



NEW SOCIAL INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

February
2022

Introduction

We are proud of how much we have achieved in the shortest month of the year. Six days of training, two podcasts, one video and several panel discussions...see all the details below!

Marking International Mother Language Day

On the occasion of the International Mother Language Day, New Social Initiative, Center for Social Initiative and the Office of the Language Commissioner of the Government of Kosovo organized a two-day workshop with language focal points from 20 municipalities across Kosovo. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the development of tools and mechanisms for fast response to language violations within the institutions, as well as online platform for language learning for public administration employees. NSI and its partners will launch tools and mechanism in spring 2022.



The workshop is a part of the project #LetsShareOurLanguage supported by implemented in cooperation with the Centre for Social Initiatives and the Office of the Language Commissioner with the financial support of the Embassy of Netherlands in Kosovo and Rockefeller Brothers Foundation.

Under the auspices of this project, NSI launched a campaign to promote bilingualism, respect of language rights and social acceptance of different languages. Like and subscribe to **ThujDiçka/ ReciNešto** Facebook and Instagram channels for content related to these efforts.

Training courses with young researchers



NSI closed the month with a 4-day training course on research methodology and policy paper writing. Nine young researchers from seven different municipalities in Kosovo and of different ethnic background set the basis for their future policy briefs with the guidance of experts – senior researcher at Kosovar Centre for Security Studies and former Deputy Minister for EU Integration of the Government of Kosovo, Dani Ilazi and professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade, Stefan Surlić.

The goal of this project is to support the inclusion of the youth perspective in the analysis of the effects of the Brussels Dialogue. Young researchers will be working in the following period on their preferred research topics to bring the policymakers their perspective on solutions for the issues.

Training courses are part of the project titled Research, Propose, Engage to Influence the EU facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

Radosavljević on the dialogue – in Vienna, Belgrade and online

NSI's Executive Director, Jovana Radosavljević, participated in European Council on Foreign Relations closed discussion on the Dialogue on normalization and Kosovo – Serbia relations in Vienna with the representative of Belgrade and Pristina's negotiating teams and civil society activists.

In addition, Radosavljević participated in Council for Inclusive Government discussion "Mapping out 2022" focused on the same topic, Kosovo – Serbia relations. The meeting gathered only the civil society representatives.

Radosavljević also presented the North Kosovo perspective in a Peaceful Change initiative and Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence meeting that examined the current state of affairs in societies in Kosovo and Serbia, to identify challenges and perspectives of joint initiatives.



Milenković talks at a panel discussion on citizens' views on corruption

NSI Project Manager, Marko Milenković took part in a panel discussion organized by Advocacy Centre for Democratic Culture. The discussion on the citizens' views on corruption and transparency of the local authorities is available [here](#).

Milovanović and Milenković at IDP's Steering Committee

NSI Program Director, Miloš Milovanović, and NSI Project Manager, Marko Milenković took part in the Steering committee meeting of the Inclusive Development Program in Vushtrri/Vučitrn, where they present the progress of e-opštine web platforms and discussed the potential for its further development.

The committee also reviewed the progress made in the relevant program components and new program activities in the Mitrovica region, including inclusive municipal sustainability planning, urban mobility, municipal climate action, e-government, open data and integrated cultural heritage with a strong emphasis on adequate funding for implementation at the local level.

The Inclusive Development Program aims to provide a comprehensive package of support for municipal capacity building for strategic planning and management.

The program is funded by the Swedish Agency for Development Cooperation (SIDA) and jointly implemented by UN-Habitat, PAX, Community Building Mitrovica (CBM), New Social Initiative (NSI), Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP), Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA), as well as local authorities in Leposavić/Leposaviq, South Mitrovica, North Mitrovica, Zubin Potok, Zvečan/Zvečan, Skenderaj/Srbica and Vushtrri/Vučitrn.



RCT and KTB Podcasts are out!

New RCT podcast on the topic of reconciliation is out. We talked to Mevlude Skuroshi from the GAIA organization from South Mitrovica. She shared with us her perspective on how she sees the reconciliation process going and as she stated, “The need to unite against something is what brings people together, sometimes common interest unites people and not only the financial one or music, culture, art, so like all people in the world, we just must find an “enemy” I say in quotes or a common love”.

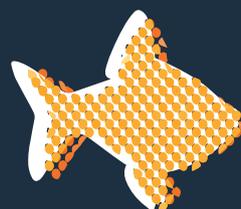
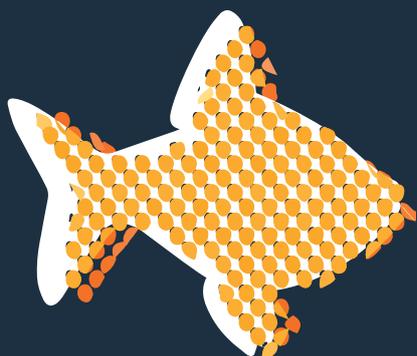
See the whole story and the video of the conversation with Mev [here](#).

This podcast is a part of the Reconciliation & Conflict Transformation Activity, implemented by Community Building Mitrovica and partners from New Social Initiative and Youth Initiative



for Human Rights – Kosovo, and supported by the American people through USAID Kosovo.

We also published out Kosovo Trust Building Platform podcast with Nora Prekazi and Miljana Dundjerin. They talked about their joint initiative – a literature festival titled ZaNa. What is ZaNa? Why a poetry festival? Can Mitrovica be known for anything other than the main Ibar bridge? See what they had to say [here](#).



The last Linking Through Lenses (LTL) video is out!



LTL phase one was concluded in January, but we saved the one last video for the first day of February. After the teaser, see the full video of Ivana i Granit's adventure on Via Ferratas in Peja/Peć and Zubin Potok.

Check out the whole LTL campaign in the [compilation](#), or check out the LTL YouTube channel to see all videos individually.

This doesn't mean that Linking Through Lenses is over – something new is cooking, tay tuned!

Open call for project proposals: EU sub-granting scheme

NSI and Integra opened a call for project proposals for youth organizations and associations! The call is a part of a sub-granting scheme of the project "Strengthening Inclusive Victim Voices, Transforming Narratives" funded by the EU. The call was opened by the end of February and up to 5 grants of up to 5000€ will be awarded. This is the first sub-granting scheme implemented by NSI!

Press



• New Perspektiva on NSI Informal Discussions

[Read the article](#)

• Program Director, Miloš Milovanović for RTK2 on Lajčak and Escobar's visit to Pristina and Belgrade

[Read the article](#)

RTK LIVE





• Project Manager, Milica Andrić Rakić for NovaS on Lajčak and Escobar's visit to Pristina and Belgrade

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• Project Manager, Milica Andrić Rakić for N1 on Serbian parliamentary elections

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• Project Manager, Milica Andrić Rakić for N1 on Serbian parliamentary elections:

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• Project Manager, Milica Andrić Rakić for Radio KIM

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• Project Manager, Milica Andrić Rakić for N1 on Serbian parliamentary elections:

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• Project Manager, Milica Andrić Rakić for Danas on invasion on Ukraine

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• Project Manager, Milica Andrić Rakić for Gračanica Online on anti-smuggling measures

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