

This platform will be maintained and updated with new data regarding the State Budget of the Republic of Kosova. From March till April 2013 the platform has had 3,002 visitors where 17,665 pages were viewed.



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Policy Brief: March

Kosovo Budget – transparency and forms of budget reporting



GAP Institute, on 5th of March 2013, published the analysis “Kosovo Budget – transparency and forms of budget reporting”, which deals with the issue of drafting, spending, and reporting of state budget.

Based on research and work which lasted about a year, GAP states that generally there’s a lack of budgetary transparency. The process of budgeting and budget reporting does not fulfill best standards of transparency and accountability. Recommendations are given in the analysis of how to improve the process of budgeting, especially transparency in spending of the

public money.

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Other than the analysis, in the press conference GAP also presented the online platform “How does the state spend our money?” – a platform which aims at increasing transparency in the spending of public money.

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Policy Brief: March

Price of Electricity: trends and economic impact

GAP Institute and FIQ, within the Consortium of Non-Governmental Organizations for Sustainable Development (KOSID), on 10th of March 2013, published policy brief on “Price of Electricity: trends and economic impact”.

This policy brief addresses the methodology used by the Energy Regulatory Office (ERO) to calculate electricity prices. This analysis provided recommendations on how the Kosovo Government can influence to maintain low electricity price.



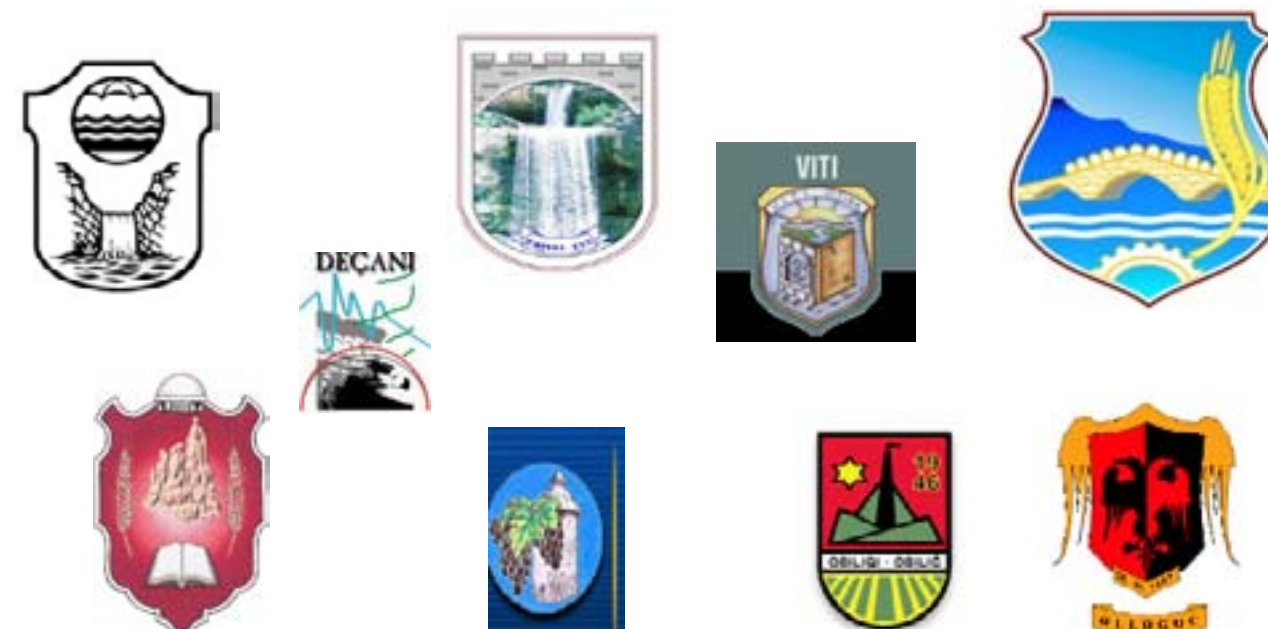
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Reports: January – April

Municipal ID-s 2013

GAP institute from January to April 2013 has published 8 Municipal ID-s.

Municipal ID 2012 is a series of reports which provide an overview of local governments’ work in 32 municipalities in Kosovo. Each report measures the local development in the field of education, health, administration, citizen services, public investments, transparency, and the level of fulfillment of promises made by 32 mayors during their election campaign in 2009. Each report also looks at the budget spending, capital investments, tendering procedures, etc.



The project started in May 2012 and it is implemented in cooperation with Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) and Advocacy Training and Resource Centre (ATRC). GAP’s findings served as a basis for the TV show “Jeta në Kosovë”.

From January to April 2013, GAP published 8 Municipal ID-s:

Municipality ID of **Zveçan, Zubin Potok and Leposaviç** 2013, published on 14 janar 2013

Municipality ID of **Gjakovë** 2013, published on 31 January 2013,

Municipality ID of **Shtime** 2013, published on March 2013

Municipality ID of **Skenderaj**, published on 18 March 2013

Municipality ID of **Suharekë**, published on 26 March 2013

Municipality ID of **Istog**, published on April 2013

Municipality ID of **Podujevë** published on April 2013

Municipality ID of **Pejë** published on 26 April 2013

Reaction: The Ministry of Economic Development did not provide access to KEDS assets

On 20 March 2013, pursuant to the Law on Access to Public Documents, GAP Institute (acting on behalf of KOSID) submitted to the Ministry of Economic Development a request to access the list of KEDS assets, which were privatized in October 2012.

On 25 March 2013, MED positively responded to the said request (MED response attached), confirming that KAP may have unhindered access to the requested document (complete list of assets transferred to Calik & Limak, in accordance with the agreement on sale of distribution assets). According to MED's reply, GAP may access the list of KEDS assets, subject to a prior notice of 48 hours. Accordingly, MED allowed access to the asset list on 5 April 2013, at 13:00.

On 5 April 2013 (Friday), GAP (accompanied by other members of KOSID) reported to MED premises. However, the person authorized by MED to grant access to such documents did not provide access to the documents, in the form envisaged in the Law, stating that the said documents were still in draft-form and, as such, may not be disclosed to the public prior to 6 May 2013, which is the date in which Calik & Limak will officially take over KEDS management. The reason provided by the MED official was that access to the list of KEDS assets may harm 'commercial interests and economic interests'. Contrary to our insisting that the request pertained to the list of KEDS assets compiled in the moment of contract signature, MED officials did not permit such access.

MED and Minister Besim Beqaj have underlined in numerous occasions and public debates that any citizen of the Republic of Kosovo will be granted access to the list of KEDS assets. According to MED, access to the list of KEDS assets is not easy due to the sheer volume of these documents. This is proven untrue, since folders of KEDS asset lists have been prepared in electronic formats that can be easily made public in the official MED web-page or sent via email to all persons showing interest in them. The behavior of the official appointed to meet GAP today proves, once again, the total lack of transparency of the KEDS privatization project.

Therefore, GAP Institute, on behalf of the Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development (KOSID), asks of the General Auditor's Office to conduct an audit of KEDS assets, in the form determined on the date of KEDS's final unbundling from KEK.

Moreover, we once again call upon MED to, in accordance with Article 11, Paragraph 6 of the Law on Access to Public Documents, allow full access to the list of KEDS assets, in the form determined since the moment of unbundling and contract signature. There are no reasonable arguments for keeping the list of KEDS assets secret from the public.

GAP's researchers contribute in the latest international book on Kosovo



An article entitled Institutions and Political Structure – how far is Kosovo coauthored by Agron Demi and Jeton Mehmeti was recently published in an edited book in Germany.

The book "The Republic of Kosovo – Europe's youngest state. A political inventory since the declaration of independence (2013)", edited by Olaf Leise, Martin Roth, Christian Gesellmann, consists of 18 articles from various international authors, renowned in Balkan studies. This bilingual book is published by Nomos, Germany.

In this article the authors provide a chronological view in building Kosovo's political structure under UNMIK according to Resolution 1244 and then the journey from provisional institutions of self-government to the declaration of independence. Authors focus on the progress achieved on the establishment of Kosovo institutions and the challenges they need to overcome. Among the issues discussed are the structure and composition of the Kosovo Assembly and the election system as well as the structure of Kosovo Government and the financial burden associated with having the largest government in South East Europe. In addition, the article covers the functioning of Local Self-Government and the judicial system in Kosovo. In short, this article highlights the progress achieved in the last decade in terms of institutions' building, and the challenges ahead with regard to the rule of law, fights against corruption, economic development and poverty reduction.

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GAP Institute for Advanced Studies is a local think-tank founded in October 2007 in Kosovo. GAP's main purpose is to attract professionals by creating a professional research and development environment commonly found in similar institutions in Western countries. This will include providing Kosovars with an opportunity to research, develop, and implement projects that would strengthen Kosovo society. A priority of the Institute is to mobilize professionals to address the country's pressing economic, political and social challenges. GAP's main objectives are to bridge the gap between government and people, and to bridge the gap between problems and solutions