



Community Building Mitrovica

Annual Report

JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2016

*Community Building Mitrovica
Boulevard Isa Boletini 11-12
40000 Mitrovica (South), Kosovo
info@cbmitrovica.org
www.cbmitrovica.org*

Executive Director's Note

Dear Friends,

It seems strange when I look back and realize that the NGO of which I am Executive Director, Community Building Mitrovica (CBM), was first established 15 years ago. The time has passed so quickly and so much has happened in the intervening years. My overwhelming sense is not of sadness that so much time has passed; rather, I instead feel a deep satisfaction that so much has been achieved. It is a sign of our success that I do not need to provide an extensive introduction of my NGO and the work that we do. No doubt many of you will be already familiar with CBM and its important work within the divided city of Mitrovica, in northern Kosovo.



As a community organization we have long benefitted from the contribution of external actors, most notably PAX for Peace, the Dutch peacebuilding NGO who played a hugely important role in CBM's formative years. In the time since, we have taken great strides forward, becoming established and recognized as a credible and independent voice within the local community. This has not always been an easy or straightforward process. However, at all times we have been sustained by a strong

sense of purpose and our determination to make Mitrovica a better city, one that is deserving of its inhabitants and their dreams and aspirations.

I cannot claim that every project that we have undertaken was a success or that our goals and objectives were achieved in every instance. This would be a distortion, not least because success is grounded in past failure, in the ability to reflect upon what went wrong and what could be improved in the future. We have implemented over 300 projects, some on a small scale, others on a

- *CBM was first established 15 years ago;*
- *Over 300 projects implemented;*
- *A credible and independent voice within the local community;*

larger scale; some visible and some not. However, there has been one constant – during design, implementation and evaluation it has been the local community who have been foremost, providing impetus, direction and purpose to our work.


I would hesitate to describe our work as political. Past history shows that politics has all too frequently assumed negative connotations, restricting and frustrating the huge potential of the region and its people. In post-conflict environments it is impossible to escape politics – every aspect and dimension of everyday life is politicised. This is where CBM has an invaluable contribution to make – we bridge the divide, thus enabling the people of Mitrovica to engage with each other as individuals, overcoming deeply rooted divides and animosities.




However, we know from past experience that it is futile to try to work around politics. Many of our key infrastructural project – painting buildings, lighting the roads, building children’s playgrounds, would not have been possible without the support of the institutions. I won’t pretend that this has always been easy – in fact, at times it has been incredibly hard. Over time we have learned to adjust, coming to accept that just as we criticize, we must too accept criticism. Fifteen years of experience have taught us that this is an essential part of dialogue and cooperation. In contributing to this document, I do not address myself to passive observers. Rather, many readers are active

participants in our work, who can more accurately be described as beneficiaries. Through our efforts, we have helped young women to become leaders within our society, clearly illustrating the change that can be brought about when young girls are enabled to achieve their potential. Young attendees of Mitrovica Rock School have become artistic performers; young contributors to our various media projects have become professional writers. Being conceived and developed within the context in which we work, this document addresses itself to committed members of civil society, representatives of local and national authorities, leaders and members of partner organizations and, perhaps most importantly, friends of CBM.

Any overview of our work would not be complete without recognition of the people who make it possible on a day-to-day basis. One of our greatest successes is our local team, who embody the vision upon which CBM was founded. Besnik, Fiorentina, Marko, Milivoje, Milos, Natasa, Nemanja, Vetone, Zana, Naim, Driton and Besa. Thank you for your hard work, your dedication and the work that you do every day. I am proud of you and the contribution that you are making to the wider community. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank former colleagues and founders of CBM for giving us such a firm foundation to build upon and take our work forward. Looking back, we can take great pride in all that we have achieved. The projects that we have implemented, the people that we have empowered, the relationships that we have built. We are undoubtedly part of the progress that Mitrovica has made. But now we must look forward, gathering our resources and bringing together our efforts, directly addressing the question of what can be achieved over the forthcoming 15 years.



“Looking back, we can take great pride in all that we have achieved. The projects that we have implemented, the people that we have empowered, the relationships that we have built. We are undoubtedly part of the progress that Mitrovica has made.”



Aferdita

Sylaj Shehu

CBM’s Executive Director

I.CONTEXTUAL OVERVIEW

Mitrovica Region consists of seven municipalities, four of them in the mainly Ethnic-Serb northern Kosovo, and the three mainly Ethnic-Albanian municipalities immediately to their south. In the period following the Kosovo war in 1999, conflict-related division resulted in Albanian and Serb communities living within separate social, political and security structures, and contributed to a general sense of disorder and insecurity. Since the 2013 Brussels Agreement normalizing relations between Kosovo and Serbia, there have been tentative steps toward integration in the north, but Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Region remains fractured along



ethnic lines. The region also suffers from a lack of employment opportunities, weak rule of law, and the deterioration of local governance. The overall political situation in Kosovo is quite tense, with sometimes violent opposition parties' protests against the agreement between Serbia and Kosovo on the establishment of the Association/Community of Serb Municipalities, and another with Montenegro on border demarcation. Behind this is still an intense dissatisfaction with, among other issues, the performance of the ruling parties in government. However, there

have been positive steps and progress made in inter-ethnic relations: Institutionally, Kosovo Serbs are involved in the Kosovo Assembly, the establishment of municipalities in the north, and also in daily life, especially in Mitrovica region. Although Kosovo has substantially progressed over the last decade, many challenges continue to pressure almost all walks of life. In post-war Mitrovica, a lot of socio-political and economic problems form the reality in the daily lives of the people. Institutions are building their capacity to

deliver services, but in order for people to fully use those services they have to be aware about their rights and possibilities. Apart from this, institutions have to be

held accountable by the people they are supposed to provide with services, in a way that seeks to build confidence and trust between government and citizens.

While progress has been made, there is still a lot to be done in order to reach the goal of CBM: Mitrovica becoming a safe place. Security situation in Mitrovica region, in particular in the southern and northern part of Mitrovica has improved thanks also to the efforts of organizations of civil society in rebuilding trust and bridges of communication between the two communities.

II. CBM PROFILE



Community Building Mitrovica

CBM was founded after the devastating war in Kosovo ended. It was initiated in March 2001 by IKV (Interchurch Peace Council) from the Netherlands, together with Mitrovica citizens. Soon, it became

MISSION AND VISION OF CBM

Mitrovica a safe, diverse place where accountable institutions, civil society and active citizens appreciate differences in a democratic culture.

CBM is an interethnic grassroots organization that identifies, encourages and facilitates joint actions of citizens in the Mitrovica region in order to promote cooperation, co-existence and democratic values.

an important stakeholder amidst the NGO community, providing advice, facilities or capacity building interventions. CBM as an organization has been gradually growing throughout the years, with active involvement in the fields of peace and community building and has gained a highly respected reputation on both sides of the Iber River. CBM's reputation as an example of ground-breaking frontline inter-ethnic cooperation is not confined to Mitrovica or Kosovo, but extends beyond.

CBM has more than fifteen years' experience of active engagement in the Mitrovica region and Kosovo, aiming to identify and advance common interests of citizens through facilitation of interethnic dialogue and advocacy, as well as strengthening civil society and ensuring accountability in institutions. However even today, in 2016, Mitrovica still it's not a safe place where people can freely move and exchange ideas, or where institutions are accountable, or civil society is strong and grass rooted. CBM has endeavoured to address these

pressing issues throughout its existence, by implementing programmes in several sectors, in partnerships with several organizations and target groups, by facilitation of stronger civil society

organizations and cooperation (in Mitrovica, Kosovo and beyond) and employing different methodologies.

CBM's success has been visible and recognized by local and international stakeholders, the media and the wider public. CBM, more importantly had the support of the local population, and their trust from all ranks, as CBM employs and works with all ethnic groups in Mitrovica. CBM has also been active in strengthening the role of the civil society, rights of women and youth, media, monitoring the status of human rights in Mitrovica and increasing civic participation in decision making process. During 2016-2016 CBM has increased its efforts in functionalizing Mitrovica region Monitoring Team (MRMT) a local civil society network focused on watchdog activities aiming at increasing the accountability of public institutions in local level in Northern and Southern part of Mitrovica region.

CBM is member or a founder of several networks/partnerships/platforms: CiviKos Platform, CRYM Coalition (Centre for Resources Youth and Media), RECOM, Reforma, Pro Peace Platform, etc.



CBM remains committed to providing solutions to societal challenges with the necessary adjustments based on changed context and acquired knowledge and experience.

CBM team presents an asset not only for the organization but also for the community. Its ethnically mixed composition combined with necessary expertise and extensive experience equips CBM with knowledge about the developments and trends in the society and first-hand information about the challenges of citizens and ways how to address these challenges. For over a decade CBM served as a reliable information hub for numerous international and local organizations and helped donors in shaping their interventions so they can best respond to the needs of the citizens.

III. Brief Overview of the Activities/Projects

Community Building Mitrovica with its projects and actions tries to initiate, develop and to implement activities for the benefit of all communities, reduce the gap between North and South and serve as a uniting platform for the Mitrovica citizens. Below you may find a brief overview of the projects and activities implemented during 2016.

The role of CBM in empowering civil society to play an important role in ensuring the EU standards to which Kosovo is striving, are built and upheld in practice is of utmost importance. By articulating citizens' concerns, CBM is active in the public and engaged in initiatives, which foster pluralism and further participatory democracy. CBM makes a substantial contribution to addressing the rule of law and fundamental rights; competitiveness and innovation; education, employment and social policies



through its lobbying, advocacy and oversight activities at local level.

Starting from its vision, mission and long-term goals, CBM in 2016 has worked on achieving the following goals:

Strengthen the role

of community in democratic process; Reinforced co-existence in Mitrovica; Promotion of democratic values; Strengthen the good governance of local institutions in Mitrovica; CBM is a well-established grass-root organization.

CBM defines its target group as: ethnic and religious communities, minorities; women; children and youth; CSOs, local government institutions; people with special needs; especially vulnerable groups. CBM target area is the territory of Mitrovica Region (municipalities Mitrovica north and south, Zveqan/Zvecan, Zubin Potok/Zubin Potoku, Leposaviq/Leposavic, Vushtrri/Vucitrn and

Skenderaj/Srbica), and some of the activities are implemented in the other part of Kosovo (Prishtina, Peja, Prizren). CBM implements its activities on all levels: local, regional (within the Kosovo), national and international.

CBM continually is working in partnerships with relevant actors and stakeholders, which include cooperation with local, national and international organizations and institutions. To attain the objectives pursued, CBM formulated 2016 Program which planned portfolio included minimum 13 projects, which has been implemented through the following programs/programmatic areas: 1) *Bridging the divide Program*, 2) *Human Rights Program*, and 3) *Good Governance Program*.

Bridging the Divide' Program

Project "Promoting Youth Employment through Social Partnerships and Cooperation" aim was to enhance cooperation between Serbia and Kosovo local governments, professional groups and CSOs in the field of youth employment. Target group are 36 representatives of local governments, public employment services, CSOs, education providers, businesses and associations, professional groups



and trade unions from target municipalities: Serbia – Nis, Leskovac, Vranje, Knjazevac, Kraljevo; Kosovo – Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Prishtina/Pristina, Peja/Pec, Prizren, Graqanica/Graçanic

Activities implemented within this project are: Community visit organized in Vranje and Bujanoc, Serbia with participants from local institutions, civil society and business background. Topic of the seminar was The Role of Civil Society Organisations in Socially Responsible Economy; Community visit was organized in Peja, Kosovo with participants from local institutions, civil society and business background has been organized on 15 and 16 July 2016. The main topic of the seminar was business community and responsibility of social corporations; Study visit was organized in Nis, Serbia on 28 September 2016. The theme of this visit was “Opportunities and challenges of public-private partnership”; 6 Social dialogue meetings (round tables) which were held within capacity building trainings and community visits in all six towns Bujanoc, Vranje, Peja/Pec, Prizren, Nis and Mitrovica south; 2 Press conferences in Niš and Mitrovica south in November 2016 where the outcomes and recommendations from the Policy paper regarding youth employment has been presented; Round table regarding presentation of results and recommendations derived from the implementation of the project has been organized in Mitrovica on 09 November 2016.

Project “English Access Microscholarship Program II” aim was to help students to develop fluency and communication strategies in English. The target group and beneficiaries are 40 young students from 14 – 17 years old, and through them their families and the society.



Activities implemented within this project are: 22 April 2016 - Community Building Mitrovica joined the Earth Day celebrations that take place on April 22 each year. Access Program students jointly with Kindergarten "Gëzimi Ynë" staff and children in Mitrovica South planted flowers, while Access students in North planted flowers at the School for kids with special needs. This initiative was realized within community services conducted under Access Program, and in this occasion the aim of this symbolic activity was to make significant impact for cleaner and healthier environment, but also to encourage people to be more environmentally friendly; 10 May 2016 - The group composed by Access and Special School students spent delightful time by communicating and engaging in different games, while they also expressed their creativity by drawing and painting. These visits were organized under

Services
Access Program
some of the
young people in
26 August 2016
English Access
Program, this
together from
Kamenica and
participated in
Camp. The
in Hotel Sharri-
days all the
present enjoyed
activities,
things and had a



the Community
activities within
as support for
most vulnerable
Mitrovica South;
- As part of the
Microscholarship
year students
Mitrovica,
Gjilan/ Gnjilane
the Summer
camp was held
Prevalle. For five
students
different
learned new
lot of fun

together. They had the chance to explore more and increase their English knowledge by informal activities, contributed by working in groups and sharing ideas on building the program in creative and fun way; 20 October 2016 - Community Building Mitrovica organized the graduation ceremony for 40 young people from Mitrovica South and North who participated in the 2 - year course of learning English under the "English Access Microscholarship Program". The graduation ceremony was attended by Ambassador Mr.Greg Delawie and other representatives of the U.S. Embassy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Academic Programs Ms.Mala Adigba, Director of Education in Mitrovica South Municipality Mr.Pajazit Hajzeri;

Project “English Access Microscholarship Program III” aim is to help students to develop fluency and communication strategies in English. The target group and beneficiaries are 40 young students from 19 - 25 years old, and through them their families and the society.

Activities implemented within this project are: 02 September 2016 - CBM announced recruiting students for the English ACCESS Microscholarship Program in Mitrovica Region on the web location: <http://www.cbmitrovica.org/en/project/cbm-is-currently-recruiting-students-for-the-english-access-microscholarship-program-in-mitrovica-region>; 20 October 2016 - Community Building Mitrovica organized the kick off event for awarding the 40 students from 7 municipalities of Mitrovica region. New class of 2018 Access Program - Mitrovica was presented with entry certificates. For the next two years 40 young people from North and South Mitrovica will attend this free of charge course of learning English language supported by from U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and implemented by Community Building Mitrovica; 11 November 2016 - The 3rd generation of Access Program was visited on 10.11.2016 by Mr. Roger Webb, Public Desk Officer for the Western Balkans. This meeting apart from being informative served to generate new ideas and suggestions; 24 November 2016 - Access Program students from Mitrovica joined the Thanksgiving Day celebrations, a day that stands as a reminder to recognize, appreciate, and be grateful for the good things in our lives. Within this occasion, 40 Access Program students from both North and South Mitrovica, held the first joint class at the IBCM premises;



Project “Supportive business environment for women start-ups in Mitrovica North and South” aim was to establish supporting business environment for women start-up entrepreneurs in Mitrovica North/South. Target groups are women (start-up) entrepreneurs and the final beneficiaries are residents in Mitrovica North and South. *Activities implemented within this project are:* Four sets of trainings composed by 8 training sessions were organized. 100 Women from North and South Mitrovica participated in these trainings. These four sets of training held by professional experts on business, provided to the participant’s information and knowledge on Financial Management; Business Planning; Mobilization of Funds; Marketing and Sales. These trainings were organized in the period 01 November 2016-30 January 2016. The objective of the trainings was to mobilize and empower participants with knowledge, guidance and support on starting and developing star-up business and this way to achieve economic independence and be a catalyst on increasing economic development on the community where they live; 25 March 2016 - sensitization meeting with women was organized in Regional Development Agency North premises, and around 70 women from both



North and South Mitrovica participated. The aim of this session was to inform the participants about the future steps and events related to this project, and to provide them with data regarding the application process for business plan; 18 April 2016 - Grant Opening Session and Certification Ceremony has been organized with the aim to present grant scheme for the project participants but also to explain documents and to deliver certificates for participants that participated in training. The scheme provided grant support in material form from 2.500 up to 7.500 Euro for 30 women; 04



May 2016 - First meeting between contracted company “KO-Plan” and women mentors in the framework of the project. The aim of this activity was to discuss for the working ways of “KO-Plan”, mentors and mentees regarding mentorship platform. Namely it was discussed over the mechanism of the platform and the work principles in order to respond the needs of the participants

of the project that aim to apply for grants; 12 May 2016 - Second meeting between company “KO-Plan”, women mentors and CBM was organized. Mentor platform aims to establish relation among mentors, and women start-ups mostly peer-to-peer consultancy in specific sectors; 13 May 2016 - Third meeting with mentors organized; 21 July 2016 - Grant Awarding Ceremony was held. 33 women from Mitrovica South and North on the total amount of sub-grants of 112,500.00 EUR have been granted; 22 July 2016 - 33 awarded grantees divided into two groups had the opportunity to receive consultancy from “D&D Business Support Center” on marketing and branding of their products and services. Within the sessions grantees had the opportunity to learn and share about marketing and branding tips from D&D consultants; 05 August 2016 - 33 grant beneficiaries received consultancy sessions that aim to mobilize further their skills on the following topics: marketing packages of products/services, branding and sales, human resource management, etc;

11 August 2016 - Women awarded grantees from North and South Mitrovica, as part of the project had the opportunity to be part of an exchange visit to Bujanovac and Gostivar. Within this activity they visited different businesses and for two and a half days shared their own experience with business women from Municipality of Bujanovac and Gostivar; 28 August 2016 - 33 women awarded grantees from South and North Mitrovica, within "women start-ups" project were part of a field visit to successful companies in production and services sector in Kosovo. All the visited businesses are led by very successful



businesswomen. The women talked with the owners and managers of these companies and received useful advices from these highly experienced people in terms of managing and leading a business; 22 November 2016 - 50 participants of the project had the opportunity to promote their products and services in the Fair “Women in business – Mitrovica, 2016”. This event took place in the main square in Mitrovica South. The fair was attended by representatives of national and local institutions, donors, representatives of local and international organizations, and media. In the fair - 50 women part of the “women start-ups” project from North and South Mitrovica, from them 33 grantees and 17 women participated and presented their businesses; 25 November 2016 - “Women in Business” - the aim of this conference was to present the achievements of the project resulting in women’s economic empowerment in Mitrovica North and South. Some of the high representatives from local and central institutions that participated in the conference were: Safet Kamberi - Deputy Mayor of Mitrovica South Municipality, Adrijana Hodzic - Executive Official for Municipality of North Mitrovica, Rita Hajzeraj Beqaj – Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Besa Zogaj Gashi – Deputy Minister of Ministry for Economic Development, and other representatives of local institutions and organizations. Following the discussions between the panel and audience, a documentary with the stories of the women grantees of the project was screened;

Project “Business Accelerator Facility of northern Kosovo – Service for economy and entrepreneurship boost up”

aim was to initiate and support the development of business accelerator facility (BAF), to increase the entrepreneurship potential of the northern Serbian municipalities in Kosovo, and to contribute to labor-market integration of women and youth. Target group is 100 youth and women and 50 businesses.

Activities implemented within this project are: 21 March



2016 - Community Building Mitrovica and NGO “D&G Solutions” started the second phase of the Business Plan writing training that was conducted within the framework of the project Business Accelerator Facility of Northern part of Kosovo. This training session has been attended by 31 participants; 05 May 2016 - First grant scheme within the BAF project has been announced. Subject of this open Call for Grant Proposals is to fund eligible start-ups that are to be legally registered, owned and run by women, with an equivalent from 3,000 and up to EUR 7,000 per grant, for purchasing machinery, equipment and durable goods only. Minimum 10 start-ups will be supported, but the final number may vary reflecting the availability of the funds for this activity; 1 October 2016 - Second grant scheme within the BAF project has been announced. Subject of this open Call for Grant Proposals is to fund eligible start-ups that are to be legally registered (see below for details), owned and run by women, with an equivalent from 3,000 and up to EUR 7,000 per grant, for purchasing machinery, equipment and durable goods only. Minimum 10 start-ups will be supported, but the final number may vary reflecting the availability of the funds for this activity;

“Project “War crimes and trials” - Seminar exchange of youth from Kosovo, Serbia, Germany and France” aim was the subject of war crimes and trials as a medium to talk about dealing with the past in Europe. The target group and beneficiaries were 22 students from Kosovo, Serbia, Germany and France.



The first two cycles of the international youth seminar on war crimes and trials took place in Germany, Netherlands and France, where the participants learned and discussed about the judicial, political and societal implications of war crime trials in Europe since 1945; The third cycle of the international seminar 'Justice without reconciliation' gathered 20 young people from France, Germany, Kosovo and Serbia and offered to them the opportunity to learn and discuss the role of trials and other mechanisms in dealing with the past, towards reaching reconciliation in the post-conflict countries. The third phase of the seminar held in Kosovo and Serbia from 25.10 - 02.11.2016 included field visits, presentations and discussions with experts, judges and survivors of the recent war in Kosovo.

Project "Dialogue Across Borders" aim was, the subject of dialogue as a medium to talk about the wars and conflicts in different countries but mainly focused in Kosovo Serbia dialogue. The target group and beneficiaries were 20 students from Kosovo, Serbia, Germany and France. Within the program youth had the chance to meet different speakers that were part of dialogue in different conflicts including Kosovo Serbia dialogue;



The project “Activist Lab” aim was to stimulate democratic governance in Kosovo by creating an environment in which civil society is able to effectively mobilize and represent citizens from all



communities’ vis-à-vis state institutions, ensuring both that (1) people are motivated and able to take collective action for its own sake, and that (2) policymakers are accountable and responsive to those actions. A workshop of four days for 19

participants and 2 facilitators where on the fourth day of the workshop a presentation of outcomes has been organized for public where around 40 people were present;

Human Rights’ Program

Project “The role of the University on dealing with the past and Peace Building” goal was to enhance the cooperation between the Universities of Prishtina (UP) and civil society in Kosovo in the fields of transitional justice and peace building.



The program target groups are: full-time students, students at work, educational staff and administrative staff at the universities, educational institutions, designate ministries and pedagogical institutes.

The activities implemented under this project were: 29 September 2016 - University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" – Faculty of Law, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo and Community Building Mitrovica (CBM) invited all students to apply for participation in the course "Transitional Justice: The role of the University in addressing issues of the past". The purpose of this course is to build the competencies of University of Prishtina through a program that will enable education of students in



transitional justice, as a way to contribute towards peace building; Beginning of October, 36 students have been accepted for the course and those are following the course from the beginning of October. Different

subjects have been presented from different professors, Civil Society Organization representatives and representatives of the institutions in order to bring the practice close to the students;

Project “Mediation centre’s in Mitrovica North/South” aims to raise the awareness of the citizens on using mediation to come to a result of conflict/dispute. Target groups are people in conflict, courts, judges, prosecutors and mediators. • 165 cases have been brought to the centers out of which 140 successfully resolved. The centers are operational 5 days a week, as well as weekends, based on the needs. Mediators from both centers north and south were trained and fully operational. The centers came into one centre by September 2016 and have been registered as entity in itself and are operating now independently;

Good Governance' Program

Project “My need My decision – Civil Society is watching you: Demand for Accountability and Transparency in local level” objective is contribution towards increase of responsiveness, accountability and transparency of local institutions through active participation of civil society. The target groups of the action are CSOs from the Municipalities of Mitrovica North/South, Leposaviq, Vushtri, Zubin Potok, Skenderaj and Zveqan.



The activities under this project are: 24 March 2016 - Debate on: “Increase of transparency in Skenderaj Municipal Assembly and monitoring of the communal budget” was organized. NGO Women Center “Prehja” one of the grantees within the project organized public debate for the publication of the monitoring report with theme “Increase of transparency in Skenderaj/Srbica Municipal Assembly and monitoring of the communal budget”; 25.03.2016 - Debate on “The Situation of Education and Youth in Mitrovica” was organized. NGO Lëvizja KOHA, one of the

grantees of the project held the second public debate on the monitoring process of Mitrovica South Municipal Assembly, Education Department, Culture Youth and Sports Department within Mitrovica South Municipality entitled “The Situation of Education and Youth in Mitrovica”; From 20 to 23 of April 2016 Initiative for European Perspective (IEP) organized a study visit in Gostivar, Macedonia. During the 4- day visit in Gostivar, representatives from Civil Society had a chance to visit three municipalities: Gostivar, Vrapčiste and Bogovinje and also few NGOs: Help, Youth Empowerment Platform, Red Cross, ADI, and they got an insight of how their cooperation with institutions works; Second workshop on developing strategic document of MRMT was held on 16 February 2016, as a continuation of the first workshop, on which it was, discussed the content of the strategic document for organizations that are part of the MRMT; 24 May 2016: In order to transfer results and experiences from the municipalities from the targeted areas to other municipalities, a closing conference was organized. At the event, prepared documents from the project were promoted. At the same time, all relevant stakeholders MLGA, Municipalities and CSOs discussed the developed monitoring methodology and presented the experiences from their points of view regarding obstacles in performing the monitoring - seven Municipalities that were monitored in the framework of this project; The MOUs between MRMT and four municipalities were signed: Skenderaj/Srbica Municipality, 26 May 2016; Mitrovica South Municipality, 28 June 2016; Zvečan/Zveqan Municipality, 29 June 2016 and Zubin Potok Municipality, 30 June 2016;

Project “Our Matters” aim is to increase public participation in decision-making process through public debates.

Target group is citizens of Mitrovica North/South, local Institutions and CSOs.

- 01 March 2016 - Community Building Mitrovica organized round table for the publication of “Our



Matters” project report. In this closing event of “Our Matters” was presented the publication with the findings and recommendations related to the projects that 13 NGOs from both South and North Mitrovica implemented which are object of concern and interest of the citizens. As the main finding of the report was presented the need for increasing of the public participation in annual planning and budgeting of public policies.

Project “Fostering inclusive development and good governance in northern Kosovo” aim is to strengthen Civil Society organizations on taking part on decision making processes. The focus will be



on strengthening the MRMT.

Activities under this project are: Kick Of event has been organized in hotel Emerald in Prishtina. The representatives of seven northern

municipalities have been present at the event and have committed to the project and implementation in their municipalities; Three MoU’s on the regard to establish cooperation with the implementing actors, municipalities and CSO’s have been signed from three municipalities Mitrovica south, Vushtrri/Vucitrn and Skenedraj/Srbica.

Project “EULEX media Campaign” aim is to mediate between international institutions and local institutions with Serbian Media in Kosovo. The target groups are media in the Serbian speaking areas and citizens in Kosovo. Media buying campaign continued in 2016. CBM continued service contract with EULEX. It deals with buying media for airing different campaigns for EULEX. CBM has been working on five different EULEX TV and radio campaigns that have been delivered to the TV Most, TV HERC, RTV Mir, RTV Kiss, etc. All TV stations broadcasted campaign as it was foreseen in media plan requested by EULEX. The campaigns have dealt with raising the awareness of citizens on different issues linked with rule of law, costumes, services from the police, etc.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In Support - amongst different activities and projects that Community Building Mitrovica implemented during 2016, as an organization that promotes peace and humanity took also different initiatives by supporting individuals and other associations in need. Some of the cases we can mention are:

CBM supported a professor of Special School Kosovski Bozur from Mitrovica north, to participate in an International seminar “Days of special education teachers 2016” in Belgrade Serbia, on 11-14.2.2016.



CBM has donated to 7 CSO's from Mitrovica north and south computers in order to strengthen them organizationally and be able to continue partnership on democratic values together.

Five primary and two high schools from Mitrovica South received 35 book titles each, with a total number of 245 books given to these education institutions as donation from Community Building Mitrovica. These books will be available for professors and pupils in order to fulfill their needs with literature, enhance their knowledge and enrich the book library fund of these temples of knowledge.

Participation in different statements and reactions

- CBM participated in different joint statements and reactions from civil society organizations, in order to raise different issues such as: - protection of cultural heritage the house of Xhafer Deva and “Shtepia e Armates”; the call for suspension of the Mayor of Prizren Municipality;



reaction on the tragically loss of the life of two children in Pristina;

Has initiated the reaction of the sexual harassment of a minor girl in Mitrovica which was supported from a big number of CSO's in Mitrovica and wider. It also has initiated a reaction against the attack of a journalist from Mitrovica while he was doing his duty which was also supported from a big number of CSO's in Mitrovica.

Has organized the election of the CSO representative in the Municipal Commission for granting the use of Municipal property.

Community Building Mitrovca is part/member of the Kosovo's largest civil society platform "CiviKos" therefore was part of different events, activities and reactions initiated by this platform.



IV. LOCAL PARTNERS

Mitrovica Rock School, Center for Resources Youth and Media, Women Association and Mediation Centers in North and South of Mitrovica – CBM has continued to work with all abovementioned organizations on strengthening their capacities in organizational level.

CBM together with CRYM continued the implementation of the project “My need, My decision”. Mitrovica Rock School (MRS) received different support from CBM on its capacities such as financial, organizational and other.

CBM has continued to represent the work of Mitrovica Women Association for Human Rights in different occasions like conferences, presentations for the students, meetings, etc.

Mediation Centers have registered into one which remained by the end of the reporting period as a partner of CBM, with which CBM is continuing cooperation in an different level now as partners.

Other local partners have been different CSO's such as D&G solutions with whom CBM has continued to implement the Women entrepreneur's project as well as BAF Project.

One of the Networks that CBM has established is MRMT that gathers around 20 NGO's from the Mitrovica region which is going to be in planes of CBM for coming years in order to strengthen and advocate together for better life of people in the region.



MITROVICA
ROCK
SCHOOL



V. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CBM in 2016 continued to build the capacities of the organization and the staff.

Policy Level

Assembly of CBM has met in 2016 twice. During those meetings the changes in the statute have been approved. Furthermore, CBM has developed a Needs Assessment Report for CBM where recommendations have been given on developments of CBM in different areas. CBM has evaluated its own strategy 2013-2016 and based on the outcomes it has developed the new Strategic Plan 2017-2020. Needs assessment has been conducted from an external expert hired from EUoK in cooperation with TACSO.

Communication Strategy has been developed which has structured the way of communication of CBM with different stakeholders internally as well as externally. The visibility of CBM remained a

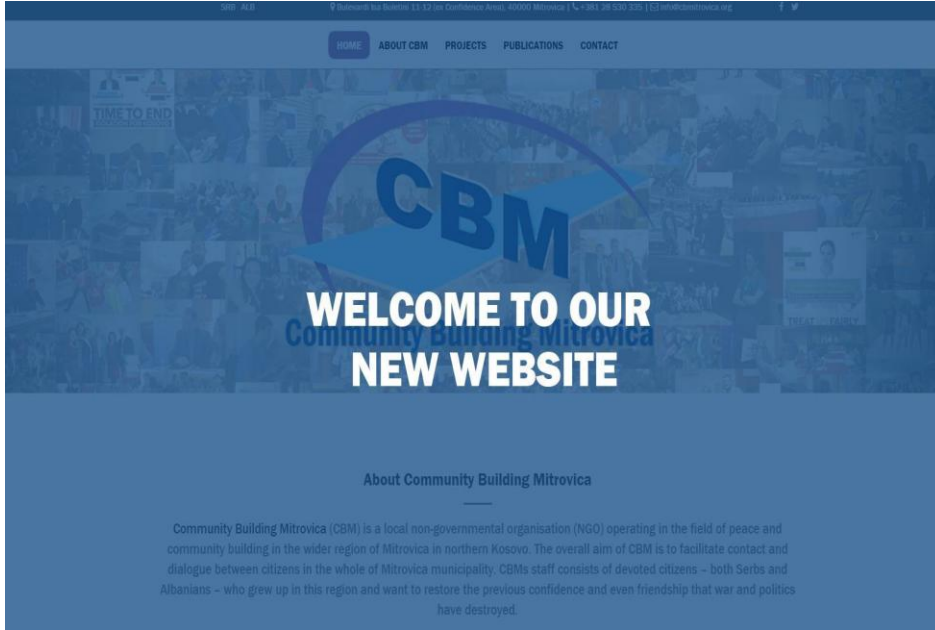


priority for year 2016 and it marked a progress: the CBM website has been renewed and updated regularly with news and other information especially on the side of CBM documents and translated in three languages. The CBM official Facebook page remained the main channel of communication with the beneficiaries and other stakeholders. The FB page of CBM was regularly updated. The web platform for the women starts up project, have I increased the visibility of CBM and its donors and partners.

CBM staff has been continuously developing their capacities in order for the program of CBM to be professionally and successfully implemented in order to accomplish its mission. Capacity development of CBM's staff has been made in the area of Communication and PR and other areas. Two Team Building sessions have been organized during 2016.

VI. VISIBILITY

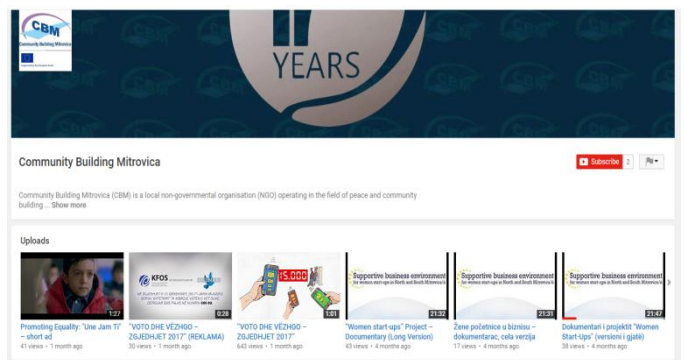
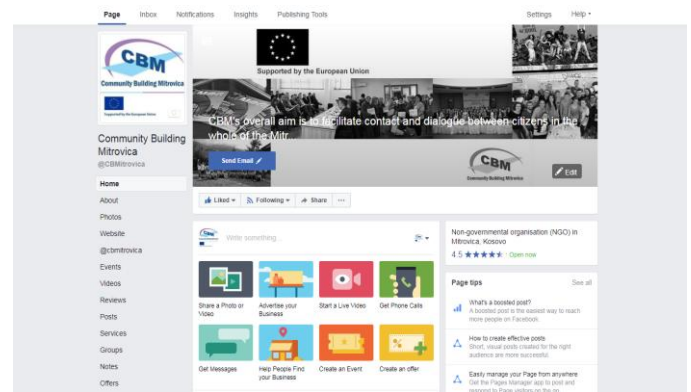
In 2016 CBM has made huge progress on its own visibility. Communication strategy has been developed which includes communication with the stakeholders outside CBM as well as internal communication of CBM.



CBM website has been renewed and now it looks much better and covers a lot of CBM implemented activities, projects and reports. It has been continuously updated with the news from different activities throughout 2016. It will remain as a priority in 2017 also.



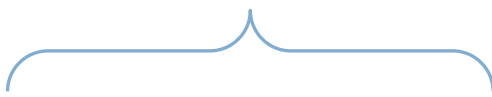
ABOUT PROJECT



VII. PRIORITIES AND FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE

Last year CBM has conducted the evaluation of its Strategic plan 2013 -2016 and prepared the new CBM Strategic plan for 2017-2020. As a result, from the findings of the strategic process, CBM has identified the following challenges: fragile inter-ethnic relations; lack of good governance; weak organizations in the civil society sector; socio-economic challenges; human rights violations persistent; and EU integration challenges.

The basis for the new approach and strategy of CBM is founded on in-depth analysis of the challenges, previous activities of CBM as well as the capacities of CBM to work with institutions and implement activities. CBM as an organisation decided that it should focus its activities in respond to the challenges on the external environment, priorities of its constituents, need of the country and institutions, as well as based on its vision, mission, and newly designed long-term goals: Enabling inter-ethnic dialogue, cooperation and understanding; Effective and accountable institutional services through good governance and non-discrimination; Dynamic and influential civil society in Kosovo supporting EU integration processes; Advancement of socio-economic development and standards for vulnerable groups; CBM as a grass-root organization provides support to local communities.



The main goal of the Annual Work Program (AWP) is to contribute to enhanced inter-ethnic dialogue, prosperity of its people, socio-economic improvements, and by supporting European integration of Kosovo.

All CBM long-term goals are in full conformity with the global objectives of the call for proposals *to enable and stimulate a participatory democracy in Kosovo by creating an environment which promotes partnership and dialogue between civil society and public institutions, and by building the capacity of CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors.*

The expected outcomes are: Enabled inter-ethnic dialogue, cooperation and understanding; Effective and accountable institutional services / good governance and non-discrimination; Dynamic and influential CSOs in Kosovo supporting EU integration processes; Socio-economic development and standards for vulnerable groups; Strengthened capacity of CBM to be effective and accountable.

VIII. DONORS AND OTHER PARTNERS

Community Building Mitrovica's work is made possible through the generosity of a growing number of partners and supporters that share the CBM's goals and objectives, including international institutions and organizations, foundations, Embassies in Kosovo, other non-governmental organizations and local institutions. We recognize the partnership and commitment of CBM supporters. Below find the summary list of CBM donors for 2016:

- European Union Office in Kosovo
- PAX for Peace
- MOTT Foundation
- US Department of State
- U.S. Embassy in Kosovo
- Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo
- Embassy of the Netherlands in Kosovo
- Austrian Development Agency
- Mitrovica South Municipality
- Spark
- Kosovo Foundation for Open Society

- Other CBM Partners:

CiviKOS • Franco – German Youth Office • Mitrovica Rock School • Center for Resources Youth and Media • Mitrovica Women Association for Human Rights • Mediation Centers in North and South of Mitrovica - CSSP • D&G Solutions • Lëvizja Koha • University of Prishtina • Santa Marija • NGO "Pram" • NGO "Prehja" • Me dorë në zemër • NGO "Mundësia" • 7 Arte • Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture • Center for Peace and Tolerance • NGO "Media Pulse" • TACSO Kosovo • Humanitarian Law Center-Kosovo • Youth Initiative for Human Rights-Serbia • ALTEA France • Aktiv • Max-Mannheimer Studienzentrums Dachau • CCFD – Terre Solidaire • AEGEE • Gymnasium "Frang Bardhi" • KETNET



- BRIDGING THE DIVIDE -
Community Building Mitrovica

GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

