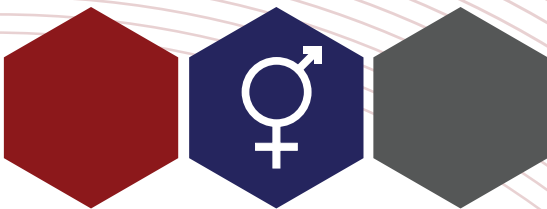


WOMEN IN POLITICS

Factsheet



WOMEN IN POLITICS & DECISION-MAKING



Norwegian Embassy

Canada 

April 2022

- 3 Policy papers
- 40 Roundtables, Workshops, and Capacity Building activities
- 6 Advocacy events
- 65 prominent personalities involved in an awareness campaign
- 2.2 million – Social Media Reach

Balkans Group champions initiatives to create a gender-equal environment and actively tackles the underrepresentation of women in politics and decision-making roles. This significant gap undermines democracy and institutional effectiveness in Kosovo. Through various advocacy campaigns, events, and research, the Balkans Group works diligently to ensure equal opportunities and balanced representation for all citizens in decision-making positions.

Policy and advocacy work



Women in Politics

With the aim of strengthening Kosovo’s democracy, BPRG published the “Women in Politics: Gender (In) Equality in Politics and Decision-making” policy article that reviews the unfavourable position of women in politics and governance of the country. The article identifies aspects which maintain the massive gap of gender inequality in Kosovo and provides concrete recommendations for improving gender equality in the country’s political life and governance.



Women in Politics II

The policy article on Women in Politics provides an in-depth analysis on the necessity for integrating gender mainstreaming as a cross cutting characteristic in the change of policies. It highlights the need for gender budgeting in all areas, and the participation of women in public consultations. The article provides clear recommendations that should be followed by institutions and political actors, in order for gender-mainstreaming to be standardized.



Women in Politics III

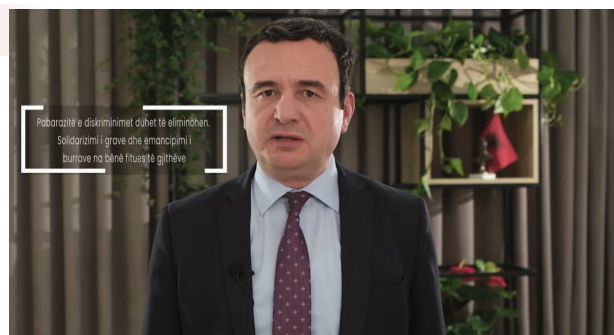
This policy paper presents data on women’s representation in local institutions and enterprises. Following the deep gender gap in politics and governance at the central level, an underrepresentation of women is evident at the local level as well, where men hold all but a few leading positions. The numbers that show the massive gender gap in all municipalities are a call for concern and immediate action. Due to the unsatisfactory situation, the report also offers recommendations on the legal changes that are much needed and other affirmative measures that must be taken.

Outreach and Promotion Activities

Balkans Group's strategic initiative to promote gender representation has significantly impacted a broad audience through various channels, including websites, social media, and media outlets. Our activities, encompassing web posts, live streams, social media posts, video compilations, events, press releases, and media interviews, effectively raised visibility and fostered discussions on crucial societal issues. This outreach extended to policy articles, with over 1,000 copies printed and distributed through workshops and roundtables and provided to key institutions such as the government, the President, parliament members, independent institutions, the Ombudsperson, and donors.

Campaign for changing the quota

The “A Call for Change” campaign is a cornerstone of our efforts, which aims to increase women's political representation and align the General Elections Law with the Gender Equality Law. Our research highlights women's challenges in securing political and institutional roles, underscoring the urgent need to close the gender gap. To overcome these challenges, this campaign mobilized prominent figures, including Prime Minister Albin Kurti, MPs, assembly members, leaders, political party representatives, NGOs, donors, and other social actors.

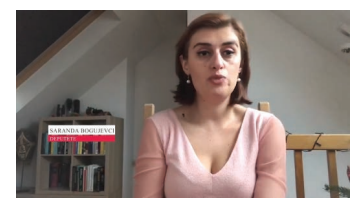
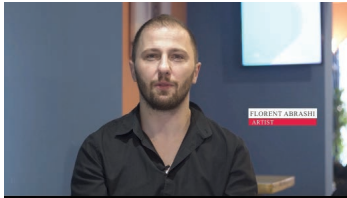


WOMEN IN POLITICS FACTSHEET

The social media metrics underscore this success, with Facebook alone garnering a reach of over 2.2 million and total engagements amounting to 121,731 (including likes, comments, and shares).



Balkans Group's initiatives have reached a broad audience and successfully engaged them, demonstrating the effectiveness of our strategic communication efforts in highlighting gender representation and fostering societal dialogue.



Conference: Women Caucus: Influencing Policy Making and Fostering Outreach – 19 February 2020

In the framework of the “Fostering the Women Caucus’ role through regional outreach and establishing their relationship with the media” project funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) Balkans Group organised a final conference as a conclusion to a number of activities that the Balkans Group organised with women MPs, Municipal Assembly members and the media.



Ms. Vjosa Osmani, President of the Assembly of Kosovo



HE Alan Bowmen, Ambassador of Canada to Kosovo

Roundtable Strengthening Democracy: The inclusion of Women in Politics and Decision Making - 26 February 2019

A roundtable on “Women Inclusion: Inequality of gender representation in politics and decision-making” was organized in 26 February 2019. The policy dialogue event was organised to discuss and enhance the women inclusion in politics, institutions and decision-making on the basis of the findings of the BPRG’s recent Policy article “Women in Politics – Gender (In) Equality in politics and decision-making”.





Consultation meetings with Women Caucus and Municipal Assembly Members – December 2019 – February 2020

6 consultations meetings were organised of the Women Caucus Delegation with Municipal Assembly Members, Gender Equality Officers and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the challenges, lessons learned, limitations and future endeavours of the yearly work-plan as well as the needs and challenges regarding gender issues. These consultation were held in 6 major municipalities in Kosovo.

Social Media Training: Women Caucus and the Municipal Assembly Members - 3 March 2020

A social media training for women MPs and women Municipal Assembly members from various municipalities across Kosovo. The training was designed to equip women decision-makers with the necessary tools to increase their online presence and establish better communication with the public through social media.



Dialogue round-table with women MPs - 29 March 2018

BPRG organized a round-table with women MPs. Gathering the board members of women Caucus and the chairwomen of parliamentary commissions, the round-table discussion was framed around the role of women MPs in the political dialogue. Present at the round-table were women from all major political parties and a representative from the US Embassy in Kosovo.

Advocacy Letters

Following the publication of the policy article, “Women in Politics – Gender (In) Equality in politics and decision-making, Balkans Group has sent advocacy letters to various institutional leaders including the prime minister, President of the Kosovo Assembly, heads of parliamentary groups and parliament members, political party leaders and the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue Team, to advocate and promote the enhancement of gender equality, and the quota and also address the following recommendations:

- Appoint more women to the presidency, parliamentary committees, and other bodies of the new Assembly;**
- Increase the number of women in leadership positions in Government, agencies, boards, and other government institutions;**
- Undertake additional actions to advance the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality in public institutions.**

Balkans Group's initiatives to promote gender equality in Kosovo have demonstrated a substantial impact across multiple dimensions. Our efforts, from policy advocacy to extensive outreach campaigns, highlight the urgency of addressing the gender gap in politics and decision-making roles.

Balkans Group's comprehensive approach to gender equality in politics has laid a strong foundation for continued progress. Our policy recommendations, coupled with effective advocacy and outreach activities, have set the stage for meaningful change. By maintaining this momentum and fostering collaboration among all stakeholders, Kosovo can move towards a more democratic and equitable society, where women's voices are heard and valued in all decision-making processes.



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.



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