



Contents

03

BIRN Kosovo's mission

33

Media Production

04

Method and Approach

44

Monitoring and Advocating

05

Operations

46

Training and Media Development

06

Diary of impact from BIRN stories

50

Awards

12

BIRN Kosovo - map of operations

51

Partners & Donors

18

Elections

52

Funding in 2017

28

TV Production

55

Acknowledgements

board members and staff

BIRN Regional Board Members

Ana Petruševa
Country Director, Macedonia

Per Byman
Secretary-General, Radiohjälp, Sweden

Robert Bierman
Senior Executive with New York Media Company

Stefan Lehne
Visiting Scholar at Carnegie Europe

Steve Crawshaw
Secretary General, Amnesty International

Tim Judah
Journalist, The Economist

Wolfgang Petritsch
Chair, Board of the European Cultural Foundation

BIRN Kosovo Assembly of Members

Jehona Gjurgjeala
Executive Director of TOKA

Astrit Istrefi
Executive Director, the Balkan Forum

Jeta Xharra
Founding member

Kreshnik Gashi
Investigative journalist, Internews Kosova

Syzana Firza Puka
Founding member

BIRN KOSOVO STAFF

Afërdita Krasniqi
Project Manager

Artrit Bytyçi
Journalist

Durim Shala
Cameraman / Video Editor

Afërdita Fejzullahu
Intern Journalist

Astrit Perani
Cameraman / Video Editor

Erjonë Popova
Journalist

Agita Muhadri
Intern Monitor

Bahrie Sadiku
Intern Monitor

Ermal Gashi
Cameraman / Video Editor

Albulena Sadiku
Senior Program Manager

Behar Mustafa
Monitoring / Researcher

Faith Bailey
Journalist and Editor at Prishtina Insight

Amire Qamili
Journalist

Bekim Muhaxheri
News Editor

Faith Bailey
Journalist and Editor at Prishtina Insight

Arbër Kadriu
Legal Officer / Researcher

Blerta Iberdemaj
Intern Monitor

Florina Ujupi
Monitor of Public Services

Ardit Kika
Intern Researcher

Deniz Sllavinja
Cameraman / Video Editor

Genc Kadriu
Intern Monitor

Arian Hyseni
IT Manager/ IT Coordinator

Dhurata Ramoja
Intern Monitor

Hysen Gara
Stage Technician

Arita Gërxfhalu
Intern Monitor

Dorentina Kastrati
Intern Journalist

Jeta Xharra
Executive Director / Moderator

Jeton Ispahiu
MCR Producer/ Video Editing

Kaltrina Hoxha
Project Manager

Kaltrina Rexhepi
Journalist / Researcher

Kastriot Berisha
Intern Monitor

Labinot Leposhtica
Monitor of Public Services

Lekë Muqaj
Monitor of Public Services

Lum Ademi
Finance Manager

Lura Limani
Managing Editor

Naser Sertolli
Journalist / News Editor

Nita Prekazi
Project Assistant

Paulina Nushi
Journalist

Përparim Isufi
News Editor / Journalist

Petrit Kryeziu
Coordinator of Court Monitoring Staff
and Legal Office

Plator Gashi
Junior Researcher

Ramize Hyseni
Administrative Assistant

Rrahman Ramaj
Monitor of Public Services

Shkodran Nikçi
Journalist

Syzana Firza-Puka
Finance Officer

Vesa Dinarama
Project Coordinator

Visar Prebreza
Managing Editor

Vjollca Duraku
Intern Journalist

INTERNEWS STAFF

Adea Kondirolli
Project Coordinator

Adelina Ahmeti
Junior Journalist

Albion Bellopoja
IT Assistant

Albert Spahiu
Intern Journalist

Arbër Cakolli
Cameraman / Video Editor

Basri Shala
Production Assistant

Doruntina Baliu
Junior Journalist

Faik Ispahiu
Executive Director / TV Director

Fatlum Hasani
Cameraman / Video Editor

Fatrion Ibrahim
Cameraman / Video Editor

Granit Mavriqi
Junior Graphic Designer /
2D / 3D Video Editor

Jeta Loshaj
Project Assistant

Kreshnik Gashi
Managing Editor /
Moderator and Journalist

Naim Krasniqi
Journalist / Researcher

Naser Fejza
Cameraman / Video Editor

Qëndresë Mustafa
Journalist / Researcher

Shqipron Halimi
MCR Producer Assistant /
Cameraman and Video Editor

Sidki Ibrahim
2D-3D Graphic Designer

Taulant Osmani
Journalist

Valdet Salihu
Producer / Cameraman & Video Editor

Yllka Hoxha
HR, Finance and Administration Officer



As an independent, non-governmental organization, BIRN Kosovo exists to provide momentum to the democratic transition in Kosovo by promoting accountability, rule of law and policy reform.

BIRN Kosovo's mission

As an independent, non-governmental organization, BIRN Kosovo exists to provide momentum to the democratic transition in Kosovo by promoting accountability, rule of law, and policy reform.

BIRN Kosovo's vision

BIRN Kosovo's vision is to secure its position as the premier Kosovo investigative and analytical journalism organization, addressing the need for objective, quality, and sustainable reporting on the country's many challenges in the arena of politics, economics and European Union integration.

BIRN Kosovo, in particular aims to be the watchdog of public institutions, supporting their reform and their path towards meeting the criteria and standards of the European Union.

In addition, through the production of fair, balanced and accurate TV debates and training of youth on argumentation and debating skills, BIRN Kosovo aims to promote and encourage a culture of debate in Kosovo.

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 the production of high-quality investigative and analytical reporting.

BIRN Kosovo now fields a team of around 38 full-time professionals as well as 16 local and international contributors that work in the development and implementation of on-going programs.

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

BIRN KOSOVO

Methods and Approach

Journalism that acts as a watchdog

All of BIRN Kosovo's outputs have an underlying objective in common – keeping the powerful accountable. Whether we do this with hard-hitting interviews, public TV debates, in-depth online and printed investigations—all of which aim to hold leaders accountable and unveil corruption; our philosophy is to build a culture of media oversight in Kosovo using methods of investigative and watchdog journalism.

Journalism through Fieldwork

BIRN Kosovo's team incorporates 38 staff and contributors ranging from investigative journalists, civil society activists, researchers and professional court monitors, covering all municipalities in Kosovo. Our court and public services monitors and journalists cover 27 Kosovo towns. BIRN Kosovo is the only media outlet in the country that does systematic municipal and electoral debates, offering citizens the opportunity to question their leaders, and reporting from 35 Kosovo towns. Reports through e-mails, phone calls and daily walk-in visits from citizens, are the most powerful sources of information, on which the majority of BIRN Kosovo investigations are based. It is our belief that the most accurate way to interpret realities in the ground is by working closely with the citizens who are first-hand touched by specific sociopolitical and socioeconomic matters in Kosovo. BIRN Kosovo's impact in the society has been possible due to the trust that citizens have built on our work.

Engaged Journalism

Effective journalism does not only produce reports but it also influences change. We believe it is not enough to report on corruption or vote rigging if other institutions do not use our reporting to take action. To resist the indifference and impotence of local institutions to act on matters that we report, we have established a team of legal professionals who file cases for prosecution, cases armed with evidence collected through our investigative reporters and court monitors in the field. Considering that effective journalism is also based on cooperation with state institutions, BIRN Kosovo has established a strong network with state institutions that share our mission to improve the life in Kosovo. In addition,

our staff is also trained in election monitoring. This is all part of our philosophy that goes beyond reporting and what we call engaged journalism that shapes the public opinion on the kind of state they want Kosovo to become. BIRN Kosovo affects change through the high credibility of its media outlets. *Life in Kosovo* televised programme reached: 97,559 Webpage Viewers; 76,872 Webpage Unique Page Viewers; 12,428,361 YouTube Watch Time viewers; and 1,259,076 YouTube viewers. *Justice in Kosovo* televised programme reached 203,237 Webpage viewers; 176,360 Web Unique Page Viewers; 26,196,393 YouTube Watch Time Viewers; and 5,647,942 YouTube Viewers. The anti-corruption platform *KALLXO.com* reached 13,007,157 Webpage Viewers, 10,261,141 Web Unique Page Viewers; 22,341,144 YouTube Watch Time Viewers; and 8,452,926 YouTube Viewers. In total of all BIRN Kosovo media outlets, including here *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë*, equals 14,599,597 Webpage Viewers and 11,554,110 Web Unique Page viewers, with *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* having: 1,291,644 Webpage Viewers and 1,039,737 Web Unique Page Viewers. These being the latest updates for the report of 2017, while the viewership on all of our media outlets changes and experiences a great increase every day. BIRN Kosovo's methods of professional reporting, debate, and in-depth analysis are envisaged to incentivize critical and active analysis of situations and matters that need adjustment, without hurting the accuracy, fairness, and balance of stories covered.

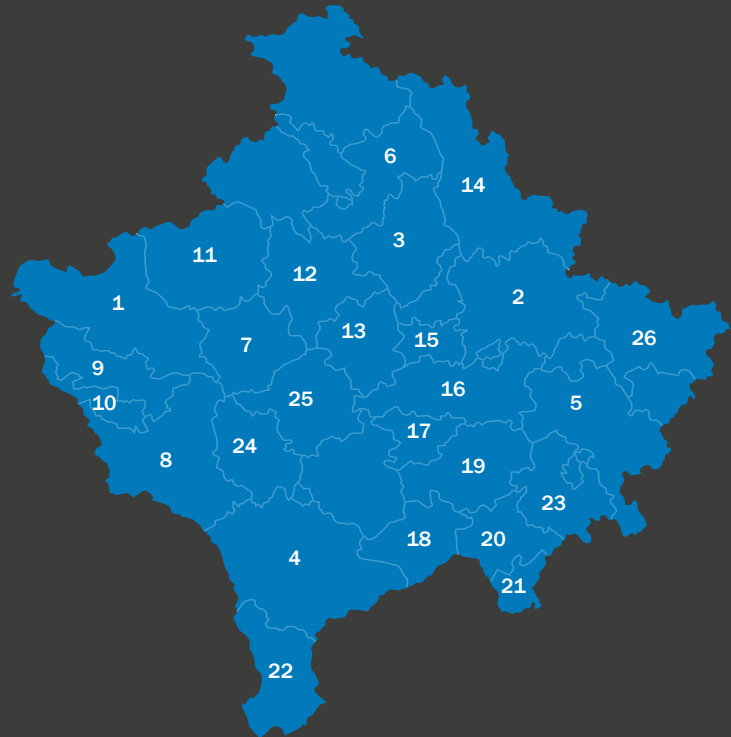
Journalism that trains for excellence

Since it was set up in 2005, BIRN Kosovo, in close partnership with Internews Kosova and BIRN Hub, has trained more than 1000 journalists, court monitors, researchers, civil society activists, and officials of public institutions in Kosovo. This is done through on-the-job training and workshops on news and investigative reporting, TV production, document based research and court and public service monitoring. Our training is inclusive of ethnicities and minorities living throughout the country. Having the youngest and least educated population in Europe, BIRN Kosovo believes that building journalism and media capacities is crucial for our country. BIRN Kosovo is a hub for innovation, creativity and high quality journalism, which has cemented our position as a trendsetter in Kosovo's media landscape.

BIRN KOSOVO

Operations

Location covered by Monitors of Court and Municipal Services



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 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 Gjiilan
(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 Kosovo is proud to announce the impacts it achieved during the year of 2017. These impacts demonstrate our strong cooperation with Kosovo institutions, and have been awarded with prestigious prizes by various authorities. Below are some of the impacts that received the most attention during this reporting period:

JAN
2017

The Head of Education at the Municipality of Drenas was dismissed from his position due to the falsified grades at the school he was running. This measure took place after he was denounced through the televised programme *Life in Kosovo*, and based on reports from BIRN Kosovo and its partner Internews Kosova.

BIRN Kosovo reported on an online-news portal called *Arbresh.info*. A citizen submitted a report at *KALLXO.com* pointing out serious violations against the employees of this portal¹. Hence, the platform team investigated on this issue and submitted the case to the Labor Inspectorate. As a result, the given Inspectorate responded to BIRN Kosovo's address and confirmed that the reports stand true.

FEB
2017

MAR
2017

On March 2017, *Life in Kosovo* televised programme revealed the story of Rozafa Koliqi- through a series of televised episodes on education - a woman who collected sufficient information to prove to the justice authorities, that her employment was mishandled by the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Prishtina.² The complaints were sent to the Kosovo Police at the Department for Economic Crimes Investigation. As a result, the Kosovo Police interviewed the rector of the University of Prishtina, Marjan Dema, and information on this case is still being collected.³ During this reporting period, BIRN Kosovo's outlet *KALLXO.com* received many reports related to education and particularly the University of Prishtina.

On March 2017, after receiving a report on a patient left paralyzed due to inadequate treatment by public and private hospitals in Kosovo, the *Life in Kosovo* programme team initiated an investigation. This case was immediately addressed by justice institutions, and the Health Inspectorate suspended the license of this private hospital.

1. <http://kallxo.com/portali-rrahim-pacollit-shkel-ligjin-e-punes/>

2. <https://mjekesia.uni-pr.edu/>

3. <http://kallxo.com/sekretari-se-merret-ne-pyetje-nga-policia/>

MAY
2017

On May 8th, 2017, BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova marked a decade of monitoring Kosovo's judicial system with the publication of the Court Monitoring Report 2016. This project is now on its tenth year of implementation and each year it continues to provide an overview of the situation in the justice system in Kosovo. This includes recommendations on raising the level of transparency and accountability at all levels of the system. The effect of these reports is measured and noted by the use of its recommendations by the people at the helm of the justice system in the country.

On May 5th, 2017, the European Union Office in Kosovo honored BIRN Kosovo's televised programme *Life in Kosovo* and the anti-corruption platform *KALLXO.com*, with the second prize for investigative journalism. BIRN Kosovo's Organized Tax Theft survey found that over 300 Kosovar businesses were involved in a tax evasion scheme through the use of phantom companies.

On June 23rd, BIRN Kosovo reported on the impacts of the death of Kosovo ISIS leader, Lavdrim Muhaxheri. *KALLXO.com* team followed how Muhaxheri's death was manifested in his hometown, Kacanik. Given that Muhaxheri was a radicalized foreign fighter in Syria, perceptions on his death were closely followed by BIRN Kosovo. On the day of his assassination, Florim Neziraj, head of the Islamic Union of Kosovo (BIK) in Kacanik, announced Muhaxheri's death from the mosque (a common death announcement in town). Given that Muhaxheri was an ISIS terrorist, BIRN Kosovo evaluated that the death announcement by BIK was unethical. *KALLXO.com* reported on this matter that resulted with the dismissal of Florim Neziraj from his duty as head of BIK in Kacanik, for failing to obtain approval from Central Kosovo BIK.⁴

JUN
2017

As a result of the dismissal of the Kosovo government in May, the country held its Parliamentary Elections on June 11th. The elections were constantly monitored by both, BIRN Kosovo and its partner Internews Kosova. Political campaigns of the running parties included breaches by representatives, such as the social media promotion of the campaigns during Elections Silence Day and Elections Day, posting of campaign related posters closer than 100 meters to the voting center, among others. All these cases were evidenced by BIRN Kosovo and reported to the Election Complaint and Appeal Panel. The complaints were approved and the political parties were fined with sums starting from EUR 300, up to EUR 2,500, reaching a total of EUR 6,200. The political parties that received fines were the following, the PAN (PDK-AAK-Nisma) coalition, and the LAA (LDK-AKR-Alternativa) coalition.

On June 11th, *KALLXO.com* reported on the readiness of the Kosovo Police to verify the attendance and credibility of monitoring inactive NGOs during the parliamentary elections. Ten members of the following NGOs: Regional and Political Studies were sent to the Kosovo Police for investigation. Both of these NGOs were found ineligible for monitoring. This was as a result of BIRN Kosovo's reporting on the attendance of PAN coalition members in the monitoring process.

On June 6, outlets of BIRN Kosovo published an impact-report on the Serbian List candidates who published a video that revealed and spread negative/hate messages against the formation of the Army for Kosovo. These messages, on the time of the election campaigns, were threatening Kosovo's sovereignty by speech, and by presenting a map where Kosovo shows to be a part of Serbia. According to the law on elections, spreading hate speech that in any way provokes or urges hatred that can have influence on elections is forbidden.

On June 2017, BIRN Kosovo organized 10 pre-election debates for the 2017 parliamentary elections, moderated by the latter, and broadcasted on RTV 21. 2017 Electoral debates for parliamentary elections in Kosovo, on BIRN Kosovo media channels, Facebook (1,236,992 views) and YouTube (669,865 views) reached a visibility of 1,906,857 people, during and after live streaming.

4. <http://kallxo.com/njoftimi-per-lavdrim-muhaxherin-shkarkohet-kryetari-bik-ne-kacanik/>

JUL
2017

On July, 2017, two weeks after *KALLXO.com* published an article explaining the dissatisfaction of citizens with regards to a road that leads to Rugova (mountain region in the city of Peja), and after having contacted the responsible construction officials, action was taken and the road got repaired.

On July, 2017, *KALLXO.com* reported on the Mayor of the Municipality of Istog, Haki Rugova, who showed to be a shareholder in a construction company called *Macon*. Tenders were extended to this company despite the direct conflict of interests. However, after the publishing of BIRN Kosovo's investigation, Rugova changed his wealth declaration and was no longer seen as a stakeholder in the company.

On September 2017, within the framework of an initiative supported by USAID's Kosovo Justice Sector Enhancement Program, BIRN Kosovo worked closely with the basic courts. Working with these courts in Prishtina and Gjiilan, BIRN Kosovo informed the public on court activities, and the use of social media to increase public reach.

On September 4th, Internews Kosova, through its programme *Life in Kosovo*, investigated the director of inspection in Prizren, Bujar Hasani, and a person with the initials E.B. These two individuals were accused for abusing their official authority, as well as for illegal usurpation of real estate. After *KALLXO.com* reported on this case, the Department for Serious Crimes in the Prosecution of Prizren issued an indictment for Hasani and E.B.

On September 21st, through its weekly programme *Justice in Kosovo*, BIRN Kosovo reported on a judge from Strpce, Adem Shabani, who along with a prosecutor had had lunch with a sentenced person. Shabani's salary was decreased by 30%.⁵

SEP
2017

OCT
2017

During the October 22nd local election campaigns, BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova showed several breaches during the political activities held by mayor candidates. Only within the first round of elections on October 22nd, and the run-offs on November 19th, 111 complaints were sent to ECAP in total. Out of the total number of complaints, 6 received responses and 28 resulted in impacts, namely, fines for the political entities. The majority were cases when persons under the age of 18 were seen participating in political activities. Pictures of these activities were found on social media, such as the candidate's Facebook pages. Other incidents categorized as breaches by ECAP, were the use of public spaces to host political gatherings. BIRN Kosovo's legal team collected such breaches and together with the supporting evidence submitted the complaints to the Election Complaint and Appeal Panel (ECAP). ECAP acknowledged BIRN Kosovo's requests as truthful, and the approximate amount of money collected by fines for political parties was around 133, 000 EUR. The purpose of these submissions by BIRN Kosovo and its partner Internews Kosova is twofold: first, to avoid having children be influenced by politics, and, second, to promote a democratic and ethical political campaign.

On October 22nd, *KALLXO.com* reported on the members of the political party PDK for efforts to buy votes from citizens in the municipality of Fushë-Kosova. Basic Prosecution in Prishtina requested the material evidence from BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova afterwards. Further, this evidence resulted in the arrest of two persons involved in this affair.

On October 20th, 2017, a journalistic story was published concerning raped women in the war of 1999 between Kosovo and Serbia. The article also discussed women's war for justice. This work won at the UNDP Kosovo and the Association of Kosovo Journalists (AGK) 2017 in Kosovo. The Kosovar journalist, Serbeze Haxhiaj, was honored for her story "The Continuing Agony of Rambling in Kosovo War," which was published on BIRN Kosovo's Balkan Insight website.

⁵. <http://kallxo.com/prokurori-e-gjyqtari-nen-hetime-pas-drekes-me-te-akuzuarin/>

NOV
2017

On November 11th, *KALLXO.com* wrote about Safete Tolaj, the judge from the Basic Court in the municipality of Decan, accused of bribery. BIRN Kosovo's televised product, *Justice in Kosovo*, had published reportage in two volumes evidencing her involvement in bribery.

On October 2017, an indictment was raised against her with the sentence "misuse of official duty and official authority." Tolaj declared her withdrawal from the position, which decision was approved by the Judicial Council on November 11.

After receiving a complaint from a citizen forced to pay a fee in filing a lawsuit, at *KALLXO.com*, the court decided to exempt them from paying the fee.

EULEX asked for evidence from BIRN Kosovo, in order to start the investigative procedure on a public official who had parked their vehicle on a green space. BIRN Kosovo managed to provide photographic evidence on this matter and person.

On December 4th, 2017, BIRN Kosovo reported on the case of Luan Kleçka, who was then sentenced with the charge of "misuse of official position or authority." Kleçka, was an employee in the Post of Kosovo, in the branch of the municipality of Rahovec. He was pleaded guilty in the court and was obliged to pay a particular fee within 30 days, otherwise sentenced with prison. The reason behind this decision was the accusation that Kleçka had received an envelope with the amount of 465.17 EUR-belonging to the Post of Kosovo- used for gambling.

DEC
2017



Aleksander LUMEZI
State Chief Prosecutor

"Justice in Kosovo identified many cases that served as sufficient indicators for the prosecution; communication between the Prosecution and *"Justice in Kosovo"* is needed to increase awareness and transparency among prosecutors".



Besim KELMENDI
Coordinator at the Chief Prosecutor's office

"*Justice in Kosovo* is one of the most trusted TV shows in Kosovo".

Media Production: Investigative Reporting, Analysis and Debate



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



Life in Kosovo televised programme started the year with a few discussions on phenomena crucial to the citizen's lives, such as flooding or the value of domestic products. Following its legacy, in cooperation with the Special Prosecution, the programme investigated issues on justice holding officials accountable for the misuse of their position. Issues of justice were preceded with those on corruption, where European Union ambassadors shared their experiences during their mandates in Kosovo. Marching against corruption, other interesting issues were revealed such as the scandals on the management of Tax Administration of Kosovo. Considering the political events of 2017, specifically the boycott of the parliament from the opposition, held the political system, processes, and culture as the spotlight of these two televised programmes. Within a great

number of political clashes, BIRN Kosovo's media outlets closely followed the territorial disputes being the main political unrest, particularly the border demarcation with the neighboring country Montenegro. *Life in Kosovo* also covered topics on the rise of religious extremism in Kosovo. Further, interviews were conducted with Prime Ministers on investigations on natural resources and their exploitations. Lastly, matters of the quality of health and education services were not left out, including here the discussion on Kosovo Correction Services. As well as, discussions and analyses on culture and sports, having under attention the state support to the Kosovo Olympic Committee.

The televised programme, *Justice in Kosovo*, focused on the weak coordination on the courts system in Kosovo. Examples included sentencing people to 30 years in prison and releasing them within 24 hours, followed by additional warrants issued for the same people. Another important issue on 2017 remained the denied rights of women on inheritance and property. Such is the case of Shyhrete Berisha from the municipality of Suhareka, who lost her family in 1999, and whose right to access property – the house where she lived with her family up to 1999- has been denied. Special attention was also paid to the judicial offices in the North of Mitrovica. These offices, first initiated by former PM of Kosovo Thaçi, and completed by PM Mustafa, were not being implemented, therefore, not functional. Another top investigation was the *Secret Files* that ended up as Seed Holders. This case revealed that the prosecutor papers were not very well taken care of, since after being thrown in the dumpsters, they had been used to fold nuts sold in the streets. The issue on properties was broadcasted in two (2) shows as it pointed out the people who own illegal properties. The Privatization Agency of Kosovo took fourteen years to publish the list of names of these persons. Last but not least, of high importance stands the permission given by EULEX to follow the raids they had conducted against criminal records of local Kosovo MPs such as that of Azem Syla. Investigations showed that there were eight thousand people wrongly sentenced to jail, and revealed corruption in the judiciary with one prosecutor caught having lunch with the defendant.

WEB: KALLXO.com, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë, Prishtina Insight, Kosovo contribution to Balkan Insight and Balkan Transitional Justice



KALLXO.com is BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova's fastest-growing product. It is a platform for reporting corruption, irregularities in public services, and fraud among others. Initially, *KALLXO.com* received



and researched information from citizens' reports, but soon transformed into a bona fide source of information as a comprehensive news portal. It offers objective, unbiased and justified information. *KALLXO.com* also specializes in offering live streaming of protests and other events that occur in Kosovo.

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë (Life in Kosovo Online Newsmagazine) is BIRN Kosovo's outlet for extended stories and investigations. In 2016, Florina Ujupi won the second place for reporting on the job market and employment in Kosovo. The Kosovo Journalists Association and the EYE project gave the award to Ujupi. Kreshnik Gashi, Ivan Angelovski, Petrit Çollaku and Jelena Cosic won the 3rd place in the European Union Journalism in Serbia, for a story revealing how a multi-million-dollar road construction contract was quietly handed to a consortium with little highway-building experience and linked to controversial Serbian businessman Zvonko Veselinovic. The *Justice in Kosovo* televised programme won the award "The Best Television Story on Transparency and Anti-Corruption," a story composed by journalist Naim Krasniqi titled *The Wrong Lunch* related to wrongdoings by prosecutors from Kosovo Prosecutorial Council.

Prishtina Insight (PI) - After seven years in print, *Prishtina Insight* went online on February 2016. The reasoning behind this was to grant *Prishtina Insight* readers access to the best journalism from Kosovo, online, in English, and wherever they are.

Balkan Insight and Balkan Transitional Justice - BIRN Kosovo, as the member of Balkan family of BIRN, contributes with articles to Balkan Insight and Balkan Transitional Justice. In 2017, these mediums covered the most important events in the Balkans such as the elections in Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia and the failed coup attempt in Montenegro. Balkan Transitional Justice, on the other hand, carefully reported on the last trials of ICTY.



Ymer HOXHA

President of the Basic Court in Prizren

"*Justice in Kosovo* had a massive impact in the improvement of the justice system".

Monitoring & Advocacy

In 2017 alone, BIRN Kosovo's legal team has monitored 307 cases in Kosovo courts, 284 of which were serious crimes and the rest belonging to the general department. By monitoring the courts closely, BIRN Kosovo has ensured progress in the justice system and the rule of law in Kosovo.

Training & Media Development

BIRN Kosovo and its partners, Internews Kosova and BIRN HUB have trained more than 1000 journalists, court monitors, technical staff and researchers coming from different backgrounds living in Kosovo. This hands-on training built capacities to deliver professional journalism in a place that has the youngest population in Europe and a struggling educational system. The trainings offered include the rights and responsibilities of journalists, protection of sources, and use of social media, compiling public information requests, monitoring public procurement and understanding public contracts, alongside an active mentorship program for the newly hired staff.



Drita HAJDARI

Prosecutor of the Special Prosecutor Office

“After Hajriz Hoxha (1998 Kosovar dead civilian’s brother) gave statements in *Justice in Kosovo*”, I released a new authorization for the police”.



MEDIA PRODUCTION

TV Production

“Life in Kosovo”/ “Jeta në Kosovë (JnK)”
Current Affairs Programme

(2005 - present)

BIRN Kosovo’s flagship television programme, *Life in Kosovo*, focuses on current affairs in Kosovo’s economic, education, social and political realms.

JANUARY

2017

- On January 5th, 2017, *Life in Kosovo* aired its first episode for 2017 focusing **on the life in Kosovo** during 2016. The program covered the most relevant topics of 2016 and stressed the significance of the multi-million money laundering scandal from the Tax Administration in Kosovo by phantom companies.
- On January 12, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Edita Tahiri** episode. This episode broadcasted an interview conducted with Tahiri, former Minister without a portfolio, and the head of Kosovar delegation in the dialogue with Serbia. The interview focused on the agreements achieved and implemented between Kosovo and Serbia. Tahiri informed the public on Albania's role in the dialogue and the situation in Northern part of the country of Kosovo.
- On January 19th, 2017, **Life in Kosovo: Interview with Haki Abazi**, Western Balkans director of the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation episode. Abazi discussed the latest political developments in Kosovo and the region. According to Abazi, the Kosovar government is failing to attract foreign investments and it needs to quickly adapt to the new president of the United States.
- On January 26, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Silence on Grade Manipulation** episode presented the investigative report on the illegal grade inflation for 12 pupils in Drenas. The report showed that even higher instances of education were implicated in covering up this story.

FEBRUARY

2017

- On February 2nd 2017, **Life in Kosovo: The Confession of Gjina Zeqiri from escape** episode was transmitted on TV. This episode covered the story of Gjina Zeqiri, accused by Kosovar authorities for illegal activities and escape from Kosovo.
- On February 9, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: The Secret Accounting of Political Parties in Kosovo**. This episode elaborated on the financial transparency of political parties and their representatives in Kosovo, along with the civil society and European Union representatives. The aforementioned guests discussed the transparency of these entities with regards to donations received from businesses, and whether these businesses profit from tenders after the elections.
- On February 16, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Promotions in the University of Prishtina (UP)** episode covered the academic promotions of faculty members in the Kosovar public universities. This episode hosted representatives from the University of Prishtina and Gjakova, together with members from the civil society.
- On February 23, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Safety of Journalists** episode screened a debate on the security concerns of journalists in Kosovo. Journalists from different media channels spoke about their experience of threats and physical attacks, while Mr. Calaj from Kosovo Police explained the methods of security structures to prevent any attack that violates free speech.

MARCH

2017

- On March 2nd, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Promotions in the Faculty of Medicine** episode broadcasted the investigation on the alleged illegal academic promotions in the Faculty of Medicine at UP. Rozafe Koliqi, the only PhD clinical pharmacist in Kosovo, informed the public regarding the irregularities of the rectorate on career advancements that deprived her of her right to employment.
- On March 9, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Marjan Dema's Year** episode. The guest, Rector of University of Prishtina, Marjan Dema, talked about his successes on the first anniversary of his election and answered questions on irregularities at the University of Prishtina.
- On March 16th, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Europe for UP** episode presented a discussion with Ian Smith and Tom Hamilton, Scottish professors sent by the European Commission to prepare a report on corruption in UP. According to Smith and Hamilton, corruption in this institution is 'vulgar' and can be fought if criticism is taken more seriously.
- On March 23, **Life in Kosovo: Mysterious Paralysis** episode covered the investigation on the case of Nazifete Pozhegu, who was paralyzed due to improper prescription of medication in hospitals in Kosovo.
- On March 30th, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Shpend Ahmeti for Yacht** episode, remaining amongst the most popular episodes of the program, presented Prishtina's mayor Shpend Ahmeti providing clarifications and responses to many questions raised with regards to pictures capturing him in a private yacht in Budva.

APRIL

2017

- On April 6, 2017, **Life in Kosovo: Deaths in Jail** episode presented interviews with the senior officers of Lipjan Jail, where an inmate passed away as a result of health complications.
- On April 13th, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: The 'Wild' Buildings with Permissions in Prishtina** episode presented a debate on some buildings in Prishtina, which although possessing municipal permissions, have caused discomfort for some citizens in the capital.
- On April 20th, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Hesitation for UNESCO** episode debated on the possible application of Kosovo for UNESCO membership. Government and civil society officials discussed whether Kosovo could gather the required number of votes for this membership.
- On April 27th, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Boycotted Healthcare** episode presented the public with two investigations of Life in Kosovo. The first investigation addressed the case of Arsim Llugiqi who got injured in a car accident but received the wrong diagnosis, and the second investigation concerned the case of a laboratory in Vushtrri that refused to provide services.

MAY

2017

- On May 4th, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Park of Contamination** episode discovered the difficulties of farmers living around the business park in Drenas. According to farmers, the water is contaminated due to the uncontrolled activity of businesses in the park.
- On May 18th, 2017, the American Undersecretary of State gave an interview for **Life in Kosovo: Interview with Hoyt Brian Yee** episode. Yee explained the risks of violent terrorism in Kosovo, and the growing worries of the United States with regards to the Russian influence in the Western Balkans.
- On May 25, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Interview with Ziadin Sela and Ditmir Bushati** episode presented a debate on the details of the storming of the Macedonian Parliament on April 27 of that year, and the attack on Ziadin Sela. On the second part of this episode, the Albanian Foreign Affairs Minister, Ditmir Bushati, discussed the situation of Albanians in the region.

JUNE

2017

- On June 15th, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Elections and Frauds** episode elaborated on the national elections of Kosovo, and the reports from BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova observers on the phantom NGO that masked sympathizers of PDK and AAK.
- On June 22nd, 2017, **Life in Kosovo: Interview with Andrew Russell** episode. The representative of UNDP in Kosovo explained the projects of the organization for the development program in Kosovo.
- On June 29, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Uta Ibrahimi, Fight Against Radicalization and Damages Worth Millions** episode, discovered the journey of Uta Ibrahimi who climbed to the summit of Mount Everest. The program also discussed the actions of the Islamic Union in Kosovo after the death of Lavdrim Muhaxheri, the ISIS Kosovar member.

SEPTEMBER

2017

- On September 7th, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Governance in Kosovo** episode debated on the role of women in decision-making processes in Kosovo. Representatives from political parties and civil society discussed the respect for gender quotas in public institutions and women's candidacies in elections.

NOVEMBER

2017

- On November 3, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Local Elections 2017** episode presented representatives from political parties of Kosovo. The guest officials debated on the election process and its results.
- On November 24th, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Kosovo's Heating, Smoke and Dust** episode discussed the heating system of Prishtina and its negative effects on environment.

DECEMBER

2017

- On December 1st, 2017, **Life in Kosovo: Requiem for Local Elections** episode screened a debate from political parties of Kosovo on the results of the second round of local elections.
- On December 8th, 2017, **Life in Kosovo: Interview with Aleksander Lumezi** episode presented an interview conducted by Jeta Xharra with the head of prosecution in Kosovo with regards to questions raised on his law education and 'Pronto' case.
- On December 15th, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Relations with Turkey** episode discussed the bilateral relations between Kosovo and Turkey, and the latter's request to extradite a Turkish citizen on the ground that participated in the failed coup attempt.
- On December 21st, 2017 **Life in Kosovo: Interview with Ramush Haradinaj** episode presented debates with the Prime Minister and the results of his first 100 days as the head of government.

FAST
FACTS

2017

Frequency:
Weekly –Thursdays 8:20 p.m.

Current Affairs Debates: **31**

Views on Youtube:
1,259,076

Minutes watched:
12,428,361

Facebook page:
54,698 fans



ELECTIONS

BIRN Kosovo has always been committed to safeguard the right to free speech and democracy in Kosovo. As such, it has directly contributed to the transparency of national elections held on June 11th. Prior to elections, BIRN Kosovo held 10 debates with candidates from political parties and transmitted the episodes with the cooperation of RTV 21. As a result, 1,236,992 people have watched these debates on Facebook and 669,865 people have watched it on YouTube, which adds up to a total of 1,906,857 views.

BIRN Kosovo monitored the national elections through 50 people divided in 23 teams, distributed to several municipalities in the country. The aim of this activity was to oversee the election process throughout Kosovo and report on potential violations. Irregularities were detected and reported to the appropriate authorities, as well as published as articles on BIRN Kosovo's media outlets. As a result of our oversight, 54 articles were published, and 37 complaints lead to 33,600 EUR of fines for certain political parties.

In the past BIRN Kosovo only monitored the election processes, whereas in 2017 it started to monitor the local elections, with the legal team monitoring the political campaigns. In several cases, the legal team found violations of the law on elections, such as holding meetings and placing posters on public spaces by political parties, or having a presence of minors on election campaigns.

BIRN Kosovo team monitored the election process finding 112 violations. These cases were reported to the Election Complaint and Appeal Panel (ECAP) approving 41 of those that cost more than 190,000 Euros to the political parties. Thirty-seven debates for local elections were held, 10 of which were organized for runoff elections. These debates together had a viewership of 180,953 people.

The year of 2017 included two significant events in Kosovo politics, which led to garnering attention both from the local and the international audience. Kosovo had Parliamentary Elections on June 11, 2017, and Local Elections on October 22nd. The Parliamentary Elections were announced as a result of the dismissal of the government on May 10, which automatically brought to snap elections. Kosovo President announced that the snap general elections were to

take place on June 11, which meant that there was less than one month for electoral preparations. After a 35 days long institutional blockade, on September 7, the Kosovo Assembly managed to elect the Head of Assembly, and two days after, on September 9, the Prime Minister of Kosovo. Given that it had been four years since Local Elections were held in Kosovo, it was about time to announce them for the following mandate, respectively 2017. Just a couple weeks after the Parliamentary Elections, Kosovo President announced the date of Local Elections, that being October 22.

BIRN Kosovo team closely followed the campaigns of both elections by planning and fulfilling activities that would contribute to a transparent, democratic, and attractive campaigns. For the Parliamentary Elections, BIRN Kosovo director, Jeta Xharra, moderated 10 debates with political representatives discussing their concrete future plans for governance. A similar activity was also conducted for the Local Elections on October 22nd. 38 debates were produced and published during the campaign of October 22nd, 2017. Following the Mayoral Elections results, BIRN Kosovo team prepared to similarly organize the debates for run-off debates. Out of the 38 municipalities, only half of the municipalities managed to become official mayors on the first round. That is, the remaining 19 municipalities had to go through run-off elections because no candidate managed to receive more than 50% of votes. Four weeks after the first round of elections, the run-offs were set to take place on November 19. BIRN Kosovo produced 18 debates with the two most-voted candidates in 19 municipalities, and posed questions straightforwardly in order to get a clear vision of the candidates as to how they would govern their municipalities for the next four years, if elected as mayors. Apart from debates, BIRN Kosovo journalists prepared articles and analyses related to respective municipalities.

Having a team of researchers, journalists, cameramen, and administration, #RealDebates debates were prepared, produced, and published at BIRN outlets, *KALLXO.com*, and *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë*, as well as on RTV 21. The debates took place in town halls, and were named #RealDebates, as they provided a clear structure in terms of addressing questions to mayoral candidates not only on issues researched by BIRN Kosovo team in each municipality, but also based on the questions received from citizens online through BIRN Kosovo's online anti-corruption platform *KALLXO.com*.

Justice in Kosovo and Life in Kosovo **TV investigations/debates:**

On February 10th, 2017, BIRN Kosovo's Life in Kosovo programme produced a televised investigation on the use, and the lack of transparency on the use of public money, from political parties. Representatives from political entities and the civil society, including here representatives of the European Union, discussed and debated on the matter introduced in the programme.

On April 13th, 2017, BIRN Kosovo's Life in Kosovo programme produced a televised investigation on the wild building permits in Prishtina. The debate, moderated by BIRN Kosovo's Executive Director, Jeta Xharra, hosted representatives of the municipality, the Ministry of Environment, and citizens effected by urban matters in Prishtina.

On April 17th, 2017, BIRN Kosovo's Justice in Kosovo programme produced a televised investigation on suspicions with regards to an organized corruption scheme, specifically a high-school excursion in Albania. This reportage brought facts that pointed out irregularities and discrepancies within the given data, which left room for considerable suspicion on the misuse of tenders and the organization of excursions.

On September 8th, 2017, BIRN Kosovo's Life in Kosovo programme produced a debate on women's standing and the processes of decision-making in Kosovo. The given debate took place on the eve of the municipal and municipal assembly elections, envisaged to be held on October 22nd, 2017. Hosted were various representatives of independent institutions, civil society, and political parties. The discussion concerned opportunities granted to women during the electoral process, and gender equality within the staff of public institutions.

On November 3rd, 2017, BIRN Kosovo's Life in Kosovo programme produced a debate with representatives of political parties on the progress of the October 22nd Local Elections, and the conclusions this process brought to Kosovar citizens. During the debate, the representatives of political parties talked about the bottlenecks this process included, and they, among others, presented suggestions for reforming the electoral process.

As initially planned, BIRN Kosovo produced 35 mayoral electoral debates in each municipality in Kosovo.

First Round Local Elections 2017



BIRN Kosovo produced and aired 38 mayoral candidate debates prior to Kosovo's upcoming municipal elections. The debates, broadcasted every evening on RTV 21, aimed to bring the audience face-to-face with mayoral candidates. Accordingly, giving the citizens the opportunity to listen to political platforms, promises, and agenda implementation plans. BIRN Kosovo's debate model #DebatPernime (#RealDebate) aimed to raise awareness on the capacity and preparedness of candidates, as well as, serve as a platform to revisit the announced promises after mayoral elections. BIRN Kosovo declared their commitment to conduct a mid-mandate fact-checking of promises made during debates, so that the public is aware of the accountability of the elected representatives. Citizens all over Kosovo were encouraged to submit questions and concerns through BIRN Kosovo's online anti-corruption platform KALLXO.com, and on KALLXO.com's Facebook and YouTube channels. As such, guaranteeing the citizens a central role on the election process.

Below is a summary of each debate during the local elections campaign, starting from September 21st to October 22nd:

1. On September 21st, BIRN Kosovo produced the pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Drenas, hosting the mayoral candidates from various political entities. Present during this debate were: Arta Ahmeti-Xhyllani (AAK), Idriz Hajdari (Iniciativa Qytetare për Drenasin), Xhavit Drenori (Vizioni për Drenasin), Isa Xhemajlaj (Nisma), Isa Xhemajlaj (Nisma), Ramiz Lladrovci (PDK), Shemsi Elezi (LVV), Petrit Sinani (AKR), and Bedri Nika (LDK). These mayoral candidates were granted the opportunity to disclose their political agenda to the potential voters. The debate was broadcasted on RTV 21 starting from 19:45. The debate was also published on KALLXO.com, including BIRN Kosovo's given social media channels.⁶

6. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/debat-pernime-per-drenasin/>

2. On September 22nd, BIRN Kosovo produced the pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Podujeva, hosting the mayoral candidates from various political parties. Present during this debate were: Agim Veliu (LDK), Xhevdet Maloku (Fjala), Ajet Potera (PDK), and Hajredin Hyseni (PDK). These mayoral candidates were granted the opportunity to present their political agenda to the potential voters. This debate was broadcasted on RTV 21 starting from 19:45. The debate was also published on KALLXO.com, including BIRN Kosovo's given social media channels.⁷

3. On October 25th, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Peja. Similar to the past debates, this episode was broadcasted on RTV 21 from 19:45, as well as on Facebook and YouTube. The programme hosted mayoral candidates for the municipality. Present on this episode were: Gazmend Muhaxheri (LDK), Fatmir Gashi (AAK), Bashkim Nurboja (LVV), Sabiha Shala (PDK), Sali Kelmendi (Nisma), Reshat Nurboja (Alternativa) and Enida Kelmendi (Fjala).⁸

4. On October 26th, BIRN Kosovo broadcasted the pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Fushë-Kosove, hosting mayoral candidates. This episode started at 19:45 and was broadcasted on RTV 21, as well as the social media, Facebook and YouTube. Six candidates present for the respective debate were: Adem Zogiani (PDK), Ahmet Grajqevci (AAK), Avni Zogiani (LVV), Burim Berisha (LDK), Driton Ademi (Nisma), and Isuf Ahmeti (AKR).⁹ The candidates presented their political agenda for the potential voters either following the debate on TV or through social media.

5. On October 27th, BIRN Kosovo held the pre-electoral debate for the mayoral elections in the municipality of Prizren. With a full audience, the debate streamed live on RTV 21 as well as on social media, Facebook and YouTube. Candidates present for the debate were: Emilja Redzepi (NDS), Hatim Baxhaku (LDK), Lulzim Kabashi (AAK), Mytaher Haskuka (LVV), Nexhmedin Ramadani (Fjala), Osman Krasniqi (AKR), Shaqir Totaj (PDK), and Veton Qipa (Alternativa).¹⁰ The candidates presented and explained their political agenda to be implemented if elected as a mayor for the municipality of Prizren.

6. On September 28th, BIRN Kosovo produced another pre-electoral debate on the municipality

of Prishtina. This debate hosted different mayoral candidates from various political entities. Present were: Rifat Deri (Alternativa), Avni Çakmaku (Fjala), Arban Abrashi (LDK), Lirak Qelaj (PDK), Shpend Ahmeti (LVV), Selim Pacolli (AKR), and Arber Vllahiu (AAK). These mayoral candidates were granted the opportunity to disclose their political agenda to their potential voters. The debate was broadcasted on RTV 21, starting from 19:45. The debate was also published on KALLXO.com, including BIRN Kosovo's given social media channels.¹¹

7. On October 29th, BIRN Kosovo broadcasted a live pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Ferizaj where all candidates running for the position of mayor were present. The debate streamed live on RTV 21 as well as on social media, Facebook and YouTube. The candidates of respective political entities present for the debate were: Agim Aliu (PDK), Amir Rexhepi (AKR), Besnik Berisha (Nisma), Bashkim Fazliu Migjeni (NQF), Qazim Rrahmani (PAI), Xhavit Zariqi (AAK), Faton Topalli (LVV), and Muharrem Sfarqa (LDK).¹²

8. On October 2nd, BIRN Kosovo produced the pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Klina, hosting different mayoral candidates from various political entities. Present for the debate were: Avni Gasji (AKR), Iber Elezaj (LVV), Zenun Elezaj (AAK), Sokol Bashota (PDK), Besim Hoti (LDK), and Nezir Gashi (NISMA). These mayoral candidates were granted the opportunity to reveal their political agenda to their potential voters. This debate was broadcasted on RTV 21, starting from 19:45. Citizens could also access the debate on KALLXO.com, including BIRN Kosovo's given social media channels.¹³

9. On October 3d, BIRN Kosovo broadcasted the pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Deçan. The debate streamed at 19:45 and was broadcasted on RTV 21, as well as, on Facebook and YouTube. Five candidates from this municipality disclosed their agendas, and justified them for the potential voters. The candidates present for the debate were: Bashkim Ramosaj (AAK), Blerand Kadrijaj (PDK), Mal Lokaj (LDK), Shkodran Imeraj (Nisma), and Zeke Sinanaj (LVV).¹⁴

10. On October 4th, BIRN Kosovo produced another pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Istog, hosting different mayoral candidates from various

7. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/debat-pernime-sonte-per-podujeven/>

8. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/peja-ne-debat-pernime/>

9. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/debat-pernime-per-fushe-kosoven/>

10. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/debat-pernime-per-prizrenin/>

11. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/debat-pernime-per-prishtinen/>

12. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/debat-pernime-per-ferizajin/>

13. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/klina-ne-debat-pernime/>

14. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/decani-ne-debat-pernime/>

political entities. Candidates present were: Agron Avdijaj (LVV), Arif Elshani (independent candidate), Beqir Sadikaj (PDK), Gani Dreshaj (AAK), and Haki Rugova (LDK). These mayoral candidates were granted the opportunity to expose their political agenda to their potential voters. This debate was broadcasted on RTV 21, starting from 19:45, and it was also accessible on KALLXO.com, including BIRN Kosovo's given social media channels.¹⁵

11. On October 5th, BIRN Kosovo streamed the pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Suhareka. The debate streamed live on Facebook and YouTube as well as on RTV 21. Five candidates were present and represented their political entities along with their programs if elected as mayor. Present for the debate were: Bali Muharremaj (AAK), Blerim Xhemajli (PDK), Kadri Balaj (Nisma), Sali Asllanaj (LDK), and Sali Zyba (LVV).¹⁶

12. On October 6th, BIRN Kosovo produced the pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Dragash, moderated by Jeta Xharra. The debate hosted Admir Shola (JPG), Fatmir Halili (NISMA), Sabedin Dauti (LVV), Selami Saiti (AAK), Selim Kryeziu (LDK), Shaban Shabani (PDK), and Sherif Aga (Koalicioni Vakati). The mayoral candidates delivered their programs to their potential voters, to inform them on the particular plans for the following mandate. The debate was broadcasted on RTV 21, starting from 19:45. This debate, too, was published on BIRN Kosovo's platform, KALLXO.com, including its social media channels, Facebook and YouTube.¹⁷

13. On October 9th, BIRN Kosovo produced the pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Vushtrri, moderated by Jeta Xharra. The debate hosted Abdullah Vojvoda (NISMA), Besim Muzaqi (LVV), Ferit Idrizi (PDK), Lutfi Bilalli (AAK), and Xhafer Tahir (LDK). The mayoral candidates delivered their political agendas to their potential voters. The debate was broadcasted on RTV 21, starting from 19:45, as well as, on KALLXO.com platform, including its social media channels, Facebook and YouTube.¹⁸

14. On October 10th, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Malisheva, moderated by Jeta Xharra. Present for this debate were: Sami Kafexholl (LDK), Nexhat Krasniqi (independent candidate), Adem Berisha (LVV), Bedri

Bytyqi (Fjala), Mursel Gashi (PDK), Ragip Bega (Nisma), and Selajdin Bytyqi (independent candidate). The present mayoral candidates, all vying for the same position in the aftermath of October 22nd, delivered and explained their political agenda. The debate was broadcasted on RTV 21, starting from 13:30. Similar to other pre-electoral debates, this debate, too, was posted on BIRN Kosovo's KALLXO.com, and its social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Apart from the mayoral candidates, an audience was also present during the given debate.¹⁹

15. On the same day, on October 10th, BIRN Kosovo produced another pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Gjilan. The debate hosted the following candidates: Bajram Hasani (NISMA), Lutfi Haziri (LDK), Naser Morina (PD), Rexhep Kadriu (AAK), Sami Kurteshi (LVV), and Zenun Pajatizi (PDK). The mayoral candidates were granted the opportunity to deliver their political agenda and plans of implementation, to their potential voters. The debate was broadcasted on RTV 21, starting from 19:45. The debate on Gjilan, was also accessible on BIRN Kosovo's KALLXO.com, including its social media channels, Facebook and YouTube.²⁰

16. On October 11th, at 13:30 BIRN Kosovo broadcasted the debate on municipality of Hani i Elezit. During this debate, there were three candidates that presented their political programs to the public. Present for the debate were: Florim Shkreta (PDK), Hyrijete Isufi (LDK), and Rufki Suma (independent candidate).²¹

17. On the same day, October 11th, BIRN Kosovo produced the pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Kacanik, streamed at 19:45 on RTV 21, Facebook, and YouTube. Present were the following candidates: Basri Kodra (LVV), Besim Ilazi (PDK), Hajrush Kurtaj (AAK), and Shkelqim Jakupi (LDK).²²

18. On October 12, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Shtime, moderated by Jeta Xharra. This debate hosted mayoral candidates from different political entities, all vying for the same mayoral position. Present during this pre-electoral debate were: Fatmir Rashiti (an independent candidate), Mehdi Salihu (an independent candidate), Naim Ismajli (PDK), Ruzhdi Jashari (LVV), and Selim Shabani (LDK). All candidates were granted the opportunity to elaborate in detail,

15. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/sonde-debat-perime-per-istogun/>

16. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/rivale-e-suharekes-ne-debat-perime/>

17. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/kandidatet-e-dragashit-ne-debat-perime/>

18. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/kandidatet-per-vushtrrine-ne-debat-perime/>

19. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/hallet-e-malisheves-ne-debat-perime/>

20. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/kandidatet-per-gjilanin-ne-debat-perime/>

21. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/hani-elezit-sot-ne-debat-perime/>

22. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/kandidatet-per-kacanikun-ne-debat-perime/>

their political agenda to their potential voters. Apart from the mayoral candidates, the debate incorporated a great presence of citizens interested to listen to the debate. Just as the aforementioned debates, this round was broadcasted on RTV 21, KALLXO.com, Facebook, and YouTube.²³

19. On the same day, on October 12, BIRN Kosovo produced the pre-electoral debate for the municipality of Skenderaj. This debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, hosted Hysni Mehani (LVV), Isa Fejzullahu (LDK), and Musa Dervishaj (AKR). During the debate, the mayoral candidates were granted the opportunity to disclose their political agenda and plans for implementation. The debate, apart from the mayoral candidates, hosted the general public that was cheering throughout the debate for their desired representatives. Skenderaj's debate was broadcasted on RTV 21, KALLXO.com, Facebook and YouTube.²⁴

20. On October 13th, BIRN Kosovo produced the pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Junik, moderated BIRN Kosovo's Executive Director, Jeta Xharra. The debate hosted the following mayoral candidates: Agron Kuqi from (AAK), Fatos Shala (PDK), Syle Gaxherri (LVV), and Tahir Isufaj (LDK). During the debate, broadcasted on RTV 21 from 13:00, the candidates running for the position of the mayor of Junik, delivered their political programs. An audience was also present during the given debate, enthusiastic to hear their desired representative's promises and political programs to be implemented after October 22nd.²⁵

21. On the same day, on October 13th, BIRN Kosovo produced the second debate for the municipality of Mitrovica, moderated by Jeta Xharra, Executive Director of BIRN Kosovo. The debate hosted Agim Bahtiri (AKR), Basri Brahimi (independent candidate), Esat Peci (AAK), Fisnik Gjina (independent candidate), Mehmet Mehmeti (Alternativa), Qazim Shala (NISMA), Safet Kamberi (LDK), Fehmi Ferati (LVV), and the only woman vying for the position of mayor, Valdete idrizi (PDK). The mayoral candidates were granted the opportunity to discuss their political programs projected to be accomplished in the next mandate. Apart from the present mayoral candidates, the debate also hosted the given political candidates' fans, who were cheering throughout the debate for their desired representative. This debate, was

broadcasted on RTV 21, starting from 19:45, and was posted as well on BIRN Kosovo's anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com, including its social media channels, Facebook and YouTube.²⁶

22. On October 16th, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Rahovec, moderated by Jeta Xharra. The given debate hosted mayoral candidates from different political parties in Kosovo. Present were: Ibrahim Kryeziu (LDK), Idriz Vehapi (PDK), Smajl Latifi (AAK), and Visar Korenica (LVV). The candidates, all running for the mayoral position of Rahovec municipality, delivered their political programs to their potential voters. The given debate was broadcasted on RTV 21 at 13:30, and it was also accessible on KALLXO.com – anti corruption platform, including BIRN Kosovo's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Apart from the presence of the mayoral candidates, the debate also included the presence of the general public, who were enthusiastic about their desired politicians' political programs.²⁷

23. On the same day, on October 16th, BIRN Kosovo produced another debate in the municipality of Gjakova, moderated by BIRN Kosovo's Executive Director, Jeta Xharra. The given debate hosted various candidates all vying for the same mayoral position. As such, the candidates present in this debate were: Ardian Gjini (AAK), Bekim Ermeni (LDK), Driton Qaushi (LVV), Mimoza Kusari-Lila (Alternativa), Edmond Dushi (AKR), Fazli Hoxha (Nisma), and Ramadan Hoti (PDK). Apart from the presence of the mayoral candidates, the debate also included the presence of the general public. During the debate, Gjakova's mayoral candidates revealed their political programs to their potential voters, either watching from home, or in person as the present audience. The debate was broadcasted on RTV 21 from 19:45, and it was also posted on BIRN Kosovo's KALLXO.com, including its social media channels, Facebook and YouTube.²⁸

24. On October 17th, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, for the municipality of Obilic. During the debate, the mayoral candidates were granted the opportunity to discuss details of their political agendas. As such, the given debate hosted potential candidates running for the position of mayor of Obilic municipality. Present for the debate were: Aziz Bici (LVV), Mehmet

23. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/shtimja-ne-debat-pernime/>
 24. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/skenderaj-ne-debat-pernime/>
 25. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/junik-ne-debat-pernime/>

26. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/mitrovica-ne-debat-pernime/>
 27. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/rahoveci-ne-debat-pernime/>
 28. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/gjakova-ne-debat-pernime/>

Krasniqi (LDK), Mexhid Krasniqi (NISMA), Nysret Mehmeti (PDK), Shemsedin Hasani (AKR), and Xhafer Gashi (AAK). During the debate, broadcasted on RTV 21 at 13:30, the mayoral candidates revealed their political programs to their potential voters, so they informed in details regarding their elected politician's plans in the aftermath of October 22nd. The given debate was also published on BIRN Kosovo's anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com, including its social media channels, Facebook and YouTube.²⁹

25. On the same day, on October 17th, BIRN Kosovo produced the second debate for the municipality of Novo Brdo. All of the mayoral candidates were present on the debate, except Bajrush Ymeri (LDK). Present, however, for the debate were: Ramush Mehmeti (AKR), Svetislav Stefanovic (Lista Srpska), and Avdullah Gashi (AAK). These candidates were granted the opportunity to deliver their political programs to their voters, envisaged to be implemented after the October 22nd municipal elections. The debate was broadcasted on RTV 21, starting from 19:45, and was also accessible on BIRN Kosovo's KALLXO.com – the anti-corruption platform, including its social media channels, Facebook and YouTube.³⁰

26. On October 18th, BIRN Kosovo produced another pre-electoral debate for Mamusha Municipality, moderated by BIRN Kosovo's Executive Director, Jeta Xharra. Present to discuss their political programs for the following mandate were: Abdylhadi Krasniq (KDTP), Arif Bytyç (KTAP), and Riza Kryeziu (independent candidate). During the debate, broadcasted on RTV 21 from 13:30, the attending mayoral candidates used the opportunity to deliver their political programs to their potential voters. The debate was also published on BIRN Kosovo's anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com, including BIRN Kosovo's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube.³¹

27. On October 18th, BIRN Kosovo produced the third debate for the municipality of Kamenica, moderated by Jeta Xharra. The debate hosted mayoral candidates from different political parties, starting from Amir Canaj (AKR), Faton Jakupi (AAK), Kujtim Gashi (PDK), Qendron Kastrati (LVV), and Shaip Surdulli (LDK). During the debate, the mayoral candidates had the opportunity to deliver their compiled political programs to their potential voters. The pre-electoral

debate on Kamenica municipality was broadcasted on RTV 21 from 19:45. As usual, the given debate was also published on BIRN Kosovo's anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com, including its social media channels, Facebook and YouTube.³²

28. As part of the given pre-electoral #RealDebates, BIRN Kosovo conducted interviews with the mayoral candidates of municipalities across Kosovo with a Serbian majority, for the October 22nd municipal elections. On October 19th, BIRN also interviewed mayoral candidates of the Ranillug, Partesh, Klllokot, Zubin Potok, Zvecan, and Gracanice municipalities. Through these interviews, the respective municipalities' mayoral candidates were granted the opportunity to deliver their political programs envisaged to be implemented after October 22nd elections. Boban Jestic (SPD), Bojan Arsic (PDS), and Ivan Dimic (NKS) were the candidates vying for the position of the mayor of Ranillug. Nenad Sfetkovic (Iniciativa Qytetare), and Narodka Stanka, were the mayoral candidate for Partesh. Dragisa Milovic (Iniciativa Qytetare), the mayoral candidate for Zubin Potok, and last, but not the least, BIRN Kosovo interviewed Slavica Bisevic (Iniciativa Qytetare) running for the position of the mayor of Zvecan Municipality. The given debate, in the form of interviews, was broadcasted on RTV 21 starting from 13:30. The given debate was also published on BIRN's KALLXO.com, including BIRN Kosovo's Facebook and YouTube channels.³³

29. On October 19th, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate for the municipality of Vitia, moderated by BIRN Kosovo's Executive Director, Jeta Xharra. Present for this debate, to discuss their political agendas were: Besim Halimi (PDK), Faruk Nura (AAK), Salih Salihu (LVV), and Sokol Haliti (LDK). During this pre-electoral debate, broadcasted on RTV 21 from 19:45, the mayoral candidates were granted the opportunity to reveal their political agenda to be implemented after October 22nd municipal elections.³⁴

30. Finally, a day before the election silence day, BIRN Kosovo broadcasted the debate on the municipality of Leposavic. This debate was streamed on October 20th at 13:30 and present were the following candidates: Dragan Jablanovic (PKS), and Nenad Radosavlevic (Civil Initiative Narodna Prava).³⁵

29. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/obiliqi-ne-debat-pernime/>

30. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/novobarda-ne-debat-pernime/>

31. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/mamusha-ne-debat-pernime/>

32. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/kamenica-ne-debat-pernime/>

33. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/komunat-shumice-serbe-ne-debat-pernime/>

34. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/vitia-ne-debat-pernime/>

35. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zAc1FRQ080>

31. The final debate that streamed on October 20th, was the debate on municipality of Lipjan. BIRN Kosovo streamed this debate at 19:45 through its outlets on Facebook and YouTube as well as through RTV 21. Present candidates were: Fitim Selimi (AAK), Heset Sahiti (NISMA), Imri Ahmeti (LDK), Ismet Hajrullahu (PDK) and Selatin Retkoceri (Self-determination Movement), whom were granted the opportunity to deliver their political programmes for the next mandate. Apart from their presentations, the mayoral candidates also challenged each other regarding their upcoming projects to be implemented in the next mandate.³⁶

As initially planned, 18 run off debates were organized depending on the results from the first round of elections. Hence, in the municipalities where no mayor got more than 50 per cent of votes, the second round of elections was organized no later than one month after the Election Day.

BIRN Kosovo, in collaboration with Internews Kosova, produced pre-electoral debates for Kosovo's local run-off elections held on November 19th. Broadcasted live on RTV 21, the debates aimed to bring the audience face-to-face with the two runoff mayoral candidates, giving people a chance to hear their political platforms, promises, and implementation strategies. BIRN Kosovo's debate model #DebatPernime (#RealDebate) aimed to raise awareness on the accountability and preparedness of the candidates, and serve as a platform to revisit promises made during these elections. BIRN Kosovo declared its commitment to conduct a mid-mandate fact-checking activity through which it would inform citizens on the extent to which their representatives are keeping their promises.



36. <http://kallxo.com/zgjedhjet/lipjani-ne-debat-pernime/>

BIRN Kosovo's local runoff election were broadcasted from November 13 - 17, 2017.

On November 13th, 2017, starting from 13:00, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate for the municipality of Gjilan. The two mayoral candidates, Lutfi Haziri (LDK), and Sami Kurteshi (LVV), delivered their political programs to their potential voters. The debate, moderated by BIRN Kosovo's Executive Director, Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21 and on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. The debate was also published on BIRN Kosovo's anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The potential voters of the given candidates were highly encouraged to submit questions or concerns on BIRN Kosovo's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube.

On November 13th, 2017, starting from 14:00, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate for the municipality of Istog. Haki Rugova (LDK) presented his political agenda for the four upcoming years. While, the other candidate for the municipality of Istog, Gani Dreshaj (AAK), was not present for the debate. Citizens were highly encouraged to submit questions and concerns on BIRN Kosovo's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. The debate, moderated by BIRN Kosovo's Executive Director, was live-broadcasted on RTV 21, including BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. The debate was also published on BIRN's anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com

On November 13th, 2017, starting from 19:45, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Ferizaj. The two mayoral candidates for the given municipality, Muharrem Sfarqa (LDK), and Agim Aliu (PDK), presented their political agendas. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns on BIRN's social media channels. Facebook and YouTube. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 14th, 2017, starting from 13:00, BIRN Kosovo produced a debate on the municipality of Vushtrri. The two mayoral candidates, Ferit Idrizi (PDK), and Xhafer Tahiri (LDK), presented their political agendas for the four upcoming years after the November 19th run-off elections. Citizens were highly encouraged to submit questions and concerns related to their municipality, to be addressed during

the debate. This debate, moderated by BIRN Kosovo's Executive Director, Jeta Xharra, was live-broadcasted on RTV 21, including BIRN Kosovo's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube, and its anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com.

On November 14th, 2017, starting from 13:45, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Shtime. The two mayoral candidates for Shtime, Naim Ismaili (PDK), and Fatmir Rashiti (independent candidate), were given the opportunity to present their political agendas to the wide public. Their potential voters were highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns through BIRN Kosovo's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. This debate, moderated by BIRN Kosovo's Executive Director, Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube, and its anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com.

On November 14th, 2017, starting from 14:30, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Malisheva. The two mayoral candidates for the given municipality, Ragip Begaj (NISMA), and Mursel Gashi (PDK), presented their political agendas during the debate. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding the municipality of Malisheva on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 14th, 2017, starting from 19:45, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Mitrovica. The two mayoral candidates for the given municipality, Valdete Idrizi (PDK), and Agim Bahtiri (AKR), disclosed their political agendas. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding the municipality of Mitrovica on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 15th, 2017, starting from 13:00, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Klina. The two mayoral candidates for the given municipality, Sokol Bashota (PDK), and

Zenun Elezaj (AKR), presented their political agendas throughout the debate. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding the municipality of Klina on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 15th, 2017, starting from 13:45, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Kacanik. The two mayoral candidates for the given municipality, Besim Ilazi (PDK), and Basri Kodra (LVV), presented their political agendas during the debate. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding the municipality of Kacanik on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 15th, 2017, starting from 14:30, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Kamenica. The mayoral candidate for the given municipality, Shaip Surdulli (LDK), presented his political agenda, while Qendron Kastrati (LVV) was not present for the debate. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding the municipality of Kamenica on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 15th, 2017, starting from 19:45, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Gjakova. The two mayoral candidates for the given municipality, Mimoza Kusari -Lila (Alternativa), and Ardian Gjini (AAK), presented their political agendas during the debate. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding their municipality on BIRN's social media channels. Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.



On November 16th, 2017, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Rahovec. The two mayoral candidates for the given municipality, Idriz Vehapi (PDK), and Smajl Latifi (AAK), presented their political agendas during the debate. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding their municipality on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 16th, 2017, starting from 13:45. BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Suhareka. The two mayoral candidates for the given municipality, Bali Muharremaj (AAK), and Sali Asllanaj (LDK), presented their political agendas during the debate. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding the municipality of Suhareka on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 16th, 2017, starting from 14:30, BIRN Kosovo produced a debate on the municipality of Dragash. The mayoral candidate for the given municipality, Selim Kyreziu (LDK), presented his political agenda during the debate, while Shaban Shabani (PDK) was not present. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding the municipality of Dragash on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 16th, 2017, starting from 19:45, BIRN Kosovo produced the pre-electoral debate for the municipality of Prizren. The two mayoral candidates for the given municipality, Shaqir Totaj (PDK), and Mytaher Haskukaj (VV), presented their political agendas during the debate. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding their municipality on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 17th, 2017, starting from 13:00, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate for Kosovo's run-off elections for the municipality of Podujeva. The two mayoral candidates for the given municipality, Agim Veliu (PDK), and Ajet Potera (LVV), presented their political agendas during the debate. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding their municipality on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 17th, 2017, starting from 13:45, BIRN Kosovo produced a pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Obilic. The two mayoral candidates for the given municipality, Xhafer Gashi (AAK), and Mehmet Krasniqi (LDK), presented their political agendas during the debate. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their concerns or questions regarding their municipality on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

On November 17th, 2017, starting from 19:45, BIRN Kosovo produced the last pre-electoral debate on the municipality of Prishtina. The mayoral candidate for the given municipality, Arban Abrashi (LDK), presented his political agenda during the debate, while the current mayor of the municipality of Prishtina; Shpend Ahmeti (LVV) was not a part of the debate. The wide public was highly encouraged to submit their questions and concerns regarding their municipality on BIRN's social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Including the anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com. The debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was broadcasted live on RTV 21, including BIRN's given social media channels, and KALLXO.com.

BIRN Kosovo has compiled and published 30 narrative reports and fast facts for the broadcasted debates. Post-debates, our journalists compiled and published narrative reports and fast facts on the mayors and the debates held through BIRN Kosovo.

Apart from making and producing debates with mayoral candidates, BIRN Kosovo journalists have compiled 30 long analytical articles reflecting a general overview of the situation in the given municipalities. These analyses included a description on the governance through the previous mandate, and as a result, the expected challenges for the new mayors of the October 2nd elections. The articles also elaborated on the infrastructure, education, health and social welfare, public services, and other relevant issues under the managements of municipalities.

These in-depth analyses included pictures shot by BIRN Kosovo journalists during fieldwork on specific municipalities. In total, 30 articles of such nature were published on the following municipalities, Ferizaj, Deçan, Fushe-Kosove, Han i Elezit, Peja, Klinë, Suhareka, Gjiat, Prizren, Mitrovica, Drenas, Novobarda, Vitia, Podujeva, Kamenica, Lipjan, Mamusha, Dragash, Prishtina, Junik, Kaçanik, Obiliç, Istog, Gjakova, Malisheva, Vushtrri, Shtime, Skenderaj, Rahovec and one long article on Serb-majority municipalities (Zubin-Potok, Zveçan, Gracanica, Leposavic, North-Mitrovica, Klokot, Ranillug, and Partesh). As previously mentioned, BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova monitored the local elections and reported 111 complaints, more specifically, violations identified during the electoral process. As a result, political parties were fined, in total with an approximate amount of 133,000 EUR.



Zenun PAJAZITI

Former Minister of Internal Affairs

"Justice in Kosovo promoted and improved the image of our police".



TV PRODUCTION

Justice in Kosovo / Drejtësia në Kosovë (DnK)

After five years (since 2005) of investigating and reporting on current sociopolitical and socioeconomic affairs through our televised programme *Life in Kosovo*, BIRN Kosovo identified the gap for in-depth monitoring of the rule of law. BIRN Kosovo, therefore, created the so called *Drejtësia në Kosovë*, DnK, or *Justice in Kosovo* televised product. This programme offers extensive investigations on cases of justice, aiming to press relevant institutions to take measures on existing problems.

Justice in Kosovo gather information through BIRN Kosovo's court monitors who cover 27 municipalities in Kosovo, and it benefits from an agreement with Kosovo Police, which allows the DnK team to film actions of police.



Valdete DAKA

Chairwoman of the Central Election Commission

"Many cases have become transparent and many unsaid things were said first in *Justice in Kosovo*".

JANUARY

2017

- **Police Super-actions** – On January 6, *Justice in Kosovo* broadcasted exclusive actions by Kosovo Police conducted during 2016. These actions, among others, included the directorate's actions against the confiscation of Kqirra family's property in Prizren, anti-drug actions, and police actions within casinos across Kosovo.
- **Bribes from the Judge's Son** – On January 15th, *Justice in Kosovo* provided the public with footage from the meetings of the president of Deçan, Safete Tolaj's son, with the Kelmendi family. The footage captures promises to resolve a court case in the condition of paying an amount around 20 thousand EUR.
- **The charge against the former KLA soldier** – *Justice in Kosovo* brought to the public, the exclusive investigation showing how Haxhi Perteshi was kidnapped from his home on June 1998. *Justice in Kosovo*'s episode included claims from Haxhi Perteshi's family, whom were witnesses of the event on June 26th, 1988, the night when masked individuals in KLA uniforms took Perteshi.

FEBRUARY

2017

- Demonstration of Force – On February 17, *Justice in Kosovo* takes the viewers within the command of the Rapid Reaction Brigade of the KSF. As such, the televised debate included the publication of many daily activities of the given brigade.
- Interview: Hasan Shala, Chairman of the Court of Appeal - On February 26, *Justice in Kosovo* broadcasted the interview with Shala through which he discussed his promotion to the current position and his involvement on the EULEX's eavesdropping affair.

APRIL

2017

- Free Smuggling Zone in the North of Kosovo - On April 3, *Justice in Kosovo* broadcasted a several-month investigation on gasoline smuggling in the northern part of Kosovo. The episode presented details of gasoline prices in northern Kosovo by providing filmed evidence of the prices in this area. As a crucial part of these investigations, fuel retailers were also filmed providing the interested parties with oil bids, prices of which vary on different zones.
- Doubts for Excursion Scheduling - On April 15, *Justice in Kosovo* broadcasted the investigation conducted under suspicions of an organized corruption scheme, with regards to the organizing of the high school excursions in Albania. This reportage brings to the public, facts that point to irregularities and discrepancies in the data, which give rise to considerable suspicion of misuse of tenders and organization of excursions.
- Women's Property Rights and Inheritance Law Adjustments - On April 24, *Justice in Kosovo* broadcasted a debate concerning inheritance issues and the right to register property, with special emphasis on the rights of women and girls. The episode also included the statements of key actors that are part of the supplementary-change of basic laws, which would guarantee equal rights for Kosovar women in heritage and property registration issue.

MAY

2017

- Specials Arrest of Serbs Holding Nationalist Inscriptions - On May 29, *Justice in Kosovo* broadcasted the exclusive action of the Kosovo Police in cooperation with Justice in Kosovo, against a number of Serbians holding nationalist inscriptions. BIRN Kosovo has filmed the action of the special unit of Kosovo Police in detail, showing a fully equipped gear. The action took place on mid-April.

JUNE

2017

- Exclusive Video: Police Arrests Health Workers for Drug Theft. On June 17, *Justice in Kosovo* made public footage on the arrest of a Hospital employee in the municipality of Viti, suspected of drug theft from the center. The action conducted also entailed the arrest of an UCCK doctor, suspected of smuggling herbs from Serbia to Kosovo.
- Intimidation of the Investor by the Police Member – On June 25, *Justice in Kosovo* broadcasted the investigation conducted on Cërnusha's hill quarry, above Kçiç, in Mitrovica. The investigation shows the problems that the German investors have been facing with the given quarry. The televised debate also showed footage from the moment when investor Thamas Ryshe faced difficulties, from both, his partners and a Kosovo policeman at the quarry where he was the director.

JULY

2017

- Failure to De-radicalize - On July 4, 2017, BIRN Kosovo's *Justice in Kosovo* televised product, broadcasted an investigation on the country's failure to de-radicalize those who came back from wars in Syria and Iraq. This episode concerned the effects that the death of the self-proclaimed Albanian leader, Lavdrim Muhaxheri, had on the front of the actual wars. This episode also included relevant stories of other individuals who came back from the wars in Syria and Iraq.

SEPTEMBER

2017

- Investor Intimidation – On September 18, 2017, *Justice in Kosovo* broadcasted the investigation regarding difficulties faced by investors in municipalities in Kosovo. The reportage included the story of Adem Elshani from the village of Nagavc in Rahovec, who came back from Switzerland to invest in Kosovo but was unable to do so. Interviews with NGO representatives, linked to commercial activity within the country, were also a part of the given reportage produced by BIRN Kosovo.



OCTOBER

2017

- Night Tender for Prishtina Highway – Gjilan – On October 30, 2017, *Justice in Kosovo* produced a televised reportage with local governments at the municipal level with the Procurement Review Body (PRB), the most crucial institution in the procurement sector. BIRN Kosovo produced this televised reportage based on reports received through KALLXO.com, regarding threats and attacks against the PRB, with the head of PRB reporting serious threats against him by an economic operator. Two people are currently imprisoned due to this case, while another name mentioned in the investigations is Sami Lushtaku, one of the infamous former Mayors in Kosovo.

OCTOBER

2017

- Justice in the North - On November 3, 2017, *Justice in Kosovo* televised programme produced reportage on the freedom of expression and safety of journalists in Kosovo. The data collected by BIRN Kosovo's Justice in Kosovo team showed that throughout the year of 2017 Kosovo Police recorded a number of 23 cases of threats and attacks against journalists. Amongst others, the reportage included insights from the Kosovo Ombudsperson's analytical report, identifying a range of issues needed to be addressed by the government.
- On November 24, *Justice in Kosovo* produced reportage on the battle of women calling on their rights to inheritance and property. The highlights of the show included information on victims of domestic violence, consequences of not receiving alimentations from their ex-husbands, discussions with representatives from institutions of the rule of law, non-governmental organization, and legal experts. Cases on judges, prosecutors and their spouses, reveal that not all public officials have registered their property under the name of both spouses. Only a small number of these officials have managed to do so and inform our office.
- On November 27, 2017, *Justice in Kosovo* programme produced a reportage proving that women and girls continue to be discriminated against, with regards to their rights to inheritance and property. Although the legal framework guarantees equal rights to property and inheritance for men and women, many provisions of the previous laws -including the Law on Notary, Law on Out Contentious, and Law on Inheritance- are not implemented as such in practice. Despite the written legal obligations, the law continued to discriminate women and girls regarding their rights to inheritance and property.

DECEMBER

2017

- On December 3, 2017, *Justice in Kosovo* programme produced reportage on the current functioning of the Mitrovica's Basic Court, in the aftermath of the appointment of judges from the Serbian community. In an exclusive interview for Justice in Kosovo, the new president of this court, Nikola Kabasic, discussed the current circumstances to which the Serbian judges were committed. The reportage also includes the interview with the Justice Minister, Abelard Tahiri, who discussed the functioning of the Mitrovica Court and the integration of the parallel courts.
- Women, Victims of Inequality - On December 17, 2017, *Justice in Kosovo* produced a reportage concerning the failed attempts of Kosovar women to register property under their names. This televised investigation focused on the delay for the completion and implementation of relevant legislations. These including laws for the regulation or property rights, and procedures for securing the fundamental rights to inheritance and property.
- Victims of Stray Bullets - On December 24, 2017, *Justice in Kosovo* televised programme produced a lengthy investigation on the issue of stray bullets that caused many deaths and disabling injuries. The given reportage showed footage of celebratory shootings from various public officials. The reportage included a statement from the country's Prime Minister, Ramush Haradinaj, confirming the practice of such shooting that triggered many public reactions.
- Justice in Kosovo Best of 2017 - On December 29, 2017, BIRN Kosovo's *Justice in Kosovo* televised programme broadcasted an episode which showcased the best televised investigations conducted during 2017. The show included public statements by heads of the state, the judiciary, and prosecution, encompassing the relevant challenges they encountered during 2017, while combating corruptive practices in their relevant fields. Amongst others, this episode also included footage from the two exclusive televised investigations "Mito in Court", which resulted with arrests such as that of the Deçan judge. This investigation, produced under BIRN Kosovo's Justice in Kosovo at the beginning of 2017, was awarded as the best televised story against corruption.

2017

FAST FACTS

Frequency: **Weekly, Fridays at 10:30pm.**Investigative
Reports / Analysis: **32**Exclusive Police
Reports: **30**Fans on
Facebook: **55,530 fans**



MEDIA PRODUCTION

Web Production

KALLXO.com
(FROM 2013 TO DATE)

KALLXO.com is an anti-corruption platform, where Internews Kosova together with BIRN Kosovo offers citizens the opportunity to report corruption, fraud, conflict of interest, and irregularities within the state. BIRN Kosovo journalists contribute to this platform with daily news and investigations.

The number of reports received by citizens to the platform KALLXO.com was recorded and thereafter distributed to the team for verification. In total, for the reporting period January 2017 to December 2017, there were:

- 1958 reports received

- 224 institutional follow-ups

- 50 impacts

The first follow-up (internal) of the reported cases happened as follows:

- The Legal Team of the Research Unit carries out the legal editing of reports received, in order to ensure citizen's privacy when reporting cases, and the privacy of those against whom the reports have been received. Lastly, in order to keep this platform safe from any libel or defamation charges;

- The KALLXO.com managing editor receives information through specific reports and shares them with members of the Research Unit responsible for different regions of Kosovo, who then conducts fieldwork to confirm whether the received reports have basis for further investigation;

- If the reports received are confirmed to be reliable, particular cases are held by a senior investigative journalist who translates them into televised programme, reportage, articles, or in-depth analyses;

- Once the televised programme/reportage, web TV reportage, article or in-depth analyses are finalized, findings are sent to the relevant institution responsible to proceed with the cases, where they are assessed for the level of information provided.

During the given reporting period, BIRN Kosovo sent 36 reports to public institutions for which it received 6 responses. BIRN Kosovo used this model to put pressure on public institutions, to encourage them to become more transparent and accountable. The credibility that KALLXO.com enjoys is a crucial element that contributes to a constructive approach of public institutions towards this platform. On a recent public opinion survey, KALLXO.com remains as the second most credible source in fighting corruption - for the fifth time in a row - second only to Kosovo Police and way ahead of Kosovo Prosecution or Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency.



2017

FAST FACTS

Web page views:

13,007,157

Web unique page views:

10,261,141

Average monthly users:

262,817

Average daily page views:

36,460

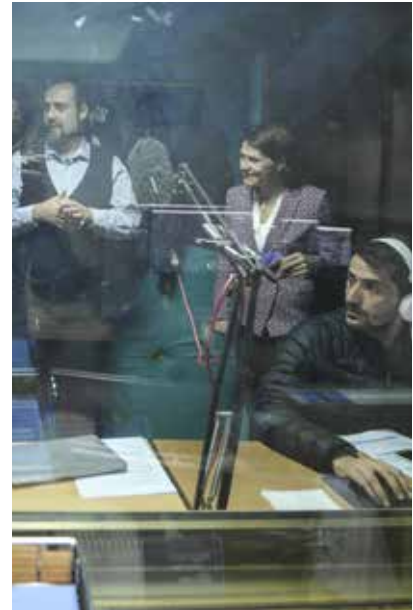
Facebook fan page likes:

146,067

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë (FROM 2011 TO DATE)

During 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published in-depth investigations and opinions that touched many spheres of the everyday life in Kosovo, such as education, health, public services, culture, and art.

During the local elections in 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* conducted investigations and reportages on each municipality based on the municipal debates organized by the Life in Kosovo televised programme. The in-depth analyses included pictures shot by BIRN Kosovo journalists on their fieldwork on various municipalities. In total, 30 articles of such nature were published on the following municipalities: Ferizaj, Deçan, Fushë-Kosovë, Han i Elezit, Peja, Klina, Suhareka, Gjiilan, Prizren, Mitrovica, Drenas, Novobërda, Vitia, Podujeva, Kamenica, Lipjan, Mamusha, Dragash, Prishtina, Junik, Kaçanik, Obiliç, Istog, Gjakova, Malisheva, Vushtrri, Shtime, Skenderaj, Rahovec and one long article on Serb-majority municipalities (Zubin-Potok, Zveçan, Graçanica, Leposaviç, North-Mitrovica, Klllokot, Ranillug, and Partesh).



January 2017

On January 20, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an article on Shukrie Berisha's fight for property. For 12 years, Shukrie Berisha has been fighting to obtain her right to use half of the property inherited by her husband, but the judicial process is still not finished.

On January 22, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote about the concern of the 'OeSD' for the decision of the Court of Appeal. The Austrian company that produced the passports claimed that the Kosovo Court of Appeal did not decide in accordance with the law.

On January 25, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote an article on the Filmed Evidence on Corruption at the Court of Deçan. A research by Justice in Kosovo testified that Fisnik Tolaj, President of the Court in Deçan, demanded up to 20,000 EUR from parties asking to resolve court cases by his mother, Judge Safete Tolaj.

On January 27, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an article on the

falsification of grades in Drenas. Fehmi Ramaj, a schoolteacher at "Shota Galica" school in the village of Terdevc / Drenas, changed and completed the grades of 12 students of the ninth grade of this school.

February 2017

On February 2nd, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an article about Kosovo's Endangerment by Exile of Physicians. Many young doctors are attending German courses in order to start a new life through employment in Germany.

On February 16, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* reported around 15 thousand less employers in Kosovo. Kosovo Agency of Statistics showed that the unemployment rate in the third quarter (July-September) has risen to 27.5 percent from 26.2 percent in the previous period (April-June).

On February 22, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote an article about the policy that endangers post financial sustainability. The Kosovo Competition Authority's

order to remove postal affiliates from public institutions, will make this institution lose at least half a million euros a year.

On February 28, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote the following "Government Does Not Recognize UP Diplomas." Kosovo's institutions are not familiar with the diplomas issued by the University of Prishtina. Failure to recognize diplomas from the state is strategically done in order to preserve the budget.

March 2017

On March 9, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* reported how TAK has been tolerating businesses for not using fiscal coupons. For several months in a row, TAK has been ignoring citizen's complaints regarding a business in the Sunny Hill neighborhood in Prishtina, which does not use fiscal coupons. Complaints were filed on 24.10.2016; 18.01.2017 and 26.01.2017.

On March 17, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote about Prime Minister's Advisor, who opened a Heart

Hospital. Prime Minister's Advisor posted a picture on Facebook; the picture showed a building with the writing "Cardio Center" and a heart symbol.

On March 18, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an article on the feasible talks with Serbia. The government of Isa Mustafa has spent over 600 thousand EUR in the process of Brussels talks with Serbia in recent years (2015-2016).

On March 20, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote about how the PM's daughter-in-law was given a job at the Ministry headed by Arban Abrashi. Kosovo Prime Minister's daughter-in law, is employed in a project within the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, which is headed by a senior party official of the Prime Minister.

On March 25, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* reported on UCK's qualification requirement that Public Universities do not provide. *Gazeta 'InK'* requested clarifications from the director of Radiology Clinic, Serbeze Kabashi on the requirement set out in the competition for radiology technician. She did not answer questions from the *Gazeta 'InK'*.

April 2017

On April 2, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an article titled "The North Will continue to be supplied with Free Electricity; Citizens living on other parts of Kosovo will cover the electricity costs of citizens in northern municipalities. The only difference that took place during this year is the enterprise that would repay these debts to KESCO.

On April 3, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote an article about the wives of two advisors to the minister that found jobs at the Ministry of Labor. In the list of names of experts engaged in the project Sector Strategy for Employment and Social Welfare,

apart from the Prime Minister's daughter in law, are the wives of two political advisers of Minister Arban Abrashi.

On April 17, 2017 *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* reported about a medical professor and the doubts for plagiarism and falsification advancement. Albena Reshitaj, assistant at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Pristina, accused her professor Milaim Sejdiu of embedding a scientific paper.

May 2017

On May 5, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an article titled "Professor with indictment lectures about Justice." The prosecution charges Kole Krasniqi for two criminal cases, which he allegedly committed during the time he served as Dean of the Faculty of Law at Haxhi Zeka University in Peja. Krasniqi continues to teach two courses at this University.

On May 8, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote about 12 prisoners that were released from Dubrava and Smrekovica prisons. 694 detainees have requested from President of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, to be pardoned for their remaining sentence for the sake of the anniversary of the declaration of independence. Two months after, Thaçi decided to forgive only 12 of the prisoners.

On May 28, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* reports on the "Stenta" case. After seven failed attempts, on May 19th the first session was held and the indictment was read. Thus, the Stena case made a small step that risked the whole regularity of the case. It may even become the cause for this case to be prolonged.

June 2017

On June 20, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* reported on fake financial statements of the Company 'Pastërtia'. The National Auditor's Office (NAO)

has issued an unpublished opinion on the financial statements of the company "Pastërtia", because according to the Auditor "they do not present a true and fair view in all material respects."

On June 21, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an article about 2010 unconsolidated debt of political parties to the ECAP. Political parties are not regular in repayment of debts to the Electoral Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP). The National Audit Office has found that the ECAP has sent debts to the bailiffs' political parties.

July 2017

On July 29, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an article titled "Institutional Tax Stealing in the North." There are four municipalities in the North of Kosovo - North Mitrovica, Leposaviç, Zveçan, and Zubin Potok - which do not pay taxes and carry out constructions without obtaining construction licenses.

On July 27, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote about nepotism as a phenomenon in promotions in Kosovo public institutions. *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* found out that the sister of the Chief of Cabinet of the former Prime Minister was employed in a governmental institution, the Kosovo Agency for Products and Medical Equipment.

On July 21, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an investigation regarding a religious kindergarten named Bleta. Apparently, this kindergarten educated children over the age of 3, on religion. *Jeta në Kosovë*, also found out that this kindergarten is led by a Turkish association.

On July 17, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an investigation regarding a school trip that took place after a permission slip was signed with a falsified signature. The Kosovo Police was informed on this issue after Halil Halili reported

about a signature falsification. The story reveals that the United Unions for Education, Science and Culture, approved a trip to Durrës for 420 members. However, the trip was signed by the Union at the municipal level, instead of being signed by the Union in the respective school, as stipulated in the regulations.

On July 15, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote about a case where the uncle of the Mayor of Municipality of Vushtrri was allowed to use the Castle of Vushtrri to build a restaurant. Reactions by the director of Culture, Youth and Sports, Shpresa Rama, followed this act because according to Rama, the castle belongs to the municipality's cultural heritage and is frequently visited by people from all over the country.

On July 15, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote about budget spending of the Post and Telecommunications of Kosovo. The story reveals that the PTK (Post and Telecommunications of Kosovo) decided to pay for gasoline for the private cars of its management team.

August 2017

On August 18, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* reported on another nepotism case. This time, the newspaper revealed that the director of Tax Administration of Kosovo, Sakip Imeri, hired his nephew, Zgjim Islami, in the same organization.

On August 17, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote about the wealth of Kosovo war time "commanders," who are now well known officials in Kosovo politics. Based on the data published by the Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency, the 'commanders' are worth 12 million euros.

On August 2, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote about an additional nepotism case, again related to promotions of relatives of former Prime Minister of Kosovo, Isa Mustafa. Mustafa's daughter-in-law

was hired at the Ministry of Health as personnel official in the Fund for Health Insurances.

September 2017

On September 7, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an article on the interpretation of the Law on Gender Equality by the political parties. Ombudsman Hilmi Jashari said that political parties must respect the Law on Gender Equality, which requires equal gender representation on the list of candidates for members of municipal assemblies.

October 2017

On October 28, 2017, 6 days after the Local Elections, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote about the budget spending of political entities on meals for their monitors by making a comparison with the meals paid for the Kosovo Police who were also present in the process. The newspaper found out that the parties received the budget from the Kosovo Central Elections Committee based on the mandates of the political parties.

On October 21, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote on reported breaches in the tender procedure of the highway to Gjilan. There were 8 lots to be set for this highway, and the Ministry of Infrastructure selected 8 companies responsible for building the highway. However, the Ministry conducted breaches in the tendering process, given that the tender cost 33 million euros more than it was supposed to.

On October 4, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote about a breach done by Kosovo Central Elections Committee. The investigation reveals that the Procurement Review Body was allowed to proceed with a tender by KCEC despite the fact that they did not have a validity-continuance for a tender they signed, namely "Public Information for Local Elections Lot 1", which expired in August 2017.

November 2017

On November 27, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an article regarding Vetëvendosje's leader Albin Kurti. Kurti, who has been active in Kosovo politics for the past 20 years, has spent 4 years in prison, starting from the post-war period in prisons of Serbia, until November 2017 in Kosovo, under house arrest. Kurti has been arrested about 20 times so far.

December 2017

On December 4, 2017 *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* reported about Women's Denied Rights. The research broadcasted on the Justice in Kosovo televised programme, once again testified that Kosovo women and girls are still discriminated.

On December 13, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* wrote an article titled "Knife Threats, Concern for All" Cases of knife slaughter have been frequent in Kosovo, while a 17-year-old died last week from such an incident. Schools in Kosovo are not immune to this phenomenon. School principals in Prishtina ask to increase the cases and to collaborate with the police to prevent incidents among young people, while security experts and sociologists explain the causes and consequences of these incidents.

On December 26, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published an article about KEK Discriminatory Competition. The Kosovo Energy Corporation has announced a competition for 93 vacancies. In the competition, KEK stated that the residents living in the area of interest would benefit from the extension, which is expected to be expropriated by KEK in order to expand coal mining for existing power plants.



Krypometër

(BI from 2006 to date and BTJ from 2011 to date)

On December 9, 2016, on the International Day against Corruption, BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova launched Krypometër. Krypometër was launched as a response towards the uncertainty, obscurity, and lack of accountability for public statements, and is the first tool in Kosovo that rates truthfulness – in other words, a fact checker. BIRN Kosovo's anti-corruption platform KALLXO.com and its TV programme Life in Kosovo are part of the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) by the Poynter Institute. In addition to being part of an international network of fact-checkers, BIRN Kosovo also subscribes to the ethical principles that need to be applied when facts are checked. An impartial and transparent verification of facts can become a powerful instrument for accountable journalism, which was also applied during this reporting period, by continuously holding Kosovo's public officials accountable for their public statements. On December 8, 2017, Krypometër was awarded the verified badge from International Fact-Checkers Network after passing an independent auditing process.

During the reporting period of July 1st to December 31st, Krypometër published 38 articles regarding the fulfillment of politician's promises. These investigative articles have already resulted in 61 written articles and broadcasted programmes. Some of the reports published and fact-checked have already generated impact. A detailed description of articles and their level of impact are provided below:

- On July 27, 2017, KALLXO.com published another Truth-o-meter piece, revealing the deceptions behind statements of former Minister of Health, Imet Rrahmani, and former Prime Minister, Isa Mustafa, regarding health insurance for Kosovo



citizens. Rrahmani had promised to get the necessary funds to ensure health insurance for the citizens by January 1st, 2017. Passing the deadline, Mustafa then extended the deadline of this promise to July 1st, 2017. The second promise was not fulfilled either. Thus, KALLXO.com evaluated this statement as the highest-level lie, i.e. 5/5.

- On August 3, 2017, KALLXO.com published a Truth-o-meter piece, which revealed an unkept promise by Ramush Haradinaj, with regards to the formation of the Kosovo Government after the parliamentary elections on June 11th. Haradinaj, then vying for the position of the Prime Minister, claimed to have had the necessary votes to form the government after the voting confirmation from the Central Election Commission. However, CEC certified results on July 11th, and the government was neither formed that month, nor the following. Therefore, KALLXO.com considered this statement as a lie scaled 3/5.

- On August 3, 2017, KALLXO.com published a piece revealing the lie behind Teuta Rugova's (LDK) MP statement regarding her position in

LDK. Rugova had stated that she would never act against LDK's political will. However, when the proposed coalition between PDK, AAK, and Nisma took place, Rugova voted in favor of it despite LDK's objection. Hence, this is a lie scaled as 5/5 by KALLXO.com.

- On August 5, 2017, KALLXO.com published a Truth-o-meter piece regarding the shifting attitudes of politicians in Kosovo, regarding their past statements. Heads of the political entity AKR (New Kosovo Alliance), Behgjet Pacolli and Agim Bahtiri, had stated that they would never form a coalition with PAN (PDK-AAK-Nisma), who were vying for the ruling coalition in the Assembly in order to elect the Head of Assembly and the Prime Minister. AKR was then in coalition with LDK; however, they turned their back to LDK and signed a coalition with PAN. KALLXO.com classified this as a lie, on a scale from 1 to 5, as 5/5.

- On August 24, 2017, KALLXO.com published a piece that revealed how some accusations of political representatives within the Kosovo assembly did not turn out to be true. Kadri Veseli, Head of the Assembly, had accused Fisnik Ismajli, a Vetëvendosje delegate, of having more money than all present MPs in the parliament. KALLXO.com checked these data at the Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency, to find out that Veseli is three times richer than Ismajli, and that gathering the wealth of all MPs as Veseli had claimed, they would be richer than Ismajli by almost 12 million euros. On a scale from 1 to 5, KALLXO.com assessed this as a lie with 4/5.

- On September 7, 2017, KALLXO.com reported on a promise that was kept by a political representative in Kosovo's Parliament. Korab Sejdiu, MP of the New Kosovo Alliance (AKR), had stated that he would not vote in favor of the PAN coalition, regardless of his parties vote. When the motion started, Sejdiu voted against, which, according to KALLXO.com, is assessed as true under the Truth-o-meter category.

- On October 12, 2017, KALLXO.com published a piece on Truth-o-meter, which was classified under the "altered view" category. During the

preliminary debates for June 11th parliamentary elections, an AAK representative had said that the former government had spent too much money on smartphones, and that 850 EUR per smartphone is unacceptable. However, as soon as the government was formed, headed by Ramush Haradinaj (AAK), this government bought 3 iPhones and 11 Samsung phones, costing Kosovo's budget more than six thousand euros.

- On October 16, 2017, KALLXO.com published a Truth-o-meter article. The political party PDK, during the campaign for the October 22nd local elections, published a promotional video, stating that they are the only party with women running for mayoral positions. However, the assessment by Truth-o-meter shows that this was a lie scaled 5/5. There were other parties that nominated women to run for mayoral positions.

- On October 16, KALLXO.com published a Truth-o-meter piece revealing a lie ranked as a 4/5, regarding Kosovo Prime Minister Haradinaj's statements. On June 1st, Children's Day, Haradinaj promised that no children would be involved in political campaigns. However, during the campaign for local elections, his party, AAK, published a promotional video where children were included.

- On October 17, 2017, KALLXO.com published a Truth-o-meter article revealing a promise that was not kept by former Mayor of the Municipality of Kamenica, Begzad Sinani. During the local election campaigns in 2013, Sinani had said that he will sell an expensive car purchased by the previous governing body. However, when Sinani came to power, not only did he fail to sell the car, but he purchased another one costing the budget of the municipality 20,000 euros. Hence, this statement is ranked as a 3/5 lie.

- On October 20, 2017, KALLXO.com published an article on Truth-o-meter revealing a promise that was not kept by Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj. During the local election campaign, Haradinaj stated that no minister of Kosovo would be allowed to participate in

campaigns during working hours. However, KALLXO.com found several cases of Minister of EU Integration, Minister of Innovation, Minister of Infrastructure, and the Minister of Education, Science, and Technology, active on local election campaigns during the day. Thus, this promise is considered as a pure lie 4/5.

- On October 31, 2017, KALLXO.com published a Truth-o-meter piece regarding the long-postponed issue of health insurances for Kosovo citizens. KALLXO.com followed the promises made by the three former Ministers of Health, as well as those of the newly-elected ministers. All the promises, claiming that health insurance would be provided in the past years, are ranked as 3/5 lies.

- On October 25, 2017, KALLXO.com reported on a mistaken statement by the Kosovo President, Hashim Thaçi, which, under the Truth-o-meter, was classified as partly true. Thaçi attended the council where he appointed 40 judges and 13 young prosecutors from the non-majority communities in Kosovo, in compliance with Kosovo Prosecutorial Council. However, according to article 104 of Kosovo's Constitution, the President can only appoint prosecutors in accordance with KPC, whereas the judges should be named in accordance with Kosovo Judicial Council.

- On November 7, 2017, KALLXO.com reported about an "altered view" of the former Mayor of the Municipality of Klina, Sokol Bashota. The citizens had complained about the bad conditions of the Klina River and its pollution with grass. Bashota had said that he will not remove the grass because it helps to keep the river clean, after consulting the experts. However, after this issue was raised during the preliminary debates, Bashota decided to clean the river, despite the experts' recommendations. Hence, in Truth-o-meter, this is considered as an altered view.

- On November 2, 2017, KALLXO.com published another piece under the Truth-o-meter rubric. The current mayor of Fushë-Kosova Municipality, Burim Berisha, has been a Mayor for the past two

mandates, i.e. since 2009. In 2009, he publicly promised that the entire city would be supplied with a water system by 2010; however, this wasn't done in that year and neither has been achieved to date. Truth-o-meter hence assesses it as a pure lie, 4/5.

- On November 9, 2017, KALLXO.com published another piece under the Truth-o-meter rubric regarding a statement by current Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports, Kujtim Gashi. When asked by Internews Kosova's journalists in 2014, where the new Kosovo stadium would be located, Gashi said that the location was not specified for this case. However, in 2014, the former Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, had said that the stadium would be located in Prishtina. Hence, under Truth-o-meter, this is a pure lie, 5/5.

- On November 9, 2017, KALLXO.com published a piece falling under the Truth-o-meter rubric. Albin Kurti, representing political movement Vetëvendosje, during the campaign of parliamentary elections in June, had said that Vetëvendosje would not make a coalition with PDK. However, during the campaign for run-off mayoral elections in the Municipality of Gjilan, Sami Kurteshi, a Vetëvendosje candidate, when asked about a potential coalition, said that he would not exclude the possibility of forming a coalition with any political party. Hence, this, under Truth-o-meter, is considered as an altered view.

- On November 20, 2017, KALLXO.com published another Truth-o-meter piece regarding the building of the Olympic stadium in Kosovo. Avni Arifi, a team leader at Prime Minister's cabinet, had said that the stadium will not be moved to Drenas, but it will stay where it was planned, i.e. Bernicë e Poshtme. However, the media asked him whether the stadium would be moved to Drenas, as the Head of Assembly had said. Arifi responded by saying that the latter is true and that he spoke based on what he knew. Hence, this is a "middle-lie", 3/5, under Truth-o-meter.

- On November 19, 2017, KALLXO.com published a piece on Truth-o-meter rubric, revealing the

truth behind a statement from Kosovo's Prime Minister Haradinaj. Haradinaj had promised that, based on recommendations by Anti-Corruption Agency, he would dismiss all board members of public enterprises. However, he only dismissed a few which under Truth-o-meter is considered as partly true, or 2/5.

- On November 22, 2017, KALLXO.com published a piece on Truth-o-meter regarding the missing of deadlines by relevant authorities to renovate the stadium in Prishtina. On May 2016, the former Minister of Sports, Youth, and Culture, Kujtim Shala had stated that the renovations of the stadium would be finished in 14 months. However, more than 17 months passed, and no renovation was done. This is hence considered as a lie ranked 3/5.

- On November 31, 2017, KALLXO.com published another piece under Truth-o-meter regarding the high number of ministers appointed in Kosovo's Government. In 2014, during the governance of Prime Minister Mustafa, the current Prime Minister Haradinaj had posted a status on his Facebook profile by stating that the Mustafa Government was appointing too many Deputy Ministers, which is not suitable with Kosovo's budget. However, now that Haradinaj is PM himself, he has appointed a record number of Deputy Ministers with the excuse that it is not a waste of money, blaming the situation in Kosovo. Hence, this in Truth-o-meter is measured as a pure lie ranked as 4/5.

- On November 24, 2017, KALLXO.com published a piece on Truth-o-meter regarding an "altered view" of Prime Minister Haradinaj. In 2015, when the opposition party members were arrested after throwing tear gas into parliament, Haradinaj said that they should be set free and PM Mustafa should be arrested instead. This topic continues to be relevant today as Haradinaj is PM, and he is no longer supporting them as he did when he was in the opposition.

- On November 23, 2017, KALLXO.com published a piece on Truth-o-meter, which revealed that the Mayor of Municipality of Mitrovica, Agim Bahtiri, released a statement that according

to Truth-o-meter is a pure lie, ranked as 5/5. When asked about some properties in Mitrovica in which allegedly strategies to assassinate Albanians were made, Bahtiri said that those properties are not under protection and never will be. However, these properties, including the "House of Army" are under protection.

- On November 28, 2017, KALLXO.com published another piece at Truth-o-meter, again related to the Mayor of Mitrovica, Agim Bahtiri. In 2013, Bahtiri had said that he has created an urban plan, where 13 buses will be available for the transportation of citizens. However, it is year 2017 and none of these buses have materialized. Hence, this is measured as a pure lie ranked as 4/5.

- On November 25, 2017, KALLXO.com published an article falling under the Truth-o-meter rubric. The former Mayor of the Municipality of Kamenica, Begzad Sinani, in 2013, while vying for the position of Mayor, had said that within that year, he would destroy old schools and build new ones. However, it is year 2017 and none of these actions were undertaken. Therefore, this statement is considered as a pure lie ranked as 4/5.

2017

FAST FACTS

Unique Visitors:
1,039,737

Page views:
1,239,164

Daily Visits:
3,354

Facebook fan page:
247, 563

PRISHTINA INSIGHT

(from 2008 to date)

After seven years in print, *Prishtina Insight* went online on February 2016. The goal was to make Prishtina Insight's work- some of the best journalism from Kosovo - accessible to a wider global readership. Today, more than 50 per cent of PI's readership is from outside of Kosovo.

During 2017, *Prishtina Insight* extensively covered current affairs, socio-economic developments, education, institutional reforms in line with the European Reform Agenda, and the parliamentary and local elections of 2017. Some of the highlights of the years were marked by original stories and investigations:

- On October 10, *Prishtina Insight* published an article summarizing the activities of the first ever pride parade in Kosovo, promoting LGBT rights.

- On July 13, *Prishtina Insight* published an article about an initiative of a few young people from Gjakova, who became the first teenagers in Europe to build an electric car.

- On October 22, *Prishtina Insight* published an opinion titled "Forgive us, Fatima," an op-ed by a Serbian human rights activist on the story of a young Srebrenica native. The opinion was published around the time of the ICTY decision convicting General Ratko Mladic of genocide.

- On May 15, *Prishtina Insight* published an oral history account of a Kosovar woman who was a survivor of wartime sexual violence.

- On January 14, *Prishtina Insight* published its reporting on a provocative train, which on January, made an attempt to enter Kosovo from Serbia but was stopped.

- On May 19, *Prishtina Insight* published a story revealing the activism of a group of young women from Prizren, the first formal feminist group in the city.

- On July 13, *Prishtina Insight* published an investigation on civil rights and access to documentation for Kosovo Serbs, highlighting irregularities and advocating for institutional change to equip Kosovo minorities with documentation.

- On December 12, *Prishtina Insight* published an investigation on the culture of plagiarism in Kosovo's higher education, highlighting a deep culture of impunity in Kosovo universities.

- Finally, on July 25, *Prishtina Insight* published another widely read story, on the stigmatization faced by Kosovo Muslim women that wear the hijab.

2017

PI FAST FACTS

Features:
52

News:
267

Opinions:
124

Big Deal:
28

Guide:
6



Balkan Insight and Balkan Transitional Justice

(BI from 2006 to date and BTJ from 2011 to date)

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 2016, BIRN Kosovo's journalists produced 3260 news pieces and 770 premium articles (271 analysis, 102 comments, 184 features, 80 interviews, 44 investigations, and 96 profiles).

Balkan Insight's Google Analytics records show that domestic and international readers had greater interest in published articles than in the previous year. In the stated period Balkan Insight had 6,250,000 page views, out of which 2,035,894 unique visitors. 45% of visitor's return (1,632,886), and 55% are new visitors (1,998,075).

Countries with the most visits on *Balkan Insight* are: United States, UK, Serbia, Macedonia, Australia, Kosovo, Canada, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania.

In the past year BIRN Kosovo's web team was dedicated to content promotion on various social networks, which significantly increased the number of Facebook likes on *Balkan Insight's* page from 36,560 on last year to 61,552 now. *Balkan Insight's* Twitter profile went from 18,000 followers to 24,200 followers. The two most important and successful social media channels for 2016 were Facebook and Twitter, with the vast majority of traffic to the website coming via Facebook (82.17%).

Overall, social media accounted for 928,064 sessions on Balkan Insight in 2016, which is 25.56% of the total number of sessions (3,630,961). This is an increase from 2015 of 5.86%.

In 2016 Balkan Transitional Justice programme published 770 articles, out of which 178 analyses. These articles are published in four languages.



Besim KELMENDI

Coordinator at the Chief
Prosecutor's office

*"Justice in Kosovo
realistically
reflects our job as
prosecutors".*



Behar SELIMI

Former Director of Kosovo Police

*"I encourage my colleagues
to continue collaborating
with Justice in Kosovo; it is in
their benefit".*

MONITORING AND ADVOCATING

BIG DEAL: Monitoring the implementation of the Kosovo-Serbia Agreements

In 2013, BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova teamed up with the Belgrade-based Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA) to monitor every agreement made between Kosovo and Serbia since 2011: 16 topics in total.

Only in 2017 BIG DEAL published 32 articles related to the dialogue, which covered a wide range of topics including Kosovo's telephone country code; the arrest of Ramush Haradinaj by French authorities and its effects on dialogue; the issue of demarcation with Montenegro; expectations of negotiations from analysts and politicians; the situation of Kosovo Serbs and their integration in Kosovo; Interview with Nikola Kabasic, the president of the newly integrated Basic Court in Mitrovica; the transformation of the Kosovo Security Forces into an army; the integration of the judiciary in the northern part of the country into Kosovo laws; Kosovo Serbs' struggle to attain citizenship; travel restrictions imposed to Kosovo Serbs; the wall in Northern Mitrovica; the negotiations deadlock, as well as new stages on the negotiation phase, among others. Through articles in *Prishtina Insight*, BIG DEAL continues to inform the public about the dialogue process between Kosovo and Serbia and keep the process itself transparent.



Public Procurement:

Under the auspices of the project for monitoring public services and public expenditures, BIRN Kosovo has monitored the announcements of public contracts in all public institutions of Kosovo. Monitoring was followed with further research and reporting of the key findings immediately after the cases was disclosed to media. Monitoring of public expenditures through public procurement is of crucial importance. Such a process can identify irregularities in the content as well as technical, procedural and administrative aspects so that improvements can be made.

The procurement sector is still on a transitional phase, as we have experienced radical changes within the Procurement Law within 2016 including here the application of an online e-procurement service. In spite of the latest adjustments, BIRN Kosovo constantly investigates cases on violations of procurement procedures. During the year of 2017, BIRN's monitoring shows violations of procurement on municipal level such as: violations on the tender for the maintenance of roads by the municipality of Ferizaj³⁷, violations on the tender for the installation of water supply by the municipality of Dragash³⁸, violations on the procurements process on the tender for the green maintenance of the municipality of Gjakova³⁹, or violations of article 36 of Law on Procurement by the municipality of Gjilan⁴⁰.

In addition to articles published on *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë*, procurement cases are also investigated and reported on our anti-corruption platform *KALLXO.com*. The publication of these cases is done with the aim to reach transparency on public procurement through making corruptive activities visible to the wide public. Some of the most recent publications pertaining public procurement are:

- On June 18, 2017, *KALLXO.com* published an article which explained that citizens were unsatisfied with the conditions of a road that takes them to Rugova. After contacting the responsible road construction company, action was taken and the road was repaired as a result of BIRN actions.

- On June 15, 2017, *KALLXO.com* reported about the Mayor of the Municipality of Istog, Haki Rugova. Rugova who was also a shareholder in a construction company named Macon, where tenders were extended despite it being a direct conflict of interest. After publishing BIRN's investigation, Rugova changed his wealth declaration and he was no longer seen as a stakeholder in the company.

- On December 3rd, 2017, *KALLXO.com* wrote an article concerning the inadequate planning of procurement activity in the initial phase in the Municipality of Pristina. This plan saw an additional amount of 8000 EUR put in the contract, from the initially planned procurement activity.

- On December 8th, 2017 *KALLXO.com* published an article concerning the amount of money spent by different municipalities for the end-year holidays and the decoration of the cities. The municipality of Gjilan was expected to spend 9,913 EUR for the equipment and organization of New Year's holidays. Among the foreseen expenses, there were included the sound system, a 10 meters covered scene, a big screen, 450 chairs, a tent and the improvisation of Mayor's office in the lobby of the theater. Compared to Gjilan, the decoration of the Municipality of Prishtina cost about 8,000 EUR.

- On December 15, 2017, *KALLXO.com* reported on the investigation dealing with the evasion of procurement procedures and violations made by the municipality of Prizren. The first violation identified in the article deals with the dragging and delays made in the assessment process and the wrongful interpretation of requirement of the tender dossier with the purpose of annulling this tender. This case shed light on the tendencies to eliminate economic operators calling upon parameters that were not part of the tender dossier.

- On December 28, 2017, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* published the given article which includes the expenses made by the Municipality of Zveçan, for two highly expensive cars – compared to prices in the market. The article also tackles some of the technical specifications, which were requested when initiating the tender for the purchase of vehicles. Considering that initial suspicions have shown that the paid price is vastly expensive for the given car type, BIRN Kosovo investigated to find out the exact type of car that has been purchased, in order to check whether the price is more expensive than that of the company.

Findings and recommendations from BIRN Kosovo for the upcoming years, thus, alarm that there is a need for increasing transparency and reducing corruption by depoliticizing the Court of Tenders, strengthening the function of the Procurement Review Body, increasing the human resources, offering adequate training to procurement officials, and centralizing the procurement without damaging the competition.

37. <http://kallxo.com/gjnk/shkeljet-ligjore-qe-rrezikuan-jeten-e-qytetareve/>

38. <http://kallxo.com/gjnk/dragashi-rizjedh-kompanine-e-papergjegjshme-per-shtrimin-e-ujesjellesit/>

39. <http://kallxo.com/gjnk/anulohet-tenderi-per-gjelberim-per-shkak-te-leshimeve-ne-dosje/>

40. <http://kallxo.com/gjnk/komuna-e-gjilanit-ia-huq-procedurave-te-kuotimit-te-cmimit-ne-tender/>



Judiciary:

This project has had several factors affecting its implementation given that BIRN Kosovo has a team of researchers that continuously follow the events occurring in Kosovo, and are available to receive citizens' reports. One factor that indicates the improvement of the relationship between *KALLXO.com* and the state institutions is the number of cases that have been followed-up with institutions. 50 cases addressed by *KALLXO.com* resulted in active measures from competent institutions.

One important event marking how *KALLXO.com* strengthened its relationship with rule of law institutions was the publication of the 10th annual court monitoring project report. The marking of the past decade of

publishing this report was held on May 8th, where representatives from the rule of law field, such as the State Chief Prosecutor, Kosovo Supreme Court, Kosovo Judicial Council, and Kosovo Prosecutorial Council participated in the panel, and several relevant stakeholders joined the audience to learn what the report had to reveal.

The cooperation that *KALLXO.com* established with institutions and media outlets, increased the reputation of BIRN Kosovo's products. The high number of re-publications of stories proves this; the number of articles/ stories republished by other local media for the period of January 2017 until December 2017 was over 4,500. In addition, there are about 200 republications on regional media in the English Language, including www.balkaninsight.com.



Training and Media Development

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

- On May 25, 2017, BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova gathered students from University of Prishtina's Department of Law with EULEX chief Alexandra Papadopoulou, to discuss the goals of EULEX in Kosovo and answer student's questions addressed to Papadopoulou.

- On May 30, 2017, another similar discussion was held with students from University of Prishtina's Department of Law with the Head of the EU Office/ EU Special Representative Nataliya Apostolova. Apostolova discussed with students, issues related to the path towards EU integration, at the courtroom at the Department of Law.

- On October 2017, Internews Kosova and BIRN Kosovo provided four lectures in Kosovo high schools, mostly in the schools where youth are influenced by ideologies such as violent extremism. Two of the lectures took place in Prishtina, one in Mitrovica, and one in Kaçanik, where about 300 students were present.

- As a member of the International Fact-Checking Movement, *KALLXO.com* took part in marking the Fact-Checking Day in Kosovo on April 2nd. As a part of global activities, *KALLXO.com* constantly promotes evidence-based journalism, which means publishing news that are checked and followed up after they are shared publicly. *KALLXO.com* marked this day by organizing several activities.

- A video was launched with the motto: "Do not let them fool you: Facts are important," showing some of the most important pledges, fact-checked by the team. Fact-checking is an important feature for *KALLXO.com* as it promotes the message of delivering news and checking their veracity.

- Under the same motto, BIRN Kosovo compiled a column on the fact-checking movement along with an emphasis on the growing significance of fact-checking in the face of fake news and tabloid journalism. This particular column was published in both Albanian and English languages, on *KALLXO.com* and Prishtina Insight. It explicitly discussed how the truth might vary from what was proclaimed by politicians who make statements, aimed at swaying public opinion in their favor.

- In order to celebrate fact-checking work conducted by *KALLXO.com*, we were delighted to host a Kosovo diplomat and three foreign diplomats currently serving their missions in Kosovo. The German Ambassador Angelika Viets, followed by the Kosovo Liaison Officer

to Serbia, Valdet Sadiku, joined us in these discussions. Following these sessions, we welcomed the Head of the EU Office in Kosovo/EU Special Representative Nataliya Apostolova and the Italian Ambassador in Kosovo, Piero Cristoforo Sardi. The guest speakers affirmed the notion—which our team continuously cultivates—that in the complex world we live in, facts do matter. They proclaimed the need for accurate and detailed evidence in journalism, politics, and everyday life.

- A similar talk was held in the University of Prishtina's Department of Philology, Branch of Journalism, where the right to know the truth and the need to fact-check were extensively deliberated upon. The significance of fact checking, referring to it as the new era of professional journalism, was affirmed throughout discussion.

- In addition, *KALLXO.com* representatives participated as panelists and wrote an editorial for a Tuesday Salon, organized weekly in Prishtina, by the Democracy for Development (D4D), to discuss on the phenomenon of fake news as a growing concern in many democracies.

- *KALLXO.com* team, in cooperation with University AAB's Mass Communication Department in Pristina, delivered a lecture at the University AAB. The lecture started with a welcome note by the host Professor Zija Rexhepi and continued with a discussion led by Faik Ispahiu, the Executive Producer of *KALLXO.com* and Kreshnik Gashi, author of *Drejtësia në Kosovë* and editor of *KALLXO.com*

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

Access to Public Documents

Our legal team continued to test the implementation of the law on the access to public documents, by sending numerous requests to authorities for different documents, including CVs of senior officials, minutes of meetings and contracts.

During 2017, BIRN Kosovo submitted 47 requests for access to public documents and got answer to 14 of them. Compared to last year, there was a 24% increase in the number of requests submitted.

LEGAL AND ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

On 2017, BIRN Kosovo's legal team was engaged in different parliamentary commissions to bring new amendments to existing laws and recommendations for bills. In total, this team has contributed to 7 major laws including:

- *Law on Notary;*
- *Amending and supplementing the Law on Contested Procedure;*
- *Amending and supplementing the Law on Inheritance;*
- *Law of Prevention of Conflict of Interest;*
- *Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Kosovo;*
- *Penal Code of the Republic of Kosovo;*
- *Law on Radio Television of Kosovo.*

For the Laws of Notary, Contested Procedure and Inheritance, there were 40 amendments in two sets proposed; 10 recommendations on the Law of Prevention of Conflict of Interest; and 15 recommendations for the Bill on Radio Television of Kosovo.

Legal follow-up of citizen reporting cases in KALLXO.com

KALLXO.com is an anti-corruption social media platform established on April 2012 by Internews Kosova in partnership with BIRN Kosovo. Since its launch, *KALLXO.com* platform has received 5,408 reports from citizens on the basis that their reports will be followed

up by two teams, a) teams of investigative journalists to produce the media story and b) teams of legal advisers to present the legal argument of the case to the relevant authorities.

The citizen reports are divided into five main categories: corruption, conflict of interest, elections, fraud, municipal services and other. Internews Kosova constantly reviews the cases reported on *KALLXO.com* and verifies them on daily basis.

The reports sent to *www.KALLXO.com* are followed up by investigative teams consisting of monitors in the field, journalists, and the legal office.

After reports are verified by the 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 that reported case, and attach 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 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 is protocolled and backed by proof, is more difficult to be ignored than a media report.

Overall, during 2017, BIRN Kosovo in cooperation with its partner Internews Kosovo **followed up 224 complaints backed by evidence.**



Below is a table representing the institution, the number of complaints sent, and the status of the complaints:

Institution	Number of complaints sent	Outcome
Municipality of Prishtina	1	1 answer
Office of Chief State Prosecutor	7	2 impacts
Kosovo Police Inspectorate	2	1 impact
Office of the Disciplinary Prosecutor	8	2 impacts, 3 answers
Tax Administration Kosovo	5	3 answers
Kosovo Judicial Council	4	2 impacts
Kosovo Telecom	1	No answer
Kosovo Prosecutorial Council	2	1 impact
Ministry of Justice	1	No answer
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	4	1 impact
Municipality of Lipjan, Education Directorate	1	No answer
Kosovo Election Complaint and Appeal Panel	148	36 impacts, 35 answers
Office of the Prime Minister	1	1 answer
EULEX Information Office	1	1 answer
Basic Court Prishtina	1	1 impact
Kosovo Police- Department for Economic Crimes	3	1 impact
Basic Prosecution Peja	2	1 impact
Basic Court Prizren	1	No answer
Kosovo Post	1	1 answer
Basic Prosecution Prishtina	1	No answer
Kosovo Assembly: Commission on Legislation	3	2 answers
Ministry of Internal Affairs	1	No answer
Labor Inspectorate- Executive Body	3	1 impact
Ministry of Finance	1	No answer
Ministry of Health	1	No answer
Kosovo Assembly: Commission on Media	1	No answer
Basic Prosecution Mitrovica	4	No answer
Anti-Corruption Agency	3	1 answer
Basic Prosecution Prizren	1	1 impact
Office of the Prime Minister	3	3 answers
Office of the President	1	1 answer
Kosovo Constitutional Court	1	1 answer
Ministry of Education Inspectorate	1	No answer
Labor Inspectorate	1	No answer
University of Prishtina Rectorate	1	No answer
Municipality of Skenderaj/ Education Directorate	1	1 answer
Municipality of Podujeva/ Education Directorate	1	1 answer
Procurement Review Body	1	No answer
TOTAL	224	50 impacts

Out of 224 complaints, BIRN Kosovo received 50 impacts and 50 responses.

BIRN KOSOVO

Awards

Considering the impact of the stories published by BIRN Kosovo outlets, there were occasions when *KALLXO.com* journalists were awarded for their stories:

- On December 2017, *Justice in Kosovo* journalists, who published the story "Bribery in Court" were given the "Best Story on Anti-Corruption" award by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Kosovo) and the Association of Journalists of Kosovo.

- On May 2017, the *KALLXO.com* team and the *Life in Kosovo* team were awarded with the second place prize by the EU on the "Best Investigative Story" for the investigation on organized tax fraud at the Kosovo Tax Administration. BIRN Kosovo/Internews Kosova journalist Rahman Ramaj won another award, distributed by Kosovo Central Bank for the "Best Story in Economics."

- On November 2017, GIZ and the Association of Journalists of Kosovo for a story named "The Silence towards Falsifying Grades" awarded the *Life in Kosovo* show with the "Best Story on Education."

In addition, considering that in 2016 BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova launched Krypometër, the first fact-checker in Kosovo, the year 2017 was quite productive in producing articles related to fact-checking and truthfulness of statements and promises of political representatives. As a result, on December, Krypometër passed an independent audit and was certified with a verified badge from the International Fact-Checkers Network.

BIRN Kosovo work has been appreciated and applauded by many stakeholders in Kosovo and abroad.

BIRN KOSOVO

Partners & Donors

BIRN Kosovo works with a large network of local civil society organizations in Kosovo, as well as regionally and internationally:

1. Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture – ACDC
2. Advocacy Training and Resource Centre - ATRC
3. Balkan Green Fund
4. Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies - CEAS
5. Community Building Mitrovica, CBM
6. Crossing Bridges Productions
7. Dokufest
8. Forum for Civic Initiative
9. Group for Legal and Political Studies, GLPS
10. Initiative for Progress, NGO in Ferizaj
11. Institute for Advanced Studies, GAP
12. Institute for Development Policy, INDEP
13. Internews Kosova
14. KOSMA network of Serbian local TV stations
15. Mreza TV
16. NGO AKTIV
17. NGO Change, Gjilan
18. Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG)
19. Radio Television 21
20. Radio Television of Kosovo
21. RTV Puls
22. Syri i Vizionit, Peja
23. TOKA

Regional partnerships

24. BIRN Bosnia and Herzegovina
25. BIRN Macedonia
26. BIRN Serbia
27. BIRN Regional
28. OCCRP
29. TV Aldi, Presheve

International Cooperation & Partnerships

30. European Climate Foundation
31. Frontline Club
32. Saferworld
33. SCOOP
34. Sierra Club
35. Thomson Reuters Foundation

BIRN Kosovo is generously supported by the following donors:

- Austrian Development Agency
- Advocacy Training and Research Centre ATRC/ USAID
- Balkan Trust for Democracy
- BIRN Hub
- British Embassy
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (MOTT)
- European Union Office in Kosovo
- Foundation Wings of Hope
- Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina
- Kosovar Civil Society Foundation
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Radio Television of Kosovo
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- The Royal Netherlands Embassy
- UNDP

BIRN KOSOVO

Funding in 2017

Through 2017, BIRN Kosovo continued to rely on the generous support of a wide range of Western governments, independent and public partners to sustain the organization's internal capacity and public impact. The BIRN Kosovo team is deeply grateful to all of them for their loyal and unconditional support, which further strengthened BIRN Kosovo's ultimate objective to serve as a watchdog, monitor the work of public institutions, and support their reform on paths towards meeting the criteria and standards of the European Union.

As BIRN Kosovo looks forward to accomplishing its strategic long-term and short-term goals, it hopes to maintain, nurture and strengthen the existing relationships with its key donors, while continuing to broaden and deepen the 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:

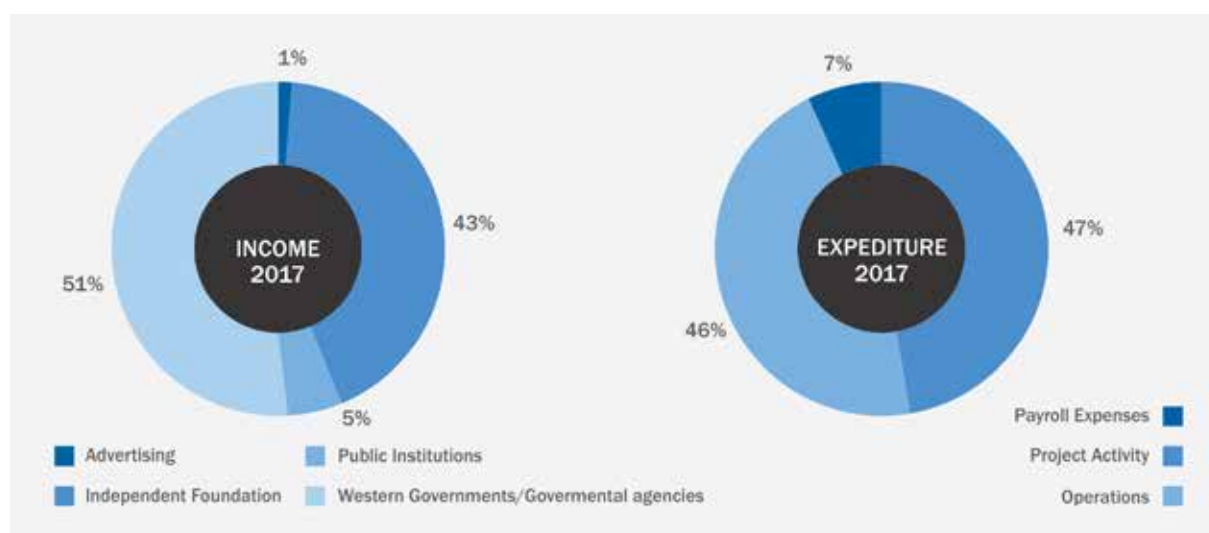
- Production of the weekly current affair TV debates on the televised program *Jeta në Kosovë*;
- Systematic Monitoring of the performance of public services and production of
- *Justice in Kosovo* weekly TV program;
- Production of electoral debates;
- Publication of *Balkan Insight*, *Prishtina Insight*, *Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë* and the Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence.

Western Governments/ Governments and agencies/ Independent and Public Foundations

As in the past, BIRN Kosovo's primary financial support comes

from partners in Western governments. Western governments' support continued to hold steady both in absolute and relative terms, representing 51 percent of total funding. A majority of these donors have now provided grants also for the coming years, demonstrating their long-term commitment to and belief in our work. These partners are set to remain a key source of financial support, as we seek to expand cooperation with several of our key existing supporters and also foster new relationships with others.

BIRN Kosovo was also fortunate to count on the financial support of independent foundations and public institutions, which represent 43 percent and about 5 percent respectively, of total organizational support during the 2017 fiscal year. Alongside the **Western Governments, Independent Foundations and Public Institutions** continue to be a vital source of our support.





Donors are listed in alphabetical order:

- Advocacy Training and Resource Centre - ATRC
- Balkan Investigative Reporting Network - BIRN Serbia
- BIRN HUB
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Austrian Development Agency Grant - ADA
- DUTCH-MATRA
- Embassy of Switzerland
- European Commission Liaison Office
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - FES
- Gazeta JNK
- Human Rights Watch
- Independent Journalists Association of Vojvodina - Delegation of the European Union in Serbia Novi Sad
- Insurance Company Dukagjini
- INTERNEWS KOSOVA
- Kosovar Civil Society Foundation - KCSF
- Kosovo Foundation for Open Society - KFOS
- Kosovo Women's Network
- Metamorphosis, Foundation for Internet and Society
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Prishtina Insight
- Radio Television of Kosovo - RTK
- Raiffeisen Bank Kosovo
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund - RBF
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - SIDA
- SWISS Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
- The European Union office in Kosovo
- The Balkan Trust for Democracy - BTd
- The European Union
- The European Union Represented by the European Commission (Regional head of Partner Fondacija Krila Nade
- U.S. Embassy Pristina
- United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo - UNMIK
- USAID's Justice System Support Program

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

- 1. Radio Television of Kosovo ("RTK")** continued offering the space for broadcasting the televised programmes *Life in Kosovo* and *Justice in Kosovo* through 2016. BIRN Kosovo signed an agreement for a contract which obliges RTK to pay for half of the production of the programmes but to this day, RTK is more than four years behind with payments to BIRN Kosovo for its programming.

WESTERN GOVERNMENTS / GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES:

- 1. Austrian Development Agency** - Among other donors that supported *Prishtina Insight's* publication is the Austrian Development Agency, ADA.
- 2. National Endowment for Democracy (NED)** - The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) continued to support BIRN throughout 2016 with project such as "Promoting Transparency and Accountability of Local Government".
- 3. The Royal Netherlands Embassy** - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, through the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Prishtina, awarded a four-year grant to support the project entitled "Reporting on Police and Procurement Issues."
- 4. The European Union, represented by the European Union Office in Kosovo** - Strengthening of the Civil Society oversight on the rule of law system in Kosovo. The EU Office in Kosovo awarded a grant to BIRN to carry out a project which is a combination of public services monitoring and production of televised debates and report for the *Life in Kosovo* and *Justice in Kosovo* programmes, called "Monitoring of Public Services and TV debates".
- 5. The European Union, represented by the European Union Office in Kosovo** - Media for All - The EU Office in Kosovo funds BIRN's program to develop independent, investigative, impartial, unbiased and publicly beneficial journalism in Kosovo. This program promoted democratic values through strengthening freedom of speech and independent media in Kosovo.

INDEPENDENT FOUNDATIONS

1. **Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (MOTT)** - Charles Stewart Mott Foundation supported BIRN with a general purpose grant which also finances the public service project as well as *Life in Kosovo*, *Justice in Kosovo* and *Prishtina Insight*.
2. **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** - The Rockefeller Brothers Fund was the first donor to help support and design the very successful project of the monitoring of public services, which began in 2008. It was initially funded only by RBF and then co-funded by other donors such as EU and Dutch government, which allowed for the project to produce *Justice in Kosovo*. This RBF support through 2016 as well brought the extending of the scope of the monitoring, in order to create room for public procurement monitoring. The RBF grant supported specifically the monitoring of courts, public procurement and implementation of the agreements signed between Serbia and Kosovo.
3. **Internews Kosova** – In addition, BIRN Kosovo received some funds from Internews Kosova for the implementation of the “Supporting Anti-corruption Efforts” program in Kosovo, supported by UNDP in Kosovo, and for the production of TEMA televised debates supported by the British Embassy in Prishtina.
4. **Kosovar Civil Society Foundation – KCSF** supported 10 Post-Election Live debates until the first three months of 2016.
5. **Advocacy Training and Resource Center – ATRC** supported BIRN’s project of empowering women to seek their inheritance rights.
6. **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – SIDA** supported BIRN throughout 2016.
7. Throughout 2016, BIRN Kosovo has received funds from **BIRN Hub**, which also supports *Balkan Insight* and the Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence.
8. Independent Journalists Association of Vojvodina- a delegation from the European Union in Serbia supported a project named “Missing Rights - Finding Solutions”.

ADVERTISING

BIRN Kosovo takes a very modest income from advertising, none of which is for profit and is used to pay the expenses of the operations of running outputs like *gazetajnk.com* and *Prishtina Insight*.

1. *Prishtina Insight* (PI) and *Gazeta JNK* - PI newspaper subscription and advertising PI and *Gazeta JNK* are around 1 per cent of total funds were generated as of December 31, 2016.



Acknowledgements

Special Thanks. BIRN Kosovo is pleased to thank the following for contributions in 2017.

Adrijana Hodzic – Administrative
Office in North Mitrovica

Advocacy and Training and
Resource Center - ATRC

Aferdita Saraqini – RTV 21

Aferdita Sylaj - CBM

Agon Çeta – project.graphics

Agon Makolli - Ricoh

Agon Maliqi –Sbunker

Agron Galani – Head Prosecutor
of Basic Prosecution in Peja

Alan Edwards – EULEX

Alban Haliti –INPO

Albana Beqiri - columnist

Albana Kasapi – BBC

Albana Kelmendi - lawyer

Albert Avdiu – Kosovo Judicial
Council

Aleksander Lumezi – State
Prosecution

Alex Anderson - OSCE

Ali Kutlllovci – Head of Basic
Court in Mitrovica

Ali Sadriu - Parliamentary
Commission for Supervision of
Public Finance

Ali Topalli – spokesperson of
Fushe Kosove

Ana Petrusheva – BIRN
Macedonia

Andrew Russell - UNDP

Anna Vezyroglou - EU High
Representative Mogherini
cabinet

Arbana Xharra - Zëri

Arbën Fetahu - translator

Arbër Beka- Kosovo Police
Inspectorate

Arbër Jashari - Official for
information in Appeal Court

Arrian Jashari - MDA

Arlinda Arenliu - Technical
Assistance Coordinator at White
Young Green International
Consulting Company

Armend Malazogu - Frutomania

Armend Preiqi - Kosovo Police
Inspectorate

Artan Muharremi - Privatization
Agency

Artan Qerkini – lawyer at Sejdiu
& Qerkini

Artan Venhari - Deputy Auditor
General

Arzen Randobrava - US Embassy
Press Office

Association of Pulmonologists in
Kosovo

Astrit Istrefi - Saferworld

Augustin Palokaj – Journalist at
Europe Press Holding

Azem Guri – Ministry of
Education

Azra Hasanovic - French Embassy

Baki Kelani – Kosovo Police

Bane Krstic

Bane Nesivic – NGO Aktiv

Bashkim Hyseni – Basic Court
Ferizaj

Bashkim Nevzati - lawyer

Bedri Kasumi - local potato
producer

Bekim Blakaj – Fund for
Humanitarian Right

Bekim Lila - hairdresser

Besa Luci - Kosovo 2.0

Besa Luzha - FES

Besa Shahini - ESI

Besar Likmeta – BIRN Albania

Besim Kelmendi – Special
Prosecution

Besnik Bislimi (Vetevendosje)
- Head of Parliamentary
Commission for Supervision of
Public Finance

Besnik Ramosaj- Kosovo Judicial Council	Elisabeth Gowing - activist	Grate e Krushes (Krusha Women)
BIRN Hub	Elmaze Syka – Head of Basic Court in Peja	Group for Legal and Political Studies – GLPS
Blerta Zeqiri – filmmaker	Enver Peci- Kosovo Judicial Council	Hajdar Beqa - Parliamentary Commission for Supervision of Public Finance
Bodo Weber - Democratization Policy Council (DPC)	Fabien Techene – EP Loire	Hajredin Kuci – Justice Minister
Bojana Barlovac - journalist	Fatmir Aliu - journalist	Hajrulla Çeku- NGO “Ec Ma Ndryshe”
Bozidar Vasic	Fatos Bytyci - Reuters journalist	Haki Abazi- RBF
Bridget Millman – BTD	Fejzullah Hasani – Head of Supreme Court	Hamdi Ibrahim – Head of Basic Court in Prishtina
Bruno Neziraj - translator	Ferid Teliqi - translator	Haxhijaha – Local Produce
Budimir Nicic - journalist	Fetah Podvorica - Pro-rector of University of Prishtina	Helen Darbshire - Access Info
Buka - Meridiani	Filloreta Topgjiu - EUSR	Hereze Sefaj - British Embassy
Humollet – Local Produce	Fisnik Minci – journalist at Koha Ditore	Hilmi Jashari – Ombudsperson
Christian Geosits - ADA	Flutura Dedinja - designer	Ian Bancroft - EULEX
Dejan Pavicevic – Belgrade Liaison Office	Flutura Kusari - lawyer	Idro Seferi - journalist
Denis Dizdovic – BIRN	Forum for Civic Initiative – FIQ	Igballe Rugova – Kosovo Women's Network
Dinka Zivalj – Spokesperson EU Office	Fred Abrahams – Human Rights Watch	Imer Beka – Basic Prosecution in Prishtina
Djath Rugove – Local Produce	Frutomania – Local Produce	Imer Mushkolaj - journalist
DOKUFEST	Gaby Hagmuller – European Commission	Initiative for Environment and Local Development (IELD)
Dominic-Haydn Braithwaite - British Embassy	GAP Institute	Institute for Development Policy – INDEP
Dragana Nikolic Solomon – EULEX	Gerrie Willems – Dutch Ambassador in Kosovo	Internews Kosova
Dragana Obradovic - BIRN Serbia	Gëzim Kollçaku - lawyer	Istvan Sipos – Deputy Chief of Mission of Hungarian Embassy
Driton Selmanaj - KDI	Gëzim Krasniqi - researcher	Ivan Antic
Dukagjin Pupovci - KEC	Gjeraqina Tuhina - journalist	Ivana Howard – NED
Dusan Radakovic- ACDC	Goran Paulsson - Swedish Embassy	Jan Braathu - Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo
Edis Agani – EU Office	Gordana Andric - journalist	Jehona Gjurgjeala – Executive Director of TOKA
Edis Jonuzi	Gordana Igric - journalist	

Jelena Markovic	Maria Eleni Boura - European External Action Service in Brussels	Nuhi Salihu - journalist/editor of Prizren TV
Jelena Milic - journalist	Marija Ristic – director of The Unidentified	Patrick Etienne - SDC
Jennifer Bachus – Deputy Chief of Mission of American Embassy	Marko Duric – Director of Serbian Office for Kosovo and Metohija	Pestova – Local Produce
Jonathan Rattel – Deputy Chief of Special Prosecution	Markus Baechler - SDC	Petar Miletic - former MP
Jusuf Thaci – education expert	Mary Aguirre - PILPG	Petrit Skenderi - Anti-corruption expert UNDP
Karl Gianciti - EU DirectorateGeneral for Enlargement	Mats Staffansson - Swedish ambassador	Philip Drewry - US Embassy Press Office
Kelsey Guyette – BTD	Mattew Brunwasser - New York Times stringer	Philip Mellish - EU Office in Kosovo
Konsoni – Local Produce	Mentor Shala - head of RTK	PILPG
Korab Sejdiu - lawyer	Merita Gashi - Ministry of Social Welfare	Pjetër Përgjokaj - lawyer
Kosovo Customs	Michael Dziedzic - author	Radica Nusdorfer - EU office in Kosovo
Kosovo Democratic Institute	Michelle Schohn - US Embassy Public Affairs Officer	Radka Betcheva - European Broadcasting Union
Kosovo Police	Miranda Shala - British embassy	Rajmonda Shehu - make-up artist
Kosovo Radio Television (RTK)	Mirna Buljugic - journalist	Ramadan Zejnullahu – Rector of University of Prishtina
Kreshnik Hoxha - columnist	Monika Tortschanoff - Austrian Development Agency	Rasa Nedeljkov - CRTA
Kristina Voko - BIRN Albania	Mufail Limani - RTK TV Director	Robert Bosch – Former Dutch Ambassador
Krystina Marty - Swiss ambassador in Kosovo	Murlan Jasiqi - translator	Rona Nishliu - RTK
Kujtim Hajredini- Art Motion	Mursel Raca - Executive Director of the Central Procurement Agency	Ruairi O'Connell – British Ambassador
Kujtim Shala – Minister of Culture	Mustafa Skenderi - MREZA	Safet Hoxha - Head of Public Procurement Regulatory Commission
Kushtrim Hoti – Green Cinema	Nedrete Ismaili- Rilindja	Sakibe Jashari - Swiss embassy
Labinot Iberdemaj – Mega Medium	Nehat Mustafa – deputy minister of Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	Sami Kurteshi - Ombudsperson
Laura Trimajova – European Parliament	Nenad Radosavljevic	Samuel Zbogar – EU Special Representative in Kosovo
Lawrence Marzouk - journalist	Nita Luci - researcher	Sanja Sovrllic - journalist
Leila Bicakcic- CIN Bosnia and Herzegovina	Nora Visoka - Cambridge Academy of Global Affairs	Sarah Maliqi – Civil Rights Defenders
Leon Malazogu - researcher	Norbert Pijls - Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation	Sasa Dragojlo - journalist
Lindita Tahiri - Pro-rector of University of Prishtina		
Liridon Cahani - producer		
Majlinda Kelmendi - judo champion		

Saskia Salzmann - Embassy of Switzerland

Sevdije Morina – Deputy-chief of State Prosecution

Srdjan Simonovic

Stojan Peljko - spokesperson

Sylë Hoxha – headprosecutor of Basic Prosecution in Prizren

Sylejman Klllokoqi – Cameraman of AP

Tanja Maksic - journalist

Teuta Hoxha

Thomas Gnocchi – head of Politic-Economic Sector and of European Integration in the EU Office in Kosovo

Tinka Kurti - spokesperson

Trofta Istogu – Local Produce

TV Puls

Una Hajdari - journalist

UP Rectorate

Valbona Mehmeti - British Embassy

Valdet Sala - Leviz Albania

Valdete Daka – head of KQZ

Valmir Ismaili - KDI

Vaton Durguti – head of Basic Court in Gjakova

Veton Mujaj- Syri i Vizionit

Victoria Anderica – Access Info

Viktor Popovic - Swiss Cooperation Officer

Visar Azemi – KOSID

Visare Gorani - Embassy of Sweden

Vjosa Osmani - MP

Vlora Çitaku – ambassador in the US

Voughan Smith - Frontline Club

Vukosava Crnjanski - CRTA

Walter Veirs – Charles Stewart Mott

Xhemajl Rexha - KOHAVISION

Xheraldina Vula - RTV 21

Yll Zeka – Kosovo Chamber of Lawyers

Ymer Hoxha – head of Basic Court in Prizren

Zana Cimili - journalist

Zana Limani – Telecommunication Networks Group

Zef Prendrecaj – Disciplinary Prosecutor

Zyhdi Haziri – Head of Basic Court in Gjilan

PREVIOUS STAFF AND INTERNS

We would like to thank the previous 2016 staff members and interns who were part of BIRN:

Alfred Kinolli - Project Coordinator

Ardian Gashi - Graphic Designer

Dardan Sinani - Web Producer / Cameraman / Video Editor

Erblin Hoxha - Project Coordinator

Fitore Aliu - Human Resources Officer

Furtuna Sheremeti - Head of the Legal Office

Gent Rexhepi - Auto Technician

Korab Kusari - Short-term Photographer

Kushtrim Islami - Project Coordinator

Laura Lumezi - Project Assistant

Lisar Morina - Short-term Photographer

Mehdi Mulaj - Editor

Mimoza Kqiku - Journalist

Nathaniel Tabak - Editor

Parim Olluri - Editor

Petrit Çollaku - Journalist

Shkelzen Dhomi - Social Media

Stiven Kolaj - Cameraman / Video Editor

Visar Kryeziu - Cameraman / Video Editor

Vjosa Daku - Monitoring / Researcher



WHO ARE WE?

The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) is the leading investigative reporting organisation in the Balkans, and is 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 organisation in the Balkans. It specializes in developing and implementing investigative and analytical reporting projects, theoretical and practical training for local journalists, and capacity building of local and regional media.

The BIRN network consists of seven member NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Romania, Albania and Bulgaria. It has an established editorial presence in Croatia and Montenegro.

BIRN Kosovo, in particular, specializes in organizing current affairs debates that have pushed boundaries in Kosovo by dealing with sensitive, hard-hitting and taboo-breaking topics, sometimes resulting in its journalists being threatened. These debates have pushed for public reform 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 63 full-time and part-time employees and contributors at different times, which employs and nurtures the best investigative journalism talent in Kosovo.

2017 BIRN KOSOVO ANNUAL REPORT

Balkan Investigative Reporting Network - BIRN (Kosovo)

"Mensa e Studenteve" Kati I,
10 000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Website: www.kosovo.birn.eu.com
Email: kosova@birn.eu.com