

Prishtina Insight

May 25 - June 7, 2012 Issue No. 89 www.prishtinainsight.com Price € 1



The Mysterious Murder of Salih Dukati

Kosovo's western city of Peja has been rocked by murders, ransoms, allegations of rape and police corruption, and the arrests of high profile figures from the business community.

See Page 6-7

NEWS
Football Wins amid Political Row over Kosovo
> **page 2-3**

NEWS
Kosovo: Serbia Should Apologise for its Crimes
> **page 4**

NEWS
Klecka Outcome Embitters Both Serbs and Albanians
> **page 5**

FEATURE
New Secrets of Ancient Times Emerge in Butrint
> **page 15**

INSIDE PRISHTINA
Putting the Pristine back into Prishtina



> **page 18 - 19**

Central Bank Board: A Licence to Print Money?

The chairman of Kosovo's Central Bank, Gazmend Luboteni, earns eight times the country's average monthly salary for each board meeting he attends, some of which involve just one decision, Prishtina Insight has discovered.

By Florina Hajdini

An investigation by Prishtina Insight has revealed that board members of the Central Bank of Kosovo receive up to eight times the country's average monthly salary for each board meeting.

The figure has been branded "an unreasonable and unnecessary" expense to the taxpayer by the former head of the economics department at the International Civilian Office, Andrea Capussela.

The probe also uncovered how the board spent 40,000 euro on travel in 2010, members used official cars to travel to other work commitments and the chairman of

the board may no longer be eligible to hold the post because of a ten-year term limit placed on the position.

Minting Money

Prishtina Insight has discovered that the chairman of the central bank board, Gazmend Luboteni, is paid 2,000 euro for each board meeting that he attends – eight times the national monthly average wage of 250 euro. The other two members of the board – Mejdi Bektashi and Sejdi Rexhepi – are paid 1,700 euro.

In 2010, Luboteni took home just under 30,000 euro after tax, around 36,000 euro before tax, for attending board meetings. This means the

board held 18 meetings that year, well above the minimum of ten required by law, which would have made him 16,000 euro after tax. In 2011, the figure fell to just under 25,000 euro after tax.

Luboteni also receives salaries for his teaching commitments at the University of Prishtina and the private Fama University totalling 35,000 euro in 2010 and 30,000 in 2011.

In total, the board cost the bank 155,000 euro in 2010, including allowances and expenses. Figures are not yet available for 2011.

Capussela told Prishtina Insight: "I believe that the board compensation is excessive, both because the absolute amount is too much, and because by artificially increasing

the number of meetings they multiply their compensation."

Some of the board meetings feature just one or two decisions, according to the minutes provided online by the bank. At a meeting in February 2008, for example, the board made just one decision – to confirm the appointment of an administration for an insurance company.

Luboteni told Prishtina Insight: "Of course it may seem that it is a high payment. Compensation should be as such as to recruit the best experts and keep them in bank. The accountability and responsibility is extremely demanding."

continues page 6



Tomislav Nikolic - Stuck Between Moscow and Brussels

A former funeral parlour boss and construction technician from Kragujavac, Nikolic has run the presidential race four times in eight years. Despite previous defeats, he has remained on the scene, convinced his time was yet to come. With his surprise win in Sunday's election run-off against outgoing...

neighbourhood

page 11



Foreign Soaps Push Out Kosovo Productions

Kosovo's three main television stations – KTV, RTV 21 and the public broadcaster RTK – have all but abandoned investing in locally produced shows.

The only local show currently being aired on terrestrial television is "Kafeneja Jone", Our Cafe, shown on RTK once a week...

feature

page 14

Prishtina Insight

is supported by:



Football Wins amid Political

Kosovo's strategy of entering European football through FIFA-sanctioned friendly matches could create opportunities for talented players and point the way towards solving broader issues of its representation in international sport.



By Vladimir Novakovic

Professional footballers from Kosovo are making a name for themselves in the top European leagues but until now they have been unable to play for the country of their birth in the major European and World football competitions.

That could change, but first a series of tricky diplomatic and legal obstacles will have to be circumvented. FIFA's decision to sanction international friendly matches between a Kosovo national team and FIFA members could open the way for Kosovo to gain world and European football recognition over the long term. For the moment, though, UEFA is opposed to the move.

FIFA's decision on 22 May to allow member associations to play friendly games with the national team of Kosovo has sent shockwaves across the Balkans. The decision was particularly surprising because UEFA members represented in FIFA had voted against it.

FIFA Secretary-General Jérôme Valcke sent a letter to the Football Association of Serbia (FSS) explaining that the decision was made following repeated written requests from the Football Federation of Kosovo over the last two years, and that "such authorization does not constitute a step towards FIFA membership, which

depends on other considerations."

FSS representatives have requested a meeting with FIFA officials, and this has been scheduled for May 31. At the meeting, the implications and implementation of the decision will be discussed.

Those who follow football closely attribute considerable significance FIFA's move, while the timing of FIFA's decision has been a subject of speculation.

Coming of age

Vallon Behrami, Fiorentina's star signing and member of the Swiss national squad | Photo by: Reto Stauffer, www.sportreporter.ch (Wikipedia)

A distinguished generation of players from Kosovo has already made an impression right across European soccer.

These players include Valon Behrami at Fiorentina and former Marseille captain Lorik Cana, both of whom formerly played in the English Premier league (for West Ham and Sunderland respectively), and veteran striker Shefki Kuqi, currently with Oldham, his 10th English club in 11 seasons (half of them in the Premiership).

And this season a new generation has come onto the scene, spearheaded by FC Basel duo Xherdan Shaqiri and Granit Xhaka.

The pair were born in the eastern Kosovo town of Gjilan and soon moved to Switzerland with their families, following the pattern of Kosovo emigrants escaping either violent unrest or poverty at

home. They have starred for their Swiss club (famously ousting Manchester United from this year's Champions League) and for the Swiss national team, thus earning lucrative transfers to top German Bundesliga sides.

On Wednesday Shaqiri and Xhaka played their last game for Swiss League and Cup winners FC Basel, Shaqiri moving to Bayern Munich, Xhaka to Mönchengladbach.

In years to come these players are likely to be followed by more soccer stars from Kosovo who – unable to play in international competitions as part of a Kosovo team – will accept invitations to play for other countries instead.

Over the past 15 years at least 18 ethnic Albanian players from Kosovo have played for Albania, with Cana being the Albanian national team's current skipper. Others have played for Finland, Norway, Croatia and Montenegro, while Emir Bajrami is part of the Sweden team for Euro 2012.

The main beneficiary of the Kosovo soccer Diaspora has been Switzerland, where most of the Kosovo emigrants live, with four being called up for the Swiss national squad in the past 12 months (interestingly, they have been joined by two Macedonia-born ethnic Albanians, Blerim Xhemaili and Admir Mehmedi). An even higher proportion can be found in youth squads.

Since the break-up of Yugoslavia not a single Kosovo-born ethnic Albanian has played for Serbia. On the other hand, ethnic Serbs and Gorani from Kosovo have as a rule chosen to play for Serbia. Goran Djorovic was a regular during the 90s, with Milos Krasic of Italian giants Juventus and Miralem Sulejmani of Ajax in the current squad.

A longstanding football tradition

Kosovo has a longstanding football tradition. Local players gained broader prominence in the 1970s, when the Prekazi brothers (Luan and Xhevat, the latter going on to become a huge star in Turkey) moved to Partizan. Clubs from Kosovo were on the verge of breaking into the top flight several times before Trepca (Mitrovica) made it in 1977.

Trepca stayed up for just one season, but Prishtina proved to be more consistent, spending most of the 80s in the then quite formida-



FIFA head Sepp Blatter this week agreed to allow Kosovo to play friendly matches.

ble First Division. They produced a number of fine players, both ethnic Albanians and Serbs, who later played successfully for top Yugoslav clubs and won places in the national team.

Perhaps the most prominent of these players was Fadil Vokrri, a hero among Partizan supporters, who played 12 games and scored six goals for Yugoslavia.

Vokrri has been at the helm of the Kosovo Football Federation, FFK, for four years now, and has fought hard on two fronts.

At home, he has sought to improve playing conditions on and off the field, and has had some success, not least as a result of his personal charisma. Internationally his main task was to put Kosovo on the world map, to gain UEFA and FIFA recognition for the KFF and to see Kosovo clubs and the national team enter European competitions.

He was quickly able to find influential friends, most notably in Turkey, who were willing to promote the FFK cause. With Tuesday's FIFA decision, it seems the project has taken a huge step forward.

Where do we go from here?

Fadil Vokrri, head of the Football Federation of Kosovo, has been championing development and recognition of Kosovo's football teams and competitions at home and abroad for the last four years.

The decision to put Vokrri in charge was an excellent choice from the FFK point of view, albeit an obvious one.

Unlike prominent Kosovo politicians who have been compromised by their conduct during and just after the war, Vokrri remains a relatively well-liked figure in Serbia.

With his open personality and his familiarity with Belgrade, where he lived for three years, he

has always been happy to speak to the Serbian media, and has regularly proposed dialogue and cooperative initiatives to the FSS, though these approaches have generally been ignored.

Whatever the effect of the next round of negotiations between the FSS, FIFA and UEFA, it seems inevitable that some level of communication between Belgrade and Prishtina will be established, not least because the whole issue is about much more than just politics.

Giving all those talented Kosovo players across Europe an opportunity to play for the land of their birth is a matter of fairness. Even more importantly, those who have remained in Kosovo must not be forgotten, because football is an integral part of Kosovo's sporting life, as FIFA President Sepp Blatter pointed out on Wednesday.

The way FIFA handled the situation may have been clumsy, but then FIFA hasn't been known for acting wisely of late. The Blatter era has been marred by numerous blunders and affairs even though the Swiss has somehow managed to turn larger problems into personal triumphs.

Legal obstacles

What FIFA basically offered Kosovo on Tuesday was not full membership, but an opportunity to play friendly unofficial games with FIFA members.

This is a similar arrangement to the one under which some Spanish regions, such as the Basque Country, Catalonia and Andalusia, have played for a number of years. These teams are made up of players who can still play for current FIFA members, in the abovementioned cases most often for Spain.

The Serbian national team even played a friendly match against the Basque Country in late 2006, prompting accusations of hypocrisy over the Serbian posi-



UEFA head Michel Platini has fallen out with Fifa chief Sep Blatter over the Kosovo move



Rental of simultaneous translation equipment.

Services for conferences, presentations and trainings.

For prices and booking call: +381 38 602042, +377 44 243367, +386 49 243367

info@avc-group.cc
avcprishtina@hotmail.com

Row over Kosovo



Sport in Kosovo has often been used a political football

tion denying the Kosovo federation the right to organise similar games.

It is not yet clear whether Tuesday's decision means that, for example, Shaqiri will be able to play both for Switzerland in official competitions and for Kosovo in friendly matches, or whether all the players will have to choose one national squad and play only for that squad.

It is understood that once Kosovo is a full FIFA member, any eligible players will have a window of opportunity in which to switch allegiances from their current teams to Kosovo.

However, even if Blatter's proposal stands, the road to full membership will be a long one. On the surface, the FIFA Statute itself is not an obstacle, since Article 10.1 simply states that any country recognized as independent by the international community can become a FIFA member.

The 90 countries that recognize Kosovo's independence can clearly be considered as the international community. However, Article 10.2 states that an Association can become a member of FIFA only after spending two years with provisional status within its Confederation, in the case of Kosovo within UEFA.

Article 5.1 of the UEFA Statute states that "Membership of UEFA is open to national football associations situated in the continent of Europe, based in a country which is recognized by the United Nations as an independent state".

This is in line with statutes of various international organizations, including the International Olympic Committee. These provisions imply that until Kosovo is a UN member, it

won't be eligible to gain full membership in UEFA and, consequently, in FIFA.

For the time being it is difficult to envisage Kosovo getting a UN seat, with Russia and China seemingly determined to block this, and more than half of current UN members, including five EU states, still not recognizing Kosovo more than four years after its declaration of independence.

The key problem for Kosovo diplomacy has always been that its own position appears to set precedents for other countries. As a striking example of this, within 24 hours of FIFA's decision on Kosovo, representatives of Republika Srpska's Football Association demanded that Article 79 of the FIFA Statute (banning members from playing with non-FIFA associations) be lifted for the RS FA too.

Yet, a solution may lie in the fact that both statutes allow an internationally unrecognized FA to take part in any game if it has the permission of the Football Association that has official jurisdiction over the territory on which the fixture is played.

In terms of current international relations in football, the Serbian Football Association officially still has jurisdiction over Kosovo. Therefore, the FSS could give permission to the KFF to play under the Kosovo banner.

However, beyond this it gets complicated since the UN, which has been necessary in more or less every bilateral arrangement between Belgrade and Prishtina, has no jurisdiction over football matters.

For the KFF, a possible solution

with immediate results would be to recognize the FSS as its parent association for the time being, until Kosovo itself fulfils preconditions to gain acceptance in FIFA and UEFA. The question is whether this scenario is realistic, given current bilateral relations and Kosovo's desire to affirm its status as an independent country.

On the ground

Kosovo is currently one of 80 football nations or micro-nations across the world that has no affiliation with FIFA. More than half of these come from Europe, most of them regions of Spain, France and the United Kingdom. Only six sovereign nations are not FIFA members.

There have been various attempts to organise semi-official and unofficial games between Kosovo and foreign teams, or between Kosovo clubs and foreign clubs, but when the KFF gains UEFA and FIFA recognition none of these would count in their official football statistics and history.

Six other international sports federations have incorporated Kosovo associations as full members, beginning with ITTU's (table tennis) acceptance of the Table Tennis Federation of Kosovo (FPK) in 2003, and with handball attracting the most attention.

Six years ago, even before Kosovo declared independence, Kosovo handball teams within the Handball Federation of Kosovo were allowed to play in European competitions by European Handball Federation (EHF), albeit not the national team.

In 2007 Vllaznisi of Gjakova was drawn against Serbia's Kikinda, but the Government of Serbia forbade the club to play against teams from "non-existent countries". Kikinda was expelled from the competition, receiving a heavy fine and a two-year ban from Europe.

Vllaznisi was later drawn against another Serbian club, Naisa. To add insult to Kikinda's injury, the team from Nis was allowed to play on neutral ground in Hungary. Naisa thrashed Vllaznisi by a 50-goal margin over two matches.

Meanwhile, in parts of Kosovo still inhabited by ethnic Serbs most clubs take part in Serbian competitions, although there have been some attempts at integration, particularly in basketball.

Vladimir Novakovic is a journalist with B92 and former sports reporter.

Editor's Word

Prishtina's Osama Bin Laden Mosque



By Lawrence Marzouk

I'd like to take you on a very modern journey – a stroll through the life of an internet lie.

Today it is easier than ever to plant a fabrication in the mind of the public and watch it grow at terrifying speed, particularly if this lie contains a grain of truth and its narrative fits snugly into a ready-made conspiracy.

Take the extraordinary story in recent weeks that Kosovo has become a training base for the Syrian Opposition. The claim, which is almost comically absurd, made the extraordinary trip from internet rumour to the UN Security Council in a matter of days.

Many of my colleagues in the world's most respected newspapers prefer to portray Kosovo as some sort of mafia-state run by organ-traffickers, harbouring jihadists and the biggest drug and prostitution rings in the world.

These stories sell newspapers; it's much more interesting to focus on the negatives than provide a full, fair portrayal of the reality: a country struggling, like many of its neighbours, with corruption, organised crime and some low-level risks of terrorism.

These plausible but flawed stories are then stretched far beyond the truth online by the bizarre ranting of thousands of websites offering extreme opinions, rumour masquerading as fact and recycled stories edited to look like news.

The negative stories from credible sources unfortunately also provide both cover and fuel for the nutcases.

For example, type "Osama Bin Laden Mosque Kosovo" into Google, and you are provided with more than 3,000 references. Apparently such a mosque was built in 2007.

It is almost impossible to trace the origin of this lie and will be impossible to ever erase or refute it fully. Despite being ludicrous, the claim will circulate in perpetuity, damaging Kosovo's reputation in the wacky world of online conspiracies. Stories like these often have elements of truth woven in, making it difficult for the untrained eye to separate fabrication from fact.

What makes the Syrian training camp story particular interesting is how this damaging rumour became a matter of record in the United Nations Security Council, the world's foremost political arena.

The original story began as an Associated Press report of the visit of three Syrian dissidents to Prishtina.

Ammar Abdulhamid, an exiled anti-Assad activist, told AP that he had travelled to Prishtina to learn. "Kosovo has gone through an experience that I think will be very useful to us in terms of how the different armed groups that formed the KLA [Kosovo Liberation Army] organised themselves."

The visit was noteworthy and therefore widely covered by the international media.

But then this "exchange of ideas" was twisted and stretched to become... the creation of terrorist training camps in Kosovo.

As with the case of the "Osama Bin Laden" mosque, it is almost impossible to know who started the rumour, although Russia Today, the Kremlin's international mouthpiece, appears to have been instrumental in spreading the message.

Here is what they wrote on May 4: "Syrian opposition is sending militants to Kosovo for adopting tactics and being trained to oust President Bashar Assad's regime."

They provide no evidence for this; there is none to provide. "The training camp on the Albanian-Kosovo border that has welcomed Syrian attendees was originally organised by the US to help the KLA train its fighters," Russia Today adds.

And then the nonsense became a matter of fact when Russian ambassador to the UN Vitaly Churkin raised the issue at the UN. He condemned what he called "disturbing information" that Kosovo authorities had been "establishing contacts with the Syrian opposition to train insurgents" in Kosovo.

It is incredibly difficult to police the web and Kosovo faces a huge challenge in countering such claims.

But Kosovo's government could, and should, develop a credible online strategy to quickly tackle such claims and spread positive messages about the country.

This would certainly be more effective and cheaper than set-piece interviews with international media and multimillion euro TV ads.



Fadil Vokrri, head of Kosovo's Football Federation

EU Grants for Serb Refugees' Start Ups

The EU is giving almost a half million Euros to 93 refugee families in Serbia to help them start and develop their own businesses.



By Marija Ristic

According to the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Serbia, Adriano Martins, the aim of the grant is to bring financial independence to refugees and internally displaced persons in south Serbia.

"We already helped 1,600 people through similar projects. And the businesses were various. I remember we gave a grant to Jovanka, a refugee from Croatia, to open a bakery. Then there is Dragan, who bought pigs and sheep for his farm and now produces meat, milk and cheese of great quality," said Martins.

"I hope that this year's grant recipients will make the best of it. There are people from the vulnerable groups who need just a little to make their life better," added Martins.

Ivanka Ilic, who came from Kosovo to south Serbia almost a decade ago, used her grant to open a pastry shop with her parents.

"This means a lot to us, since it is the only secure income we currently have. We even employ two people and hope to develop our business further," said Ilic.

Randjel Stojanovic, who fled from the Kosovo town of

Gnjilane to the Serbian town of Nis during the Kosovo war in the 1999, invested his grant in the family farm, where he grows several types of vegetables.

A refugee from Croatia, Jelena Kresovic, who escaped from the town of Knin as a child, before the Croatian army took over the area, has decided to start her first business, independently from her parents.

"I decided to run my business on my own. It is still too early for me to have employees, since I've only just begun to farm fish. I bought a fish pool from the grant money, and I'm hoping for the best," explains Jelena.

"Jelena, Randjel and Ivanka are just a few examples of how great ideas can be brought to reality. We received lots of applications, and our experts decided which business plans were the best and the most sustainable," said Dejan Milosevic from the NGO, Protecta, which is implementing the project.

Each grant is worth 2,000 Euros, and the organizations that are running the project plan to create clusters of grant recipients, making

their products more competitive on the market.

According to the Vesna Jovanovic from the CARE organization, business experts will closely monitor and provide advice to the project over its two year run.

The EU is the biggest donor to refugees in Serbia, donating 71 million Euros over the last ten years.

Jelena Maric, an advisor in the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees, said that 20 years on from the conflict in former Yugoslavia, and 13 years after the Kosovo war, Serbia is still dealing with a large number of refugees, taking the country to the top of the league table in Europe in terms of the number of refugees.

"Our latest data shows that 74,000 people are still listed as refugees, while 210,000 are internally displaced people from Kosovo. Almost 20,000 of them live in extremely hard social and economic conditions," Maric said.

"Ten percent of them are surviving on refugee benefits alone, which means just 80 Euros. We don't just need to give them rights, provide them with homes, we need to make their life decent as well," she concluded.

Kosovo: Serbia Should Apologise for its Crimes

The government in Prishtina says it is ready to address the past and reconcile with Serbia, but wants Belgrade to apologise for the crimes it committed in Kosovo, ahead of such a process.



By Fatmir Aliu

The Kosovo authorities announced the creation of an inclusive body that will deal with transitional justice and reconciliation, and called upon Serbia to apologize for the crimes it committed before and during the war in Kosovo.

Reconciliation, according to the authorities in Prishtina, is a process that will take decades, and as such requires an environment that will accommodate all sections of society who suffered under past regimes.

"The Government of Kosovo will create a national working group for transitional justice, which will be composed of all actors from the society, including the families of missing persons, war veterans, and political prisoners associations, which we hope will produce the desired effects," says the Deputy Prime Minister Hajredin Kuci.

He made the announcement at the international conference "Dealing with the past - What kind of truth mechanisms does Kosovo need?" and pledged that the future Transitional Justice working group would be free of political influence, and would work towards a "national strategy" by documenting all the damage caused by the war.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, but Belgrade refuses to recognise the secession, which it consid-

ers unilateral.

Kuci, who is also the Justice Minister, said that most of the obstacles in initiating the reconciliation process come from Serbia, which continues to act aggressively towards the Kosovo authorities and their sovereignty.

"Serbia needs to recognise the independence of Kosovo, the territorial integrity of our country, which will ease our efforts in the reconciliation process. At least apologize, as a moral act, since any other approach from Serbia makes inter-ethnic reconciliation impossible," he said.

The International Civilian Representative, Pieter Feith, noted that Kosovo is far away from reconciliation process, as memories of the 1999 war are still fresh.

But he insists that reconciliation needs to be offered to individuals, who need to decide themselves whether or not they want to deal with the past.

Feith commended the government initiative to establish the working group, and said that owing to current Kosovo-Serbia relations, the process is not going to be easy.

"We are aware that in the current circumstances, and based on the actual relations with Serbia, this process will not be easy. One cannot expect quick results, as it may take generations, but it's important that the government has expressed its willingness to commence this process," he said.

"Victims remain victims, the past cannot be undone, and the truth needs to be told," Feith added.

Thaci Laments EU's 'Coldness' Towards Kosovo

Prime Minister says Brussels is not responding with much enthusiasm to Kosovo's attempts to expedite its path of integration towards the EU.



By Fatmir Aliu

Kosovo's Prime Minister, Hashim Thaci, has complained about Brussels' approach towards the country's European Union aspirations, saying that Kosovo is not being judged by the same standards used with other countries in the region.

Thaci said that EU delays and the non-recognition of the country by five EU member states - Spain, Romania, Greece, Slovakia and Cyprus - were not justifiable.

"The delays by Brussels are unjustifiable," he said. "Kosovo is not asking for a privileged treatment or for an accelerated processes [of EU integration]. We simply ask for equal treatment to the rest of the Western Balkans countries," Thaci said.

On March 27 the EU launched a study to determine whether Kosovo is ready to sign a Stabilization and Association Agreement, the first step on the long road to Brussels.

The study will make an inventory of where Kosovo stands in terms of its political, economic and legal environment, and will assess what Kosovo needs to achieve to negotiate and implement an SAA.

Thaci on Monday handed ministers a set of



Kosovo PM Hashim Thaci has been critical of the EU in recent weeks.

450 questions from the EU for the Feasibility Study. He asked them to answer the questions by May 21, so they can be handed over to the European Commission by June 8.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008 and has been recognised by 89 countries, including the US and 22 EU member states.

Thaci said that since the country declared independence, Kosovo had worked hard to approach European structures but "unfortunately the response of Brussels was cold and the processes have been lengthy.

"The EU should not tolerate any black holes in the European continent. The principle of freedom of movement is an asset upon which the EU has been built, and we are not asking for anything other than the free movement of people, goods and ideas and equal treatment," he said.

All Western Balkans countries, except Kosovo, have been granted visa-free travel to the EU. But when launching the EU-Kosovo visa-liberalization dialogue, Enlargement Commissioner Stephan Fuele said that the success of the process depended on Kosovo's performance in the areas of trade, reform of public administration, rule of law, and the integrations of the Serbian minority in the north.

The European Commission will send a team to Prishtina on June 18 on a fact-finding mission to verify the answers it received from the questionnaire it handed to Kosovo.

European Union Special Representative Samuel Zbogar responded to the claims by pointing out that the EU shows its commitment through financial support and political guidance. He added that it was up to Kosovo authorities to deliver.

Prishtina Insight

www.pristinainsight.com

Publisher:

BIRN

Balkan Investigative Reporting Network

Mensa e Studenteve, first floor

10000, Prishtina

Kosovo

Phone: +381 (0) 38 24 33 58

Fax: +381 (0) 38 22 44 98

lawrence@birn.eu.com

Editor-in-Chief:

Lawrence Marzouk

lawrence@birn.eu.com

Editorial Team:

Ana Petrusseva, Gordana Igric, Jeta Xharra, Marcus Tanner, Petrit Collaku, Shengjyl Osmani, Artan Mustafa, Florina Hajdini, Bujar Arucaj and Donjeta Demolli.

Marketing, Sales & Distribution:

lawrence@birn.eu.com

Design & Layout: "Rrjeti"

Arben Grajqevci

Printing: Lindi Printing Center

Copyright © BIRN

Both communities in Kosovo blame politics for the trial of Fatmir Limaj - though from diametrically opposing points of view.



By Fatmir Aliu

Justice in Kosovo is decided by people in power, not by independent courts, which instead apply selective justice, one for Albanians and another for Serbs, Rade Spasic says.

The 39-year-old Kosovo Serb from the Serb enclave of Gracanica cites the example of ten former Kosovo Liberation Army soldiers cleared recently of charges in the so-called Klecka Case.

A court in Prishtina on May 2 cleared them on the grounds that the statements of the key witness - who had since died - were inadmissible as evidence.

"We feel justice in some cases is selective," Spasic says. "I don't believe that those institutions [the courts] should release someone because he or she is important."

The court cleared Fatmir Limaj, a former KLA commander and nine other ex-KLA fighters, of all charges of war crimes against civilians and prisoners-of-war during the Kosovo war.

Serbs received the verdict with consternation and Spasic says his community believes the case was dropped because of Limaj's political influence.

The former transport minister is vice-president of the ruling Democratic Party of Kosovo, PDK, and a member of the Kosovo parliament.

"If he has innocent blood on his hands, regardless of who he is, he should account for what he did," he says.

"What should people who lost family members and are still searching for their remains think about such rulings?" he asks.

Spasic has been largely unemployed since the end of the war in

Klecka Outcome Embitters Both Serbs and Albanians



The now collapsed war crimes trial against Fatmir Limaj for his involvement in the Klecka prison has been among the most high profile cases taken on by EULEX.

1999 but survives from occasional trades and businesses with Albanian friends whom he knows from childhood.

He says he does not know how to explain the outcome of the case to his children, aged 15 and 13, as there was so much talk at school about it.

"It's difficult to explain it to the kids or to ourselves... all kinds of crimes happened during the war, and no one can forget that," Spasic says.

According to the indictment, the ten men "violated the bodily integrity and health of an unspecified number of Serb and Albanian civilians and Serb prisoners-of-war held in a detention centre in the village of Klecka."

Prisoners were held in "inhumane conditions, which included keeping prisoners chained, cold and hungry, in insanitary conditions, and frequent beatings," the indictment added.

But almost all the charges were based on the testimony of one key witness, Agim Zogaj, codenamed "Witness X", who is understood to have been a former KLA fighter under Limaj's command.

His diaries about events in the Klecka detention centre in central Drenica were crucial to the prosecution.

But Zogaj killed himself last

September in Germany before the trial started. Months later, on March 21, the court ruled his testimony and diaries inadmissible.

Some Kosovo Albanians also think the Klecka case was politically motivated. But they feel the trial should never have started - and that politics alone led to a verdict being raised.

Muharrem Xhemajli, chair of the KLA War Veterans Organization, told Prishtina Insight that most trials of former KLA-fighters were set-ups.

He accuses the EU law mission to Kosovo, EULEX, of conducting "witch hunts" against former guerilla fighters.

"The case against Limaj and the other combatants was a set-up, which was proven by their release after they were cleared of all charges," he said.

"This can be also be seen from the way the process went, relying on protected witnesses who in the end got what they deserved - they committed suicide," Xhemajli added.

"All those who testify falsely will have the same fate because their conscience will not let them live," he continued.

EULEX was established in 2008, after Kosovo declared independence from Serbia, and is the largest civilian crisis management mission in the EU's history.

With more than 2,000 international police officers, judges and prosecutors, supported by about 1,200 local staff, its mission is to help Kosovo develop independent and multi-ethnic justice, police and customs services.

But Xhemajli maintains that EULEX is not carrying out its true mission and relies on double standards.

He says it is strange that the mission has not indicted any Kosovo Serbs for crimes committed in Kosovo in the war while apparently holding Albanians accountable for everything that happened.

"They are trying to say that Albanians also committed crimes, and then they want to reconcile us, if I can call it that," he said.

"It's a sort of act, that both parties carried out crimes. But you don't achieve real reconciliation that way; you only increase the hostility between the nations," he added.

Xhemajli says he remains con-

vinced that no former KLA combatants committed war crimes in the conflict, in spite of which they are grilled relentlessly.

"Since the end of the war in 1999 there's not been one KLA fighter whose home has not been raided and some families have been raided dozens of times," he said.

"On the other hand, illegal parallel Serb structures are allowed to function in Kosovo and no one does anything about it. This is double standards," Xhemajli added.

Limaj, who remains a popular figure in Kosovo, has already faced a trial for war crimes before the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Along with Isak Musliu and Haradin Bala, he was accused of committing war crimes against Serbs and Albanians suspected of collaborating with Serbia during the Kosovo war. In November 2005 the ICTY acquitted him.

Azem Vllasi, a lawyer, was a former head of the League of Communists of Kosovo in the Yugoslav era.

Forced out of office by Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic in 1989, for resisting Serbia's plans to scrap Kosovo's autonomy, he was arrested and put on trial.

He says that EULEX and the international community have created a muddle about the KLA's role in the conflict with Serbia.

"Throughout the former Yugoslavia the international community has tended to confuse matters," he said.

"They have all started from the notion that in Yugoslavia, everyone took part in the tragedy, so everyone is equally guilty for the conflicts. Therefore everyone is guilty by default, but it's a completely wrong approach to the war," he added.

Vllasi says that the international community has been too reluctant to identify victims and aggressors in the wars of the former Yugoslavia.

Everyone knows that Albanians, Bosnian Muslims and Croats were the defendants while the Serbs were the aggressors in the conflict, he says.

The Klecka Case, he says, has two dimensions, the political and legal.

He notes that that the international missions refer to the 1999 period as a "period of military con-

flict".

EULEX, and the UN mission, UNMIK, have used such terminology to try KLA commanders and soldiers for war crimes.

But in this context, he adds, the EU mission didn't have enough arguments to proceed with the case, since what happened in the war did not suffice to indict Limaj and the other co-fighters.

"In the Klecka case, they presented evidence of two murdered Serbs. But these were not civilians, and they were not in Kosovo on holiday - they were there to kill Albanians," he says.

As for the legal aspect, he says that the decision was clear, as the evidence of the prosecution was all based on the testimony of Witness X, which the court found inadmissible.

"No judge who respects criminal procedures would have made a different ruling from this one," he continued, referring to the verdict.

Many observers in both Serbia and Kosovo have called the collapse of the Klecka case a major failure for EULEX's approach to justice.

But Vllasi does not agree. He says that the authorities in Serbia think that every Albanian in Kosovo in the war who carried a weapon and fought Serb forces committed crimes.

"This is the logic in Serbia, and I'm pretty sure that if Limaj or any other KLA fighter would have been tried in Serbia, they would have had been found guilty," he said.

"But we learned good practices from EULEX. And it would be wrong to give a general assessment that EULEX has failed. It's not fair either to say that the prosecution raised the indictment just to please Serbia," Vllasi continued.

While the legal arguments continue to rage, ordinary Kosovo Serbs in Gracanica and elsewhere say the failure of the case has inflicted further damage on tense relations between the communities.

"We have hit the bottom with Serb-Albanians relations and it can't be worse than it currently is," Spasic says.

"I don't want to believe that it can get even worse, but that we can improve our relationship," he concludes.



Limaj's Return to Frontline Politics: With the collapse of the war crimes charges against him and no sign of an indictment over corruption allegations, Limaj is returning to frontline politics. He held a meeting with supporters in Prizren this week during which he avoided discussing his rift with Prime Minister and PDK party leader Hashim Thaci.

Central Bank Board: Licence to Print Money

from page 1

Foreign Trips

According to figures released by the Central Bank, the board also travelled extensively in past years.

In 2009, the board spent 27,000 euro on travel, in 2010 38,000 euro and for the first nine months of 2011, some 20,000 euro was spent.

According to Capussela, whose job included monitoring the work of the bank, as well as two other sources with intimate knowledge of the bank, many of these trips were unnecessary.

"On top of this, you have the trips, which typically have no institutional justification, if you look at the board's competencies," said Capussela.

Another source within the Central Bank told Prishtina Insight that board members had travelled to meetings mainly aimed at junior bank staff, sometimes flying business class. This was denied by Chairman Luboteni.

But Prishtina Insight has discovered that one of the trips carried out by Luboteni was to Malaysia. During the trip, the senior bank figure had time to meet his son, who was studying in the South East Asian country.

Luboteni told Prishtina Insight that the Malaysian government had paid for the trip, although he failed to provide the newspaper with any proof of this, despite our requests for information.

In the summer of 2011, Prishtina Insight submitted a request for a full breakdown of the trips carried out by board members, but the bank has repeatedly refused to release this information.

In one trip in 2011, Governor Gerguri travelled alongside board member Rexhepi to Italy for a conference in Rome on "Italy and the world economy 1861 - 2011".

Luboteni travelled in August 2011 to the luxury ski resort of Cran-Montana for a dinner at the "Council on World Public Affairs", described as "the most exclusive and inter-active event organized by the Crans Montana Forum in the resort of Crans-Montana (Switzerland) itself".

Luboteni told Prishtina Insight: "The conference in Malaysia was completely paid by the Malaysian government and I was there presenting Kosovo, at the highest level, as a VIP, as well as in all other international forums and gatherings."

"At the same place there were also other international forums when colleagues who were invited participated there."

"In fact every trip represents a great sacrifice, a load, stress, and you can imagine how difficult it is to represent the country in these international forums and what lobbying is to be made there for our country."

Taken for a Ride?

Chairman Luboteni confirmed to Prishtina Insight that he used official CBK cars to travel to and from his other, university jobs, claiming that this was within the bank's guidelines.

"The use of vehicles is regulated with the internal politics of the CBK," he said. "For the board we are allowed to use the cars even out of the official working schedule by paying compensation for each kilometer."

"For your information, the previous head of the board had a car and a personal driver during his whole mandate, whereas I don't."

According to Luboteni's declaration of assets for 2012, published this week, he is the owner of a Lexus LS 430 worth 15,000 euro and a VW Golf worth 11,000 euro.

He owns two flats – one in Prishtina and the other in Albania – although he lives in his family home in the Aktash neighbourhood of Kosovo's capital.

Questions have also been raised about the expense involved in building the board's new offices within the Central Bank headquarters.

A former senior member of the bank told Prishtina Insight: "As if the per-meeting-cheque, the travelling, the hotels, the official cars, the petrol and all that isn't enough, they go ahead and make themselves a ridiculous office that doesn't even look like an office, and for what? They don't have enough work to fill a half-day at their new palace."

The board has a relatively limited number of decisions that it is required to take as it is complemented by an "executive board", which is responsible for the day-to-day running. The governor, the most senior figure at the bank, sits on both boards.

Luboteni, however, defended the spending saying that the renovation of his offices was part of an overall makeover of the building.

"Expenses on the offices were not expenses made for the board's offices but for a whole part of the building."

"Even work on the toilets and the main entrance to CBK were foreseen with this project." He added that as a result of the improvements the entrance now met international security standards.

End of the term?

According to the Law on the Central Bank, a board member is not allowed to serve for more than ten years, in two five year terms.

Luboteni has, however, been a member of the board or chairman of the board for 13 years, with only a short gap while he was in the United States.

He told Prishtina Insight: "I am Chairman of the Board since 2007 but since 1999 I am member of this board." But he added that because he had spent some time in America, and the law had changed in 2006, he had not breached the law and was coming to the end of his second term.

Capussela questioned the explanation and the record of the board. "Another point I would make is that this board is not just too expensive, but very bad: on the most important occasion on which they had to act – when the governor was arrested – they did the opposite of what they should have done and broke the law," he said, referring to the arrest of Hashim Rexhepi in 2010.

"While he[Rexhepi] was in jail, the board of the central bank – which is supposed to protect the bank's integrity and independence – first tried to hand over to the political institutions the power to dismiss the governor, an illegal move which was stopped by ICO," Capussela wrote in an opinion piece. "The board then proceeded to dismiss him itself, on a false pretext."

"In short, these people are an unreasonable and unnecessary cost to the taxpayer; and one of them, the chairman, shouldn't even sit there because there's a 10-year limit to sitting in the board."

The Mysterious

Kosovo's western city of Peja has been rocked by murders, ransoms, allegations of rape and police corruption, and the arrests of high profile figures from the business community.



By Ukë Selimaj

Salih Kastrati was once a powerful member of his trade, known to all in Peja. His skills as a silversmith brought him prosperity and a reputation throughout the country. In Peja, they called him "Golden Salih", "Salih Dukati" in Albanian.

On March 15 this year he was badly wounded when a booby-trapped door exploded on his doorstep. He was returning from court, where he was fined 800 euro for illegal possession of weapons and shooting in the air. After spending a month in a coma, the 63-year old passed away in mid April.

His daughter, Besarta, who had returned from the US to be by his side, has since been arrested for the murder of 20-year-old Fidan Shabi, a suspect in her father's murder. She has claimed to police that he had raped her.

And in another strange twist, a minor, from a powerful business family in Peja, has also since been arrested in connection with both Shabi and Salih Kastrati's death.

The family claims that the gold trader was subject to blackmail and ransom from powerful political and business figures.

They say he was once forced to pay 25,000 euro ransom by a top politician's family; and that he later had problems with businessmen who forced him to hand over his shop, which had made him king of the gold market.

All he Touched Turned to Gold

Salih Kastrati started up his business in the 80s, by opening a shop called 'Te Salihi'. He was a professional silversmith, providing inscriptions. And requests for carvings were pouring in, especially those for eagles.

Everything was going well, until after the war. Then, he became a target of ransom-seekers. Family members say he was pursued by 12 different people who "destroyed his business". Finally, they killed him, they claim.

Kastriot Kastrati, 29, the son of the deceased businessman, first understood about the ransoms being paid in 2000.

He found it troubling that people would come to ask for his father's money "if he wanted to continue in his business".

Those making these request were powerful people then, Kastriot recalls. But, according to Kastriot, the purchase of a parcel of 1,120 square meters in central Peja was the main reason for his father's troubles, and subsequently his murder.

This property was bought in 1980 by Salih Kastrati's family from the Rajevics, a Serb family from Peja. On this land, for which the family claims legal ownership, Salih tore down some old shops in order to build a shopping mall.

"However, he was hindered by his former business acquaintances Tahir Daci and Hajrie Rama," Kastriot said. According to him, these two individuals wanted to take over this property, and in this they were supported by Peja police. "Work there



Kastriot Kastrati, 29

was stopped because of threats," he added.

Kastrati knew businessman Tahir Daci from a former business they had led together, Kastriot says. They had an agreement among them for Salih Kastrati to pledge his shop 'Te Salihi' to Tahir Daci, until he returned 195,000 euro which he owed to the latter.

Kastriot did not know much about this business. But, he knew that the deadline for returning the money was three months. After two months his father went to Tahir Daci to return the money owed, however, the latter did not receive him "as a business partner".

He was now requesting 500,000 euro, saying that the debtor had missed his deadline. The difference between these two figures was accrued interest. "He had even threatened his life and my life if the money was not paid back," Kastriot says. According to Kastriot, Salih Kastrati was unable to pay the debt and, faced with the said threats, was forced to give him the shop in 2010. This marked the end of Salih Dukati's dominance in the nationally renowned Peja gold market.

The businessman Tahir Daci told Prishtina Insight that he had, in fact, bought the shop 'Te



Murder of Salih Dukati

Salih' and denied all accusations of threats. Also, he said that after the war he and Hajrije Rama had bought land in the city centre. In 2010, Daci says, he and Rama had entered a land-swap agreement with Peja Municipality. According to him, they and Salih Kastrati were co-owners of the 1,120 square meter parcel, on which the latter dreamt of constructing his shopping centre

"I don't know how Salih Kastrati manipulated the documents, but he had placed the entire property under his name, without our knowledge," said Hajrije Rama.

It was for this reason, she continued, that she and Tahir Daci had last year brought a civil lawsuit against Kastrati.

"Moreover, the Kastrati family still owes us some 500,000 euro," said Daci. "He manipulated many people, taking from them money for constructing a large shopping centre and never returning the money or adhering to his obligations."

However, Kastriot Kastrati claims that Daci and Rama had requested from his father 1.5 million euro as compensation for withdrawing all judicial procedures in relation to the property in 2012. This allegation was denied by the two businessmen.

Kastrati Senior was assaulted four times in the last decade.

According to information from law enforcement agencies, he was first assaulted by Sh. Sh. a boxer from Peja. He is thought to have waited for him in front of his house and to have beaten him with a metal bar. In the second assault, Kastrati was shot with a firearm. According to the family, on the morning of that day, he received threats. In January of this year, he was injured by an explosive device, close to his land in the city centre.

The last assault, which ended up being fatal for Salih Kastrati occurred on his doorstep, as his door had been boobytrapped. He was sent to Prishtina's main hospital for treatment. But after a month, his health deteriorated and he passed away.

Kastriot also speaks of the suffering and fear his family faced during this time. "We were never safe going out of our office. We were scared of being shot at, and we continue to feel unsafe today," he says.

Problems of Kastrati family have continued after Salih's death. His daughter, Besarta Harxhi, had returned from the USA, where she lives with her family, to be by her father's bedside to the end of his days.

On Tuesday, May 8, her home in Peja was raided; she was arrested and remanded for 30-day detention.



Salih Dukati's old shop in central Peja

She is suspected of the abduction and murder of Fidan Shabi, who was found dead in Peja after being declared missing for days.

A minor, and a member of one of the most powerful business families of Peja, has also been arrested in connection with the murder of Kastrati and disappearance of

Shabi.

Kastriot Kastrati alleges that even the police are involved in the events surrounding his father's demise.

Peja police told Prishtina Insight that its officers had "made a preliminary inquiry" into the head of its investigation unit related to

Kastrati's death, but that it has since ruled out any involvement.

One person has already been arrested in relation to this case. Memli Pajaziti has been held in detention until investigations are concluded.

The Kastrati family believe that many more will follow.

PTK Sale Promoted in London and Istanbul



By Parim Olluri

The sale of Kosovo's most lucrative public company, PTK, is being promoted in London and Istanbul this month.

The Ministry of Economic Development said that the selection of locations were made based on recommendations of transaction advisors.

"These two world capitals were selected on the recommendation of the Transaction Advisor, as the two business



centres to which gravitate most of the world's largest companies," said a public relations officer for the Ministry.

The sale of PTK collapsed last year after the withdrawal of Croatia Telecoms. This had left just one bidder, Austria Telecom.

Bidders for Electricity Network Announced

Two international firms have submitted bids to buy Kosovo's state-owned electricity network.

Egypt's El Sewedy and a consortium between Turkey's Calik Holding and Limak are the two entities in the race to buy up Kosovo's ailing power distribution system.

Minister for Economic Development Besim Beqaj said the process had been transparent and met all international standards.

"The documentation is now located in a safe, in a room that is monitored 24 hours a day by video recordings," he said.

According to the minister, the evaluation commission began work this week. The bids are to be judged purely on the basis of the financial offer.

KEDS, part of KEK, serves 400,000 customers and operates Kosovo's entire distribution network, but has faced years of financial losses due to technical problems, theft and poor collection of bills.

The network's new owner will be responsible for collecting unpaid bills of 400 million euros, of which it will be able to take 20 per cent from each bill.

The news came as it emerged that the Complaints Advisor Office at the World Bank, reporting to the President of the World Bank Group, has launched an audit to verify if that the Kosovo government has been well advised on the privatization project.

The audit followed a complaint by KEK's workers' union, SPEK.

marketing



ILG- Where every child becomes a lifelong learner-
International Learning Group is now accepting applications
for the current school year as well as 2012-2013 school year.



We offer
an American
curriculum for children
from ages 2-11.
All classes are taught in
English by qualified
teachers.
ILG recently moved
to a new school
building in
Veternik
which offers
more than 20
classrooms,
a large playground,
library, cafeteria and
more.

Please call or email to schedule a visit.

www.ilg-ks.eu telephone 049 206-014 or 038 722 994

Euro Crisis Sapping Balkan Recovery, EBRD Warns

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development report predicts that eurozone crisis will buffet Balkan economies, slowing growth in 2012.



By Besar Likmeta

“The euro-area crisis will continue to negatively impact those economies in the transition region that are the most intertwined with those of the eurozone,” the EBRD report said.

According to the bank, the eurozone slowdown will affect South East Europe via both trade and financial channels.

“As European parent banks continue to deleverage, subsidiaries in the transition countries will see reduced cross-border funding and will therefore extend less credit,” the report warned.

These bank-related capital outflows are expected to continue in the coming months, notwithstanding signs that equity and bond inflows may have returned to the region in the first quarter of this year.

“The transition region will also suffer as Western banks that play

a significant role in many countries in emerging Europe continue to strengthen their balance sheets, partly by reducing lending and selling off assets,” the report added.

The report underlines that the short-term economic prospects for the SEE region remain weak and vulnerabilities have increased as a result of the eurozone crisis.

“While some recovery seemed evident in the first half of 2011, economic activity weakened in the second part of the year and the first three months of 2012,” the EBRD said. “Growth in 2012 is likely to be minimal at best,” it added.

The bank notes that Albania’s economy continued to grow faster than other countries in the region in 2011 but experienced a slowdown in the second half of 2011 and early 2012, largely due to the weak performance of its key EU markets, Greece and Italy.

“Albania’s strong trade, investment and remittance ties to these countries are likely to continue to hold back growth in the coming year, while public debt is close to

the statutory limit of 60 per cent of GDP, limiting the room for fiscal manoeuvre,” the bank said.

Bosnia and Herzegovina’s economy has been relatively static in the past couple of years, as domestic consumption has remained subdued, largely due to fiscal austerity measures and falling remittances; a downturn in the eurozone, Bosnia’s key trading partner, will continue to threaten the country’s economic outlook.

Recovery is expected to continue to be modest in Bulgaria into 2012, in contrast to earlier projections of vigorous growth, due to the projected downturn in demand for exports.

Macedonia experienced surprisingly strong growth in the first half of 2011, spurred by high exports and FDI, but growth slowed down substantially in the second half of the year and the beginning of 2012 due to unfavourable developments in the eurozone.

“The weak external environment will continue to negatively impact the economy of Macedonia this year – GDP growth is forecast



Clouds are gathering over the Balkans because of trouble in the Euro zone

to decline from 3 per cent in 2011 to 1.5 per cent in 2012,” the bank said.

Montenegro’s economy is struggling to recover from the effects of the crisis. The current account deficit remains high, industrial production is volatile and credit growth is still negative on a year-on-year basis.

Until recently, Romania’s economy was on track for robust growth in 2012, after a recovery in 2011. However, the slowdown in the eurozone is having a significant

dampening effect on Romania’s exports, and further weakening is likely in the coming months.

Serbia’s economy has stabilized after bracing the shocks of the economic crisis but growth remains low. Growth is estimated at around 2 per cent in 2011 but is likely to be lower in 2012.

“Major risks remain, mainly from exposure to the eurozone, while inflation remains above levels in regional peers,” the report concluded.

Romania's Recession Boosts Grey Economy

Despite legislation adopted last year to repress the phenomenon, about one third of the working population in Romania is now invisible to the tax authorities.



By Marian Chiriac

Over 2.3 million people are working unofficially in Romania, up by around 900,000 compared to four years ago and representing a third of working people in the country, the independent Fiscal Council said on Friday.

Evasion of social contributions, VAT and income tax stood at 10.3 per cent of the country’s GDP in 2010, Fiscal Council data say.

Officials describe the number of people who work but don’t officially exist on the labour market as unacceptably high.

Romania’s hidden labour force rose from 1.7 million people in 2006 to 1.4 million in 2008, only to rise to 1.8 million in 2009 and 2.2 million in 2010, according to many estimates.

Analysts say most people involved in this hidden economy work without contracts or paying any tax. Others receive part of their wages under the table.

Unregistered workers work mainly in the hotel and restaurant sector and in the construction and clothing industries.

As Romania’s recession has deepened in the last three years, more people have been forced to seek work in the “grey” economy.

A year ago, Romania changed the law to crack down on the grey economy. The new labour legislation, supported by the IMF, allows for more flexible work contracts and part-time employment and imposes fines on employers who hire people without signing contracts or who employ people living illegally in Romania.

But critics say the government would have done better to lower income tax, as that would have helped businesses to create new jobs.

“Reform of tax collection is direly needed. If Romania collected all its taxes, its budget revenues would be close to the European average,” the Fiscal Council said.

The Fiscal Council is an independent authority, which aims to support the government and parliament in designing and implementing fiscal policy and promoting transparency and sustainability in public finances.

Bosnia Takes Small Step in Motorway Construction

Bosnia's Federation government has signed an agreement worth 115 million euros with a Turkish company to build five kilometres of motorway.



By Elvira Jukic

The Turkish company Cengiz Insaat Sanayi ve Ticaret will build five kilometres of Corridor 5c, the projected Bosnia and Herzegovina motorway network, according to an agreement signed by company director Kemal Unluer on May 21 in Sarajevo. The agreement is with the Federation Motorway public corporation.

The motorway section will include the 2,800 metre Suhodol Tunnel, the 400-metre Tarcin Tunnel, the 90-metre Bijela Bridge and the Tarcin bypass.

Work should be completed within 28 months. The Bosnian company Euroasfalt will also take part in the construction work. The project’s 115 million-euro funding has been provided by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The planned Corridor 5c of which some 37 kilometres were built from Sarajevo half-way to Zenica

The five kilometres from Suhodol to Tarcin, going south from Sarajevo, is part of a 20 kilometre section that will start to connect Sarajevo to Tarcin and Konjic before continuing to Mostar and the Adriatic coast.

But the overall project has pro-



Bosnia's European Corridors are currently mostly single-lane.

ceeded at a snail’s pace, with only a small amount of the 340 kilometres projected just for the Federation constructed so far.

Motorway construction on Corridor 5 started in 1998. The object is to connect the Bosnian network to the Corridor 5 that runs from Venice, Italy, through Trieste, Ljubljana in Slovenia, Budapest in Hungary and on to the Ukrainian capital of Kiev.

Currently there is only around 70 kilometres of motorway in the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

So far, around 40 kilometres has been built from Sarajevo to the mid-Bosnia town of Kakanj while the construction of a tunnel near Zenica, further to the north, is ongoing.

In the other Entity, Republika Srpska, the motorway from Banja Luka, the biggest town in the north-

west of Bosnia, runs around 30 kilometres to Gradiska near the border with Croatia.

Although international funding has already been secured, construction has been slow due to problems involving bureaucracy, land expropriation, construction company bankruptcies and disputes over the motorway route.

The current Federation government has promised to push motorway construction for another 80 kilometres by the end of its mandate in the autumn of 2014.

Around half a billion euros are available for construction work, according to the Bosnia and Herzegovina Transport and Communications Ministry, but progress until now suggests that completing the promised construction within the timeframe is unlikely.

Thirteen Killed in Albania Bus Crash

A bus carrying university students returning from a trip to the Albanian Riviera crashed into a ravine killing 13 and injuring 20 others on Monday afternoon.



By Besar Likmeta

Police said in a statement that the bus carrying 32 literature students from the Aleksander Xhuvani University in Elbasan, drove off a cliff near the town of Himara, 170 kilometres from the capital Tirana.

Fourteen of the injured students who were in serious condition were airlifted to Tirana's military hospital. One died on the way and another died on Monday evening, bringing the number of fatalities to 13. The others are receiving care in the regional hospital in the city of Vlora.

The 55-year-old driver of the bus is among the dead. The cause of the accident is unclear and an investigation has been launched.

In a statement from Chicago, where he is attending the NATO summit, Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha offered his condolences to the victims' families. The government has declared Tuesday a day of national mourning.

Visiting the injured at the military hospital, President Bamir Topi said the government is doing everything possible to provide specialized care for those injured in the accident.

Dozens of students gathered in the university campus in Elbasan lighting candles to honour the memory of their classmates killed in the crash.



The wreckage of the bus, which left the mountainous road near Himare, southern Albania, killing at least 13. (AP)

Symbols Row Holds Montenegrin Reforms Hostage

Six years after the referendum on independence, Montenegro has consolidated itself as a state, but dispute over symbols still dominates politics, overshadowing more important priorities.



By Milena Milosevic

As Montenegro celebrates its sixth year of independence, not everyone in the country has accepted, let alone embraced, its national symbols.

All opposition parties have now accepted Montenegro as an independent state, although some initially questioned the 2006 referendum results.

But they say that the Montenegrin constitution discriminates against the Serbian-speaking majority by naming solely Montenegrin as the official language.

The two biggest opposition parties, the Socialist People's Party, SNP, and New Serbian Democracy, NOVA, also want to exclude verses from the national anthem written by Sekula Drljevic, a controversial historical figure.

They further want the old tricolour to become the national flag.

Unless the authorities meet these demands, they say they won't support for constitutional changes in the field of judiciary that Montenegro must adopt if it wants to join the EU.

To change the constitution, the government needs the votes of two-thirds of MPs in parliament. The votes of NOVA and the SNP are thus crucial.

As a result of this dispute, questions about the national language, anthem and flag are overshadowing the issue of an independent judiciary.

The proposal of another opposition party, Movement for Changes, PzP - that the chairman of

Supreme Court and Supreme State Prosecutor should be elected by two-thirds of parliaments and that all judges should be re-elected - raises less public debate than the negotiations about changes to the constitution and laws on state symbols and official language.

Reforms and Symbols

The 2007 constitution designated Montenegrin the official language instead of Serbian, which was the official language prior to independence.

However, the results of 2011 population census revealed that a plurality of people, over 40 per cent, say they speak Serbian, even though less than 30 per cent declared Serbian as their ethnicity.

The implications of this result soon spilled over into daily politics. So-called identity issues, as local media call them, emerged as a sticking point in negotiations on changes to the electoral law last summer, soon after the census results were released.

The electoral law could only be changed with a two-thirds majority in parliament. So, NOVA and the SNP conditioned their support for changes on changes to the name of the language taught in school.

The new election law was adopted only last September after months of negotiations, when it was agreed that pupils would in future be studying "Montenegrin - Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian language and literature".

Now, a similar scenario is being repeated with the equally urgently needed constitutional changes in the field of the judiciary.

Daliborka Uljarevic, head of Centre for Civic Education, CGO, an NGO, says that flags and symbols have become a mask for the lack of engagement by politicians and experts in such issues as the reorganization of the judiciary.

"The insistence on an excessive presence of national-identity issues is slowing down the pace of reforms in Montenegro," she says.

Different views of patriotism:

Goran Danilovic, of NOVA, however, says that there is a big difference between what his party seeks and the way others interpret their demands.

"The Serbian language is not an issue only for Serbian people, because it also belongs to Montenegrins and Bosniaks," he says.

"It's not an identity issue, but a question of human rights and freedoms," he adds, explaining that his party is not blackmailing anyone but only opposes discrimination.

Montenegro's anthem is indeed controversial. The President himself, Filip Vujanovic, in September 2011, created a stir when he said he listened to two verses of the anthem only because he was obliged to.

Those two verses were written by Sekula Drljevic, a Montenegrin publicist, politician and lawyer from the first half of the last century.

Drljevic, who was declared a war criminal by the new Communist authorities in Yugoslavia in 1946, is seen by some as a valiant fighter for Montenegrin independence.

But most of the opposition parties share President Vujanovic's



Questions of Montenegro's state symbols continue to dog the country's

more critical view.

"As an antifascist party which fights for a free society, we don't agree with an anthem that contains Drljevic's verses," Danilovic says.

Others think differently, like Aleksandar Damjanovic, chairman of NGO Montenegrin Cultural Network, CKM, founded in 2009 to spread loyalty and respect for the country's state symbols.

"Thirty per cent of our MPs don't stand up while the anthem is being played but it's no obstacle for them to receive a salary from the state that they don't recognise," Damjanovic complains, adding that by not recognizing the identity

of the state, such politicians don't recognize the state itself.

Danilovic, however, thinks that such remarks are a red herring. "We merely advocate the democratization of Montenegro, which is internationally recognized already," he says.

He says it is insulting for some people to imagine that they have a monopoly on the way Montenegro should be loved.

A change of state symbols thus seems inevitable.

However, unless it can reconcile people's very different views, the danger is that at the next independence-day anniversary, not everyone will be singing the same national anthem, once again.

Igor Mandic: Serbs and Croats Belong Together

The unrepentant advocate of Yugoslavia and Socialism says time's up for the independence projects of the ex-Yugoslav republics - none of whom have made a go of it.



By Andrej Klemencic

At 72 Igor Mandic still refuses to identify himself with the new political map of former Yugoslavia.

His views keep him in constant conflict with the Croatian public but at the same time make him a star among people who still view Yugoslavia as their homeland.

Mandic, author of 30 books of reviews, polemics and essays, is used to being in frequent conflict with the mainstream.

When he wrote in a review in 1974 that "Tchaikovsky's is the kitschiest opus in the history of music," his editors at the Croatian daily Vijesnik battled a public outcry, demanding that Mandic stop writing.

Once Mandic started incorporating his bold views into political topics, he was banned from Croatian literary life.

In 1977 he published a sympathetic review of a book stamped by the then regime as nationalist. As Mandic was deemed insufficiently critical of author Petar Segedin, Croatian publications stopped working with him until the fall of the Communist system.

Since the beginning of Yugoslav wars, however, Mandic has switched tack, focusing on what he sees as the inability of the newly created republics to justify their independence.

Mandic is one of the few surviving authors who knew Miroslav Krleža, one of the foremost writers in Croatia in the Yugoslav era.

Krleža's popularity is growing

again throughout the former Yugoslavia. In May almost 30 round tables, presentations and theatre performances took place in Belgrade, Serbia, for a festival dedicated to his work and legacy.

Sharing his pro-Yugoslav views, Mandic argues that Krleža was politically a dualistic figure, criticising and embracing the Communist regime while writing from an angle that was much wider than just Croatian or just Serbian.

"Krleža's entire opus is integrally Yugoslav and his views, from perspective of the current politics of the former Yugoslav republics, are like dynamite," he says.

"They require the de-composition of everything created by the break apart of Yugoslavia.

"The prevalence of the free market, of nationalist parties, and of capital over the working class, is something that Krleža fought against," he adds.

"To advocate his views would mean undoing all of the achievements of these mini-states, which would be devastating", Mandic argues.

When Mandic speaks of Yugoslavia, his short sentences, spoken with almost military strictness, elongate and his voice softens.

He blames the politicians for not being able to recognise the true ingeniousness of Yugoslavia as political project and the numerous possibilities it offered.

"Socialist Yugoslavia was the only successful political project of the Southern Slavic nations. It was a concept that was well developed and accepted by all its nations," he maintains.

"The break-up has shown that Yugoslav republics are too immature to live independently.



The faded words of Tito: "Protect brotherhood and unity like the pupil of your eye",

"Even Serbia, which has a longer tradition of statehood than the others, has little chance of success. Same goes for Croatia and Slovenia," he says.

Mandic's affirmative views of the old Tito-era concept of "Brotherhood and Unity" make him a loner among the intellectual elites of the Balkan countries.

Most intellectuals now either promote or accept the cultural and political independence of their individual nations.

But not Mandic. "I believe Serbs and Croats should live in the same country because they are in fact one nation. If the Slovenes join in we have a tri-tribal nation," he says, with a touch of irony in his smile.

He believes that intellectuals can now employ much more free think-

ing into their work, but that the work itself has never been less of a public commodity.

"Today liberties are undoubtedly bigger. But ironically they are perhaps irrelevant. That is the true irony of our achievements," he says.

"The liberties today are overwhelming, yet unnecessary, void of the charge and intensity given by revolution.

"Earlier, when you knew that you were fighting against an authoritarian regime, this craving for other shores made sense. Utopia made sense then. Today, utopia has turned into dystopia," he says.

Despite being an advocate of Yugoslavia, Mandic was never associated with any particular political structure designed to

bring the people of former Yugoslavia closer together.

Asked if someone of some party should assume such a task, he says that "Yugoslavs themselves should assume responsibility for their political existence."

In the early 1990s, he recalls, a political party called the UJDI [the Association for a Yugoslav Democratic Initiative] tried to unite those who still felt Yugoslav.

"But, you know, as soon as you have a party things tend to go wrong. However, this kind of collaboration might be a good reference point for future political actions of Yugoslavs," he concludes.

This article is funded under the BICCED project, supported by the Swiss Cultural Programme.

Globe to Globe

Three Balkan theatres performed the three parts of Shakespeare's complex trilogy in London – and with very different results.

Shakespeare's Globe in London is the arena for an unusual exercise in Balkan cooperation on a foreign stage - with national theatres from Serbia, Albania and Macedonia separately undertaking the three parts of Shakespeare's Henry VI – each in its own language.

Set during the lifetime of King Henry VI of England, in the 15th century, Part 1 deals with the loss of England's French lands and the political machinations leading up to the dynastic feud known as the Wars of the Roses. Part 2 deals with the King's inability to quell the bickering of his nobles, and the inevitability of armed conflict, and Part 3 deals with the horrors of that conflict.

Part 1, seen by many as the weakest of Shakespeare's work, is in the hands of the National Theatre Belgrade, Part 2 is the work of the National Theatre of Albania and

Part 3 is the province of the National Theatre Bitola, Macedonia.

While no doubts that throwing three national theatres together on what is effectively one story is brave, audiences and reviewers have questioned whether the trio successfully pull it off.

Not only do the same kings, dukes and others look – for obvious reasons – entirely different in the three sections, each theatre has naturally placed its own interpretation on the text and come up with radically different approaches.

The Guardian had most praise for the Serbian and Macedonian companies, the Serbs for investing Part I with real English historic resonance while the Macedonians have won plaudits for taking the most modern and interesting approach of the three.

As one reviewer wrote, "It was interesting to see the progress of Henry VI as he wound his way: conceived in Serbian, conflicted in Albanian and finally mad in Macedonian."



Tomislav Nikolic - Stuck Between Moscow and Brussels

The leader of the Progressives won the Serbian presidency after serenading the EU - but his hardline supporters still wish he was singing Chetnik anthems.



By Marija Ristic

A former funeral parlour boss and construction technician from Kragujavac, Nikolic has run the presidential race four times in eight years. Despite previous defeats, he has remained on the scene, convinced his time was yet to come. With his surprise win in Sunday's election run-off against outgoing president Boris Tadic, he has been proven right.

Nikolic entered Serbian political life in the late 1980s as a member of the People's Radical Party. As he stated later, he was inspired by the nationalistic ideology of Nikola Pasic, a former Serbian and Yugoslav diplomat and prime minister of the Kingdom of Croats, Serbs and Slovenes, from the early 20th century.

Dissatisfied with his first political engagement, Nikolic founded the Serbian Radical Party in 1991 together with the ultranationalist Vojislav Seselj, and became Seselj's right-hand man. He was elected deputy president of the Radicals three times and was also elected to parliament several times but he has never held a leading position in the state.

Ljiljana Djordjevic, a journalist who has written for several Belgrade-based newspapers and witnessed Nikolic's political evolution, describes him as someone who was in Seselj's shadow for a long time.

"He was always the second one. We journalists remember him from the Serbian parliament, where he usually just supported decisions

made by the party, rarely speaking and when he did speak it was usually in harsh language. And of course, he was the one who always laughed at Seselj's jokes," Djordjevic recalls.

"Even when he was a deputy premier of the government formed by Milosevic's Socialists and Radicals, his role was formal, since all the decisions were made in Milosevic's cabinet," she told BIRN.

Nikolic and his party withdrew from the government when Milosevic signed an agreement in the Macedonian town of Kumanovo in 1999 to end NATO's war with Serbia over Kosovo. Nikolic described the move as a "shameful decision which allowed foreign troops to enter the Serbian territory of Kosovo."

Even though he was a military volunteer for four months during the war in Croatia, allegations by human right activists that he has blood on his hands have never been proved.

When Seselj left for The Hague to stand trial on war crimes charges in 2003, Nikolic took over the party but decisions were still made in consultation with Seselj.

Nikolic has often referred to Seselj as "political father". For his part, Seselj said in 2003 that he was leaving the party "in the hands of the most prominent intellectual and honest politician in Serbia".

But the party run from both Belgrade and The Hague fell apart in 2008 when Nikolic decided to leave the Radicals because they refused to moderate their nationalist image and embrace the European Union.

At the founding assembly of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Nikolic said his party would be "a bridge between East and West". But

he still struck a nationalist note worrying to Serbia's neighbours. He said he party had a future goal of Serbia "forming a union with Republika Srpska" (the Serb-dominated part of Bosnia).

Over time, the SNS has become more EU-oriented and therefore closer to Tadic's Democratic party in terms of its policy profile.

Djordje Vukadinovic, an analyst and politician, says that 2008 was the right time for Nikolic to leave the Radicals as Seselj's influence had waned significantly during more than a five years in prison.

"If he had done it earlier, he would not be as successful as he now is," Vukadinovic added.

Maja Gojkovic, a former party colleague of Nikolic and Seselj, says the two leaders were never true friends, only political allies, and that eventually led to their split.

Political analysts agree that Nikolic made his move partly because he no longer wanted to be a number two but also because he realised that a shift towards the EU was inevitable for Serbia.

"In the 2008 elections, Nikolic lost to Tadic because citizens were choosing between pro and contra-EU politicians, and people widely supported the EU option, believing it could bring them a safer future," Ljiljana Djordjevic said.

"Nikolic than realised he could not gain power unless he accepted a policy of European integration. At the same time, he also dropped the hard nationalistic rhetoric and put on the suit of a moderate politician," she added.

The new Progressives' policy proved successful, allowing Nikolic to defeat Tadic in the presidential election this time around.

As the new president, according to the Serbian constitution, Nikolic



Nikolic supporters celebrate his surprise victory in the presidential elections.

will represent the country abroad, will appoint and recall ambassadors, can veto a proposed law from the parliament, and has the right to recall the parliament and schedule parliamentary elections. The Serbian president is also the Supreme Commander of the Army of Serbia.

Even though world and regional leaders were often cautious in congratulating Nikolic on his victory out of concern that it may harm relations among Balkan states, Djordje Popovic from the Belgrade Center for Security Policy says that the new president will not be a military threat to the regional security despite his nationalist past.

"I believe that he will continue Serbia's current military policy of neutrality. He will be the commander of the Army, but he will not be able to make significant decisions without the parliament and government," Popovic told BIRN.

"The bigger problem that could harm regional cooperation is his reputation as a nationalist, especially in Croatia," he added.

On Kosovo, Nikolic has previously said he would not accept agreements concluded by the last Serbian government. But Popovic said Nikolic could not significantly influence those decisions as they

are guided by the government of Serbia and not the president.

Popovic expects Serbian foreign policy may now shift closer to Russia, the destination for Nikolic's first official presidential visit.

"So far, military cooperation with Russia has been very low, but I would recall that

Nikolic has promised to change this if he becomes the president, and since he chose Russia to visit first, this is a clear sign that the East will be his priority," he added.

However, the true importance of Nikolic's role as the president will be known only after a new government has been formed. If the Socialist party -- the kingmaker after the last round of parliamentary elections -- keeps its promise to form an administration with the Democrats, Serbia will have a form of political cohabitation.

Many experts see this outcome as a good thing for Serbian democracy as the various organs of state would scrutinise each other.

An alternative scenario is that Nikolic's Progressives form a government with the Socialists. That would give Nikolic a bigger influence on policy, even though he has said he would resign as party leader on becoming president.

Serbian Parties Hold Secret Talks on Government

Serbian parties are holding informal talks on forming a government but the Progressives say that official talks will start after Tomislav Nikolic's inauguration.



By Bojana Barlovac

The leadership of the Democratic Party is expected to announce whether their party leader Boris Tadic has made a final decision over their proposal to be the new prime minister.

If Tadic declines, top party officials would propose Dragan Djilas, the outgoing mayor of Belgrade, for the position, as Prishtina Insight had already learned.

This would however mean that Tadic would have to withdraw from the helm of the party, the

same source from the Democrats said.

Both Tadic and Djilas have recently said they are not interested in the post of prime minister. The Socialists, with whom the Democrats have unofficially agreed to form the government, have said that they are fine with either candidate being the country's PM.

The Democrats have remained silent on the issue, not addressing media following the Tadic's loss in the presidential runoff when nationalist Tomislav Nikolic of the Progressives won by 2 per cent.

Tadic was last seen on Wednesday, when he made a private visit to Patriarch Irinej, Head of the Serbian Orthodox Church



Boris Tadic is still in the running to become Prime Minister of Serbia.

in Belgrade.

Meanwhile, Ivica Dacic, the leader of the Socialists said that some Western countries would like for Democrats and Progressives to form the government.

"Some very powerful Western

countries are asking for this through their ambassadors and other diplomats," Dacic told the Serbian daily newspaper 'Press'.

However, Aleksandar Vucic, Deputy Leader of the Progressives, said that official talks on forming a government

will start after Tomislav Nikolic's inauguration.

"Of course there are informal contacts among the parties, but who we are talking to I must keep to myself, because there have been no concrete agreements yet," he told the daily newspaper Danas.



Profile:

Majlinda Kelmendi: Beating the Odds

Quiet but steely, Majlinda Kelmendi is in person as she performs on the Judo mat. The 20-year-old is already an international success story, rising up from her humble background in Peja, western Kosovo, but she still dreams of Olympic gold.



have reported Majlinda's plight, such as BBC and Eurosport, who highlighted her "dream for the Olympiad, which is threatened by Balkan politics".

Majlinda's only now hope to compete in London 2012 is under the Olympic flag, or by competing for another country.

A considerable number of states have offered her citizenship, but she says that she does not want to take that path. "It would be wonderful if I could compete at the Olympiad, but I really hope that I will not be there because of an Olympic invitation, or because I am representing another country. I want to compete like all other athletes, for my country, under my flag."

She was eight years old when she first left the country for a judo competition in Sarajevo. Since then she has won more than 100 titles, including the gold medal at the European Judo championship for juniors in Armenia. In some cases she has had to fight and defeat opponents

who were ten years older than her.

Given the recent political problems in Kosovo, the talented judo fighter has had to compete under the flag of the International Judo Federation for most of her career.

Nevertheless, after her victory in Paris last year, she was awarded the gold medal and declared world champion in the category of under-52 kg, under the Kosovar flag and the Kosovar anthem, after a promise made to her by the chief of the International Judo Federation, Marius Vizer. "It was unbelievable, because more than the victory for myself, I did it for all Albanians," she said.

In a senior match at the World Championship at the beginning of this year in Japan, she was ranked ninth and successfully defended her title as European champion.

Majlinda is not known for talking a lot. She says that it is only when in the sports hall, the arena

and judo mat when she feels completely in her element.

She says that she has inherited the love for sports from her mother, who used to do karate without telling her father – as she was the only woman practising the martial art at that time.

Driton Kuka, her trainer and her "rock" in these preparations for the Olympiad, said that he asked her to forget about boyfriends in order to be completely dedicated to the martial art. "Where we live in Peja, most of the guys would not agree with the many travels Majlinda has to do in order to achieve these successes".

Until today, the economics student has shown strength in judo and also in overcoming many stereotypes in Kosovo society.

Her trainer, Driton Kuka, ex champion of Yugoslavia, has also been her mentor for her whole life.

Majlinda, he says, has become "the most powerful ambassador of our country".



By Bujar Arucaj

Majlinda Kelmendi is the ultimate role model for young Kosovars, demonstrating the values of determination and courage.

She has dedicated 12 of 20 years to the sport of Judo. Now, she hopes to compete for Kosovo at the Olympic Games in London, which will be held between July 27 and August 12.

It is the chance for the blue and yellow of the Kosovo flag to be raised where it has never been

before and to bring home a medal for the new-born state, even if the odds are looking increasingly long for Majlinda. The International Olympic Committee continues to reject Kosovo's calls for membership, stating that it cannot join until it gains a seat at the United Nations.

"Of course it is my aim to win medals in European and world championship," she said, "but my biggest dream is to compete at the Olympic games in London, by representing Kosovo."

In 2010, Majlinda won a gold medal at the Grand Prix in Tunis, the opening round of the qualification process for the Olympic Games, London 2012.

Notable international media

Culture Watch Award Announced

The Balkan Initiative for Cultural Cooperation Exchange and Development, BICCED, funded by the Swiss Cultural Programme in the Western Balkans, is announcing the launch of the first Culture Watch Award.

Journalists from Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia are encouraged to submit stories on any issue related to cultural policy and management published between September 1, 2011 and August 31, 2012. Applications must be received no later than September 30, 2012

through the online application form.

Newspaper, online, television or radio journalists from these countries are expected to submit one serious, investigative and analytical article together with their professional CVs and details of the article's subsequent impact.

For detailed information on eligibility for the Culture Watch Award, application and the selection procedure, please read the full Guidelines before completing the Application Form, available here.

The total prize money is 3,700 Swiss Franks (CHF) less applicable taxes under the law in Bosnia and Herzegovina; this will be divided among the three winners as follows:

First prize: 2,000 CHF
Second prize: 1,200 CHF
Third prize: 500 CHF

The evaluation board may decide not to award a first prize and instead allocate more second or third prizes depending on the quality of submitted articles.

Over the three years of the BICCED project, more than 30 journalists from Albania, Bosnia,

Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo have obtained new skills in reporting on policy and management in the area of culture in the region.

The Culture Watch Award is the next step in strengthening analytical and investigative approaches to reporting on cultural policy.

Applications will be evaluated by a jury comprised of six experts on cultural policy in the region and one internationally awarded journalist.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony in the second half of November 2012.



All interested candidates can apply through online application form, or ask additional question by sending an email to CWAward@birn.eu.com.

Giant Statue of Philip of Macedon Erected in Skopje

A giant 29-metre tall bronze statue of the ancient warrior king, Philip of Macedon, was erected on Tuesday in the heart of the Macedonian capital Skopje amidst a cheering crowd of spectators.



By Sinisa Jakov Marusic

The statue is located in the middle of what will be a lavish complex of four fountains, currently under construction, and faces a similarly sized statue of Alexander the Great on the other side of Skopje's landmark Stone Bridge.

Philip is depicted in a standing position, unlike his son, Alexander, who is on a horse.

The new statue is formally entitled "Warrior with accompanying elements", a rather vague description apparently designed to avoid further upsetting opinion in neighbouring Greece, which claims Philip and Alexander as Greek heroes.

The statue of Alexander is formally entitled "an equestrian warrior".

The statues, albeit with inoffensive titles, are unlikely to help Macedonia's efforts to settle the name dispute with Greece. Last year, Athens sent a protest note after the Alexander statue was unveiled, characterising the government-funded sculpture as a provocation.

"Philip's 13-metre statue was placed on top of a 16-metre pedestal," Skopje's Centar Municipality said in a press release. The pedestal will be covered in marble and bronze reliefs, closely copying the composition of the Alexander statue.

Although the cost of the statue and fountain pedestal beneath it has not been made



The bronze statue of Philip of Macedon is estimated to have cost 9million euro

public, the price tag is estimated at around 9 million Euros, about the sum spent on the statue of Alexander.

The entire square and the buildings around the statue are being comprehensively remodelled, and the nearby shabby-looking Ministry of Transport

is soon to be upgraded with additional floors and its facade revamped in classical styles.

More bronze statues are also planned.

The placing of the new statue in the square was unannounced, and came just one day after the end of the NATO summit in

Chicago where Macedonia once again failed to receive an invitation to join the alliance because Greece is blocking the move as a result of the name dispute between the two countries.

Greece has blocked Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations since 2008, insisting that the name

Macedonia implies territorial claims over its own northern province of the same name.

In an interview this weekend Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski was asked whether he thinks he provoked Greece last year with his decision to go ahead and have the statue of Alexander installed in the centre of Skopje.

"If we irritate them, what word can be used for the things they are doing to us?" he said. "There is no greater irritation than 20 years of blocking, denial, underestimation, financial damage to the people and the country, even tension. This is not irritation, but a crime against a nation and a state."

The statues of Philip and Alexander are centrepieces of "Skopje 2014", a massive government-funded revamp of the capital, which the government says will beautify the shabby-looking city.

Drawing inspiration from the architectural styles of Classical Antiquity, the project envisages the construction of almost 20 buildings, including, museums, theatres, concert halls, hotels and administrative offices.

A number of bronze and marble statues are also being erected to adorn the surroundings, including a triumphant arch and an obelisk.

Macedonian PM Criticised Over NATO Remarks

Macedonian opposition parties have accused Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski of damaging the national interest by unnecessarily antagonizing NATO in a recent interview.

Opposition politicians have called on Prime Minister Gruevski to explain his failure to make progress on Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic objective in the face of Greece's continuing blockade.

In an interview for the Macedonian News Agency, MIA, on Sunday, Gruevski strongly criticized NATO for practising what he described as "double standards" and "selective respect of international law" when it comes to the country's accession.

The interview was published at the weekend just hours before the start of the two-day NATO summit in Chicago where Macedonia, as expected, again failed to secure an invitation to join the alliance, because of the Greek blockade over the name dispute.

"Gruevski went against the interests of Macedonian citizens and personally placed the country in confrontation with NATO," said Igor Ivanovski, parliamentary coordinator of the biggest opposition party, the Social Democrats.



The statue's creator putting the finishing touches to its feet.

Foreign Soaps Push Out Kosovo Productions

Kosovo's domestic soaps are falling victim to cheap imports from Turkey and Latin America.



By Besiana Xharra

Kosovo's three main television stations – KTV, RTV 21 and the public broadcaster RTK – have all but abandoned investing in locally produced shows.

The only local show currently being aired on terrestrial television is “Kafeneja Jone”, Our Cafe, shown on RTK once a week.

Even a show with a huge audience, such as RTK's Familja Moderne, Modern Family in English, was dropped in the summer of 2011. RTK said this was due to a lack of funding.

“RTK cut our broadcast without warning,” Visare Aliu, director of Modern Family, said.

“They just told us that because of the lack of a budget they could no longer support the series.”

While television executives argue that foreign shows are cheaper and more popular than local productions, Kosovar scriptwriters suspect the profit motive is the only factor at play.

Turkish delight:

Meanwhile, Latin American and Turkish soaps are invading the schedules, offering cheaper alternatives to home-grown shows and, according to TV executives, attracting more advertising.

Among the invaders is Turkish serial “Sulltani i Madherisem”, Sultan the Magnificent, broadcast on RTV 21, and “Lala”, broadcast on KTV.

“The main reason why we don't broadcast local serials is to do with finances,” Kastriot Sahatqija of KTV said.

“We don't have enough money to support those shows. Maybe RTK can, because the government funds its budget.”

He added that the public generally prefers foreign series anyway: “Viewers are more interested in foreign shows from Turkey and elsewhere. We know this because we get more advertising for them.”



Kosovo-produced soaps are being dropped for cheap foreign imports. Kafeneja Jone, above, is one of last shows on terrestrial television.

Blerim Ajeti, who is responsible for shows at RTV 21, also claims that the public prefers foreign series, as is the case across the region.

“We haven't received any good offers from any local producers to encourage us to finance their work and, in addition, audiences like foreign serials more,” Ajeti said.

On the other hand, local scriptwriter Arian Krasniqi believes that audiences are being forced to watch foreign soaps, rather than there being an especially strong demand for them.

Shows commissioned - and then axed:

At the beginning of 2011, RTK opened a public tender to find new locally produced programmes.

Three series - two dramas and a comedy - were picked, “Qyteti pa Lum”, City without a River, “Shtepia Ime”, My House, and “Lagjia e Re”, New Neighbourhood.

But when their first contracts with RTK ran out the shows were axed. In the meantime, in late 2011 the government had cut the RTK budget.

“The reason why we didn't continue with the series had to do

with the budget being cut by 2.7 million euro,” Bekim Hasani, programme director at RTK, recalled.

Ilir Kabashi, director of “Qyteti pa Lum”, who produced 27 episodes, says the problem was not only financial; Kosovo television producers don't really want to support local production, he maintains.

“These television stations should be promoting and supporting local shows,” he says.

“It would be better to present our [Albanian] good and bad aspects through such series rather than promoting unimportant cultural aspects of various other countries,” Kabashi adds.

Lirak Qelaj, a scriptwriter for “Lagja e Re”, believes that local productions are more popular than they are given credit for.

He has never received any viewing figures for his show, but says that when it was broadcast the feedback was excellent.

“The main problem here has to do with money,” he said. “To make a local series is completely different from buying a series from abroad.”

“The Kosovo TV budget cannot support us financially and we have can't find other sponsors, which may have to do with the

economic crisis that Kosovo is dealing with,” he said.

Audience figures absent:

Blerim Ajeti, from RTV 21, says his station hasn't conducted market research on the sizes of audiences of shows.

“But we know that the public wants more foreign shows because of the advertising that we get during their transmission time,” Ajeti added.

Kastriot Sahatqija, of KTV, said that his station also has no audience figures.

“We haven't done any surveys but there are two reasons why we don't transmit local series,” he says. “One is that local series are more expensive than foreign ones, and other is that KTV gets more benefits more from foreign series, because during transmission we get more advertising, which means profits.”

Luan Morina, who runs website called telekomanda.com, which monitors television in Kosovo, agrees.

He carries out surveys based on the number of comments he receives on a particular programme.

“Turkey's ‘Lala’, on KTV, is very popular with audience. People love

this show,” he says. “They love also ‘Sulltan, on RTV-21.”

“Kafeneja Jone”, broadcast on RTK, remains the most popular locally produced show.

Light at the end of the cable:

But while terrestrial TV is pulling out, Kujtesa, one of the country's main cable providers, is stepping in.

This year it launched three Albanian series, “Kombinati”, “Andrrat”, and “Akademiku”. The cast of “Kombinati” are mostly from the now defunct “Familija Moderne”.

Arber Arifi, director of Kutjesa in Kosovo, said that he is interested in local shows, as audiences still love them.

He admits they can be costly.

“It is expensive, because you need to finance a large group,” he says.

“There are not just actors; there are a lot of staff working on a series. But it's worth it because we see that our clients love these shows.”

This article is funded under the BICCED project, supported by the Swiss Cultural Programme.

Pirate Bay Founder Visits Kosovo

A co-founder of one of the world's most visited website – the controversial Pirate Bay file-sharing system – was due to speak in Prishtina last night.



By Lawrence Marzouk

Peter Sunde Kolmisoppi, the co-founder of the controversial “The Pirate Bay”, was due to speak at an event organised by Innovation Centre Kosovo and

Open Software group FLOSSK last night.

This is his second visit to Kosovo to attend the Innovation Centre's Startup Weekend, during which digital entrepreneurs are given the chance to turn their ideas into real businesses.

Sunde will share his experience with the participants and offer them advice. He is also the founder

of Flattr, the first real social micropayment and money sharing service.

Pirate Bay is currently ranked as the 71st most visited website in the world and 12th in Sweden, according to Alexa Internet. It has over five million registered users and as of May 2012 hosts over four million torrents.

According to the Los Angeles

Times, Pirate Bay is “one of the world's largest facilitators of illegal downloading” and “the most visible member of a burgeoning international anti-copyright or pro-piracy movement”.

The Pirate Bay website has been blocked by many governments, despite the relative ease by which such censorship can be circumvented in most countries.



Peter Sunde is visiting Kosovo

New Secrets of Ancient Times Emerge in Butrint

Archeologists are unearthing an important new building in the UNESCO-protected ancient city in Albania, which could shed fresh light on the life of the Roman colony.



By Besar Likmeta

Time travel might normally be the theme of science fiction novels - but walks in the ancient city of Butrint, from the Hellenistic theater, built in the 4th century BC, to the Roman basilica located only metres away, certainly come close.

Dating back as far as the 10th century BC, Butrint was a Greek colony, a Roman city and a Byzantine bishopric before being deserted in the late Middle Ages, after which its magnificent buildings sank into the marshes.

Located on a bluff overlooking the Vivari canal, which connects Lake Butrint with the Ionian Sea, near Albania's southern border with Greece, the city is one the most significant Classical archaeological sites in the Mediterranean.

"The fact that the city was uninhabited during the modern period, from the 16th century at the time of the Venetians, means that what we have is an example of what happened in the Mediterranean on the course of 2,500 years," says David Hernandez, an archeologist from the University of Notre Dame, who has been digging in Butrint for ten years.



Albanian archeologist Dhimiter Condi

"What we are looking at is not just the Roman forum although that's the central complex, but rather the Mediterranean during this period of time," he added, while standing on the edge of a new excavation where the ruins of a new building are emerging from the ground.

Excavations in Butrint began in the late 1920s, under the auspices Italian Archeologist Luigi Maria Ugolini.

Still largely unknown to the outside world before the fall of the Stalinist regime of Enver Hoxha, Butrint was designated as World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1992.

According to Rajmond Kola, Director of the Butrint Archeological Park, 82,000 tourists

visited Butrint in 2011.

The 24-metre-long building that is now being excavated occupies the western end of the Roman forum, which in the Antique period was the centre of the Roman colony.

Because of its size and location, Hernandez believes that the building is most likely a basilica or temple dedicated to the Jupiter, Juno and Minerva.

In all likelihood it was the most important structure of the city during the Roman period, comparable only to the theatre, which was built during the Hellenistic period.

If the building turns out to be a Capitoline temple, it is likely to have been built by the colonists to mimic or recreate the Capitoline temple in Rome, in a similar fashion to the city of Pompeii.

The basilica would have had multiple functions, but the most important was judicial, where the magistrates of the city would have dispensed judgments and held courts.

"Given the dimensions of the building, as they are merging from the ground, it's a very long building; it seems to occupy one end of the forum all the way to the other, and starts to look to me at this stage like a basilica," Hernandez says.

"Basilicas became the framework for the construction of churches in late Antiquity, so this building might have been a central church as well and could also be one of the earlier churches at Butrint," he explains.

"This could give us insight into the conversion of the city from a pagan Roman centre to one centered on the Christian religion," he adds.

Dhimiter Condi, an Albanian archeologist who has worked in Butrint for four decades, says that even the famous inscriptions found in Butrint, which are in the form of decrees, may have come from the building currently under excavation.

"These inscriptions are a sort of



Remains of the 6th-century baptistry

library for Butrint because they tell us about the toponymy of the city, the name of the military commander - its prefect," Condi says.

"Most importantly [their study] has delineated the distinction between the Hellenistic and the Epirus culture," he adds.

According to Hernandez the dig will provide important answers concerning the nature of Roman colonization of Epirus.

Colonists came from Rome to Butrint in 44BC, occupied it and came to dominate the city. But, over time, archeologists have noticed that they merged with the indigenous population into a single community.

"It is interesting to witness this phenomenon, because it was one that involves cultural integration, where Roman ideals and ideals that existed here kind of fused," Hernandez says.

"In terms of the development of the forum over time and the kind of information we get, we want to know what happened to the Roman colony and what was the nature of the relationship between these two groups," he adds.

Butrint was an important port in Antiquity and the materials archeologist have found during their excavation came from all across the Mediterranean, serving as a form of time capsule about the nature of trade interconnectivity.

According to Hernandez,

because Butrint is located in an area that was uninhabited for centuries, it is almost unique and very different from most other archaeological sites.

"What we witness is the death



David Hernandez

and destruction of a city, which we are now trying to piece together, and [at the same time] we are surrounded by intense vegetations, birds and trees," Hernandez notes.

"There is that contrast between life and death that you really don't see in many other archaeological sites, creating a magical environment for the visitor," he concludes.

This article is funded under the BICCED project, supported by the Swiss Cultural Programme.



Archeologist unearthing a new building

UK's Grimshaw Architects Wins Major Project in Tirana

The London-based architecture studio Grimshaw has won the urban planning competition for the expansion of Tirana's main boulevard, one of the city's most ambitious plans in decades.



By Besar Likmeta

Presenting the new expansion project of the city on Monday, Mayor Lulzim Basha said that the project was key to the city's development and

construction would also create much-needed jobs.

"The project for the new boulevard and the Tirana River is the most important implemented in the city in the past 80 years in view of the challenges it faces and that it aims to overcome," Basha said.

"The project will have an immediate impact in creating thousands of jobs for Tirana's citi-

zens," he added.

Albania's capital has become a victim of its own phenomenal growth in the past two decades with the construction boom restricting public space and imposing increasing traffic problems on the city.

Founded in 1980, Grimshaw's international portfolio covers all major sectors of architecture and the firm has been honoured with



Grimshaw's design for Tirana, Albania

over 150 international design awards including the prestigious Lubetkin Prize.

The project, which foresees the construction of a new neighbour-

hood with green technologies for transportation and energy, was the winner among six other bids from international architecture studios.

Where to pick up Prishtina Insight?

Prishtina Insight has teamed up with these excellent venues to offer a limited number of complimentary copies of Kosovo's only English-language newspaper. Grab a copy of the publication and settle down with a drink or a meal to read it.

A taste of Napoli in Prishtina.

After ten years of making pizza in Napoli, and only with love to blame, Fatmir the chef returned to Prishtina. His pizzas, made in a woodburn stove, are definitely genuine napolitanas. For those who consider pizza to be boring, Fatmir has several pastas on offer, also a true joy for the taste buds. Napoli has an excellent selection of red and white wines or, for the more ambitious, one of the region's best quince raki. Napoli makes for delicious lunch, dinner or even after-theatre time out in the centre of Prishtina.



Pizzeria Napoli
off Luan Haradinaj, opposite Newborn
044/409-402402

Hotel Prishtina

Hotel Prishtina's 43 charming guest rooms and suites are reminiscent of a small hotel in the European tradition. You'll immediately feel at home in our living room, sipping a glass of wine in our fine restaurant surrounded by a gallery of paintings by local artists.

The hotel offers free, fast wifi internet, complimentary breakfast, conference room, swimming pool, sauna and laundry service.



Hotel AFA

Located in a quiet neighbourhood just outside the city centre, Hotel Afa can guarantee guests a peaceful night while being within walking distance of all the action. The venue has won a host of awards for its excellent service to customers and offers a good range of facilities, from an exclusive restaurant and VIP bar to pretty, tranquil gardens. Rooms start at 45 euro for a single, and luxury rooms and apartments are available. The hotel's rooms are well appointed and comfortable.

15, Rr Ali Kelmendi,
Sunny Hill, Prishtina
+381 38/225 226
www.hotelafa.com



Te Komiteti

Te Komiteti's large trees and a beautifully garden, which surround the small outdoor terrace, give you an impression of an exclusive place for ordinary people. And this is exactly what it is. From brunch to lunch-time snacks and special evening meals, this restaurant offers dishes comprising quality, varied ingredients, combined to perfection. Alongside one of Prishtina's best 'modern European' style menus, you'll also find a good selection of wine, and great sangria and cocktails.

Te Komiteti
Qamil Hoxha Street
Prishtina
+381 38 24 96 63



Restorant Brasserie Lura

At 450-metres squared Restaurant Lura is as spacious as you get in Prishtina. It's also surrounded by the towering trees of Germia and offers a pleasant garden where, in the summer, this eatery prepares food al fresco. It's large meeting room is also ideal for that private lunch or dinner.

The combined style of classical and modern interior leaves you with an impression of refined taste.

The newly opened restaurant is already famous for its Mediterranean specialties, exquisite seafood and fine selections of Italian, French and local wines. But that's not all, for music lovers, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night dinners are accompanied by jazz, whereas on Saturdays local patriots can enjoy live traditional Albanian music.

Lura Restaurant
Str. Nazmi Gaffuri • 10 000 Prishtina • +381 (0)38 763 763 ;
+386 (0)49 763 763 • www.lurarestaurant.com
info@lurarestaurant.com



Paddy O'Brien's

The staff at Paddy O'Brien's have a saying: "It's easy to walk in, but very hard to leave."

And with its warm atmosphere, fantastic range of drinks and excellent food, it is easy to see why.

There have been many attempts to establish a proper Irish pub in Prishtina, but this is the only one to hit the spot.

From classic coffees to cocktails, via, of course, Guinness, you really won't find it difficult to select the perfect drink.

A mouth-watering menu of Irish specialties is also on offer, spanning from all-day breakfasts to Irish stews at night.

Options include shepherd's pie, bangers and mash, fish 'n chips, and whopping great burgers.

Thursday is pub quiz night, but there is always something going on at the pub, whether it is sport screenings or just a good shindig.



Paddy O'Brien's
Tringe Smajli Street, by the Illyria Hotel
Prishtina: 045-420900

Papillon Bistro Bar

Newly reopened bar in Prishtina, Papillon, offers more than 60 types of wines from France, Italy, Spain, and Kosovo with ideal prices and delicious dishes.

They serve pasta, sandwiches, salads and different appetizers.

You can also try different types of local or international beers.

The bar, with its stunning, new design, is located in the centre of Prishtina, near ProCredit Bank headquarter, RTK radio centre, and the Mother Teresa cathedral.

Papillon
Mother Teresa Str. Nr. 51 A
info@caffepapillon.com
044 103 310





In The Land Of Blood and Honey
Every day at 6 pm

Kino ABC is continuing screening the movie “In the land of blood and honey” by the director Angelina Jolie. During the Bosnian War, Danijel, a soldier fighting for the Serbs, re-encounters Ajla, a Bosnian who's now a captive in his camp he oversees. Their once promising connection has become ambiguous as their motives have changed.



Men in Black 3
Every day at 8 pm and 10 pm

From May 24 ABC Cinema has started screening the movie “Men in Black 3”, directed by Barry Sonnenfeld. This comedy is about agents J and K who go back in time. J had seen many strange things, but nothing irritates him more than his partner. But, when K's life and the planet are in danger, J must go back in time, and put everything back in its own place.



For any further questions or reservations call at 038 243 238 or visit them at www.kinoabc.com

Festival of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Culture

Friday, May 25, 2012

12:00 – 14:00 Debate: Kosovo, the EU and the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians – Achievements, shortcomings and the way forward, Sheshi 21, Prishtina
20:00 – 22:00 Concert: Esmā Redzepova and Teodosievski Orchestra, Emerald Hotel, Prishtina
Saturday, May 26, 2012
18:00 – 19:00 Improvised theatre performance, “Adriana Abdullahu” Theatre, Ferizaj/Uroševac
19:00 – 21:00 Theatre performance: The dream not to be reality, Dodona Theatre, Prishtina
Sunday, May 27, 2012



18:00 – 20:00 Short movie projections, Community Center Brekoc, Gjakovë/Djakovica

Kosova Art Gallery

May 30, 2012 – July 30, 2012
Muslim Mulliqi Prize
International Exhibition 2012 / 9th Edition / by Galit Eilat & Charles Esche

Visit the gallery and you will have the opportunity to see the works of the artists: Adrian Paci (AL/IT), Albert Heta (KOS), Arben Elshani (KOS), Aya Ben Ron (IL), Bert Theis (LU/IT), Danica Daki (BiH/DE), Deimantas Narcevicius (LT), Dren Maliqi (KOS), Driton Hajredini (KOS), Edi Hila (AL), Fatos Kabashi (KOS), Joanna Billing (SE), Josef Darbenig (AT), Laurent Mareschal (FR), Luan Bajraktari (KOS), Majlinda Hoxha (KOS), Mark Lewis (CA/UK), Mehmet Behluli (KOS), Orhan Kurtolli (KOS), Özlem Günlol and Mustafa Kunt (TR), Petrit Halilaj (KOS/DE), Praneet Soi (IN/NL), Qëndrese Deda (KOS), Šejla Kameri (BiH/DE), Shpend Havolli (KOS), Tanja Lažeti (SLO), Vadim Fishkin (RU/SLO), Vangelis Gokas (GR), Yael Bartana (IL)



Prishtina Diary

Friday, May 25, 2012
@Te Veni, Pejton Area
Genc Salihu with Visar Kuci playing unplugged music
For reservations call 045 36 12 10
Friday, May 25, 2012
No school like old school!
CREME DE LA CREME starts at: 21:00
music: Dagg & Taste 2
Creme de la Creme are back with hip hop! Besides hip hop there's an after party going on

following the Startup Weekend Prishtina.
<http://prishtina.startupweekend.org/>
Saturday, June 2, 2012
TELEX Group Concert in Prishtina
Square 21, from 11 pm
Well-known rock band from Skopje Telex is returning to Prishtina with a live performance, after 25 years. The Concert will be held at Square 21. Tickets cost only 4 euro and you can buy them at Square 21.

THIS IS (AN) A FRONT: Henry

Friday, May 25, 2012,
7:00 - 9:00 pm at Stacion – Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina

YTSSP / Dylan Gauthier
A member of the American artist collaborative Red76, Dylan Gauthier is also a professor, sailor, boat builder, peripatetic activist, and along with his partner, Kendra Sullivan, a publisher of contemporary avant-garde poetry. Gauthier and Sullivan reside in Greenpoint, a Polish enclave of Brooklyn, New York.

Saturday, May 26, 2012,
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Skype Presentation from **Madame and Birthday Party for Cece MacDonald**
Madame is a collectively run radical gay space located in south Minneapolis, Minnesota for dis-

cussions, drag shows, punk concerts, and more.

Sunday, May 27, 2012,
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Skype Presentation with **Gabriel Mindel Saloman on Harry Hay and the Radical Fairies.**

A long time member of Red76, and member of the now defunct seminal noise duo Yellow Swans, Gabriel Mindel Saloman is an artist, writer, activist, lecturer, and accomplished musician. For his talk Mindel Saloman will expand upon a recent essay, which has appeared in different forms within the Journal of Radical Shimming and the Journal of Aesthetics and Protest, on the queer activist Harry Hay, his philosophy, and its effects.

Monday, May 28, 2012,
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Reading group and book pro-

Oda Theatre

Every Tuesday at 8 pm
Tre Gjermanët e Trashë II
(Three Fat Germans II)

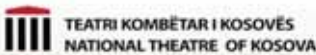


Thanks to this play you will understand “What did Brigel say when he asked for a drink?”; “Why Hans didn’t let him drink Mojito?”; “How did Gani experience his 21st snow?”; “Is Vukashin really Ukshin?”; “Does KFOR-ja still work for KFOR or she just loves him?”; “How did Hekuran boil eggs in the middle of the North Pole?”; These and other events you can see in the play “Tre Gjermanët e Trashë II”.
Author: Lirak Celaj; **Producer:** Florent Mehmeti; **Roles:** Naser Rafuna, Adrian Morina, Kushtrim Sheremeti, Lirak Celaj, Fisnik Ademi, Ard Islami, Arta Selimi, Florent Mehmeti.

If It Was a Play - Every Thursday 8pm

Based on the drama by Almir Imshireviq. Director: Agon Myftari. On bus number 4, during wartime in Prishtina, a 26 years old, wearing jeans, is near Hotel Union, when a sniper bullet breaks the glass and shoots the youngster in the neck. A lady wearing white, who was next to him starts to scream. When she sees the blood in her shirt she faints. Two hours later she is seen again at the Great Mosque, near caffè “Romantika”, but this time in the company of a younger friend who tells her “I sometimes do it even fourteen times!”
Starring Rebeka Qena, Adrian Morina, Armend Ismajli, Besnik Krapic.
For more information call +381 (0)38 246 555 or write oda@teatrioda.com.

National Theatre



Friday, May 25, 2012

Ballet “Dasma” [The Wedding]
Choreography by Mehmet Ballkan
The play will be repeated on Saturday, May 26, 2012, 8 pm, and Thursday, May 31, 2012.
Monday, May 28, 2012
“Lisistrata” a play by Aristofanes, directed by Elmaze Nura
Lisistrata is one of the few surviving plays written by Aristophanes. Originally performed in classical Athens in 411 BC, it is a comic account of one woman's extraordinary mission to end The Peloponnesian War. Lysistrata persuades the women of Greece to withhold sexual privileges from their husbands and lovers as a means of forcing the men to negotiate peace — a strategy, however, that inflames the battle between the sexes.
Tuesday, May 29, 2012
“Art” a play by Yasmina Reza, directed by Saranda Elshani.
Wednesday, May 30, 2012
“House for Auction” [Shtëpia në ankand] written and directed by Fadil Hysaj.
*All plays are in Albanian language, and tickets cost 3 euro; for students and retired people tickets are only 1 euro.
For any further questions or reservations call them at 044 430 693 visit them at www.teatrikombetar.eu*

duction. First rehearsal for Houseboat Summit production.
In late 1969 the San Francisco, California based periodical The SF Oracle brought together Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder, Timothy Leary, and Alan Watt for a discussion on Watts houseboat to consider the present psychic and political enclaves of the American Left.

HENRY will be open from 3 pm Friday - Monday.
This is (An) a Front - Henry
Ongoing from May 13 until June 15, 2012

Where does power reside? What do we do when confronted by power? How do we react? Do we address these inequities directly or retreat? Is retreating running away, or could we consider new spaces and relationships, autonomous zones, in which to realize a more equitable way to coexist?
This project is a part of the

smARTpower program, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs that is administered by the Bronx Museum of the Arts.

What do you have to bring to this conversation?
The space is yours.
smARTpower is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the Bronx Museum of the Arts, with additional support from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation; and Lori Schiff Chemla and ALTOUR.

Stacion - Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina
Zija Prishtina Street
10000 Prishtine
Tel.: +381-(0)38-222-576
Fax: +381-(0)38-544-472
E-mail: info@stacion.org
www.stacion.org

Concert Held in Prishtina's Orthodox Church



The first concert to be held at the St Nicholas Church, Prishtina, since the March 2004 riots, took place this week.

Ethno duet the Teofilovic Brothers played at the partially restored church, which was badly damaged in the unrest.

Around fifty young Serbs and representatives of the international community were present. Pastor Darko Marinkovic called for displaced Serbs

to return to Prishtina. In 1999, about 40,000 Serbs lived in the Kosovo capital while the figure is estimated today in the low hundreds.

Putting the Pristine back



Prishtina often fails to live up to its pristine name, but one neighbourhood is setting an example for cleanliness in the city.



By Bujar Aruqaj

Thousands of people took to the streets yesterday as part of the "Let's do it Kosovo" initiative to clean up the country.

But for the Aliu neighborhood, in the "Kodra e Trimit" suburb of Prishtina, or the so called "Lagjia e Artistëve", this kind of action is a daily occurrence.

Flowers and grass abound, the streets are lit properly and the roads are spotless.

The six houses along one of the streets are owned by seven brothers, one of whom lives in Germany and the other in Great Britain.

All work in the construction industry and the family has put their profession to good use in transforming the area - the street lights, phone cables, internet,

sewage system and more were installed by the family since they moved to Prishtina from Podujeva in the 50s.

"We have done it all ourselves," said Muharrem Aliu, one of the seven brothers. "The municipality did nothing here, except for the road, and even the road was ready, they just had to put the asphalt on top of it."

He added: "It does not matter if you live in the countryside or in the middle of the centre. A clean environment is necessary and it is the citizens' duty to clean their place, not only the institution."

During the harsh last winter, many of the nearby roads were blocked so the family stepped in to clean up. "Since we have heavy vehicles, we decided to clean the whole neighborhood and the main street as well," said Nexhip Aliu, one of the older brothers.

For more than nine years the family has contributed with their own money, but most importantly with their time, to make this neighborhood look good.



Papillon: Prishtina's Phoenix from the Ashes



By Donjeta Demolli

Papillon has reopened its doors after the fire which gutted the restaurant last year.

The venue has now emerged from its cocoon as, its name in French suggests, a beautiful but-

terfly.

Now a modern Bistro bar, Papillon offers a comfortable, fresh and quiet environment.

The metal chairs and an urban interior give it a feel unlike any other café in Prishtina.

For those who are nostalgic for the old place, an installation of the old chairs has been created in the corner.

Papillon has expanded its lunch menu since its relaunch and has

included a dinner menu adding pasta, pizza, steaks and fish.

Behind the long bar, you can pick up many famous international wines such as Barollo, Amarone, Primitivo, as well as the Kosovo varieties.

Food prices range from 2 to 5 euro.

Mother Teresa Str. Nr. 51 A
info@caffepapillon.com
044 103 310

into Prishtina



"This place was completely destroyed during the war. There was an economics high school here, but it was completely damaged and we had to rebuild all of our houses and the yards," said Muharem.

The whole neighborhood works

in the family business and everybody helps with the cleaning, he said. Muharrem admits that there is still work to be done, like the garden of one of his brothers who does not live in Kosovo, but says that overall he is proud of the area.

Even the bins were bought by the

family and now the cleaning company comes every Monday and pick up the rubbish.

"Clean like in Switzerland" says Muharrem Aliu, "why can't it be possible here as well. They are also only people. We are people as well," he said,

Prishtina through the Eyes of:

Dana Landau

volunteer at UNDP Office



What surprised you most about Prishtina?

How many languages the waiters, taxi drivers and cleaners speak (especially compared to all the "educated people").

What's your favourite hangout?

Dit'e'Nat in winter, City Park in summer.

What is the best thing about Prishtina?

Its people. And how the city has an entirely different character in each season, which makes me appreciate nature much more than I did before.

What is the most annoying thing about Prishtina?

Indoor smoking. Indoor smoking around children. Pregnant women smoking.

If you were mayor of Prishtina for the day what would you change?

I would enforce the Gender Equality Law in the municipality and in all businesses operating in Prishtina. Having more women in the work force would not only be good for women, but also for the running of the institutions and companies. I'd also try to ensure proper building standards for new constructions, build cycle lanes on the roads, work on a reliable public transportation system, build more playgrounds, provide free and confidential reproductive health information and free contraceptives to all. Sounds ambitious? Ok, I'll settle for enforcing the smoking ban.

How many macchiatos do you drink a day?

One or two - trying to quit.

What's your favourite Albanian word and why?

I like that people call each other my heart and my eyes and my spirit when they want to show affection.

What landmark do you use to tell taxi drivers where you live?

For some reason all the taxi drivers know the name of my street, but no one else does.

Macedonians Behave! Tourists are coming



By Ana Petruseva

The Macedonian government is into massive campaigns. Sometimes it is to advertise how hard it is working, which we all know it does 24/7, but mostly it is to tell its humble citizens the difference between right and wrong, and most importantly educate Macedonians how to behave, as they don't seem to fit the high standards of the government.

They range from messages to help a girl in your neighbourhood who is attacked, (as if that wouldn't occur to anyone prior to seeing this video) to videos about how you should not throw out garbage bags from your terrace on the 5th floor, how you should greet your neighbours, to elaborate, gruesome videos about the effects of different kinds of drugs, to puzzling videos with massive scenes showing the might of Alexander the Great and what happens to traitors who question his strategy.

Dozens of promotional videos and different campaigns have been done since 2006. They include: "Open your heart" (basic social skills surely?) "Say no to drugs" (five videos about four different drugs and one that shows you'll have a lovely life if you don't take drugs) "Macedonia Timeless" (campaign for CNN, advertising Macedonian wine, food etc) and a campaign to inspire people to start businesses etc.

Countless euros later we come to the icing of the cake. Many of the aforementioned promotional videos have been ill-thought, absurd and offensive but none has been as disturbing as the government campaign on tourism that went viral on Thursday.

In six one-minute videos, an "Australian", a mockery of the late Steve Irwin, presents viewers with several Macedonian endemic species such as a bed and breakfast owner, a Macedonian alpha male and a taxi driver. Two videos are devoted to a lakeside waiter,

one to a open market trader. To top it all, the final video is of a "Training centre for tourists heading to Macedonia", which features what looks like a military training centre, where people wearing T-shirts reading Survive Macedonia are awoken at 3am by brass bands and told they need to get used to the noise in Macedonia.

Each video, after it portrays Macedonians as rude, thieving, aggressive and lazy, is followed by a message from the almighty government: We must not allow this to be the picture of Macedonia.

You think? One, it is completely unclear who this message is for in the first place.

The videos are in English, with subtitles in Macedonian and the end messages from the government are again in Macedonian. So, is the government in fact telling Macedonians that they are rude, aggressive and lazy thieves, or are they addressing potential tourists? Come to Macedonia - we won't allow you to have a shower, you'll never be able to catch a waiter, you'll get ripped off at the market?!

How such messages could have any positive impact is beyond me. We have all had our fair share of "experiences" in Ohrid but that is not the entire picture for Ohrid, or the entire country for that matter. To generalize like this, and concentrate on a few bad apples is outrageous and unfair.

However, I doubt that the creators of this campaign put any serious thought into this or realised the true damage they are doing. As the "creative" minds behind this campaign had no clue about what they were up to, the government had a duty to step in and prevent this embarrassing, insulting and foolish adventure. Or did they just transfer yet another business to a friendly company, no questions asked? All paid by taxpayers' money, of course.

Now these videos are out there. The government should not be surprised if they have only ended up feeding the same stereotypes they attempted to stigmatise.



German Remembrance of



Besar Likmeta

Without a culture of remembrance of the victims who perished during the Balkans wars or withered in communist gulags, our recent and painful history is doomed to kindle hatred in the future.

When Ratko Mladic, the former Bosnian Serb military leader was arrested on May 26, 2011 in the small village of Lazarevo near Zrenjanin, I remember Serbia's President Boris Tadic appearing on television in a press conference that was broadcast across the world with a message for its neighbors with whom Serbia fought bloody wars in the 1990s.

"Today we close one chapter of our recent history which will bring us closer to full reconciliation in the region," Tadic said, after announcing Mladic had been arrested.

"I believe every other country must be responsible for closing its own chapters," he added.

The arrest of one of the world's most wanted fugitives for over a decade, indicted by the UN war crimes tribunal for genocide and crimes against humanity, was greeted across the region.

But the fact that many Serbs do not view him as a war criminal but as a hero underscores the fact that the prospects of lasting reconciliation in the Balkans remain cloudy.

The dissolution of the former Yugoslavia was marked by gross human rights violations. More than 20 years after the start of the Bosnian Serb siege of Sarajevo, the legacy of this violent past lingers, endangering the full enjoyment of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The return to normalcy has been too slow and some societies in the Balkans remain polarised along ethnic lines. Far from being a closed chapter, as some Balkan politicians would like to think, the need for justice as well as reconciliation remains pressing.

As Germany's example shows, delays in dealing with one's violent totalitarian past shows serve no purpose, while a carefully crafted culture of remembrance can teach lessons to future generations and serve as the best remedy to thwart future conflicts.

Ignorant of Recent Past

A 2009 survey conducted by IPSOS, the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights and the OSCE, demonstrates how little young Serbs know about their country's recent past.

According to this survey, only roughly half of 16-23-year-old Serbs are aware that Serbian snipers killed many civilians in the siege of Sarajevo. Only 27 per cent of those surveyed knew about the rape of women by Serbian forces in Foca, eastern Bosnia, in 1992.

Almost a quarter of the same age group had never heard of the massacre of some 8,000 Bosniaks, [Muslims] in Srebrenica in July



Holocaust Memorial in Berlin

1995, Europe's worst massacre since the Second World War.

A poll conducted in the eve of Mladic's arrest said 51 per cent of Serbs would oppose the extradition of Mladic to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, if he was arrested. Only 7 per cent said they would tip off the authorities as to his whereabouts and take the €10 million reward.

"Our recent history is unpleasant and is full of the questions that don't have answers and obviously they [young people] are not provided with the answers," Olga Pintar, a History Professor at Belgrade University, said.

According to Pintar, most of the information that young Serbs obtain about Serbia's recent past comes from schools, where they learn only the basic facts, because historians both lack new interpretations and also quarrel about what happened.

The void in interpretation about the past is filled by the media and their families in a public space that remains polarized, often spilt among ethnic lines.

"Young people are always the most successful part of the society to be manipulated because with the wrong vision of the past you will certainly have a wrong future," Pintar warned.

Teaching the Nazi Past in Germany

In Germany it is very different. After the Nuremberg trials of top Nazi officials held immediately after the end of the war, it took decades for Germany to start prosecuting other ex-members of the SS or the Nazi party accused of war crimes.

When the Buchenwald memorial was opened in 1958, in what was then the Communist German

Democratic Republic, the former concentration camp was presented as the centre of a fight by Communist prisoners against Nazi Fascism, with the message that imperialism was not over.

In the framework of this Cold War ideology, no space was left to remember the fate of the Jews, [as well as homosexuals and Roma] who made up the bulk of the camp victims.

In West Germany, meanwhile, economic progress and integration into Europe was deemed more important than dealing with the past and bringing perpetrators of war crimes to trial.

A memorial site like Buchenwald would not exist in West Germany for many years after Buchenwald was opened.

Thomas Isensee, a history teacher in one of Berlin's public schools, says teaching the young about Nazi crimes started too late in Germany.

It took the student revolt of 1968 before traditional values were questioned and difficult questions placed in the forefront of public debate.

"There were no prosecutions for war crimes until the late Fifties, when the first big Auschwitz trial in Frankfurt was held," Isensee said.

"In many other cases it was clear that the state attorneys and bureaucracy did everything to slow things down, so people died and all the papers got lost," he added.

"They could have been tried much earlier but the higher-ups in the administration covered up for them."

Isensee remembers that during the height of the Nazi trails in Germany in the Seventies, many of his students would come up in class with questions about their families' versions of history.

Dark Past Holds Lessons for Balkans



“Sigurimi.”

Years after the regime collapsed in 1991, thousands of former political prisoners remain in the dark about the people and forces who orchestrated their imprisonment.

Albania is one of the few former Iron Curtain countries that has yet to open the Communist-era archives of its security services. Despite several attempts in the past two decades, measures to shed light on one of the darkest chapters of the country's history have been plague by political infighting.

As in Communist East Germany, where 250,000 people out of the population of 17 million cooperated with the “Stasi” secret police, countless Albanians for a variety of reasons cooperated with the Sigurimi whose files were conveniently destroyed as the regime collapsed in 1991.

The rest of the papers gather dust in archives, unlike the position in unified Germany, which has opened its files to the public so that everyone can access their personal files, and see who was spying on them in the past.

Like the fate of the secret police files, Albania's former prison camps or gulags either lie in ruins or have been transformed into modern detention centres, erasing the memory of the thousand of detainees that were incarcerated during Hoxha's regime.

However, in Germany some sites, like the former Stasi detention centre Hohenschönhausen in Berlin, made famous in the 2006 film *The Lives of Others*, have been transformed into memorials.

Lutz Hildebrandt, who now gives guided tours of the prison, which had been previously used by the Nazi's and the Soviet Red Army, before the Stasi took over, is a former prisoner arrested in 1967.

Pulled directly from the street from Stasi officers for ripping a propaganda poster, he would serve fourteen months in the prison with no idea where he was and little communication with the outside world.

“The interrogators were normally the only people you would meet during the time in prison,” Hildebrandt said.

Hildebrandt recalls that the prisoners were called by the number of their cells and the guards would not call them by name, while the only communications with other prisoners came by tapping in the walls of their cells. Books, mostly of communist propaganda, were the only way to pass the detention time.

“Once angry with one of the books I was given to read I wrote with my fingernails ‘bullshit’ in its cover,” Hildebrandt remembers. “When the Berlin Wall fell and I was allowed to view my Stasi file, there was a picture of that book in the file with my inscription on it,” he added.

wherever you dig you find authentic sites about the first and second dictatorship,” Klemke added, referring to the Third Reich and the GDR.

Berlin it's not the only city in the world who profits from its war-torn past. A boom in ‘war tourism’ in the former Yugoslavia is seeing regional travel agencies in recent years draw up nifty ways of how to profit from interest in the bloody conflicts of the 1990s.

Hundreds of tours are drawn up every year in Sarajevo, for western tourists who want a glimpse on how Sarajevans survived the siege of the Bosnian capital – one of the longest in modern history. Srebrenica and the Croatian city of Vukovar also feature in itineraries.

German film director Robert Thalheim, explored the paradox between commemorating past crimes and the tourists industry in its 2007 autobiographical drama, *Along Came a Tourist*, which follows the fate of the former prisoner of the Auschwitz extermination camp, in Poland.

“It's a dilemma, it has both sides and we to have deal with the dilemma,” Thalheim said speaking of the former extermination camp. “It's important that we don't act as if it is not a tourist place, it is one and it is ok and it becomes just a problem if you don't admit,” he added.

Thalheim's film, which is based on the time he spent on the town of Oswiecim as a volunteer in its youth meeting center, follows up close a former Polish political prisoner, now in his 80's, who still lives at

Auschwitz.

The character played in the movie by Ryszard Ronczewski, is based loosely on Kazimirz Smolin, the former Auschwitz museum's director, who was one of the prisoners who founded it and still lives there today in the former SS barracks.

“Mr Smolin and other prisoners really help built this museum and in the beginning and they really had to watch out that nobody took stuff from the campground,” said Thalheim.

“They just stayed there their whole lives and raised their families there and built up the museum on the camp ground,” he added.

Thalheim says that by spending time with Smolin while at the youth center he got a deeper view than the tourists who visited the camp and listened to one of the guided tours given by former prisoners usually get.

“You have to see them as humans and not as testimonials and this is the only way to come a little bit closer to them and their history, not only seeing what happened to them in the camp but also seeing their life,” said Thalheim, while underlining that films can play an important role to help us understand the past.

“We can ask questions in art and that's why it is such an important part of dealing with history,” he added.

Reporting for this blog was done during a ‘Commemorative Cultures Study Tour to Germany’ in June 2011, organized by the Robert Bosch Foundation.

+

marketing

“They would say, ‘My grandpa had been in the army and he was not a criminal but a hero... and had fought the Russians in defence of the motherland, for civilization against the Red Army,’” he recalled.

Insensee says questions about the past need to be discussed in an exact way and debate in society is crucial.

The last case of Nazi war crimes case to be brought before the German court was that of John Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian former prison guard who died on March 17.

On May 12, 2011 aged 91, Demjanjuk was found guilty of being an accessory to the murder of 27,900 Jews while acting as a guard at the Sobibor Nazi extermination camp.

However, since his conviction was pending appeal at the time of his death, Demjanjuk remains “presumed innocent” under German law.

Thomas Steinkraus-Koch, the case prosecutor, admitted that convicting Demjanjuk was not easy “because the actions were very far in the past.”

Although Steinkraus-Koch says that they are still working on new cases, Margarete Notzel, head of the Munich Court press office admits time is running out.

“On a deadline is the right word because they are dying,” she said, referring to the suspects.

The Lives of Others

Albania was spared the ethnic conflicts that engulfed the former Yugoslavia in the Nineties.

Despite being spared the ravages of ethnic warfare, the tiny Balkan state of 3 million has its own difficulties in addressing the legacy of the most repressive Communist regime in the Eastern block.

Under the Stalinist dictator Enver Hoxha – who ruled from the end of World War II until his death in 1985 – thousands of Albanians vanished or were executed and tens of thousands were imprisoned in concentration camps.

Hoxha ruled Albania with an iron fist with the help of his secret police the feared

Tourists in Others People's Pain

With hundreds of museum and art galleries, a rich history and nightlife, the city of Berlin draws millions of tourists every year. Many of these tourists are drawn to memorial sites connected with Nazi Germany, the Holocaust or the GDR.

Rainer Klemke, speaker for museums with state contributions, memorials and contemporary history at the office of the Berlin Senate, says that history sells, being these tragic or cheerful.

“History sites are very important to us because they draw nearly five million tourists every year,” Klemke said. “Berlin is the Rome of the twentieth century and



USAID | KOSOVO
NGA POPULLI AMERIKAN
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA

United States Agency for International Development is recruiting to fill the following position in Pristina

SOLICITATION NUMBER: SOL 167-PSC-FY12-05
ISSUED BY: Executive Office, USAID/Kosovo
SUBJECT: Solicitation for Resident Hire: U.S. Personal Services Contractor (USPSC) –
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MARKET VALUE: (\$60,274 – \$78,355) per annum (equivalent to GS-12 pay range). Salary to be paid within this grade will depend on experience, qualifications and salary history.
PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: Two years

The United States Government, represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking applications (Optional Form 612) from qualified individuals interested in providing Personal Service Contractor services for the Deputy Executive Officer position as described below.

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION:

This position is located in USAID/Kosovo. The Deputy Executive Officer (D/EXO) shall serve as the Deputy Executive Officer for the USAID Regional Services Center/Regional Management Services Office (RSC/RMSO) in Pristina, Kosovo. The DEXO will be under the direct supervision of the USAID Regional Executive Officer or his/her designee and shall be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations for the full range of Administrative and Management Services Operations. The DEXO may be required to perform travel throughout Europe and Eurasia (E&E) in support of E&E Mission's as needed and requested.

Full job description is posted at the USAID's webpage <http://www.usaid.gov/kosovo/eng/jobOpportunities.html> and at the USAID's Office in Arberia (Dragodan), Ismail Qemali Street, House No.1, Pristina.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

EDUCATION: A bachelor's degree is required, preferably in business administration, science or other technical field.

PRIOR RELEVANT AND OVERSEAS WORK EXPERIENCE: A minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in the field of administrative management or a similar field is required. Demonstrated successful experience in the field of management and administration involving personnel administration, management analysis and planning, general services and travel, with a demonstrated knowledge of the commodity purchasing and management, procurement, budgeting, planning and contract management aspects of administrative management operations. In addition a thorough knowledge of the interagency foreign affairs manuals, budgeting, contracting and supply management procedures is desired. A thorough knowledge of USG personnel management is preferred.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES: Work requires mastery of the management principles, concepts, practices, methods, and techniques of business management sufficient to apply new developments and theories to major problems that may not be susceptible to treatment by previously accepted methods. A comprehensive knowledge of USG laws and regulations dealing with procurement, management and operations in a foreign setting is required. A basic familiarity with host-government laws and regulations, documentation, and reporting requirements sufficient to make recommendations or decisions impacting on important aspects of conducting USAID activities and programs in Kosovo is required. The ability to exercise tact and diplomacy and the ability to maintain strict confidentiality and high ethical standards relating to all areas of acquisition and assistance matters are required. The ability to independently organize, prioritize and follow through on all assignments is required.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY: Must have excellent English communication skills, both oral and in written form. Candidate must have the ability to present analysis and recommendations in clear written and oral formats.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

In addition, the incumbent must be:

- A U.S. Citizen; (A person holding a valid Green Card is eligible to apply for this position)
- Able to obtain US Government medical and security clearances;
- Willing to travel to work sites and other offices as/when requested.

APPLYING: Qualified individuals are requested to submit a U.S. Government Optional Form 612. This form is available at the USAID website, http://www.info.usaid.gov/procurement_hus_app/procurement/forms or <http://fillform.gsa.gov> or USAID/Kosovo website <http://www.usaid.gov/kosovo/eng/jobOpportunities.html>
Email submissions should be sent to: kosovousaidinfo@usaid.gov.

LIST OF REQUIRED FORMS FOR PSCs

For initial consideration:

1. Optional Form 612. Resume or CV must be attached.
2. Contractor Employee Biographical Data Sheet (AID 1420-17)

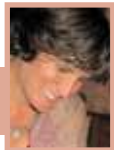
Closing date for this position is June 4, 2012 - BY COB (CLOSE OF BUSINESS)

SUBJECT TO FUNDS AVAILABILITY

USAID in Pristina provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Ecosovo

Let's do it, Kosova – for the long term



By Elizabeth Gowing

By the time you read this, the big Kosovo clean-up day – 'Let's do it Kosova' – will be over. Hopefully, on your way into work, your walk around the city or driving around the countryside it will be immediately apparent that things have changed. And hopefully on the same journeys in a week, a month, a year's time, the impact of the work done on 24 May 2012 will still be evident. Hopefully.

Cleaning up Kosovo is of course a wonderful idea, and the people behind the 'Let's do it Kosova' initiative (the launch included endorsement from the Norwegian Ambassador, and a video message from Ulrike Lunacek) are to be congratulated. A cleaned-up Kosovo has implications for health, for national pride, for tourism, and thus for the economy, as well as for the environment at a number of levels including river pollution and water quality, biodiversity and air quality (if alternatives are offered to burning of rubbish). The initiative in Kosovo draws on the 2008 success of Let's Do It Estonia; the biggest mobilization of civil society there in a generation, which involved 50 000 Estonians (4 per cent of the population) removing more than 10,000 tonnes of garbage from the country's forest in about 5 hours, for less than 500,000 euros. The movement claims that 'under normal circumstances it would have taken the government 3 years and 22.5 million euros to accomplish a similar feat.'

Just reading that gives you the cathartic feeling you get when you've cleaned out your fridge. Or – to make the analogy more accurate – when you've cleaned out your neighbour's fridge. Because it seems likely to me that most of the people who generate the garbage in Kosovo are not those who'll have cleaned it up on the 24th. For instance, garbage in Kosovo is disproportionately in the villages, and the volunteers are disproportionately from the towns.

The reason that the unsightly garbage piles up in the villages is – in part – because of a lack of municipal services for collecting it. One survey recently concluded that 70 per cent of Kosovo's villages are without municipal garbage collection. What does even the most responsible citizen do with their waste under such circumstances?

I can tell you some of the things you do under such circumstances,

because I grapple with this ethical and practical problem myself on a regular basis as a result of our NGO's work in Neighbourhood 29 in Fushe Kosove. This is another such community with no municipal garbage collection but we do what we can to implement the motto of REDUCE-RECYCLE-RESPONSIBLY DISPOSE.

We are trying to reduce the waste generated by the activities we organise – we've cut out things like disposable plastic cups and replaced them with reusable glasses. We recycle what we can (we have arranged, as you can too, for a collection of recyclable plastic bottles, aluminium and office paper. Plastic bottle tops go to the Kosovo Cap Project – as featured in a previous Ecosovo column. We're working on composting some time soon).

And as for responsibly disposing of the rest? When we left the stuff to be thrown 'away' (where is 'away?') in black bags just inside the door, one of our local volunteers kindly took the bags out – and burned them on the wasteland opposite our centre. Revolting black smoke and the smell of melting yoghurt pots wreathed around the children playing nearby. Not my proudest hour as an environmentalist.

So what is the alternative?

Well, the honest truth is that whenever someone comes out to our centre in Fushe Kosove with a 4x4 or other car with enough space, bags of our rubbish are piled into the back for their return journey to Pristina. When the car approaches the skips by the municipal building, we hop out and dump the rubbish there.

Needless to say, most of the residents of Neighbourhood 29, and of the 70 per cent of villages without rubbish collection do not have a 4x4 handy so they can't do what we do. For one day this month, however, the 4x4s will come to them, in the form of KFOR trucks (I wish all municipalities had offered their trucks to make the clean-up work sustainably) and the unsightly, unhealthy rubbish will disappear.

And I'm hoping that 24 May will have been a wonderful success. But now let's think about 25 May, and all the days after that; for a sustainably clean Kosovo, individual citizens/ consumers and the municipal and national authorities need to start working on the REDUCE-RECYCLE-RESPONSIBLY DISPOSE approach. We can all use less packaging (particularly reducing our non-recyclable packaging), we can all make sure that as individu-

als we responsibly dispose of litter in bins (not throw it out of car windows or toss it down on the street), and the municipal authorities can make sure that collections are organized.

But what about the third item in this green trinity; how can individual organisations manage their recycling? Would you like to keep your plastic bottles, cans and used office paper out of landfill?

There are eleven men from Fushe Kosove who would like to help you do so. These eleven were selected in a heartbreaking process from 85 applicants from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community in Fushe Kosove to be a part of The Ideas Partnership's recycling income-generating project funded by a KFOS grant. The income of many families in this community is based on collecting recyclable garbage, and for the 85 heads of families who applied, their only equipment for gathering and transporting what they find in the bins was a wheelbarrow. If you live deep in Fushe Kosove and you only have a wheelbarrow, you can't reach the richer garbage pastures of Pristina, and your collection of recyclables goes at the painfully slow pace of your wheelbarrow's wonky front wheel.

The recycling project therefore offered each of the eleven selected men a bike and a trailer so they can cover more ground and have a kick-start to their small recycling businesses. Even so, their work is dangerous (think what else you find when you sort through the bins) and poorly paid (plastic, for example, is bought at 17 cents a kilo, and you need a lot of plastic bottles to make one kilo), and the aim is to make it easier and more efficient – and at the same time give Pristina organisations a chance to recycle more of their rubbish.

Individual recyclers from this group in Fushe Kosove are paired up with Pristina-based offices (a school, a company, international organizations etc). At a set time each week, the nominated man from our project turns up with his new bike and trailer and takes away all separated plastic bottles, cans and office paper that the organization has set aside for recycling. It's easy for the organization, and for the men it beats rummaging through the nappies and broken glass of the skips in their search for individual items that can be recycled.

The Ideas Partnership still needs more organizations to offer their recyclable waste for collection. If you think you and your colleagues can help with the next phase of Kosovo's clean-up then please get in touch on theideaspartnership@gmail.com or 044 661797. Let's Do It not just on 24 May but every day.

Elizabeth Gowing is a founder of The Ideas Partnership, a Kosovan NGO working on educational, cultural and environmental projects. She is also the author of the recently-published, Travels in Blood and Honey; becoming a beekeeper in Kosovo.



Diversity Among Muslims Should be Respected

The Muslim community of the world is no monolith. Differences in the histories in Kosovo, Bosnia and Albania compared to other parts of the globe have shaped religion, a senior US official on Muslim communities has said.



By Artan Mustafa

Farah Pandith, the State Department Special Representative for Muslim Communities, has told Prishtina Insight that she has visited 62 states with Muslim population since she was appointed to the position in June 2009 and saw only one common ingredient – that young Muslim's are struggling to define their identity.

"It is brought up in the form of the questions on what is different between culture and religion? "How can we be "modern" and "Muslim"?" Pandith said in an interview with the newspaper. "The very answer to these questions means that some of them become more conservative and the others more liberal."

Pandith visited Kosovo last week to meet President Atifete Jahjaga, as well as students from the American University of Kosovo and "Aludin" Madrasah.

"It is important that we can speak about these issues," Pandith said. "In Kosovo there is pride in the respect that people have of different religious heritage, but it doesn't mean that I was not asked difficult questions from the students."

The envoy said that in every country she has visited the young have told her that they are seeing attempts to shape Islam from the "outside".

"They've begun to see external voices coming in," Pandith said. "But it is important to know that when one sees changes that happen, debates on who you are and what your identity is, it's up to the population, community to community, to decide to accept or not accept what its taking place."

The senior American diplomat said that there is diversity among the Muslims and that should be

respected.

"There is no monolith. And celebrating that diversity is extremely important, because there is a lot of pride in the heritage of many of these communities. And let's be very clear, even within a region, even within a country, there is so much history - in terms of differences on what people eat, what they drink, what they think," she added. "In Bosnia, in Albania and certainly in Kosovo and other places, there is a different experience, and you have to understand that experience in terms of how people have lived for hundreds of years."

She also said that the State Department is working to create networks of young people who can discuss these issues online.

"Internet is a phenomenon without borders. You can use it for good or for bad. It is up to the individual. Are there voices online that preach violence and extremism? Of course there are. But there is an increase of voices, credible voices, that are in the space, pushing back against radicalism," she said.

"If the loudest megaphone is the one that preaches extremism, that's the only thing that people will hear. But we're seeing more and more places online where Muslim people are showing different narratives. It is important to shine a light on these issues".

The envoy said that the American administration is very committed to engaging Muslim communities based on the principle launched by President Barack Obama in Cairo, June 2009, when he said "there is no 'us' and 'them'".

"Islam is part of the West. The idea that there is a West and then there is Islam is not true. Islam exists in every part of the world and it is very important that our government understands this.

"We give the same respect to a Muslim that lives in Australia to the one that lives in Jordan."



STAY ONE STEP AHEAD

KEEP OUR OPINIONS
TO YOURSELF

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
and be the first to know what's really happening

BalkanInsight.com

Online news, views and analysis
from our correspondents across the region

www.balkaninsight.com

Classified Ads

Do you have a flat to rent? Position to fill? Students to find for a language course? Why not speak directly to Kosovo's international community through Prishtina Insight' classified ads.

Almost every international organisation, embassy, NGO and many others subscribe to Kosovo's only English language newspaper, which is also on sale at newsstands in seven cities and received in electronic format by scores of paying clients across the world.

Alcoholics Anonymous
(English speaking) will meet every
Thursday at 20.00hrs.

NGO LABYRINTH
Str. Gazmend Zajmi (former Dubrovnik
street) no:42,
(along the street where Iliria College
is.Opposite to Innovations Lab
(UNICEF) Office)

Contact : Erik - tel nr. : 044937397

Personal Trainer

Mentor Azemi - 044 811 921

Personal attention and
training schedule
Time and place of your
choice
3 per week = 150 month
5 per week = 200 month
(Other schedules possible)

Easy								
					1		5	
					3		7	6
				7	9	2		4
				8	4	9		5
		2				8		
8		6	3	9				
6		5	9	4				
9	2		5					
	4		7					

Medium								
						5		
8					9	7		3
	4			2				9
	6			9	7			
7	2						8	6
			2	3			5	
2				6			4	
1		9	5					8
		6						

Hard								
	4			9	6	7		
					5		9	
5					8			4
	1	5	9					
3		8				9		6
					7	4	3	
7			2					1
	3		6					
		9	3	8			4	

Embassies
and Liaison
Offices in
Prishtina

American
Address: "Nazim Hikmet" no. 30
Arbëria /Dragodan, 10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 549 516

Austrian
Address: "Ahmet Krasniqi" no. 22
Arbëria /Dragodan, 10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 249 284

Belgian
Address: "Taslixhe" I, 23 A
10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 734 734

British
Address: "Ismail Qemajli" no. 6
Arbëria /Dragodan, 10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 254 700

Bulgarian
Address: "Ismail Qemajli" no. 12
Arbëria /Dragodan, 10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 038 245 540

Dutch
Address:" Xhemal Berisha" no. 12
Velania, 10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 224 61

Finnish
Str. Perandori Justinian No. 19
Pejton
10 000 Prishtina
Phone: +386 43 737 000

French
Address: "Ismail Qemajli" no. 67
Arbëria /Dragodan, 10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 22 45 88 00

Greek
Address: "Ismail Qemajli" no. 68
Arbëria /Dragodan, 10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 243 013

German
Adress: "Azem Jashanica" no. 17
Arbëria /Dragodan, 10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 254 500

Italian
Address: "Azem Jashanica" no.5
Arbëria /Dragodan, 10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 244 925

Japanese
Address: "Rexhep Malaj" no. 43
10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 249 995

Luxemburg
Address: "Metush Krasniqi" no. 14
Arbëria /Dragodan, 10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 226 787

Malaysian
Address: "Bedri Shala" no. 48
10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 243 467

Norwegian
Address: "Sejdi Kryeziu" no. 6
10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 232 111 00

Saudia Arabian
Address: Dardania SU 7, building 2, #1
10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 549 203

Slovenian
Address: "Anton Ceta" no. 6
10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 244 886

Swedish
Str. Perandori Justinian No. 19
Pejton
10 000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 38 24 57 95

Swiss
Address: "Adrian Krasniqi" no. 11
10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 248 088

Turkish
Address: "Ismail Qemajli" no. 59
Arbëria /Dragodan, 10000 Prishtina
Phone: +381 (0) 38 226 044

+

germanwings



**AMAZINGLY
AFFORDABLE PRICES**

**Prishtina »» Stuttgart » München » Hamburg » Köln » Berlin »
Düsseldorf » Hannover » Frankfurt »**

**Prishtina »» Zürich » Genève » Vienna
Skopje »» Zürich » Düsseldorf**



airberlin



KOSOVA AIRLINES



eurokoha

www.flyksa.com
038 220 220