

**Fourth Round**

**MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT**

**Executing Agency (CSOP+EA projects) or Implementing Agency (CSOP projects) must complete this form and return it to the UNDEF Secretariat by email ([democracyfund@un.org](mailto:democracyfund@un.org)) no later than:**

- 13 months for CSOP projects
- 13 months OR when requesting the 2<sup>nd</sup> disbursement for CSOP+EA projects

**This information should be provided in a way that compares with the project document signed with UNDEF. Any changes should be highlighted and explained.**

**The completed Mid-Term Report should be no more than eight pages (excluding annexes).**

**UNDEF will request additional information as deemed necessary.**

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>UNDEF Project Number:</b> UDF-KSV-09-334   | <b>Project Type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> CSOP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSOP+EA                                    |
| <b>Project Title:</b> Capacity Development of the Association of Journalists of Kosovo  | <b>Report Date:</b> 31.01.2012  |
| <b>Project Start Date:</b> 01.01.2011   | <b>Project End Date:</b> 31.12.2012   |
| <b>Project Location:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Global <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local | <b>Please specify target country(ies) for global/regional projects; or target areas of the country for local projects:</b> Kosovo |

**Target group(s)/beneficiaries:**  
**JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA**

**Implementing Agency:** Association of the Professional Journalists of Kosovo

**Executing Agency (if applicable):** UNDP Kosovo

**Implementing Partner(s):**  
 -Kosovo Media Institute  
 -Kosovo Institute for Journalism and Communication  
 -Kipred Institute  
 -Indep Institute

**2. SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S FINANCIAL STATUS (in US dollars)**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>a) Amount of the UNDEF grant:</b> 200,000.00     | <b>c) Amount utilized from received funds (see b):</b><br>94,806.65  |
| <b>b) Funds received by the grantee:</b> 101,545.00 | <b>d) Remaining balance from received funds (see b):</b><br>6,738.35 |

**Any comments on the financial status (e.g., significant deviations from the original budget allocations, over/under-expenditures):** No significant deviations from the original budget.

**3. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

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*Please indicate, where applicable, which management actions have been undertaken to get the project started. Indicate the functionality of the established structure and explain any shortcomings.*

The project was approved in 2009. The project management structure had been established earlier in view of initial commitments. The preliminary decision of UNDEF was to carry out the project directly with the Association of Professional Journalists (AGPK). However, this decision was later revised in view of the capacity shortcomings of the local partner and UNDP was entrusted as the Executing Agency. The management structure was set in place by AGPK prior to the inception of the project. The project coordinator was hired through a competitive process by the Board of AGPK. Subsequently, the Project Coordinator initiated the recruitment process of the Project Associate through a competitive process involving (a) announcement of the position, (b) pre-selection process, (c) selection process through interviews and competency screening.

The project later established a Project Board composed of (a) a representative of AGPK as the beneficiary, (b) a UNDP representative acting on behalf of UNDEF as the donor and the Project Coordinator as the Executive. The Board held regular meetings twice per month to discuss and adopt major decisions. Day to day management of the project was entrusted to the Executive. At the project inception phase, the Board approved the Annual Work Plan, the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, the Risk and Issues Log System and the Annual Financial Plan.

**Procurement of Equipment:**

AGPK agreed to abide by the policies and procedures of the Executing Agency with regard to procurement and asset management. Procurement of equipments and additional project space were purchased using the Invitation to Bid (ITB) Method. Every equipment purchased (TV set, Camera, Computers, internet connection) involved competitive bidding from at least three vendors. The project picked the lowest price that met the procurement criteria of the project.

**Partnership Agreements:**

AGPK signed a Project Implementation Agreement with UNDP, as Executing Agency, on March 17, 2011.

To achieve its mission and vision, AGPK set a number of programmes and activities for the future, formulating the need for strengthening and building partnerships as a major objective. The organisation built its future aspiration for enhanced partnerships around the following elements:

APJK would permanently develop mechanisms through which it will protect journalists from violence or intimidation during the performance of their profession. So far, the association was committed in making public all the cases of violence or intimidation against journalists. In order to do so, APJK is working on partnership modalities with civil society organisations and the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates. The implementation of the labour law is one of the most important issues for journalists in Kosovo today. According to this law, all journalists will have valid contracts with their employers. However, surveys and discussions of APJK with its members have revealed that this law is not being followed by Kosovo employers and remains an issue of concern for journalists.

Consequently, APJK started to work on ensuring the implementation of the labour law by media employers. To achieve this goal, APJK organized meetings with relevant decision makers of media companies to find a common path for journalists and employers to implement this law. Consultations have been done with the aim of minimising damages to media companies in a fragile economy to encourage the media to adopt the law more quickly and avoid the risk of journalists being fired as an unwanted result of the law being implemented. The achievement of this objective requires a measured approach and not a conflicting one. For this reason, the organisation will also aim to build a component of media labour union and further improve partnership with Kosovo Labour Union Organisation.

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it is envisaged that APJK, together with its partners, could finish establishing a Media Centre in Pristina within a period of (1) year. This centre will offer journalists various technical services and will serve as a facility for journalists to network and communicate more efficiently. The centre will also be the headquarters for APJK.

The centre will be equipped with all the necessary technology for organising media conferences. They will be administered independently from APJK to avoid conflicts of interest. After the establishment, which requires additional funding from donors, the centre will be self-financed through media services and renting of facilities for organising different types of conferences. Before the centre is established, APJK will draft an operational plan. To achieve this goal, AGPK has build a solid partnership with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and aims to enhance partnerships with other international organisations, namely other United Nations Agencies in Kosovo and the European Commission.

Another important goal of AGPK is to provide trainings and exchanges for journalists in Kosovo. Thanks to seed funding provided by the United Nations Democracy Fund, the organisation has been able to build partnership with United States Embassy/USAID. Due to an increasing demand for exchanges in the region, the organisation aims to seek further support from European Commission and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Kosovo. Additionally, the APJK will implement a system to raise awareness amongst members on the opportunities for professional development through trainings, education or exchange with other media.

At the beginning of the project, the previous management of APJK had built a solid partnership with the Kosovo Institute of Journalism and Communication to enhance journalists' opportunities. However, this activity remained partly un-implemented due to the closure of the Institute. AGPK is still struggling to find an affordable and viable alternative in Kosovo. Initial negotiations have been conducted with BIRN.

With the aim to internationally recognize its members in providing good services, APJK will develop a strategy of membership with the International Federation of Journalists and in the European Federation of Journalists. By being part of these networks, APJK will be in a position, in addition to other benefits, to offer extended opportunities for training and education of its members.

Generally, the organisation has had a fruitful cooperation with UNDP, which has been a key partner in the past two years. This partnership has been essential in the implementation of a number of initiatives and projects.

#### **Set up of Monitoring or Steering Committees:**

The project has a Monitoring and Steering Committee comprised of three members: (1) Beneficiary – Representative from the Association of Journalists (Mr. Arben Ahmeti), (2) Donor – Representative of the Executing Agency (Mr. Armend Muja), and the Executive (Mr. Imer Mushkolaj). The committee oversees the implementation and monitoring process of the Project and meets once per month. The committee (referred to as the Board earlier in this report) met on weekly basis at the inception phase.

#### **Other Management Actions:**

Generally, the management actions taken during this period of time directly relating to the successful implementation of the project are:

- Establishing a Steering Committee

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- Drafting a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
- Drafting an Annual Plan for 2011/2012
- Establishing a Issue and Risk Log
- Establishing a Financial Management and Accounting System
- Drafting General guidelines for Recruitment, Procurement
- Drafting General guidelines for Accountability and Transparency

***Please provide information on any shortcomings, delays or changes in the management actions, (e.g. turnover in staffing or relocation of project offices/activities), and remedial actions taken to overcome these challenges.***

The decision to implement the project through an Executing Agency rather directly through the organization meant that due consideration was to be paid to the management system and requirements of the Executing Agency. In that respect, the project was pending the approval of the National Implementation Agreement of UNDP. However, by April 2011, the Agreement between AGPK and UNDP was finalized and the first tranche of funding was released to complete the first list of activities, albeit with some delay. In April, AGPK was undergoing a regular turnover of elected Board representatives, which meant that the Project Board was lacking a legitimate representative from AGPK until the election process was finalized. This also caused some further delays. Consequently, the project implementation needed to be intensified and activities accommodated through extensive planning and consolidation of project procedures. The Project Board functioned well and was able to be responsive to project demands. Due to the delays in the process, the Project Board met on weekly basis until all issues related to the project implementation had been sorted out.

In general, due to lack of resources, the organisation has faced shortages of personnel and needs further consolidation of human resources and planning. APJK should increase the efficiency in managing activities and projects and should be able to provide its services for journalists at all time. In this regard, APJK should further enhance the division of duties and increase the capacity of the personnel. Until 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2012, APJK should draft a Human Resources Manual which will review the following: organisational chart, positions in the organisation and listing of powers and authorisations, further streamline remuneration policies for its employees and review the recruitment procedures and job descriptions for future staff. Depending on the availability of funds, the organisation aspires to hire another full-time administrative officer and a fund-raising officer to monitor membership fees and donations.

On the other hand, the association is still struggling to provide full services required by the members and that is mostly true in the provision of legal services. APJK should ensure a base of professional service providers for legal and financial matters. For this reason it should contract a legislative services provider. This service can be secured either through the employment of a lawyer who will conduct this work in-house, or through signing an agreement for provision of services from the Kosovo Chamber of Lawyers. The decision on the best solution should be taken by the APJK Board no later than eight months from the date of this document being approved. Proper planning has consistently been a weakness in the organisation. As of this year, the organisation will start a bottom-up collegial consultation for a more robust and meaningful annual plan. The process also needs to reference the available resources and those need to accomplish the stated goals.

The association lacks a well-developed culture of transparency and accountability, which was caused by a sense of transitivity in the representation process and lack of good practices. However, the organisation is set to make all the financial policies and practices official to ensure proper operational running, particularly during replacement of administrative personnel. The Executive Director should formulate a new manual of financial policies of the association. The manual of financial policies will serve to clarify policies, procedures and technical matters. This plan should contain the following elements: division of financial responsibilities and tasks, planning, approval, review and monitoring of the budget, procedures for preservation of information (invoices, contracts, funds), procurement

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procedures, management of accounting books and auditing. The manual of financial policies should be prepared at the beginning of 2012 and its proposals should be followed from the moment of its adoption.

**4. BASELINE DATA**

*Please summarize the baseline data collected, and describe the manner in which they were collected (if not already detailed in the project document).*

The baseline data were detailed in the project document.

**5. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AND RESULTING OUTPUTS**

*Please outline the key outputs and activities that have taken place to date. Please provide these in a manner that compares with those activities outlined in the Results Framework of the UNDEF Project Document signed with UNDEF.*

*Please provide both quantitative data (e.g. number of participants) and qualitative data (description of activity) for each output and corresponding activity (ies). Numbers should correspond with the Project Document . Add more rows as needed (to do this go to table → insert → rows below).*

| Outputs   | Activities   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Output:</b> <i>Capacity of the Association of Professional Journalists improved</i></p> <p><i>Intended:</i></p> <p><i>Actual:</i></p> | <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <p><i>Intended:</i></p> <p><i>Actual:</i></p> <p><i>1. Establishment of the AGPK Forum</i></p> <p>The Forum was initiated as a series of regular round table dialogues in the preparation of the AGPK Development Strategy. The Forum included representatives from media, journalists, civil society organizations, government and international community. This first step of the process for the formulation of the AGPK 2010 – 2015 included extensive discussions on (1) the “guiding principles for professional journalism” and (2) the initiation of a comprehensive process to formulate a long-term vision and strategy for the development of AGPK capacities. The idea behind the forum was to bring journalists, media representatives, institutional representatives, civil society and interested members of international community to share ideas about the future work and orientation of activities of the association. In line with the idea and spirit, AGPK organized the following events:</p> <p><u>Roundtable with media representatives:</u></p> <p>The first series of consultations started with a roundtable with media representatives held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 at Grand Hotel, Prishtina. AGPK presented the project funded by UNDEF, its objectives and asked the media representatives to actively become part of the implementation. Representatives (Editors) of nearly all electronic and print media participated (</p> |

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Agron Bajrami-Koha Ditore, Sylejman Shaqiri – RTK, Astrit Gashi- Zeri, Antgona Baxhaku – RTV21, Leonard Kerquku – Express, Adriatik Kelmendi – KTV, Gazmend Sylja –KLAN TV). The main conclusions of the roundtable were that the Association and the media should actively cooperate on a number of fields: (a) training for journalists, (b) defence of media freedom and regulation, (c) a phased and more understandable approach to employment law and gender equality in journalism and (d) more involvement from AGPK in ensuring access to information and fair treatment for all media. For more information the article: <http://www.apjk.org/?cid=1,5,61>

#### Roundtable with Journalists

In the first series of consultations, AGPK called a roundtable on the 22 of April 2011 at Grand Hotel Prishtina. The meeting with 54 registered journalists of all media, geographic location and gender participated. The main conclusions of the roundtable were : (a) AGPK shall increasingly focus on developing mechanisms for the registration and follow-up measures in defence of journalists in Kosovo, against threats and violence against the media, (b) strengthening professionalism and excellence in journalism through trainings, workshops, advance the access to information and actively advocate for advancing the legislation pertaining to freedom of press, (c) a more robust initiative to cement the practice of respecting the labor law, respect in the workplace and gender equality. Women journalists raised the concern that they usually received less compared to their male counterparts and have no entitlement to maternity leave.

#### Roundtable with civil society organizations

The dialogue with civil society as part of the AGPK forum concentrated on ways AGPK and civil society can create joint advocacy platforms on access to information and freedom of expression. The roundtable organized on 21 June 2011 at Grand Hotel, Prishtina included representatives from KIPRED, Kosovo Democratic Institute, FOL, Cohu, Center for Civic Initiatives, QKSS, INPO, Foreign Policy Club, Women for Women etc. For more information: <http://www.apjk.org/?cid=1,5,81>



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#### Roundtable with Kosovo institutions

The roundtable with Kosovo institutions was held on 24 June 2011 at Grand Hotel. The dialogue included the President of Kosovo H.E Atifeta Jahjaga, the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Hajredin Kuci, the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Media Mr. Sadri Ferati, the Head of Kosovo Judicial Institute Mr. Enver Peci, the representatives from Kosovo Police, Customs etc. The main conclusions of the dialogue were that Kosovo institutions have the responsibility to provide access to information, protect freedom of expression, defend the rights of journalism, ensure transparency and create mechanisms for public information. The roundtable also resulted in the creation of several working groups: Working group between AGPK and Ministry of Justice to amend the law on criminal code with respect to journalism and their rights, the working group with Kosovo Judicial Institute to ensure more transparency in the court system, and regular meetings between AGPK and Parliamentary Committee on Media. For more information: <http://www.apjk.org/?cid=1,5,85>

#### Reception for International Representatives to Kosovo

The reception for international community representatives in Kosovo was held on 30 June 2011 at DeRada. The main idea behind the event was to present the project of Capacity Development for AGPK, establish lines of communication and seek further support to ensure sustainability of AGPK work in the future. The event gathered representatives from German Embassy, US Embassy, French Embassy, British Embassy, OSCE, Swiss Development, GIZ, USAID, European Commission, KFOR, EULEX, ICO. The main conclusions of the event were that AGPK should continue the pace of activities and support for

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journalism in Kosovo and be in close contact with international representatives for future partnership. As a result of the event, AGPK ensured three new initiatives for the future: MEDIA Center project with OSCE, European Progress Reporting with EU Commission and Support to existing project on exchange of journalists from US Embassy.

*Intended:*

*Actual:*

#### 2. Support to Exchange visits

The project supported the development and implementation of the exchange initiative between Albanian speaking and Serbian speaking journalists, foster intra-community media cooperation and short fact-finding visits in the region. As a result of the initiative 15 Kosovo and 15 Serbian journalists were exchanged in cooperation with the National Union of Journalists of Serbia. The project was also supported by US Embassy and NUS. During seven rounds of exchanges, journalists from Kosovo spent a week embedded in one of the media houses in Serbia. During the exchange the journalists were to travel around the area and report on the life and area of their interest. Several media houses participated in the project: Koha Ditore, Zeri, RTK, KTV, Gazeta Express, Blic, Danas, B92, Beta. About 200 print and electronic stories were produced during the exchange. Given the interest and impact AGPK has embarked a new separate project proposal to continue with future exchanges in the future. For more information:

<http://www.zeri.info/artikulli/1/2/25242/agpk-shkembim-gazetaresh-kosove-serbi/>, <http://rtv21.tv/home/?p=9846>

*Intended:*

*Actual:*

#### 3. Advisory and training initiative

As part of the initiative to improve the working practices of the Association several short training sessions were organized in financial management and accounting, fund-raising and advocacy. A standard manual of human resources management and web-based communication were also organized between May-September. As a result, the organization has established practices in financial system and accounting, expenditure review, project drafting and advocacy.

*Intended:*

*Actual:*

#### 4. Policy preparation and evidence-based activities

AGPK established a new case management system for processing and follow-up with cases of complaints of journalists. The system allows for the recording



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|  | <p>and archiving of complaints and their use for further analysis and monitoring of trends. Further, AGPK has also established the practice of surveillance of journalists perceptions towards freedom of press and graphical representation of opinions. The case management system allows the association to track and follow-up the cases of rights violation with Police, Courts and Chamber of Advocates.</p> <p><i>Intended:</i><br/><i>Actual:</i></p> <p>5. <i>Capacity Development Strategy</i></p> <p>Working groups and roundtables within the AGPK Forum were used as the key elements for inputs into the new AGPK strategy. The strategy was finalized in December 2011 and incorporated key elements of capacity development, responses, costing and evaluation framework. The document also provides the framework for future short-term and medium-term orientation of Association and potential partnerships to implement the strategy. The strategy was guided and drafted in partnership with KIPRED Institute.</p> <p><i>Intended:</i><br/><i>Actual:</i></p> <p>6. <i>Offices and Website</i></p> <p>The Association has a fully operational and regularly updated homepage (<a href="http://www.apjk.org">www.apjk.org</a>). The new site allows for better posting of information and illustration as well as enables journalists to receive timely information and contacts. New project premises were secured at Luan Haradinaj Street.</p> <p><i>Intended:</i><br/><i>Actual:</i></p> |
| <p><b>Output:</b> <i>Laws and regulatory frameworks for freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of information established or revised according to international standards.</i></p> <p><i>Intended:</i><br/><i>Actual:</i></p> | <p>1. <b>Activities:</b> <i>Freedom of information legal survey</i></p> <p>The survey has been completed in December 2011 and it analyzes all national and international legal frameworks with regard to the freedom of information. As a result of the survey the Association was able to clearly outline the areas that Kosovo jurisdiction need compatibility with best international practices. A draft of proposed changes has been sent to Kosovo Assembly. In a sign of refusal of the Assembly to adopt the needed changes the AGPK initiated a week long boycott of the Assembly of Kosovo (<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKVsanYKH3E">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKVsanYKH3E</a>, <a href="http://rtv21.tv/home/?p=49856">http://rtv21.tv/home/?p=49856</a> ).</p> <p>After a full-fledged boycott, the Assembly of Kosovo decided to amend the rules and comply with the suggestions of the Association. On the other hand, suggested changes have been proposed to the Ministry of Justice on Criminal Code and Journalists’ protection. Subsequent changes to the Code have been agreed up and sent to the Assembly for approval. Moreover, the legal survey</p>  |

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will be printed and shared with all journalists as a guide to their work and ways to access information.

*Intended:*

*Actual:*

*2. Freedom of press conference*

The Association organized its annual conference for the Freedom of Press Day with the support of UNDP, OSCE, and Journalists without Borders. On the same day, AGPK also launched an opinion poll with 100 journalists of all media, gender and ages with regard to the situation of press freedom in Kosovo. According to the poll, journalists mostly viewed Kosovo Government, political parties and courts as the main violators of press freedom in Kosovo. Nearly 50 percent of interviewed journalists presented this situation of press freedom in Kosovo as bad, 30 percent said it was good and the rest had mixed opinions. Journalists in general indicated signs of optimism regarding potential improvements in the future. For more information (<http://www.telegrafi.com/lajme/agpk-qeveria-cenon-me-shumti-lirine-e-shtypit-2-14365.html>)

*Intended:*

*Actual:*

*3. Annual Press freedom Contest.*

The goal of the contest is to join efforts of media professionals in fostering freedom of expression and freedom of information. The contest was launched in November 2011 and all media were to nominate the journalists that they thought have best contributed towards the advancement of journalism and freedom of press in Kosovo. The award ceremony was held on 27 December 2011 at Filikaqa. The winners of the contest were as follows: Vehbi Kajtazi, Koha Ditore – journalist of the year, Leonora Aliu, BIRN – best television story, Besnik Krasniqi, Koha Ditore – best print story, Visar Duriqi, preportr.com – the best social media story, Atdhe Mulla, Express – best photographer, while Klan Kosova received the prize of the best camera. The contest saw 95 applications. The stories were evaluated by the jury composed of: Nehat Islami, Fatos Bytyci, Besa Luci, Hazir Reka, Imer Mushkolaj



(<http://www.balkanweb.com/kosova/2686/vebi-kajtazi-gazetar-i-vitit-ne-kosove-77791.html>).

*Intended:*

*Actual:*

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|  | <p>4. Journalism Week 2011</p> <p>The Journalism Week was the first event of this kind in Kosovo. The idea behind the event was to provide training to young journalists on media ethics, journalism standards, investigative reporting and access to information. This week-long event organized from 5 -10 December gathered 180 journalists of all media in Kosovo. Training sessions were organized in a participatory manner in cooperation with BIRN, RTK, Koha Ditore and Zeri. The training sessions of the week included: (1) Journalism in Kosovo, (2) Ethics and digital reporting, (3) Access to information, (4) Human Rights, Gender and Human Development, (5) Justice and Journalism, (6) Investigative reporting on corruption. For more info (<a href="http://gazetajnk.com/index.php?cid=1,1018,805">http://gazetajnk.com/index.php?cid=1,1018,805</a>; <a href="http://www.rtvfan.net/vazhdon%E2%80%9D-java-e-gazetarise%E2%80%9D/">http://www.rtvfan.net/vazhdon%E2%80%9D-java-e-gazetarise%E2%80%9D/</a>)</p> <p><i>Intended:</i><br/><i>Actual:</i></p> <p>5. Public statements and reaction to violation of rights</p> <p>The Association has reacted to 34 individual cases of journalism rights violations, has participated in 26 parliamentary sessions and 13 local and international conferences on journalists rights.</p> <p><i>Intended:</i><br/><i>Actual:</i></p> <p>6. Media fellowship on journalism</p> <p>AGPK planned to provide 10 fellowships for courses that would advance the journalism standards in Kosovo. The fellowship was initially planned with Kosovo Institute of Journalism and Communication (KIJAC) in 2008. However, due to the developments with the Institute and the subsequent closing, UNDEF Focal point Armend Muja asked not to carry and suggested that another suitable partner be found.</p> <p><i>Intended:</i><br/><i>Actual:</i></p> |
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**Output:** *Access to information for excluded groups and quality of reporting improved*

*Intended:*

*Actual:*

**Activities:**

*1. Poverty Prize*

Poverty Prize (PP) is established to recognize and encourage excellence in reporting poverty in Kosovo. The goal of the award is to raise awareness among the public about causes and effects of poverty, portray the socially excluded groups and offer a voice to the vulnerable groups. The PP has been established by the United Nations Agencies working the Association of Professional Journalists in recognition of the importance of the mass media's influence on the public agenda and in order to promote public debate about poverty in Kosovo. This award will be granted once a year to journalists and media professionals who have demonstrated excellence and professional integrity in the coverage of poverty issues in the printed and electronic media, including television and radio and/or who have produced an article, series of articles or programs which, in the jury's estimation, have made a significant contribution to the understanding of Kosovo poverty issues and causes and/or had a significant impact on public opinion and policy makers. The award ceremony was held in 21 October 2011. The prizes have been awarded for the best photography (Driton Pacarda), best Social Media story on population (Fatmir Haxholli), Best story on education exclusion ( Buurije Baraliu – Koha Ditore), Best story on economic exclusion (Fisnik Minci – Koha Ditore), best story on health exclusion (Diana Basholli – Klan Kosova), best radio story on poverty (Ernal Panduri – Radio Dukagjini).

*Intended:*

*Actual:*

*2. Transparency and Anti-corruption journalism award*

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with the Association of Professional Journalists (AGPK) and Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency held the traditional ceremony of Anti-Corruption Journalism Award today, Friday, 09 December 2011. The event

supported by United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) was aimed at recognizing and stimulating investigative journalism on corruption and transparency. The ceremony gathered journalists, civil society leaders,



**POVERTY PRIZE  
2011 AWARD**



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government officials and international representatives. The jury composed of independent members, reviewed twenty eight entries in different categories (television, print, radio and wire stories and social media). Due to lack of competition and poor entries, the jury unanimously decided to abolish the social media category and reallocate the prize to print and television category where competition and quality were more advanced. The stories were judged upon several criteria including facts and sources, creativity, ethical code and impact. A cumulative evaluation revealed the following results: On the Print Category the first prize was awarded to Ms. Selvie Bajrami, journalist of *Zeri* daily while the second prize went to Mr. Parim Olluri, a journalist working for *Koha Ditore* daily. The first prize in the television category was awarded to Ms. Arta Avdiu from Radio and Television of Kosovo (RTK) while the second went to Mr. Kastriot Jahaj, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) - Kosovo. In the remaining news agency category, the jury decided that Ms. Shengiyl Osmani from BIRN deserved the credit for the best article



*Intended:*

*Actual:*

3. Environmental Journalism Award

The Environmental Journalism Award is established to recognize and encourage excellence in the field of environmental journalism in Kosovo media. The goal of the award is to raise awareness among the public about the social, economic, cultural and ethical implications on environmental situation in Kosovo. The Award has been established by United Nations Development Programme and the Association of Professional Journalists in recognition of the importance of the mass media's influence on the public agenda and in order to promote public debate about the future of Kosovo environment. The Award will be granted once a year to journalists and media professionals who have demonstrated excellence and professional integrity in the coverage of environmental issues in the print and electronic media, including television and radio and/or who have produced an article, series of articles or programs which, in the jury's estimation, have made a significant contribution to the understanding of Kosovo environmental problems, from socially and environmentally-conscious perspective, and/or had a significant impact on public opinion and policy makers.

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|  | <p><b>V. OTHER ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p>AGPK organised the ‘Towards the West’ campaign to protest against restrictions that journalists of Kosovo face in their travel and reporting into Western Europe. The campaign was marked with a training journey with 150 journalists from Pristina to Peja.<br/> <a href="http://www.koha.net/index.php/player.swf?page=1,13,60815">http://www.koha.net/index.php/player.swf?page=1,13,60815</a></p> <p>AGPK has increased its media presence considerably and our polls suggest our credibility and trust to our members is on the rise. We have recorded 256 public speeches, tv interviews, reactions and dialogue with partners. This is considerably higher intensity compared to previous years.</p> <p>AGPK has also become a member of International Federation of Journalists. In March 2011 a new representation came into force. Our number of active members has increased from 90 to 160 of the total 400 registered members.</p> |
|--|---|

**6. PROGRESS ON OUTCOMES**

*Please describe the progress made in achieving the outcomes in a manner that compares to the projected outcomes and outcome indicators in the signed Project Document.*  
*Add more rows as needed, (to do this go to table → insert → rows below).*

**Outcome 1: Capacity of the Association of Professional Journalists improved**

Improving the capacity of the AGPK was viewed in relation to improve the following areas (a) Mission and Orientation, (b) Planning and Strategy, (c) Management Structure, (d) Financial Management, (e) Infrastructure and equipments, (f) Staff, (g) Partnerships, (h) Services, (k) Quality Improvement Procedures.

The association reviewed its mission and orientation through an inclusive process by establishing the Forum of the Association of Professional Journalists. The forum brought in all possible stakeholders to the process including (a) journalists and media representatives, (b) civil society organizations and advocacy groups, (c) political and government representatives, (d) international partners and representatives. The process was concluded through interactive qualitative methods of dialogue and input collection on the possible areas that the organization could assist and complement the efforts on the ground and secondly, quantitative data analysis. In this regard, the organization held six rounds of discussions and roundtables with all stakeholders, conducted two desk research studies and complemented a field survey with intended beneficiaries. This process, along with legal constraints and the intention to avoid overlapping with other existing bodies, constituted the main elements considered in the formulation and drafting of the Capacity Development Strategy for AGPK. This step helped the organization to consolidate two important tools, namely its mission and vision as well as the planning and strategy development process. The inputs gathered in the process helped the organization to review its management structure in a way that matches the intended outcomes and offers flexibility in the process of service delivery. The organization’s Board oversees the work of the organization and it is comprised of seven representatives appointed by the electoral process of the registered members every two years. The Board is responsible to guide and take major policy decisions on behalf of the organization. Furthermore, the organization has a General Director who oversees the day-to-day management of the office, staff and services. The subsidiary offices are: Office of Legal Assistance, Office of External Relations, Office for Policy Research and Analysis and Operations Management.

Financial Management has not necessarily been a major issue given that the organization has always struggled to find



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stable sources of income to maintain its operations. However, the new strategy in place outlines the financial management and accounting processes and detailed outlines of transparency, accountability and evaluation requirements. The association is well ahead in staff development compared to previous years (it has three full time officers and four interns). Once the long-term financial settlements are in place, the organization plans to hire another staff member to complement the existing efforts in promoting partnerships and external relations. AGPK maintains several lines of services for its members (a) legal assistance, (b) advocacy for access to information and freedom of press, (c) training, (d) exchanges with the outside world, (e) promotion of excellence in journalism. In the years to come, efforts will be dedicated to strengthen the existing services. The organization has also worked at establishing quality improvement mechanisms through (a) regular surveying of members, (b) consultation with stakeholders, (c) participation in international events, (d) membership in the Federation of Journalists and finally through the peer assistance process with the Association of Journalists of Serbia.

#### **Outcome 2: Laws and regulatory frameworks for freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of information established or revised according to international standards.**

AGPK has already completed the legal survey of international regulatory frameworks for freedom of expression, freedom of press and access to information and has compared them with the constitutional, legal and statutory arrangements of national bodies in Kosovo. Once the process was completed, the association established four working groups with respective institutions to change and revise as per the international and European norms: (a) Working group with the Kosovo Ministry of Justice to review the Penal Code and Criminal Law procedures. The process resulted in the removal of prior legal sanctions and clauses that hindered the process of free press and free speech. The process resulted in several amendments to the following: code regarding freedom of press, code regarding freedom of speech, criminal procedure in cases involving subjects and journalists in contentious issues, amendment of defamation and libel clauses, and revision of property rights in the media sector. (b) A second working group with the Assembly of Kosovo pertains to amendments and revisions of the laws pertaining to access to information for journalists and interested parties, revision of accountability principles of the legislative body, involvement of the association in the procedure of drafting bills directly or indirectly related to the regulatory framework governing the principles of free press. (c) Another working group with the Office of the Prime Minister is reviewing statutory requirements for improving access to information, right to know, transparency of the policy-making process, oversight and accountability. Finally, the Association has established another working group (d) with UNDP to review and propose recommendations and steps that the organization can take in order to improve the freedom of expression and speech. In general, the new improvements and revisions in the New Penal Code (to be adopted by the Assembly in June 2012) has managed to remove all legal barriers and clauses that cause auto-censure and highlights the cases involving threats against media and journalists with priority. This new regulatory framework shall make Kosovo an exceptional case in the region of South-East Europe and demonstrates an important step to advance Kosovo in the freedom of press ranks and ladder.

#### **Outcome 3: Access to information for excluded groups and quality of reporting improved**

The organization has established several initiatives in cooperation with other actors in order to provide access to information for the excluded groups and improve the quality of reporting. To this extend, the organization runs the Annual Poverty Prize in cooperation with all United Nations Agencies in Kosovo, runs the Annual Transparency and Anti-corruption journalism award in cooperation with UNDP and the Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency. The Environmental Journalism Award is another initiative undertaken with the aim of encouraging and stimulating coverage of environmental challenges in Kosovo. The Gender Award encourages media and journalists to increase coverage and mainstream gender into their employment and editorial practices. The Annual Freedom of Press Award encourages journalists and media to make advancements in investigative journalism and honours exceptional achievements in the field. These steps have seen the number of stories and percentage of coverage (as per our analysis

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through independent contractor) increase by 70% in 2011. For example, the Press Freedom Award drew 121 submissions of stories, articles and documentaries.

**7. PROJECT CHANGES**

*Please outline and explain any significant changes in the project’s activities, outputs or delivery schedule.*

No significant changes.

Please note: **Significant changes in the workplan and/or budget require prior UNDEF approval** through a separate process. Information forwarded to UNDEF through this report cannot replace a formal project and/or budget revision should one be needed.

**8. CONSTRAINTS OR ISSUES AFFECTING IMPLEMENTATION**

*Please explain any constraints or issues which have affected implementation or may affect project implementation going forward. Please be as specific and concise as possible so UNDEF can determine how to best support the project.*

No specific constrains

**9. SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

*Please outline the major successes and achievements of the project. Be as specific and concise as possible.*

1. The capacity of the organization improved in the following areas: Mission and orientation, planning and strategy, management structure, financial management, partnerships and services
2. The Legal Framework governing freedom of speech and press (to be adopted by the Assembly in June 2012) was revised, removing all legal barriers and clauses that cause auto-censure and highlights the cases involving threats against media and journalists with priority..
3. The memberships in the organization increased by 300%.
4. Reactions to journalists threats and harassment increased by 250%.
5. The number of stories covering disadvantaged groups increased by 70%.

**10. MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**

*Please list all media coverage of project activities (newspaper, television, radio, internet), as well as the date of publication or broadcast, and relevant web links.*

The media coverage of the project activities has been extensive at the national and regional level, including TV, Newspaper, radio and internet. TV coverage was particularly extensive given the project strategy to use more effective means of diffusing information and relaying messages. During the first year of the project, some coverage included the following:

1. Association of Professional Journalists  
<http://www.apjk.org/?cid=1,5,61>

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- 2. Radio and Television of Kosova, Radio and Television Tv21  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKVsanYKH3E>, <http://rtv21.tv/home/?p=49856>)
- 3. Balkan Web New Agency: Regional News Agency  
(<http://www.balkanweb.com/kosova/2686/vebi-kajtazi-gazetar-i-vitit-ne-kosove-77791.html>).
- 4. **Balkan Investigative Journalism Network (BIRN)**  
(<http://gazetajnk.com/index.php?cid=1,1018,805>;
- 5. Local Television  
<http://www.rtvfan.net/vazhdon%E2%80%9D-java-e-gazetarise%E2%80%9D/>)
- 6. **Largest daily newspaper**  
(<http://www.koha.net/index.php/player.swf?page=1,13,60815>)
- 7. Largest national news portal  
(<http://www.telegrafi.com/lajme/agpk-qeveria-cenon-me-shumti-lirine-e-shtypit-2-14365.html>)

**11. DOCUMENTS, MATERIALS, AND PUBLICATIONS**

*Please list all documents, materials and publications produced by the project so far.*

*All materials are being translated into English and should be available in May 2012.*

**12. ANY OTHER REMARKS (highlights, brief anecdotes, etc.)**

*None.*

**13. ANNEXES**

*Please include all documents, materials and publications mentioned in sections 10 and 11 as well as any other relevant information regarding project implementation (e.g. curriculum outline, training evaluation, conference/workshop programs and reports, pictures of events, press clippings, etc.).*