

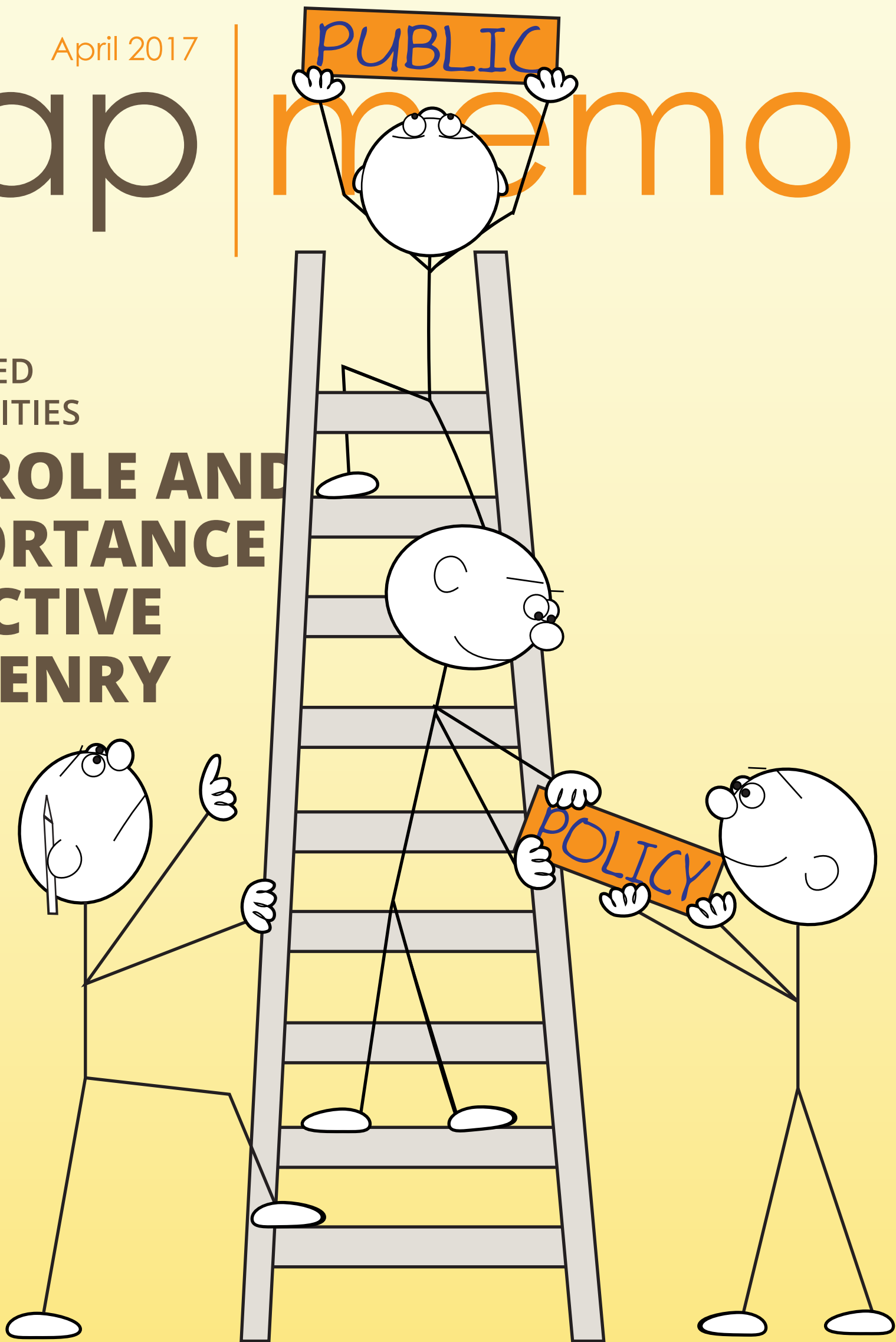
April 2017

gap

PUBLIC
memo

ORGANIZED
COMMUNITIES

THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVE CITIZENRY



- Civic Engagement in Public Activities
- Settlements with Active Citizenry
- Common characteristics of the self-organized localities

Introduction

During the '90s, the citizens of Kosovo organized themselves successfully to resist oppression and help the survival of the population, who were discriminated against and persecuted in every sphere. In this manner, through their voluntary commitment, it was possible to organize a parallel system of education in the Albanian language, as well as health, social welfare and later military defense. Besides those who lived in Kosovo, the diaspora also helped immensely in this organization.

After 1999, however, when Kosovo was put under international administration and with the establishment of self-governing institutions, this spirit of active citizenry died out. There are many reasons for this to happen, starting from the first humanitarian assistance provided by the international community after the liberation of Kosovo, and continuing with the excessive trust that the citizens of Kosovo had, thinking that local and central government institutions will be able to carry out all public services, without the need to continue with civic self-organization.

Nonetheless, there are exceptions. Through the work that GAP Institute carried out in various municipalities in Kosovo, we identified at least six locations that continue with civic self-organization by engaging in different public matters, such as the maintenance of common spaces, construction of houses for families in a difficult economic state, funding of cultural and sport activities, etc.

This report presents the initiative models of the inhabitants of Korisha and Lubinja e Epërme of Prizren, Smira and Stublla of Vitia, Dobërçan of Gjilan and Koretin of Kamenica, who overcame party and ethnic divisions and created mechanisms to make their settlements more ecological, more functional and more organized.

The report provides an overview of the general civic activism, based on an extensive survey of the GAP Institute with 1000 respondents throughout Kosovo. In the end there are recommendations with respect to the way in which the examples of these six locations can and should be followed by other locations throughout Kosovo.

Civic engagement in public activities

To get a clearer picture of the civic organization level, GAP Institute in the first months of 2017, undertook an extensive survey of 1000 respondents in the entire territory of Kosovo.

When asked if they carried out any voluntary work in the last 12 months, 85% of the surveyed citizens declared that they were not engaged in any voluntary work.

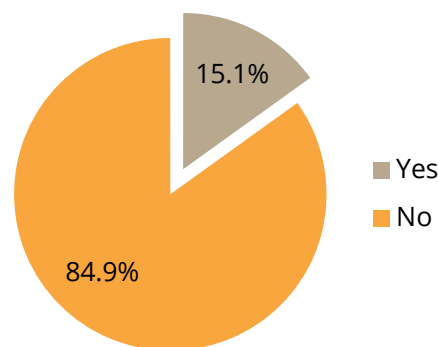


FIGURE 1. HAVE YOU CARRIED OUT ANY VOLUNTARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

An even higher percentage of the citizens surveyed declared that they are not members of any non-governmental organization.

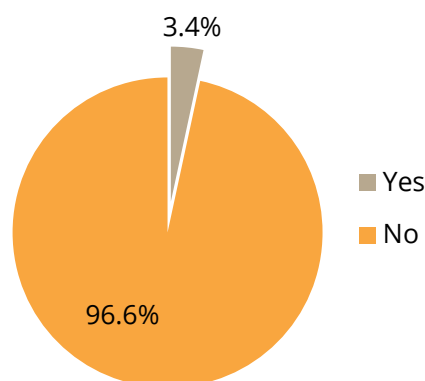


FIGURE 2. ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ANY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ASSOCIATION/ORGANIZATION?

According to the Law on Local Self Government¹, municipalities assist with the establishment of local councils and cooperate with them for addressing various issues that fall under the competence of the municipal organization. On this basis, municipalities issued local regulations and, in their statutes, foresaw ways for the establishment and functioning of local councils in villages, settlements and urban neighborhoods.

According to research carried out by GAP Institute at the national level, it appears that only 38 percent of the citizens are aware of the existence of local councils, whereas 44 percent of the respondents were not aware whether their neighborhood/village established this council.

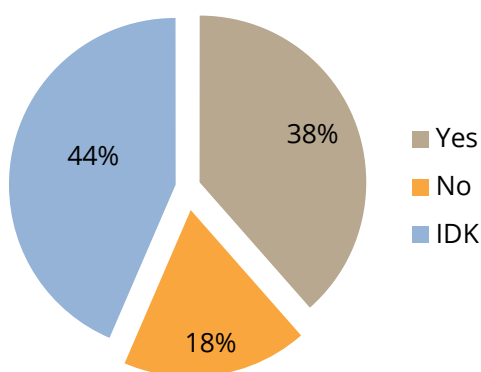


FIGURE 3. HAS YOUR VILLAGE/NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BEEN ESTABLISHED?

However, only about 31 percent of them had participated in the election of the council members.

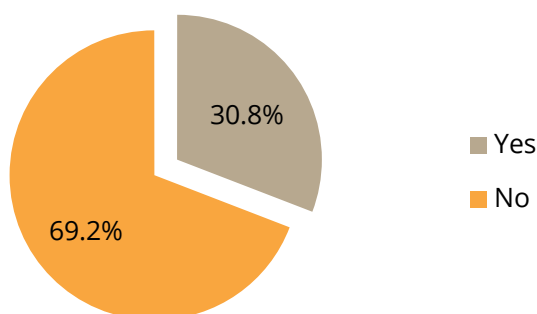


FIGURE 4. DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL?

¹Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo. Law no. 03/L-040 on local self-government, article 34. Source: <http://bit.ly/1CulaKA> (last accessed on March 10, 2017).

Citizens were also asked how often they attended public meetings organized by the municipality during the last 12 months. As you can see in Figure 5, the majority of respondents (81%) never participated in such meetings during the last 12 months, whereas 10 percent had only participated once and 7 percent attended twice or more.

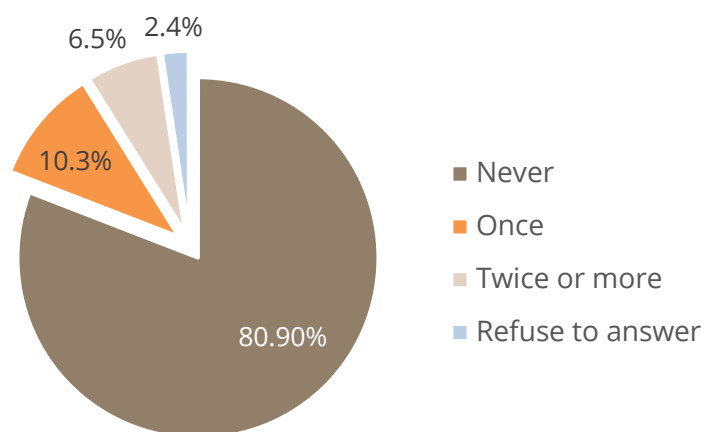


FIGURE 5. HOW OFTEN DID YOU ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS ORGANIZED BY THE MUNICIPALITY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

The majority of the citizens surveyed declared that they are not active members of any party. However, the percentage of those who said that they were part of political parties is significantly higher than of those who said that they were part of civil society organizations or that do voluntary work.

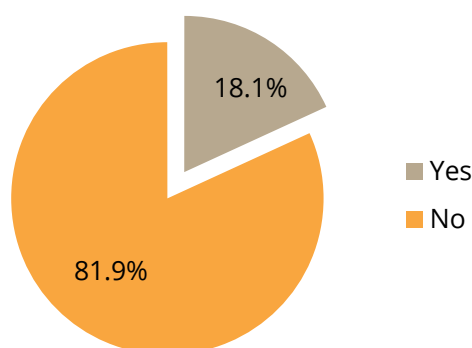


FIGURA 6. ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY?

This information shows that Kosovo citizens are not sufficiently active in various public organizations and the majority of them are not interested in public matters. However, there are some exceptions, which we managed to identify during our work at the local level in different settlements in Kosovo.

Settlements with active citizenry

GAP Institute identified at least six villages, where the inhabitants get organized to discuss and address topics related to the improvement of the environment where they live, in cooperation with the diaspora and businesses. These villages are: Korisha, Dobërçan, Koretin, Smira, Stublla e Epërme and Lubinja e Epërme.

Korisha

Korisha is a village in the municipality of Prizren, with over 5,200 inhabitants². After the war, Korisha got various epithets. It was named the village that governs itself, as it does not rely much on the municipality's assistance for major projects, such as water supply and the construction of roads and houses.³ It was even called the most ecological village of Prizren, since the collection of waste, maintenance of green areas and cleaning of water supply lines, are carried out daily, by persons responsible for such work.⁴ Korisha is an example that shows the transformation of a village from ruins to a well-organized village.

Situated no farther than five kilometers from the center of Prizren, this village resembles a miniature municipality. It has a village council comprised of 12 members who belong to different political parties; a village leader with a five-year mandate; its own committee for finances; its own bank account; and four regular workers who care for the maintenance of the village.

While the council meets periodically to discuss issues of importance for the village, the four workers have regular daily obligations. Their duties are related to the maintenance of the village, cleaning the village roads, eliminating sewage defects, maintenance of the water-supply network, opening water lines to irrigate arable land, cleaning the cemetery, digging graves and collecting financial means. It is the latter that makes it possible to

²According to the data from the census by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics.
Source: <http://bit.ly/2nzioB0>

³Tinka Kurti. Korisha - village that governs itself. Kallxo.com. Source: <http://bit.ly/1o1xaz6>, accessed on March 8, 2017.

⁴Ferma Ime. Korisha - the most ecological village in the region of Prizren.
Source: <http://bit.ly/2mPwkFd>, accessed on March 8, 2017.

fund the village budget, which is used to pay four workers that work full-time six days a week.

The funding of the village budget is not mandatory for the 6,000 inhabitants of the village, but it is still a principle that is respected by most families. By sparing three euros a month,⁵ this village with 800 houses is able to create an annual budget of around 30 thousand euros. In addition to having its own bank account, Korisha also has rules to avoid the misuse of finances. For this reason, it established a three-member committee, which manages the village budget. According to these rules, no transaction can be performed without the signature of all three persons at the same time.



PHOTO 1: THE MONUMENT OF MARTYRS AND THE PARK IN THE VILLAGE KORISHA

The village budget is sufficient not only to keep the four regular workers employed, but to also help families on social welfare when for medical treatments or sheltering, as well as to organize cultural activities for remembering martyrs and those fallen during the war. A monument was erected for the latter, in the middle of the village, and besides its striking appearance of cleanliness and maintenance, it commemorates the rebuilding of a community destroyed by the

⁵ Interview with Abaz Bobaj, leader of the Korisha village, on February, 22, 2017.

war into a model community, when it comes to organization and self-initiative.

Dobërçan

The village of Dobërçan, unofficially known as the village of Miresh, is part of the municipality of Gjilan and has around 2,700 inhabitants. Ever since the end of the war, the villagers got self-organized to address the numerous problems of the village in terms of public infrastructure, as well as by organizing cultural activities, addressing social and housing problems, etc. One of its first post-war activities was the construction of a monument for the village martyrs and the construction of a park, which is looked after by the village inhabitants at all times.⁶ From the voluntary financial contributions of the existing village inhabitants and those who went to live abroad, besides the construction of the park, they were also able to fix the riverbed, dispose of the waste, construct at least four houses for families that live under difficult economic conditions, and provide financial assistance for the recovery of the people in need, etc. Throughout the whole year, through such contributions, two public space maintenance workers are hired and paid by the community itself. The families in this village pay 10 euros a year, while businesses pay 20 euros per year. The diaspora contributes with 50 francs.



PHOTO 2: THE MAINTENANCE OF THE RIVERBED IN THE DOBËRÇAN VILLAGE⁷

Since February 2009, the diaspora of this village living in Zürich, Switzerland, was structured in the association "17 shkurti", which collected about 250,000 Swiss francs in the past seven years. The

⁶ Interview with Arlind Abdyli, activist of the "17 shkurti" association. Interview held on March 7, 2017.

⁷ Picture taken from the Facebook page, which is used as means for the organization and promotion of activities in the village:

<https://www.facebook.com/Vetembanoretemireshit/?fref=ts>

activities of this association since the year 2009 are depicted in their internet address www.17shkurti.ch.



PHOTO 3: ONE OF THE MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION “17 SHKURTI”⁸

Koretin

Koretin is one of the largest villages in the region of Gjilan and is part of the municipality of Kamenica. The self-organization of the inhabitants of the village and its diaspora began relatively late, in March 2015. On March 1, 2015, the diaspora from the village of Koretin, mainly living in Switzerland, established the charitable organization “Koretini”. The numerous infrastructural and social problems in the village and lack of support from the municipality are some of the reasons for the village’s self-organization.⁹

Association activists started to register all families that live in the diaspora, but based on initial estimates, it is believed that there are about 400 families from this village, with a total of 2000 family members, who live abroad, with 256 families registered in Switzerland alone.

The association “Koretini” provided financial assistance in order to employ three workers and one supervisor. These workers, who are also equipped with a truck and other tools and accessories needed for cleaning, take care of cleaning the riverbed, the cemetery, sidewalks, etc. The workers receive a monthly salary of

⁸Source: <https://www.facebook.com/Vetembanoretemireshit/?fref=ts>

⁹ Interview with Adhurim Maka – coordinator of the village workers (interview held on March 7, 2017) and Ramadan Basha – activist of the association and president of the football club “Bashkimi” from Koretin (interview held on March 8, 2017).

287 euros gross, while the association also pays the pension contributions.



PHOTO 4. WORKERS FROM THE VILLAGE OF KORETIN

The association also helped re-activate the football club "Bashkimi", which plays for the second football league. The activation of the club, together with other cultural activities organized within the village school, led to the activation of youth in sports and cultural activities.



PHOTO 5. FOOTBALL CLUB "BASHKIMI"

The association "Koretini" works together with the village council, which is elected by the votes of 250 village inhabitants, for the

coordination of activities in the village. Financial contributions to the association are made through the football club bank account, although the village activists are in the process of registering the association as a non-governmental organization.

All activities are funded by the association, but starting from this year, they will begin to collect the payment of 12 euros monthly from the families of the village. According to the village representatives, the main problems encountered so far include, the slow pace at which the awareness of inhabitants is raised, regarding the importance of contributions and civic activation, as well as the municipality's reluctance to assist such activities, especially with the activation of the environmental inspectorate.



PHOTO 6. THE MEMBERS OF THE "KORETINI" ASSOCIATION IN SWITZERLAND¹⁰

The assistance of the association and organization in the village of Koretin, motivated the inhabitants of at least two other villages in the municipality of Kamenica to get self-organized.

Smira

Smira is a village in the municipality of Vitia, which has 4,345 inhabitants, 3,872 of which live in the village and 473 as non-residential inhabitants. With 569 inhabited houses, Smira is the third largest settlement, when it comes to the number of inhabitants, in the municipality of Vitia after the city of Vitia and the village of Pozheran.

¹⁰Picture taken from the association's web page www.koretini.com

During the last four years, the inhabitants of Smira carried out over 50 projects and activities, while the village archive registered the amount of 425,000 euros, which were donated by the citizens themselves in the last 15 years. These projects include: the pavement of roads, the construction of historical monuments in the village, the school renovation, scholarships for students, summer vacations for distinguished students, contests for rewarding the best family garden in the village, the organization of farewell meetings for retired teachers, the creation of green areas, activities for cleaning the environment, solidarity measures for the construction of houses, cultural and sports activities, as well as the opening and maintenance of an informative page on the Internet.¹¹



PHOTO 7: THE INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE SMIRA AS THEY PAINT THE VILLAGE SCHOOL ENTRANCE AND FENCE (JUNE 2016)

Most of the roads in the neighborhoods of the village of Smira were paved with the help of the financial contributions of inhabitants, businesses and the diaspora. A village committee, even announced a public bid and selected the company with the best technical and financial conditions. "The road paved by "Papenburg & Adriani", which was chosen by the inhabitants, is much more stable than the roads that were paved many years later by the municipality", says Afrim Salihu, the former chair of the local community of Smira.

¹¹ Interview with Afrim Salihu – Former chair of the local community in the village of Smira. The interview was conducted on 16.03.2017.

A number of 11 new houses for the inhabitants of the village living under difficult economic conditions were built with the help of the financial contributions from the community and businesses of this village, between 2005 and 2017.

Members of the Smira community who live in the diaspora gave and continue to give great help to this village. This community is mainly concentrated in Geneva, Switzerland, where it established the association “Smira”.



PHOTO 8. AN ACTIVITY OF THE ASSOCIATION “SMIRA” IN SWITZERLAND¹²

Stublla e Epërme

The community in Stublla e Epërme has also had a tradition of community organization since 1990. The peculiarity of this village is that a large number of its inhabitants now live in the diaspora. According to the 2011 Census data, there are about 1,200 inhabitants still living in the village, while it is believed that 3,000 others live in Switzerland, Germany, Italy and Austria.

The village council, which is comprised of seven members and is elected through regular elections, also has the General Council of Stublla, which consists of associations of people from Stublla living in the diaspora. They have a village development plan, and in the annual meetings, they discuss the work carried out and determine the dynamics of other annual projects. In 2016, they held their annual meeting in Italy, where among others they also discussed the construction of a home for the elderly in Stublla.

¹²Picture taken from the village web page www.fshatismire.com (accessed on 16.3.2017).

This emerged as a community need, since aside from some elderly inhabitants who need care, a considerable number of compatriots, who live abroad, also want to spend the last part of their lives in their birthplace.



PHOTO 9. A MEETING BETWEEN THE DIASPORA ASSOCIATIONS AND THE VILLAGE COUNCIL ON MARCH 11, 2017 IN STUBLLA

According to the village representatives, in the last 16 years they implemented projects worth over 1 million euros in Stublla e Epërme. These included projects like: the renovation of the school, the strengthening of the power-supply network, the lighting of the main street, the pavement of secondary roads, the construction of solidarity houses, the ambulance, the youth center, the village square, the first Albanian school museum, the Construction of the Road of the Cross (as a religious monument), and the organization of the Days of Dom Mikel Tarabulluzi for 25 years.

Stublla established a twinning relationship with the town of Jennersdorf in Austria, exchanging experiences and cultural activities. Meanwhile, the only funds from foreign donors that the village received were the three agricultural projects funded by the municipal government of Tyrol in Austria.

The Regulation of the General Council of Stublla is a much more substantial document than many other official documents. The Council of Stublla also has its emergency fund of about 50,000 euros, which it uses to help fellow villagers who have different

individual needs. The Council has its own bank account, stamp and the documentation of all projects implemented up to now in the village.

In Stublla, the community itself carries out winter maintenance services for secondary roads, while there is also a worker for the maintenance of the village cemetery and collection of household waste.

In the development plan which covers the period up to the year 2018, the Council of Stublla planned the installation of a water supply system, which they do not have yet, as well as the construction of an alternative main road in the village, the Council building, a home for the elderly, together with the set up of street lighting near every house and the construction of sidewalks.



PHOTO 10. THE VILLAGE OF STUBLLA E EPËRME

Lubinja e Epërme

This village, which is inhabited by 2,000 members of the Bosnian community, set up an appropriate system of community organization, which has an administration reminiscent of that at the municipal level. Around 600 houses contribute to the organization of the community life through self-financing, by paying 0.50 euro for each family member, while the contributions

from the diaspora are continuous. They are active with their associations in Switzerland, Germany, Italy, the Scandinavian countries, and have their own special fund through which they contribute to their homeland.¹³

The Village Council, although elected in accordance with the municipal regulation, has a broader and a more unique structure. The Local Community Assembly is the decision making body, which is comprised of 29 members from 6 village neighborhoods. Whereas there are 7 committees to ensure that the organization runs smoothly: water supply, roads, community services, legal issues, finance, technical issues and sports and culture.



PHOTO 11. THE VILLAGE OF LUBINJA E EPËRME

The Local Community of Lubinja e Epërme employs 6 workers, including the Secretary, Financial Officer, Legal Affairs Officer, and workers for the maintenance of water supply, roads, public lighting and waste collection. Their monthly salaries range from 50 - 200 euros.

¹³Interview with Ibra Shaqir, chair of the local community Lubinja e Epërme, March 26, 2016

The Local Community has its own rules of procedure, a document that determines the manner of organization in its entirety, while other documents, such as the financial participation regulation, are discussed and approved annually by the Assembly. Furthermore, every year the Local Community makes a job announcement for 6 employment positions for its workers. Each request made by the inhabitants or an individual, should be addressed in writing to the Local Community administration and the protocol fee of 2 euros must be paid, in order for it to be reviewed within two weeks.

This community's organization is evident from the documents presented by the chair and the financial officer. In 2015, the level of fees collected for community participation was 60%, whereas in previous years (2012) it was up to 90.4%. This way, during the year 2015, the Local Community of Lubinja e Epërme collected 13,241 euros in participations per capita, as well as collected other revenues amounting to 3,705 euros from the village inventory that is rented to inhabitants to organize weddings and banquets.



PHOTO 12. THE VILLAGE OF LUBINJA

Common characteristics of the self-organized localities

The six localities depicted above are placed in different municipalities of Kosovo. At the first glance, although they appear very different, they have some common elements, which we believe contributed to the self-organization. The majority of these locations are relatively large villages when it comes to the size of population, in comparison to the average population size of the villages in Kosovo, which is around 833 inhabitants per village according to the 2011 Census.

What is noticeable is the large number of villagers living in the diaspora, mainly in Switzerland, who are very well organized. There is an impression overall, that the diaspora ceased its political and financial activity and that the main support provided by the diaspora, since the war ended, has been reduced to the provision of financial assistance for their families in Kosovo. The aforementioned examples demonstrate that part of the diaspora continue to make contributions to community organization. In addition to getting organized in the form of associations in the diaspora, they also had a major impact on the organization of their compatriots in Kosovo.

The assistance provided by the large businesses in these localities also plays an important role in the organization of these villages. "Papenburg & Adriani" is one of the biggest businesses in Kosovo for paving roads and it also exercises its activities in Switzerland. Business owners contributed to the establishment of the football club "Bashkimi" in Koretin and financially assisted other village activities. Similarly, "Elektro Stublla" gave thousands of euros over the years for joint projects in the village of Stublla e Epërme. "Migros" is a successful furniture manufacturing business and has provided great assistance for projects in the village of Smira.

In all these localities, civic organization is mainly manifested through projects dealing with the maintenance of common areas, expanding of green spaces, cleaning of cemeteries, riverbanks and the construction of houses for families living in difficult social conditions.

TABLE 1: BASIC DATA ON SELF-ORGANIZED LOCALITIES

Name of the settlement	Dobërçan (Miresh)	Koretin	Lubinja e Epërme	Korisha	Smira	Stublla
Municipality	Gjilan	Kamenica	Prizren	Prizren	Viti	Viti
Inhabitants (together with the diaspora)	2,700	3,500	3,200	5,300	4,345	1,200
The diaspora		2,000				3,000
The beginnings of self-organization	Since the war ended, in more structured form since February 2009	Since March 2015	?	Since the war ended	Continuation of the activities since '90s	Continuation of the activities since '90s
Form of organization	An association whose main activity is in Zürich Switzerland, it has its own statute. Not registered as an NGO in Kosovo	Association whose main activity is in Switzerland. Not registered as an NGO in Kosovo.	Local Community, elected in accordance with the Statute of the Municipality of Prizren, but with a unique structure, with a 29 member Assembly.	Local Community	Local Community	The Local Community in cooperation with the "Stublla" associations in Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Germany.
Annual financial contributions	10 euros for village inhabitants 20 euros for businesses 50 Swiss francs for the diaspora	12 euros for the village inhabitants;	50 cent per month for each family member;	3 euros per month for each family	Participation based on calls for help with infrastructure and the construction of houses for families in need	Annual emergency fund of 50,000 euros.

Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - placement of waste baskets, - maintenance of the riverbed and cemetery, - planting of flowers, ornamental trees, - construction of a camp-house for the recreational activities of the inhabitants, - assistance for families in need, - maintenance of the village park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - placement of waste baskets, - maintenance of the riverbed and cemetery, - assistance for families in need, - maintenance of the football field and financial assistance for the football club "Bashkimi" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintenance of the water supply system; - waste collection. - taking care of public lighting; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cleaning of the village streets, - elimination of sewage defects, - maintenance of the water supply network, - opening water lines for arable land irrigation, - cleaning of the cemetery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - construction of residential houses for families; - pavement of the neighborhood streets; - cleaning of the cemetery and removal of waste disposals; - maintenance of school facilities; - organization of cultural activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - school renovation, - strengthening of the electricity grid, - lighting for the main street, - pavement of secondary roads, - construction of solidarity houses, an ambulance, a youth center, a village square, the first Albanian school museum.
The assistance from businesses	The village has some small businesses, which contribute with 20 euros per annum.	One of the largest businesses that has helped is the "Papenburg & Adriani" company.			One of the largest businesses that has helped is the "Migros" company.	One of the businesses that has contributed mostly in this village is "Elektro-Stublla"
The engagement of the diaspora	The diaspora is mainly concentrated in Switzerland	The diaspora is organized in Switzerland	The diaspora organized in Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Scandinavian countries.	-	The diaspora mainly concentrated in Switzerland	The diaspora organized in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria.
Means of information	The official website www.17shkurti.ch Page on Facebook: "Vetëm banorët e Mireshit"	The official website www.koretini.com Page on Facebook: "Koretini-vendlindja jonë"	/	/	The official website www.fshatismire.com Page on Facebook: "Fshati Smirë"	Group in Facebook "SH-I-H-K STUBLLA."

Conclusion

Civic activism is one of the most effective ways to ensure the proper functioning of a democratic governing system. Civic activism can be supported by public institutions at the local or central level, or operate unconnected and without any link to government institutions. Civic activism can start from the clean up of a neighborhood street, the expansion of green areas, up to the proposal of policies at the local or central level.

During the '90s, since they were excluded from all state institutions, denied education in Albanian and denied healing in public hospital facilities, the people of Kosovo got organized into associations and informal groups, undertaking joint actions for paving roads, the transformation of private houses into school facilities, the construction of residential houses for families in difficult economic conditions, up to the creation of budget funds for the organization of a parallel government, schools, social assistance, etc.

After the war and the establishment of the institutions of self-government, the people were struck by the wrong conviction that the elected institutions will be able to cover all public obligations. This erroneous belief to a large extent was the reason for citizens not to engage in public affairs. The research of GAP Institute shows that Kosovars mostly do not engage in voluntary work (85%), are not part of any non-governmental organization (96%), are not members of political parties (82%) and do not participate in public meetings organized by municipalities (81%).

However, at least six settlements identified by the GAP Institute are an exception to this rule. Korisha, Dobërçan, Koretin, Smira, Stublla e Epërme and Lubinja e Epërme, are good examples of civic activism. At their own initiative and with their own financial contribution, the inhabitants of these localities cover services that are considered mainly as responsibilities of the municipality or government by the majority of the population.

For purposes of having increased civic activism and more examples such as the six localities mentioned above, GAP Institute will undertake an extensive information campaign for sharing these six examples with other localities in Kosovo.

In addition, GAP Institute recommends that:

- Organized communities should register as associations in conformity with the Law on freedom of association in non-governmental organizations.** Despite the fact that the communities involved in this report operate as associations, and most of them even have their own statutes, they are not registered as associations at the Ministry of Public Administration. Their registration as associations would facilitate the organization, funding and reporting. Almost all localities depicted in this report have bank accounts that belong to natural persons or even football clubs, where financial contributions are deposited and where payments are made from. Their formal registration as associations would enable the opening of bank accounts, where donor organizations could also contribute.
- The municipality should assist self-organized localities.** Despite the fact that the localities depicted in this report are aware of the budgetary constraints of municipalities, they demand that municipalities at least carry out their tasks with respect to inspections. Since self-organized communities are not law enforcement bodies, there is a need for institutions to intervene in cases where community work is damaged by irresponsible persons. Another form of help that municipalities could offer is by assisting with major projects, such as the water supply or sewage network, which are projects that are more complex to be carried out and must comply with local development plan.
- Donors should support community organizations.** Since the year 1999, civil society in Kosovo has been supported by international donors with hundreds of millions of euros. However, due to the application procedures in place and the way in which communities are organized in Kosovo, this category of civil society has not found support from donors. In order to encourage community organization, donors should support such civic initiatives.
- The engagement of the Diaspora.** Despite the widespread belief that the assistance of the diaspora after 1999 has become limited to the provision of financial assistance to their families, the examples in this report show that the diaspora still provides great assistance for community organization. This is an example that could be followed by other localities throughout Kosovo. In addition to financial assistance, the communities in Kosovo could benefit from experiences of the diaspora who live in more developed countries.

The GAP Institute is a Think-Tank established in October 2007 in Kosovo. The main goal of GAP is to attract professionals to create an environment of professional development and research, which is encountered in similar institutions in western countries. This also provides the opportunity for Kosovars to research, develop and implement projects with the aim of advancing Kosovar society. The priority of this Institute is to mobilize professionals in addressing the economic, political and social challenges of the country. The main goals of GAP are to fill the gaps between the Government and the citizens, and also fill the gaps between problems and solutions.

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