

Portfolio
2023



<https://sit-ks.org/>



Center for Counseling, Social Services, and Research

SIT - Center for Counseling, Social Services, and Research is a non-governmental organization whose mission is to promote and create an equal society for all. Hence, we tackle some of our society's most challenging human rights issues 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 any other categories of identity.

About

Our vision

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



Ongoing Programs and Projects:

• Future 4 Youth

The Future4Youth project is committed to creating positive and peaceful societies for young people in the Western Balkans by advocating for violence prevention, gender equality, life skills, and health education in schools. With a regional platform of organizations, YMI has implemented the Program Y methodology to prevent interpersonal and gender-based violence and promote gender equality and healthy lifestyles. The program has shown positive changes in attitudes towards violence among youth who have participated. The initiative is based on addressing gender inequalities and promoting healthy lifestyles to enable boys and girls, young men and women, to reach their full potential on their path to adulthood. With solid support from the community and a collective approach, YMI aims to create sustainable change for a better future



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• Youth for Inclusion, Equality, and Trust

This project aims to empower young Albanians, Serbs, Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians to challenge social stereotypes and think creatively through non-formal education training in critical and creative thinking. Trained participants will become multipliers and spread their skills and experience to others. SIT will hold capacity-building activities related to the media, advocacy, and human rights in six municipalities and develop a toolkit for peacebuilding and for non-formal and formal education that combat prejudices and stereotypes using various methods such as the art of hosting facilitation, non-violent communication, and forum theater. The toolkit will be shared with other non-formal education institutions and formal educators, and the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation will be involved in the development process. The project will also create reports and stories on sensitive topics such as gender equality and social cohesion.



Ongoing Programs and Projects:

• Counseling for Prevention 3.0

The "Counseling for Prevention" project is a bold initiative to prevent violence against women and girls by working with perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence. By piloting counseling sessions and working with public institutions and NGOs, the project hopes to drive changes in legislation and promote effective psycho-social programs for perpetrators in Kosovo. The project also seeks to raise awareness of the role of men in combating DV and GBV and assess the currently available programs for working with perpetrators. With the support of UNFPA, SIT is leading the charge in promoting a safer and more just society for women and girls in Kosovo.



Portfolio 2020-2024

• DuoActivism (2023 - Present)

The MasterPeace Global Network and CSOs working with youth in the Balkans, Middle East, and Western EU are teaming up to address social inclusion, climate dilemmas, and lack of job prospects for young people. We aim to develop innovative non-formal education formats to engage, connect, and empower young people, especially women in rural areas. The project aims to create a digital and scalable portfolio of NFE materials, train youth workers to use them, and build an ecosystem of CSOs and young people to act as an accelerator for sustainable change. The project will engage, connect, and empower 75% of young women and 30% from minority backgrounds through online courses, social entrepreneurship challenges, thematic NFE handbooks, and Great Minds Meetings. Ultimately, the project aims to run 25 projects involving 200 young people to create a more inclusive and sustainable future.



Ongoing Programs and Projects:

• Youth Voices, Youth Choices

The "Youth Voices, Youth Choices" project is a 30-month initiative to improve sexual and reproductive health services and information accessibility for young people (age 14-30) in the Western Balkan region. Through a youth-centered approach, the project will gather information about young people's SRH needs during the COVID-19 crisis, especially for those living in remote areas and in unfavorable social conditions. The project will empower young people to advocate for their SRH needs and increase policy and decision-makers' commitment to friendly and accessible SRH services and information. The project is managed by the IPPF European Network, implemented by regional partners, and supported by the Merck for Mothers Global Giving Program.



• Poke the Bubble (2023 - Present)

This project aims to empower local youth work CSO professional groups in Serbia and Kosovo to effectively engage young people from the region in promoting good neighborhood relations through addressing issues of mutual importance, specifically focusing on gender equality. The project has two specific objectives: (1) to establish a network of CSO professional groups from Serbia and Kosovo to implement innovative youth work outreach methodologies in addressing gender equality with young men and women from underdeveloped areas, and (2) to create opportunities for young people from underdeveloped urban and rural areas in Serbia and Kosovo to take a proactive approach in addressing gender roles, norms, gender equality, and other youth-related themes at all community levels. Through these objectives, the project seeks to build the capacities of local CSOs to become independent and accountable actors while promoting youth empowerment and community engagement.

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Ongoing Programs and Projects:

• **Peace through Art** *(2023 - Present)*

This project uses the power of art to promote peace in Kosovo by advocating for collective reconciliation between communities and helping individuals overcome trauma linked to conflict. It addresses various social issues, including youth inclusion, peacebuilding, inter-ethnic dialogue, gender equality, domestic and gender-based violence, and youth employment and representation. By bringing youth together, engaging them in community work, and raising awareness about these issues, the project aims to promote active citizenship and advocacy for youth rights locally and nationally. Collaborative art projects establish strong connections between participants and generate a will for peace in the community. Using community-based artistic initiatives, this project offers a creative approach to addressing social issues and promoting peacebuilding in Kosovo.

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Impact and Success Stories

- The first counseling center in Kosovo to work with perpetrators of gender-based and domestic violence
- Its peacebuilding programs have brought together young people from different communities in Kosovo
- It operates the only platform for peacebuilding and reconciliation: www.sitandbreaktheice.org

- SIT's youth programs, including the accredited Program Y, have targeted a large number of young people in Kosovo
- SIT is based in Prishtina but also works in smaller municipalities and has partnerships with local, national, and international organizations
- The Be a Man Club has helped many young men and boys change their violent behavior

- SIT has launched three large campaigns, including Father's Festival, Youth Festival, and The Last Tunnel, to address social issues in Kosovo SIT's success stories demonstrate the transformative power of peace and tolerance
- Research done focused on DV and GBV, perpetrator programs in Kosovo, Sexual and Reproductive Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Youth Attitudes towards peer violence, attitudes of youth on men and masculinity
- Many topics have been the focus of the Research Department, publishing a total of 22 research reports and 15 Green Reports.

The programs implemented within the work with perpetrators are:

1. A program for working with men who used violence in intimate partner relationships (Eng/Alb)
2. Training for counselors of violent boys and men (Alb)
3. Manual for work with domestic violence perpetrators in Kosovo (Eng/Alb)
4. Labor Service Standards working with perpetrators in Kosovo (Shqip)
5. Respectful Relationships (group counseling) for perpetrators

Within the Social Services department, SIT has implemented a total of 14 projects on several topics: Youth Activism, Interethnic Reconciliation, and Human Rights and Gender Equality.

More than 900 youngsters from Kosovo-wide have participated directly in our activities, thus being change agents in the above-mentioned topics



- Innovative Approaches in GBV prevention and healthy lifestyle promotional for young men and women (Program Y) (Eng/Alb)
- A Gendered Approach to Building Life Skills for a Healthy Transition to Manhood (Manual M) (Eng/Alb)
- A Manual for Engaging Men in Fatherhood, Caregiving, and Maternal and Child Health (Program P) (Alb/Eng)
- Program Y+ (Prevention youth in radicalism and extremism violence) (Alb/Eng)
- Manual for gender sensitivity in reporting gender-based violence in the media (Eng/Alb)
- Program E (Elementary school) (Alb/Eng)
- Program for young women and women (Alb/Eng)
- Doughnut Economy program (Eng)
- Manual for working with youth (Eng)
- Caring Dads Manual (Eng)

Partnerships and Collaborations:

• Universities and Colleges

University of Prishtina - Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Psychology
University of Prishtina - Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Social Work
University of Business and Technology - UBT - Department of Psychology

• National and local institutions

Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Kosovo
Municipal Directorate of Education in Prishtina
Ministry of Justice of Kosovo
Kosovo Correctional Service

• Elementary and High Schools

Elementary School "Naim Frashëri" in Prishtina
Technical High School "28 Nëntori" in Prishtina
Electro Technical High School "Gjin Gazulli" in Prishtina
Secondary school of medicine "Xeladin Deda" in South Mitrovica
High School "Hivzi Sylejmani" in Fushe Kosova

Networks:

- MasterPeace Global
- Youth for Exchange and Understanding
- MenEngage
- European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence
- Coalition for Health (K10)
- Act NOW
- Security and Gender Group members
- European Network of Youth Centers
- International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network
- MenCare/Fatherhood

SIT platforms

www.sit-ks.org

www.sitandbreaktheice.org

www.sitandtalk.org/

www.sitkosova.org

www.ks.masterpeace.org/

<https://www.kujdessex.net/>

Financial Information

Total Income: 208,986.06€ in 2022 from 138,805.76€ in 2021 (funds served annually from 2021 to 2020)

Total Staff Expenses: 119,302.41€ staff expenses in 2022 from 82,937.59€ staff expenses in 2021 (people served annually from 2022 to 2021)

Total operations expenses in 2022:
80,409.85 euro

Other expenses: 8,543.69

Media and Communication

SIT's communication strategy is all about promoting our projects to the audience. We use various channels like social media, email, websites, and events to reach out effectively. Our website provides comprehensive information, social media connects them with our audience, and events create networking opportunities. SIT also maintains a strong relationship with local and national media to increase visibility. This strategy aims to create awareness, engage with the audience, and promote our message of equality and peace.

Our Team

SIT's team is a diverse and dynamic group of professionals with a wide range of expertise. From experienced counselors, psychologists, skilled youth workers, political scientists, researchers, and gender experts, we bring a critical and comprehensive approach to our work. At SIT, we currently have a team of 11 full-time employees. And with 8 out of 11 team members under the age of 30, we're constantly pushing forward with fresh ideas and energy. At SIT, we're proud to serve our communities with a team that's as diverse as the needs we address.



Governance and Structure

SIT's main leadership body is its Assembly, composed of members elected every two years. This group is responsible for making strategic decisions regarding the organization's direction and appointing the executive board, which it oversees. SIT boasts an effective and capable executive board comprising three individuals

Our organization is led by young people within the assembly



Shkurte Hodolli
Head of Assembly at SIT



Ibrahim Salihi
Policy Researcher



Erisa Azemi
Activist



Shkodran Latifi
Youth Ambassador



Kadri Gashi
CEO/Founder



Njomza Berisha
Development &
Program Manager



Liridona Berisha
Program and PR Officer



Adnan Retkoceri
Project Coordinator



Agon Osaj
Finance &
Administration Manager



Irma Sadiković
Project and Field
Coordinator



Rron Rama
Campaign and Project
Coordinator



Fiona Haxhikadrija
Project Coordinator



Elsa Rexhepaj
Project Assistant



Pashke Shala
Project Assistant



Fatima Krujezi
Social Media Manager

SIT's sustainability

SIT has achieved stability for a longer period through successful projects like "Future4Youth", "Youth Voices, Youth Choices", "Counseling for Prevention", and "DouAct." Program Y will be institutionalized, and SIT aims to contribute to the education system in Kosovo through it. The organization is also developing a toolkit on peacebuilding for accreditation by the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, supported by UNFPA Kosovo. SIT's connections have introduced many initiatives to Kosovo, and the organization expects even more new projects in the future. With a successful 2023, SIT looks forward to an even better 2024.

In addition to the successful projects and initiatives, SIT is also developing a new strategy for 2024-2028. This strategy will ensure SIT's stability and continued success in promoting sustainable communities and equality. Through this strategy, we aim to further contribute to the education system in Kosovo and continue to develop and implement impactful projects and programs. The organization is committed to its mission, and this new strategy will help us to achieve our long-term goals.



Contact us

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