

# CENTER FOR COUNSELING, SOCIAL SERVICES AND RESEARCH - SIT

**ANNUAL REPORT - 2021**

**JANUARY - DECEMBER 2021**

**PREPARED BY:**

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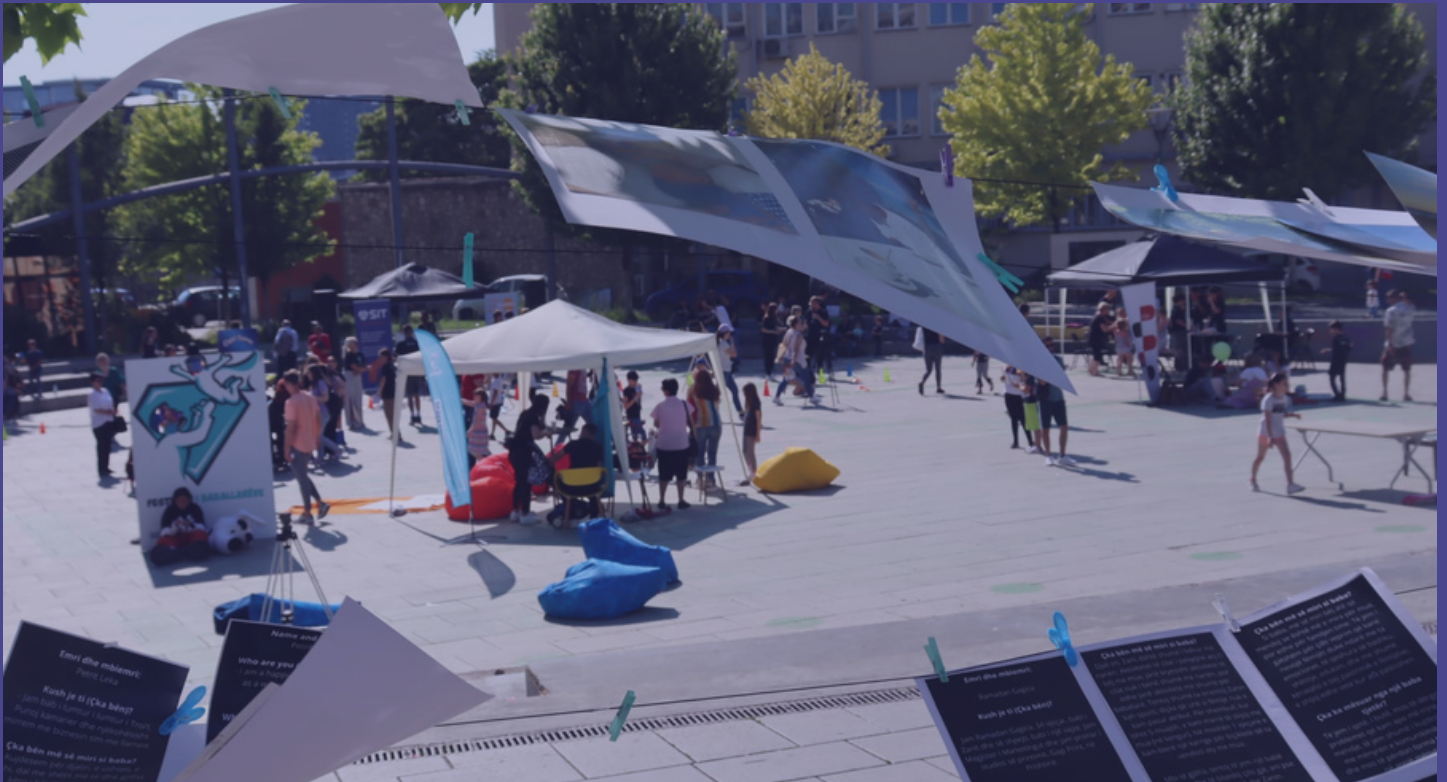
**CONTENTS STRATEGY: KADRI GASHI**

**FINANCE: AGON OSAJ**

**PROJECTS: NJOMZA BERISHA**

## **The Road We Walked Together**

This year has been another prosperous year regarding new projects, welcoming new staff members, and the well-continued implementation of our programs. Of course, we could not make it without our partners, such as local, national, and international partners, volunteers, and our valued board and assembly members. Once again, we have conducted various training and research, held different creative and impactful activities and campaigns, and reached many community members.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THIS ANNUAL REPORT CONTAINS SIT'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2021.

## Organization Overview

### Vision

We envision an inclusive society where everyone feels safe, equal, and can achieve their potential regardless of their social identities.

### Mission

SIT aims to promote and create an equal society for all. Hence, we tackle some of the most challenging human rights' issues in our community that prevent us from achieving equality, peace, and development, including Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence. We aim to achieve this by involving people of all backgrounds, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, and other identity categories.

## TOTAL INCOME:

138,250.52€ IN 2021 FROM 95,201.81€ IN 2020

TOTAL STAFF EXPENSES: 82,937.59 € STAFF EXPENSES IN  
2021 FROM 54,776.40 € STAFF EXPENSES IN 2020

TOTAL OPERATIONS EXPENSES IN 2021: 26,871.33 EURO  
OTHER EXPENSES: 28,441.6 EURO



# LOOKING BACK AT 2021...

## COUNSELING SESSIONS

97  
*(15% growth)*

## ONLINE EVENTS

106

## TRAINING

74

# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

**Future4Youth:** This project aims at scaling up and mainstreaming earlier achievements related to the implementation of the Gender Transformative Life Skills program, or short, Program Y. SIT aims to implement this project via targeted advocacy and close cooperation with relevant stakeholders through the support of movement/coalition-building and through the development of new alliances that engage parents and citizens in supporting gender equality focused life skills education program.

SIT, as a partner of CARE, jointly with other partners, will foster gender-transformative life skills education to become an integral part of education programs at schools and juvenile correctional institutions.

Main accomplishments:

- One signed MoU with Technical High School “28 Nëntori”;
- One signed MoU with Electro-Technical High School “ Gjin Gazulli” - School of Excellence;
- One conducted Baseline Assessment - Technical High School “28 Nëntori”;
- Accreditation of Program Y for another year;
- One Residential Training held with the “Be a Man” Club new generation;
- An Informative Meeting in cooperation with MESTI for the Institutionalization of Program Y.



# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

## **Break the Ice 2.0:**

The "Break the Ice 2.0" project intends to improve cultural collaboration among Kosovo's youth by sharing knowledge, skills, arts, and information across communities. Furthermore, young people may overcome shortcomings in critical thinking abilities by growing up in a culture that values tolerance, equality, peace, and inclusion and encourages cultural variety, non-discrimination, and hate speech.

This project's aim is to bring together young people from Fushë Kosova/Kosovo Polje, Kamenicë/a, South Mitrovica, and North Mitrovica who are interested in cultural diversity in order to promote communication and build a network of young people who are interested in art and culture. As a result of their efforts, these young people have the capacity to change their communities and to involve youngsters who are disadvantaged and disenfranchised from all communities in Kosovo. They'll get together, tell their stories, fight injustice, and dispel prejudices. They will also participate in cultural events tailored to help young people in Kosovo build a constructive youth movement that promotes peace, conflict resolution, and social inclusion.

- This project started in mid-December 2021.



# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

**Enhancing conflict-management skills of youth:** Since May 2021, SIT began implementing the third phase of the DRC-funded project, this time called “Enhancing Conflict-Management Skills of Youth”. The project was led and implemented by SIT, and the targeted beneficiaries were youth from Fushë Kosova, Kamenica, South Mitrovica, and North Mitrovica municipalities. The project targeted youth from these municipalities since different communities live there, and there is more need to have inter-ethnic tolerance and cooperation.

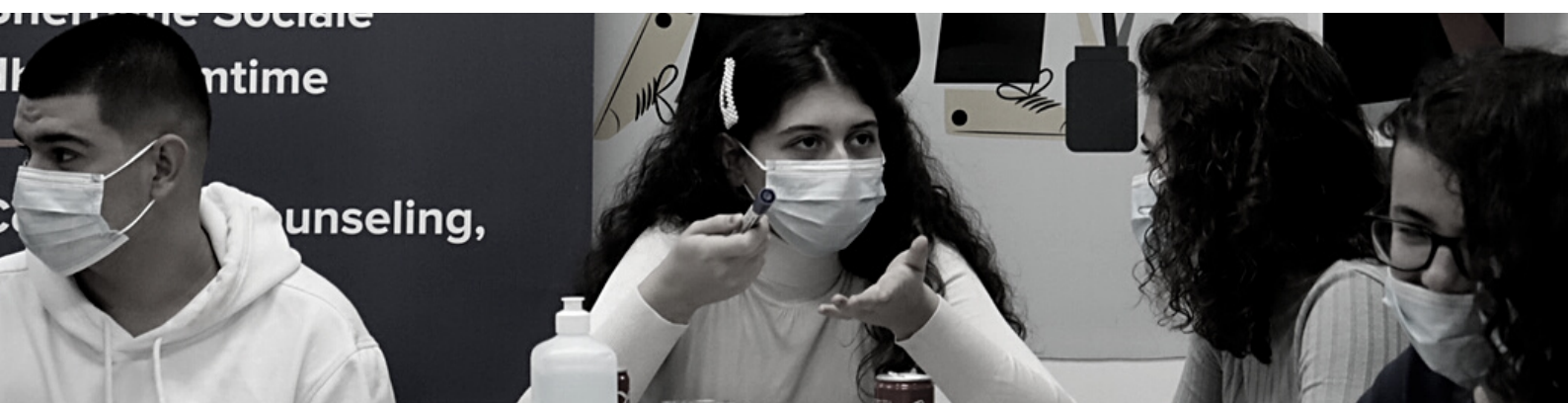
According to the initial project plan:

- 44 in-person meetings have been held with participants from each targeted municipality,
- 8 joint online meetings in which several topics regarding community-building, inter-ethnic tolerance, peacebuilding, and other similar issues have been discussed and elaborated;
- 8 workshops have been held with topics related to conflict management, managing negative emotions, community building, and similar.

Apart from the meetings and workshops that have been held, English language courses have been offered for free for five months. Project participants and others could join the speaking clubs and beginner classes to enhance their English speaking and comprehension skills.

60 participants benefited from either speaking clubs or beginner classes. All those who attended beginner classes entered the final test and received their certificates according to the level they had completed and the results shown in the final test.

The project has also foreseen some initiatives to help communities in the targeted municipalities. There has been a donation of 2,340 books for “Selman Riza” Primary School in Fushë Kosova.





# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

**Counseling for Prevention (C4P)** project aimed at combating violence against women and girls by working in primary and tertiary prevention. Its aim was to achieve this through piloting counseling sessions with Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence perpetrators. We also worked with stakeholders working in this field through this project, including public institutions and NGOs. This project's area of work was to push forward changes in legislation and include mandatory legal services for perpetrators of DV and GBV, based on the Istanbul Convention requirements. Another objective of this project was to raise awareness on the role of men in combating DV and GBV and on the necessary and effective psycho-social programs for perpetrators in Kosovo.

This project also assessed the currently available programs of working with perpetrators, mapping institutions' services on working with perpetrators, and needs assessment for local coordination mechanisms on working with perpetrators.



# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

## **Counseling for Prevention II:**

The main objective of this project was to work with perpetrators, provide counseling to law offenders, and involve them in rehabilitation programs offered in their communities. Practical realization of work with perpetrators (of Violence) is through individual counseling sessions, group counseling, and online services implemented in seven central regions of Kosovo (Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren, Ferizaj, Gjilan, and Gjakova).

The main goal of working with perpetrators is to ultimately cease violent behavior and replace it with non-violent and healthy alternative behaviors.

Main accomplishments:

- Counseling sessions were held for individuals who came voluntarily and cases referred by different persons or institutions;
- Launching the first online platform for working with perpetrators;
- A brochure was published aiming to change the behavior and attitudes of the perpetrators.



# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

**Youth Voices, Youth Choices:** The project started in January 2021 and will be under implementation until June 2023. During the first year of the project, January-December 2021, one international youth study was conducted in five Balkan countries, namely Kosovo, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Albania, and North Macedonia.

Based upon the COVID-19 experience, this project aims to **create a more supportive environment for youth-oriented SRH services, self-care and information during and beyond emergency situations** within the Balkan region, with special attention to those who are most vulnerable. This will be achieved:

- firstly, by conducting **research** to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on young people's access to SRHR services and information and the opportunity and need to integrate digital services, especially for those most vulnerable;
- secondly, via exchange of good practices to empower **young people** through a combination of online/offline education tools;
- thirdly via the development of (policy) **recommendations** that will support local and regional **advocacy** initiatives to strengthen existing health systems that ensure access to (youth friendly) services and information to all those in need, including within a context of crisis.



# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

## **STOPP - Supporting the implementation of rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators of VAW and DV as per Articles 12 & 16 of the Istanbul Convention:**

The project started in May 2021 and will be under implementation until November 2022. European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence, in partnership with UN Women, is implementing the project “Supporting the implementation of rehabilitation programs for perpetrators of violence against women and domestic violence as per Articles 12 and 16 of the Istanbul Convention”. This project aims to increase the safety and well-being for women and children by interrupting and preventing violent behavior. The project will assess the level of responsiveness of the Western Balkans and Turkey to articles 12 and 16 of the Istanbul Convention and address it by focusing on strengthening and supporting perpetrator programs in Albania, Serbia, and Kosovo. Given the importance of positive transformative masculinity practices, a specific focus will be on young men through diverse activities: working with school professionals and directly with young men. Finally, the project will involve relevant stakeholders and policymakers and foster awareness-raising in the region.

SIT will support the implementation of activities in Kosovo, such as:

- Research on the implementation of Articles 12 and 16 of the Istanbul Convention in Kosovo;
- Specific awareness-raising activities in Kosovo on the relevance of perpetrator programs in the country;
- Setting up and running perpetrator programs in Kosovo;
- Offering perpetrator programs in Kosovo and providing individual counseling sessions to all those who are being referred by the police and close family members of the perpetrators;
- Participate in online training for monitoring the quality of the perpetrator programs in Kosovo.



# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

## **Collection of Economic Market Data:**

The primary purpose of the “Collection of economic market data” is to support marketing decisions and marketing efforts for entrepreneurs, farmers, and producers. However, the information is also helpful for different organizations, academics, and researchers. Governments have useful marketing information related to state policy development and support programs. At the same time, developing organizations use the information to establish community support programs and better access and assistance to the needs of farmers and producers.

The Collection of economic market data comprises monthly prices collected in the seven main centers of Kosovo (Prishtina, Prizren, Peja, Gjakova, Ferizaj, Mitrovica, and Gjilan) with approximately 650 agricultural products, such as fruits, vegetables, livestock, and other agricultural inputs, and their dissemination through different forms of cooperation.

At the end of each year, we help publish the Green Report with the data needed by SIT.



# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

**Green PR Now Conference:** The main goal of Green PR Now is to empower young people through the cooperation of the youth-civil society-local government triangle to develop and create a healthier environment in Prishtina. The event was organized in cooperation between SIT, the Innovation in Politics Institute, and the Municipality of Prishtina. It brought together young people from the Prishtina region with representatives from the municipality and local NGOs to develop their projects, contributing to a greener, more sustainable Prishtina.

The interactive workshops were greatly inspired by the design sprint methodology and helped these young people develop projects together. Local and international experts helped them find ideas and contribute their knowledge throughout the process. During this conference, young people came up with two project ideas.



# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

## **Fathers Festival second edition:**

The Fathers' Festival is the first of this kind in Kosovo, promoting positive parenting, the importance of fathers' involvement in raising and taking care of children, sharing equal responsibilities within the family, and promoting parental leave.

This festival took place on June 20, 2021 (Father's Day), at the plateau in front of Kino Armata, near the Grand Hotel in Prishtina. It comprised a fathers' competition, exhibition, music, games, podcast, quiz, art, culture, family picnic, reading corner, and other interactive activities.

The purpose of this festival is to inspire fathers and legal guardians to be attentive and actively involved in educating children, initiating discussion on the importance of fatherhood, with a particular focus on advocating for parental leave. SIT will implement this festival every Father's day, every year. This festival was supported by many local and international partners.



# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

## K10 Coalition activities

**Marking Zero Discrimination Day;** The overall objective of this activity was to raise the awareness of the broader public on discrimination, pandemic, marginalized groups, and sexual and reproductive health, which is still an issue that needs to be discussed and addressed. This activity aimed to draw the public's attention to the widespread discrimination that women, young women, and girls, irrespective of which community they are members of, above all, women from non-majority communities (Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian) face. Therefore, SIT held a "SIT and Talk" discussion and published an article on sexual and reproductive health, COVID19, and marginalized groups. This discussion went live on Facebook and it was held in-person with participants.





# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

## **K10 Coalition activities**

**Marking Youth Day:** The theme of International Youth Day 2021 was: "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health," to highlight that the success of such a global effort will not be achieved without the meaningful participation of young people. Hence, SIT, jointly with its network such as local and international partners, volunteers, etc., marked this day with several interactive activities. SIT gathered young people from different regions of Kosovo, such as Prishtina, Fushe Kosova, Obiliq, South Mitrovica, North Mitrovica, Kamenica/Dardana, Zveçan, Ranilug, etc. to celebrate this day and learn new behaviors on healthy lifestyle, sexual and reproductive health and rights, physical and mental health, gender equality, prevention of violence, consent, and other youth-related topics.

Understanding the importance of physical and psychological health and the vital role of food and exercise for a healthier life, we have organized the first youth event that has to do with physical, mental, and social health. The event offered a daily life cycle with exercise, food, socialization, and health knowledge. In addition to trying out healthy lifestyles, they learned how to adhere to a health regimen by playing and engaging all their senses around the above mentioned topics.



# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

## The Last Tunnel - third edition

Remembering femicide (the killing of a woman or girl, particularly by a man and on account of her gender) victims from after the war period in Kosovo, SIT exhibited some stories of these victims to prevent and combat domestic violence and gender-based violence.

SIT exhibited this installation for the third time in Prishtina and for the first time in Kamenica and Mitrovica. Passersby had the chance to read these stories, to see the violence women in Kosovo go through, year after year.

These stories answer the questions "Who? When? How? and What?", and we hope on this occasion to convey the message to Kosovar media that these are the questions that matter in reporting cases of violence and not the question "Why?" - because violence has no justification!

At the end of the installation, the statement of "public commitment" was placed where we all pledge to be active against violence against women and girls.



# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS

## Connecting the Dots

Through "NOW - Connecting the Dots," we aim to strengthen social cohesion at the local level while promoting youth dialogue, youth participation, and youth empowerment. We support the active involvement of young people in democratic life and bring together young people and local decision-makers to foster dialogue in various empowerment and knowledge exchange activities. In the project activities, we engage, connect, and empower young people internationally through training activities that transfer skills and competencies adapted to young peoples' needs and interests. Through the project, we foster mutual learning among participants and the partner organizations and make it possible for all to share knowledge, best practices, and local experiences to strengthen social cohesion and promote living together in diversity.

The Partners in NOW-Connecting the Dots - are deeply involved in work with young people and have experience in bringing together local leaders and young people.



# RESEARCHES CONDUCTED IN 2021

- An analysis of Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence perpetrator services offered in Kosovo - with support from UNFPA.
- Kosovo Youth Study - “The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic in SRHR on Kosovo Youth, Young Mothers, and Pregnant Women” - with support from Merck for Mothers.
- Collecting Market Data - with support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development.





# ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Conference on "Violence against Women- Addressing of issues with Perpetrators"

**THIRD REGIONAL FORUM:**

**ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY**

**“INTEGRATED POLICIES, INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS”**

Online

International Day of Peace Global Youth Assembly

# NEW COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

## 1. UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES:

- a. University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina", Faculty of Philosophy;
- b. University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina", Faculty of Law, Center for Human Rights;
- c. Heimerer College , Prishtinë.

## 2. PRE-UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS:

- a. "Dr.Xheladin Deda" High school - Mitrovicë
- b. "Gjin Gazulli" High school - Prishtinë
- c. "28 Nëntori" Technical High School - Prishtinë
- d. "Hivzi Sylejmani" High School - Fushë Kosova

## 3. NATIONAL AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS:

- a. Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation;
- b. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development;
- c. Municipalities (Prishtina, South Mitrovica, Kamenica, Fushe Kosova).

## 4. NGOS:

- a. Kosovo Mapping Organizations;
- b. K10 (Coalition for Health);
- c. CiviKos;
- d. Association of Psychologists of Kosovo;
- e. Security and Gender Group members - SGG.

# NETWORKS SIT IS MEMBER:

## NETWORKS SIT IS MEMBER:

- Youth for Exchange and Understanding International (YEU);
- MenCare;
- MasterPeace Global Foundation;
- NOW Map;
- Working with Perpetrators - European Network (WWP- EN);
- MenEngage Global Alliance;
- International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF European Network);
- European Network of Youth Centres - ENYC.

# SIT PLATFORMS

[www.sit-ks.org](http://www.sit-ks.org)

[www.sitandbreaktheice.org](http://www.sitandbreaktheice.org)

[www.sitandtalk.org/](http://www.sitandtalk.org/)

[www.sitkosova.org](http://www.sitkosova.org)

[www.ks.masterpeace.org/](http://www.ks.masterpeace.org/)

# DONORS IN 2021

- 
1. CARE International in Balkans;
  2. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development;
  3. Austrian Development Cooperation (ADA);
  4. OAK Foundation;
  5. United Nations Peacebuilding Fund;
  6. Municipality of Prishtina;
  7. United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK);
  8. Danish Refugee Council;
- SIDA;
  - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);
  - Coalition for Health (K10);
  - UN Women Kosovo;
  - UN Women in Turkey;
  - United Nation Mission in Kosovo
  - European Network for the Work with perpetrators of Domestic Violence e.V. - WWP EN
  - Kosova - Women for Women;
  - Kosovar Gender Studies Center;
  - Agency for Gender Equality

## SIT SUSTAINABILITY

SIT has achieved stability through the "Future4Youth" project until 2024 and through the project "Youth Voices, Youth Choices" until 2023. In this way, through the institutionalization of the Y program, SIT, together with partners, will contribute to the education system in Kosovo.