



National Report

Kosovo



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Introduction

The Republic of Kosovo is a country in Southeast Europe and it lies landlocked in the centre of the Balkans, bordered by Serbia to the north and east, North Macedonia to the southeast, Albania to the southwest, and Montenegro to the west. Most of central Kosovo sits on the plains of Dukagjin region and the Kosovo field. The Accursed Mountains and Shar Mountains (also known as Albanian Alps) rise in the southwest and southeast, respectively. Kosovo's capital and largest city is Pristina. Social entrepreneurship in the country is still in its beginning stages. Social entrepreneurship ecosystem is being developed in Kosovo through a number of programmes for young people who wanted to start their own business in order to improve their communities. During the desk and field research the project identified 15 enterprises that have self-declared themselves as Social Enterprises in Kosovo. Of which 5 are in Prishtine/Pristina, 4 in Gjakove/Djakovica and the remaining are in Peja/Pec, Skenderaj/Srbica and Istog/Istok municipalities. The nature of these enterprises varies from clothes recycling, agriculture cooperatives, youth training centres, Information Robotics and Computer technology and circular economy.

The Kosovo government has undertaken several steps to enhance the social entrepreneurship especially among young people while focusing on inclusion of disadvantaged people with focus on people with disabilities, women, minorities and other disadvantaged groups. The legislation is completed only in November 2023 where the administrative direction on social enterprises came into force.

In Kosovo the idea of Social Entrepreneurship is at its infant stages. The legislation is very recent and borrowed by other EU countries such as Italy, and is yet to be seen how it will impact the social enterprise ecosystem. However, the legislation does not really provide for any incentives nor make a significant distinction between continuing

as NGO and becoming a Social Enterprise. Their financial support benefits are non-existent at this stage for SE hence no willingness to transform to SE or become a SE. The youth workers are doing their best within the existing system but rely heavily on donor funding projects. Youth on the other hand are primarily focused on securing their own financial stability and looking to provide services to EU and overseas business that pay relatively decent salaries hence venturing into SE is somewhat not attractive idea considering the lack of support from start-up to becoming a standalone business venture.

Youth in Kosovo are seeking for opportunities to get engaged in social life but unfortunately there are limited opportunities provided only from the NGOs and some very small local youth initiatives. The new government strategy for youth is under approval process yet it remains to be seen how it will be implemented. Unfortunately, the strategy does not provide and direct support to Social Entrepreneurship endeavours it rather focuses on youth activism with some measures on Equipping young people with life skills through qualitative non-formal education and qualitative youth work.

Summary of the legislative and institutional framework for social entrepreneurship

Kosovo Government adopted Law No. 06/L-022 on Social Enterprises¹ in November 2018. Further the Kosovo's Law No. 03/L-145 on Empowerment and Participation of Youth² was created to promote and reaffirm youth participation in decision-making processes. It serves as the basis for administrative instructions on the licensing of youth centres, youth engagement in voluntary work, and opportunities for the

¹ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=18187&langid=2>

² <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2654&langid=2>

non-formal education of youth. Kosovo Strategy for Youth 2019-2023³ emphasises these aspects, as well as other cross-sectoral issues relevant to youth, such as employment and entrepreneurship, education, health, human security, social integration, sports, culture, and recreation. Strategy for Supporting Innovation and Entrepreneurship (2019-2023)⁴ demonstrates the efforts for improvement of institutional framework for innovation. Finally in 2020 the Kosovo Government approved The Regulation (GRK) No.17/2020 on the Registration procedures for Social Enterprises⁵. However, the law and the regulation began implementation only on November 2023⁶. The law provides for 2 categories of Social Enterprises mainly Category A: Social enterprises engaged in the delivery of services, which guarantees the inclusion of marginalised persons and produces a positive impact on the quality of lives of those at a potential risk of social exclusion; and Category B: Social enterprises which employ at least 30% of their workforce from vulnerable groups in the population. A Type B social enterprise may also conduct the activities of a Type A.

The legal framework in Kosovo defines the Social Enterprise “as legal person, regardless of the manner in which it is established, and which contains social objectives in its charter, carries out economic activities, produces goods and provides services in the general interest of the

³ https://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/Strategy_for_Youth_2019-2023.pdf

⁴ https://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/Storage/Consultations/15-02-29-24122018/3.%20Strategjia%20Kombetare%20per%20Inovacion%20dhe%20ndermarresi_Anglisht.pdf

⁵ <https://kryeministri.rks-gov.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/RREGULLORE-NR.-17-2020-PER-PROCEDURAT-E-REGJISTRIMIT-TE-NDERMARRJEVE-SOCIALE.pdf>

⁶ <https://kryeministri.rks-gov.net/en/blog/the-process-of-registering-the-social-enterprises-begins/>

society and integrates persons of vulnerable groups in employment as defined by the Law on Social Enterprises” while ““Legal person” - means a limited liability company, a joint stock company, a cooperative, a foundation, an association or an institute, registered under the legislation in force in the Republic of Kosovo, which may acquire the status of a social enterprise.

Since the law on social enterprise began implementation just in November 2023 it is yet to be seen what are the mayor challenges related to the legal framework and its implementation. One of the challenges lacks of update on the web page of the ministry where one could not get information on the process of registering a Social Enterprise. Also, the legislation is not clear on provision of financial support to Social Enterprises it rather provides for fiscal incentives only.

The institutional framework

The Government of Kosovo as the primary regulator of, among others, the economic life in Kosovo and is currently updating its Private Sector Development Strategy (2018-2022), which is the main sectoral document for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) policies. While it remains unclear to what degree the strategy has been implemented so far, as part of the upcoming rework, the government aims to strengthen the strategy’s monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, allowing progress to be better measured in the future. The strategy focuses on the SMEs as drivers for the Kosovo economy where also the current and future social enterprises belong to this SME category of the enterprises. From the desk research performed during the period April to June 2024 we have not come across of any dedicated financial support facility for social enterprises, neither from the Kosovo government institutions nor

any other legal body, rather the social enterprises in Kosovo rely on donor funding projects that requires to go through a very competitive process. During the desk research we have identified only 2 entities that promote social entrepreneurship in Kosovo.

The table below provides the main actors involved in regulating, supporting and promoting the SME sector as well as social entrepreneurship in Kosovo.

Name of the institution	The role		
	Regulatory	Support	Promote
Ministry of Finance Transfers and Labour	x		
Department for Registration of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Ministry of Public Administration.	x		
Kosovo Tax Administration	x		
Ministry of Industry Entrepreneurship and Trade	x		
Kosovo Businesses Registration Agency in the Ministry of Industry Entrepreneurship and Trade	x		
Department of Small Medium Enterprises in the Ministry of Industry Entrepreneurship and Trade		x	

Kosovo Investment and Enterprise Support Agency in the Ministry of Industry Entrepreneurship and Trade		x	
Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports		x	
Kosovo Social Enterprise Foundation		x	x
Innovations Center Kosovo		x	
ITP Prizren		x	
Yunus Social Business Balkans		x	x
Jakova Innovation Center		x	
VentureUP Kosovo		x	
The <i>Kosovo Virtual Business Incubator UBT</i>		x	

Figure 1 Social entrepreneurship actors in Kosovo

Summary of the policy initiatives for youth on active citizenship and social entrepreneurship

In 2009, Kosovo Assembly recognised the vital role of youth activism in youth development with the enactment of the Law on Youth. This foundational legislation was crafted to improve the quality of life and social standing of young individuals, as well as to promote their active involvement in the decision-making process, as articulated in Article 1 of the Law on Empowerment and Participation of Youth⁷. The Law aims to strengthen the participation of youth in decision-making processes in

⁷ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2654&langid=2>

order to improve their quality of life, as well as their social status. It has a total of 19 articles and it incorporates the responsibilities of different central and local institutions and youth organisations in order to ensure wide youth participation in the public life. In addition, it defines voluntary work and informal education of young people and provides instruction for the licensing of the so-called “Youth Centres”. Based on the Law on Empowerment and Participation of Youth four administrative instructions were issued: 1. Administrative instruction for youth participating in the decision- making process; 2. Administrative instruction on licensing youth centres; 3. Administrative instruction for voluntary work; 4. Administrative instruction for non-formal education of youth. The main document regarding the implementation of youth policy is the Kosovo Strategy for Youth and Action Plan 2019-2023 (KSYAP)⁸ drafted by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport of Kosovo. The Strategy aimed at improving the overall situation of youth in Kosovo by promoting cooperation between youth organisations and the government, and increasing the collaboration of central institutions with the municipal bodies in order to empower youth policies and programmes. Despite the fact that the responsibilities of certain ministries regarding the enforcement of the Law on Empowerment and Participation of Youth are not clearly provided, the main central authority in charge for youth policies is the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports is in process of approving the new youth strategy and action plan for 2024 – 2026. Unfortunately, the strategy does not provide direct support to Social Entrepreneurship endeavours it rather focuses on youth activism with some measures on Equipping young people with life skills through qualitative non-formal education and qualitative youth work.

⁸ https://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/Strategy_for_Youth_2019-2023.pdf

Kosovo is divided into 38 municipalities. The main responsibilities of implementing youth policies at the local level lies with the Directorate for Culture, Youth and Sport. Except the municipality of Mamusha, other municipalities have established Municipal Directorates for Culture, Youth, and Sports issues or similar type of bodies. The number of staff members inside these departments varies from municipality to municipality. In addition to this, youth representative bodies such as Youth Action Councils (Central Youth Action Council and the Local Youth Action Council) and Youth Centres are relevant actors in terms of participating in designing policies and advocating of youth matters. The Youth Action Councils were established by Administrative Instruction No. 9/2010 issued by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Kosovo is a partner country of the Erasmus+ Programme, in the Western Balkans section, which means that Kosovo can take part in certain actions of the programme. An Erasmus+ Office in Kosovo has been established with the aim of assisting the European Commission, the Executive Agency and the local authorities for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme. The Regulation No. 09/2015⁹ on Subsidies in the Field of Culture, Culture Heritage, Youth and Sports in Article 8 states that among other it will subsidise also “ businesses and individuals that contribute to the field of youth, according to the programme objectives of the Ministry”. Social enterprises are not mentioned in the law nor the regulations as separate term.

Opportunities for social entrepreneurship for youth

Kosovo’s civic sector remained active in 2022 and 2023, with groups organizing protests for women’s rights and against violence towards women, the social rights as well as freedom of speech. Successful

⁹ https://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/Rregullore_per_subvencionimin_ne_fushen_e_kultures_tras_hegimise_kulturore_rinise_dhe_sportit_2015.pdf

campaigns included advocating for the removal of VAT taxes on menstrual products and a budget increase for domestic violence shelters. After constant protests and pressure from civil society, the government introduced legislative changes that would allow cases of gender-based violence to be prioritised since police and judicial authorities have tended to give lenient sentences to such perpetrators. Freedom House report on Kosovo for 2023 informs that “under the law on freedom of association, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) function freely, though the courts can ban groups that infringe on the constitutional order or encourage ethnic hatred. NGOs occasionally experience pressure to curtail criticism of the government, though many continue to criticise the authorities and have largely been able to engage in advocacy work without interference.”¹⁰ On the other hand, whether in creative entrepreneurship or in electoral process participation, young people in Kosovo demonstrate a clear willingness to become active citizens. Even though the Kosovo government through the Ministry of Youth Culture and Sports has developed the new strategy for youth in Kosovo, it remains to be seen how this new strategy will be successful in implementation and providing opportunity for youth activism that would possibly lead to social entrepreneurship. Also, the Ministry of Trade Innovation and Entrepreneurship is providing funding possibilities still the lack of awareness on benefits of Social Entrepreneurship is still present among young people. Another window for young people to become active citizens largely remains the projects initiated by international and local non-governmental organisations. There are usually several initiatives that strive to involve youth engagement as well as participation and lately also social entrepreneurship initiatives in Kosovo began to emerge.

¹⁰ <https://freedomhouse.org/country/kosovo/freedom-world/2024>

During June 2024 the project conducted a survey on opportunities with youth workers and youth in Kosovo and it spanned across most of the regions in Kosovo. The majority of respondents from youth workers groups informed that they have knowledge of Social Entrepreneurship of which 44% of respondents replied that they have very good knowledge of social entrepreneurship, while 52% of respondents replied that they have some knowledge of social entrepreneurship.

On a scale of 1 to 5, how familiar are you with the concept of social entrepreneurship?

25 answers

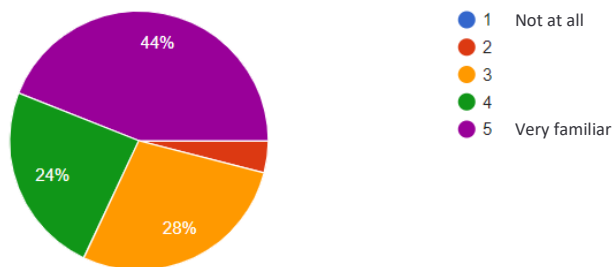


Figure 2 Familiarity of youth workers with social entrepreneurship in Kosovo

Youth workers in Kosovo have important role on supporting youth. It is a mixture of different support measures that are in place in Kosovo and provided by youth workers depending on their role and responsibilities. Their role varies from providing mentorship, workshops, and networking with a small number of youth workers also supporting youth on direction to financial support and education. 20% of youth workers do not measure the impact of their work while 40% rely on sharing success stories and case studies. Only 12% provide for long-term tracking of ventures. Detailed information on social entrepreneurship, better marketing and promotion, integration of all phases of support to SE startups, financial support and long-term mentoring and networking are some of the suggestions that youth workers provided in the survey. Finally, 80% of respondents stated that they will be willing to participate in the possible future network of youth workers with focus on SE.

How do you measure the impact of your support for young people and their social enterprise initiatives?

25 answers

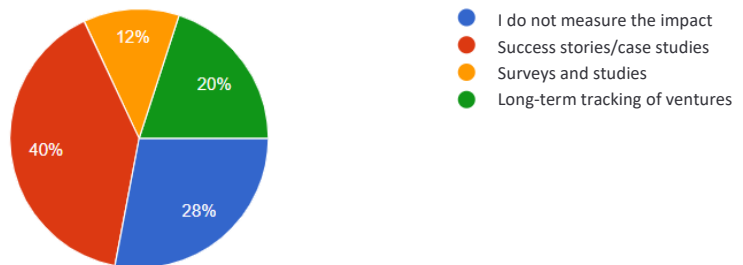


Figure 3 Ways that youth workers measure the impact of their support to young people for social entrepreneurship initiatives

in Kosovo the idea of Social Entrepreneurship is at its infant stages. The legislation is very recent and borrowed by other EU countries such as

Italy, and is yet to be seen how it will impact the social enterprise ecosystem. However, the legislation does not really provide for any incentives nor make a significant distinction between continuing as NGO and becoming a Social Enterprise. Their financial support benefits are non-existent at this stage for SE hence no willingness to transform to SE or become a SE. The youth workers are doing their best within the existing system but rely heavily on donor funding projects. Youth on the other hand are primarily focused on securing their own financial stability and looking to provide services to EU and overseas business that pay relatively decent salaries hence venturing into SE is somewhat not attractive idea considering the lack of support from start-up to becoming a standalone business venture.

Challenges for social entrepreneurship for youth

According to the World Bank data the share of youth not in education, employment or training, total (% of youth population) in Kosovo was reported at 32.9 % in 2022, compiled from officially recognised sources¹¹. Kosovo is often highlighted for having the youngest population in Europe, with 55% of its population under 30 and over one-third under the age of 18. The Policy Brief published by Austrian Institute for International Affairs¹² among other highlights the following challenges and barriers beginning with; a) outdated quality of education system, b) mismatch of education and labour market needs and c) finally the challenge of others deciding for young people without hearing and taking seriously the voice of young people. UNICEF Kosovo Programme¹³ informs that In Kosovo, traditional social norms mean that young people are often not included in decision-making in their

¹¹ <https://tradingeconomics.com/kosovo/share-of-youth-not-in-education-employment-or-training-total-percent-of-youth-population-wb-data.html>

¹² <https://www.wb2eu.eu/?p=9878>

¹³ <https://www.unicef.org/kosovoprogramme/second-decade-childs-life>

homes, schools, or communities. Significantly, 61 per cent of adolescents and youth report feelings of exclusion, perceiving “little” or “no opportunity” to participate in decision-making processes. This means adolescents and youth in Kosovo cannot realise their rights due to the lack of capacity, skills, and opportunity to participate in civic, political, and professional spheres. Today, only 10 per cent of youth in Kosovo believe their interests are well represented in politics. Platforms and mechanisms for youth participation at the local level are either absent or dysfunctional and fail to include marginalised and vulnerable youth. Both local and central institutions still do not consider young people’s development a priority, which is reflected by the dismal budget allocations for youth activities at both levels. The result is a generation of disenfranchised youth and adolescents with little experience or interest in social and civic engagement at local or regional levels. Women and youth face significant barriers to entrepreneurship due to age and gender-based discrimination and stigma, such as accessing networks and resources and gaining trust and recognition of skills and experience combined with a lack of support for funding as well as development of professional and technical skills.

During June 2024 the project conducted a survey on opportunities with youth in Kosovo. The survey included youth from age 14 to age 29 and it spanned across the all regions in Kosovo.

Only 14.8% of youth responded that they are very familiar with the concept of Social Entrepreneurship while the rest of respondents responded that they know partially or very little about the Social Entrepreneurship.

How familiar are you with the concept of social enterprise?

27 answers

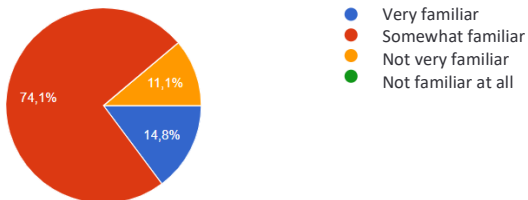


Figure 4 Familiarity of young people with social entrepreneurship in Kosovo

29.6% responded that they are involved in Social Enterprises while the majority declared that they are not involved in social enterprise activities. Out of those who responded that are involved in Social Entrepreneurship stated that they are involved in forms of volunteering, environment protection as well as local municipalities activities.

Are you currently involved in an organization/business that is a social enterprise?

27 answers

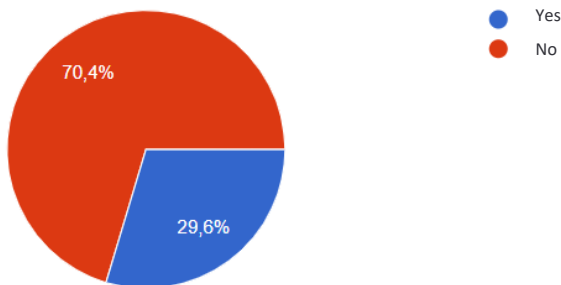
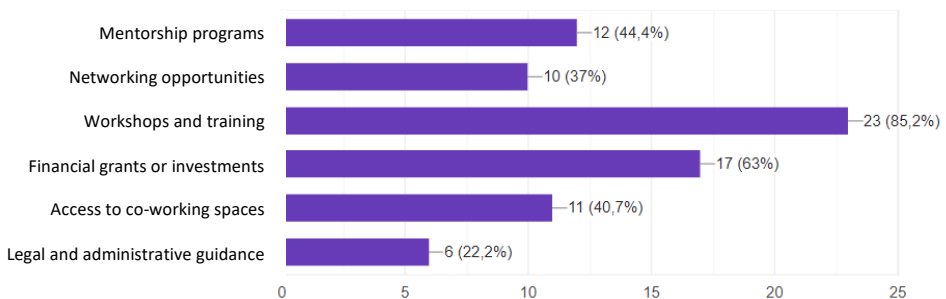


Figure 5 Involvement of youth in social enterprises

The desire to solve social issues combined with educational programme opportunities is the biggest motivator to get involved or interested in social entrepreneurship followed by Passion for entrepreneurship, Influence from peers or mentors and lastly media exposure. When asked about challenges and support, Balancing time and responsibilities was the biggest challenge identified by young people in this survey. Further other challenges identified are the Access to funding and Lack of mentorship or guidance followed by Building a network and navigating legal requirements.

What types of support do you believe would be most helpful for young social entrepreneurs? (Select all that apply)

27 answers



When asked What types of support do you believe would be most beneficial to young social entrepreneurs – the young people by far identified the need for Workshops and training as the main form of support that they would need. After the need for training the next support identified is support for financial grants or investments followed by Mentoring support, Access to Co-working spaces while Networking and Legal and Administrative guidance are at the bottom of the list for the support needed. Only 18.5% of respondents see themselves as future leaders of a Social Enterprise, while the majority of respondents, 37% , see themselves as Supporting social ventures in a

different capacity (e.g., mentor, investor). 14.8% are not sure whether they see themselves related to Social Enterprise while 29.6% see themselves as Involved in social entrepreneurship, but not as a leader.

Where do you see your involvement in social enterprise in the next 5 years?

27 answers

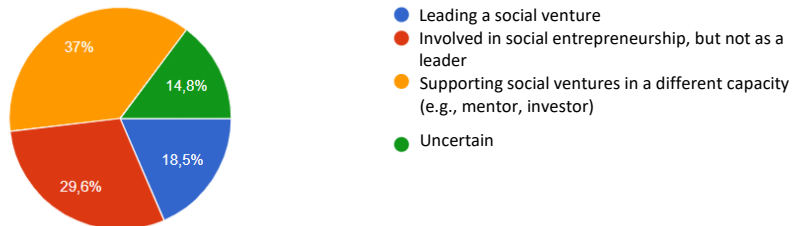


Figure 6 Aspirations for future involvement in a social enterprise

When asked - How can educational institutions, governments, or organisations better support youth in social entrepreneurship? – the youth provided variety of answers including realization of various activities and enterprises for self-awareness and social progress. Sharing information about social enterprises, what they are and what they offer in the environment where they live. More opportunities are given in educational institutions so that young people have easier access to these enterprises. Educational institutions, governments and organisations can better support young people in social enterprise by offering educational programmes that develop their entrepreneurial skills, providing grants and funding for social projects, and creating mentoring and training networks to help develop their ideas. theirs. Finally announcing new grant openings in a way that motivates young people, managing to observe every activity of enterprises for the reason that young people know that their work is being watched by someone and is being evaluated and is not going to waste are answers given by respondents. When asked about - Are there any specific areas of social

impact you are passionate about and would like to see more focus on in the social entrepreneurship community? – the respondents replied that leadership, Education, Training Specific Education on Information Technology, Mental and Psychological Support at community level are some of the areas identified by youth as a possibility of their involvement to provide social impact.

It is very difficult to come to some concrete conclusion based on this survey. However, youth in Kosovo are seeking for opportunities to get engaged in social life but unfortunately there are limited opportunities provided only from the NGOs and some very small local youth initiatives. The new government strategy for youth is under approval process yet it remains to be seen how it will be implemented. Unfortunately, the strategy does not provide and direct support to Social Entrepreneurship endeavours it rather focuses on youth activism with some measures on Equipping young people with life skills through qualitative non-formal education and qualitative youth work

The role of local government and educational institutions in supporting youth social entrepreneurship

In the first week of July 2024 PEN organised a focus group discussion with the aim of gathering opinions from individuals that are involved on the topic of social entrepreneurship. The participants included representatives from various sectors, including business incubators, NGOs, representative of the Ministry of Youth Culture and Sports, and aspiring social entrepreneurs. The focus group aimed to identify challenges, opportunities, and perceptions regarding social entrepreneurship in the current socio-economic and legal landscape. The following are some of the key elements of the focus group discussion:

Key Findings

1. Limited Information and Legal Ambiguities

- **Lack of Information:** Participants highlighted a significant lack of information about social enterprises. This gap in knowledge affects awareness and understanding of SE among potential entrepreneurs and the general public.
- **Legal Vagueness:** The legal framework governing social enterprises is perceived as vague. Social enterprises are often not registered as entrepreneurs but rather as businesses or non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which creates confusion and potential legal challenges.

2. Success Stories and Legal Influences

- **Few Success Stories:** There are not many widely known success stories of social entrepreneurship. This lack of visibility contributes to scepticism about the viability and benefits of SE.
- **International Models:** The current SE law is influenced by Italian and German models, focusing more on the NGO logic. While there are models like the "corporate social responsibility" that would link bigger corporations with social enterprises there is insufficient information, and they face challenges in implementation.

3. Funding Challenges

- **Funding Disparities:** NGOs have the right to receive funds, while SEs often do not, leading to a disparity in funding opportunities. The profit vs. non-profit distinction complicates the financial sustainability of social enterprises

Recommendations for support mechanisms and educational/training resources for young people to get involved in social entrepreneurship

Based on the conclusions drawn from the survey with youth and youth workers and focus group discussion the project will try to summarise some of the recommendations that highlights the strong desire of Kosovar youth to engage in social change, but acknowledges a lack of structured opportunities. While a new government youth strategy is in development, it currently emphasises activism and skills development, neglecting social entrepreneurship (SE). This document proposes recommendations to address these challenges and nurture a thriving SE ecosystem for young people.

Key Challenges:

- **Limited awareness and education on SE:** The concept of SE is new in Kosovo, leading to a lack of understanding among potential young entrepreneurs.
- **Unclear legal framework:** Recent SE legislation lacks clarity and incentives, making it unclear how it differs from traditional NGOs and disincentivizing transformation.
- **Financial hurdles:** Absence of dedicated funding mechanisms for SEs makes them financially unsustainable compared to donor-funded NGOs.
- **Youth career aspirations:** Young people prioritise immediate financial security, leading them towards higher-paying jobs rather than SE ventures perceived to lack support.

Recommendations:

1. Awareness and Education:

- **Develop SE curricula:** Integrate SE modules into educational programmes at all levels, with a focus on business skills, social impact measurement, and legal aspects.
- **Organise workshops and seminars:** Conduct targeted workshops on SE, including success stories, feasibility studies, and business plan development, specifically for youth.
- **Utilise online platforms:** Create a web portal offering resources, educational materials, and mentorship opportunities for aspiring young social entrepreneurs.

2. Legal and Regulatory Framework:

- **Review and refine SE legislation:** Advocate for revising the SE law to clarify its benefits and distinctions from NGOs. Consider including tax breaks, simplified registration processes, and access to specific funding streams.
- **Promote stakeholder engagement:** Engage young people, incubators, and social enterprises in discussions around refining the legal framework to better suit their needs.

3. Funding and Financial Sustainability:

- **Establish dedicated funding mechanisms:** Create government or donor-supported funding programmes specifically for SEs, focusing on start-up capital, grants, and impact investment opportunities.
- **Explore social impact bonds:** Investigate the feasibility of social impact bonds, where investors provide upfront financing for SE projects with social impact outcomes determining returns.
- **Encourage corporate social responsibility:** Motivate businesses to invest in or partner with SEs aligned with their corporate social responsibility strategies.

4. Building an Enabling Ecosystem:

- **Facilitate networking opportunities:** Organise regular networking events connecting young social entrepreneurs, mentors, investors, and potential collaborators.
- **Municipal support:** Encourage local governments to develop and implement initiatives directly supporting social enterprises, such as preferential procurement policies, incubation space, and streamlined permitting processes.
- **Success stories and role models:** Showcase success stories of established Kosovar SEs, inspiring and motivating young people to consider this path.

Conclusion

By implementing these recommendations, Kosovo can build a robust social entrepreneurship ecosystem tailored to the needs of its young people. Increased awareness, a supportive legal environment, and accessible funding will empower young Kosovars to combine their entrepreneurial spirit with a desire for social change, leading to a more inclusive and sustainable future for the country.

The desire of Kosovar youth to contribute to positive social change is undeniable. However, the lack of a supportive ecosystem hinders them from pursuing social entrepreneurship (SE) as a viable career path. This conclusion builds upon the initial recommendations, outlining a comprehensive strategy to nurture a vibrant SE ecosystem tailored to the needs and aspirations of young Kosovars.

Untapped Potential and the Need for Change:

Kosovo boasts a young population brimming with potential and a strong desire to make a difference. The current limitations stifle their potential for social innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. A recent survey revealed a limited understanding of SE among youth, coupled with an unclear legal framework and lack of dedicated funding mechanisms. This highlights the urgent need for a multi-pronged approach that fosters awareness, creates an enabling environment, and empowers young people to thrive in the realm of social entrepreneurship.

Cultivating Awareness and Fostering Knowledge:

The foundation of a thriving SE ecosystem rests on a strong foundation of knowledge and awareness. Integrating SE modules into existing educational programmes across various levels will equip young people with the necessary skills and understanding to navigate the business world within a social impact framework. Developing a dedicated online platform offering resources, educational materials, and mentorship opportunities would further empower aspiring young social entrepreneurs. Engaging young audiences through interactive social media campaigns and showcasing success stories of established Kosovar SEs will spark interest and inspire them to consider this path.

Building a Supportive Legal Framework:

The current SE legislation serves as a starting point, but lacks clarity and incentives. A comprehensive review and revision are necessary to clearly define the benefits of SEs, differentiating them from traditional NGOs. This includes exploring tax breaks, streamlined registration processes, and access to specific funding streams tailored to the needs of SEs. Engaging stakeholders, including young entrepreneurs, relevant professional bodies, and established SEs, in the revision process will

ensure the legal framework provides a supportive and enabling environment for social enterprises to flourish.

Securing Financial Sustainability and Diversifying Funding Sources:

Financial sustainability remains a critical challenge for SEs in Kosovo. Establishing dedicated funding programmes, including government grants, start-up capital, and impact investment opportunities specifically for SEs, would be a game-changer. Additionally, exploring innovative financial mechanisms like social impact bonds and crowdfunding platforms can diversify funding sources, allowing young entrepreneurs greater access to capital. Furthermore, encouraging corporate social responsibility efforts by motivating businesses to invest in or partner with SEs aligned with their corporate goals fosters a collaborative ecosystem with shared social objectives.

Creating an Enabling Ecosystem for Collaboration and Support:

Networking opportunities are crucial for young entrepreneurs. Regularly organizing events connecting young social entrepreneurs, mentors, investors, and potential collaborators will foster collaboration and knowledge exchange. Local governments play a vital role in creating supportive environments. Implementing preferential procurement policies for SEs, offering incubation space with subsidised rent, and streamlining permitting processes demonstrate government commitment to fostering social entrepreneurship. Highlighting success stories of established Kosovar SEs serves a dual purpose: inspiring young people and demonstrating the positive impact social enterprises can have on communities.

Empowering Through Mentorship and Skills Development:

Connecting aspiring young social entrepreneurs with experienced mentors through mentorship programmes provides invaluable guidance and support during the crucial early stages of venture development. Universities can play a pivotal role by establishing incubation centers dedicated to SEs. These centers would offer shared workspaces, access to technology, and business development support, fostering a nurturing environment for young entrepreneurs to innovate and grow. Developing targeted skills development programmes specifically tailored to the needs of SEs, such as social innovation, community engagement, and impact storytelling, equips young people with the necessary skills to excel in this dynamic field.

Monitoring Progress and Adapting Strategies:

Building a thriving SE ecosystem requires continuous monitoring and evaluation. Establishing a framework to track the progress and impact of various initiatives is essential. Regularly collecting data allows for adjustments and improvements to ensure strategies remain effective and responsive to the evolving needs of young social entrepreneurs.

A Catalyst for a Brighter Future:

By implementing the recommendations outlined in this conclusion, Kosovo can transform its current landscape and empower its young population to become agents of positive change. A robust SE ecosystem will not only nurture innovation and create jobs but also address pressing social challenges, fostering a more just and equitable society. Investing in social entrepreneurship is an investment in the future of Kosovo, enabling young people to unlock their full potential and contribute to a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

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Annexe

Best practices and initiatives in active citizenship and social entrepreneurship among youth

Name:	Active Citizenship Kosovo
Country:	Kosovo
Implemented/ Promoted by:	NGO “Syri i Vizionit” is implementing the “Active Citizenship” project promoted by Olof Palme International
Time frame/duration of the best practice:	It started implementing since January 2012 with pauses and again in 2018.
The implementors of the best practice is:	<p>Encouraging of civic initiatives through supporting initial ideas of individuals, informal groups, community organisations and other groups of civil society in Kosovo.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity building of individuals and groups to advocate and take actions for improving their conditions, particularly groups in rural areas – youth, women and marginalized community.• Functionalizing of an assistance office that would elaborate initiatives and needs of the groups of interest.• Starting of an online communication to tackle on joint initiative.

<p>Level of geographical Implementation:</p>	<p>Local with National ambitions</p>
<p>Description of the best practice:</p>	<p>Gathering individuals that had or undertook any initiative, informal groups, groups brought together ad hoc for a certain goal at the interest of the community, community organisations, NGOs, other groups of civil society with which interaction ways with local and central institutions, businesses, donors and other institutions were worked to be found.</p> <p>Direct meetings with citizens, establishment of focus groups, building of an interaction in local communities and municipalities, joint meetings of the community with institutions, technical support to actions undertaken by the community, trainings, administrative support for actions of the groups, experience exchange, assistance in functionalizing of the groups, coordination with other stakeholders, including institutions, donors, businesses, etc.</p> <p>At the same time, local institutions were an important partner throughout the implementation of this project.</p>
<p>Impact and added value to the community:</p>	<p>It has impacted and will continue to do so in making municipal officials increase the level of transparency through meetings with citizens, as well as increase of their efficiency on involvement of citizens in decision-making. By</p>

establishing the Office for provision of assistance and counselling for citizens and civil society which was opened under the auspices of “Active Citizenship” project has played an important role, not only for citizens’ empowerment, but also for empowerment of nongovernmental organisations operating in Pejë region and wider.

Office staff assisted civil society organisations in drafting financial reports, through providing counselling and practical work with them, same as it provided counselling for drafting project proposals and opportunities for applying to various donors.

It has also assisted different informal groups in preparing necessary documents for registering as NGOs, while it assisted in drafting internal regulations and statutes for NGOs.

Parts of the work of this office are also complaints, requests and project ideas that come from the citizens and get addressed to local and central level institutions. At the same time, although stationed in Pejë, this Office is at the service of all Kosovo citizens and different groups, NGOs, etc. who are able to seek help and advice from it through the www.aktivizohu.org website. Upon receipt of the information through the website, office staff responds to requests of citizens and other groups of interest.

	Here are some examples of the support provided by the assistance office:
Website:	https://aktivizohu.org/en/home
Annexes (project photos, anecdotal short stories, short quotes about the project impact.):	https://aktivizohu.org/en/gallery

Name:	Kosova Makers League KLM
Country:	Kosovo
Implemented/ Promoted by:	Implemented by Bonevet / Supported by UNË E DU KOSOVËN (I LOVE KOSOV O) Foundation
Time frame/duration of the best practice:	Ongoing – it began in 2018 KML is the first robotics competition in Kosovo that is organised in primary and secondary schools. In the first competition, nearly 50 schools and 200 students participated..
The implementors of the best practice is:	Online platform that encourages young students to work in teams as well as in combination with different ethnic/religious and other backgrounds.
Level of geographical Implementation:	National all over Kosovo

<p>Description of the best practice:</p>	<p>The KLM has currently under implementation 3 programmes that are dedicated mainly to young people in Kosovo and the region as well as encourages implementation of digital skills for the new generations. Besides being national KLM is also participating in Regional initiatives.</p> <p>KML Open is the largest educational robotics competition for elementary schools and other educational institutions in Kosovo involving children of the age group (6-15 years old) and aims for children to learn graphic programming in a fun way and nurture skills of the 21st century.</p> <p>CREATIVE CHALLENGE - is a technology competition created for secondary schools and other educational institutions in Kosovo that include students of the age group (15-18 years old). This competition aims for students to design and make prototypes for solving everyday problems by combining different innovative and technological forms.</p> <p>DIGITAL CITIZEN - is a regional project that aims to increase society's digital knowledge and skills through the digitization of public libraries, empowering them to become digital centers of innovation through their enrichment with technological equipment.</p>
<p>Impact and added value to the community:</p>	<p>Kosova Markers League is a dynamic educational platform, that ignites passion for robotics and technology among primary and</p>

	<p>secondary school students. They are all about STEAM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) and creating a vibrant, innovative, and nurturing learning space. They work actively to spread their mission to every school and municipality in Kosovo. They are pushing for STEM to be formally integrated into public education. KLM gets young minds working together in robotics contests, building teamwork skills and promote inclusion by giving space to every child regardless of gender, nationality, or age, to learn and collaborate in an environment where they feel valued. In year 2023 KLM supported 171 teams from 131 educational institutions of 27 municipalities of Kosovo to successfully complete the challenge for the first round of the competition within the specified time limit. 853 students (41% girls and 59% boys) have very curiously and enthusiastically learned interesting facts about some important places in the USA by programming the micro: Maqueen Plus robot.</p>
Website:	https://www.kosovamakers.net/
Annexes (project photos, anecdotal short stories, short quotes about the project impact.):	https://www.kosovamakers.net/media/

