



**BIRN Kosovo**  
Annual Report

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## MISSION AND VISION

### Mission and Vision

BIRN Kosovo is an independent non-governmental organization that seeks to provide momentum to the democratic transition in Kosovo by promoting and advocating for accountability, rule of law and policy reform within both public and private institutions in Kosovo.

### BIRN Kosovo's vision

One of BIRN Kosovo's key goals is maintaining its position as the premier investigative and analytical journalism organization in Kosovo and continuing to report on the country's most pressing issues in politics, economics, and society. In particular, BIRN aims to act as a watchdog of public institutions, supporting the reforms required to further their path towards meeting EU accession criteria and the standards of the European Union. Through our televised debates, reportage and training on critical thinking and argumentation, BIRN Kosovo also encourages debate as a key source of knowledge, emancipation, and political culture.

After starting with fewer than five staff members in 2005, BIRN Kosovo has since evolved into a comprehensive media organization, employing journalists, editors, and editorial, administrative and technical staff in order to produce high-quality investigative and analytical reporting. BIRN Kosovo now has a team of around 51 full-time professionals as well as numerous local and international contributors that work on the development and implementation of ongoing programs.

To ensure long-term sustainability of our programs and results, BIRN Kosovo also combines its projects with those of the regional BIRN Network.

## BIRN Kosovo Methods and Approach

BIRN Kosovo uses various research methods, the application of which depends on the mediums deployed, which include articles, investigative reports, televised debates, televised reportage, and legal analyses.

Its overall approach is shaped by the following concepts:

- Journalism that acts as a watchdog – All of BIRN Kosovo’s outputs have one underlying objective in common: keeping the powerful accountable. Whether this is done through hard-hitting interviews, televised debates, reportage or in-depth written investigations, all of which aim to hold leaders accountable and unveil corruption, our philosophy remains the same: To build a culture of media oversight in Kosovo using journalistic methods.
- Journalism through Fieldwork – BIRN Kosovo’s team includes 51 staff and contributors ranging from investigative journalists, civil society activists, editors, researchers, and professional court monitors covering every municipality in Kosovo. BIRN Kosovo is the only media outlet in the country that holds systematic municipal and electoral debates, which offer citizens the opportunity to communicate with and question their political representatives.

Meanwhile reports from regular citizens remain our most powerful source of information. These reports, received at the office or via telephone or email, are frequently the basis of our investigations. It is our belief that the most accurate way to interpret realities on the ground is to communicate with the people directly affected by the problems in question, and BIRN Kosovo’s impact on society has been possible due to the trust that citizens have in our work.

- Engaged Journalism – Effective journalism should not only generate reporting but trigger real change. We believe that it is not enough to report on corruption or vote rigging if competent institutions do not take action. To combat indifference and inaction from local institutions in response to the issues we report on, BIRN has established a legal office which submits cases to the prosecution, complete with evidence collected through investigative reporters and court monitors.

However, effective journalism also requires productive cooperation with state institutions, and BIRN Kosovo has established a strong connection with those state institutions that share our mission to improve life in Kosovo. Our staff are also trained in election monitoring, another aspect of our philosophy to go beyond reporting.

Engaged journalism also shapes public opinion about the kind of state Kosovo’s citizens want it to become, and BIRN Kosovo’s professional reporting, debating, and in-depth analysis are all envisaged to encourage critical examination of issues that need attention, without impinging on accuracy, fairness, and balance.

- Journalism that trains for excellence – BIRN Kosovo has become a hub for innovation, creativity and high-quality journalism, cementing our position as a trendsetter in Kosovo’s media landscape. Furthermore, in 2020, BIRN Kosovo, in close partnership with Internews Kosova and BIRN Hub, trained 495 people including journalists, court monitors, researchers, local media workers, university students, civil society activists, and officials from Kosovo’s public institutions. This was provided through on-the-job training and workshops on topics including TV production, investigative journalism and court and public service monitoring, as well as advocacy training on energy and environmental issues.

The training provided is inclusive of all ethnicities and non-majority communities living in Kosovo. As the state with the youngest population in Europe but with one of the weakest performances in education assessments, BIRN believes that building journalism and media capacities is crucial for Kosovo. BIRN Kosovo has become a hub for innovation, creativity and high-quality journalism, cementing our position as a trendsetter in Kosovo’s media landscape.

## BIRN KOSOVO OPERATIONS



01	Pejë (Basic Court and Municipal services)	10	Junik (Municipal services)	19	Ferizaj (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)
2	Prishtina (Basic Court, Appeal Court, Supreme Court and Municipal services)	11	Istog (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)	20	Kaçanik (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)
3	Vushtrri (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)	12	Skenderaj (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)	21	H. Elez (Municipal services)
4	Prizren (Basic Court and Municipal services)	13	Drenas (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)	22	Dragash (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)
5	Gjilan (Basic Court and Municipal services)	14	Podujevë (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)	23	Viti (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)
6	Mitrovicë (Basic Court and Municipal services)	15	Fushë Kosovë (Municipal services branch)	24	Rahovec (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)
7	Klinë (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)	16	Lipjan (Municipal Court branch and Municipal services)	25	Malishevë (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)
8	Gjakovë (Basic Court and Municipal services)	17	Shtime (Municipal services)	26	Kamenicë (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)
9	Deçan (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)	18	Shtërpçë (Basic Court branch and Municipal services)		

## DIARY OF IMPACT FROM BIRN KOSOVO STORIES

BIRN has always strived to promote freedom of speech, human rights and democratic values in Kosovo and has remained an influential media organization throughout Southern and Eastern Europe. Meanwhile, as a result of our diligent work in increasing accountability and transparency in state institutions, BIRN Kosovo remains the second most trusted institution in the country after Kosovo Police.

Throughout 2020, BIRN Kosovo constantly worked towards increasing access to accurate information by investigating, writing, publishing and broadcasting on a number of topics. Below, BIRN Kosovo is proud to present the wide reaching impacts its stories had over the previous year.

### JANUARY

**On January 9, 2020,** KALLXO.com published a video submitted by a citizen depicting a truck dumping waste into the Sitnica River in Vushtrri. Following KALLXO's reporting, the Municipality of Vushtrri issued a fine of 500 euros to the Pestova company, after identifying them responsible for the pollution.<sup>1</sup>

**On January 14, 2020,** KALLXO.com reported that the Tax Administration of Kosovo (TAK) had still not suspended its head of intelligence, Safet Krasniqi, more than one month after the Special Prosecutor's Office had filed a corruption indictment against him.<sup>2</sup>

**On January 15, 2020,** KALLXO.com received a report from a citizen claiming that a pizza restaurant in Vushtrri was avoiding paying tax. Following our reporting, the Tax Administration of Kosovo (TAK) investigated the business and found many shortcomings in its operations. In total, TAK has imposed around 100,000 euros in fines as a result of investigations carried out following reports from KALLXO.com.<sup>3</sup>

**On January 23, 2020,** KALLXO.com reported that the head of intelligence at TAK, Safet Krasniqi, had been suspended from duty due to a corruption indictment being filed against him by the Special Prosecution, in a case first reported on by BIRN in 2016.<sup>4</sup>

**On January 23, 2020,** KALLXO.com published an article detailing its impact on the opening hours at the Faculty of Philology library at the University of Prishtina. After a report from KALLXO.com outlining complaints of limited opening hours at the library, students now have the opportunity to go to the library two hours earlier.<sup>5</sup>

### FEBRUARY

**On February 7, 2020,** KALLXO.com published an article detailing a statement by Minister of Infrastructure and Environment Lumir Abdixhiku, who indicated that procedures had started for the cancellation of a 110.6 million euro tender for the construction of a road between Banulla and Dheu i Bardhe, which was launched during the tenure of Minister Pal Lekaj.

The decision came after several reports by KALLXO.com that the project was not part of the approved 2019 budget, nor was it foreseen in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2019-2021, which is required for projects with a three year duration. Moreover, the tender was opened in early 2020, at a time when the budget was not yet approved and the state was operating with a twelfth of the 2019 budget.<sup>6</sup>

**On February 11, 2020,** KALLXO.com published an article regarding a number of officials from the Municipality of Prizren serving as witnesses in the trial of the Head of the Procurement Office at the Municipality, who was charged with committing several legal violations that had been reported by KALLXO.com over the last year.<sup>7</sup>

**On February 21, 2020,** KALLXO.com published an article regarding the Board of the Prishtina Regional Water Company, who made some clarifications regarding the alleged poor performance of the company as identified by audit reports. KALLXO reported that the board may even face dismissal by the government, who warned that it would take action against public enterprises based on the results of audit reports.<sup>8</sup>



## MARCH

**On March 10, 2020**, KALLXO.com published an in-depth investigation which further illuminated the poor management of Kosovo's public health system and revealed a lack of basic hygienic materials in clinics at the University Clinical Centre of Kosovo, UCCK.

The article explained that UCCK had opened a tender worth 152,350 euros in June 2019, seeking a company that could supply its clinics with soap and other basic sanitary items. Two operators applied, but the tender was suspended due to numerous issues, leaving Kosovo's largest hospital without basic hygiene products just as the coronavirus began to sweep across Europe.<sup>9</sup>

## APRIL

**On April 10, 2020**, KALLXO.com published an article reporting that the Special Prosecution of Kosovo had filed an indictment against a number of former ministers in the Thaci government, including Besim Beqaj, Mimoza Kusari, Dardan Gashi, Nenad Rasic, and Arben Gjuka. The case had been initiated following reporting by the KALLXO.com team.

**On April 14, 2020**, KALLXO.com published an article on the Municipality of Decan's cancellation of a tender worth 39,900 euros that was designated for buying disinfecting gels at a cost of 4 euros per unit and masks at a cost of 8 euros each. The tender was cancelled after KALLXO.com reported on it the previous day.

**On April 23, 2020**, KALLXO.com reported that staff at a supermarket in the Municipality of Peja were not tested for coronavirus after one of their colleagues had tested positive. The workers claimed that they were being discriminated against, highlighting that others in the same situation, including the Center for Mental Health in Peja, were urgently tested, but that this standard was not being applied to supermarket workers, who continued to work even during the lockdown. After KALLXO.com's reporting, the supermarket staff were immediately tested.

**On April 30, 2020**, KALLXO.com published an article regarding the impact of its reporting on water shortage in the village of Banja in the Municipality of Istog. Two weeks after KALLXO's reporting, the water supply to this village was fixed and fully operational.

## MAY

**On May 5, 2020**, then Speaker of the Assembly Vjosa Osmani sent a letter to the Kosovo Judicial Council and the Court of Appeals, requesting that all verdicts in the case of MP Etem Arifi be forwarded to the Kosovo Assembly. Osmani's request followed reporting by KALLXO that Arifi had been convicted with a final decision, thereby losing his mandate as an MP.

**On May 10, 2020**, KALLXO.com published an article regarding a private laboratory, Avicena-KS, which was claiming to be able to provide 50 coronavirus tests per day at a price of 20 euros each. However, following KALLXO.com's reporting that the private laboratory was providing testing without the permission of the Ministry of Health, Avicena-KS announced that it had suspended testing.

**On May 15, 2020**, KALLXO.com published an article about an impact that was felt in less than 24 hours, after garbage was removed from the "Bajram Curri" neighbourhood in Prizren following reporting by KALLXO.

## JUNE

**On June 10, 2020**, KALLXO.com reported that the Prosecutor's Office in Peja had opened an investigation following previous BIRN reporting on a contract signed by the Municipality of Peja and a business owned by family members of Ramiz Kelmendi, a former LDK MP.

**On June 23, 2020**, KALLXO.com reported that TAK's Office of Professional Standards and the Anti-Corruption Agency had initiated investigations into MP Hamit Mulaj following a BIRN investigation that unearthed suspicions about a hidden business.



## JULY

**On July 13, 2020**, KALLXO.com reported that, according to official data from security institutions, Kosovo Police had implemented decisions by the Serbian government on restrictions on free movement of citizens in Kosovo's four northern municipalities over a period of 24 hours. Following KALLXO.com's reporting, the Kosovo Police Inspectorate initiated an investigation.

**On July 14, 2020**, KALLXO.com reported that the body of a patient that had tested positive for the novel coronavirus remained in the Infectious Disease Department of the Prizren Regional Hospital for 14 hours. Following our team's reporting, the body was removed from the hospital.

**On July 22, 2020**, KALLXO.com reported that the Prishtina Regional Water Company had taken action to fix a damaged pipe that was wasting drinking water during an ongoing shortage, following BIRN's reporting on the issue.

**On July 28, 2020**, the Assembly of Kosovo returned proposals made by the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA) for members of the Prosecutorial Council, requesting that proposals be in accordance with those of the Anti-Corruption Agency, following reporting by KALLXO.com. The Anti-Corruption Agency found that three members of the KCA Steering Council running to become members of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council were subject to a conflict of interest.

## AUGUST

**On August 6, 2020**, KALLXO.com reported on KEDS installing new transmission towers and power lines in the village of Buroja in the municipality of Skenderaj. This action was taken following KALLXO.com's continuous reporting that the residents of this village had problems with unreliable electricity supply and outdated transmission towers, which were on the brink of collapse and endangering lives.

## SEPTEMBER

**On September 3, 2020**, the Municipality of Skenderaj removed an illegal landfill site on "Nene Tereze" street in the town of Skenderaj following reporting by KALLXO.com.

**On September 5, 2020**, the Municipality of Skenderaj removed an illegal landfill in the village of Buroja, specifically on "Mulla Ilaz Buroja" street, following reporting by BIRN.

**On September 9, 2020**, KALLXO.com reported that Burim Berisha, the Mayor of Fushe Kosove, had kept his promise to provide transportation for school children in more remote parts of the municipality. Berisha had made the promise on the back of numerous reports by BIRN on this issue.

**On September 12, 2020**, the Municipality of Prishtina began work on Adrian Krasniqi street, only a few days after reporting by KALLXO.com on the poor quality of the road there.

**On September 12, 2020**, KALLXO.com reported allegations by the National Audit Office that there had been irregularities during the recruitment of 20 inspectors at the Kosovo Tax Administration. The NAO came to this conclusion following a request from KALLXO.com's legal office to assess documents relating to the process. A year earlier, KALLXO.com had reported that many of the 20 inspectors employed had either direct links with political parties or family members linked to senior TAK officials.

**On September 21, 2020**, KALLXO.com reported that the Division of Professional Standards at the Tax Administration of Kosovo had referred official Burim Troni to the Anti-Corruption Agency following reporting by KALLXO.com. BIRN had uncovered suspicions regarding the non-declaration of three businesses and a potential conflict of interest.

**On September 26, 2020**, KALLXO.com reported that TAK inspectors had started investigating a restaurant in the Rugova valley, after BIRN revealed that it was not issuing receipts in order to avoid tax.

## OCTOBER

**On October 8, 2020**, Milazim Gjocaj resigned from his position as Dean of the Rezonanca University at the request of the Anti-Corruption Agency. His resignation followed KALLXO.com's reporting that Gjocaj was holding two official positions, with the other position being as Director of the Prisons Health Department at the Ministry of Health.

**On October 8, 2020**, the Municipality of Prishtina replaced a broken bus stop following reporting by KALLXO.com.

**On October 15, 2020**, the municipality of Lipjan started construction on a road connecting the village of Lluga to the village of Radeva in the municipality of Gracanica following reporting by KALLXO.com.

**On October 27, 2020**, the Independent Media Commission (IMC) elected as members Xhevat Latifi, Asdra Desic and Granit Musliu, a former deputy chairman of the Democratic Youth of Kosovo, PDK's youth wing. Musliu was also part of the election commission during PDK's internal elections, and has often been active in politics, participating in many PDK meetings up until 2020.

KALLXO.com immediately highlighted that the Independent Media Commission is a constitutional institution whose members are not permitted to have been members of a political party's governing bodies within the last two years, as stated in the Law on IMC, Article 12, Paragraph 4. After KALLXO.com's reporting, several political figures and MPs called for Musliu's dismissal.

## NOVEMBER

**On November 19, 2020**, an inspector from the Tax Administration in Ferizaj was penalised for failing to report a business that was not issuing receipts following reporting by KALLXO.com.

**On November 27, 2020**, criteria for the allocation of media funding by the Municipality of Prishtina were changed, allowing print and online media as possible beneficiaries. The alteration occurred following reporting by KALLXO.com.

## DECEMBER

**On December 1, 2020**, Arton Demhasaj resigned from his position as Member of the Steering Council at the University of Prishtina following KALLXO.com's reporting that he may be subject to a conflict of interest, as he is also the executive director of the COHU organization.

**On December 9, 2020** KALLXO.com published an article detailing an anonymous report submitted to TAK and KALLXO.com which claimed that a construction company in Prishtina had not paid pension contributions to around 380 of its employees for several years. The report was submitted following a call made by KALLXO.com to report businesses that did not pay the pension contributions to their employees. Following an investigation, TAK managed to come to an agreement with the business to pay the pension contributions.

**On December 11, 2020**, the day the deadline for applying to withdraw 10% of savings from the Kosovo Pension Savings Trust passed, the Tax Administration of Kosovo undertook several investigations at numerous businesses across Prishtina. These actions were undertaken after many citizens reported to KALLXO.com and TAK that these businesses had not paid pension contributions to employees.

**On December 16, 2020**, the Special Prosecution of Kosovo informed the legal office of Internews Kosova that following the broadcasting of a KALLXO.com documentary on war crimes committed during the Kosovo war, a number of investigations had been initiated.

**On December 30, 2020**, KALLXO.com broadcast a report about the arrest of a laboratory assistant at the National Institute of Public Health in Kosovo suspected of receiving bribes in exchange for testing citizens without following the prescribed procedures. The Kosovo Police's Department for Economic Crimes launched an investigation after receiving information from KALLXO.com, leading to an arrest the same day.

## **MEDIA PRODUCTION: INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, ANALYSIS AND DEBATE**

From January to December 2020, BIRN Kosovo published a total of 19,288 articles on its online anti-corruption platform KALLXO.com, including short news stories, longer analyses, in-depth investigations and fact-checking articles.

Throughout the year, KALLXO.com was able to again maintain public trust and credibility. This is best demonstrated by the 1,582 reports it received from citizens, of which 868 were followed-up with institutions, including 518 requests to access public documents.

As a result of our continuous investigations, KALLXO.com's reporting was able to contribute to improvements in the fight against corruption by identifying wrongdoing and objectively informing the public.

In total, 29 suspects were arrested following reporting by KALLXO.com, while the Special Prosecution of Kosovo filed indictments against 33 persons for either abuse of official position, receiving bribes, or illegal possession of weapons and smuggling in cases initiated after BIRN reporting. Further to this, BIRN's legal office submitted 30 legal complaints to the Chief State Prosecutor, while around 50 legal complaints were submitted to the Tax Administration of Kosovo, resulting in more than 102,000 euros in fines being issued.

Furthermore, BIRN Kosovo published 128 Krypometër articles assessing promises made by politicians and other officials. Meanwhile, 21 articles produced by young trainees were published on the KALLXO Rinia (KALLXO Youth) platform.

Additionally, BIRN Kosovo produced a total of 37 episodes of its Life in Kosovo programme, 26 episodes of Justice in Kosovo, and 38 debates and reportages as part of the Life in the Municipality series. Justice in Kosovo now has a total of 74,917 followers on Facebook and 25,600 subscribers on YouTube, while Life in Kosovo has a total of 79,990 followers on Facebook and 11,800 subscribers on YouTube.

For much of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted everyday normality, including schooling, disturbing the daily routines of pupils, parents and teachers. On March 11, 2020, Kosovo's Ministry of Health of Kosovo decided to close all education institutions in Kosovo until March 27 as part of preventive measures undertaken by the ministry to protect against the spread of the coronavirus.

It was in these circumstances that KALLXO.com provided assistance to the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, helping develop an online distance learning platform that was implemented for students unable to attend schools. The KALLXO.com team voluntarily helped film:

- More than 2,000 e-learning video lessons in Albanian for pupils in grades 1-9;
- More than 1,800 e-learning videos in Bosnian and Turkish for pupils in grades 1-9 at educational institutions teaching in these languages in Kosovo;

The videos in Bosnian and Turkish were broadcast on RTK2, while the videos in Albanian were broadcast on RTK4 and the Ministry of Education's website. More than 100,000 students in Kosovo watched these e-learning lessons from home during the lockdown.

In addition to its daily news updates, BIRN Kosovo also created the "Heroes of the Pandemic" series, in which nine inspirational people who achieved remarkable feats in their community were interviewed. The interviews brought the public another perspective on the pandemic and were broadcast on KALLXO.com, Radio Gorazdevac and Radio Television 21 in both Serbian and Albanian. Nine articles were also published on KALLXO.com as a follow-up to these interviews.

KALLXO.com also published up-to-date information and expert advice on the latest situation regarding the coronavirus epidemic, as well as fact-checking and reporting fake news stories that other media outlets produced. When news broke of the coronavirus' spread to Europe, KALLXO.com began its reporting by providing advice on how to protect oneself from the virus, as well as investigating the capacity of health institutions in Kosovo to cope with an epidemic.

KALLXO.com's team of graphic designers and illustrators produced three educational infographics, one providing advice on how to protect oneself and others by washing hands regularly, one providing guidelines on how to protect oneself during trips and the other providing advice on how to protect others from becoming infected.

By analyzing the level of preparedness in Kosovo's institutions, KALLXO was also part of preparing the country to help prevent the crisis. Throughout the year, KALLXO.com reported on irregularities discovered during investigations in the field, including an article on police and border officials lacking protective equipment to help protect against the virus.

KALLXO.com also initiated an inspection of bathrooms at Kosovo's health institutions, as well as at the University of Prishtina, to check whether they possessed basic sanitary supplies like antibacterial soap and toilet paper. Hospitals and Family Medical Centers were inspected in Prishtina, Gracanica, South and North Mitrovica, Gjakova, Prizren, Peja, Ferizaj and Gjilan, where soap and toilet paper were often missing.

Reporting on the lack of basic sanitary products in Kosovo's health institutions helped raise the alarm over a wider lack of sanitary supplies in the health system. KALLXO.com also investigated reports received during the coronavirus crisis that the University Clinical Center of Kosovo did not possess an active contract for supplies of sanitary equipment, publishing the findings.

The introduction of preventive measures, including the suspension of schooling, further alarmed Kosovo society to the severity of the situation and increased the need to provide reporting from the field. The news of the first confirmed cases of coronavirus in Kosovo, in the municipalities of Klina and Viti, resulted in a shift of KALLXO.com's reporting focus. As a widely used regional and municipal reporting platform, KALLXO.com continuously received and published reports from within these quarantined municipalities.

In the first two days alone, KALLXO.com published more than 20 articles illustrating the situation, as well as broadcasting live interviews with mayors and municipal health directors. KALLXO.com's teams also broadcast every live press conference involving the Minister of Health, as well as with municipal health directors, medical experts and other significant policy-makers on the management of the situation.

With the spread of coronavirus in Kosovo, KALLXO.com built a live discussion platform broadcast via KALLXO's social media accounts. We also broadcast more than fifty (50) live interviews with municipal mayors, doctors, health experts and representatives of Kosovo's National Institute of Public Health. Meanwhile, 100 reports and 30 infographics and illustrations on the novel coronavirus and the effects of its rapid spread were produced.

Ten live interviews with mayors and other municipal officials on managing the situation from the field were also broadcast, while KALLXO.com also continuously reported on the lack of basic sanitary supplies when interviewing health directors from various municipalities in Kosovo.

During the epidemic, a BIRN team specializing in public procurement investigated reports that the University Hospital and Clinical Service of Kosovo purchased oxygen at double the foreseen price. When discussion arose about allocating municipal funds to clean and disinfect roads and other public spaces, KALLXO.com investigated and reported that municipalities often lacked the necessary funds and capacities to disinfect the roads.

Additionally, Internews Kosova in cooperation with BIRN Kosovo broadcast the "Heroes of the Pandemic" series, in which nine inspirational people who achieved remarkable feats in their communities were interviewed. The interviews were broadcast on KALLXO.com, Radio Gorazdevac and Radio Television 21 in both Serbian and Albanian. Nine articles were also published on KALLXO.com as a follow-up to these interviews.

KALLXO.com also published more than 2,100 articles on the spread of the virus throughout the world and the risks it posed.

## TV: Jeta në Kosovë/Life in Kosovo and Drejtësia në Kosovë/Justice in Kosovo

Life in Kosovo is a televised programme that covers political, economic, and social affairs in Kosovo. The programme provides live debates with state officials, scholars, academics, activists, artists, and students, among others. Alongside its hard-hitting debates, the show also aims to tackle issues that are considered taboo in Kosovar society.

Life in Kosovo was broadcast on public broadcaster Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK) from 2005 until May 2020. Throughout this time, the moderator of the show has been BIRN Kosovo's executive director Jeta Xharra, who has been internationally recognized for her journalistic excellence and professionalism and has been featured in high-profile international newspapers, including the New York Times.

Justice in Kosovo meanwhile was broadcast on RTK between 2010 and May 2020, and focuses on justice, police, and security issues. The programme is based on data collected by BIRN Kosovo's court monitors, who cover every municipality in Kosovo, as well as reports from whistleblowers and citizens. It also regularly features reportage of operations undertaken alongside the Kosovo Police and Prosecution.

Both Justice in Kosovo, and its moderator and author, BIRN's Kreshnik Gashi, has been locally and internationally recognized for combating crime in Kosovo.

### WEB:

KALLXO.com, Gazeta JnK, Prishtina Insight, Kosovo contributions to Balkan Insight and Balkan Transitional Justice

## KALLXO.com

KALLXO.com is BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova's fastest-growing product. It is the first anti-corruption platform in Kosovo reporting on corruption, fraud and other legal violations within both public and private institutions and companies. In a recent public opinion survey, KALLXO.com was named as the second most credible source for fighting corruption for the fifth time in a row, only finishing behind Kosovo Police and far ahead of the Kosovo Prosecution and Anti-Corruption Agency.

Initially, the platform exclusively investigated reports received by citizens, but soon transformed into a trusted source of information as a news portal.

This transformation came as a result of two convictions. First that citizens have the right to be aware of criminality in their society, and the work done by their political representatives. As Kosovo state officials rarely live up to their obligations to communicate with the public, KALLXO.com keeps citizens informed and helps guarantee them a central position in the creation of public policy. Second, in a country with a high rate of corruption, public pressure and reporting often remains the only tool to fight criminality.

KALLXO.com is made possible by our team of journalists, editors, legal advisers, court monitors, and producers. These teams conduct fieldwork every day and offer objective and fact-checked information. In addition to written articles and legal analysis, KALLXO.com also specialized in offering live streams of protests and other events with a high public interest.

The multi-ethnic philosophy behind KALLXO.com is evident in its productions. KALLXO.com is at the service of all ethnic communities in Kosovo including Albanians, Serbs, Bosniaks, Turks, Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians, among others. It is the only media in Kosovo to have invited members of Serb List to communicate and discuss political developments in Kosovo.

The platform also serves as an umbrella to all of our other media platforms including the two televised programmes, Life in Kosovo and Justice in Kosovo, the Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë newspaper, the Truth-o-Meter/Krypometër, and the English-based online newspaper, Prishtina Insight.

Last year was marked with numerous developments that attracted significant attention from Kosovo civil society as well as public institutions. KALLXO's team continued its activities, monitoring the fulfilment of public pledges made by politicians, mainly through the Krypometër/Truth-o-Meter section of the platform, on which a total of 129 articles were published. Krypometer remains the only media product in Kosovo to be certified by the International Fact-Checking Network.



Naturally the COVID-19 pandemic also dominated coverage in 2020, and BIRN Kosovo has continuously reported daily news updates on the crisis publishing more than 2,100 articles on the spread of the virus throughout the world and the risks posed.

By December 31, 2020 KALLXO.com had published a total of 19,288 articles. The platform has a total of 355,574 followers on its official Facebook page and 21,800 YouTube subscribers, an increase of 109,943 Facebook followers and 4,200 YouTube subscribers compared to 2019. The platform was visited by 57,231,291 viewers/readers in 2020, with a daily average of 156,369 views.

### [Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë \(Life in Kosovo Online Newsmagazine\)](#)

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë is BIRN Kosovo's online Albanian newspaper, which was established in 2011. It aims to provide objective information of high journalistic standards. The newspaper has been awarded for its contribution to revealing irregularities and the misuse of public money in Kosovo.

### [Prishtina Insight \(PI\)](#)

Prishtina Insight (PI) is a digital and print magazine launched by BIRN Kosovo in 2008. For 11 years now, PI has covered current affairs and published exclusive investigations and long form features on social and cultural issues, as well as challenging opinion pieces and essays about Kosovo and the region.

### [Balkan Insight and Balkan Transitional Justice](#)

BIRN Kosovo, as a member of the BIRN Regional Network, contributes articles to Balkan Insight and Balkan Transitional Justice, informing the public on developments in Kosovo.

Some of the highlights of the reporting period of January – December 2020 include reporting misconduct and violations in the judicial system, covering ongoing political crises and in-depth investigations into a solar energy scandal.

Links to articles on Balkan Insight can be found on Annex 1

## **MONITORING & ADVOCACY**

BIRN Kosovo has been working towards increasing transparency and accountability in public institutions mainly through a British Embassy funded project: "Support civil society to increase public oversight and accountability of Kosovo public institutions." The project features two significant components: monitoring the Tax Administration of Kosovo and the recruitment processes for senior positions at Kosovo's institutions.

BIRN has established strong relationships with institutions including: the State Prosecutor, Kosovo Judicial Council, Kosovo Police, the Kosovo Police Inspectorate, the Tax Administration of Kosovo, the Trade Inspection at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, by providing them information that resulted on arrests and fines.

Judicial System – In 2020, our team of court monitors, legal officials and advisors monitored a total of 406 court hearings and submitted 659 legal complaints to public institutions in Kosovo, of which 344 were requests for access to official documents.

BIRN's legal office also submitted 30 legal complaints to the Chief State Prosecutor Aleksander Lumezi as a result of irregularities encountered during our investigations and monitoring. Four legal complaints involving disciplinary violations by judges were also submitted by our legal team.

As a result, administrative investigations were initiated against three judges, leading to disciplinary commissions being established. Furthermore, two officials from the Tax Administration of Kosovo and the Ministry of Internal Affairs had disciplinary measures taken against them as a result of information submitted by BIRN's Legal Office.



**Tax Administration of Kosovo TAK** - Significant impacts were also achieved through BIRN's monitoring of audits and recruitment processes, as well as its collaboration with the tax office.

During 2020, 15 recruitment processes for senior positions, and more than 40 other recruitment processes, including for board members at public enterprises, were monitored, resulting in more than 100 articles published on illegal employment practices.

As a result of our monitoring, 14 Kosovo Security Force inspectors were suspended from their positions and at least 20 candidates to be soldiers were disqualified. The monitoring report was submitted to NATO who welcomed the findings. Additionally, in-depth analyses on audit reports for 21 ministries, five public enterprises and 12 municipalities were also published in 2020.

Furthermore, around 50 legal complaints were submitted to the Tax Administration of Kosovo as a result of BIRN's work together with citizens in tackling tax evasion. As a result of BIRN's reporting, which was entirely based on tip-offs from the public, 137 businesses were fined over 102,000 euros due to irregularities.

**Consumer protection** – Throughout 2020, KALLXO.com reported on price hikes at pharmacies and supermarkets in response to the coronavirus outbreak, as part of a joint endeavor with the Tax Administration of Kosovo.

**Illegal gambling** – In 2020, KALLXO.com received reports from citizens on the operation of illegal casinos and bookmakers across several municipalities in Kosovo despite the ban on gambling. BIRN's team filmed scenes from some of these illegal businesses and sent them to the prosecution and Kosovo police.

A key location was Karaceva, where a year-long investigation into a number of illegal casinos operating on the Kosovo-Serbia border was launched by BIRN. On October 9, Justice in Kosovo broadcast the first episode of the Crime in Karaceva series, revealing that officers from the Kosovo Police had been involved in organised criminal networks. Our reporting also revealed how the region is a popular spot for the illegal smuggling of animals from Serbia to Kosovo through the village of Breznica in Serbia.

The investigation was conducted in close cooperation with the Prosecution in Gjilan, Kosovo Police and the Kosovo Police Inspectorate, and more than 50 people have been arrested in connection with the Karaceva case.

**Nepotism at Public Enterprises** – Throughout the year, BIRN monitored many recruitment processes, discovering that candidates were often evaluated more on their affiliation with political parties than their qualifications. In early 2020, 10 boards of public enterprises were dismissed by the Kurti government as a result of findings from BIRN's publications on employing politically affiliated persons, as well as non-implementation of recommendations from the National Audit Office. The Deputy Chief Executive of the Kosovo Energy Corporation was also dismissed based on BIRN's monitoring and findings.

Vacancies opened and conducted by the Assembly of Kosovo have been associated with many problems. Most recruitment processes were held without the assistance of BDO, a UK Company contracted to provide assistance. These processes were also not transparent, as MPs provided an evaluation but there was no record of how the candidates were evaluated by each MP.

This non-transparent and secret evaluation diminishes the relevance of interviews, as scoring is based on political affiliation rather than merit or performance. These secret evaluations were used in the selection of boards at KOSTT, the Ombudsperson Institution, RTK and in the recruitment of the CEO's secretariat at the Central Election Commission.

Following BIRN's recommendation, for the first time ever the Office of the Prime Minister of Kosovo required evaluation committees to investigate the political background of each candidate, requesting data from the Central Election Commission and the State Treasury. After receiving this information, 20 candidates were removed from the race for boards of publicly owned enterprises.

*Monitoring and advocacy links can be found on Annex 2.*

## TRAINING & MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

BIRN Kosovo with its main partner Internews Kosova trained a huge range of people in Kosovo in 2020, including journalism students, professional journalists, court monitors, technical staff, researchers, prosecutors, and auditors. Training was provided in municipalities across Kosovo and covered topics including: fake news, fact-checking, the basics of investigative journalism, professional investigative journalism, televised investigations, media ethics, protecting sources, reporting on terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization, environmental issues and effective advocacy.

In 2020, 38 training sessions were organized by BIRN Kosovo that included a total of 495 participants from across Kosovo. From this figure, more than 160 were officials of the National Audit Office, while other participants included staff at Kosovo's courts and teachers from around Kosovo, while BIRN also regularly provided training to professional journalists, junior journalists, students of journalism, students of politics and law, as well as a number of civil society organizations.

Through the "Fact-Checking for Accountable Media" project, supported by the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF), BIRN Kosovo delivered three (3) training courses to local media in Gjakova and Ferizaj. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the training sessions was held online via Zoom. In total, 69 young and professional journalists, students of journalism and local media journalists were trained.

As part of the "Debunking Misinformation in South East Europe" project, which is supported by the South East European Network for Professionalization of Media (SEENPM), BIRN Kosovo organized one (1) training session for young and professional journalists on debunking fake news, although due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the training was held online via Zoom. In total, 16 junior and professional journalists participated in the training.

Furthermore, as part of the "Consortium: For a sustainable community" project, which is supported by the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, BIRN Kosovo delivered another four (4) training sessions to junior journalists, students of journalism and law, Medresa students and students at the Faculty of Islamic Studies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, three of these training sessions were held online via Zoom.

During the sessions, BIRN Kosovo's Editors and Legal Coordinator covered topics including: i) Reporting on cases of violent extremism and ii) Construction of critical thinking, protective mechanisms against defamation and slander, and combating fake news. In total, 73 young journalists, students of journalism and law, Medresa students and students of the Faculty of Islamic Studies were trained.

As part of the "Demanding transparency in Kosovo's Justice System" project, which is supported by USAID's Justice System Support Program, BIRN Kosovo delivered ten (10) one-on-one training sessions for judicial staff in Kosovo and one (1) group training for eight women judges. Modules of the training included: basic media information, public appearances, public speaking, interviews and speaking in front of the media.

Within the "Fostering Improved Media Standards" project, supported by Transitions (TOL), BIRN Kosovo assisted and facilitated several processes on the Transitions Balkan call for micro-grants in solution journalism. It organized two (2) informative training sessions on solutions journalism via a webinar in which more than 100 participants from Kosovo, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina participated, including 46 potential candidates from Kosovo.

In the framework of the "Auditor General/NAO - Promoting Auditor General/NAO's role in Kosovo" project, which is supported by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, BIRN Kosovo organized four (4) training sessions for the Auditor General/NAO staff to enhance their communication with the general public. Topics of the training included mass communication, social media, public speaking, speech delivering, and introduction to tools that aid public and media appearance.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the sessions was held online through Zoom. A total of 49 people including the General Auditor, the head of the National Audit Office, its staff and journalists participated in these training sessions. Moreover, five (5) town-hall conferences on the role of the National Audit Office and citizens on the oversight of municipal revenues and expenses were organised as part of the project.

BIRN also held five debates in municipalities across Kosovo on the compliance of institutions with recommendations from the General Auditor, as part of the “Supporting Civil Society to Increase Public Oversight and Accountability of Kosovo’s Public Institutions” project, which is funded by the British Embassy in Kosovo.

Furthermore, as part of the EU-funded project “Solidifying the Resilience of Kosovo’s Current and Future Journalists”, BIRN Kosovo and its project partner the International Press Institute held a two-day training course on tackling disinformation and establishing fact-checking methods. A total of 36 participants took part in the training, including 24 journalists and six students of journalism, 20 of whom were women.

## MEDIA PRODUCTION

### TV PRODUCTION: LIFE IN KOSOVO/JETA NË KOSOVË (JNK)

BIRN Kosovo’s flagship television programme, Life in Kosovo, focuses on current affairs, particularly in regards to politics, society, economics and education. In 2020, Life in Kosovo produced 37 televised debates, details on which are listed below:

## JANUARY

**On January 9, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate on the latest developments in the investigation into the death of Vetevendosje activist Astrit Dehari in 2016. Dehari’s parents featured in the show, revealing their approach to the situation and outlining their views on how the case has been handled by the competent institutions. The second half of the debate featured an interview with Bardhyl Mahmuti, an Albanian activist working in Switzerland who compared a forensic report on Dehari’s death conducted in Switzerland with another conducted in Kosovo.

**On January 16, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate on foreign policy developments in Kosovo. Featured in the show were Bedri Emini, who was hired by former Minister of Foreign Affairs Behgjet Pacolli to lobby for the Kosovo’s integration into INTERPOL, David Otto, a security expert at INTERPOL, and Jetlir Zyberaj, a former advisor to Pacolli.

**On January 23, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Jetlir Zyberaj, an advisor to former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Behgjet Pacolli. The interview particularly focused on allegations of nepotism and irregularities in recruitment at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the status of Kosovo’s attempts to join INTERPOL.

**On January 30, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate on unaccredited universities in Kosovo. Panellists in the debate included then Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Shyqyri Bytyqi, and Dukagjin Zeka, a board member at the Kosovo Accreditation Agency. The show also featured an interview with another board member at the Kosovo Accreditation Agency, Gazmend Luboteni.

## FEBRUARY

**On February 13, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate on women’s empowerment and the record number of women in key institutional positions. Guests included Vjosa Osmani, then Speaker of the Assembly, Arberie Nagavci, then deputy Speaker of the Assembly, then Minister of Justice Albulena Haxhiu, then Minister of Economy, Employment and Trade Rozeta Hajdari, then Minister of Culture Vlora Dumoshi, then Minister of Local Government Administration Emilija Redzeqi and then Minister of Education Hykmete Bajrami.

**On February 20, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate on the topic of freedom of expression and freedom of media, focusing specifically on proposals by the Independent Media Commission to ban the media from reporting on court hearings. Participants in the debate were: Niman Racaj, Director of the Law Department at the Independent Media Commission, Ardita Zejnnullahu, Executive Director at Kosovo’s Independent Electronic Media Association, Beadin Sylja, a board member at the Kosovo Journalists Association, Leart Hoxha, a journalist and Moderator at RTV 21, Klediana Kapo, the Managing Director at FAKTOJE.al, and Labinot Leposhtica, BIRN Kosovo’s Legal Office coordinator.

**On February 27, 2020,** Life in Kosovo revealed manipulations in the recruitment process at the Trepca joint stock company, which has been followed by BIRN from the start. Our investigation shows that some of the employed people did not attend the written test and that many of the candidates employed were close relatives of Board Members at Trepca.

## MARCH

**On March 5, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode focusing on an agreement on railway, aviation, and highway connections between Kosovo and Serbia signed by then President of Kosovo Hashim Thaci and two officials from independent agencies that was not being made public. The second part of the show included an interview with Blerim Reka, then Minister of European Integration.

**On March 12, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a televised debate on public health, and health services, just as the novel coronavirus began spreading at an exponential rate in Europe, including the Western Balkans. The first part of the programme included short videos sent by citizens demonstrating that hospitals and universities do not have functional taps, toilet paper, or soap. Another reportage broadcast right after the videos includes opinions of citizens (including those of Serbian, Bosnian and Albanian ethnic background) regarding public health in Kosovo.

Panellists in the subsequent debate included: Naim Bardiqi, Secretary at the Ministry of Health, Dafina Gexha-Bunjaku from the National Institute for Public Health, Isme Humolli of the World Health Organization, Srdjan Kostic of Medical Center in Strpce, and researcher Shqipe Gjocaj.

**On March 13, 2020:** Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate as with candidates for mayor of Podujevo as part of its #DebatPernime series. The town hall debate was held in the Abdush Hasani theatre in Podujeva. Invited to the debate were three candidates running for mayor: Naim Fetahu of the Democratic Party of Kosovo, Nexhmi Rudari of the Democratic League of Kosovo and Shpetim Bulliqi from the Vetëvendosje! Movement.

**On March 19, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Daniel Serwer, a former advisor to President Hashim Thaci, who urged against Kosovo signing any agreement with Serbia that included partition. The second half of the show included an interview with then Vetevendosje MP Rexhep Selimi, as well as short interviews with three citizens who were in quarantine: Robert Berisha, who was quarantined in Prishtina's student dorms after his return from the US, Dardane Xhemajli, a doctor in Vitia who was in direct contact with Kosovo's first confirmed Covid-19 patient and Adnan Qoqaj, another doctor in Vitia.

**On March 26, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a programme following the passing of a motion of no confidence in the Kosovo Government. The show featured an interview with political analyst Kim Mehmetaj, who provided an analysis of LDK and its initiation of the no-confidence motion. Much of the rest of the programme was dedicated to the coronavirus crisis, including an interview with a doctor in Norway suffering from COVID-19, as well as reports from cities in Kosovo affected by the crisis. The show also featured an interview with Ed Joseph, a former American diplomat that had recently published an article on Foreign Policy analysing the unequal pressure on Kosovo to remove the tariff in comparison with the pressure applied on Serbia for its de-recognition campaign.

## MARCH

**On April 2, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate on the economic consequences of the spread of COVID-19. The first part included discussions on the government's support package while the second focussed on the impact of the 100% customs tariff on imports from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the establishment of reciprocal trade measures with Serbia.

**On April 9, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a show that addressed citizens' questions about the e-learning process implemented due to school closures in the wake of the pandemic, including teaching methods parents should apply to ensure the effectiveness of the lessons. The show also included an interview with James Pardew, the former American ambassador to Bulgaria.

**On April 16, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate on innovation shown during the pandemic, with business owners and volunteers in Kosovo discussing innovative methods for providing voluntary assistance to those in need. Guest panelists included: Vlora Dumoshi, the Minister of Culture, Shaban Buza, from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Prishtina, Rron Cena from 3D printing company Formon, Jehona Krasniqi, a volunteer doctor at the Infectious Disease Clinic, and Marko Rakic from the Innovation Center in Mitrovica. The show also broadcast interviews with ethnic Albanians from both Kosovo and Albania living abroad, including health professionals and researchers. Interviewed during the show were: Skender Murtezani, a clinical epidemiologist in the United States, Hektor Grazhdani, a doctor in Italy, Blerta Begisholli a political science PhD candidate in Italy, Epi Ludvik, an innovator in Singapore, Ernese Gjafa, an oncologist in the United Kingdom, and Fisnik Hoxha, a pharmaceutical scientist in the United Kingdom.



**On April 23, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with then acting prime minister Albin Kurti, discussing his dismissal of a number of boards at public institutions. Kurti outlined the aims of his government, and stressed the importance of completing their agenda in the future.

**On April 30, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast an investigation revealing the truth about a business that had received millions of euros from the public purse by disguising ownership through a list of holding companies, in order to benefit from incentives offered for solar energy production.

## MAY

**On May 7, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate on war crimes in Kosovo and the challenges faced in uncovering these crimes. Guest panelists were Saranda Bogujevci, a survivor of the massacre in Podujevo, Kushtrim Gara from the Government's Commission for Missing Persons, Drita Hajdari, a war crimes prosecutor, Bekim Blakaj of the Humanitarian Law Centre Kosovo, and BIRN Hub Executive Director and monitor of War Crime Cases Marija Ristic, who appeared via an online connection.

**On May 14, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate on Missing Persons, focusing on the issues and challenges facing families still seeking missing members from all ethnic communities living in Kosovo. The show also told the stories of families who had found missing relatives and their experiences in the justice system. Panelists in the debate were Ibrahim Makolli, a representative of the Kosovo Working Group on Missing Persons, Myrvete Kosumi, sister of the public intellectual, Ukshin Hoti, who is still missing, Agron Limani, director of the March 26, 1999 mission persons association, and Veljko Odalovic, a representative of the Serbian Working Group on Missing Persons and Silvana Marinkovic, a representative of a Gracanica society for kidnapped persons whose husband is still missing, who both participated via an online connection.

**On May 21, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate on the emergency fiscal package envisioned to tackle the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The show included an interview with Minister of Trade and Finance Besnik Bislimi which was followed by questions sourced from vox pops with representatives from businesses and NGOs, including from Kosovo's ethnic non-majority communities. The second part of the debate covered a letter sent by the American-Albanian community to the US Senate and Congress and included six online interviews with representatives from NGOs established by ethnic Albanians in the US.

**On May 28, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a televised debate on Women's Rights, and particularly the effects of the pandemic on women's lives in Kosovo and the reasons behind increased violence towards women. Panelists in this debate were Minister of Justice Albulena Haxhiu, Ramadan Ahmeti, Chief of the Prevention and Cooperation Department at Kosovo Police, Adelina Tereshani, an author and project coordinator at Kosovo Women's Network, Tijana Simic from the Women's Rights Center NGO in Mitrovica and Kreshnik Gashi, the anchor of Justice in Kosovo and managing editor at KALLXO.com. Four other individuals also participated online, including one Serb and two Roma.

## JUNE

**On June 4, 2020,** Life in Kosovo broadcast a televised debate on the environment, particularly the effects of the construction of hydropower plants, and ways through which the destruction of the environment can be prevented or mitigated. Panelists were Avni Zogjani, the former Deputy Minister of Environment, Fatmir Gerguri, Chief Inspector of the Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals, Egzona Shala, the Executive Director of the EcoZ environmental organisation, Osman Dzudzevic, a researcher on hydropower, and Jelen Djokic, a professor of Waste Management at International Business College Mitrovica.

**On June 11, 2020,** following the death of George Floyd, Life in Kosovo broadcast a televised debate addressing racism in Kosovo. Panelists were Elbert Krasniqi an MP representing the New Democratic Initiative of Kosovo from the Egyptian ethnic non-majority community, Burhan Gashi, a human rights activist, Lorenta Kadriu, a human rights activist who has worked with the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Kosovo and Veton Berisha an MP from the Egyptian Liberal Party. As part of the show, the moderator of Life in Kosovo and BIRN Kosovo Executive Director Jeta Xharra conducted an interview with Vjosa Osmani, who at the time was serving as Speaker of the Kosovo Assembly.

## SEPTEMBER

**On September 5, 2020**, Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Montenegrin-Albanian politician Dritan Abazovic, president of the URA Civic Movement (Civic Movement United Reform Action). The exclusive interview helped provide Abazovic's perspective on both Montenegrin and regional politics, including his reasons and justifications for entering the new coalition government and the future of Montenegrin civic life following the removal of Djukanovic after 30 years in power.

**On September 17, 2020**, Life in Kosovo broadcast an exclusive interview with Minister of Infrastructure Arban Abrashi, a member of the Kosovo delegation to Washington DC. The interview was broadcast after the signing of economic normalization agreements by Kosovo Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti and President of Serbia Aleksandar Vucic under the mediation of US President Donald Trump. The interview provides the view of Minister Abrashi on the effects of the agreement on Kosovo and more detailed information in regards to the ways the agreement will be implemented.

**On September 24, 2020**, Life in Kosovo broadcasted a debate on Cybersecurity in Kosovo. This debate was held following the appointment of Zafir Berisha as national coordinator for cybersecurity. Soon after his appointment, Berisha's personal Facebook account was hacked. Guests invited to the debate were Zafir Berisha, national coordinator for cybersecurity, Agim Kukaj, head of the Mail, Telecommunication and IT Department at the Ministry of Economic Development, Edi Demaj, an American Albanian investor in IT and the co-founder of Gjirafa and Kode Labs in Kosovo, and Ermal Sadiku, an IT investor and the founder of IT Plus.

## OCTOBER

On October 1, 2020, Life in Kosovo's show was divided into two segments. The first featured an interview with Naim Qelaj, the newly elected Ombudsperson of Kosovo, while the second featured a discussion with MPs on recruitment processes for key state roles, particularly delays in the selection of Ombudsperson and Information and Privacy Commissioner.

**2020**

### FAST FACTS:

FREQUENCY: WEEKLY –THURSDAYS 08:20 P.M.



VIDEO VIEWS

**1,581,481**



WATCH TIME

**401,4h**

THE LIST OF ALL TELEVISED PROGRAMS CAN BE FOUND ON ANNEX 3



## TV PRODUCTION: LIFE IN KOSOVO/JETA NË KOSOVË (JNK)

BIRN's Justice in Kosovo TV show broadcasts in-depth investigations exploring issues in the country's justice system. Its aim is to push relevant institutions into taking measures and fixing existing problems.

Justice in Kosovo receives much of its information from BIRN's court monitors, who cover 27 of Kosovo's municipalities, while it also benefits from an agreement with Kosovo Police that allows the DnK team to film police and prosecution teams in action.

In 2020, Justice in Kosovo produced 26 programs, including various pieces of reportage produced as part of the "Prosecution" and "Police" series.

### JANUARY

**On January 10, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Special Prosecutor Drita Hajdari, who was a prosecutor in the Pronto case. The show followed another episode broadcast the previous week after numerous high profile political figures were acquitted in the infamous corruption case.

**On January 17, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast a report exposing usury schemes in the city of Prizren. It detailed the case of a baker from Prizren, who was required to hand over his house and other property in exchange for the money provided via usury. The show also featured footage of the Tax Administration investigating a business in Gjilan that was not issuing receipts. The raid also exposed many other irregularities leading to the business being penalised.

**On January 24, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast an exclusive confession by police officer Rifat Goxhuli, who recounted the setbacks and failures in an investigation into two murders in Skenderaj. The programme also featured footage proving that witnesses in the case were threatened and that the prosecution did not properly investigate the perpetrators.

**On January 31, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast the second part of Rifat Goxhuli's story, revealing that the policeman, who had lived in Skenderaj, was forced to leave the country after an assassination attempt on him. Goxhuli's wife was injured during the incident, while his two children had managed to escape.

### FEBRUARY

**On February 7, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast two investigations. The first, "Murder Mysteries", delved into an explosion in the village of Zhur, while the second, "Special Departments", looked into the recent creation of special departments at the Basic Court of Prishtina and the Court of Appeals, which had instilled new hope into the fight against corruption in Kosovo.

**On February 14, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast an investigation into the case of Urim Pllana, who was barred from becoming a police officer due to a failed health assessment that he claims was completely inaccurate.

**On February 21, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast an investigation into multiple cases of murder and suicide committed by Kosovo police officers using their official weapons. The same episode also covered the successful implementation in Gjilan of the 'referring mechanism', a tool for preventing violent extremism that was created during the implementation of the Strategy for Preventing Terrorism.

**On February 28, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast a report on how children are being smuggled from Kosovo into Italy. BIRN Kosovo's team revealed that the Kosovar smugglers accompany the children to Italy, where they then obtain residency permits.

## MARCH

**On March 6, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast an investigation into the prosecution's handling of a corruption case involving damage to a railway line in Prizren. The investigation revealed actions taken that softened the indictment against four municipal directors at the Municipality of Prizren and the Director of Infrakos by minimising the financial damage caused.

**On March 20, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast interviews with three prosecutors on measures taken to prevent the spread of coronavirus and how citizens can ensure they adhere to the new laws. The show also explored the issue of price hikes in the wake of the pandemic, speaking to two officials from the Tax Administration.

**On March 27, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast two reports, one detailing indictments issued against individuals with political affiliations, and a second on citizens that had violated measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

## APRIL

**On April 3, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast an investigation into prisoners' rights during the COVID-19 pandemic, featuring interviews with prisoners on the treatment they had received.

**On April 10, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast an investigation into the distribution of public money to NGOs by the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sport in efforts to prevent terrorism and violent extremism among young people. The investigation reveals how one of these NGOs was selected as a beneficiary without receiving the required points from the evaluation commission, and features interviews with officials of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport who were aware of the situation.

**On April 17, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast a report on a region in eastern Kosovo, near the village of Karaceva, close to the border with Serbia. The area was being regularly frequented despite lockdown measures put in place by the Kosovo Government to prevent the spread of coronavirus, and appeared to be free from police inspection. Interviews with the Police Inspectorate revealed that smuggling often occurs in the region, while suspicions of illegal gambling activities were also raised.

**On April 24, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast an investigation into workers employed without a contract, who therefore could not benefit from financial assistance offered by the government during the pandemic. Based on complaints made by citizens, our team, working together with the Tax Administration, discovered many companies that had not provided contracts to their employees. Through the show, citizens were also encouraged to report cases of people being employed without a contract to BIRN.

## MAY

**On May 1, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast a report dedicated to those who worked throughout the lockdown and the early days of the pandemic, as well as to TAK inspectors who ensured that businesses paid taxes and that employees were contracted. After the episode on April 25 was broadcast, the Justice in Kosovo team received complaints from two workers who were not contracted. As part of this episode, our team, together with TAK, inspected seven more businesses to verify whether 20 employees were contracted.

**On May 8, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast a report on the death of Sevdije Kukleci, who died at the Infectious Disease Clinic in Prishtina in unexplained circumstances, with suggestions that her death may have been a result of negligence. The show also looked into the death of Agon Musliu, who jumped from the fifth floor of the student dormitories whilst quarantining on arrival from Germany. Musliu's father blamed his son's death on public institutions, as he had requested that Musliu be released from quarantine because he was depressed. A third report focused on tenders issued during the pandemic, as well as price hikes on masks, disinfectant and medical equipment was also broadcast.

**On May 15, 2020,** Justice in Kosovo broadcast an investigation into corrupt practices in road construction, revealing that the material used is often deliberately low quality. Due to this, after a short period of time, roads end up destroyed and in need of reconstruction, with the same companies contracted by the Ministry of Infrastructure.

**On May 29, 2020**, Justice in Kosovo broadcast footage of Tax Administration officials inspecting businesses that were reported not to be providing receipts. The show also featured reporting on the case of four people suspected of planting bombs at several businesses in Prishtina, a case first covered by Justice in Kosovo in 2018, when the prosecution initiated investigations following a confession to BIRN by one of the main suspects, Artan Avdullahu.

## JUNE

**On June 5, 2020**, Justice in Kosovo broadcast two investigations into tax evasion and financial mismanagement. The first came from tip offs from the public and explored bus companies that failed to provide receipts to its customers, while the second looked into the misuse of funds at the Kosovo Bar Association.

**On June 12, 2020:** Justice in Kosovo broadcast a report on irregularities in the tendering process at the Municipality of Klina, revealing how numerous asphaltting companies were being paid more than they were contracted for.

## OCTOBER

**On October 2, 2020**, Justice in Kosovo broadcast an investigation exposing a police officer from Gjakova who was caught promising to provide protection to an illegal casino that was inspected by police just one week earlier. It shows the police officer guaranteeing that the casino could continue to operate if money was provided to him. The investigation was conducted in close cooperation with the State Prosecutor at the Basic Prosecution of Gjakova, officials from the Intelligence Unit, and the Kosovo Police Inspectorate.

**On October 9, 2020**, Justice in Kosovo broadcast the first episode of its “Crime in Karaceva” series, which revealed that Kosovo Police officers were involved in criminal networks operating a number of illegal casinos on the eastern Kosovo-Serbia border. The investigation also revealed how the region was a popular site for the illegal smuggling of animals from Serbia to Kosovo through the village of Breznica in Serbia. This investigation was done in close cooperation with the Prosecution in Gjilan, Kosovo Police and the Kosovo Police Inspectorate.

**On October 16, 2020**, Justice in Kosovo broadcast the second episode of its “Crime in Karaceva” series. This episode featured footage of the destruction of numerous illegal casinos constructed in the region as well as the arrest of people involved in the businesses, including police officers.

**On October 23, 2020**, Justice in Kosovo broadcast an investigation into tax evasion uncovered in mobile phone shops in Kosovo, revealing the amount of illegally smuggled mobile phones sold in shops across Prishtina. The show featured footage of the Tax Administration inspecting some of the shops and discovering numerous irregularities in regard to registration.

*A list of all televised episodes can be found on Annex 4.*

**2020**

### FAST FACTS:

FREQUENCY: WEEKLY: FRIDAYS AT 10:30 PM.



VIDEO VIEWS

**5,325,831**



WATCH TIME

**475.7h**

## MID-TERM ELECTORAL MUNICIPAL DEBATES LIFE IN THE MUNICIPALITY/JETA NE KOMUNE

On October 5, 2020, BIRN Kosovo started a series of mid-term municipal debates titled Life in the Municipality that featured mayors of municipalities from across Kosovo.

Following a now established tradition, BIRN engaged its researchers to further investigate municipal issues, putting local governance back into the spotlight at a time when mayors have only around a year left until the end of their mandates. From October to December 2020, BIRN broadcast 59 debates/reportages as part of the Life in the Municipality series, as outlined below:

**On October 5, 2020**, the municipal debate for Skenderaj was broadcast. This marked the first appearance of Skenderaj's Mayor Bekim Jashari in a debate with this format as he had previously declined to participate in any electoral debates. Other participants in the debate included Besarta Meha, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Hysni Mehani, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Isa Fejzullahu, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK, Pajazit Isufi Municipal Assembly Member from AKR and Gentiana Zeqiri, a representative of the Iniciativa Qytetare e Skenderaj NGO.

**On October 6, 2020** the municipal debate for Vushtrri was broadcast. Participants in this debate included Lorik Maxhuni, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Nezir Klinaku, Municipal Assembly Member from Levizja per Bashkim, Albiona Isa, a representative of the Access NGO and activist Arianit Jashari.

**On October 7, 2020** the municipal debate for South Mitrovica was broadcast. Participants in this debate included Donjet Bislimi, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Vesa Broja, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Izet Tahiri, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Milaim Ramadani, a representative of Pram NGO, and activist Nerimane Ferizi, who appeared via Zoom.

**On October 8, 2020** the municipal debate for Decan was broadcast. Participants included Ilir Ferizaj, Municipal Assembly Member from PSD, Faton Selmanaj, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Shkelqim Haxhnikaj, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK, Mon Selmonaj, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Florim Mataj, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK, and, appearing via Zoom: Shpresa Loshaj, a representative of the Pishtaret NGO, environmentalist Ndriçim Cekaj and activist Adem Lushaj.

**On October 9, 2020** the municipal debate for Ferizaj was broadcast. Participants in this debate included Muharrem Sfarqa, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK, Dritero Hyseni, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Amir Hyseni, Municipal Assembly Member from AKR, Ali Halimi, Municipal Assembly Member from NISMA and Qendrim Arifi, a representative of the INPO NGO.

**On October 12, 2020** the municipal debate for Istog was broadcast. Participants in this debate included Eliot Kukiqi, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK, Gazmend Idrizaj, secretary of the AAK Office in Istog and Labinot Alija, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK.

**On October 13, 2020** the municipal debate for Prizren was broadcast. Participants in this debate included Sherife Balaj, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Haziz Hodaj, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK, Mimoza Bushani Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Ilir Baldedaj from AAK, Valon Xhaveli, a representative from the Ec me ndryshe NGO, and, appearing via Zoom, Esen Kajmaqki, a representative of the ESNAB Business Association and Dafina Alishani, a Municipal Assembly Member from LVV.

**On October 14, 2020** the municipal debate for Gjakova was broadcast. Participants in this debate included Ali Tafarshiku, Municipal Assembly Member from Alternativa, Mimoza Shala, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Shpend Kumnova, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK and, appearing via Zoom, Ideal Zhaveli, a representative for the Local Youth Action Council in Gjakova.

**On October 15, 2020** the municipal debate for Obilic was broadcast. Participants in this debate included Nazmi Gashi, Municipal Assembly Member from NISMA, Azizi Bici, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, and Burim Gërguri, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK. This debate was translated and subtitled in Serbian.

**On October 16, 2020** the municipal debate for Malisheva was broadcast. Participants in the debate included Alban Krasniqi, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Alban Mazreku, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Nexhat Krasniqi, former candidate for mayor, Ahmet Morina, Municipal Assembly Member from NISMA, activist Bukurjie Rrustemi and, appearing via Zoom, activist Flutra Zymi.

**On October 19, 2020** the municipal debate for Klina was broadcast. Participants in the debate included Mendehije Duraku, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Esat Rraci, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, former mayor Sokol Bashota and Tush Dedaj, Municipal Assembly Member from PSHDK.

**On October 20, 2020** the municipal debate for Suhareka was broadcast. Participants in the debate included Dukagjin Palushi, an independent Municipal Assembly Member, Jeton Rrakaqi, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Aziz Bytyqi, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK, Nexhat Ramadani, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK, Bashkim Ndrecaj - an independent Municipal Assembly Member, and, appearing via Zoom, journalist Herolind Bytyqi and Brahim Curri, a Municipal Assembly Member from LDK.

**On October 21, 2020** the municipal debate for Drenas was broadcast. Participants in the debate included Beqir Kiqina, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK, Sokol Bylykbashi, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Vehbi Berisha, Municipal Assembly Member from NISMA, and Avdyl Gashi, a representative of Drenas Youth Centre NGO.

**On October 22, 2020** the municipal debate for Gjilan was broadcast. Participants in the debate included Riza Abdyli, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Isa Agushi, - Assembly Member from PDK, Nevzad Isufi, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Anila Tusha Kastrati, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Avdyl Aliu, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK and, appearing via Zoom, activist Arjeta Maka. This debate was translated and subtitled in Serbian.

**On October 23, 2020** the municipal debate for Vitia was broadcast. Participants in the debate included Bekim Azizi, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Taulant Haxhiu, - Assembly Member from PDK, Nijazi Isaku, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Mirlinda Tishukaj Sadiku, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Valbona Haziri, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK and, appearing via Zoom, Florim Brahimi, a representative of the Euloc NGO.

**On October 26, 2020** the municipal debate for Kacanik was broadcast. Participants in this debate included Adnan Reka, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Albana Lika, independent assembly member, Selim Reka, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK, Bekim Koxha, Municipal Assembly Member from NISMA, Kjani Sallahu, chairman of the Kacanik NGO forum, and appearing via Zoom, Valon Raka, a representative from the Gjethi NGO and Rabije Sallahu, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK.

**On October 27, 2020** the municipal debate for Kamenica was broadcast. Participants in this debate included Besnik Rrudhani, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK, Afrim Dërvishi, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, and, appearing via Zoom, activist Lavdim Klaiqi, Besim Osmani, a legal representative of parents in Kamenica and Teacher Arsim Thaçi. This debate was translated and subtitled in Serbian.

**On October 28, 2020** the municipal debate for Lipjan was broadcast. Participants in the debate included Lulzim Rrustemi, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Shkëlzen Bislimi, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Ramiz Qeriqi, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK, Lulzim Qerimi, the deputy mayor for communities from the Ashkali Party for Integration (PAI), Bekim Krasniqi, a representative from the Youth Association for Human Rights (YAHR) and, appearing via Zoom, Argjend Tasholli, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Albulena Kelmendi Municipal Assembly Member from LVV and Lumturie Bytyqi Hasani, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK. This debate was translated and subtitled in Serbian.

**On October 29, 2020** the municipal debate for Rahovec was broadcast. Participants in the debate included Ali Zhuniqui, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Ali Morina, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK and Fatmir Iska, the deputy mayor of the Municipality.

**On October 30, 2020**, the municipal debate for Dragash was broadcast. Participants in this debate included Naser Murtezani, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK, Laurat Krasniqi Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Florent Rufati, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK, Zaim Hajredini, Municipal Assembly Member from AKR, Jeton Cengaj, a representative of the Avoko NGO Avoko, and Beqir Beqaj a representative from Radio Sharri. This debate was translated and subtitled in Serbian.



**On November 2, 2020**, the municipal debate for Shtime was broadcast. Participants in the debate included: Naim Ismajli, the Mayor of the Municipality of Shtime, Ruzhdi Jashari, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Besnik Seferi, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Arbresha Sylja, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, and Resul Gashi from the Youth Initiative in Shtime.

**On November 4, 2020**, the municipal debate for Hani i Elezit was broadcast. Participants in the debate included: Refki Suma, the Mayor of the Municipality of Hani i Elezit, Mehmed Ballazhi, Municipal Assembly member from PDK, Nora Ballazhi Gjoni, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK, and local journalist Elmedina Ballazhi.

**On November 5, 2020**, the municipal debate for Mamusha was broadcast, with Abdylhadi Krasniç, the Mayor of the Municipality of Mamusha.

**On November 6, 2020**, the municipal debate for Junik was broadcast. Participants in this debate included: Agron Kuci, the Mayor of the Municipality of Junik, Blerim Gacaferri, Municipal Assembly Member from PDK, Florim Shala, Municipal Assembly Member from LVV, Behare Qestaj, Municipal Assembly Member from AAK, Tahir Isufaj, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK, and Zenel Maloku, an independent Municipal Assembly Member.

**On November 9, 2020**, the municipal debate for Peja was broadcast. Participants in the debate included: Gazmend Muhaxheri, the Mayor of the Municipality of Peja, Bashkim Lajci, Municipal Assembly Member from Levizja Vetevendosje, Reshat Nurboja, a former candidate for Mayor of the Municipality of Peja from the Alternativa party, Arber Grabovci from AAK, Gezon Berisha, an independent Municipal Assembly member, Naser Lajci, a representative of the Syri Vizionit NGO, and civil society activist Gazmir Raci.

**On November 10, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a debate on the education system during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on how schools around Kosovo are managing the situation, how Kosovo municipalities performed at managing the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020 school year, and how many teachers had been infected with the virus. Participating in the debate were: Bardha Qirezi of the EDU TASK NGO, Nazim Gagica, education director at the Municipality of Gjilan, Rrahman Jasharaj, head of the United Trade Union of Education, Science and Culture and Ardiana Ismaili, a representative from the Directorate of Education in Prishtina.

**On November 11, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a debate on the health system in Kosovo's municipalities, focusing on the management of the COVID-19 pandemic situation by Kosovo's municipalities and decisions taken regarding the lockdown. Participants in the debate were: Selami Xhemajli, health director at the municipality of Gjilan, Jeton Zeqiri, health director at the regional hospital at the Municipality of Ferizaj, Petrit Loci, health director at the Municipality of Peja, and Visar Shehu, vice chairman at the Municipality of Prizren.

**On November 12, 2020**, the municipal debate for Fushe Kosova was broadcast. Participants in the debate included: Burim Berisha, the Mayor of the Municipality of Fushe Kosova, Durim Hajra from Levizja Vetevendosje, Remzi Shala from LDK, and Qerim Gara, vice-chairman from non-majority communities at the Municipality of Fushe Kosova.

**On November 13, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an interview with the Albanian MP in the Serbian parliament, Shaip Kamberi. The discussion focused on the situation of ethnic Albanians in the Presheva valley, his speech to the parliament of Serbia, and the exclusion of the Albanian community in Serbia. The second part of the program featured a report detailing findings from several investigations into missing persons.

**On November 16, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an interview with Minister of Health Armend Zemaj. Discussions centred on the health system in Kosovo, Kosovo's capacity to treat cases of COVID-19, investments made in preventing and dealing with COVID-19, and the hopes for obtaining a vaccine.

**On November 17, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a debate addressing recommendations made by the General Auditor of Kosovo to all of Kosovo's municipalities. Present at the debate were: the General Auditor, Besnik Osmani, BIRN Kosovo's Managing Editor Visar Prebreza, Vetevendosje MP Enver Haliti and the Mayor of Vushtrri Xhafer Tahiri

**On November 18, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a televised interview with Minister for the Economy and the Environment, Blerim Kuci.



**On November 19, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a debate regarding the usurpation of public property and the million of euros in profits subsequently generated, particularly by people well connected to political parties and the Privatization Agency of Kosovo. Participants in the debate included: the Mayor of Shtime Naim Ismajli, Bujar Bajraktari of the National Audit Office, Director of the Legal Department at the Ministry of Local Governance Venera Cerkini, and the Managing Editor of KALLXO.com, Kreshnik Gashi.

**On November 20, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a report on how the State Prosecution and the Kosovo Police had poorly handled a number of war crimes cases, revealing evidence of negligence in investigations into some of the biggest massacres in Kosovo.

**On November 24, 2020**, the municipal debate for Prishtina was broadcast. Participants in the debate included Shefki Gashi, Municipal Assembly Member from LDK, Leonora Shabani-Bajraktari, Municipal Assembly Member from Vetevendosje, Fiknete Bejta, an independent advisor, Leutrim Retkoceri, an advisor from PDK, Egzon Azemi, a Municipal Assembly member from Vetevendosje and activist Dren Shahini.

**On November 24, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a debate between the three candidates for mayor in the Municipality of Podujeva. The main talking points in the debate was how the municipality would be led in the final year before local elections, what the solutions to contemporary problems in Podujevo were, and the expected changes for the future of the municipality.

**On November 25, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a debate on the degradation of Kosovo's rivers. Participating in the debate to discuss this pressing issue were: Gani Berisha, the director of the Department for Waters at the Ministry of Economy and Environment, Diana Metushi-Krasniqi from the Kosovo Democratic Institute, Seniha Bajraktari, an environmental official at the Municipality of Prishtina and Fatmir Gerguri, the Chief Inspector at the Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals.

**On November 26, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an interview with Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development Besian Mustafa, in which local governance and agricultural subsidies were discussed, alongside other issues. The program also featured interviews with candidates for mayor in the Municipality of North Mitrova.

**On November 27, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a report on the eviction of a local company, ELFA, from a building managed by the Trepca public enterprise. ELFA's owner, Elbasan Maliqi, told BIRN that he did not know the real reason he was asked to leave the property. The report also included recordings of telephone conversations between Trepca's directorate and Maliqi.

**On November 30, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a televised debate featuring the newly elected Mayor of Podujeva Shpejtim Bulliqi, scrutinising promises he made about the local health system, the environment, infrastructure and investments in the education system. Also present in the debate were: Shemsi Jashari, a representative of the Democracy Starts Here NGO, Kreshnik Gashi, Managing Editor at KALLXO.com and Visar Prebreza, Financial Analyst and Managing Editor at BIRN.

**On December 1, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an interview with the Minister of Justice Selim Selimi that focused on rule of law in Kosovo.

**On December 2, 2020**, the first anniversary of a major earthquake in Albania, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an investigation into construction standards and public safety in the event of an earthquake in Kosovo. Mayors from 23 of Kosovo's municipalities were interviewed on construction regulations, before the debate unfolded. Invited to the program were: Hajriz Sejdiu from the Emergency Agency at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kosovo Security Force soldier Ejup Maqedonci, Faton Hoxha from the Builders' Association and Florim Grajqevci, a Professor and Dean at the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the University of Prishtina

**On December 3, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a debate on Kosovo's budget for 2021 and the specifications for each sector, with the following panelists: Deputy Finance Minister Agim Krasniqi, Diana Metushi Krasniqi from the Kosovo Democratic Institute and Mexhide Demolli-Nimani from the FOL Movement NGO.

**On December 4, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an investigation exposing illegal casinos in Kosovo and the criminal networks behind them. The program revealed how a number of Kosovo police officers were crucial parts in the illegal gambling network.

**On December 7, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an interview with finance minister Hykmete Bajrami. Matters discussed in the interview included Kosovo's financial system, the state budget for 2021 and economic sectors being challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**On December 8, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an investigation after it received reports that hospitals treating COVID-19 patients were allowing family members to enter the clinics, risking a large surge in infections. BIRN presented these reports to Minister of Health Armend Zemaj, who in an interview on November 16 stated that there was "no chance" that anyone that had not tested positive for the coronavirus could enter the clinics housing COVID-19 patients. The minister added that Kosovo Police officers had been deployed and were operating a zero tolerance policy regarding entry.

However, on December 8, our crew, none of whom had authorization, encountered no police and were easily able to enter multiple clinics at the University Clinical Centre of Kosovo housing patients with COVID-19, while some rooms even contained relatives asleep next to the patients.

The show reached over 2.6 million views online, and as a result of this reporting, Zemaj sent a letter to the board and acting director of the Hospital and University Clinical Service of Kosovo, and demanded responsibility be taken by the management of the hospital. The security company responsible for order in the entrances of the clinics, also took responsibility by suspending three guards and is reorganizing its work to ensure that the situation will not continue.

**On December 9, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an investigation into how the Municipality of Malisheva awarded a company, Themeli, a 400,000 euro tender to build a school in the village of Gurbardh. BIRN discovered that the company is under the ownership of Isuf Krasniqi, the Minister of Trade and Industry's brother, who also belongs to the same political party that runs the municipality. The second part of the program outlined two cases of domestic violence involving Kosovo Police officers, as well as a case of sexual abuse involving a woman in Prishtina.

**On December 10, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a report on the economic recovery package, including the opportunity provided to withdraw 10% from the Kosovo Pension Savings Trust. The show also featured interviews with Agron Krasniqi, the Deputy Director of the Trust and Visar Prebreza, BIRN Kosovo's Managing Editor.

**On December 14, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a debate about the removal of taxes on mining, including on the extraction of gravel. Panellists were: Armend Abrashi of AAK, Ramiz Krasniqi, the Director at the Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals, Besnik Boletini, a journalist from the COHU NGO and Visar Prebreza, Managing Editor at BIRN Kosovo.

**On December 15, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a TV program about security in the public health system, particularly at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo. The program features an interview with Esat Tahiri, the Executive Director at the Security Company "Security Code". The interview was broadcast as a result of our team discovering that people without security checks are allowed to enter the Infectious Disease Clinic, which was housing COVID-19 patients. The second part of the program featured a report within the "Life in Municipality" series on the Municipality of Graçanica. It featured infographics with information on the municipality's performance ratings, citizen's complaints delivered through vox-pop interviews, and findings from audit reports as well as their recommendations and implementation;

**On December 16, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an investigation into two illegal gambling operations in the Municipalities of Gjakova and Skenderaj. The program also exposed three businesses that for a long period of time had not paid tax contributions to their employees. Meanwhile, the second part of the program contained a report within the "Life in Municipality" series on the Municipality of Leposavic. The report presented infographics with information on the municipality's performance ratings, citizen's complaints via vox-pop interviews, and the findings of audit reports and their recommendations and implementation;

**On December 17, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a report detailing findings from its report, authored alongside D+, on monitoring of the Tax Administration of Kosovo. Particular focus was placed on issues identified in regard to tax evasion, politicization, a tolerance towards disciplinary violations and connections between inspectors and accountants.

**On December 21, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an interview with UN Development Coordinator Ulrika Richardson, which focused on the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines to Kosovo. The second part of the program featured a discussion on the dismissal of the board at public broadcaster RTK and included interviews with Fadil Hoxha from the Independent Union of RTK and Jeton Mehmeti, a researcher at the GAP institute.

**On December 22, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a show focused on the challenges that COVID-19 has presented to the health sector. Featured in the program were: Minister of Health Armend Zemaj, Diana Metushi-Krasniqi, a senior advocate and project manager for transparency and accountability in public procurement at the Kosovo Democratic Institute and Kreshnik Gashi, KALLXO.com's Managing Editor.

**On December 23, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast an interview with Samedin Mehmeti, the Director of Kosovo Police, on the latest bank robberies in Prishtina. Mehmeti stated that the number of robberies had been high in recent years, although 2020 had seen a slight drop compared to the two previous years.

The interview was followed by a debate about volunteering in Kosovo, particularly during the pandemic. Panellists were: Dajana Berisha, Executive Director of the Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ), business owner Burim Pirraj, Besart Konushevci, a representative of the Platform Academy and Flutura Latifi from the Organisation of Medical Students (COMS).

**On December 24, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a compendium highlighting the most significant events of 2020, and recalling some of the work that BIRN's journalists and editors conducted during the year. The last several minutes of the program also highlighted the success stories of 2020;

**On December 29, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a report as part of the "Life in Municipality" series, focusing on the municipalities of Shterpce, Klokot, and Ranilug. The report contained infographics displaying information on these municipalities performance ratings and public service delivery, as well as vox pops revealing citizen's complaints. The report also focused in on audit reports and their recommendation and implementation, as well as environmental degradation in the municipalities, and other issues that local citizens face on a daily basis;

**On December 30, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo broadcast a program on bribes taken by officials at Kosovo's National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) in order to speed up the process of getting a PCR test. The NIPH provides PCR testing for the novel strain of coronavirus free of charge to citizens possessing a medical prescription. However, prescriptions are provided to all those experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, and as a result the NIPH receives hundreds of visitors daily, with huge numbers of citizens seeking testing and results.

BIRN received a report that laboratory assistants at the NIPH were accepting bribes from citizens in order to speed up the procedure both of being tested and receiving results, allegations which were confirmed by our investigation. A laboratory assistant at the NIPH accepted a 20 euro bribe from an undercover BIRN journalist in order to provide testing without following procedures and without a prescription. The assistant was subsequently arrested on suspicion of taking bribes and abuse of power

## MEDIA PRODUCTION

### KALLXO.COM

Kallxo.com is an anti-corruption platform, through which BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova offer citizens the opportunity to report on issues relating to corruption, fraud, conflicts of interest, as well as any irregularities within the provision of public services. BIRN Kosovo's journalists also contribute to this platform with daily news stories, as well as in-depth analysis and findings.

In 2020, KALLXO.com received a total of 1,634 reports from citizens. Our team followed up 806 of these with institutions, and filed 464 requests for access to public documents.

KALLXO.com published a total of 35,372 articles in 2020, including in-depth analyses, news stories, opinion pieces, and fact-checking articles, as well as summations of debates and other reporting featured in BIRN's other products: the Life in Kosovo Newspaper, Prishtina Insight, and the Life in Kosovo and Justice in Kosovo TV programs. It is worth highlighting that KALLXO investigations led to more than 90 direct impacts in society in 2020.

At the end of the year, the platform had a total of 355,574 followers on its official Facebook page and 21,800 YouTube subscribers marking an increase of 109,943 Facebook followers and 4,200 YouTube subscribers compared to 2019. The platform received 57,231,291 visits in 2020, with an average of 156,369 daily views.

### IN 2020, KALLXO RECEIVED:

**57,231,291**  
TOTAL PAGEVIEWS

**51,914,519**  
UNIQUE PAGEVIEWS

**974,382**  
AVERAGE MONTHLY PAGEVIEWS

**156,369**  
AVERAGE DAILY PAGEVIEWS

**17,428,483** YOUTUBE VIEWS AND **480.5** HOURS OF YOUTUBE WATCH TIME

## MEDIA PRODUCTION

### GAZETA JETA NË KOSOVË

In 2020, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published 782 articles, including in-depth investigations and opinion pieces covering many aspects of everyday life in Kosovo, including education, health, delivery of public services, culture, and art.

The main topics it covered were: the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, the privatisation of Kosovo Telecom, the secretive lobbying for border corrections by state institutions, the effects of COVID-19 on Kosovo's economy, politics and healthcare, the dismissal of the government, and mid-term municipal developments and plans for the rest of the mandates.

Some of the key articles published in 2020 are outlined below:

#### **Kosovo's facing a silent killer**

**On January 1, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article regarding air quality in Kosovo. It revealed that air quality measurements taken in Kosovo regularly far exceed the permitted European air quality standards of around 50 microns, especially in winter.

#### **Pal Lekaj's 'aksham-Pazar' plan initiates a 110 million euro tender**

**On February 2, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the tendering process at the Ministry of Infrastructure when it was led by former minister Pal Lekaj. It revealed that a tender was opened by the ministry for the construction of roughly 24 kilometers of highway between Banulë near Lipjan and Dheu I Bardh, which had a projected value of 110.6 million euros.

#### **Government work promoted in online media**

**On February 4, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth investigation into the promotion of the government's work through online media. The investigation shed light on dozens of contracts signed by ministries with news portals and other websites contrary to tendering procedures, the Law on Public Procurement and professional ethics. It revealed that ministries' general secretaries, as well as other officials, have often treated the state budget as if it were their own money, handing out huge sums to portals contrary to legislation.

#### **KEDS privatization prevents liberalization of energy market**

**On February 6, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth investigation into monopolies in the Kosovo energy market which outlined that liberalisation of the energy market has effectively been prevented by the privatisation of the Distribution and Supply company.

#### **Political crisis in the midst of a pandemic**

On March 19, 2020, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article detailing Kosovo's ongoing political crisis taking place against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis ensued following coalition partner LDK's decision to file a motion of no confidence in its own coalition government.

#### **Border correction, an option that continuously derails the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue**

On May 13, 2020, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on European attitudes towards the notion of border corrections. It outlined how recent statements by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell and the EU Special Representative for the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue Miroslav Lajčak had betrayed different views on the idea. In an interview with the newspaper Koha Ditore, Borell did not rule out the idea of changing Kosovo's borders if Kosovo and Serbia agreed to it, stating that if the parties agree, then "the EU cannot be more Catholic than the Pope." Meanwhile, Lajčak had previously stated that a redrawing of borders would not contribute to stability in the region.



## **Invisible investments in an ill healthcare system**

**On May 20, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the public healthcare system in Kosovo. Despite the fact that millions of euros have been allocated to the public health system from the state budget, there is still a lack of equipment, no regular supply of essential medicines and an outflow of health staff.

## **Taxpayer money used to lobby for Kosovo-Serbia border correction**

**On May 28, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth BIRN investigation which revealed that in 2019 Kosovo's Ministry of European Integration paid 168,000 euros to a Paris-based company that promoted the idea that "territorial modification" could be an effective solution in the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue.

## **New evidence of lobbying for border corrections financed by taxpayer money**

**On June 9, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article revealing new evidence of lobbying for an exchange of territories between Kosovo and Serbia that was sponsored and backed by Kosovo institutions. A Le Monde journalist stated that Kosovo's Ambassador to France, Qëndrim Gashi, personally advocated for an exchange of territories while an American academic revealed that Hashim Thaçi asked him to prepare a paper in defense of this plan.

## **Internet and IPTV "privatization", Telecom let go 60% of income to a private company**

**On June 11, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth investigation into Kosovo Telecom, highlighting a contract the public enterprise signed that would effectively give away 60% of its revenues from Internet services, IPTV and IPTV-OTT, to a private company.

## **Kosovo, never as separated as when working with the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue team**

**On July 26, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, after dissatisfaction with the delegation representing Kosovo in the Brussels talks increased further in 2020, with even members of the governing coalition opposing the appointment of Skënder Hyseni as State Coordinator for Dialogue.

## **Serbia's entrance into Kosovo's territory through the Ujman Lake**

**On September 8, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the agreements signed by both Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti of Kosovo and President Aleksandar Vucic of Serbia in Washington DC. According to Avdi Gjonbalaj, these agreements were unnecessary and pledges surrounding the Ujmani Lake represented the introduction of Serbia into the territory of Kosovo.

## **The company that was awarded with 29 public contracts in the Municipality of Drenas**

**On October 15, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the tendering process at the Municipality of Drenas. It revealed that one company, N.N.T Milazim Shala, has been awarded at least 29 contracts and annex contracts by the Municipality of Drenas since 2018, worth a value of around 1.7 million euros. Tenders won by this company were related to the asphaltting of roads, waste collection, and sewage works.

## **The state's weakness on environmental degradation**

**On November 16, 2020**, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article addressing environmental degradation in Kosovo. It revealed that the Energy Regulatory Office of Kosovo, ERO, had given Austrian company KelKos a 40-year license to produce electricity from its two hydropower plants, Belaja and Deçani, despite the plants being the subject of protests by environmental activists for years.

*Links to articles can be found on Annex 5.*

## MEDIA PRODUCTION

### KRYPOMETËR:

Krypometër was launched in December 2016 on the International Day Against Corruption. It is the first fact-checking tool in Kosovo to assess the truthfulness of statements made by public figures. On January 14, 2019 the International Fact-Checking Network, IFCN, granted Krypometër an extended license to operate after a careful assessment of the work of this product.

BIRN Kosovo continued maintaining and developing Krypometër on its popular accountability platform, KALLXO.com. Based on a practice widely used in developed democracies, the site fact-checks recent declarations from political party members and public officials, and compares their statements and promises with actual legislation or policies they have implemented.

The tool utilizes the power of the Internet to promote improved standards of democratic political culture by enabling ordinary citizens to learn more about the performance of their politicians and elected officials, and to better understand that government is not an unquestionable authority, but a public service.

In this regard, our journalists continuously record statements made in parliamentary meetings, on television, and at roundtables and conferences. However, Krypometër also offers another type of analysis. Our editors not only label statements as pass or fail but they evaluate statements as to whether they are true, partially true, a lie, or even change of position, followed by an explanation for each rating.

The KALLXO.com team continued its activity, monitoring the fulfilment of public pledges made by politicians during the 2017 Municipal Election campaign, publishing the results on Krypometër. A total of 192 Krypometër/Truth-o-Meter articles were published with illustrations and infographics in 2020, with the articles that had the biggest impact listed below:

## JANUARY

### **January 1, 2020: Endless lies on health insurance**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on former minister of health Uran Ismaili's statement that Kosovo citizens will be able to acquire health insurance policies by the end of 2019. The promise was not fulfilled and the health insurance system has not been functionalized.

### **January 22, 2020: Ferizaj still lacks dog shelter**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on a statement from the Agriculture Director at the Municipality of Ferizaj, Burim Bajrami, that by 2019, Ferizaj will have a dog shelter. The promise was not fulfilled, as the municipality still did not have a dog shelter.

### **January 30, 2020: The 72 hours that became 1,560 hours: The 'failed' attempts to reach the LVV-LDK coalition**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on Vetevendosje leader Albin Kurti's statement in November claiming that the party will create a coalition with the Democratic League of Kosovo within 72 hours. Even after 65 days or 1,560 hours, the coalition was not created and the government was not established.

## FEBRUARY

### **February 8, 2020: The lie of the Municipality of Skenderaj for public lighting**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on the Municipality of Skenderaj's statement in October 2018 that the municipality will implement a public lighting project. However, the municipality did not act upon its statement.

### **February 19, 2020: Shpend Ahmeti's lie about traffic cameras in the capital**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on Prishtina Mayor Shpend Ahmeti's statement in July 2018 that by that autumn the city of Prishtina will be equipped with speed cameras and automatic fines, which still had not been implemented 18 months later.

### **February 22, 2020: The mess over recognition from Jamaica**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on the Kosovo Presidency and Government's public statements that Jamaica had recognized Kosovo's independence. According to the Jamaican Foreign Affairs Minister's public statement, the news was fake and Jamaica had not recognized Kosovo's independence.

## APRIL

### **April 21, 2020: Hashim Thaçi's lie about KOSTT's membership in ENTSO-E**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on Kosovo President Hashim Thaci's statement that the Transmission and System Operator of Kosovo (KOSTT) became a member of European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-E), which was untrue.

## JUNE

### **June 3, 2020: LDK lie about Government with 12 ministries**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on LDK's statement that the new Kosovo government will have 12 ministries with two deputy ministers each. After the establishment of the government, LDK created 12 ministries with four deputy ministers each.

### **June 19, 2020: The crocodile tears of Gazmend Muhaxheri**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on Peja Mayor Gazmend Muhaxheri's statement made during the local election campaign in 2017 that a ski center would be implemented and finalized during his mandate. The project had not yet begun being implemented.

### **June 29, 2020: 27 days of Hoti government, mass testing already promised**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on statements made by Kosovo Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti and Minister of Health Armend Zemaj in June 2020 that COVID-19 testing capacities will increase. Their statements were still under investigation.

## JULY

### **July 27, 2020: False news about the infection with COVID-19 of the deputy Ganimete Musliu**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article debunking fake news that MP Ganimete Musliu attended parliament despite being infected with coronavirus.

## AUGUST

### **August 28, 2020: Empty promise to increase the number of tests for COVID-19**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on Minister of Health Armend Zemaj's continuous promises that the number of coronavirus tests will be increased. After five months of stating that the number of tests and testing samples would be increased to 600 per day, the statement was proven to be untrue.

## NOVEMBER

### **November 10, 2020: The mayor of Junik changes position on the bus station**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on the Mayor of the Municipality of Junik's modified statement on the promised bus station in the municipality. The statement is considered as modified as the mayor declared that relevant municipal officials have changed their mind and the location of the bus station will be changed.

### **November 12, 2020: Blerim Kuçi's lie about issuing environmental permits for KelKos**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article on Minister of Environment Blerim Kuci's untrue statement that the Ministry did not issue an environmental permit to KELKOS (the company behind numerous hydro power plants in Kosovo). At the time the Minister gave this statement, KELKOS already possessed a permit.

### **November 28, 2020: The lie that COVID-19 is being caused by a bacterium**

BIRN Kosovo published a fact-checking article debunking fake news that COVID-19 is created by a bacterium that causes thrombosis and rapid death. However, based on scientific research regarding COVID-19, it was stated that COVID-19 is caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-COV-2 and not a bacterium.

*Links to all fact-checked articles can be found in Annex 6.*

**2020**  
**FAST FACTS:**  
**301,922**  
PAGEVIEWS

## PRISHTINA INSIGHT

FEATURES: **72** - NEWS: **284** - OPINION: **66** - GUIDE: **8**

Prishtina Insight was established in 2008 and is BIRN Kosovo's online English language newspaper. Its aim is to inform the wider public on ongoing developments in Kosovo's politics, economics, and cultural and social life.

In 2020, Prishtina Insight provided extensive coverage of political affairs, socio-economic developments, and environmental and energy issues in Kosovo, as well as also covering numerous topics in the fields of education, culture and institutional reform.

Prishtina Insight's top 10 most read stories from 2020 were as follows:

1. Record number of women in government 'inspirational': Arta Sopi's analysis outlines how, for the first time in post-war history in Kosovo, five ministries and the Kosovo Assembly were headed by women.
2. Border changes promoted with taxpayer money: Jeta Xharra's investigation revealed that in 2019 the Ministry of European Integration paid 168,000 euros to a Paris-based company that promoted the idea that 'territorial modification' could be a solution in the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue.
3. More land swap lobbying uncovered: Jeta Xharra's story revealed more evidence that Kosovo institutions lobbied for a land swap with Serbia – a Le Monde journalist stated that Kosovo Ambassador to France Qendrim Gashi advocated for territory exchange, while an American academic revealed that Hashim Thaci asked him to prepare a paper endorsing the plan.
4. Unclean energy: The Kosovar who would own the sun: An investigation done by Visar Prebreza and Jeta Xharra revealed how companies registered in Malta but owned by Blerim Devolli had bypassed regulatory limits to benefit from state incentives for solar energy production.
5. Kosovo's childhood is over, let the teenage years begin: On Kosovo's 12th independence day, Milos Ciric encouraged new prime minister Albin Kurti not to repeat past mistakes and forge a more equal relationship with Serbia and the world.
6. 100 days of nonsense: Eraldin Fazliu's story details the 100 days negotiations to form a coalition government between Vetevendosje and LDK, arguing that discussions have turned into a fixation over positions of power rather than principles, eroding much of the hope built up by October 2019's election results.
7. This America is no friend to Kosovo: This article written by Hana Marku addressed November 2020's US election. Marku argued that the ballot presented a unique opportunity for the Kosovo diaspora to take a stand against the Trump administration's regressive foreign policy in Kosovo, spearheaded by the nonsensical approach of special envoy Richard Grenell.
8. Kosovo's most exclusive neighbourhoods: Eraldin Fazliu and Halim Kafexholli explored Kosovo's gated communities, which offer expensive, luxury housing and have begun to appear across Kosovo in recent years, with critics arguing it is a sign of growing social inequality.
9. The signing ceremony is on: Besnik Pula's article addressed a planned high level meeting between Kosovo and Serbia in Washington, arguing that the Trump administration seemed close to achieving its long held goal of concluding a major deal in foreign policy in the shape of some form of agreement between Kosovo and Serbia.
10. Kosovo wartime leaders' indictment is inaccurate and biased: Anna Di Lellio's article examines the Kosovo Specialist Chambers' indictment of Hashim Thaci and three other former senior Kosovo Liberation Army officials. According to Di Lellio, this indictment distorts history and selectively omits facts to set out a biased case.



## BALKAN INSIGHT AND BALKAN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

BIRN Kosovo is part of the regional team that produces Balkan Insight and Balkan Transitional Justice, the region's leading online source of news and in-depth analyses with a regional and local context, the latter with a focus on war crimes trials.

In 2020 BIRN continued to inform vast audiences in the WB region and abroad, generating a record of 10,442,289 page views, by producing 1,063 premium articles and 1,500 news pieces on Balkan Insight. In 2020, Balkan Insight reached a total of 4,774,507 website visitors.

BIRN also increased its Twitter coverage in Kosovo, partly due to the stream of coronavirus-related news published on Balkan Insight's ongoing live blog, as well as other pandemic-related content. Furthermore, BIRN accounted for over one million sessions on the page, 1,264,605 to be exact. That is an additional 113,122 sessions compared to the same period the year prior.

Over this reporting period, Balkan Insight had a growth of 3.84% or an increase of 3,543 followers in its Facebook page. In 2019 the page had 92,050 followers while in 2020 it reached a total of 95,592.

In 2020, BIRN produced over 200 videos of varying lengths and for various programmes which fall under BIRN Hub's umbrella. These included our annual series of ten Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence (which is now known as the Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence) videos, promo videos for some Resonant Voices Fellowship stories, BTJ grant stories and Last Despatches features.

We also introduced our "If you were here" series on BTJ, which highlights stories of family members of those killed or who are missing from the Balkan Wars. We continued working on promo videos for open calls for reader contributions, compilation videos for live protest coverage and short promotional videos for BIRN investigations or Premium content. The three most watched videos had a total of 49,608 views.

BIRN's Facebook had a 14.29% growth in 2020, gaining a total of 1,214 net followers. BIRN's Twitter account saw the most significant growth in 2020. We gained 1,610 new followers, bringing our total count to 5,047. This is a growth of 46.84%. Using average re-tweets as an example, we earned around 100/day in 2020 and the number of sessions from our Twitter account in 2020 was 304,252.

In 2020, Balkan Transitional Justice website has grown from 7,604 followers to 8,324, which represents a growth of 9.46%. Balkan Transitional Justice Twitter page gained 1,833 new followers, bringing the total number of followers to 10,320.

Balkan Transitional Justice's Facebook was visited by 1,633,208 daily and weekly logged-in Facebook users, and had a reach of 81,453. The most read article on BTJ website was written by Ivana Nikolic - How Serbia Changed its Mind about World War II History with 45,268 page views. While the second article was written by Anja Vladislavljevic - Chinese Man Arrested for Singing Croatian Ultranationalist Songs, with 15,317 page views. The third most read article was written by Zinaida Djelilovic - Male Rape Victims Confront the Bosnian War's Last Taboo with 14,0844.

In 2020 Balkan Insight was quoted and republished by some of the leading global and investigative media including The Washington Post, the Atlantic, the Guardian, Euronews, EUobserver, Der Spiegel, Time, derStandard, CNN, Foreign Policy, National Public Radio, Guardian, Al Jazeera English, MSN – Microsoft News, Forbes (Czech edition), Politico, Swedish radio, Aftenposten – Norway's largest printed newspaper, Corriere della Sera, the Independent, Atlantic, National Public Radio, Daily Mail, Radio France Internationale, La Repubblica, The Times, Newsweek – US and several other editions, AFP, and several international editions of Vice,.

In Foreign Policy's text "How Trump Lost the Balkans," published on the eve of US elections, Balkan Insight was quoted three times.

Balkan Insight was also quoted in reports by a number of organizations dealing with human rights, media, migrations, corruption, transitional justice and others. They included: Open Democracy, International Commission on Missing Persons, Voice of Europe, Foreign Policy Research Institute, ERTE Foundation, Council of Europe, Boston University, Human Rights Watch, Committee to Protect Journalists, Stanford Internet Observatory - Cyber Policy Center, Index of Censorship, Cambridge University Press, International Press Institute, Amnesty International, Reporters without Borders, Center for European Studies Harvard, ConstitutionNet, Civil Rights Defenders, Institute for International Affairs (Italy), European Council on Foreign Relations, European Data Journalism Network, International Press Institute, Committee to Protect Journalists, Boston University, NED, Freedom House, London School of Economics, International Press Institute, SpringerLink, Feminist Current, Ethical Journalism Network, NED, Boston University, The International Spectator - Italian Journal of International Affairs, Journal - Problems of Post-Communism, The Atlantic Council, Journal - Southeast European and Black Sea Studies, European Federation of Journalists, Congressional Research Service, American Society of International Law, Election Law Journal, Journal of Contemporary European Studies, Netherlands Institute of International Relations, The Coalition for Women in Journalism, Journal of Eurasian Geography and Economics, European Funds Recovery Initiative, Poynter, European Forum for Democracy and Security, Queen's University Belfast, CIMA and others.

It was also featured in parliamentary questions at the European Parliament numerous times during the year.

BIRN's Reporting Democracy project cooperates with a newly-created network of independent media outlets that report on the Central and Eastern Europe region in English.

Balkan Insight was also used as a reference in studies, among them Impact of the pandemic on elections around the world: From safety concerns to political crises (by the European Parliament); TRANSNATIONAL TENTACLES - Global Hotspots of Western Balkan Organized Crime (by the Global Initiative Against Organized Crime);

Balkan Insight text from 2016: "Russian Billionaire Sues Montenegro Over Lost Investment" was referenced in "Russian Active Measures Campaigns and Interference in the 2016 U.S. Election" - The US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's final installment of years-long investigation into Russian interference with the 2016 election.

Report: The Shrinking Space for Media Freedom in Southeast Europe in the Midst of Covid -19 Pandemic and State of Emergency (Center for the Study of Democracy and Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung).

The Sustainability Of Professional Journalism In The Media Business Environment of The Western Balkans study mentions BIRN as an example of new patterns of content monetisation: "Some media organizations have tested the potential of creating supplementary, specialized content (e.g., on women, for the diaspora, etc.) that might attract larger audiences and advertisers. Other tried and tested models include offering premium access to part of the content (e.g., BIRN, which offers premium access for a fee), charging for consultancies, teaching or running workshops or courses (e.g., BIRN, which provides tailored analyses of particular topics for a fee)..."

Balkan Insight was quoted several times in a book: Hate and Propaganda Models of Media and Communication in The Western Balkans and Turkey.

Balkan Insight was also quoted in the book: Reporting Facts: Free from Fear or Favour (UNESCO), and an academic article: The Western Balkans during the pandemic: Democracy and rule of law in quarantine? (SAGE Publications).

Balkan Insight texts were quoted and republished in some of the leading regional media outlets, including public broadcasters (for example RTK live in Kosovo, RTV SLO in Slovenia), TV stations with a national reach and cable TV stations (regional TV NI, Al Jazeera, TV Nova S - Serbia), print publications (Danas, Vreme, Nedeljnik, NIN – Serbia; Vijesti, Pobjeda – Montenegro; Jutarnji list, Slobodna Dalmacija – Croatia; Mladina – Slovenia; print dailies and weeklies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as Dnevni Avaz, Oslobodjenje ); online publications in all the countries of the region, including, for example, publications in both Macedonian and Albanian in North Macedonia; and radio stations, such as Radio Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Balkan Insight is regularly featured in regional and international editions of publications such as Radio Free Europe, Voice of America, Euronews, Al Jazeera, BBC, Global Voices, Yahoo, and MSN News.

BIRN Kosovo journalists contributed to Balkan Insight with 43 stories.

## MONITORING AND ADVOCATING

### Public Procurement and public spending

Throughout 2020, BIRN Kosovo closely monitored public procurement processes, with its main focus on the work of municipalities, which, according to previous experience, have been a major source of corruption. BIRN covered every Kosovo municipality and reported on both success stories and failures.

With the main aim to ensure efficiency, accountability and transparency of these institutions, BIRN published several articles on the first stage of tendering processes, held roundtables, and produced multiple television shows addressing the irregularities.

#### Judiciary

In 2020, BIRN Kosovo's team of court monitors, as well as its legal office and advisors monitored a total of 510 court hearings and submitted 868 legal complaints to public institutions in Kosovo, including 518 requests to access official documents. BIRN Kosovo's legal office also submitted 30 legal complaints to the Chief State Prosecutor Aleksander Lumezi as a result of irregularities encountered during our investigations and monitoring.

In addition to this, four legal complaints regarding disciplinary violations by judges were submitted by our legal team. As a result, investigations were initiated against three judges, all of which led to the establishment of disciplinary commissions. Furthermore, two officials from the Tax Administration of Kosovo and the Ministry of Internal Affairs had disciplinary measures taken against them as a result of BIRN's Legal Office submitting information to these two institutions.

As part of the "Demanding Transparency in the Judicial System" project, which is supported by USAID's Justice System Strengthening Program, BIRN Kosovo also monitored the publication of court judgments, and published infographics that demonstrate the courts and judges that publish the most judgements.

Specific attention was paid to monitoring corruption cases through both direct monitoring of ongoing court hearings and analysis of case files that have already received a final judgment. BIRN Kosovo also monitored the work of the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) and its various committees, as well as disciplinary cases initiated against judges and heads of courts, thereby contributing to increased levels of transparency and accountability in Kosovo's judicial system.

Within the same project, BIRN Kosovo delivered ten (10) one-on-one training sessions for the Judicial staff of Kosovo and one (1) group training for eight women judges. Modules of the training included topics like basic media information, public speaking, being interviewed and speaking to the media.

Finally, on October 17, 2020, BIRN Kosovo, together with Internews Kosova, launched its court monitoring report for 2019, having monitored the country's justice for the 14th consecutive year. First and foremost, the report aims to identify shortcomings hampering the justice system as a whole, while also providing specific recommendations on the concrete issues identified. This has the sole purpose of enhancing the efficiency, accountability and transparency of the justice system, one of the main cornerstones of state building.

## TRAINING AND MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

### External training

- On February 3, 2020, as part of a project aimed at increasing transparency and accountability in regard to the management of public funds, BIRN Kosovo held its first training session with the Auditor General and Head of the Department for International Communication and Cooperation;
- On February 21, 2020, Kreshnik Gashi delivered a training session on reporting on environmental issues, which was organized by the PIPS Organization;
- On February 26, 2020, Kreshnik Gashi and Labinot Leposhtica delivered a training session for students of law on reporting techniques, media law and the prevention of extremism through the media;
- On February 28, 2020, BIRN Kosovo's Managing Editors, Kreshnik Gashi and Visar Prebreza, and Legal Office coordinator Labinot Leposhtica delivered a training session for local journalists in Ferizaj on fact-checking, accurate reporting in journalism, investigative journalism based on International Fact-Checking Standards, televised investigations, ethics in journalism, copyright and source protection;
- On March 12 and 13, 2020, BIRN Kosovo organized two training sessions as part of the "Promoting the Auditor General/NAO's role in Kosovo" project. The training was on public image and social media use and was delivered to NAO staff.
- On April 4, 2020, BIRN Kosovo organized a training session for students of the Madrasa in Gjilan on the dangers of violent and extremist ideologies. The training was delivered by BIRN Kosovo's managing editor, Kreshnik Gashi and legal office coordinator Labinot Leposhtica;
- On April 4, 2020, BIRN Kosovo organized a training session for more than 40 journalists on reporting standards during emergencies. Trainers for this session were epidemiologist Valbon Krasniqi, BIRN Kosovo managing editors Kreshnik Gashi and Visar Prebreza and BIRN Kosovo's legal office coordinator Labinot Leposhtica;
- On June 5, 2020, BIRN Kosovo managing editor, Visar Prebreza, and legal office coordinator, Labinot Leposhtica, held an internship training with the Association of Journalists of Kosovo;
- On June 8, 2020, the anchor of Justice in Kosovo and managing editor of KALLXO.com, Kreshnik Gashi, and BIRN's legal office coordinator, Labinot Leposhtica, held a training session titled "Fighting fake news through the development of critical thinking amongst young people" with law and journalism students;

From June 24 to July 1, 2020, anchor of Justice in Kosovo and managing editor of KALLXO.com, Kreshnik Gashi held two daily individual training sessions with Kosovo judges;

- On July 1, 2020, anchor of Justice in Kosovo and managing editor of KALLXO.com, Kreshnik Gashi, held a training session with two Kosovo judges on media appearances, public speaking, and using social media;
- On July 2, 2020, anchor of Justice in Kosovo and managing editor of KALLXO.com, Kreshnik Gashi, held a training session with JSSP interns on public speaking;
- On July 28, 2020, BIRN's legal office coordinator, Labinot Leposhtica, held a training with 11 BIRN interns regarding the legal aspects of journalism;
- On September 2 and September 4, 2020, anchor of Justice in Kosovo and managing editor of KALLXO.com, Kreshnik Gashi, and BIRN Kosovo's Managing Editor, Visar Prebreza, held two training sessions with prospective journalists aimed at developing their ability to monitor audit reports;

- On September 4, 2020, BIRN's legal office coordinator, Labinot Leposhtica, held a training with students regarding the filing and monitoring of legal documents;

From September 19-September 23, 2020, anchor of Justice in Kosovo and managing editor of BIRN, Kreshnik Gashi, BIRN's IT manager, and executive director of BIRN's partner organisation Internews Kosova, Faik Ispahiu, trained around 60 teachers from across Kosovo on public speaking, presenting in front of camera, and using of virtual classroom platforms, including Zoom, Google Meets, Google Classroom, and PowerPoint;

- On October 16, 2020, BIRN Kosovo organised a training session with journalists to improve their performance in reporting on and monitoring audit reports. Supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Pristina, the training was intended to improve the skills of journalists and monitors to better identify violations in the allocation of public finances and encourage new journalists to become involved in investigative journalism. Kreshnik Gashi, managing editor at KALLXO.com and Labinot Leposhtica, the legal office coordinator at BIRN, ran the first part of the session, while the second half was led by Visar Prebreza, editor at KALLXO.com;
- On October 30, 2020, BIRN Kosovo organised a simultaneous online and face-to-face training session for students from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Kosovo. Around 15 students participated in the face-to-face session, with another 15 students participating online. The focus of the training was on strengthening critical thinking, protective mechanisms against defamation and slander, combating fake news, and ethical reporting. The session was led by Kreshnik Gashi, anchor of the Justice in Kosovo television program, and Labinot Leposhtica, the legal office coordinator at BIRN Kosovo.
- On November 2 and 3, 2020, Prishtina Insight Editor Eraldin Fazliu led a virtual training session on Engaged Citizens Reporting (ECR);
- On November 2, 2020, BIRN Kosovo held a training session on monitoring and reporting on Audit Reports with junior journalists. Kreshnik Gashi, managing editor at KALLXO.com and Labinot Leposhtica, the legal office coordinator at BIRN, ran the first part of the session, while the second half was led by Visar Prebreza, editor at BIRN;
- On November 19, 2020, BIRN Kosovo held a training session with the staff of the National Audit Office within the framework of the project, "Promoting the Auditor General/National Audit Office's role in Kosovo". The session was divided into two parts with the first being led by Kreshnik Gashi, managing editor at Kallxo.com, and the second by Granit Mavriqi, media editor at Kallxo.com;
- On December 3 and 4, 2020, Prishtina Insight Editor Eraldin Fazliu provided training on ECR for the Romtegra radio station;
- On December 9, 2020, Prishtina Insight Editor Eraldin Fazliu held a training session titled "Infodemics Lessons: The Way Forward", which was organized by the South East European Network for Professionalization of Media (SEENPM);
- On December 9 and 10, 2020, BIRN Kosovo, in partnership with the International Press Institute, IPI, held a two-day training course on tackling disinformation and establishing fact-checking methods. On the first day, Stephane Grueso from the leading Spanish NGO tackling disinformation through fact-checking and data journalism, Maldita.es, introduced the topic of disinformation and revealed current trends within the International Fact-Checking Network. The second day was covered by four trainers: Kansu Ekin Tanca, Gülin Çavuş, Öyküm Hüma Keskin and Emre İkan Saklıca, who are part of Teyit, Turkey's premier independent fact-checking social enterprise;
- On December 21, 2020, BIRN Kosovo organized a training workshop on writing techniques and the use of social media with the staff of the National Audit Office, NAO, as part of the Promoting the Auditor General/NAO's role in Kosovo, a project aimed at increasing transparency and accountability on the management of public funds. The training session was attended by the Head of Communication and Professional Development Saranda Husajm and communications officer Shqipe Hetemi from the NAO. The workshop was divided into two sessions, the first held by Kreshnik Gashi, managing editor at KALLXO.com, and the second by Granit Mavriqi, BIRN Kosovo's media editor;



- On December 23, 2020, BIRN Kosovo organized a training workshop for journalists in Kosovo on how to best report issues related to energy efficiency and the environment. It conducted by Jeta Xharra, BIRN Kosovo’s executive director, Visar Prebreza and Kreshnik Gashi, BIRN Kosovo’s managing editors, Fatmir Gsguri, an environmental expert, Aleksandar Djordjevic, an environmental journalist at BIRN Serbia, and Dragan Gmizic, a journalist and award-winning environmental film maker from Serbia;

### **Internal training**

- On September 9, 2020, BIRN Kosovo organized an internal training session for the administration and management BIRN staff on “Results Based Management”, delivered by Levent Koro;
- On September 15, 2020, BIRN Kosovo organized an internal training session for BIRN administration and management staff on project management;

## **MEDIA DEVELOPMENT LEGAL OFFICE DEVELOPMENT**

In 2020, BIRN Kosovo’s team of court monitors, legal officers and advisors have monitored a total of 510 court hearings and submitted 868 legal complaints to relevant public institutions in Kosovo, of which 518 were requests for access to official documents. BIRN Kosovo’s Legal Office also submitted 30 legal complaints to the Chief State Prosecutor Aleksander Lumezi as a result of the irregularities encountered during our investigations and monitoring.

### **Access to Public Documents**

Out of 868 complaints that the legal office sent to public institutions during 2020, 518 of them were related to requests for access to legal documents. In this way, our legal team continued to monitor the implementation of the Law on Access to Public Documents, by sending numerous requests to authorities for various documents including minutes of meeting and contracts.

### **Legal Department**

Throughout 2020, KALLXO.com was engaged in various legal analyses and advocacy efforts and provided input for a number of legal initiatives including the following:

The Draft Law on Procedures at the Tax Administration of Kosovo

The Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering

The Law on the Anti-Corruption Agency,

The Law on Wealth Publication for Public Officials,

Modification of Penal Code Procedure,

Regulation on the Law on Whistle-blowers,

The Civil Code of the Republic of Kosovo,

The Law on Disciplinary Responsibility of Judges and Prosecutors

Legislation in the Field of Preventing Money Laundering and Combating Terrorist Financing

## LEGAL FOLLOW-UP OF CASES REPORTED BY CITIZENS ON KALLXO.COM

KALLXO.com is an anti-corruption platform established in April 2012 by Internews Kosova in partnership with BIRN Kosovo. Reports received at KALLXO.com are processed by two teams: a) teams of investigative journalists who produce media stories and b) a team of lawyers who present the legal argument of the case to the relevant authorities.

After the reports are verified by court monitors and journalists, the legal office drafts an official legal complaint to the relevant authority that refers to the laws that were violated in the reported case, and attaches the necessary documentation and supporting evidence to this complaint.

As such, the complaint is directly and officially sent to the institution that needs to take measures, so that the specific breach can be addressed. BIRN Kosovo has found that this methodology is causing many institutions to take measures because an official complaint, which follows protocol and is backed by evidence, is harder to ignore than media reporting.

In 2020, KALLXO.com received 1,582 reports, 868 of which were followed-up with institutions, including 518 requests for access to public documents.

## AWARDS

### AWARDS GIVEN TO BIRN KOSOVO JOURNALISTS

BIRN Kosovo's journalism received a great deal of recognition over the course of 2020, with the following awards and acknowledgements particularly worth highlighting.

**In September**, BIRN Kosovo was listed as a resource for reporting corruption in the 2020 Investment Climate report on Kosovo compiled by the US State Department.

**In October**, BIRN Kosovo's journalist Behar Mustafa was awarded second-best story on the environment for an investigative article on road construction in Kosovo and the degradation that it causes to the environment.

**In November**, BIRN Kosovo's Executive Director Jeta Xharra and KALLXO.com Managing Editor Visar Prebreza were awarded with the 2020 Prize for Economic Journalism by the Kosovo Journalists' Association for their investigation "Unclean Energy: The Kosovar who would own the sun," which uncovered violations of anti-monopoly rules in the solar energy sector.

**On December 21, 2020**, KALLXO.com journalists were awarded prizes for investigative journalism by the EU Office in Kosovo. The EU's annual award for investigative journalism focuses on investigations into corruption, violation of human rights, organized crime, and public spending, among other issues. KALLXO.com Managing Editor Kreshnik Gashi and journalist Afërdita Fejzullahu were awarded third prize.

**On December 25, 2020**, KALLXO.com's journalist Bahrie Sadiku was announced as journalist of the year for 2020 by the Association of Journalists of Mitrovica in a ceremony organized by the Community Building Mitrovica;

**On December 30, 2020**, Behar Mustafa, a journalist at KALLXO.com, and Agon Sinanaj, who contributed an investigative story to BIRN's English language newspaper Prishtina Insight, were recognized at the 2020 Awards for Journalism on Social and Child Protection. Both received prizes from KOMF, a Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection in Kosovo.

## AWARDS GIVEN

**In 2020**, 10 grants and mentorships were provided to journalists and freelancers, while six prizes were awarded to journalists in competitions for the best journalistic stories on both the environment and public spending.

**On September 30**, BIRN organized its second event announcing Kosovo's Most Transparent Court award, as part of the Justice System Strengthening Program. The court awarded is that which has published the highest number of judgements, with the nature of the cases the judgements are published in and adherence to the Administrative Instruction on Publication of Judgements also taken into account. It is the second event of its kind following the award's establishment in 2019.

**On December 18, 2020**, BIRN Kosovo awarded three journalists for the best investigative reports on corruption and public spending over the past year. The winning stories were selected by a jury comprised of Kreshnik Gashi, Mexhide Demolli, Dafina Halili, Lert Hoxha and Mustafa Skenderi from a total of nine entries, all of which were broadcast on TV or published online between October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020;

## FUNDING IN 2020

Similar to previous years, throughout 2020 BIRN Kosovo depended on the support of a wide range of Western governments, as well as independent and public partners in order to continue its public impact and to sustain the organization's internal capacities. The BIRN team is profoundly appreciative of its donors for their steadfast support, which further fortified BIRN Kosovo in its aim to be a watchdog monitoring the work of public institutions and bolstering Kosovo's progress towards the implementation of EU standards.

BIRN Kosovo is looking forward to maintaining, nurturing, and strengthening the existing relationships it has with key donors while continuing to broaden and deepen its funding base. A strong and growing base of support will be essential to continue our work and focus on our main activities, including but not limited to the following:

- Production of the weekly televised programmes on Life in Kosovo;
- Systematic monitoring of the performance of public services and production of Justice in Kosovo weekly TV program;
- Production of electoral debates;
- Publication on KALLXO.com, Krypometër; and KALLXORinia
- Publication of Balkan Insight, Prishtina Insight, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë and the Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence

## Donors are listed in alphabetical order:

- Advocacy Training and Resource Centre – ATRC
- Austrian Development Agency Grant - ADA
- Balkan Investigative Reporting Network - BIRN Serbia
- BIRN HUB
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- DAI Global, LLC
- The Dutch Fund for Regional Partnerships - MATRA Programme
- Embassy of Switzerland
- European Commission Liaison Office
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – FES
- GCERF Global Community Engagement Fund
- The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- Human Rights Watch
- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Kosovo
- The Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo (HLC Kosovo)
- The British Embassy – Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Independent Journalists Association of Vojvodina - Delegation of the European Union in Serbia Novi Sad
- Insurance Company Dukagjini
- INTERNEWS KOSOVA
- Journalism Development Network – JND: Doing business as the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project - OCCRP
- Kosovar Civil Society Foundation - KCSF

## Public Institutions:

- Radio Television of Kosovo – RTK

## Western Governments/Governmental agencies:

1. Austrian Development Agency - ADA's project titled "Paper Trail for Better Governance III" aims to expose the wrongdoings of public institutions, public or private companies, and individuals through multimedia investigations, in-depth analysis of institutions' openness to freedom of information requests, and the establishment of an online database.
2. The Balkan Trust for Democracy – BTD's "Life in Kosovo: Encouraging Municipal Transparency and Accountability through Open Post-Electoral Debates" aims to strengthen the accountability and transparency of local governance and increase citizens' inclusion in the decision making processes through open debates.
3. The British Embassy's project "Support Civil Society to Increase Public Oversight and Accountability of Kosovo Public Institutions" aims to promote the notion of being a watchdog to local CSOs and of good governance, transparency and accountability to public institutions.
4. The Dutch Embassy in Prishtina has supported the facilitation of the 'Auditor General/NAO-Promoting Auditor General/NAO's role in Kosovo' project, the aim which is to promote public oversight and foster increased institutional transparency and accountability. The Dutch Embassy has also created incentives for both journalists and the general public to report on legal violations and possible misuses of authority during public procurement processes, including acts of corruption and money laundering through more efficient auditing mechanisms.
5. The Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) is a body within the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs that is dedicated to providing aid and financing pro-development activities in developing countries worldwide, including Kosovo.
6. The EU Office in Kosovo's project "Contribute to strengthening independent, investigative and publicly beneficial journalism and freedom of expression" gathered journalists, students of journalism, and media outlets as main beneficiaries for a professional community of journalists by awarding them with fellowships, sub-granting, trainings and internship opportunities.
7. The EU Office in Kosovo's project "Europeanization of Kosovo's Environmental Agenda" intends to reach its aim by creating a partnership based on 'Triangle Model Advocacy' by utilizing skills and expertise of think-tanks, grassroots organizations, and media, in advocating on crucial energy and environmental issues in Kosovo. More specifically, the project aims to hold institutions accountable while demanding appropriate action from the responsible authorities to implement appropriate energy and environmental policies from the responsible authorities.
8. The EU Office in Kosovo project "Solidifying the Resilience of Kosovo's Current and Future Journalists" intends to restore trust in media and maintain news streams that provide objective, fact-checked and professional reporting by bringing together the wider community of journalists and media professionals, media outlets, civil society, young media talent and the public in order to increase awareness, recognition and support for professional journalism as a means of solidifying the foundations of a sustainable democracy in Kosovo.
9. The European Commission provides support to BIRN Kosovo's CSOs as Equal Partners in Monitoring Public Finance project, which aims to increase the systematic monitoring of public spending and financial institutions.
10. The Global Community Engagement Resilience Fund – GCERF's project "Consortium: For a Resilient Community" contributed towards diminishing both motives and incentives for radicalization, which can lead to violent extremism. Particularly important is the ability of institutions to empower young people and shape societal environment to successfully prevent violent extremism. This includes the social and economic inclusion of returnees, prisoners, and their families.
11. In 2020, USAID's Justice System Strengthening Program has provided support for BIRN to implement a project titled "Demanding Transparency in Kosovo's Judicial System". This project's aim is to strengthen the judicial system by promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Its main activities include: monitoring the publication of court decisions in the Kosovo Judicial Council web portal, monitoring disciplinary complaints filed against judges, monitoring and reporting on the number of final decisions made by parallel courts, publishing in-depth investigations, articles, short news stories, and TV programmes.



12. MATRA Programme, Royal Netherlands Embassy's project "Promoting the Auditor General/ NAO's Role in Kosovo" aims to create incentives for both journalists and the general public to report on legal violations and possible misuses of authority during public procurement processes, including acts of corruption and money laundering.

13. The United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) provided financial support to BIRN Kosovo for the implementation of the "Kosovo Society Dialogue: Town Hall Solutions" project.

### **Independent Foundations:**

1. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund currently provided general support to BIRN Kosovo, backing efforts to improve practices, performance, transparency, and accountability in governance. It has supported the organization through projects and general support for a decade. Throughout 2020, the RBF has supported BIRN Kosovo for the implementation of the project "Robin Hood" which aims to reveal systemic inequity and discrimination in the Western Balkans.

2. BIRN Kosovo received funds from Internews Kosova for the implementation of the "Supporting Anti-corruption Efforts" program in Kosovo, supported by UNDP in Kosovo, as well as for the production of the TEMA televised debates supported by the British Embassy in Prishtina.

3. Kosovar Civil Society Foundation supports the 'Fact-checking for Accountable Media' project, which aims to raise awareness amongst local media on IFCN standards, and improve the skills of journalists and journalism students on the verification of facts. BIRN Kosovo's fact-checking tool, Krypometër, is a vital part of this project, which is aimed at increasing the accountability of politicians, state officials, and local media.

4. The Advocacy Training & Resource Center (ATRC) has supported BIRN in contributing towards diminishing the motives and incentives for radicalization that may lead to violent extremism through channeling the public discourse towards building resilience, increasing the accountability of public and governmental institutions, their capacities for youth empowerment, and shaping the societal and institutional environment for a successful prevention of violent extremism, including social and economic inclusion of returnees, prisoners, and their families.

5. Throughout 2020, BIRN Kosovo has received funds from BIRN Hub, which also supports Balkan Insight and the Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence.

6. GCERF, the Global Community Engagement Fund has supported BIRN's "Consortium: For a Resilient Community" project since 2018. The aim of this project is the prevention of violent extremism, as well as the integration of Kosovar returnees from foreign conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

### **Advertising:**

BIRN Kosovo receives a small income from advertising, none of which is taken out of the organisation a profit. Instead, it is used to pay the expenses involved in running outputs like gazetajnk.com and Prishtina Insight.

## CHALLENGES AHEAD

BIRN Kosovo exists to assist the socio-political and socio-economic development of Kosovo and, as a result, the challenges of the people in Kosovo ahead will also be our challenges.

The work of all of our media platforms has shown continuous success, with our anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com, being identified by the public as the second most trusted platform to report crime to. As such, our work is well known by both state and private institutions. However, it can be challenging in cases when institutions reject collaboration and automatically become the target of the public pressure due to irregularities, and our mission becomes greater as public trust in our organization increases.

BIRN Kosovo's team remains sensitive to structural inequalities, and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, gender, sex, and ability. In this regard, one challenge that accompanies our work is the adjustment to the legal framework that either directly discriminates against vulnerable groups, or contains loopholes that allow for the discrimination of vulnerable groups. BIRN Kosovo has been working on this aspect since its establishment, and will continue to do so every year.

BIRN will also ensure greater accountability and transparency in Kosovo public institutions by investigating, writing, publishing and broadcasting stories on various important topics concerning Kosovo's citizens. These include: the rule of law, the justice system, education and health systems, national and foreign policy developments in Kosovo, women's empowerment in politics and society, human rights, media freedom, corruption, misuse of public money, public procurement, and environmental degradation.

In principle, the next local elections in Kosovo will be held in October 2021, meaning that one of BIRN's main focuses will be on monitoring local governance, investigating the work and developments in municipalities across Kosovo and measuring whether promises have been kept throughout the years.

Our true challenge always remains collaboration with state institutions and state officials. BIRN Kosovo has a published mission and strategy of work that shows that our aim is to strengthen state institutions and increase people's wellbeing. As such, BIRN Kosovo believes that every institution aiming for the same goals will be willing to work alongside us.

## Acknowledgements

### Previous Staff and Interns

We would like to thank staff members and interns who were part of BIRN Kosovo in 2020:

Adelina Idrizi

Ermonda Zogiani

Granit Gashi

Diellza Geci

Egzon Qarkaxhija

Marcel Lekaj

Eve Anne Travers

Atdhe Mulla

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Smajl Demaj

Agnesa Berisha

Ajrina Rushiti

Albina Selmanaj

Alketa Rrahmani

Arta Shaqiri

Blerta Balidemaj

Blerta Fandaj

Denis Ibishi

Elmedina Llumnica

Erza Elezaj

Fatos Mamusha

Krenare Rushiti

Mërgime Taraku

Nurgjan Beqiri

Unitet Berisha

Saranda Alshiqi

Diamanta Hashani

Leonora Bajrami

Medina Sopjani

Viola Korça

Suada Qorraaj

Vlerë Mehmeti

Herolind Ademi

Altina Nika

Fisnik Xhema

Fjoralba Krasniqi

Tirana Bytyqi

Gresa Bardhecaj

Qëndresa Luma

Sara Zhubi

## Who are we?

The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) is the leading investigative reporting organization in the Balkans, and a trusted and well-respected civil society actor in the region. BIRN emerged in 2004 through a long-term media development project run by the UK-based Institute for War and Peace Reporting. Since 2005, it has worked as an independent non-profit media-training organization in the Balkans. It specializes in developing and implementing investigative and analytical reporting projects, theoretical and practical training for local journalists, and capacity building at local and regional media. The BIRN network consists of seven member NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Romania, Albania and Bulgaria. It also has an established editorial presence in Croatia and Montenegro.

BIRN Kosovo in particular specializes in organizing debates on current affairs that have pushed boundaries in Kosovo by dealing with sensitive, hard-hitting and taboo-breaking topics, sometimes resulting in threats towards our journalists. These debates have pushed public reforms and contributed to increased levels of accountability among elected and appointed officials in post war Kosovo.

Starting with a staff of only three members in 2005, BIRN Kosovo has evolved into a leading media NGO, with a staff of 51 full-time and part-time employees and contributors.

## ANNEX 1: BALKAN INSIGHT

1. January 8, 2020: Kosovo Arrests Woman Who Urged 'Revenge' for Iranian's Assassination <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/08/kosovo-arrests-woman-who-urged-revenge-for-iranians-assassination/>

2. January 9, 2020: Kosovo Orders 30 days' Detention for pro-Iranian Militant <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/09/kosovo-orders-30-days-detention-for-pro-iranian-militant/>

3. Jan 10, 2020: Kosovo Govt Allocates €250,000 to Fight against ISIS <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/10/outgoing-government-allocates-e250000-to-the-fight-against-isis/>

4. February 13, 2020: France, US, Pile Pressure on Kosovo to Scrap Tariffs <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/02/13/france-us-pile-pressure-on-kosovo-to-scrap-tariffs/>

5. March 6, 2020: Kosovo Indicts Serb Ex-Policeman for Wartime Rape <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/03/06/kosovo-indicts-serb-ex-policeman-for-wartime-rape/>

6. March 6, 2020: Kosovo Probes Killing of Guerrilla Commander and Family <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/03/06/kosovo-probes-killing-of-guerrilla-commander-and-family/>

7. February 28, 2020: Kosovo Unveils Statue to First Olympic Gold Medalist Kelmendi <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/02/28/kosovo-unveils-statue-to-first-olympic-gold-medallist/>

8. March 11, 2020 Kosovo Prosecutors Accuse Serbian Company of Wrecking Medieval Fortress <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/03/11/kosovo-indicts-serb-company-for-medieval-fortress-damages/>

9. March 27, 2020: US Dismisses Kurti's Claims About Secret Land Swap Talks <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/03/27/us-dismisses-kurtis-claims-about-secret-land-swap-talks/>

10. March 23, 2020: Kosovo Opposition to Back No-Confidence Motion in Govt <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/03/23/kosovo-opposition-to-back-no->

11. April 6, 2020: Kosovo Leaders Feud Over COVID-19 Outbreak in North <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/04/14/us-politicians-urge-white-house-to-ease-pressure-on-kosovo/>

12. Kosovo Leaders Tussle Over Plan to Form New Govt April 20, 2020: <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/04/20/kosovo-leaders-tussle-over-plan-to-form-new-govt/>

13. April 14, 2020: US Politicians Urge White House to Ease Pressure on Kosovo <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/04/14/us-politicians-urge-white-house-to-ease-pressure-on-kosovo/>

14. April 22, 2020: Kosovo Closer to Getting new LDK-AAK Government <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/04/22/kosovo-closer-to-getting-new-ldk-aak-government/>

15. May 5, 2020 Kosovo and Albania Ponder Unified Basketball League: <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/05/05/kosovo-and-albania-ponder-unified-basketball-league/>

16. May 6, 2020: Kosovo Film Festivals to Go Ahead Despite COVID-19 <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/05/06/kosovo-film-festivals-to-go-ahead-despite-covid-19/>

17. May 13, 2020: Kosovo Activists to Continue 'Rehearsing' Protests Despite Movement Restrictions <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/05/13/kosovo-activists-to-continue-rehearsing-protests-despite-movement-restrictions/>

18. March 17, 2020: Construction of Coal-Fired Power Plant in Kosovo Halted <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/03/17/construction-of-coal-fired-power-plant-in-kosovo-halted/>

19. May 20, 2020: Kosovo's Political Rivals Lock Horns Ahead of Court Verdict <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/05/20/kosovos-political-rivals-lock-horns-ahead-of-court-verdict/>

20. June 3, 2020: Kosovo Parliament Confirms New Govt Under Hoti <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/06/03/kosovo-parliament-confirms-new-govt-under-hoti/>

21. June 10, 2020: Kosovo President, Ambassador, Lobbied Influencers to Back Land Swaps <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/06/10/kosovo-president-ambassador-lobbied-influencers-to-back-land-swaps/>
22. July 3, 2020: Kosovo Politician Threatens BIRN Country Director <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/07/03/kosovo-politician-threatens-birn-country-director/>
23. July 13, 2020: Hague War Crime Prosecutors Quiz Kosovo President Thaci <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/07/13/hague-war-crime-prosecutors-quiz-kosovo-president-thaci/>
24. July 22, 2020: Kosovo Court Ruling Pushes Telecom Closer to Bankruptcy <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/07/22/kosovo-court-ruling-pushes-telecom-closer-to-bankruptcy/>
25. July 23, 2020: Hague Prosecutors Summon North Macedonia's Albanian Leader <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/07/23/hague-prosecutors-summon-north-macedonias-albanian-leader/>
26. July 30, 2020: Kosovo Ambassador to North Macedonia Questioned by Specialist Prosecutor <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/07/30/kosovo-ambassador-to-north-macedonia-questioned-by-specialist-prosecutor/>
27. August 14, 2020: Kosovo Police Criticised for Stopping State TV Crew from Filming <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/08/14/kosovo-police-criticised-for-stopping-state-tv-crew-from-filming/>
28. September 3, 2020: Hague War Crime Prosecutors Call Kosovo Ex-PM for Questioning <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/09/03/hague-war-crime-prosecutors-call-kosovo-ex-pm-for-questioning/>
29. September 11, 2020: Albania, Kosovo Federations Form United Basketball League <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/09/11/albania-kosovo-federations-form-united-basketball-league/>
30. September 14, 2020: Kosovo President Thaci Hires US Diplomat as Consultant <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/09/14/kosovo-president-thaci-hires-us-diplomat-as-consultant/>
31. September 24, 2020: Hague Prosecutors Arrest First Kosovo War Crime Suspect <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/09/24/hague-prosecutors-arrest-first-kosovo-war-crime-suspect/>
32. October 1, 2020 Kosovo Indicts Pro-Iranian Radical for Inciting Terrorism <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/10/01/kosovo-indicts-pro-iranian-radical-for-inciting-terrorism/>
33. October 27, 2020: Kosovo Spends €2.5 Million Paying Non-Working Serb Employees <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/10/27/kosovo-spends-e2-5-million-paying-non-working-serb-employees/>
34. October 16, 2020: Brussels Vows to Settle Kosovo Serb Municipal Association's Status <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/10/16/brussels-vows-to-settle-kosovo-serb-municipal-associations-status/>
35. October 28, 2020: Kosovo Political Activist 'Misled Authorities' to Get Media Commission Job <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/10/28/kosovo-political-activist-misled-authorities-to-get-media-commission-job/>
36. November 11, 2020: Lockdown Has Increased Terrorist Risk to Kosovo, Experts Warn <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/11/11/lockdown-has-increased-terrorist-risk-to-kosovo-experts-warn/>
37. November 27, 2020: Kosovo Minister – Only Special Court Can Deliver Murdered Father Justice <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/11/27/besian-mustafa-our-familys-last-hope-lies-with-the-special-court/>
38. December 3, 2020: Families of Kosovo Massacre Victims Protest Against Reduction of Sentence <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/12/03/families-of-kosovo-massacre-victims-protest-against-reduction-of-sentence/>
39. December 15, 2020: Kosovo Politicians Divided Over How to Choose Next President <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/12/15/kosovo-politicians-divided-over-how-to-choose-next-president/>
40. December 18, 2020: Kosovo Fires Intelligence Chief Over 'Raid on President's Safe' <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/12/18/kosovo-fires-intelligence-chief-over-raid-on-presidents-safe/>
41. December 23, 2020 Kosovo Opera and Ballet Law Dances Around Hall Issue <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/12/23/kosovo-opera-and-ballet-law-dances-around-hall-issue/>
42. December 28, 2020: Kosovo Protests 'Illegal' Arrival of COVID-19 Vaccines in North <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/12/28/kosovo-protests-illegal-arrival-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-north/>
43. December 29, 2020: Serbia Accused of Playing Politics by Sending Vaccines to Kosovo <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/12/29/serbia-accused-of-playing-politics-by-sending-vaccines-to-kosovo/>

## ANNEX 2: MONITORING & ADVOCACY

March 3, 2020 – “The Deputy Director of TAK hides connections with businesses”: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/zevendesdrejtori-i-atk-se-fsheh-lidhjet-me-biznese/>

March 28, 2020 – “Former candidate for Vetëvendosje MP appointed a member of the board of HUCSK”: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/ish-kandidati-per-deputet-i-vetevendosjes-emerohet-anetar-bordi-i-shskuk-se/>

April 1, 2020 – “Glauk Konjufca fires Migjen Kelmendi’s daughter, says she was appointed without undergoing procedures”: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/glauk-konjufca-largon-nga-puna-vajzen-e-migjen-kelmendit-thote-se-ishte-emeluar-pa-iu-nenshtruar-procedurave/>

April 2, 2020 – “Kurti government dismisses the board at Kosovo Post”: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/qeveria-kurti-e-shkarkon-bordin-e-postes/>

April 23, 2020 – “Kurti government dismisses the KEK Board”: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/qeveria-kurti-shkarkon-bordin-e-kek-ut/>

April 24, 2020 – “Kurti Government Board dismisses Hashim Thaçi’s cousin”: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/bordi-i-qeverise-kurti-shkarkon-kusheririn-e-hashim-thacit/>

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June 23, 2020 – “Following KALLXO.com’s reporting, TAK sends Deputy Director General to Anti Corruption Agency”: <https://kallxo.com/impakti/pas-raportimit-te-kallxo-com-atk-e-dergon-zv-drejtorin-e-pergjithshem-ne-anti-korrupsion/>

July 7, 2020 – “Competition for the management board at Trepça is contested”: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/kontestohet-konkursi-per-bordin-menaxhues-ne-trepce-video/>

July 9, 2020 – “Troubled competition, ‘secret’ assessment for KOSTT board candidates”: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/konkursi-me-probleme-vleresimi-sekret-per-kandidatet-per-bord-te-kostt-it/>

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July 16, 2020 – “Labor Inspectorate cancels competition for Trepça management board”: <https://kallxo.com/punesimet/inspektorati-i-punes-anulon-konkursin-ne-trepce/>

July 17, 2020 – “KALLXO.com reporting leads to over 200,000 euros in fines for businesses within two years”: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/raportimet-ne-kallxo-com-rezultojne-me-mbi-200-mije-euro-gjoha-per-bizneset-brenda-dy-viteve/>

August 31, 2020 – “Senior TAK official does not declare businesses”: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/hulumtim/zyrtari-i-larte-i-atk-se-nuk-i-deklaron-bizneset/>

September 9, 2020 – “Following reporting by KALLXO.com, the NAO finds a number of irregularities in recruitment of tax inspectors at TAK”: <https://kallxo.com/impakti/pas-raportimit-te-kallxo-com-zka-gjen-nje-mori-parregullish-ne-konkursin-e-atk-se-per-inspektor-tatimor/>

September 21, 2020 – “Following KALLXO.com reporting, TAK sends an official to the Anti-Corruption Agency”: <https://kallxo.com/dosja/deklarimet-e-pasurise/pas-raportimit-te-kallxo-com-atk-e-dergon-ne-anti-korrupsion-zyrtarin-e-saj/>

October 9, 2020 – “The Karacheva file”: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/live-dosja-e-karaceves/>

October 12, 2020 – “ERO terminates the incentive tariff scheme after the decision of the State Aid Commission”: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/zrre-nderpret-aplikimin-e-skemes-per-tarifa-nxitesese-pas-vendimit-te-komisionit-te-ndihmes-shteterore/>

November 19, 2020 – “Following KALLXO.com’s reporting, TAK punishes an inspector”: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/pas-raportimit-te-kallxo-com-atk-e-ndeshkon-nje-inspektor/>

November 26, 2020 – “State Aid Commission abrogates ERO decision which benefited Blerim Devoll’s businesses”: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/komisioni-i-ndihmes-shteterore-shfuqizon-vendimin-e-zrre-se-nga-i-cili-perfitonin-bizneset-e-blerim-devollit/>



## ANNEX 3: LIFE IN KOSOVO

January 9, 2020: Interview with Xhemile and Avni Dehari and Bardhyl Mahmuti <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trF311wbamo>

January 16, 2020: Kosovo's foreign policy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3vuf5dWOPQ>

January 23, 2020: Interview with Jetlir Zyberaj <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLJfa5mFjyY>

January 30, 2020: Accreditation scams <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=j40A3cGLVnc&t=3670s>

February 13, 2020: Women in government: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHmU5g84sBs>

February 20, 2020: Freedom of expression <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tepwP9JULm8>

February 27, 2020: Fixed job vacancy at Trepca [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ztg1Ot\\_SLQE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ztg1Ot_SLQE)

March 5, 2020: Fear of the Presidency and Interview with Minister of European Integration Blerim Reka

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAeuXMPBd9k>

March 12, 2020: Do we have a place to recover? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klSQ0tWmqMs>

March 13, 2020: Local Elections in Podujeva 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szricvNOoGE>

March 19, 2020: The Government and the Crisis, Interview with Daniel Serwer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81i6Bw7y-YY>

March 26, 2020: Poor even in the face of the virus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a15joXxuhls>

April 2, 2020: Business in the time of a pandemic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3EhtlSEChU>

April 9, 2020: Interview with James Pardew & Education during the pandemic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzFQnHuUHts>

April 16, 2020: Innovation and creativity during the pandemic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKcVB74Tys8>

April 23, 2020: Interview with Albin Kurti <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fhAlpUUVuc>

April 30, 2020: Monopoly over Sunlight - ERO and Devolli <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sblrzp1MJ8&t=3s>

May 7, 2020: Bargaining over War Crimes? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZjDAUNuNKY>

May 14, 2020: Why are we not finding them? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-mAAabzVCs>

May 21, 2020: Interview: Besnik Bislimi and the Return of the American Lobby <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6NXZ5TrrTE>

May 28, 2020: Justice during the Pandemic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ammcJiXTekA>

June 4, 2020: The Environmental Pandemic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvMmPKedqU>

June 11, 2020: Interview with Vjosa Osmani and Racism in Kosovo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctX1mMX-SWE>

September 5, 2020: Interview with Dritan Abazovic <https://www.facebook.com/277557405658854/videos/2443618869269749>

September 18, 2020: Interview with Arban Abrashi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTtgra4veAw>

September 24, 2020: Interview with Zafir Berisha, <https://www.facebook.com/JetaNeKosove/videos/355241442287728>

October 1, 2020: Interview with Naim Qelaj <https://www.facebook.com/JetaNeKosove/videos/1361059064091891>

## ANNEX 4: JUSTICE IN KOSOVO

January 10, 2020 – Interview with Drita Hajdari: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyZKKO-eDw0>

January 17, 2020 – The City of Usury: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6MIAnLJFDBc>

January 24, 2020 – Murder file in Skenderaj <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X18D2kg-j-l>

January 31, 2020 – Murder file in Skenderaj (part two): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dryQNRPI2Xw>

February 7, 2020 – The Murder Mystery [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HU3YFQMBM\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HU3YFQMBM_w)

February 14, 2020 – The Employment Confession <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrvqUUKBH58>

February 21, 2020 – Psychological Problems in the Police <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkKRCcBN2I8>

March 28, 2020 – Smuggling Children to Italy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9wzoDFcvVM>

March 6, 2020 – Weakened file for the strong PDK <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo9Rkld0qJg>

March 20, 2020 – Fight against Covid-19 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozjnrNyJHts>

March 27, 2020 – The Virus in Justice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUvIkaylobk>

April 3, 2020 – Virus in Prisons: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNT1y-tl6H8>

April 10, 2020 – Unjustified Expense Files <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKe3KkaAqdg>

April 17, 2020 – Kamenica's black spot <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMsY-2Y6GoA>

April 24, 2020 – Employees working without contracts <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdwckAMO9S0&t=278s>

May 1, 2020 – Return to Quarantine <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADe6qLnXF3M&t=1145s>

May 8, 2020 – Death in Quarantine <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7o8V2gmpfJO>

May 15, 2020 – Theft under the asphalt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYr8NNi3fBY>

May 22, 2020 – Battle for property <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JoALrXxfu0&t=2602s>

May 29, 2020 – Environmental crime <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjt-tQxPzMI>

June 5, 2020 – Tax Avoidance by Bus Companies <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWXmqkFE7aA&t=2s>

June 12, 2020 – Financial Bleeding [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nw4NN\\_TJNK4&t=590s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nw4NN_TJNK4&t=590s)

October 2, 2020: Involvement of Police In Betting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2XblJA0h34>

October 9, 2020: Crime in Karaceva <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTBDS-fHyGE>

October 16, 2020: Crime in Karaceva (Part two) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tm5uZakQQ5g&t=1s>

October 23, 2020: Tax Avoidance by Mobile Shops <https://video.gjirafa.com/skema-e-shmangies-tatimore-nga-mobil-shop-et>

## ANNEX 5: GAZETA JETA NË KOSOVË

January 1, 2020: Kosovo's facing a silent killer: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/perballja-e-kosoves-me-vrasesin-e-heshtur/>

February 2, 2020: Pal Lekaj's 'aksham-Pazar' plan initiates a 110 million euro tender: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/aksham-pazari-i-pal-lekajt-inicion-tender-110-milionesh/>

February 4, 2020: Government work promoted in online media: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/hulumtim/reklamimi-i-punes-se-qeverise-ne-mediat-online/>

February 6, 2020: KEDS privatization prevents the liberalization of energy market: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/hulumtim/privatizimi-i-keds-it-pamundeson-liberalizimin-real-te-tregut-te-energji-se/>

March 19, 2020: Political crisis in a pandemic: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/krize-politike-ne-kohe-pandemie/>

May 13, 2020: Border correction, an option that continuously derails the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/korrigjimi-i-kufirit-nje-opsion-qe-po-e-shkund-vazhdimisht-dialogun-kosove-serbi/>

May 20, 2020: Invisible investments in an ill healthcare system: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/investimet-e-padukshme-ne-shendetesine-e-semure/>

May 28, 2020: Taxpayers' money used to lobby for border correction between Kosovo and Serbia: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/parate-e-taksapaguesve-u-perdoren-per-te-lobuar-per-ndryshim-te-kufijve/>

June 9, 2020: New evidence of lobbying for border correction with taxpayers' money

<https://kallxo.com/gjate/deshmi-te-reja-rreth-lobimit-me-para-te-buxhetit-per-copetim-te-territorit>

June 11, 2020: Internet and IPTV "privatization", Telecom let go 60% of its income to a private company: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/privatizimi-i-internetit-dhe-i-iptv-se-telekomi-i-jep-60-te-te-hyrave-kompanise-private/>

July 26, 2020: Kosovo, never as separated as when working with the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue team: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/kosova-me-e-ndare-se-kurre-lidhur-me-ekipin-e-dialogut/>

September 8, 2020: Serbia's entrance into Kosovo's territory through the Ujman Lake: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/analize/futja-e-serbise-ne-territorin-e-kosoves-permes-liqenit-te-ujmanit/>

October 15, 2020: The company awarded 29 public contracts in the Municipality of Drenas: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/kompania-qe-fitoi-29-kontrata-ne-komunen-e-drenasit/>

November 16, 2020: The state's weakness on environmental degradation: <https://kallxo.com/gjate/pafuqia-e-shtetit-ndaj-degradimit-mjedisor/>

## ANNEX 6: KRYPOMETËR

January 1, 2020: The unending lies on health insurance: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/rrena-pa-epilog-per-sigurimet-shendetesore/>

January 22, 2020: Ferizaj still has no shelter for stray dogs: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/ferizaj-ende-pa-strehimore-te-qenve-endacake/>

January 30, 2020: The 72 hours that became 1,560 hours: The 'failed' attempts to reach the LVV-LDK coalition: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/72-oret-qe-u-bene-1560-ore-perpjekjet-e-deshtuara-per-arritjen-e-koalicionit-lvv-ldk/>

February 8, 2020: The Municipality of Skenderaj's lies about public lighting: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/rrena-e-komunes-se-skenderajt-per-ndricimin-publik/>

February 19, 2020: Shpend Ahmeti's lie about speed cameras in the capital: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/rrena-e-shpend-ahmetit-per-kamerat-e-trafikut-ne-kryeqytet/>

February 22, 2020: The mess over Kosovo's recognition by Jamaica: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/tollovia-me-njohjen-nga-xhamajka/>

April 21, 2020: Hashim Thaçi's lie on KOSTT's membership in ENTSO-E: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/rrena-e-thacit-per-anetaresimin-e-kostt-it-ne-entso-e/>

June 3, 2020: LDK lie about a government with 12 ministries: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/rrena-e-ldk-se-per-qeverime-12-ministri/>

June 19, 2020: Crocodile tears of Gazmend Muhaxheri: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/rrena-me-lot-e-gazmend-muhaxherit/>

June 29, 2020: 27 days of Hoti government, mass testing already promised <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/27-dite-te-qeverise-hoti-testet-masive-vec-premtim/>

July 10, 2020: The lie that COVID-19 escapes high temperatures <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/rrena-se-covid-19-largohet-nga-temperaturat-e-larta/>

July 27, 2020: False news about MP Ganimete Musliu being infected with COVID-19 <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/lajmet-e-rreme-per-infektimin-me-covid-19-te-deputetes-ganimete-musliu/>

August 28, 2020: Empty promise to increase the number of tests for COVID-19: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/premtimi-bosh-per-rritjen-e-numrit-te-testimeve-per-covid-19/>

November 10, 2020: The mayor of Junik changes his words about the bus station: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/kryetari-i-junikut-nderron-fjalet-per-stacionin-e-autobuseve/>

November 12, 2020: Blerim Kuçi's lie about issuing environmental permits for KelKos: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/rrena-e-blerim-kucit-per-dhenien-e-lejeve-mjedisore-per-kelkos-in/>

November 28, 2020: The lie that COVID-19 is being caused by a bacterium: <https://kallxo.com/krypometer/rrena-se-covid-19-po-shkaktohet-nga-nje-bakterie/>

## ANNEX 7: PRISHTINA INSIGHT

1. February 8, 2020 – Record number of women in government 'inspirational': <https://prishtinainsight.com/record-number-of-women-in-government-inspirational/>
2. May 28, 2020 – Border changes promoted with taxpayer money: <https://prishtinainsight.com/border-changes-promoted-with-taxpayer-money/>
3. June 9, 2020 – More land swap lobbying uncovered: <https://prishtinainsight.com/more-land-swap-lobbying-uncovered/>
4. June 2, 2020 – Unclean energy: <https://prishtinainsight.com/unclean-energy-the-kosovar-who-would-own-the-sun-mag/>
5. February 14, 2020 – Kosovo's childhood is over, let the teenage years begin: <https://prishtinainsight.com/kosovos-childhood-is-over-let-the-teenage-years-begin/>
6. January 15, 2020 – 100 days of nonsense: <https://prishtinainsight.com/100-days-of-nonsense/>
7. April 24, 2020 – This America is no friend to Kosovo: <https://prishtinainsight.com/this-america-is-no-friend-to-kosovo/>
8. April 4, 2020 – Kosovo's most exclusive neighbourhoods: <https://prishtinainsight.com/kosovos-most-exclusive-neighbourhoods-mag/>
9. June 17, 2020 – The signing ceremony is on: <https://prishtinainsight.com/the-signing-ceremony-is-on/>
10. November 13, 2020 – Kosovo wartime leaders' indictment is inaccurate and biased: <https://prishtinainsight.com/kosovo-wartime-leaders-indictment-is-inaccurate-and-biased/>

