2023

ANNUAL REPORT

ipkofoundation

TABLE OF CONTENT

VISION STATEMENT

We contribute towards creating an environment where technological innovation drives the just and sustainable social and economic development of Kosovo

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to support the development of future generations of leaders who use technology to implement innovative solutions to local and national development challenges while enabling an environment where they can reach their full potential through an improved policy and institutional context.

IPKO FOUNDATION'S VALUES

1.Equity and non-discrimination - we give the same opportunities to everyone and especially reach those excluded from opportunities.

2.Experiential learning - we believe in learning through experience as the most effective way to internalize the learning process.

3.Just and Sustainable development - we support ideas that bring development that is inclusive and based on principles of human rights, equitable growth, and environmental protection.

4.Innovation - we aim to be first in bringing global technological trends and knowledge which are inspirational and applicable to the local context.

5.Sustainability through institutionalization - we believe that just and sustainable change and large-scale impact come through systems change and the institutionalization of policies and processes.

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ipkofoundation

Impact Highlights

Introducing audiences to groundbreaking developments in data collection and Artificial Intelligence, influencing various aspects of daily life.

TRANSFORMATIVE ADVANCES IN AI EDUCATION

Keynote speakers, workshops, and panel discussions delved into AI's impact on education, job markets, climate, healthcare, and criminal justice.
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DOKU.TECH experienced a substantial rise in female participation and interest, with more than 53% of registered participants being women.

PROMOTING FEMALE PARTICIPATION

Ongoing efforts by the IPKO Foundation, such as Girls & Technology and Girls in ICT projects, contributed to the empowerment of girls and women in the field of technology.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

No. Workshop
40

Social Change Projects
15+

Women participants
53%

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The DIY Fair featured hands-on projects from 9 organizations, offering practical skills in AI, VR, and volunteer work.

Workshops and discussions, including insights from OpenAI's Pamela Mishkin, provided valuable knowledge on online survival and real-world AI applications.

IINTERSECTION OF ART AND TECHNOLOGY

Collaboration with Dokufest emphasized the intersection of art and technology, exploring AI's impact on traditional artistic processes.

DOKUKIDS workshops engaged youth in discussions on AI ethics and bias, fostering a creative dialogue.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NETWORKING

WHAT OUR DONORS ARE SAYING:

Describe in 3 words
Innovative: Curiosity, Exploring, Trendsetter
Professional: Flexible, Reliable, Integrity
Connection

DOKU.TECH served as a networking platform, bringing together professionals, organizations, and businesses involved in AI and technology.

Panel discussions addressed crucial topics, including AI's impact on women's representation.

COMMUNITY IMPACT BEYOND TECHNOLOGY

The project addressed broader societal issues, including the role of AI in job displacement and combating discrimination through initiatives like AADA.

Commitment to societal impact was evident in initiatives beyond technology-focused endeavors.

WHAT OUR BENEFITIARIES ARE SAYING:

Describe in 3 words

1. Supportive, Family-like, Community
2. Growth Inducing, Enablers, and
3. Connectors Inspiring, Fun

INSPIRATION AND EMPOWERMENT

The Girls in ICT Conference empowered over 100 girls with insights from successful female professionals in the technology sector.

Practical workshops and a job fair created avenues for skill development and career advancement in technology.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES AND COLLABORATIONS

Foundation involvement in various educational initiatives, including International Girl Child Day and the Game Jam workshop, showcased a commitment to skill-building.

Partnerships with organizations like RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), UN Women, and Women in Tech Kosovo demonstrated collaborative efforts to advance gender equality and technology initiatives.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES AND COLLABORATION

Attracting speakers globally, the event provided diverse perspectives on AI, blockchain, and digital spaces.

Collaborations with organizations like Women in Tech Kosovo underscored the importance of addressing gender-based violence in technology.

AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

Collaboration with UNFPA Kosovo on the "Të Gëzoheni me Fëmijë" campaign highlighted efforts to address gender-biased sex selection and unequal access to education.
The campaign launch, supported by key figures, raised awareness and advocated for improved educational opportunities for girls.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES AND COLLABORATIONS

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During this year, **IPKO Foundation** commissioned an independent evaluation report to assess the effectiveness and impact of its programs from 2018 to 2023. The evaluation, initiated by IF itself and not donor-driven, sought to objectively analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the programs, along with contributions from various stakeholders, including government institutions, donors, and civil society organizations.

#	Findings
1	The design and development of IPKO Foundation interventions was informed by thorough analyses conducted at the national level and it was aligned to the previously identified needs and challenges.
2	The design and development of IPKO Foundation interventions have been relevant to national priorities and international development trends
3	IPKO Foundation projects are perceived as highly innovative, unique and very attractive to young people
4	IPKO Foundation interventions successfully offered skills development opportunities and practical experience to adolescents, enhancing their employability, and even facilitating job placements through non-formal education activities
5	IF interventions successfully encouraged young people to exercise their voice through active participation
6	IF interventions successfully encouraged knowledge sharing, networking and collaboration among young people
7	IF interventions are breaking ground in addressing digital violence and cyber bullying in Kosovo through facilitating awareness campaigns and advocating for better legal framework regarding technology applications
8	The interventions have contributed to awareness raising and knowledge building among key stakeholders but also wider public.

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

IPKO Foundation has supported organizations and initiatives through sponsorship for events and activities where young people could innovate, gain digital experience, create connections, share knowledge and work together to bring change in their communities. This year, we focused on supporting organizations that brought something valuable to their communities in different fields.
We have supported many organizations, sub-communities etc, to help them get sustainable and innovative projects.

SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS:

1. AI KOSOVO

2. GYMNAZIUM"VELLEZERIT FRASHERI" LIPJAN

3. ACTION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

4. GERMIN

4200€

TOTAL SUPPORT

DOKUTECH

BRINGING THE FUTURE CLOSER TOGETHER!

DOKUTECH 2023 exposed its audience to advances in data collection, use for Artificial Intelligence over the next few decades, and how it will transform our lives.

Keynote speakers, workshops, breakout sessions, panel discussions, insights, learnings, and inspiration, were on the agenda, along with plenty of ways to network.

Our keynote speakers explored some of the opportunities and risks associated with AI, such as

- AI's Impact on the job market
- AI models such as ChatGPT
- The impact of AI on our everyday lives - education, work, climate & environment, healthcare, insurance, manufacturing, criminal justice.
- Deep tech and BlockChain
- Digital Spaces from a feminist approach

Through the eyes of speakers who work at the intersection of AI and policy, law, environment, healthcare, and education, we use DOKUTECH as a platform to explore what the future holds for Kosovo, the region, and the world.

TALKS

> "Even though AI has the potential to improve efficiency and create new opportunities, it can also lead to job displacement, and perhaps even increase inequality, and navigating this complex issue and ensuring a more equitable future for all would require deep engagement and education."

Mira Murati, the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at OpenAI, jump-started the keynote talks in DOKU.TECH X edition. Mira delved into the concerns about AI's impact on the job market by stating that

Pamela Mishkin, a Member of the Technical Staff at OpenAI (creator of ChatGPT). Mishkin elaborated on Open AI's mission to enhance AI's abilities to be capable of doing human-labor activities. In addition, she promoted OpenAI's products, such as DALL·E, ChatGPT, ChatGPT-4, and others, and introduced the audience to their functions.

"First, we got a bunch of humans to demonstrate what model was more convenient for them. By adding human feedback, we were able to get much better accuracy of our model." she said.

"Makeovers require courage," he says. However, he is critical of the AI makeover particularly. "AI may work for a few, which has done so far, but I suppose for the many, the way to find out how to operate in this world of ours, we need to work together," he adds

Ralph Talmont, Chief Creative & Communications Officer, Collectico/Founder, Art in a Place of Work

Fatos Ismali, Senior Data & AI Solutions Architect at Microsoft, UK

"We are essentially mimicking the cognitive abilities of the human language into code; you can use these technologies like openAI to intelligently extract information from these call transcripts and do something about them," he noted.

"To interact with a blockchain network, as a user, you require a mobile application equipped with wallet capabilities, enabling communication with the network."

Shermin Voshmgir, Author of the bestselling book "Token-Economy". Founder of Token Kitchen and BlockchainHub, Berlin

Kasia Odrozek came from Berlin, Germany, and from MOZILLA Foundation, a unit researching and developing recommendations on Trustworthy AI and internet health

"AI is only reproducing the racial and gender stereotypes because they are using already generated data."

"It is crucial for a country's demographic to resemble that of Kosovo rather than Europe, as an aging population poses underestimated challenges. It creates conflicts within the political sphere where youth's interests are not represented in parliamentary politics, which shifts politics from the Parliament to the streets or online platforms".

Maciej Kuziemski, Manager Director of Philanthropy for Impact, Central European Initiative

Jelena Memet, Director of the Alternative Girl's Center

" "As per online stalking, social networks where they were abused mostly were Facebook and Instagram, and 89% of properties were men,"-
"It covers three key areas: analyzing technology's role in supporting agenda-based violence, advocating for improved legislation, and building the capacity of women's movements in the Balkans for preventing gender-based violence in technology."

WORKSHOPS, MEETUPS & DO IT YOURSELF FAIR

DO IT YOURSELF (DIY) FAIR

Over 9 companies and organizations showcased their work, offering a glimpse into the future. Beyond being a regular fair, it was an interactive experience where participants could learn hands-on skills. Through dynamic workshops, attendees actively explored the world of technology, from understanding VR glasses to unraveling the mysteries of AI. DOKU.TECH aimed to empower, not just inform. It wasn't about passive listening but about crafting practical skills for the modern era. Coordinated by groups like **J-Coders, Kosovo Game Developers, Cacttus Education, Shkolla Digjitale, etc,** the event wasn't a mere gathering; it was a hub of ideas. Visitors were not spectators; they were active participants in the narrative of innovation, engaging directly with projects and testing groundbreaking information.

WORKSHOPS

Two-day hackathon with Pamela Mishkin from OpenAI and AI Kosovo

"The Art of Surviving Online" Workshop held by Jelena Memet - Director of Alternative Girls Center, and by Arrita Rezniqi - Program Manager/Coordinator of the Free Legal Aid Center of KLI

PANEL DISCUSSION

Addition to the agenda of DOKU.TECH this year was the Panel Discussion from Women in Tech Kosovo on "Artificial Intelligence and How it Impacts Women's Representation"

"AI Speakers meetup with local organizations and businesses "

DOKU.TECH IN DOKUFEST - BRINGING THE FUTURE CLOSER, TOGETHER

The 10th edition of **DOKU.TECH**, to its mother festival, **Dokufest**, brought a higher focus on the intersection of art and technology under the theme "Bringing the Future Closer, Together".

The program was held on 05 August 2023, at the premises of Innovation and Training Park (ITP), **Prizren**.

Pavan Turaga, a professor and the Director of the School of Arts, Media, and Engineering at the University of Arizona, kicked off DOKU.TECH at Dokufest with his presentation on trends in AI and its potential to replace artists and creators in the traditional art space.

"AI will not replace an artist, but it will create tool kits that can be shared in mainstream art processes – that is where the value of AI really is"

This workshop, held for kids of ages 11 to 15 who were interested in an introduction in Artificial Intelligence and how it works, aimed to skill youth about the basics of AI, generate discussion about ethics and bias in AI, and underline the impact of AI in the creative world of art. It also worked to provide participants with hands-on practical examples about using Chatbots.
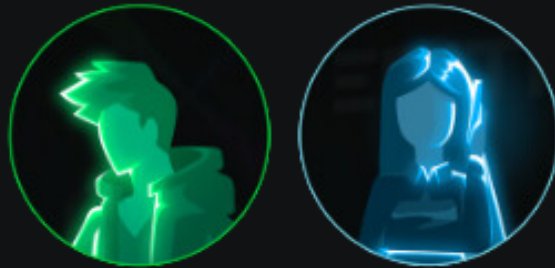
In addition to our Keynote speaker, DOKU.TECH held the panel discussion "**She's AI: Accelerating Women's Representation in the World of Artificial Intelligence**", implemented by IPKO Foundation and Women in Tech Kosove
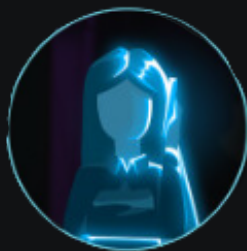
PANEL DISCUSSION

DOKU.TECH 2023

INF✷GRAPHICS

Number of participants: 1500+

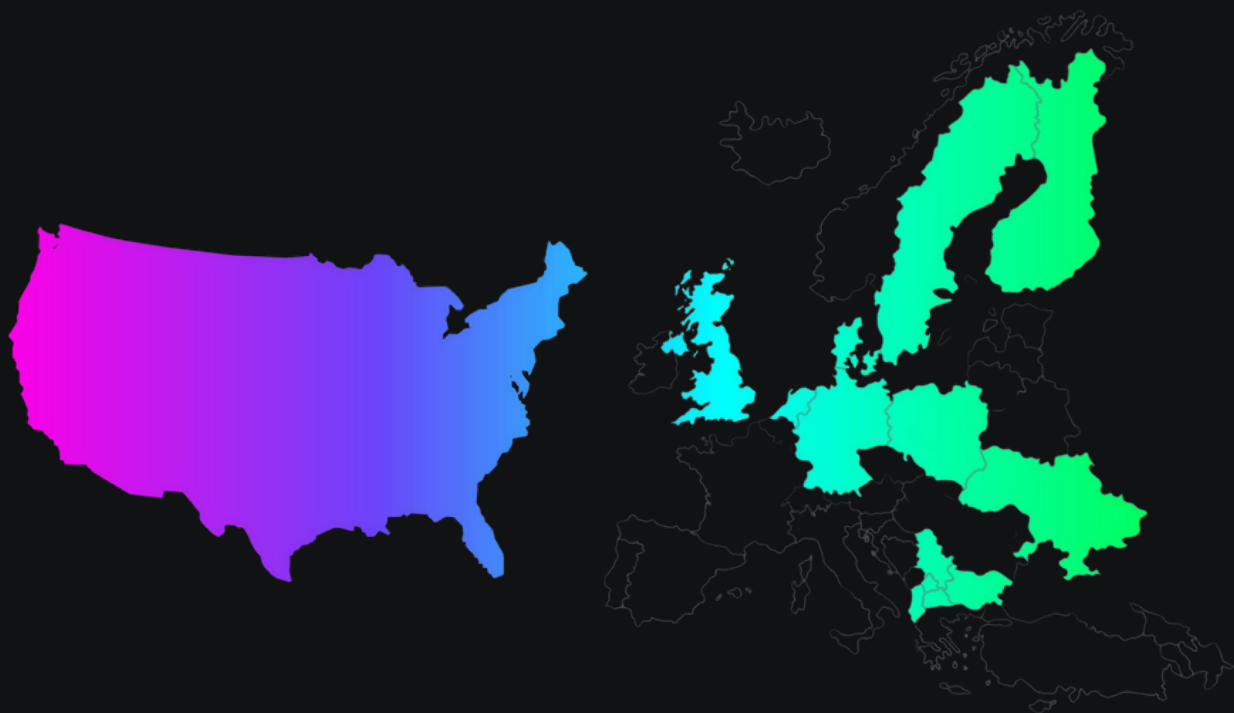Women: 54%

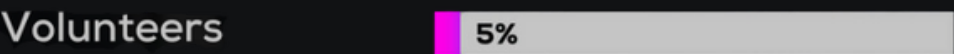Men: 45%

Others: 1 %

Keynote speakers 10

Women 50%

Men 40%

Others 10%

Participating Countries

Kosovo - Albania - North Macedonia - Serbia - Finland
United States of America - Ukraine - Sweden
Denmark - Germany - Netherlands - Poland - Bulgaria - United Kingdom

Employed 58%

Unemployed 31%

Volunteers 5%

Others 6%

WORKSHOPS

- Demystifying natural language processing and large language models
- The Art of Surviving Online

MEETUPS

- The promise and peril of artificial intelligence and the role of an open ecosystem
- AI speakers x Tech companies' representatives in Kosova

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Artificial Intelligence and how it impacts women's representation

GAME EXHIBITION

with more than 6 different games

DOKUTECH
MOMENTS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – 8 OF MARCH

This year IPKO Foundation, UN Women in Kosovo, and Women in Tech Kosovo teamed up in organizing an event to mark International Women's Day 2023 under the global theme **"DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality"**

During the event moderated by Vlora Tuzi Nushi, the Head of UN Women Office in Kosovo, the participating young girls will have the opportunity to hear the inspiring speeches of H.E Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, President of Kosovo, and Arnhild Spence, UN Development Coordinator in Kosovo, followed by Adelina Qarri, Senior Program Manager at IPKO Foundation.

The final event featured an exciting quiz, immersing students in the stories of groundbreaking women who have shaped the tech landscape. Beyond testing knowledge, it provided a unique chance to explore gender equality concepts intertwined with the transformative power of ICT.

Girls in ICT

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Year-round Partner

RIT Kosovo

No. of Women Participating

160

Sill Building Workshop

3

The conference was packed with **powerful talks, group discussions, hands-on sessions**, and a chance to explore **job opportunities**. It was an amazing chance for young women to get inspired by successful female leaders, connect with experts in the field, and pick up important know-how and skills in the world of technology.

The day began with welcoming remarks from the Executive Director of IPKO Foundation, Ms. Abetare Gojani, who emphasized that we must **"continue to work together and strengthen the role of girls and women in the technology sector every day."**

The girls had the opportunity to be inspired by the Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Pristina, Donjeta Sahatçiu, who said: **"If you get a base today, get informed, create networking, be trained, and use technology in your life today, tomorrow you are able to be more productive, more powerful economically, and manage to be profiled in something that still does not exist today".**

On the other hand, the Associate Dean of Faculty and Assistant Professor at RIT Kosovo (A.U.K), Ms. Venera Demukaj, mentioned the many initiatives they are undertaking to inspire girls to join the ICT sector. She added that even though we as a society are making progress with statistics, we still have a long way to go to close the gap of women in tech

Annea Futko - Mechatronics and Robotics Engineer.
"If you believe in yourself, you can achieve anything. There will be challenges every step of the way, but that doesn't mean you can't overcome them. Everyone has their own way of overcoming these challenges and we are here today to make that path easier."

PANEL DISCUSSION "DEMYSTIFYING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE"

The panelists, Ermal Sadiku, an entrepreneur and successful engineer at the same time Chairman of the Board of STIKK, and Alma Fazliu, a Data Scientist, provided interesting insights into artificial intelligence that everyone uses AI even if they are not aware of it.

WORKSHOPS

On International Girls in ICT Day we organized three different workshops in joint cooperation with A.U.K TDI, such as:

1. **Military Operations Workshop**
2. **Cybersecurity Workshop and**
3. **GIS [Geographic Information System] Workshop**

JOB FAIR

17+ prestigious companies from Kosovo in the field of Communication, Information, and Technology, where the young women and girls interested in internships in such fields had the opportunity to kickstart their careers in technology.

INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY - EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

OCTOBER 11, 2023-TË GËZOHENI ME FËMIJË CAMPAIGN LAUNCHING CEREMONY

In a groundbreaking collaboration, UNFPA Kosovo and IPKO Foundation have teamed up to tackle the pervasive issue of selective abortion in rural Kosovo. Launched on October 11, **"Të Gëzoheni me Fëmijë"** is more than a campaign; it's a call to transform lives. Focused on International Girl Child Day, the initiative aims to raise awareness about gender-biased sex selection and its link to unequal access to education for girls.

Prime Minister Albin Kurti kicked off the Launching Ceremony with a powerful message emphasizing the pivotal role of girls and women in society. This partnership is more than an initiative; it's a movement to ensure every girl has equal access to education and the opportunities it unlocks.

"Let's say NO to the practice of preference for boys, because "he/she who has daughters has the world" [another traditional saying]" Prime Minister continued the message.

The Minister of Health of Kosovo, Arben Vitia, who joined the launching of the campaign stated that continuous efforts are being made to improve the actual situation with selective abortion in Kosovo.

In 2022, more than 1,200 abortions were reported, the Minister said."Women and girls have always been advocates for change in every institution. The stronger women are, the stronger society becomes." Education and empowerment of girls are among the most effective ways of fighting the phenomena of selective abortion.

The Minister of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Arbërie Nagavci, emphasized that access to education will be equal for everyone in Kosovo, especially for girls.

"IPKO Foundation remains committed, along with its partners, to empower girls in our society by offering them non-formal education training and encouraging them to challenge themselves in directions that have been prejudiced until now. Selective abortion phenomena is an issue that requires effective actions and initiatives, and we are here today to unite our forces and energies towards finding a solution", **Abetare Gojani, Executive Director of IPKO Foundation**.

Around 70 participants from Western Balkans countries came to participate to Game Jam 48 Hrs Workshop, brought jointly with Kosovo Game Developers KGD. Amazing energy among participants, who were ready to get some experience in game development and have fun.

WORKSHOP

Game Jam workshop was funded by the Western Balkans Fund. Western Balkans Fund Regional Grant Scheme is co-funded by the European Union, IPA – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.
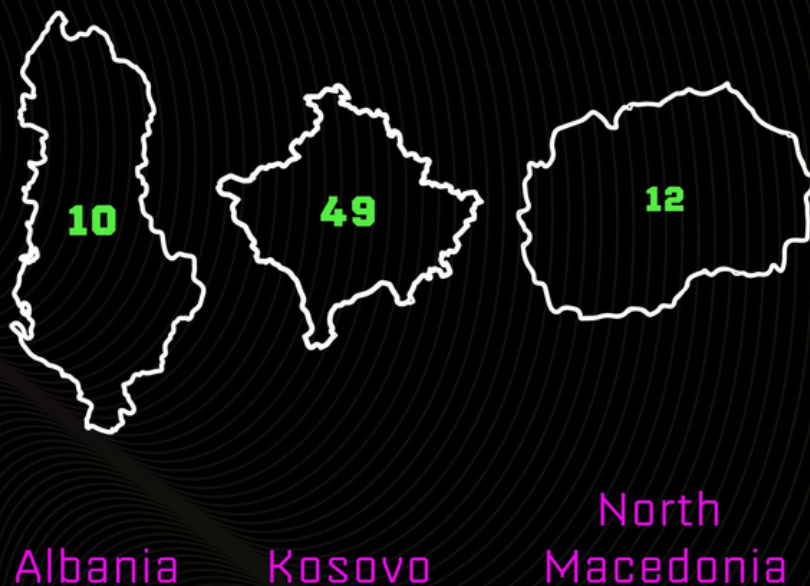
GAME JAM

Number of Participants

10 Albania

49 Kosovo

12 North Macedonia

GAME JAM

Number of Participants

110 Applications

65

16 Teams

Men
51

Women
14

ACTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION FOR ALL – AADA

Three-day Summer School as one of the main activities of the project "Action Against Discrimination for All - AADA" project, with more than 60 participants (teachers and students) coming from the beneficiary schools of the project from 11 different municipalities of Kosovo.

The summer school will serve as an incubator based on the PONDER Methodology and will be facilitated by two professional trainers. During the Summer School two first days, school-based groups will learn advanced knowledge about methodologies for addressing and combating discrimination and hate speech, and on the final day, they will generate ideas for producing digital content such as video animation, interactive presentations, games, short films, comic strips, articles, and/or funny rhymes, etc. aiming to combat hate speech and discrimination.

The AADA project is financed by the European Union in Kosovo and implemented by the Kosovo Education Center (KEC) in partnership with the IPKO Foundation, two active civil society organizations, known for their contribution to the field of human rights.

RESHAPING THE FUTURE: KOSOVO WOMEN ON THE FRONT LINE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CYBERSECURITY

Within the project "Reshaping the Future: Kosovo Women on the Front Line of Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity", IPKO Foundation in collaboration with Women in Tech Kosovo and with support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kosovo, have organized a one-day training for 50 girls on **Gender-Based Cyber Threats and Cyber Security.**

Number of girls and the respective Municipality:

11	PRISHTINA
10	LIPJAN
10	PRIZREN
7	GJAKOVA
10	GJILAN

TOTAL: 50

"Tajnimin ne Siguri Kibernetike, ka pasur ndikim per se miri sikur tek une, ashtu dhe tek bashkëmoshataret e mija.
Ky trajnim vetedijeson moshen e re rreth gjithckaje qe mund te na ndodh gjate perdorimit te rrjeteve sociale, poashtu edhe ruajtjen per ato ndodhi.
Do ishte mire qe ky trajnim te shfaqej ne pika te shkurtera edhe ne shkolla, jo vetem te Gjilanit por edhe ne shkollat mbare Kosoves, cdo kush nga ne do te perfitonte duke mesuar si te mbrohen online."

TESTIMONIALS FROM WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS:

ALBANORA XHYRISHEVCI

"Trajnimi ishte shume i mire i, u njohem me shume bashkemoshatare tona qe me pare nuk kishim kontakt.Edhe shpjegimi dhe sqarimi temes ka qene me se i qarte,i qelluar dhe shume i nevojshem."

ERINA XHYRISHEVCI

" Trajnimi qe e kemi mbajt bashke me ju ka ishte mjaft i dobishem per mua edhe pas perfundimit. Shpjegimi dhe aktivitetet qe i kemi mbajt gjate keti trajnimi ishin ne nivel te shkelqyer,une per vete ju falenderoj shume qe ma keni mundsu me qene pjese e ketij trajnimi i cili ishte nje prej trajnimeve me efikas dhe me shume vlere per mua"

In a transformative initiative, 30 dynamic youths from Gjilan have completed the **PONDER - Critical Media Literacy workshop.** This empowering program, orchestrated by the IPKO Foundation through the Innovation Center and generously funded by the Municipality of Gjilan, marks a pivotal step towards cultivating critical media literacy among the region's vibrant youth.

BARCAMPS – GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Under the Global Entrepreneurship Week Kosovo, IPKO Foundation in cooperation with Innovation Hub Lipjan and Innovation Hub Gjilan have organized 2 editions of BarCamps centered around the critical theme of education.

This initiative stands as a testament to the collective commitment to fostering entrepreneurial spirit and innovation within the Kosovo community.

To spark inspiration within the next generation, we were honored to welcome distinguished guests: **Mr. Diamant Bytyqi, the esteemed Vice-Mayor of the Municipality of Lipjan**, and **Mrs. Merita Musmurati-Čeku, a luminary Regional Coordinator at Beetroot Academy.**

Their presence not only added a touch of prestige but also infused our event with valuable insights and wisdom, elevating the experience for all participants.

S.T.E.A.M WORKSHOP

IPKO Foundation, jointly with its partners, held a collaborative workshop to tackle the school digitalization challenge in the Municipality of Prishtina.

The workshop participants from important entities such as **U.S. Embassy Pristina Kosovo, Komuna e Prishtinës, UNDP Kosovo, Shkolla Digjitale, YMCA in Kosovo, FLOSSK Free Libre Open Source Software Kosova, KCDE, Kosova Education Center - KEC,** and **BONEVET,** divided into working groups addressed the challenges and opportunities of #STEAM education in Prishtina, intending to improve informal education opportunities in these fields.

The workshop was held on the first anniversary of the initial meeting between local partners, supported by the U.S. Embassy in Pristina, Kosovo, to improve STEAM projects/programs in Kosovo. The official STEAM consortium consists of 9 entities in Kosovo - working on STEAM programs and projects, was signed in June 2022 during DOKUTECH.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As we reflect on the achievements and milestones of the past year, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the individuals and organizations whose unwavering support has played a pivotal role in our success. Your commitment and dedication have been instrumental in helping us fulfill our mission and make a positive impact in our community.

Our Sincere Thanks to:

1. **Board of Directors**
2. **Donors and Sponsors**
3. **Volunteers**
4. **Staff and Team Members**
5. **Community Partners**
6. **Members and Supporters**

ipkofoundation

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