

KOS-18/0007

**ELEVATE PEACE,
STATE-BUILDING, AND
ADVANCING EUROPEAN
AGENDA
(2021-2023)**

 **Norway**

November 2023

ABOUT US

Balkans Policy Research Group (BPRG), also known as the Balkans Group, is an independent NGO and a think tank that targets the most pressing issues and needs. With its interventions and initiatives, Balkans Group aims to influence policy change in support of democratic consolidation, social cohesion, and prosperity in Southeast Europe.

Balkans Group has built a reputation as a leader in the region with its ongoing efforts to support peace, strengthen institutions, design adequate policy ideas, and chooses to tackle and advocate for pressing policy processes that aim to advance the European agenda for Kosovo and the rest of Western Balkans. With an unmatched track record of success, Balkans Group mobilises actors from all sides to achieve its goals and policy objectives.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Balkans Group has designed a project through innovative approaches to increase inclusive policy-making, support and provide expertise for key institutions for the dialogue process, provide unique policy inputs on key areas, enhance democratisation, and increase capacity building of various actors and institutions. The project “Elevate peace and state building agenda, and advancing European agenda” is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This activity aims to identify the best and most tangible ways and initiatives of enhancing regional cooperation in the Western Balkans.

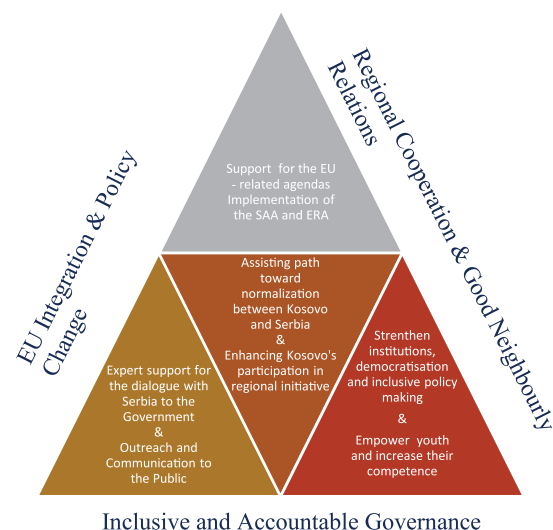
Overall Objective: Elevate peace, state-building, and European agenda, through consensus building, inclusive policymaking, expert input, and increasing political and societal support for peace, educating political representatives, supporting regional cooperation, and advancing the implementation of reforms.

Specific Objectives

- Improve consensus and inclusive policymaking and increase accountability by improving policymaking and policy-coordination processes.
- Assist the political transition by empowering youth and equipping them with knowledge and skills.
- Advance the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue by providing expert support to the Government of Kosovo and the Kosovo negotiation team as well as increase the transparency and public outreach of the dialogue for citizens.
- Advance normalisation between Kosovo and Serbia by enhancing cooperation between civil society, communities, public officials, and experts of Kosovo and Serbia.
- Enhance regional cooperation by increasing Kosovo’s participation in regional initiatives and agendas through policy inputs and agenda settings.
- Advance the implementation of EU approximation-related agendas, the SAA and ERA, through monitoring, mobilising institutions and public support.

Project Components

Each component of the project “Elevating peace & state-building agenda and advancing European agenda” is carefully designed based on needed interventions and the identified gaps built on baseline analysis. The triangle diagram presents clearly the state-building agenda of Kosovo, and the much-needed interventions, which also form the programmatic agenda of the Balkans Group and clearly are the key priorities of the Government of Norway.



PILLAR 1 – Advance peace, state-building, and strengthening institutions and democratization: build consensus, provide expert support, outreach, and communication for the dialogue with Serbia, and empower new generations of political representatives.

Objective: Build consensus, provide expert support, outreach, and communication for the dialogue with Serbia, and empower new generations of political representatives.

Empower institutions and inclusive policy-making and support domestic consensus

- 12 domestic dialogue events and roundtables with parliamentary political parties; government and opposition
- 2 high-level roundtables at the level of leaders and vice presidents
- 3 Experts workshops to provide in-depth knowledge and insights.
- 3 Policy Idea Lab workshops to foster innovative policy thinking.
- 1 event to discuss the paper on migration.
- 10 policy papers.

Executive Programme for the Youth in Politics

- 278 youth participants in the Executive Programme "Youth in Politics" across 10 cohorts.
- 9 study visits to expose youth to practical political experiences.
- 5 webinars to promote knowledge sharing and learning.
- 222 members in the Facebook Alumni Group.
- 6 participants of the programme engaged in an internship in the Assembly of Kosovo.
- 2 annual conferences to connect youth with political leaders.
- 3 youth-led projects to address community issues.
- 3 additional training sessions on soft skills for youth development.

Expert Support for the Dialogue with Serbia to the Government

- 46 experts to provide expertise to the public institutions.
- 7 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with public institutions in Kosovo.
- 1 MoU with public institution in North Macedonia.
- 1 MoU with public institution in Albania.
- 5 policy papers on Constitutional Review
- 3 experts' workshops
- 2 High-Level International Conferences
- 2 events in coordination with the Assembly of Kosovo and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1 video animation in coordination with the Assembly of Kosovo

Outreach and Communication to enhance public support for the dialogue and compromises with Serbia



19 Animated Videos



23 OpEds



4 High-Level Events and Outreach



1 dialogue-info platform



Empower institutions and inclusive policymaking and support domestic census

Political Dialogue Preparatory activities

Balkans Group continued to work closely with institutions and all parties and has regularly met, brainstormed, and consulted with leaders, vice presidents, key political parties, government members, influencers, embassies, and international governments and institutions. Balkans Group held hundreds of meetings with senior governmental officials, ministers, members of the political parties, and members of the parliament, individually or cross-party groups, to support communication, dialogue, coordination, and consensus.

High-Level events with political party leaders outside Kosovo

Balkans Policy Research Group (BPRG) in collaboration with Ambassador Jens Erik Grøndahl organised a series of high-level events and dinners aiming to foster communication and cooperation among Kosovo's political parties including LVV and opposition parties LDK, PDK, and AAK to address Kosovo-Serbia dialogue and international agenda issues. These events promoted open dialogue and relationship-building.



In May 2022, Balkans Group organised a two-day round table in Tirana. Representatives from LVV, PDK, AAK, and others, including Speaker Glauk Konjufca, discussed Kosovo-Serbia dialogue's impact and alignment with Kosovo's development and the international agenda. Ambassador Jens Erik Grøndahl also participated, aiming to encourage party cooperation.

The objective of these events is to foster a culture of collaboration among various political parties, creating an environment to engage in productive and constructive dialogue.

In March 2023, Balkans Group organized a roundtable in Tirana, focusing on “The Dialogue with Serbia; The Franco-German Plan and the International Agendas towards Reaching a Final Agreement.” This event marked a significant gathering of representatives from all parliamentary political parties. The primary focus was to thoroughly explore the ongoing dialogue processes between Kosovo and Serbia, particularly in the context of the Franco-German plan.

The roundtable served as a platform for the participants to voice their concerns, share insights, and propose strategies for moving forward in the dialogue process. It also provided an opportunity for the representatives to listen to and understand the varied perspectives and positions of the different parties, thereby fostering an atmosphere of inclusivity and collaboration. The event concluded with a call to all political parties to remain committed to the process, to work constructively and collaboratively, and to prioritise the achievement of a sustainable and equitable resolution that would benefit not only the two countries but also the stability and prosperity of the Balkan region as a whole.



These activities aimed to promote dialogue, consensus-building, and enhanced cooperation among Kosovo's political parties, particularly concerning Kosovo-Serbia dialogue and its potential for a final resolution.

Expert workshop for the negotiating team, with political parties and CSOs



June 2021

Balkans Group organized a roundtable event involving Deputy Prime Minister Besnik Bislimi and prominent Civil Society representatives. The purpose was to foster collaboration between the government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in their dialogue with Serbia. This event adhered to the Chatham House rules, ensuring confidentiality.



March 2022

Balkans Group hosted a workshop with an expert group working on negotiation matters. The workshop aimed to improve coordination and cooperation among government officials and CSOs in their negotiations with Serbia. It also followed the Chatham House rules for privacy.



May 2023

Balkans Group organised an experts' workshop that brought together experts serving in public institutions. This event served as a platform for sharing experiences and lessons learned from their work, with the goal of making a more meaningful contribution to our country and institutions. The workshop resulted in valuable insights and benefits for participants, including improved advisory strategies and effective communication channels for policy support processes.

High-level advocacy event/ Policy Idea LABS

Balkans Policy Research Group launched the platform "Policy Idea LAB". This platform aims to bring new policy tools and spaces where policy officials, experts, the CSO community, academics, and other public officials, can share their knowledge and skills on important policy issues for the country.



Policy Idea Lab will serve as a creative space to analyse complex policies, and provide recommendations for public institutions, the policy community, and the wider public. This activity will become an annual hub within BPRG’s policy and advocacy work, with the purpose to engage all stakeholders in developing concrete solutions for policy issues.

Balkans Group chose three important topics to tackle during the First Edition of the Policy Idea Lab. All the topics were chosen in consultations with beneficiaries and government officials, depending on their needs for research and recommendations.



CYBER SECURITY WORKSHOP



MIGRATION WORKSHOP

Roundtable “Health in Kosovo: Emigration of doctors and health workers”

December 2022 – Balkans Group held the roundtable “Health in Kosovo: Emigration of doctors and health workers” to present the research on the same topic. Invited to this roundtable were officials from the Ministry of Health, the Chamber of Doctors, the Chamber of Nurses, the Federation of Health Trade Unions of Kosovo, the Department for Asylum and Migration in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Kosovo Agency of Statistics. Participants highlighted the need for immediate attention and alertness of institutions, to take adequate measures to prevent further consequences of the emigration of health professionals.



The emigration trend is expected to accelerate in the coming years due to the high demand for health workers in EU countries and the significantly higher wages. The government should develop comprehensive policies based on detailed analysis of the factors that are pushing the emigration of doctors and other health workers. At the same time, institutions must assess their needs and create the conditions for these professionals to continue working in the country.

This event, along with the publication of the research, garnered considerable media attention due to its spotlight on a critical issue impacting Kosovo’s healthcare system and its potential implications for the country’s future.

Executive Programme “Youth in Politics: Governance and Political Systems: Policy and Skills Development Course”



The Executive Programme “Youth in Politics Governance and Political Systems; Policy and Skills Development Course” aims to train and develop the capacities of youth members of the political parties in Kosovo.

The training is conducted in key areas including rule of law, political parties and ideologies, good governance, economic development, health and social policy, educational policy, gender and social inclusion, European integration, regional cooperation, and Kosovo-Serbia dialogue. The main skills that students learn from this training include policy understanding and analysis, policy briefing, writing memos, public speaking, negotiating, and simulating.

The program provides practical knowledge and skills to help participants in their careers and empower them within their political parties. The program has been held annually since 2019, with participants engaging in modules on various topics, and local study visits. The program also has an alumni network that provides opportunities for further engagement, such as webinars, internships, conferences, and a Facebook group.

In December 2021, Balkans Group launched the “Alumni Network” of the Youth in Politics Executive Programme, providing a platform for participants. Mr. Naim Rashiti introduced the Alumni Network, former President Atifete Jahjaga praised the Balkans Group’s commitment to youth empowerment, and Mr. Henrik Width, Deputy Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prishtina, emphasised the importance of involving young people in political processes.



In October 2022, Balkans Group organised the “Youth in Politics: Opportunities and Challenges” Annual Conference, featuring panellists, including the Norwegian Ambassador and political party representatives, discussions on youth emigration reasons, and testimonies from interns whose skills were shaped through the Balkans Group’s internship opportunity. These events underscore our dedication to empowering and engaging young people in politics, equipping them with skills and opportunities to effect positive change in Kosovo.



Expert support for the dialogue and the institutions of Kosovo / Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

New Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed. Balkans Group and Ambassador Jens Grondahl maintain regular communication with experts and consultants contracted to support the institutions.

Balkans Group, in collaboration with the Royal Norwegian Embassy, actively engaged in signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to provide expertise and support for various institutions in Kosovo.



Government of Kosovo (2021) - The MoU aims to support the Government of Kosovo, the Prime Minister, the Office of the Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, Development, and Dialogue. The goal is to work together to promote peace and prosperity in Kosovo.

Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo (2021) - This MoU focuses on advancing Kosovo's EU agenda and legislative reforms. It provides experts to support the President of the Assembly, parliamentary committees, and groups in areas such as dialogue, legislation, regional cooperation, accountability, and transparency.

Supporting the Amending of the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly of Kosovo

Balkans Group, with its expertise and policy work, has been invited to contribute to the review of the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly of Kosovo between May and July 2021. BPRG has provided comprehensive input in writing and organised workshops to further this agenda. The work was done with the aim of helping the Assembly fulfil its role. Therefore, BPRG provided specific recommendations to tackle imprecise definitions, and vague processes and eliminate the lack of concise regulation to close these gaps.



Balkans Group, in cooperation with the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, developed and launched a video animation for the Commercial Court (in 3 languages: Albanian, English, and Serbian), to inform citizens about the role, mandate, and authority of the Commercial Court, and the benefits for the citizens and business community.

Ministry of Defense (2021): The MoU with the Ministry of Defense seeks to enhance the role of the Ministry in peace and state-building efforts. This is done by increasing the Ministry's capacities through the provision of expertise and policy support.

Office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo (2021): This MoU aims to strengthen the role of the Office of the President in the state-building agenda, including capacity-building through expertise and policy support.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (2022): An MoU was signed to enhance the Ministry's role in the state-building agenda. It focuses on increasing the policy capacities of the Ministry by providing expertise and policy support.

Balkans Group, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora organised the **Digital Diplomacy Workshop**. It brought together some of the most active organizations that deal mainly with the ICT sector. In order to figure out the strategy through which relevant institutions will start the path of implementing goals, this workshop aimed at the advancement and shaping of the digital diplomacy efforts of the Republic of Kosovo.



Municipality of Prishtina (2022): An MoU was signed to strengthen the capacity of Prishtina’s mayor’s cabinet, improve efficiency, implement priorities and projects effectively, enhance cooperation with other institutions, and undertake various reforms.

Ministry of Communities and Returns (2022): An MoU was established to support the municipalities run by minority communities, specifically those in north Mitrovica, Leposaviq/ć, Zubin Potok, and Zvečan/Zvečan. The objective is to develop these municipalities, increase their capacities, and protect and promote the rights of non-majority communities.

MoU with North Macedonia - This MoU aims to strengthen the institutions of the Republic of North Macedonia and support the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia on key agendas through experts who provide support for the Prime Minister, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Deputy Prime Ministers.

MoU with Albania - The purpose of this MoU is to support the Government of Albania, in fields identified as priorities based on the Government’s agenda and needs, through the provision of expertise, analysis, and capacity building in strategic sectors and/or specific projects, that will expedite their implementation.

Throughout these years, Balkans Group has collaborated closely with the Royal Norwegian Embassy, experts, and consultants to provide ongoing support to these institutions in Kosovo, working towards the shared goals of peace, prosperity, and development in the region.

High-level Roundtables



Dialogue with Serbia: Lessons from the Past for the Future of the Process

Balkans Group organized a series of events to promote dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia under the Western Balkans Policy Forum. We hosted a conference titled “Dialogue with Serbia: Lessons from the Past for the Future of the Process,” featuring Baroness Catherine Ashton and Ambassador Philip Reeker, former facilitators of the dialogue. The speakers stressed the importance of Kosovo and Serbia taking ownership of the dialogue, showing leadership, determination, and a willingness to compromise, with the European Union as a model for achieving compromise for the best outcomes. The ultimate goal remains preparing both countries for EU membership.

Following the conference, Baroness Ashton promoted her book, “And Then What? Within the Stories of 21st Century Diplomacy,” sharing insights from her tenure as the EU’s first High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security.

Balkans Group also hosted a lunch with Kosovo’s President, Vjosa Osmani, and key diplomats, discussing progress in the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue for regional peace and stability.

We have also organized a reunion of former Kosovo negotiators with Ambassador Reeker and a meeting between Baroness Ashton and Kosovo’s Prime Minister, Albin Kurti.



Balkan Dialogues Initiative – Securing the European Future of the Western Balkans: Enabling Positive Peace

May 2023, Balkans Group, in cooperation with the Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society and Atlantic Council, organised the Balkan Dialogues Initiative conference, under the framework of the Western Balkans Policy Forum. This conference successfully served as a platform for engaging dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders from the Western Balkans, the European Union, and the United States. It aimed to address pressing issues related to geopolitical interests, security, and energy, with the goal of deepening understanding, fostering trust, and identifying strategies to advance regional cooperation and European integration.

The conference was structured into three panels, each focusing on key issues necessary for the region’s progress and stability. The first panel discussed the achievements made in recent years through the agreements between Kosovo and Serbia and the role of the international community. The second panel emphasized the European Union’s role in supporting the integration process, enhancing security, promoting regional cooperation, and strengthening partnerships. The third panel highlighted the significance of energy security for the region’s development, focusing on the challenges and opportunities in achieving a sustainable and secure energy sector through diversification, regional cooperation, and integration into the European energy market.



The discussions held during the conference provided valuable insights and strategies for advancing the Western Balkans’ path toward peace, stability, and economic prosperity. The support provided by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prishtina and the Open Society Foundations further emphasized the commitment of international partners to progress and development in the Western Balkans.

As the region continues its journey towards European integration, initiatives like the Balkan Dialogues play a crucial role in shaping a stable, prosperous, and harmonious future for the Western Balkans.



Balkans Group organized a conference on the 15th anniversary of the Constitution of Kosovo.

In this conference, Balkans Group published two analysis: Constitution of Kosovo: Comprehensive review and legal analysis, and Kosovo and the Council of Europe: The Accession Roadmap. Naim Rashiti, Executive Director of Balkans Group, highlighted the need for interventions based on the analysis. President Vjosa Osmani expressed satisfaction with discussions on the Constitution's implementation and the need for review. Ambassador Jens Erik Grøndahl stressed the importance of constitutional review and broad consensus. Gresa Caka-Nimani, President of the Constitutional Court, emphasized the importance of public debate and identified crucial issues. Hajredin Kuçi, Professor, discussed the balance achieved in drafting the Constitution and its enduring value for Kosovar society.



Constitutional Review II, III: Comprehensive analysis and advocacy

The policy report *Constitution of Kosovo: A Comprehensive Review & Legal Analysis*, provides an analysis of 21 issues related to the system of laws, the functioning of institutions, and the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court. It identifies gaps and recommends a variety of options for future amendments, based on case law, the Venice Commission opinions, and other countries' best practices. The purpose of this legal analysis is to yield an open and productive debate on the improvement of constitutional and legal provisions.

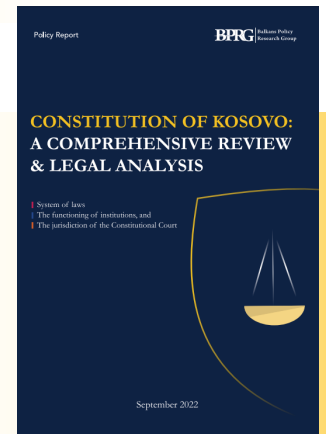
The first part related to the system of laws was prepared and finalized in 2021. The other two parts on the functioning of institutions and the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court were finalized in 2022.

Constitutional Review- II – The second part of the policy report addresses issues related to the establishment, competencies, and the well-functioning of institutions. It identifies and analyzes the key issues with the authorities and the functioning of the Assembly, the President, and the Government of Kosovo, as well as the potential conflict between their competencies, particularly regarding their competencies to negotiate and sign international agreements.

Drawing on relevant constitutional and legal provisions, case law, Venice Commission opinions, other countries' best practices, and interviews with relevant stakeholders, the report recommends potential changes to the Constitution and/or relevant laws, and concrete measures that institutions could take to ensure the proper implementation of constitutional and legal provisions.

Constitutional Review- III – contains issues related to the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court and the methods for the interpretation of the Constitution.

Drawing on relevant constitutional and legal provisions, case law, Venice Commission opinions, other countries' best practices, and interviews with relevant stakeholders, the recommendations in this part of the report provide suggestions for possible constitutional and legal amendments, to establish a clearer jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court, and new provisions in accordance with the Court's interpretation of the Constitution.



Constitutional Review IV: Kosovo and the Council of Europe: An Accession Roadmap

The policy paper “Kosovo and the Council of Europe: An Accession Roadmap” provides an analysis of Chapters II and III of the Constitution of Kosovo on Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and the Rights of Communities and their Members, in relation to Kosovo's membership in the Council of Europe (CoE). It presents a roadmap of Kosovo's path toward accession to the CoE, the criteria for membership, and key challenges. Based on interviews, case law, and comparative analysis, the paper provides concrete recommendations on the steps that Kosovo's institutions need to take.

Legal review of international, UN Law (resolution 1244) and treaties

The policy paper *Legal review of international, UN Law (resolution 1244) and treaties*, analyses the de jure and de facto status of SC Resolution 1244 and possible future scenarios of a settlement agreement between Kosovo and Serbia that could affect the role of the Resolution. The paper provides a review of key events since 1999 and the positions of key actors on the status of Resolution 1244, to show how its interpretation and the role of UNMIK have evolved since Kosovo's declaration of independence. Based on an analysis of the discourse in the Security Council between 2008 and 2022, the paper provides concrete insights into the validity of Resolution 1244 and the eventual closure of UNMIK.



Outreach and Communication to enhance public support for the dialogue and compromises with Serbia



The new Government Agenda and Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue

May 2021 - BPRG organised a roundtable on the new government's agenda with civil society representatives. The discussions were focused mainly on civil society representatives posing questions to the Deputy Prime Minister on their new course of action. They identified the possible path that this process might take and recommended new approaches and solutions for the government to follow. This roundtable was organised according to the Chatham House rules.

Kosovo in the Dialogue Process with Serbia

August 2021 - BPRG organised a follow-up roundtable with the Deputy Prime Minister, Besnik Bislimi. The roundtable focused on an overall discussion on the topics that were negotiated in the dialogue process until now. The attention was on the Government's stance in this process. This roundtable aimed to inform civil society about the latest developments and to highlight any recommendations given by them. This roundtable was organised according to the Chatham House rules.



Events with Kosovo Security Council

In response to the concrete recommendations provided in the Balkans Group's report on the Kosovo Security Council, security institutions sought the expertise of the Balkans Group to help them navigate these vital reforms. The report specifically highlighted the need to address the issues within the Security Council's Secretariat, which had long suffered in particular from a neglected and poorly structured framework.

As a result, we supported two closed events:

The first event took place in November 2022 and focused on advocacy for the reform of the Security Council. This event provided a platform for in-depth discussions on how to implement the recommended reforms.

In December 2022, we supported another workshop to facilitate the development of a national security strategy. The workshop was conducted in close cooperation with the Kosovo Security Council. Participants engaged in collaborative efforts to draft a comprehensive national security strategy that would align with the Council's objectives and address the deficiencies within its Secretariat. This event aimed to provide a strategic framework for strengthening Kosovo's security infrastructure and governance.



Maintaining the dialogue platform and the resource center for public information

Balkans Group held the launch event for dialogue-info.com on 16 March 2021. The launch event was dedicated to presenting the main components of the platform and informing participants on how to best access the information that this platform has to offer. Participants, among others, had the opportunity to watch some of the videos, which are a simplified explanation of the specific agreement, respectively they watched the videos of Telecom agreement, Association of Serb-majority Municipalities, and Justice Agreements, and the main video of the dialogue.











Balkans Group has enhanced and enshrined the communication framework and platform, to inform the citizens about the dialogue and other critical agendas for Kosovo.

We update the dialogue-info with all information on the dialogue, disseminate, and promote it, reaching almost million citizens, in Kosovo and Serbia.










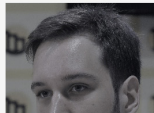





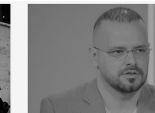
The Platform **DIALOGUE-INFO.COM**, has become a unique resource centre. It provides citizens with simplified information about the dialogue, the agreements, and the process. A company has been contracted to maintain and enhance the dialogue platform. The blog, as the last component of this platform, symbolizes a dialogue community, where different individuals (Albanians, Serbs, and other nationalities) share their perspectives, knowledge, and expertise on the issue. It materializes BPRG's efforts of bringing the dialogue closer to citizens and enables them to comprehend both realities (that of Albanians and Serbs), and maybe change the narratives.

Agreements' Videos

For each agreement between Kosovo and Serbia, we have prepared video animations.

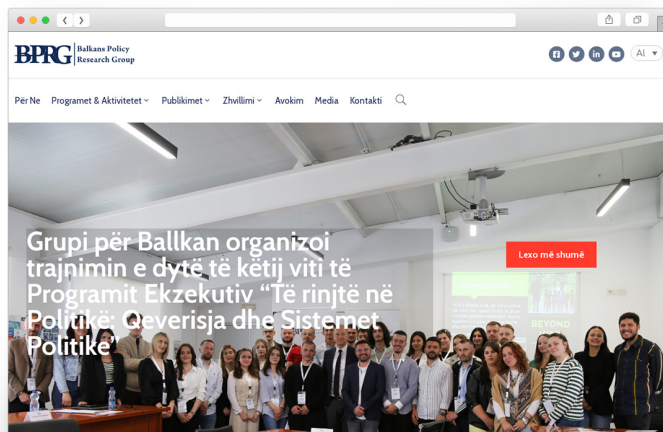
<p>Economic Normalization</p> 	 <p>Mutual Recognition of ADR Certificates</p>	 <p>Mitrovica Bridge</p>
 <p>Telecommunications</p>	<p>Energy</p> 	 <p>Exchanging Liaison Officers</p>

During 2021-2023, 25 Op-Eds were published by different professionals:

 <p>Normalisation between Serbia and Kosovo must come from within</p> <p>Marta Mucznic</p>	 <p>The legitimacy of the West in the Western Balkans could depend on the success of the Serbia-Kosovo dialogue</p> <p>Stefan Vradisavljev</p>	 <p>My Kosovo</p> <p>Maja Pilčević</p>	 <p>Inter-ethnic reconciliation is still a long way off in Kosovo...</p> <p>Nora Ahmetaj</p>	 <p>Revisiting the historic agreement between Kosovo and Serbia from 2013 with one technical suggestion for breaking the deadlock</p> <p>Ramadan Ilazi</p>	 <p>Kosovo-Serbia dialogue: A catch-22 or a dead-end</p> <p>Astrit Ibrafi</p>	 <p>Serbian political conundrum in 2022 – no Brussels Dialogue on site</p> <p>Dušan Milenković</p>	 <p>On the 9th Anniversary of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalisation of Relations, a second and final agreement between Kosovo and Serbia is not on the horizon</p> <p>Violeta Haxholl</p>
 <p>A new framework for the old dialogue</p> <p>Stefan Surlić</p>	 <p>Success of the dialogue requires a new narrative and more honesty from both governments</p> <p>Nikola Burazer</p>	 <p>Not another article on the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue...</p> <p>Jack Butcher</p>	 <p>Kosovo-Serbia dialogue at the crossroads: Which way forward?</p> <p>Vjolica Krasniqi</p>	 <p>Kosovo and Serbia dialogue on "normalization of relations" or "mutual recognition?" The EU approach and elements of the legally binding agreement between parties</p> <p>Dukagjin Abdyli</p>	 <p>Broken promises and what is the Dialogue about</p> <p>Milica Andrić Rokić</p>	 <p>Water Resource Opportunities at Lake Gazivode/Ujman</p> <p>Robert Muharremi</p>	 <p>Education – the ideal for interethnic integration</p> <p>Rinor Qehaja</p>

Balkans Group has also developed a new website which is fully compatible with our enhanced programs, our communication framework, and dozens of other platforms we have launched, such as the Dialogue-info platform, Youth in Politics, Policy Idea Lab, Policy Dialogue, Expert Support, Progress Barometer, Policy Forum, K-S-PAG platform, and recently the Green and Digital Platform.

Over the course of this three-year project, our website experienced an exponential increase in visitor numbers, with a total of 145,677 pageviews.



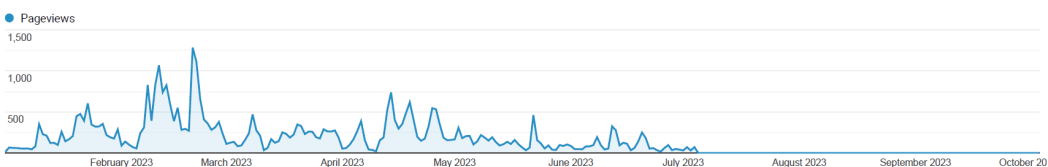
1 January - 31 December 2021



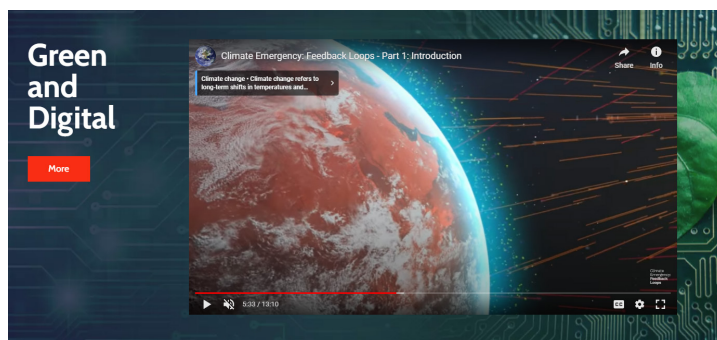
1 January - 31 December 2022



1 January - 04 October 2023



About the Green and Digital Platform - The main goal of the Green and Digital platform is to contribute to the green transition agenda in the Western Balkans 6 Countries. Moreover, BPRG is devoted to fostering economic growth and development, while ensuring a clean and healthy environment, which is essential for people’s well-being in the long term. Green transition is becoming one of the most important issues for developed



countries. Regarding this and the WB6 Countries’ intentions to meet some conditions set by the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, we will undertake actions that will lead to achieving its goals: new energy and mobility solutions, and sustainable economies. It is a must for businesses and organisations to go digital.

Balkans Group’s intentions are to go paperless, in order to be a good example to be followed by other organisations and businesses. In this regard, it will be an organisational change as well as a cultural shift.

Balkans Group has entered into an agreement with developers of the platform feedbackloopsclimatechange, to disseminate documentaries about the effects of climate change. The platform is widely used around the globe by the media, schools, and universities. We have translated all documentaries into Albanian and Serbian, and we will follow with their distribution throughout Kosovo to make them available to the Government, Ministry of Education, schools, media and universities.

PILLAR 2 – Advance Regional Cooperation & Good Neighbourly Relations: assist normalization between Kosovo and Serbia, and increase Kosovo’s participation in regional initiatives

Objective: Assist normalisation between Kosovo and Serbia and increase Kosovo’s participation in regional initiatives.

Assisting path towards normalisation” Increasing support in Kosovo and Serbia for the dialogue, enhance exchanges and promote stronger public voices in support of the dialogue

2 **digital campaigns** to promote normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia.

1 **focus group with youth** – participants in the digital campaign “Youth of the Dialogue”.

3 **roundtables** as part of The Balkan Dialogues.

1 **Exchange of groups** of interests, NGOs, think-tankers, and societal actors between Kosovo and Serbia.

Communication Statistics
2021 – 2023



SM Reach
3,876,129



Website Visits
211,830

Enhance Kosovo’s Participation in regional initiatives and programs

4 **workshops** with contact points to facilitate regional cooperation.

4 **reporting forms** to streamline regional collaboration efforts.

4 **high-level events** to advocate for regional cooperation.

5 **policy papers** on regional cooperation

1 **digital campaign** to support neighbourly relations and freedom of movement between the Western Balkans countries

1 **regional policy paper** on Energy Security and

6 **policy papers** on Energy Security for the Western Balkans 6 Countries

Website visits (including www.balkansgroup.org, www.dialogue-info.com, www.k-s-pag.org)

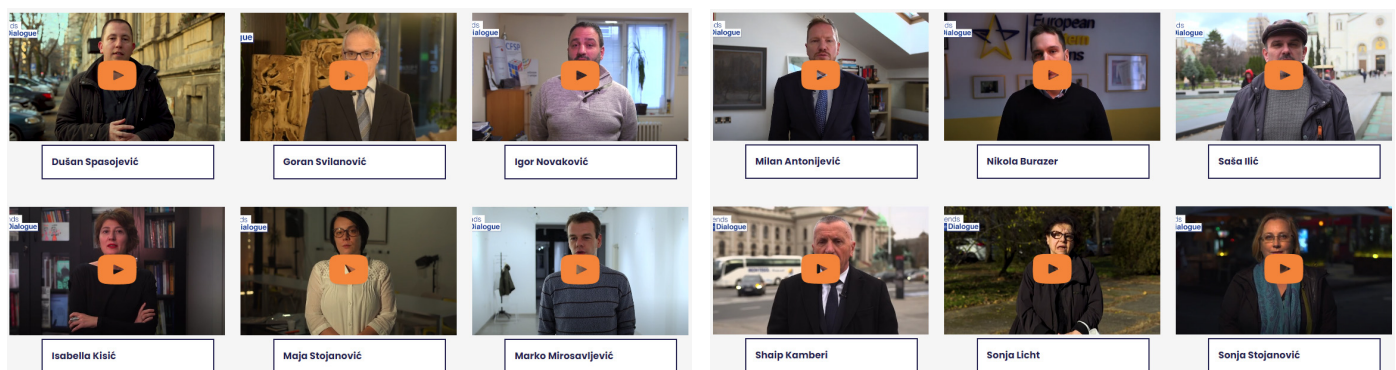


24 February 2022 - Following the activities within the framework of the Regional Cooperation and Good Neighborly Relations component, Balkans Group organised the focus group “Youth and Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue”. The focus group was composed of students coming from various study area backgrounds. They all expressed the need and importance for the dialogue to continue until a final agreement is reached.

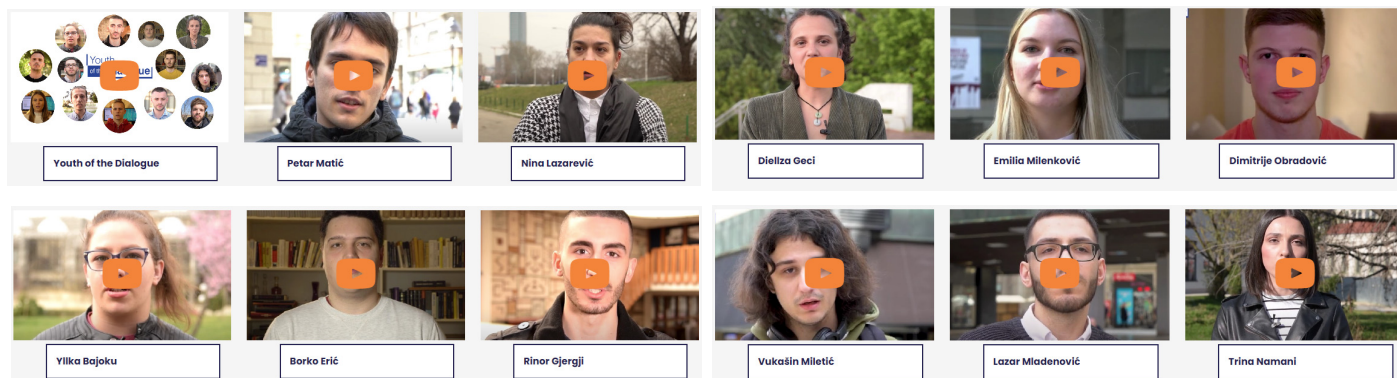


2021 - The campaign aims to mobilise the influencers and enhance the support for the dialogue. Through this campaign, BPRG promotes stronger public voices in support of the dialogue, considering the low public support that the process has had since the beginning. A company has been contracted to record 30 videos out of which 15 were in Kosovo-Albanians and 15 were Serbians.

So far 30 videos have been recorded and distributed.



2022 – The second part of the campaign “Friends of the Dialogue” was designed to include youth voice as an agent of change. A company has been contracted to record 30 videos, out of which 15 came from Kosovo-Albanians and 15 from Serbia (Pavle Celic, Jelisaveta Vucetic, Aleksa Bozovic, Aleksa Bozovic, Andi Sadiku, Arber Krasniqi, Arnis Fushtica, Art Sylaj, Bardhe Krasniqi, Besarta Pllana, Egzon Ramadani, Katarina Nikolic, Elbasan Osmani, Elvis Recica, Endrina Shuleta, Vukasin Zunic, Ernesa Shala, Djordje Barbul, Marko Barbul, Nikolina Momcilovic, Trina Namani, Lazar Mladenovic, Vukasin Miletic, Rinor Gjergji, Borko Eric, Yllka Bajoku, Dimitrije Obradovic, Emilia Milenkovic, Diellza Geci, Nina Lazarevic, Petar Matic)



Exchanges of groups of interests, NGOs, think-tankers, and societal actors between Kosovo and Serbia

June 2022 - Balkans Group organised an exchange event of prominent civil society representatives of Serbia and Kosovo on 20-21 June 2022, in Prishtina, Kosovo. Stemming from the Balkans Group pillar of ‘Advancing Regional Cooperation & Good Neighbourly Relations’, this event aimed at setting the foundation for regular exchanges of various groups of interest between the two societies as a means to improve communication and cooperation between the two.

Tailored to serve as a brainstorming session on re-energising the process, the activity was structured in two main components.

The first part of the event gathered around 50 prominent civil society representatives and intellectuals of Kosovo and Serbia in a roundtable discussion. The Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo, Jens Erik Grondahl, gave an opening speech that emphasized the importance of such meetings to regional and EU perspectives of Kosovo and Serbia, as he called on the participants to make the most of this opportunity.



The roundtable produced a fruitful and constructive debate structured around three different panels. The discussions focused on the new dynamics of the Brussels-led dialogue process between Kosovo and Serbia, the challenges of framing the right narrative, and the necessary steps to move forward.



For the second part, Balkans Group organised a series of meetings between the representatives of the civil society of Serbia and the Kosovo leaders and politicians. The representatives from Belgrade held separate meetings with the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, and the Leader of the Assembly, Glauk Konjufca. Representatives further had the chance to meet the leaders and representatives of the main opposition parties in Kosovo, Memli Krasniqi, Leader of the Democratic Party of Kosovo, and Lutfi Haziri and Shqipe Mjekiqi, Vice-Chairs of the Democratic League of Kosovo.

The activity was welcomed by the participants in addition to the leaders of Kosovo, who perceived it as a great opportunity to communicate and exchange their views and positions. Between the criticism of the existing political narratives in the respective societies and the current geopolitical developments, participants identified many options to re-energise the process and normalize their relations. The citizens' support of the dialogue in the respective societies was brought up many times during the discussion as a clear indicator of the necessity to change the direction of the process.



Between the criticism of the existing political narratives in the respective societies and the current geopolitical developments, participants identified many options to re-energise the process and normalize their relations. The citizens' support of the dialogue in the respective societies was brought up many times during the discussion as a clear indicator of the necessity to change the direction of the process.

March 2022 - Balkans Policy Research Group and the Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society organised an expert roundtable in Tirana, Albania, as part of the “Balkan Dialogues” initiative, focusing on regional cooperation for European integration. The goal was to define short-term and long-term priorities to achieve regional economic integration and converge with the EU and other developed markets.



In May 2022, we facilitated roundtable talks in the French Senate, in Paris, to discuss Western Balkans' EU integration in a new geopolitical context, examining the role of external actors. The discussion raised the issue of energy security and dependence of the region, the growing influence of authoritarian foreign and domestic actors, as well as how the Ukrainian crisis and Russian aggression will affect both regional development and the European perspective of the region.



In November 2022, in Skopje, North Macedonia, we continued discussions on the region's future within the Berlin Process, addressing geopolitical implications influenced by the war in Ukraine, socio-economic development, supply chain disruptions, and energy security, among other critical aspects.



Enhance Kosovo's participation in regional initiatives and programs

Kosovo in regional initiatives: institutional framework and coordination:

In 2021, Balkans Group increased activities to support the government and agencies in regional cooperation. We collaborated closely with the Office of the Prime Minister, SHERPA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Regional Relations, and other relevant line ministries to enhance Kosovo's role in regional cooperation.



December 2021 - Balkans Group organised a workshop in Tirana, Albania, titled “Kosovo in regional initiatives: institutional framework and Coordination.” This event marked a significant step in enhancing Kosovo’s role in regional cooperation. It convened officials from diverse government departments, agencies, regional cooperation organisations, and field experts. The workshop aimed to bolster Kosovo’s institutional framework and coordination mechanisms, ensuring more effective participation in regional initiatives. A key outcome of the workshop was the agreement among main institutional actors, such as SHERPA, the Office of the Prime Minister, and the Director of the Department on Regional Relations, along with contact points from relevant ministries, on a structured coordination strategy.

This strategy included several notable developments:

- The adoption of uniform reporting forms for inter-institutional consultation, reporting, and monitoring ahead of regional meetings and conferences. This step was aimed at enhancing the efficiency and consistency of communication among different government sectors.
- The creation of a jointly-shared calendar, allowing SHERPA and the Director of the Department on Regional Relations to stay informed about upcoming regional meetings. Contact points were tasked with updating this calendar with meeting schedules, facilitating better planning and coordination.
- Support for working groups and contact points in addressing thematic issues vital to regional cooperation, such as youth, transport, trade, energy, and security. This support was crucial in ensuring that different sectors could effectively contribute to and benefit from regional cooperation initiatives.

This workshop was crucial as it allowed government actors to coordinate their plans for 2022, many of whom had not met in person before.

Balkans Group continued its support for Kosovo’s representation in regional cooperation fora by emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation, addressing challenges, and building institutional memory. We have developed a reporting mechanism with four forms:


MEMO: Request for Political/Strategic Guidance - Used for issues requiring political and strategic guidance before participating in regional meetings.

Report: Inter-institutional reporting - Completed after participating in regional meetings to inform SHERPA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about main issues and future actions.

Summary: Inter-Institutional Consultative Meeting on Regional Agenda - Used during meetings to coordinate and plan follow-up actions for regional cooperation agendas.

Checklist - Completed by the Kosovo representative attending a regional meeting to receive the per-diem.

These reporting forms aim to enhance accountability, facilitate communication, and build institutional memory for regional cooperation processes. The Office of the Prime Minister is responsible for distributing and ensuring uniform use of these templates across government offices and departments.



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Qeveria - Vlada - Government

MEMO
KËRKESË PËR UDHËZIME POLITIKE/ STRATEGJIKE
DREJTUAR ZKM-së, MPJD-së

Kjo MEMO përdoret për çështjet që kërkojnë udhëzime politike/ strategjike nga PIKAT E KONTAKTIT. Zyrtarë Institucional pjesëmarrës në takime dhe agjenda rajonale. Pas vlerësimit të kërkesës/ çështjes, SHERPA dhe/ ose DMR-ja mund të thërres një takim me PIKËN E KONTAKTIT ose të ofroj udhëzime politike/ strategjike me shkrim tek parashtesa/ i kërkesës.

Nga: (Emri, Mbiemri, Pozita, Institucioni)
Për: (SHERPA-n, Drejtorin e DMR-së)
Përmes: (Sekretari i Përgjithshëm, Ministri)
Subjekti: (Kërkesa, Çështja e ngritura)
Data: data/muaji/viti

PJESA I – PARAQITJA E KËRKESËS

ÇËSHITJA:

i Të përshkruhet dhe prezantohet çështja e cila kërkon udhëzime politike/ strategjike, përfshirë afatet kohore kur është ngritur, rëndësia dhe zhvillimet që janë bërë deri në kohën e paraqitjes së kësaj çështje.

Shëno këtu.....

-
-
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RAPORT

RAPORTIMI NDËR-INSTITUCIONAL PËR AGJENDAT RAJONALE

Kjo formë plotësohet nga Pikat e Kontaktit pas takimeve rajonale. Me këtë formë, Pika e Kontaktit sjellë në vëmendjen e SHERPAs dhe/ose MPJD-së çështjet kryesore të ngritura në takimin rajonal, si dhe veprimet e ardhshme të cilat duhet të ndërmerren. Pika e Kontaktit mund ta ftojë një takim me SHERPA-n dhe/ose me MPJD-n, vartësisht nga rëndësia e temave të cilat janë diskutuar në takimin rajonal. Raportimin, përkatësisht formën e plotësuar mund edhe ta dërgojë në formë elektronike te SHERPA dhe/ose MPJD.

Nga: (Emri, Mbiemri, Pozita, Institucioni)
Për: (SHERPA-n, Drejtorin e DMR-së)
Përmes: (Sekretari i Përgjithshëm, Ministri)
Subjekti: Raportim nga takimi (shëno emrin e takimit)
Data: data/muaji/viti

VENDI I TAKIMIT:

Shëno këtu....

DATA E TAKIMIT: 3/3/2022

PJESA I – DETAJET E TAKIMIT

QËLLIMI:

i Të përshkruhet qëllimi i takimit, niveli i përfaqësimit si dhe të shënohet organizata/ iniciativa apo edhe institucioni pritës.

Shëno këtu.....

-
-
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Memo Form

Reporting Form



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PËRMBLEDHJE
TAKIMI KONSULTATIV NDËR-INSTITUCIONAL PËR AGJENDAT RAJONALE

Kjo formë përdoret gjatë takimeve konsultative ndër-institucionale, për t'u bashkëndruar, koordinuar dhe për t'i planifikuar veprimet përcjellëse të agjendave të bashkëpunimit rajonal. Më specifikisht, kjo formë përdoret kur Pikat e Kontaktit kanë nevojë që t'u sigurohen udhëzime të duhura politike dhe strategjike nga SHERPA dhe/ose MPJD. Takimet e formatit të tillë organizohen çdo 3 muaj me Pikat e Kontaktit nga SHERPA në bashkëpunim me MPJD. Ky raport të përpilohet nga organizatori i takimit.

Vendi i takimit (Shëno këtu)
Data: data/muaji/viti


PJESA I – AGJENDA E TAKIMIT

ÇËSHITJET KRYESORE TË NGRITURA:

i Të shënohen të gjitha çështjet e ngritura gjatë takimit

Shëno këtu.....

-
-
-



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada - Government

LISTË VERIFIKIMI
RAPORTIMI NDËR-INSTITUCIONAL PËR AGJENDAT RAJONALE

Kjo listë kontrolli plotësohet në rastet kur Pika e Kontaktit/përfaqësuesi i deleguar i Kosovës planifikon të marrë pjesë në një takim rajonal. Atëherë duhet të plotësohet lista "Para takimit" në mënyrë që t'i aprovohet pjesëmarrja në takim dhe lista "Pas takimit" në mënyrë që t'i aprovohet mëdija nga udhëtimi zyrtar.

PARA TAKIMIT

Nga: (Emri, Mbiemri, Pozita, Institucioni)
Për: (Sekretari i Përgjithshëm i Ministrisë)
Subjekti: (Kërkesë për aprovim të pjesëmarrjes në takim)
Data: data/muaji/viti

EMRI I ORGANIZATËS RAJONALE:		
Emri i takimit	Komente shtesë	
A e keni plotësuar Memo-n për SHERPA-n?	<input type="checkbox"/> PO	<input type="checkbox"/> JO
A është takim i planifikuar?	<input type="checkbox"/> PO	<input type="checkbox"/> JO
A keni pranuar udhëzime të duhura politike?	<input type="checkbox"/> PO	<input type="checkbox"/> JO

PAS TAKIMIT

Nga: (Emri, Mbiemri, Pozita, Institucioni)
Për: (Sekretarin e Përgjithshëm)
Subjekti: (Kërkesë për aprovim të mëdijtes nga udhëtimi zyrtar)
Data: data/muaji/viti

UDHËZIMET POLITIKE/STRATEGJIKE:		
Emri i takimit	Komente shtesë	
A e keni plotësuar formën e raportimit ndër-institucional?	<input type="checkbox"/> PO	<input type="checkbox"/> JO
A e vlerësoni se keni pranuar udhëzime të duhura politike dhe strategjike?	<input type="checkbox"/> PO	<input type="checkbox"/> JO

Summary Form

Check List Form

Regional roundtables with participation from regional governmental members, NGOs, and policymakers



March 2021 - Balkans Group organized a roundtable with members of the government, members of civil society and experts of the field, to brainstorm, support and enhance the capacity of the government on agendas dealing with regional cooperation.

The participants focused on the overall challenges of the regional cooperation between Western Balkan countries.

Furthermore, they discussed the best possible approaches and benefits that Kosovo could take in the already-established regional cooperation mechanisms, and lastly, the participants proposed new, feasible and tangible, initiatives that could serve the purpose of enhancing Kosovo's participation in the regional setting. They all agreed that the government of Kosovo needs to clearly define Kosovo's core priorities and objectives in regional agendas. At the roundtable, the newly published report *Regional Cooperation in the Western Balkans* was presented. In line with the roundtable conclusions, BPRG agreed to follow up with a set of reports on Regional Cooperation.

High-Level Advocacy Events, Outreach

November 2021 - BPRG organised the conference “Kosovo in Regional Initiatives: Challenges and Opportunities”. The conference aimed at discussing venues and opportunities for increasing Kosovo's participation and membership in regional organizations and initiatives, as well as addressing the challenges that hinder its position in regional fora. The conference also aimed at presenting the series of reports and reiterating the Balkans Group commitment to supporting the institutions of Kosovo on Regional Cooperation agendas.



This conference brought together government representatives, experts of the field, and diplomatic staff in Kosovo, who are the main actors to push for the change. Key speakers were Ms. Donika Gërvalla Schwarz, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, H.E. Jörn Rohde, German Ambassador to Kosovo, and Ms. Rozeta Hajdari, Minister of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade. All of them welcomed the BPRG's readiness to address the issue of Regional Cooperation of WB6 and highlighted the importance it has for Kosovo. They also brought to the table their views on Kosovo's participation and representation in regional cooperation mechanisms. Minister Gërvalla Schwarz and Minister Rozeta Hajdari stated that Kosovo's participation and representation in regional mechanisms remain contested and subject to political issues in the region.

These discussions and reports underscored the Balkans Group's dedication to bolstering Kosovo's institutional capabilities in navigating and contributing effectively to Regional Cooperation agendas.

Identify and advocate for key areas of enhancing regional cooperation with Western Balkans.

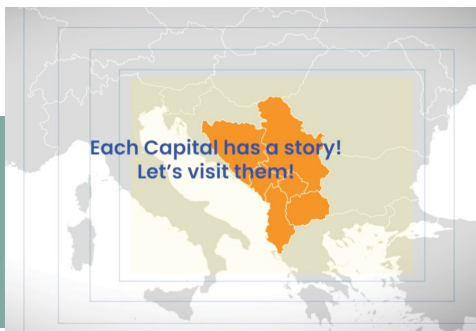
Upon the formation of the new government in Kosovo, the Balkans Group identified the need to inform the institutions of Kosovo on the country's standing at the regional mechanisms and the importance of placing the "regional cooperation" higher on the policy agenda.

These reports also served the purpose of identifying key challenges and providing a set of concrete actions to be undertaken by the institutions of Kosovo for enhancing its role, presentation and representation in regional cooperation organizations and initiatives.

1. Regional Cooperation in the Western Balkans
2. Kosovo in Regional Initiatives: Institutional Framework and Coordination
3. Kosovo's Participation and Representation in regional Organizations
4. Kosovo's Contested Representation in CEFTA

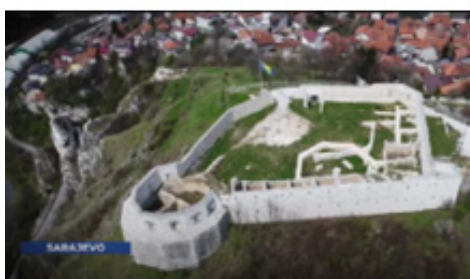
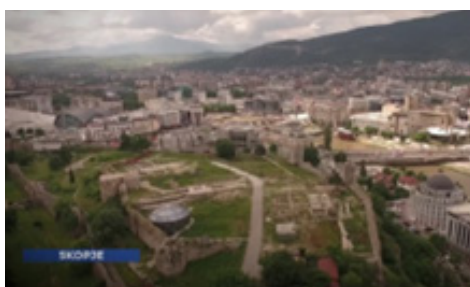
Monitoring and reporting

Following the publication of the policy paper on the Berlin Process and the Berlin Summit which was held on 2-3 November 2022, Balkans Group launched the campaign to promote the three agreements which were under discussion for years, about recognition of ID cards, recognition of diplomas and Professional certificates.



Balkans Group designed and produced a digital campaign "Each Capital has a story! Let's visit them!". This campaign involved citizens from the Western Balkans capitals, who support good neighbourly relations and freedom of movement between the Western Balkans countries. The goal of this campaign was to advocate and raise awareness of good neighbourly relations, promote the rights of citizens within the WB6 countries to move freely, increase cross-border cooperation, enable security and stability to citizens, and allow free trade markets, which would bring investments and growth to all the countries.

Balkans Group has published 6 short videos per each Capital and one general video with participants - citizens - from all of the WB6 Countries.





May 2022 - Balkans Group organised a two-day workshop “Kosovo in regional initiatives: Calendar of the agendas and the working plan” in Tirana. This workshop brought together representatives of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and officials from line ministries, namely Contact Points of the regional cooperation agendas, particularly of the Common Regional Market (CRM). They worked together to develop a commonly shared calendar of upcoming regional activities. During the two days, participants presented, as well as coordinated their working plans which include regional cooperation activities. This workshop aimed at strengthening inter-institutional cooperation to enhance Kosovo’s participation in regional cooperation fora.

Identify and advocate for key areas of enhancing regional cooperation with the Western Balkans

Western Balkans Six faces many challenges in the area of energy. Whereas, energy has a crucial impact on economic prosperity, and it could serve as a fore-front driver for the security and cooperation of the WB6 region. With Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, concerns over Energy Security threats have topped the governmental agendas in the EU, as well as its neighbors, including the WB6. Beyond this, a robust energy sector is crucial for the WB6 towards their European integration path, especially given that energy policy remains high on the EU policy agendas and is closely linked to national security. Similar to core components of the EU’s energy policy, it is pivotal for the WB6 region to ensure the security of the energy supply, achieve an integrated energy market, as well as to enhance the sustainable energy sector. However, as with many other conditions framed by the EU for their accession process, WB6 falls behind in keeping up, implementing, and converging many commitments related to energy policy.



The project “Elevating Peace & State-Building Agenda and Advancing European Agenda” made a significant impact in fostering peace, state-building, and European integration in Kosovo. Through a multifaceted approach, it improved consensus-building and policymaking and empowered youth with essential skills and knowledge. The project notably advanced the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue transparency and public engagement by fostering cooperation among civil society, public officials, and experts from both Kosovo and Serbia. The project’s success is evident in its extensive outreach, including domestic dialogues, high-level roundtables, policy papers, youth programs, and international cooperation, all of which have collectively strengthened institutions, democratisation, and regional cooperation in the Western Balkans.

Balkans Group is deeply thankful to state institutions, media, and all involved stakeholders for their trust and belief in our mission.

The success of this project and its far-reaching impact would not have been achievable without the generous support from the Norwegian Government.

PILLAR 3 – Support the EU-related agendas - Implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) and European Reform Agenda (ERA)

Objective: Supporting EU-related agendas: the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) and the European Reform Agenda (ERA).

1 event to promote EU-related agendas.

1 monitoring instrument to track progress on SAA and ERA implementation.

1 Assessment Report - Kosovo's ProgressBAR in 2021

1 Assessment Report - Kosovo's ProgressBAR in 2022, will be published during November 2023.

Support for the EU – related agendas – implementation of the SAA and ERAC

February 2022, Balkans Group, in cooperation with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Besnik Bislimi, organised a workshop to discuss the commitments and dynamics of activities in the European agenda 2022 in order to create momentum for application for membership in the EU. Important points that have been tackled during this workshop were 1. Identification and listing of priority measures for 2022 (European Integration Departments), 2. Review of the dynamics of commitments - Work Plan 2022 Application for Membership in the European Union, and 3. Application for Membership in the European Union.



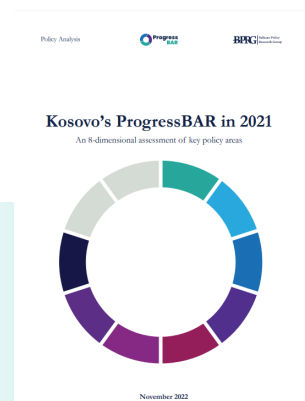
Monitoring implementation of the SAA and ERA-Develop measurable indicators



Driven by the aim to better measure Kosovo's progress and bring more data to the surface, Balkans Group developed a monitoring instrument consisting of 8 dimensions: Rule of Law, Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Democratisation, Economy, Sustainable Development, Education, Health and Good Neighbourly Relations.

This structure is further divided into thirteen (13) indicators and sixty-five (65) sub-indicators, which use means of assessment, means of verification, and sources of verification from a variety of local, regional, and international sources using both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. By comparing the data with the previous year, the report measures the progress made in the reporting year in form of numbers and percentages.

Balkans Group has prepared the report Kosovo's ProgressBAR in 2021 in an 8-dimensional assessment of key areas policy areas. Through this report, Balkans Group aims to present Kosovo institutions' yearly progress in meeting EU-related criteria in all key sectors by monitoring, reporting, and promoting SAA and ERA.



The upcoming 2022 report, detailing the most recent developments and insights, will be published during December.

Policy Reports and Articles

22 policy papers

+350 recommendations

Balkans Group has published numerous policy papers, critically relevant to the institutions of Kosovo, such as the following:



Kosovo's Constitutional Court Review and Snap Elections: Legal Analysis, and Scenarios



Regional Cooperation in the Western Balkans



Women in Politics III



Albania: Impeachment of the President, subject to the meaning of "serious violation"



Kosovo and Israel: A long waited Recognition. Recognition of States and Territories in the Contemporary International Politics



Kosovo's Contested Representation in CEFTA



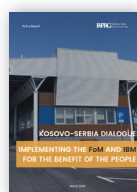
Kosovo in Regional Initiatives: Institutional Framework and Coordination



Kosovo's Participation and Representation in regional Organizations



Analytical Review of the Constitution of Republic of Kosovo



KOSOVO-SERBIA DIALOGUE: Implementing the Freedom of Movement and Integrated Border Management for the benefit of the people



Kosovo Security Council: Reforming the Secretariat or creating a Security Agency



Visa regime for Kosovo: Will the EU end this long-suffering?



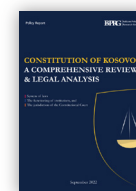
The Relaunch of the Berlin Process for the Western Balkans: Making its Objectives More Ambitious



KOSOVO: UNLOCKING ITS EURO-ATLANTIC PATH: The dialogue with Serbia and Prospects for Recognition by Five European Non-Recognizers



Energy Security of the Western Balkans



Constitutional Review - Constitution of Kosovo: A Comprehensive Review & Legal Analysis



Kosovo and the Council of Europe: An Accession Roadmap



Legal review of international, UN Law (resolution 1244) and treaties



Kosovo's Progress BAR in 2021 in an 8-dimensional assessment in key policy areas



Health in Kosovo: Emigration of doctors and health workers



Kosovo in the face of cyber security threats



Green and Digital – Where does Kosovo stand?

The Balkans Policy Research Group is an independent, regional think-tank based in Prishtina, Kosovo. We provide timely policy analysis and recommendations on a wide array of state-building issues; institutional and democratic consolidation; minority integration and good neighbourly relations: European integration and policy change. We have decades of experience in policy reporting and development, strategic thinking, and advocacy with governmental, international, and non-governmental organisations.

Our rigorous, detailed, impartial reporting, always based on in-depth fieldwork, is the core of our work. We go beyond mainstream positions and seek to make change through creative, feasible, well-measured, and forward-looking policy recommendations to help develop strong, vibrant democracies, prosperous states, and societies based on the rule of law in the Western Balkans.

We engage in high-level advocacy, domestically, regionally, and internationally, impacting policy discussions and options with regard to the home affairs and European policies toward the Western Balkans.

Balkans Group has developed other tools and platforms to achieve this change:

The Expert Support Component provides policy support and experts to the governments and other key institutions on vital policy areas, including dialogue and negotiations, security, foreign policy, regional cooperation, EU agendas and reforms, good governance, development, and law-making.

Youth in Politics Programme aims to train and build the capacity of young people active in political parties in Kosovo in areas such as the rule of law, public policy, good governance, economic development and social policy, education policy, and regional cooperation.

The Women in Politics & Decision Making platform aims to create a gender-equal environment by increasing the representation of women in politics and decision-making roles across institutions.

The Western Balkans Policy Forum - a Think-Tankers High-level Advocacy Forum, is committed to enhancing the dialogue between civil society and institutions.

The Policy Dialogue promotes domestic dialogue in Kosovo, political consensus, and reform agendas.

The Dialogue Platform promotes the dialogue process between Kosovo and Serbia, by informing the wider public and generating debate about the agreements, benefits, and challenges of the Dialogue.

The Kosovo Serbia Policy Advocacy Group - a Cross-Border Civil Society Cooperation forum- aims to communicate, promote, and enhance dialogue toward full normalization between Kosovo and Serbia and their societies.

Constitutional Framework, Parliamentarism, and Membership to the CoE, aims to advocate for comprehensive reforms in Kosovo's constitutional framework, improvement of parliamentary procedures, and integration into the Council of Europe.

Energy, Green & Digital Policy Hub aims to bring together government officials, experts, and think tanks to jointly devise, develop, and advocate for the right solutions.

The Policy Idea Lab platform aims to create new policy tools and spaces where policymakers, members of institutions, advisors, experts, the CSO community, academics, etc., can share their knowledge, debate policy processes and topics, and devise solutions.