in Kosovo.



Jovana Radosavljević met with UNMIK SRSG Caroline Ziadeh, and they discussed the current human rights situation in Kosovo, and the challenges that the communities are being faced with, as well as the activities of the Human Rights Network.

The meeting for the "Multi-Ethnic Caravan for Peace and Coexistence" initiative recently took place, focusing on promoting dialogue, understanding, and

cooperation among various ethnic and religious communities in Kosovo. During the event, Radosavljević and other participants met with Chief Imam Vedat ef. Sahiti, Administrator of the Diocese Prizren - Prishtina Bishop Dode Gjergji, and Pastor Artur Krasniqi, Head of the Kosovo Protestant Evangelical Church. The discussions aimed to strengthen inter-ethnic coexistence and contribute to peace in Kosovo.

August meetings

Our executive director, Jovana Radosavljević met with Nikolaos Kavallaris Ladis, Head of OSCE Regional Office in North Mitrovica, where they discussed about the economic impact of government measures on the ban on import of Serbian goods on small businesses.

Jovana Radosavljević met with US Ambassador to Croatia Nathalie Rayes and US Deputy Chief of Mission to Kosovo Anu Prattipati to introduce them to regional and national dynamics and socio-political developments in Kosovo.

Press

July

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About us

NSI is a civil society organization working in Kosovo, but also cooperating with the key stakeholders in the Western Balkan region, to ultimately impact inclusiveness, trust-building, democratization processes and good governance in Kosovo.

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