

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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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 and advocating for accountability, rule of law, and policy reform from public and private institutions in Kosovo.

## BIRN Kosovo's vision

BIRN Kosovo's vision is to maintain its position as the premier organization on investigative and analytical journalism, reporting on the country's most pressing issues in the political, economic, and social domains.

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

Through our televised debates, reportages, and trainings on critical thinking and argumentation, BIRN Kosovo encourages debate as key source to knowledge, emancipation, and political culture.

After starting with fewer than five staff members in 2005, BIRN Kosovo has since evolved into a comprehensive media organization, employing journalists, editors, and editorial, administrative and technical staff in the production of high-quality investigative and analytical reporting.

BIRN Kosovo now fields a team of around 50 full-time professionals as well as numerous local and international contributors that work in the development and implementation of ongoing 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

**BIRN Kosovo uses various research methods, the application of which depends on the production of articles, investigative reports, televised debates, televised reportages, and/or legal analysis.**

## 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 and reportages, or in-depth written 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 journalistic methods.

## Journalism through Fieldwork

BIRN Kosovo's team incorporates 51 staff and contributors ranging from investigative journalists, civil society activists, editors, researchers, and professional court monitors covering all municipalities in Kosovo. BIRN Kosovo is the only media outlet in the country that does systematic municipal and electoral debates. These debates aim to offer citizens the opportunity to communicate with and question their political representatives. Reports from regular citizens are our most powerful source of information. These reports received at the office or through telephone and/or e-mail, are often the basis of our investigations. It is our belief that the most accurate way to interpret realities in ground is to communicate with people directly affected by problems in question. 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 influences change. We believe it is not enough to report on corruption or vote rigging if competent institutions do not take action. To resist indifference and impotence of local institutions to act on matters we report, we have established a legal office that files cases for prosecution, cases armed with evidence collected through investigative reporters and court monitors. 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 trained in election monitoring and is all part of our philosophy that goes beyond reporting and what we call engaged journalism. Engaging in journalism shapes public opinion on the kind of state the citizens want Kosovo to become.

## Journalism through Fieldwork

BIRN Kosovo's methods of professional reporting, debating, and in-depth analyses creating 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

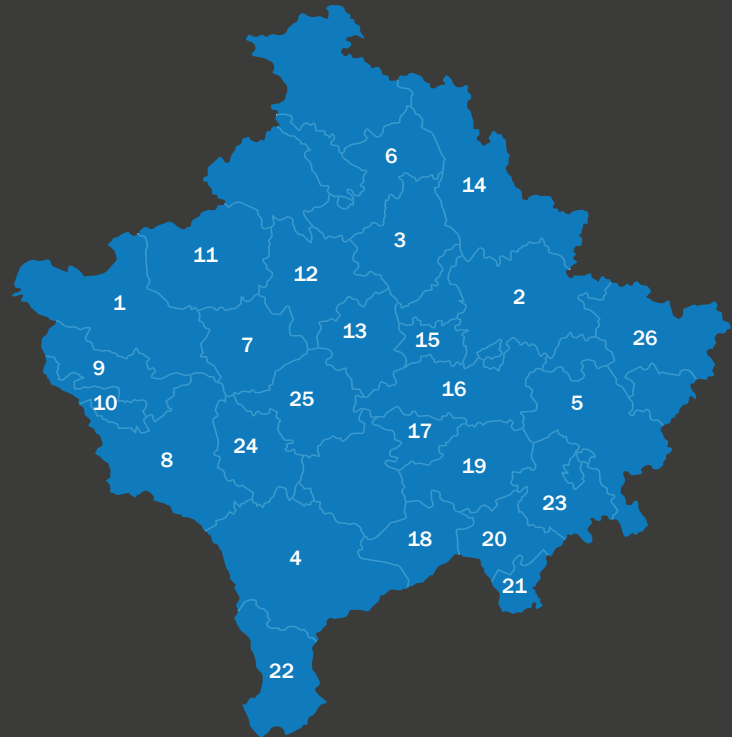
Since its establishment in 2005, BIRN Kosovo, in close partnership with Internews Kosova and BIRN Hub, has trained journalists, court monitors, researchers, civil society activists, and officials of public institutions in Kosovo. This has been done through on-the-job training and workshops on news and investigative reporting, TV production, investigative journalism 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 Kosovo. 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)

**2** Prishtina  
(Basic Court, Appeal Court, Supreme  
Court and Municipal services)

**3** Vushtrri  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**4** Prizren  
(Basic Court and Municipal  
services)

**5** Gjiilan  
(Basic Court and Municipal  
services)

**6** Mitrovicë  
(Basic Court and Municipal  
services)

**7** Klinë  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**8** Gjakovë  
(Basic Court and Municipal  
services)

**9** Deçan  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**10** Junik  
(Municipal services)

**11** Istog  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**12** Skenderaj  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**13** Drenas  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**14** Podujevë  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**15** Fushë Kosovë  
(Municipal services branch)

**16** Lipjan  
(Municipal Court branch and  
Municipal services)

**17** Shtime  
(Municipal services)

**18** Shtërpçë  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**19** Ferizaj  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**20** Kaçanik  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**21** H. Elez  
(Municipal services)

**22** Dragash  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**23** Viti  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**24** Rahovec  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**25** Malishevë  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

**26** Kamenicë  
(Basic Court branch and Municipal  
services)

# Diary of impact from BIRN Kosovo stories

BIRN Kosovo is proud to announce the impact it achieved during 2018. Such impacts demonstrate our strong cooperation with Kosovo institutions, and the result of our diligent work towards increasing accountability and transparency in state institutions and decreasing corruption, injustice, and structural discrimination within the public sector in Kosovo:

**January 2nd, 2018 –**

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë reported violations on the recruitment process in a secondary School in Pozharan. Public pressure is a tool that JnK and KALLXO.com uses to hold people accountable to their obligations stemming from their public post. This report was on Vullkan Terziu, a candidate that applied for the position of a Geography teacher in the Secondary School Kongresi i Manastirit in Pozharan. Terziu said that he was dismissed from the position unfairly and filed a lawsuit. According to Terziu, the Education Directorate of the Municipality of Vitia imposed criteria that violated the applicable Law on Employment, which was also confirmed by the Ministry of Education. The appointed teacher N.H. was not the most successful candidate. Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë followed the development of this legal matter to inform the citizens. Later, the Directorate of Education in the Municipality of Vitia reported to KALLXO.com that based on the marital status, motherhood, age, gender, and other circumstances, the Municipal Education Directorate gave priority to N.H, even though these criteria are not legitimate.

**January 12th, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com reported on shelters for women and children victims of domestic violence. These centers were not operational during January and February due to lack of financial support. As a result of BIRN Kosovo reporting, the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Skender Reçica, proposed the allocation of 65 thousand euro from the budget of the Ministry for the re-operationalization of 9 shelters providing care for victims of domestic violence, trafficking and children with trauma.

**January 19th, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com received a letter from the Anti-Corruption Agency confirming that they filed criminal charges against the Mayor of Istog, after a report on potential conflict of interest. According to a report published on KALLXO.com, Haki Rugova, as the Mayor of Istog, signed a contract with his brother's company, which constitutes a conflict of interest. The prosecution filed an indictment and the Basic Court in Peja adjudicated the case

**February 15th, 2018 –**

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë was the first to report on the appointment of Ekrem Kastrati as Secretary of the Ministry of Education although it was said that he did not have the sufficient qualifications for the position. The British Embassy and the Commission of Evaluation stated that none of the three candidates achieved satisfactory results, but the Minister of Education, Shyqyri Bytyqi, proposed that Ekrem Kastrati should be in the position. According to the report, this has been done due to favoritism and affiliation to the same political party. The British Embassy said that it was not the first time that the Government of Kosovo does not take into account their recommendations, while the Ministry of Education did not respond to JnK questions. Different organizations claim that the government decision is a politicized legal violation.



- February 16th, 2018 –** a citizen reported on KALLXO.com that a child posted a photo with a gun on Instagram. KALLXO.com's legal office filed a report to the Police Department, informing them on this matter. After the report, Kosovo Police raided a house, and confiscated the gun.
- On February 20th, 2018, the Ministry of Internal Affairs decided to revoke all licenses and certificates of the Fazani arms company, following an affair discovered a week before from KALLXO.com. KALLXO.com reported that the owner of the Arms Company Fazani, Hashim Rexhepi, and his son, Atedhetar Rexhepi, were arrested for allegedly issuing falsified arms licenses. After receiving the report from KALLXO.com's legal office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs revoked all licenses and certificates of this company.
- March 19th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com published an article on prosecutor's order to collect evidence on the case of three professors from the University of Prishtina, who were part of the Review Committee of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and evaluated the candidates that applied for the vacant assistant professor position in 2015. KALLXO.com found that the Review Committee, which consisted of three professors of the Faculty, assumed that Lulzim Zeneli, one of the candidates fulfilled the requested qualifications for the position of an assistant professor but in the end another candidate who did not meet the required qualifications, was proposed and elected
- March 27th, 2018 –** Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an article on the appointment of a former KLA fighter nominated to be a candidate for the position of the Director of the Agency for Property Comparisons and Verifications. The candidate Naser Shala, who has close ties to Kosovo Deputy Prime Minister, Fatmir Limaj, competed with Florije Kika for the post of the director of this agency. As a result of the published article, where the statement that the two above mentioned figures had close ties, the Kosovo Prime Minister was obliged to send the names of the candidates to the Assembly for the positions of Director and Deputy Director of the Executive Secretariat of the Agency for Property Comparisons and Verifications in which case the Assembly will decide which candidate will take the post.
- April 6th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com's legal office submitted five (5) recommendations on the Draft-Law on the protection of consumers. The respective Parliament Commission accepted four out of five recommendations.
- April 26th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com's legal office submitted a report to the Disciplinary Prosecutor Office regarding the suspicion that a prosecutor had misused her office in order to provide favor for the son of Haki Gecaj, prosecutor of the Special Prosecution in Kosovo. As a result of this report, the Disciplinary Prosecutor Office initiated an investigation and submitted the report to the Performance Commission within the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council.
- April 30th, 2018 –** a citizen reported a video to KALLXO.com, in which two policemen are seen committing extended violence on an arrested person. KALLXO.com's legal office reported these two policemen to the Kosovo Police Inspectorate (KPI), while KPI has suspended the policemen and submitted the case to the Prosecution.

May 23rd, 2018 –

KALLXO.com wrote an article on the case of the Basic Prosecution of Pristina. The Prosecution issued a ruling to initiate investigations against Artan Avdullahu (a security worker), and two other individuals acclaimed to have installed a bomb in front of the cafeteria of Hajrullah Kryeziu, a businessman in Kosovo. A newly built house was promised to Avdullahu in exchange of committing the act, and he was convinced that by throwing a bomb, he was acting patriotically. The Basic Prosecution of Pristina closed investigations on Avdullahu. After the broadcast of Justice in Kosovo, the Prosecution informed KALLXO.com that they have reopened the investigations. The footage, upon the request of the Prosecution, was submitted to the State Prosecution. Avdullahu confessed to Justice in Kosovo regarding the bomb saying he had thrown it in Pristina. Deputy Chief Prosecutor in Pristina, Ibrahim Berisha, confirmed the news for starting investigations against him following the report on BIRN outlets.

May 25th, 2018 –

KALLXO.com's legal office submitted a complaint to the Ombudsperson in Kosovo, requesting investigations for violation of the right of access to public information, filed against Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEC). On April, KALLXO.com requested from KEC access to the contract of its CEO, but did not receive any response. After the submission of the complaint to the office of the Ombudsperson, KEC granted KALLXO.com access to the requested document.

May 31st, 2018 –

KALLXO.com published an article on a fine issued by Kosovo Tax Administration to Elkos Trading Center after a report of KALLXO.com addressed fraud in product's prices. Based on a complaint made by a citizen to KALLXO.com, the price of a product which was said to be on sale from 0.59 to 0.49 cents was billed with the price of 0.59 cents at the cash register. Following the reporting, KALLXO.com has notified the Market Inspectorate at the Ministry of Trade and Industry regarding the issue. In an announcement that the inspectorate has addressed at KALLXO.com, it is stated that Market Inspectors inspected this market and found violations of the Law on Consumer Protection and imposed a fine to ETC. Elkos is one of the biggest supermarket chain stores in Kosovo and is owned by a high profile LDK member of the Parliament.

June 20th, 2018 –

a citizen reported/sent a video at KALLXO.com platform, in which a police car was seen to violate traffic rules. KALLXO.com's legal office submitted a report to the Kosovo Police Inspectorate, requesting investigation against the police officer driving the official police car. As result of the report, KPI initiated investigations and submitted the case to the Office of Professional Police Standards for further disciplinary measures against the driver.

July 4th, 2018 –

after receiving a citizen's report at KALLXO.com, BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova's legal office filed a report to Kosovo Tax Administration against an illegal gambling business. As a result of the report, Kosovo Tax Administration Inspectorate closed the business and issued a fine of 5,000 euro.

July 10th, 2018 –

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë reported on the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo and the Minister of Diaspora, Dardan Gashi. The team found that Gashi did not declare the ownership of "G Consulting" company during the mandatory asset declaration to the Anti-Corruption Agency. After this report, Dardan Gashi is one of the public officials whose asset declaration is going to be scrutinized after the investigation of the Anti-Corruption Agency whether Gashi violated the law or not, which in the case of elements of criminal offense the procedure is followed to the Court.



- August 8th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com reported to the Ministry of Trade and Industry on about 15 hazardous toys that were circulating in Kosovo. As a result of this report, the Ministry of Trade and Industry issued an order to ban the import of such toys and requested further investigation for other potential hazardous toys.
- May 25th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com's legal office submitted a report to the Chief State Prosecutor regarding the suspicion for a misrepresentation of an investigation from a prosecutor in the Municipality of Gjakova, in a case of domestic violence. KALLXO.com had investigated how the prosecutor ignored the claims of a woman, a victim of domestic violence, that her husband had committed sexual abuse on her. As result of this report, the Chief State Prosecutor initiated a full review of the case.
- August 27th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com's legal office submitted a video reportage as evidence of environmental damages by a hydropower plant in the Municipality of Decan. The ombudsperson office has initiated an ex-officio investigation for this case.
- August 28th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com's legal office submitted the videos to the State Prosecution of two episodes in Justice in Kosovo televised programme, in which a number of people claim that they were trained to install bombs on vehicles and buildings. They also claimed to have installed bombs to threaten certain individuals. The videos were submitted after the official request from the State Prosecution, which initiated the extension of the investigation in a case related to the individuals mentioned in the videos.
- September 11th, 2018 –** after a report in KALLXO.com that a multiethnic school in Gracanica was closed due to the lack of academic staff, KALLXO.com investigated the case and published an article, showing the negligence of the public institutions to provide staff for this school. As a result of the article, the Municipality of Lipjan delegated a professor to this school.
- September 11th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com investigated a report from a citizen who claimed that a case file was lost in the Court of Appeal. KALLXO.com's legal office requested information from the Court of Appeal, which admitted that the case file was missing, but not to their fault. The day after the article of the missing files was published on KALLXO.com, the Court of Appeal officials found the missing files.
- October 19th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com published an article for an impact that it had with a previous report made only one day before, on October 18th, regarding a road in the village "Miradi e Ulet" in Fushe Kosove which was full of pits. It seems that the re-construction of the road had started in this location, since citizens have sent pictures showing that the contracting company had started the work. KALLXO.com reported about this case since a citizen had sent pictures of the destruction of the road, which was a problem for the citizens of Fushe Kosove and is following the process.
- October 24th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com wrote an article regarding a report made just one day before, on October 23rd, by "Frang Bardhi" gymnasium students, in the Municipality of Mitrovica, who complained about a school toilet, which was in poor condition. On the same day, the Inspection Directorate visited the school and the toilet was closed until it would be regulated.

**October 28th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com published an article about Taulant Rruci, a candidate for the teaching position, who reported his case on KALLXO.com on an unfair recruitment procedure, whereby Jeton Kaçka, was employed as a violin teacher at the Prenk Jakova School, even though he did not complete his undergraduate studies, a required criterion to be fulfilled as per the vacancy announcement on August 31. After the publication of this report on KALLXO.com, Taulant Rruci informed the editorial team of KALLXO.com that the Directorate of Education in Gjakova invited him to sign the contract for the position of the violin teacher, because according to them a mistake occurred during the selection process for the vacant position. Rruci told KALLXO.com that the Education Inspectorate canceled the contract of the candidate that was not qualified, adding that he personally had a great support by the Labor Inspectorate.

**November 16th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com reported on a video where Kosovo Police officers were recorded harassing a person on his sexual orientation. Several days before, KALLXO.com published a video reported by a citizen, where Kosovo Police detained two people in conflict and involved in attack threats. When the Kosovo Police detained and started questioning the two, a person recorded the whole situation where several police officers in the police station in Prishtina are seen harassing the two individuals by posing vulgar questions to ridicule their sexual orientation. After the publication of the video on KALLXO.com, five of these policemen were suspended from the Police Inspectorate just a few hours after the publication of the video.

**November 26th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com published an article regarding a citizen report on the failure of a business to issue fiscal receipts. In this case, the legal office of KALLXO.com filed the case with the Tax Administration of Kosovo, a request after which the team of TAK inspectors immediately engaged and carried out controls in the business entity and found several violations. The audit resulted that the subject in question did not equip its workers with contracts, was not equipped with any fiscal cash registers and did not declare any financial data in TAK. All these findings have been sent to further proceedings in the division of fines.

**November 30th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com wrote an article regarding a Justice in Kosovo TV programme, where footage was broadcast with the Kosovo Tax Administration and its war against tax evasion. The KALLXO.com team had received information that a business who sold Internet packages and IT services in a Prishtina neighborhood was not offering fiscal coupons to regular customers. The inspectors on field found trouble in the reported case at KALLXO.com and all this was broadcast on this edition of the "Justice in Kosovo".

**December 4th, 2018** KALLXO.com reported on a case regarding a butcher store that contaminated the river Krena with blood from the slaughtering cattle. After the report on KALLXO.com, the Municipality of Gjakova initially inspected the business entity on suspicion that it had committed the said offense. A fine was imposed for the responsible person and business, and further proceedings were initiated in the Basic Court of Gjakova. The Directorate of Inspection also stopped the activity of this business entity.

**December 5th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com wrote an article regarding a problem with a waste landfill located in Bellanica village of the Municipality of Malisheva. The city of Malisheva was facing a waste landfill situation in the village near Malisheva called Mrize, where the waste was covering also a part of the Mirusha River. According to a citizen, the company Ekoregjioni had engaged a worker to clean up the large amount of waste in this part of Malisheva after being reported on KALLXO.com.

**December 24th, 2018 –** KALLXO.com published an article regarding a picture shared on social media, where two suspected individuals are seen together with two police officers, and according to Kosovo Police Inspectorate this was considered as a disciplinary offense. After KALLXO.com reported on the case, the Media Office of the Kosovo Police Inspectorate confirmed for KALLXO.com that the case was being investigated by the Directory of Professional Standards.

## Media Production: Investigative Reporting, Analysis and Debate



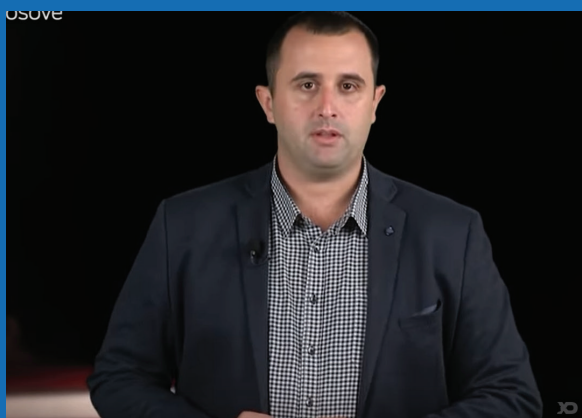
From January to December 2018, BIRN Kosovo published a total of 24,300 articles on its online anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com including articles in the form of short news, long analyses, in-depth investigative papers and fact-checking articles.

Additionally, BIRN Kosovo produced a combination of 65 televised debates and investigations. That is, separately BIRN Kosovo produced 29 Life in Kosovo televised debates and 36 investigative reportages in Justice in Kosovo.

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



Life in Kosovo is a televised programme that covers political, economic, and social affairs in Kosovo. It programme provides live debates with state officials, scholars, academics, activists, artists, and students, among others. Apart from hard-hitting debates, it also aims to present questions for issues that are taboo in society. This programme is broadcast on the public broadcaster, Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK), since 2005. The moderator of this programme is the executive director of BIRN Kosovo, Jeta Xharra; Xharra has been internationally recognized for her excellence and professionalism in journalism, and depicted on other high-profile international newspapers such as The New York Times.



Justice in Kosovo has been broadcasting on the public broadcaster, Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK) since 2010. The programme covers issues of justice, police, and security. The programme is based on court monitoring and data collected by BIRN Kosovo's monitors covering all municipalities in Kosovo. In addition, like all other media platforms, Justice in Kosovo, also receives reports from whistleblowers and citizens. This programme has been locally and internationally recognized for combating crime in Kosovo. The moderator of Justice in Kosovo is BIRN Kosovo's editor, Kreshnik Gashi, the author of the programme. This programme also offers televised reportages incorporating live actions of Kosovo Police in cases of crime.

**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. KALLXO.com is the first anti-corruption platform in Kosovo, for reporting on corruption, legal violations within public and private institutions and/or companies, fraud, and other crimes. 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

KALLXO.com came as a result of high crime in our society, and is mechanized to combat criminality remaining sensitive to gender, age, ethnicity, minorities and other vulnerable groups, among other categories that are prone to being manipulated by discriminatory political structures. KALLXO.com was established to be a multi-ethnic anti-corruption platform.

Initially, this platform received and investigated reports received by citizens, but soon it transformed into a 'bona fide' source of information as a news portal. This transformation came as a result of our two convictions. First, citizens have the right to be aware of criminality in their societies, and the work of their political representatives. Because Kosovo state officials do not live up to this obligation, KALLXO.com keeps the citizens informed by guaranteeing them a central position in public and foreign policies. Second, in a highly corrupt country, parallel institutions are complex and difficult to dismantle. As such, often time, public pressure remains as the key tool to preventing criminality.

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

The multiethnic nature of KALLXO.com is evident in its productions. KALLXO.com is under the service of all communities including Albanian, Serbians, Bosnians, Turks, Romani, Ashkali, and Egyptian, among others. It is the only media in Kosovo to have invited members of the Serbia List to communicate and discuss political developments in Kosovo.

KALLXO.com has been locally and internationally recognized, and is the only media in Kosovo to be certified by the International Fact-Checking Network, since 2017.

KALLXO.com serves as parasol to all of our other media platforms. KALLXO.com incorporates our two televised programmes, Life in Kosovo and Justice in Kosovo, our newspaper, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë, our truth-o-meter, Krypometër, and our English-based online newspaper, Prishtina Insight.

2018 marked the highest in terms of viewership and readership of unique articles, news, and in-depth research and legal analysis on KALLXO.com. During this year, our team covered the social, political, and economic domains and developments sounding them. Important highlights of the issues covered are: nepotism in employment at the Prishtina Airport, visa liberalization, the deportation of Turkish nationals from Kosovo, the arrest of Marko Djuric, the senior Serbian official in the Northern Kosovo, public procurement in Kosovo, environment and the hydropower plants in Kosovo, women's rights to inheritance in Kosovo, Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, Kosovo's territorial exchange, trafficking, femicide, monitoring of auditing procedures in state institutions, recruitment in state institutions, and tax evasion, among others.

In 2018, KALLXO.com launched a new section called Dosja (Files/Dossier). This section published two types of articles: a) analyses of invoices revealing how state officials spend public money, and b) analyses of first 100 days reports by deputy ministers. Following BIRN Kosovo's success on this action, the court made the requests for access to invoices by state institutions as legal requests. The first section produced 71 articles, and the second section produced 61 articles. The Court that made access to invoices from state institutions as a legal request, supported this action.

# Gazeta JNK

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

**Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë (Life in Kosovo Online Newsmagazine)**

**Prishtina Insight (PI)** is a digital and print magazine published by BIRN Kosovo in 2008. For 10 years now, PI covers issues of current affairs, exclusive investigations, longform features, social and cultural issues, opinions and essays about Kosovo and the region.

# Prishtina Insight

**Prishtina Insight (PI)**



**Balkan Insight and Balkan Transitional Justice**

BIRN Kosovo, as a member of the larger BIRN Regional Network, contributes with articles to Balkan Insight and Balkan Transitional Justice. In 2018, journalists and editors of BIRN Kosovo published reports and informed the public on developments in Kosovo's politics, business, culture and lifestyle. In the political domain, Balkan Insight covered issues of Kosovo Courts and their decision regarding cases of Kosovo MPs, the involvement of Kosovar-Albanians in ISIS, the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, the standing of political parties in Kosovo regarding the death of Oliver Ivanovic, a Kosovo Serb political figure, narcotic operations in Kosovo, border disputes and border demarcation, air pollution in Kosovo, issues related to visa liberalization, Brussels talks, corruption, protests in Kosovo against border corrections, Kosovo's second pride parade, the formation of Kosovo Army, and the trade tariffs on Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, among others. Coverage of Kosovo's developments in the economic and business realm included the new power plant, tourism, and trade tariffs. While on the cultural section the coverage included outdoor sports developments, music, international travel guides depicting Kosovo and Albania, and film, among others.



## Monitoring & Advocacy

In 2018 alone, BIRN Kosovo's legal team monitored 520 court-monitoring cases. By monitoring the courts closely, BIRN Kosovo contributed towards progress in rule of law in Kosovo. The Legal Office worked on the legal framework on inheritance contributing to the adjustment of the Law on Inheritance, Law on Non-Contested Procedure, and Law on Notary. 2018 was also followed with monitoring of educational institutions, with specific focus on higher education. With the aim to increase transparency, decrease corruption, and facilitate educational reforms, supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS), BIRN Kosovo trained fifteen (15) journalists to investigate the aforementioned cases. Simultaneously, through its media platforms, BIRN Kosovo promoted the importance of reporting on cases of corruption or irregularities in higher education. As a result, BIRN Kosovo received numerous reports; these reports were further investigated by our journalists and editors, and used to advocate for changes within higher education. One-on-one meetings followed advocating with officials of the Ministry of Education, and the Kosovo Accreditation Agency, among others.

Monitoring was followed with research publications and concrete recommendations for improvement. In the political domain, BIRN Kosovo continued monitoring the EU brokered dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

During 2018, BIRN Kosovo continued to address corruption within the public sector. The legal loopholes allowed for inconsistent practices when it comes to recruitment, leaving women and non-majority communities underrepresented in central public institutions. For that reason, supported by the British Embassy in Prishtina, BIRN Kosovo monitored recruitment processes in public institutions, and reported on cases of corruption. BIRN Kosovo monitored and reported on numerous recruitments processes that in general had the short-listing phase, the interviewing phase, and the decision-making phase. BIRN Kosovo covered the recruitment of board members for the Public Housing Enterprise, new prosecutors, the board of NKEK Enterprise, members of commission for State Aid, the director of TAK, directors of KEC, and the director of Kosovo Accreditation Agency, among others. BIRN Kosovo engaged its monitors to observe all phases of recruitment processes, submitted reports, and held televised debates on possible violations. As such, BIRN Kosovo contributed to the increase of transparency and accountability from institutions in the public sector by bringing recruitment procedures from behind closed doors to the public eye.

Contribution to local governance continued with monitoring of disciplinary procedures, second-level disciplinary procedures, the compliance of tax inspectors with professional standards, and conflict of interest legislation. The British Embassy in Prishtina also supports this project. Through this action, BIRN Kosovo fought against informal economy and tax evasion, which we believe remain as a pressing problem in Kosovo. In addition to monitoring, the legal office was engaged in analyzing the legal framework to identify loopholes to corruption. BIRN Kosovo broadcast televised reportages showing actions during inspection of businesses, and PSAs calling citizens in Kosovo to report on tax evasion and informal economy. Advocating for necessary changes within the tax administration, BIRN Kosovo in cooperation with Democracy Plus held a roundtable with competent persons to discuss findings of the legal analysis on tax administration processes.

Further, during 2018, supported by the British Embassy in Prishtina, BIRN Kosovo monitored and reported on auditing processes in the municipal level. BIRN Kosovo analyzed audit reports from 2014 – 2017 of municipalities in Kosovo, in order to see whether recommendations by the National Audit Office are being implemented. By the end of 2018, BIRN Kosovo wrote seven analyses covering different municipalities in Kosovo. In addition, it held six public debates with mayors as special guests. These debates aimed to give citizens, civil society, and other institutions the opportunity to publicly discuss with the mayor on their auditing concerns. Our contribution to the transparency and accountability of auditing was also done by publishing analyses on the work of Audit Committees.

Monitoring of the aforementioned domains resulted in reports, articles, graphics, PSA, and televised programmes. Drafting written or televised reports aimed at holding accountable either courts or institutions with regards to identified irregularities. BIRN Kosovo only exercised public pressure in cases where the targeted institutions did not take measures to improve their transparency and accountability to the people and the state.

<sup>2</sup><https://kallxo.com/gjnk/ndryshimet-kozmektike-te-ligjit-qe-i-te-grate-pa-prona/>

<sup>3</sup><https://kallxo.com/projektligji-i-ri-qe-nuk-trajton-plaget-e-ligjit-te-vjeter/>

<sup>4</sup><https://kallxo.com/gjnk/projektligji-per-noterine-dhe-te-drejtat-e-grave-ne-prone/>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.facebook.com/JetaNeKosove/videos/1971943816227274/>

<sup>6</sup><https://kallxo.com/jnk/emertimet-politike-me-konkurs/>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1pBdPs7ufs>

<sup>8</sup>[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPqj\\_Xn1pFk&t=11s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPqj_Xn1pFk&t=11s)

<sup>9</sup><https://www.facebook.com/kallxo/videos/332118330873948/>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.facebook.com/kallxo/videos/254006601977390/>

BIRN has been actively involved in issues related to sustainable development, with specific focus on environment and energy issues. As one of leading organizations in Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development – KOSID, BIRN engaged in issues related to small hydropower plants boom in Kosovo, and problems that the current Kosovo Energy Strategy has brought to the environment.

One of the main issues in this area is the building of Kosova e Re, new coal power plant, and has continuously addressed problems deriving from the long lasting process of legal, environmental and international obligations violations.

## Training & Media Development

BIRN Kosovo and its partners, Internews Kosova and BIRN HUB trained students of the department of journalism, journalists, court monitors, technical staff and researchers coming from different backgrounds living in Kosovo. This hands-on training approach builds capacities to deliver professional journalism in a place that has the youngest population in Europe and a very fragile educational system.

During 2018, BIRN Kosovo held trainings on the rights and responsibilities of journalists, fact-checking, monitoring from courts, protection of sources, use of social media, compiling requests for access to public documents, training on entrepreneurship for family members of returnees and prisoners, Transitional Justice regional specialized training, training on ethics and legal consequences of incorrect reporting, election monitoring, parliamentary elections and municipal elections, alongside an active mentorship program for the newly hired staff.

Overall, BIRN Kosovo held 21 trainings throughout 2018. Trainings included around 600 NGO representatives and activists, 425 journalists, 51 local journalists that were also engaged in publishing.

Through the support of Luxembourg to civil society in Kosovo (The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg) scheme, BIRN Kosovo held 7 trainings on “Improving the Standard of Investigative Journalism through Shared Experiences.” These trainings took place at the Department of Journalism and the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina, AAB College, UBT College, the Faculty of Law of the University of Prizren and University of Gjilan, and Civic Energy Center in the North of Mitrovica.

Through the “Support to Civil Society and Media Initiatives” project, BIRN Kosovo and its partners, aim to improve transparency, independence, and accountability within the sector of media in Kosovo. Through this EU-funded project, we have selected sixteen beneficiaries that will implement their journalistic stories until the end of April of 2019. Our office also held training with 20 young journalists and students of journalism, with Jeta Xharra, Kreshnik Gashi, and Visar Prebreza, as lead trainers. The training covered topics like: the Kosovo Judicial Council, Basic Court of Prishtina and Basic Court of Gjilan. As well as, on social media usage, communication with the public, and preparation and delivery of social media guide for Kosovo Judicial Council, to be used by Courts in communicating with the public.

In cooperation with the Association of Journalists of Kosovo (AJK), BIRN Kosovo held training for 30 young journalists and students of journalism. Trainers and guest speakers included Meri Jordanovska, BIRN Macedonia, and Visar Prebreza, BIRN Kosovo. Moreover, Visar Prebreza and Kreshnik Gashi were coaches in workshop organized by BIRN and KFOS in Albania, Durres with professional journalists from main media outlets of Kosovo, who afterwards were awarded with fellowships to write about topics related to issues of higher education in Kosovo. The panel consisted of Ministers of Education both from Kosovo and Albania, academics and intellectuals.

Also, Gashi held a lecture for students of journalism and the youth organized by the Balkan Group for Research and Policies. Additionally, Gashi held training in Mitrovica on development of critical thinking on handling terrorist cases as well as a training in Gjilan on the prevention of extremism. Gashi also held a lecture for journalists at the Nuremberg Academy in Germany, on war crimes.



State institutions trust our organization to train them on various aspects on journalism, and acknowledge BIRN Kosovo's investigative reporting skills. For example, an individual/on-the-job training was held with the Institutions of the Ombudsperson on the usage of social media, and an on-the-job training/guidance meeting was held with the spokespeople of the Kosovo Judicial Council, Basic Court of Prishtina and Basic Court of Gjilan. In this meeting, BIRN Kosovo presented the Social Media Guide for Kosovo Courts, and lectured on social media usage, and how to regulate communication with media and the public. Moreover, BIRN Kosovo's senior editor Kreshnik Gashi held training for judges, spokespersons for judges and Kosovo Bar Association on communication with the public and writing communiqués. With the cooperation of our partner, Internews Kosova, BIRN Kosovo held a two-day training workshop with about 25 prosecutors and spokespersons of Prosecution Offices in Boga, Peja in November. Kreshnik Gashi also held training for Kosovo Police Officers on communication with the public and utilizing media.

BIRN Kosovo was regularly and actively participating in discussions, panels, and lectures concerning investigative journalism and ethics in journalism. Jeta Xharra and Faik Ispahiu (director of Internews Kosova, partner organization) were keynote speakers on Media Communication Training for Prosecutors and Prosecution Officials, organized by EULEX and the Academy of Justice. BIRN Kosovo held a roundtable in Gracanica, with Albanian and Serb journalists, discussing possibilities of cooperation in stories and media development. Furthermore, BIRN Kosovo legal advisor, Arber Kadriu, was a part of the workshop organized by the European Center for Nonprofit Law and CIVIKOS, on the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing. Also, BIRN Kosovo Court Monitoring Coordinator, Labinot Leposhtica was a panelist on a conference organized by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, discussing the safety of journalists and legal standards for the protection of journalists.

During this reporting period, Jeta Xharra, BIRN Kosovo's Executive Director was part of a roundtable discussion at Rochester Institute of Technology in Kosovo (A.U.K/RIT) with representatives from the Ministry of Infrastructure, MPs and civil society on reviewing public contracts, and discussing their adherence to the law and upholding the principle of fairness. In July 2018, Jeta Xharra participated in the international conference organized by the International Fact Checking Network in Rome, Italy, to gather all fact-checkers in the world. Moreover, Kreshnik Gashi, BIRN Kosovo's senior editor participated in the OCCRP (Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project) Conference in Riga. Prishtina Insight's Editor, Eraldin Fazliu, took part in a study trip to NATO HQ organized for Kosovo journalists and he as well participated in the Panel Discussion of Brussels Agreement Conference held in Belgrade, Serbia.

In October of 2018, BIRN Kosovo's whole staff participated in a training organized by the British Embassy. The aim of the training was to provide an overview of the British Embassy project assessment methodology, and its role in Kosovo public sector selection processes. Charlie Eyre, Psychologist and Recruitment Expert who works for the British Embassy, held the briefing session. In the same month, BIRN Kosovo invited Kuno Schläfli from the Embassy of Switzerland to Kosovo and Rashit Qalaj, the director of Kosovo Police for an off-record discussion at BIRN Kosovo's office. BIRN's staff had the opportunity to listen and ask questions and discuss freely and openly.

On December 10, 2018 BIRN Kosovo in cooperation with the Office of Ombudsperson and other NGOs such as Kosovo Women's Network, CEL Kosovo, Kosovar Gender Studies Center, and the YIHR- Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Kosovo organized an activity regarding the International Human Rights Day in Kosovo, an activity supported by GIZ. Key speakers of each above-mentioned NGO gave remarks at the National Theatre of Kosovo with speeches focusing on main issues regarding their respective target groups, which were trained regarding "Public Speaking and the use of Prompts" by the BIRN Kosovo team. After the speeches, participants marched from the "Skenderbeu" Square to "Zahir Pajaziti" Square, followed and supported by different NGOs that deal with children's rights, women's rights, senior citizens' rights, minorities' rights, LGBTI rights, etc. The event was broadcasted on the BIRN Kosovo's KALLXO.com platform page on Facebook, and articles were written both in KALLXO.com and in BIRN's English newspaper Prishtina Insight. As part of this project regarding the International Human Rights Day, BIRN Kosovo achieved its main objective including here: the production of 7 Public Service Announcements- PSAs; a three-day training session with 13 different representatives of local NGOs, the branding and marketing communication, and the live broadcasting of the event.



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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. During 2018, Life in Kosovo produced 29 televised debates and had 106 guests/panelists/. Statistics show that Life in Kosovo reached 1,592,765 views on YouTube.

**January  
4th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on whether Albanians are ready and have competence, knowledge, skills, and strategy to face future challenges of tectonic dimension in cases of clash of civilizations. Guests to discuss this matter were Jusuf Buxhovi, historian from Kosovo, and Hajro Limaj, colonel, former attaché in Turkey.

**January  
11th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on whether Albanians are ready and have competence, knowledge, skills, and strategy to face future challenges of tectonic dimension in cases of clash of civilizations. Guests to discuss this matter were Jusuf Buxhovi, historian from Kosovo, and Hajro Limaj, colonel, former attaché in Turkey.

**January  
18th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the situation in the North of Mitrovica, and the fear of people living in the north after the killing of Oliver Ivanoviq. Will this be an ending to the terror of criminal gangs linked to the oligarchs that control Kosovo, Serbia, and the Balkans? Will the criminal be held responsible in court for this killing? How can Kosovo detach itself from these criminal gangs? Guests on this episode were Murat Mehmeti, former police investigator, and Lutfi Haziri, the Mayor of the Municipality of Gjilan who also worked with Oliver Ivanoviq.

**January  
25th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast two interviews. This episode showed an interview with Natalia Apostolova on the expectations and aspirations of Kosovo during 2018, and an interview with Albin Kurti, the head of Vetëvendosje who discussed the latest resignations from the political party.

**February  
1st, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode to discuss the murder of the Bytyqi brothers. Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi were American citizens who fought for KLA. Suspicions of their killings were discussed with Ivan Pajiq, witness of the killings of the Bytyqi brothers.

**February  
8th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on air pollution in Kosovo. The episode treated the situation and effects of the hydropower plants and other risks to the environment. This episode streamed live interviews from fieldwork, interviews from 2013 showing statements, Shpend Ahmeti, mayor of Prishtina, Haki Abazi - analyst, and Rozafa Ukimeraj - General Secretary of Ministry of Local Government Administration.

**February  
15th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode to discuss Kosovo's heritage. Among many points of discussion was the use of Albanian or Kosovo flag to celebrate the national Flag Day. Guest was Enver Hoti, depute, Idriz Blakaj, director of the Agency for Memorials in Kosovo, Isuf Thaqi, activist, and Florina Jerliu, architect.

**February  
22nd, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with the former president of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga. The discussion aimed to elaborate on Kosovo's socio-political and socio-economic development after its 10th anniversary of declaring independence.

**March  
1st, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with the Kosovo Ambassador in the United States of America, Vlora Citaku. The discussion aimed to elaborate on the socio-political and socio-economic developments as analyzed and interpreted by the US.

**March  
8th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode to discuss the legal framework on inheritance, and women's rights to property in Kosovo. This episode was also broadcast to mark the Women's Day. In addition, the episode consulted the experiences of women seeking inheritance rights, and their legal protection. Guests were Abelard Tahiri, Minister of Justice, Greg Delawie, US Ambassador in Kosovo, Arjeta Gashi, economist, and Anisa Ismajli, actress. The laws analyzed were the Law on Inheritance, the Law on Non-contested Procedure, and Law on Notary.

**March  
15th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode elaborating on the national strategy against air pollution in Kosovo. The Ministry of Environment decided to investigate the main causes of air pollution. Guests present to discuss this methodology of the Ministry were Albena Reshitaj -Minister of Environment, Nezakete Hakaj - Leader of the Division for Industrial Pollution, Shimizu Masuto – a representative of Japanese Development Agency, and Visar Azemi from KOSID.

**March  
22nd, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Talat Xhaferi on the law on the use of languages, including Albanian language in Macedonia. Why did Albanians need 110 years to make the Albanian language official was one of the main questions of the debate.

**March  
29th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Hashim Thaçi - the President of Kosovo, Albin Kurti - Leader of Vetevendosje, and Behxhet Pacolli - Minister of Foreign Affairs in Kosovo. In these interviews it was discussed about the latest political developments in Kosovo.

**April  
5th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the developments of the war crimes after 20 years in Kosovo. Main topics included developments in Hague and the possibilities of an archive to be accessible for citizens in Kosovo. Panelists included Refki Sum - Mayor of the Municipality Hani i Elezit, Altin Ademi - Senior Adviser in the Ministry of Justice, Drita Hajdar - Special Prosecutor for War Crimes, Ismet Salihu - Director of the Institute for War Crimes, and Njomza Haxhibeqiri - Manager at the Human Rights Fund in Kosovo.

**April  
12th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the developments in the national airport, Adem Jashari. Corruption in the airport, flights from and to Kosovo and their safety, and confessions from whistleblowers saying they have been illegally fired were key issues that this episode addressed. Whistleblowers Ilir Rama, and Bujar Ejupi revealed problems and dubious affairs inside the airport.

**April  
19th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast the second episode on the national airport in Prishtina. Suspicions from whistleblowers are that contracts are not respected in Limak, the management employed political servers, and other illegal affairs. This episode treated the airport from the security aspect.

**April  
26th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast the third episode on the national airport in Prishtina. The Guest to discuss illegalities and confessions of the whistleblowers was Bahri Nuredini - The Air Navigation Services Agency of Kosova (ANSAK) Director.

**May  
3rd, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast the fourth episode on the national airport in Prishtina. Irregular salaries from Limak were discussed among other issues. The director of Limak was present in Life in Kosovo to answer questions.

**May  
10th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode to discuss the stagnation of the electronic system of public procurement in Kosovo. Amongst many issues and corrupt behavior in the procurement sector, the new electronic system shows to not be well coordinated by procurement officials. The system and corruption within the sector were discussed with Agron Ibishi from Public Procurement Regulatory Commission, Agim Sheqiri from the Procurement Review Body, Driton Selmana - Director of Public Financial Supervision Commission, Rinora Gojani from KOSID, and Isuf Zejna from Democracy Plus.

**May  
17th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the diaspora of Kosovo. The episode aimed to discuss the financial importance of the diaspora. Guests to discuss their crucial role in the development of Kosovo were Hilmi Gashi - Activist and Union member, Shpresa Loshaj - Consultant in the Government of Canada, Lulzim Syla - Energy Expert, Liza Gashi - Germin Director, Mark Kosmo - Economist, and Brikenda Muharremi - Lawyer.

**May  
24th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the Mirash Landfill in Kosovo. Among 10 landfills in Kosovo, Mirash is the largest and the most concerning of them all. Many municipalities use Mirash as their landfill. The bad management of Mirash and its risks for people living around the landfill was discussed with officials of the landfill from fieldwork, Bedri Haimi from the Ministry of Environment, and scientist, amongst others.



**May  
31st 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on recruitment processes in Government and Parliament of Kosovo. The British Ambassador in Kosovo, Ruairi O'Connell joined Jeta Xharra for discussion. In addition, this episode also broadcast an interview with Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj on environmental issues in Kosovo.

**June  
7th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the swimming sport in Kosovo, looking whether the swimming club will take part in a championship in Canada. Guests were Besart Shala, a trainer of Step Club, a parent of a swimmer, and Enver Hajredini from the Termopan swimming club.

**September  
6th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast a debate organized on the latest political developments demanding Kosovo to conduct border correction. President Thaçi declared that there will be border corrections, but Kosovo won't give any territory to Kosovo. What are the effects of this game? Albin Kurti – Vetevendosje Movement Leader, Avdullah Hoti – the head of the LDK parliamentary group, Enver Hoxhaj – Vice President of Democratic Party of Kosovo, Nenad Rasic – Labour Minister in Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj's government, and Nait Hasani – former PDK deputy discussed this. In addition, the opinions of Daniel Server an American analyst and professor at Johns Hopkins, and Dragomir Angjellković an analyst from Belgrade took place in this episode.

**September  
13th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode looking whether Kosovo has enough water for Hydropower plants? Amongst many issues, environmental risks from the hydropower plants were discussed. The panelists were Besfort Kosova, representative from KOSID, Elen Frank, representative from ERA, Adriatik Gacaferri, mountain guide, Baton Begolli, environmental engineer, Gani Berisha, from the Ministry of Environment, and Bekim Shyti from the Association for Renewable Energy.

**September  
20th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Ditmir Bushati, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Albania, and Greg Delawie, US Ambassador in Kosovo. The interview with Bushati concerned the relationship between Kosovo and Albania. Whether Albania is encouraging students to come visit and learn for Kosovo, amongst other political and cultural matters. The interview with Delawie treated a summary of the most memorable moments and the developments in Kosovo.

**September  
27th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on Kosovo politics and protests. The border correction angered the Kosovo public. Should people protest? Why and how should they protest? Guests were Lutfi Haziri from LDK, Bilall Sherifi from NISMA, Glauk Konjufca from Vetëvendosje, and Haki Abazi from the Institute of Emerging Democracies.

**October  
4th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Besnik Osmani. The interview dealt with the 15th anniversary of the National Audit Office. Osmani and Xharra talked about the achievement and downfalls of the auditing institution.

**October  
18th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the adjustments in the education domain in Kosovo. What is meritocracy and how is it developed in the educational system in Kosovo? In addition, the episode discussed sexual harassment in the educational sector, and the office of gender equality and their work in municipalities in Kosovo. Guest speakers were Shyqri Bytyqi - Minister of Education, Marian Demaj - Rector in the University of Prishtina, Jehona Gjurgjeala from Toka, Libor Chlad, from the EU Office in Kosovo, Rozafa Koliqi - Assistant Professor at the University of Prishtina.

**October  
25th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode regarding the governance with Limak, the national airport in Prishtina, Kosovo. This episode was held in a roundtable to reveal a contract of 34 million euro from the airport. Hekuran Murati – Financial Analyst presented the findings of the contract. Other panelists were Esed Berisha, Senior Political Adviser in the Ministry of Infrastructure, Korab Sejdiu, MP, Haki Abazi, analyst, and Besnik Bislimi, economist.

**November  
1st, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Ekrem Hajdari, former Director of Privatization Agency of Kosovo. Hajdari analyzed the enigma behind his dismissal from the agency. In addition, the episode also broadcast a debate with candidates for the Albanian National Council in Serbia.

**November  
8th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Wolfgang Petritsch - EU's Special Envoy for Kosovo (1998-1999) and David Phillips - Director of the Program on Peace-building and Rights at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. The episode showed reportage on gender equality in Kosovo, while the interviews discussed standings on border correction and its risks and/or benefits.

**November  
15th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Drita Hajdari, Special Prosecutor in Kosovo. The interview aimed at discussing war crimes and confessions of sexual abuse during the war in Kosovo.

**November  
22nd, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the recent 100% tax on Serbia. Around 2000 companies import from Serbia, this imports never ended before, during, or past war. Simultaneously, Serbia never ended barriers to the development of Kosovo. What will be the result of this decision in Kosovo? Will the market have enough time to substitute products that were previously imported by Serbia? Will the prices go up? These matters were discussed by Gazmend Abrashi - businessman and advisor to Prime Minister Haradinaj, Valon Canhasi - CEO at Hallakate and Social Media Strategist, Sylejman Neziri - businessman, Jeta Krasniqi - project manager at the Kosovo Democratic Institute, Agim Sahiti - Director of Association of Kosovo Poultry, Armend Malazogu - Founder and Head of Frutomania.

**November  
29th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the air pollution in the country. The use and side effects of the use of coal in Kosovo. A good decision was made to not use coal to heat schools and other educational institutions, and to stop its use on all public institutions. Matter on the use of coal and environmental issues were discussed by Naser Ramadani, Director of the National Institute for Public Health, Fatmir Gerguri, Chief Inspector for mines and minerals, Selim Pacolli, Vice-President of Prishtina, and Jeton Mehmeti, researcher from GAP Institute.

**December  
6th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the legal framework in inheritance and women's rights to property in Kosovo. The guests of the show included: Afrim Ahmeti - Deputy Regional Director of Kosovo police, Arben Hoti - judge, Besa Domi - journalist, Luljeta Aliu - victim (issues with her spouse on property inheritance), Laura Kryeziu - founder and Executive Director of Leadership and Growth Council, Kreshnik Gashi - Justice in Kosovo author and BIRN Kosovo Editor. Xharra and panelists discussed a UN funded documentary to promote women's rights and their rights to property, and legal barriers for women who seek to inherit property.

**December  
13th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode to discuss meritocracy in Kosovo. Former Prime Minister of Kosovo, Isa Mustafa, signed a contract with the British Embassy, to hire qualified people for public enterprises. Has this contract been respected after three years of its implementation? Guest for this episode were mainly MPs from political parties and monitors of this process, Beke Berisha - Kosovo deputy, Sala Berisha - Shala - Kosovo deputy, Enver Hoti - Kosovo deputy, Liburn Aliu - Kosovo deputy, Arben Gashi - Kosovo deputy, and Charlie Eyre - Senior Editor for Test Reviews.

**December  
20th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the five municipalities of Kosovo indicted for gender discrimination. This episode was a roundtable aiming to discuss this topic one year after municipal elections. Gender equality was discussed by representatives of municipalities, offices for gender equality, and embassies, amongst others.

**December  
27th, 2018**

Life in Kosovo broadcast a special episode on the summary of the events during 2018 in Kosovo.

### **2018 Fast Facts:**

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

YouTube Views:

**1,472,582**

YouTube Watch Time:

**19,750,879**

WEB Page Views:

**77,903**

WEB Unique Page Views:

**37,731**

## TV PRODUCTION

### Justice in Kosovo / Drejtësia në Kosovë (DnK)

BIRN Kosovo recognized the need for a close follow up of issues with regards to the rule of law, as a result of which, it had created Drejtësia në Kosovë, DnK, or Justice in Kosovo for in-depth investigations on cases of justice with the aim to press relevant institutions to take measures and fix existing problems. Justice in Kosovo takes the information from court monitors who cover 27 municipalities in Kosovo, and benefits from an agreement with Kosovo Police that allows the DnK team to film the police in action.

During 2018, Justice in Kosovo produced 36 investigative reportages, and had approximately 15 guests/confessors. Statistics show that Justice in Kosovo reached 7,527,403 views on YouTube

**January**  
6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the best actions of the Kosovo Police during 2017.

**January**  
10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the decreasing number of cases in courts while the number of prosecutors and lawyers had increased in 2017. Recruitment procedures of these positions faced difficulties. Nehat Idrizi, head of the Kosovo Judicial Council, and Hasan Shala, the Court of Appeals, among others, discusses these matters.

**January**  
20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the Special Court in Kosovo and messages from witnesses of the court. The parliament has not gathered to discuss the repeal of the court. This episode discussed possible results that the repeal of the court can have for witnesses. Interviews were conducted with Abelard Tahiri – Minister of Justice, Shkemb Manaj – Advisor of The Independent Oversight Board Civil Service of Kosova, and Delawie – The US Ambassador to Kosovo, among others.

**January**  
22<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on bazaars with the tender of millions for the highway Prishtine-Gjilan. The interviewees Sami Lushtaku - Former Kosovo Liberation Army commander, Blerim Dina - Chairman of Procurement Review Body, Hanefi Muharremi – Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, and Pal Lekaj – Minister of Infrastructure, and business owners discussed threats and possible illegal affairs of this gigantic tender.

**January**  
27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the Lesna Company and their refusal to pay a 280-thousand-euro debt. The decision of the judicial system to guarantee Lesna their second chance, judicial tricks, and other possible illegal affairs are discussed by Anita Shabani-Cacaj from the residential public enterprise, Hasan Shala, from the Court of Appeals, among others.

**February**  
5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the story of Naser Kelmendi. Kelmendi was found guilty for running a criminal narcotics network and was arrested upon an international search warrant. EULEX took over the case of Kelmendi. This episode provided answers to many questions on the Kosovar-Albanian, fugitive from Bosnia.

**February**  
9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the failure to investigate the death of a 36 years old woman, Sabrije Fazliu after a treatment in the hospital. Her family has not received any information on the causes of her death. State negligence in dealing with this case is elaborated in the episode by Hilmi Jashari, ombudsperson, Asdren Hoxha, lawyer, amongst others.

**February**  
16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the close protection of Kosovo police compilation of episodes, after ten years on independence. In the process of state making in Kosovo, what developments happened in the Kosovo Police? In an exclusive reportage, Justice in Kosovo broadcast details in the close protection.



**February**  
23<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the threats to investors in Kosovo. Kadri Veseli - Chairman of the Assembly and Aleksander Lumezi - Prosecutor declared that investors would be safe in Kosovo. Two years after the discussion on threats, the situation on the ground did not change. The reportage analyzes the barriers that investors face in Kosovo, including threats.

**March**  
3<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on corruption as the main barrier in Kosovo's development. The public is used to hearing public statements on the fight against corruption, but there is almost no analysis on corruption. Justice in Kosovo analyzed an affair on the misuse of public money in Kosovo. This reportage specifically analyzes a case of corruption in the Municipality of Rahovec.

**March**  
9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the failure of the prosecution in Kosovo. An investigation shows that former Yugoslavia countries demand data from Hague Tribunal, including Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia, amongst others. The episode discussed the importance of this evidence, and the failure of Kosovo to take them under their possession.

**March**  
20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Enver Peci – Head of the Supreme Court. Prime Minister's Haradinaj declarations threatened the work of judiciary. The judiciary was also under pressure for visa liberalization. In an exclusive interview, Peci provides details about these issues.

**March**  
24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on investigations done on expired meat in Kosovo. A great amount is said to have been distributed in the Kosovo market, although designated for animal's consumption. State Prosecution started an investigation to find people responsible for this illegal affair.

**April**  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the corruption marring the processes of liberalization. Years before, the judiciary took over the obligation to complete 33 cases that were viewed as the most important ones in combating corruption in Kosovo. Years in a row, the EU reminded Kosovo of this condition.

**April**  
6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the disputable traffic fines issued by the Kosovo Police. These fines can be contested in court, finds the investigation of Life in Kosovo. What does the Law on Contravention say? How did this affair develop? All these and many more questions have been answered in this reportage.

**April**  
16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on tax theft. Fictitious bills became a threat to Kosovo. What happened in the financial system? What is the damage caused by these bills? The reportage brings an exclusive investigation in cooperation with the State Prosecution. A live action of financial raids in the north of Mitrovica, where this activity is said to take place has been broadcast in the scope of the programme.

**April**  
21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on drug affairs in Kosovo. This case shows how the state prosecution treats cases where family members are involved.

**April**  
29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an interview with Hilmi Jashari, the Ombudsperson and their investigation on the arrest of six Turkish nationalists. Who was responsible for this decision, and what are the effects this action is going to have on international political grounds for Kosovo?

**May**  
6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the hydropower plants in Kosovo. What are the threats to the environment? What companies took over the electricity in Kosovo, what are the prices and their changes in the market, what happened with the privatization of this enterprise, and many other questions have been covered in the reportage.

**May**  
18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the monopoly in the automobile market. In the new governance of the Ministry of Infrastructure, new laws and regulations have been applied. Various companies presented dilemmas on the work of the ministry. This reportage shows the developments in this business.

**June**  
8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast a second episode on the tax theft in Kosovo. An investigation team started to reveal the names of businesses that do not pay taxes for the state.

**September**  
14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on corruption in Kosovo Police. How the State Prosecution found the corrupt Police network illegally asking people to pay fines. Actions of Police and analysis of Prosecution officials are included in the reportage.

**September**  
21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on corruption in the Municipality of Gjilan. Investigations have been conducted for officials of this municipality. The reportage shows evidence and footage of the investigators under the orders of the prosecutors.

**September**  
28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the involvement of a police officer in prostitution. The sex business bloomed in Kosovo, and State Prosecution gave evidence on this. This reportage shows evidence on the development of this crime and the involvement of Kosovo Police in the business.

**October**  
5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the lack of professionalism in treating a case of injury. There is also evidence that people arrested managed to run away from the Police Station. The failure of the Police action and its implications are revealed in the reportage.

**October**  
22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an investigation on evidence given for a network within the government exposing Ramush Haradinaj in a scandal on electricity in Kosovo.

**October**  
26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the war against drugs. The reportage analyzes the unfair arrest of an individual, and the drug war.

**November**  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the amnesty of corruption. The Judiciary guaranteed amnesty to Deputy Prime Minister of the Ramush Haradinaj governance. In addition, the war of State Prosecution provided evidence that state officials have been involved in corruption.

**November**  
9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the Serbian police involved in drug networks. In the second part of the programme was included a reportage on the Tax Administration of Kosovo and their action to inspect irregular bills.

**November**  
23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the hopes of the denounced for terrorism. Violent extremism is a crisis in Kosovo as well, resulted in many people going to the war in Syria and Iraq. What happened, how many left, what are other developments of this matter? The investigation proves evidence that some of the reasons that drove people to go to these wars are still present in Kosovo.

**December**  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on human rights, and legal norms on gender equality. The investigation looks at the inequality in terms of women's participation in governance, and political parties, inequality of their representation on municipal directorates, and their barriers in seeking to inherit property in Kosovo.

**December**  
8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on the case of a doctor that was being blackmailed reportedly. The reportage gives details of networks from Gjilan region that were threatening a doctor. The episode also discusses inspectors of TAK in infrastructure.

**December**  
14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode on allegations of misuse of funds in the Kosovo Judicial Council. The second part of the reportage discusses the operation of Peja Prosecution in fighting drug networks.

**December**  
21<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Justice in Kosovo broadcast an episode with confessions of the returnees from wars in Syria and Iraq. Two strategies have been approved and Kosovo has a law on preventing these actions. Around 100 were returned back in Kosovo. These developments are discussed in the reportage.



During December 2018, KALLXO.com conducted a series of six shows dedicated to the Kosovo Security Force, featuring an exclusive footage of the most important exercise ever performed by the KSF.

### 2018 Fast Facts:

Frequency: Weekly: Fridays at 10:30 pm.

|

YouTube Views:

**6,729,739**

|

YouTube Watch Time:

**30,392,186**

|

WEB Page Views:

**208,905**

|

WEB Unique Page Views:

**142,063**



## 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 public services. 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 2018 to December 2018, **1318** reports were received, **358** reports were verified, **527** reports were not verified, **150** reports were unverifiable, and **224** reports were invalid/null.

#### Pas Raportimit



#### Skandal në tatime: Punëtori i motelit pa kontratë sepse merr socialin

Në kuadër të aksionit për verifikimin e fiskalizimit dhe lëshimit të kuponëve fiskal Administrata Tatimore e Kosovës gjatë ditës së sotme ka vizituar edhe ...

04.8.2019

#### DJ e restorante dasmash zihen duke u ikur tatimeve

04.8.2019

#### Operacion kundër vjedhjes së taksave cak diskotekat e medha të Prishtinës

| AKSIONI

03.8.2019

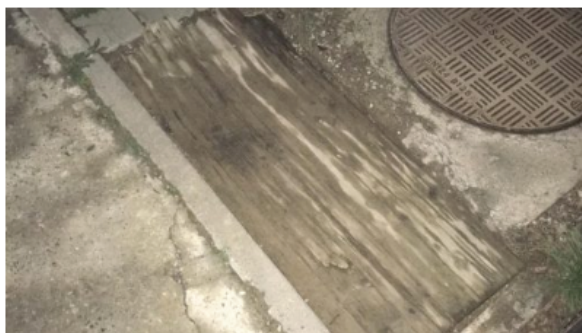
#### VIDEO - Zyrtarët e MTI-së luajnë 'Ludo' në ambiente të punës

| LOJA 'LUDO'

30.7.2019

Më shumë >

#### Impakti



#### Pas raportimit të KALLXO.com, Ujësjellësi 'Prishtina' rregullon ujin në një lagje të Fushë Kosovës

Kompania Rajonale e Ujësjellësit 'Prishtina', pas raportimit të KALLXO.com, ka ndërhyrë në një lagje të Fushë Kosovës, ku është rregulluar rrjeti i ujësjellësit.

| FUSHË KOSOVË

11.11.2019

#### Anulohet për të dytën herë tenderi i 'kurdisur' për laptopë

| AQP

09.11.2019

#### Afera e filmuar nga KALLXO.com, ndëshkohet prokurori Ramiz Buzhala

| KPK

04.11.2019

#### Pas raportimeve nga KALLXO.com, ATK shqiptoi 16 mijë euro gjoba ndaj bizneseve

| ATK

16.10.2019

Më shumë >

# 2018

FAST FACTS

Web page views:

**30,088,957**

Web unique page views:

**18,282,640**

Average monthly users:

**347,000**

Average daily page views:

**82,435**

Facebook fan page likes:

**169,486**



## Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë

(from 2011 to date)

During 2018, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published in-depth investigations and opinions that touched many spheres of everyday life in Kosovo, such as education, health, delivery of the public services, culture, and art.

**January**  
13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Favoring Local Companies for Building the Olympic Pool*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on tender difficulties faced by the Municipality of Prizren in Kosovo. This tender was open to build an Olympic pool in the municipality. The article analyzes how or whether the municipality respected the Law on Public Procurement.

**January**  
15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Big Differences in Coal Purchase Price*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the difference on coal prices purchased by municipalities in Kosovo. Requesting information from all municipalities, and receiving responses from 19 of them, our team found out that prices differ drastically.

**March**  
5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Resistance Teachers Require Recognition of Contribution*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the demand of teachers who taught during 90s in Kosovo. These teachers demand a reward for their contribution during the times of resistance.

**April**  
17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*The Draft Law on Education Workers of 1990 to be extracted*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on how the International Monetary Fund suggested that the draft law on rewarding teachers who taught during the 90s, should be removed. Amongst many perspectives and reasons for the removal of the draft law, is the question of whether teachers should be rewarded for the past or future.

**May**  
28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Teacher of the 90s cost 650 million euros*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth follow-up article on the draft law to reward teachers who taught during the 90s. The article analyzed how the budget burden will go up to 650 million euros.

**July**  
27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Reports of Deputy Ministers*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article from Agron Demi, a political analyst, who analyzes how 76 Deputy Ministers are unnecessary.

**July**  
27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Leposavic pays for unfinished projects*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the findings of the National Audit Office in Kosovo with regards to the Municipality of Leposavic. This municipality was found to have committed numerous violations on the execution of their budget, hereby paying for unfinished projects

July  
29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Demaci, a Balkan's legend*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the importance that Adem Demaci holds for the Balkans. Amongst many reasons, the article elaborates how Demaci played a crucial role in advocating for and promoting human rights in the Balkans.

July  
30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*University of Prishtina opens the Center for Transnational Justice*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an article on the opening of Transnational Justice Center in the University of Prishtina. This center aims to provide lectures for students interested in truth and reconciliation.

July  
31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

*How did Romania become the center for sex trafficking in Europe*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on sex trafficking in Romania. The article elaborates how the free movement in Europe, high poverty, and the lack of proper policies, risk the sex trafficking of many women in Romania.

July  
31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

*How to compile a work report for Deputy Ministers*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth (sarcastic) article by Agron Demi, a political analyst, on fourteen advises how to compile a report for Deputy Ministers.

July  
31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

*Draft Law on Notary and Women's Rights to Property*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the legal framework discriminating women and their rights to property. BIRN Kosovo's legal adviser, Labinot Leposhtica, wrote an analysis on the Law on Notary, specifying the needed adjustments that otherwise create loopholes for discrimination.

**August**  
24<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

*Border corrections in Presheva*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the standing of Albanians in Presheva with regards to the proposed changes in borders. Although Albanians in Presheva are in favor of joining Kosovo, they do not believe that will be a solution to their daily problems.

**August**  
26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Great interest in the Faculty of Medicine and Education, very little interest in Economics*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on how the University of Prishtina did not manage to fill in their expected number of new students. The article also elaborates how there is more interest on enrolling in the Faculty of Medicine and Education, rather than that of Economy that has been previously more famous.

**August**  
27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Kosovo border correction*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the border correction of Kosovo, and an interpretation of the stances of the European Union and the United States on this matter.

**August**  
28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*If Kosovo gets divided Bosnia will be next*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the political threat the border correction in Kosovo poses regionally. The article elaborates on the idea how the border correction in Kosovo will be an open door to apply the policy in Bosnia.

**August**  
30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*The missing in the Balkans*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an article on the International Day of the Missing. The article depicts the agony of family members in Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo, and Albania.

**September**  
24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Indictment against Kosovo's "fake veterans" rages former guerrillas*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the published list of presumably fake war veterans, which in turn raged former guerrillas.

**September**  
24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Professors suspected of plagiarism in the UP*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the five professors in the University of Prishtina, accused for plagiarism.

**September**  
25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Serbian students doubt the agreement between Kosovo and Serbia*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on people's perception on the negotiations between Kosovo and Serbia. While the European Union promotes the negotiations as necessary, some Serbian students show doubts.

**September**  
25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Political stalemate, solution to the election*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on political conflict within the government, with regards to border corrections between Kosovo and Serbia. This political stalemate could possibly lead to elections.

**September**  
26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*The necessity of protests*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article by Shpend Kursani - External Senior Researcher at the Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, on the necessity of protests in the latest political developments

**September**  
27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Pacolli's 'diplomatic' gestures are criticized at the UN*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the criticism for “diplomatic” behavior by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Bexhet Pacolli at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

**September**  
28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Branimir Glavas, Croatia's most fortunate war crimes suspect*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on Branimir Glavas, being one of the luckiest war crimes suspects in Croatia, to continue to profit from favoritism that kept him away from the Court.

**September**  
29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*What language does Thaçi speak?*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the discourse of Hashim Thaçi, used on a writing published on Financial Time, which continues to pose confusion on this standing in Kosovo and Kosovo citizens.

**October**  
25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Four Board Members seek the dismissal of the Director of the AKP*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the demand of four Board Members for the resignation of the Executive Director of the Agency for Privatization.

**October**  
26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*DOCUMENT: The expenses of the Presidency and the MFA for lobbying*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the spending of the Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The article analyzes the spending of the Presidency for strategic consulate and judiciary services from an American company called Ballad Partners Inc.

**October**  
29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Legal Interpretation that eliminated Blerand Stavileci from the race for KEK Director*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the illegal interpretation that expelled Blerand Stavileci from KEC.

**October**  
29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*To eat and cook like a feminist*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on feminist activities aiming to change the gender discourse of food and cooking.

**October**  
31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

*"Shaci" a result of Albanian orientalism*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on "shatzi," a name assumed to come from the frequent use of this word by diaspora Albanians when returning for summer holidays to Kosovo. The article notes how its use to describe the diaspora is racist in the way it attempts to create "the other" Albanians.

**October**  
31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

*The Long Wait*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the wait of war survivors and sexual abuse victims for their pensions.

**October**  
31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

*Did the phantom portals affect the election result of 2017?*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the effect of phantom portals on elections.

**October**  
31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

*Telekom and IPKO require another year for full implementation of + 383*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the declaration of Telekom and IPKO, that they need another year to get the country code +383.

**November**  
25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Gjilan's troubles with tenders*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the troubles faced by the Municipality of Gjilan on tendering. The National Audit Office had sent recommendations for adjustments in all municipalities of Kosovo. However, the majority of these municipalities partially implemented these recommendations.

**November**  
27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*The history of trade war between Kosovo and Serbia*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article by Agron Demi, a political analyst, on the trade history between Kosovo and Serbia. This was as a response to the recent 100% tax on Serbia.

**November**  
27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*BIRN Kosovo's investigation on gender equality in municipal directorates in Kosovo*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the findings of BIRN Kosovo's legal office, with regards to the representation of women in municipal directorates. The findings show that women run less than 20% of these directorates.

**November**  
28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*EU and USA are inciting chaos in the Balkans*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article by Jasmin Mujanovic, political analyst, regarding the political intervention of the European Union and the U.S. creating chaos in the Balkans.



**November**  
28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Reasons to celebrate November 28th in Kosovo*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on reasons why Kosovar-Albanians should celebrate the Albanian National Flag Day, 28th of November.

**November**  
29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Woodcutting gangs: The plundering of ancient forests of Albania*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the damage of the largest forest in Albania protected by UNESCO.

**December**  
28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Confessed war crimes in Kosovo, but found no consolation*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the people confessing war crimes in the Hague Tribunal. More than 4,600 people confessed in Hague, but a very small number of those found consolation. The reason is that war causes trauma that for some can never heal.

**December**  
28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Kosovo exports 20 million kg of paper waste*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the decrease of sales of recycled materials and paper waste in Kosovo.

**December**  
29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Syrians, main asylum seekers in Kosovo (VIDEO)*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on Syrians being main asylum seekers in Kosovo.

**December**  
31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

*Kosovo Assembly*

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë published an in-depth article on the work of the Kosovo Government and resolutions adopted during 2018 by the Assembly of Kosovo.

BIRN KOSOVO

# Krypometër

**Krypometër was launched on December 2016, on the International Day Against Corruption. Krypometër is a product of BIRN Kosovo and Internews Kosova. Being the first tool to assess the veracity and rate truthfulness on declarations from state officials, Krypometër is a response to uncertainty, obscurity, and lack of accountability from state institutions and officials. On December 8th, 2017, Krypometër was awarded the verified badge from International Fact-Checkers Network after passing an independent auditing process.**

During 2018, BIRN Kosovo continued to hold officials accountable to their legal obligations to perform for the wellbeing of Kosovo citizens. Through the navigation of the truth-o-meter, Krypometër, journalists and editors investigated the work of state officials. The main method used to keep state officials accountable is by gathering and following-up on their public declarations. Since its existence, Krypometër was known for investigating declarations during pre-elections and elections in the local or national level. However, elections are not the only medium through which BIRN Kosovo gathered statements of high public interest. Our journalists that cover daily events in Kosovo, record statements made in parliamentary meetings, TV shows and news, roundtables, and conferences. Journalists and editors of BIRN Kosovo only drop cases when projects are finished or shown to have failed. Krypometër, however, offers another type of analysis. Considering that the work of state institutions is rather complex, editors do not only label statements as pass or fail. Statements on our truth-o-meter are made public with the evaluation of being true, partial-true, or lie, followed with explanation for each evaluation.

The aim of Krypometër is twofold. First, it exercises public pressure to press officials to keep their promises and be accountable to the citizens. Second, it gives people a tool through which they can themselves measure the credibility of political representatives. While Krypometër incorporated all aspects of political, social, and economic life, during 2018 it reported specifically on cases of public procurement, past elections, declarations in parliamentary meetings, and declarations in public events, among others.

During 2018, BIRN Kosovo's fact-checking tool Krypometër published a total of 134 articles regarding the fulfillment of promises that politicians made. These articles included investigations conducted by the team and were illustrated using Krypometër. A detailed description of articles and their level of impact are provided below:

## Rritja e pagave, nuk është pa çare!

### Deklarata

**Ramush Haradinaj:** Ministri i Financave ka deklaruar në takime zyrtare që do ta respektojë vendimin e Gjykatës Kushtetuese. Tani edhe sikur mos të dojshim na, nuk kemi çare pa e respektuar atë vendim.

Ramush Haradinaj

### Vlerësimi

 RRENË E KRYPTË

**April 1st, 2018 –**

**Haziri's Lies with Regards to the Bridge that Incorporates Hazard for the Lives of the Citizens**

The candidate for the municipality of Gjilan, in a debate on Life in Kosovo was confronted with a picture showing a bridge with no protection. This bridge is crossed from children on their way to schools. This bridge is considered to place hazard for the residents, especially children. Haziri had promised a quick solution to this problem. Despite his promise, the bridge still stands unprotected.

**April 18th, 2018 –**

**Lies to Justify the Change of the Pipe**

The mayor of the municipality of Rahovec, Smajl Latifi, said that the change of the pipe is being done to increase the water transfer capacity. Shkodran Gaxherri, technical director at the Regional Water Company in Gjakova, denied this. He stated that the network expansion from five to seven villages is not the cause of the cracking of installed pipes; rather, the pipe is being changed due to constant cracking. Considering that the regional company is an expert that can verify the quality of the pipe trusted their judgment. However, the citizens of that region, who stated that they have been in constant struggles with water scarcity, also confirmed this. The mayor of the municipality of Rahovec also a mayor in 2011-the year when the pipe that is now being changed was installed- is tempting to cover a project that hasn't been successfully implemented during his first mandate.

**May 2nd, 2018–**

**Lies for the Operationalization of Firefighting Facility in Decan**

The municipality of Decan shows an example of a project not planned well and implemented with many defects. The firefighters were located in the new object built three years ago. The same object has never been used before, however, the object is now in need for renovation. The current mayor had promised that the firefighters would be placed in the new object on March, however, this never happened. Investments on the new object went to waste since it has never been used.

**May 3rd, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com published an article in the "Truth-o-Meter" rubric revealing that the mayor of Shtime did not keep his promise regarding the timing of his promise to share ownership of his property with his wife. On the debate hosted by Jeta Xharra, the mayor of Shtime promised that the transfer of property ownership to his wife would take place shortly after the elections. Even though his promise has been realized with a few months of delay is considered partly true or 2/5.

**May 3rd, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com measured another promise made by the Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, regarding the translation of numerous agreements between the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo and Contour Global for the construction of a 450-megawatt power plant. 8 of these agreements had not been translated yet, and according to Minister Lluka the translation would be completed within 3 months. His next promise was that the agreements would be translated by May, but he did not keep his promise. As such, it was considered a lie at the level of 4/5.

**May 9th, 2018 –**

**Gjakova Does Not Publish Contracts with Economic Operators**

Krypometër assesses Gjini's statement as false, since the publication of municipal contracts of economic operators was never published as promised. Publishing of contracts is of crucial importance for all interested parties, so they are informed about obligations of economic operator to the municipality, and projects specifics. All these are needed information for the citizens, journalists, and the civil society, so they have the opportunity to monitor the implementation of these contracts.

**May 14th, 2018 –**

**The Sleeping Facility of Junik**

The facility built in Junik has not yet been operationalized. It is serving as a simple collector, while the water is not being cleaned as it was originally planned. The reasons for the delay are said to be troubles of the EU as the financier of this project, with the contractor to carry out the work. Krypometër will continue to monitor this case.

**May 15th, 2018 –**

**Malisheva blames the minister for dragging the issue of the stadium**

The mayor of the municipality of Malisheva had promised to finalize the city stadium during the first six months of 2018. Krypometër monitored the work on this stadium to find out that it is still not ready for usage. The municipality blames the ministry for dragging this issue, however, this does not justify the mayor of the municipality who was supposed to hold prior knowledge on the dynamics of this work and the means at their disposal. Krypometër considers this to be a change on the mayor's standing, however, if the issues remain as such then it will be considered a lie.

**May 17th, 2018-**

**Lies for publishing the list of usurpers and business contracts**

The mayor of the municipality of Gjilan, Lutfi Haziri, had declared that all contracts with economic operators of this municipality, will be published on the e-procurement website. Such thing is not happening on the municipality of Gjilan, but neither on other authorities. To date, the Ministry of Economic Development published signed contracts for the project on "Kosova e Re" power plant. However, the municipalities do not publish contracts of small suppliers, services, or other work. The question on whether contracts of municipalities with economic operator will get published has been sent to mayoral candidates of municipalities 48 hours prior to debates for runoff. He gave a new promise, that the list will be published after two months. The municipality of Gjilan is still not publishing contracts with businesses for service provision or work implementation.

**May 17th, 2018 –**

**Agim Aliu Publishes the Usurpers and Decisions**

Krypometër evaluates that Aliu spoke the truth with regards to the publishing of the list of usurpers in the municipality of Ferizaj. The list is not complete, however, the officials of the municipality of Ferizaj stated that the list would be updated. Despite this, the municipality of Ferizaj initiated the publishing of the mayor's decisions. Monthly decisions are collected on a document, and they are not published individually. The municipality of Ferizaj also started publishing the decisions of mayors of the municipal department, however, not all decision are included.

**May 17th, 2018 –**

**Klina Does Not Publish Contracts with Economic Operators**

Elezaj did not keep his promise for the publishing of the contracts. Contracts with economic operators have not yet been published on the website of this municipality. The website includes all announcements with regard to the procurement process, but not the contracts. Elezaj, on the other hand, did keep his promise on publishing decisions made by the municipality. The decisions of the mayor Elezaj began to be published on the new website of the municipality of Klina.

**May 25th, 2018 –**

**Five schools waiting for Shpend Ahmeti**

The Mayor of the Municipality of Prishtina, Shpend Ahmeti, received a lot of critiques that he had not invested in educational infrastructure on his first mandate. On the second mandate, he prioritized the construction of 5 schools in the municipality to be financed by a loan from the World Bank. Considering that Ahmeti's promise is important for the citizens living in the capital, Krypometër will follow the developments to see whether he will keep his word and start building the school in 2018. It is important to remember that procurement procedures in the Municipality of Prishtina take a long time, for construction projects are usually followed with complaints from economic operators in the Procurement Review Body.

**June 4th, 2018 –**

**Kept promise for the cemetery and installing street lights in Junik**

The Mayor of the Municipality of Junik, Agron Kuqi, kept his two promises given in pre-election debate. The Municipality of Junik brightened of the main street called the Down Street. In addition, it operationalized the cemetery in the new location.

**June 26th, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com published an article including a video of a statement made by the Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj regarding the increase of salaries of members of cabinet. The Constitutional Court stated that the governmental decision to increase the salaries for the entire justice sector, including the judges of the Constitutional Court, does not contradict the Constitution. On the other hand, the Ministry of Finance, Bedri Hamza, decided not to execute this decision. Haradinaj accused the Ministry of Finance of failing to respect the decision of the government, but the decision to increase the salaries itself does not oblige the government to put the decision in place. According to Truth-o-Meter, his statement is ranked as a 5/5 pure lie.

**July 4th, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com published an article on "Truth-o-Meter" regarding the visa liberalization and the statements of the President of Kosovo Hashim Thaçi. After receiving a positive proposal from the European Commission for visa liberalization in May 2016, Kosovo politicians began their congratulations for the "end of isolation". The President of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, had even shared a graphic illustration saying "Goodbye Visa". But after two years citizens of Kosovo still wait in front of the different embassies to get their visas, and Thaçi, along with the other Ministers, continues to request the visa liberalization but at the same time promising citizens that "this year" Kosovo will be visa-free. Hence, his statements are ranked as a 5/5 pure lie.

**July 25th, 2018 –**

**The list of usurpers is published, but not the list of businesses that have won the tender**

The Municipality of Malisheva did not publish the list of businesses that have been contracted by the Municipality for supplies, services, or other certain works. This municipality has sufficed with the announcements made on the e-procurement platform. But, the municipality led by Ragip Begaj has published a list of some usurpers of municipal property. This is considered a partially kept promise, as the word is that this is not the final list; so some usurpers are missing or are there despite that they had left the usurped property. Krypometër will continue to monitor this list to see if it will be updated.

**August 1st, 2018 – Gjakova, the first municipality to publish contracts with businesses**

Gjakova has become the first municipality to start publishing contracts signed with economic operators for performing works, or providing services. In May, when the contracts were not yet launched, a Krypometër was made evaluating the pledge of Ardian Gjini, the mayor of Gjakova, as a lie. Since the municipality of Gjakova has started the publication of contracts, Krypometër regards it as a promise held, despite delays in the realization of this promise.

**August 9th, 2018 – Ahmeti's next Lie on Buses**

The first buses have been released to operate in the beginning of 2017. Since then, 19 months have passed, and yet the other 21 buses never arrived in Prishtina. Such a long waiting period goes only to the detriment of citizens and the environment, as they are forced to travel by old and polluting buses. The date of the arrival of Buses in Kosovo is Ahmeti's next lie.

**September 3rd, 2018 – The renovation of schools in Prishtina is delayed**

The two schools that were in the process of renovation did not open their doors to students on the first day of the school year. Krypometër evaluates Shpend Ahmeti's statement as a lie since his promise that schools would be ready for the new academic year was not true. Consequently, students of these schools have to wait for the second part of September to start classes.

**September 13th, 2018 – The lie for the road to Mirusha waterfall**

The Municipality of Malisheva blamed the Ministry of Infrastructure for the road to the Mirusha waterfall. However, the mayor of the Municipality of Malisheva, Ragip Begaj, took the merits for this road during the time when he asked for votes for another mandate, and did not say that the project is of the Ministry of Infrastructure. Delays in the implementation of the project have negative impacts for the citizens of that region, but also for tourism.

**September 13th, 2018 – The lie for covering pits in the streets of Prishtina**

The Municipality of Prishtina did not cover the pits until June, as promised. KALLXO.com found that there are still pits uncovered in the capitals neighborhoods such as: Naim Frasheri Street in the Muhaxherr neighborhood, street Afrim Hoxha in Toukbashqe neighborhood, and street Ymer Alushani in Dardania neighborhood.

**October 2nd, 2018 –** KALLXO.com published an article regarding the visit made by the Kosovo President Hashim Thaçi at Ujman. One day after the visit, the president gathered the media to talk about his visit to the border crossing point in Bernjak and the Ujmani Lake where he stated that this was just a transparent visit. On contrary, Thaçi's visit at the border crossing point in Bernjak and the Ujman Lake was not transparent at all. His office had not invited the media to attend the visit, as they usually do with other visits in Kosovo. Moreover, during the visit, none of Thaçi's advisers or anyone from the Office of the President did not respond to the calls of KALLXO.com to confirm the news that Thaçi was staying in the North of Kosovo. In this regard, the "Truth-o-Meter" rates the statement of the President as a 4/5 lie.

**October 2nd, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com published an article regarding a changed statement by Kosovo President, Hashim Thaçi, with regard to the Prime Minister's initiative to transform the Kosovo Security Forces into an army with three draft laws. Thaçi had stated that he did not have any information that the transformation of FSK into an army would take place, and that if he does not have any information, neither the US nor NATO are informed about this issue. However, the international leaders did not challenge Haradinaj's initiative. Apart from the changing of statement, the clashes between the Prime Minister and the President were considered as attempts to gain merits and to manipulate the public regarding the issue of the army. In this regard, the "Truth-o-Meter" considers the statement of Thaçi as a 3/5 lie

**October 23rd, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com published an article on Krypometër regarding a statement made by Valdrin Lluka, the Minister of Economic Development, who had pledged not to support the distribution of coal to KEK workers. He had banned the granting of coal as a gift to KEK employees and this statement was considered as true.

**October 26th, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com published an article on Krypometër regarding a statement made by Aleksander Lumezi, the Chief State Prosecutor. In an occasion, the son of Shpend Maxhuni who is the Director of the Kosovo Intelligence Agency was involved in a case on October 12, where the police had found a gun and drugs. In this regard, the Chief State Prosecutor, Aleksander Lumezi, had stated that this was not true, and that nothing was found on the car of Shpend Maxhuni. But, this statement is considered as a lie of 3/5, because the police declared that the gun was found in the pocket of Shpend Maxhuni's son.

**November 14th, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com published an article regarding a statement made by the Kosovo President, Hashim Thaçi, who stated only three weeks before travelling to Paris to attend the Peace Forum, that the dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia would not take place in the forum, adding that this will be an opportunity for the affirmation of the Republic of Kosovo. But in contrary, Thaçi did not prioritize Kosovo's promotion to other European states that still did not recognize the state of Kosovo. In all meetings that Thaçi had with world leaders, including Russia's President, Vladimir Putin, he said that had mentioned the dialogue with Serbia and the possibility of reaching an agreement. There was no dialogue between Kosovo and Serbian in the Peace Forum of Paris, but the issue was discussed there.

**December 5th, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com published an article regarding fake news made by media outlets in Kosovo. The news that a discount on electricity prices in northern municipalities was made circulated on online media outlets of Kosovo, which in fact was a decision that was made one year ago. Last year, ERO had cut off the electricity supply costs for the northern municipalities and the electricity prices were lowered to 3.5%. The "Truth-o-Meter" considered this news as a 5/5 lie.

**December 28th, 2018 –**

KALLXO.com published an article about a statement made by the Director of Strategic Planning and Sustainable Development in Prishtina, Genc Bashota, who said that the construction of the underground parking at the Faculty of Philology would begin by the end of November. On the contrary, the work still has not begun and the company who will build the parking was not selected yet, and in this regard, the statement of Genc Bashota is ranked as a 4/5 lie.



**December 31st, 2018** – KALLXO.com published an article regarding a statement made by the mayor of the municipality of Peja, Gazmend Muhaxheri. He had declared that there are 19 findings from the General Auditor for the year 2017, and that the municipality of Peja had already addressed 47% of them. He also added that for the year 2018, the municipality was in the phase of implementation of action plan to eliminate the recommendations of the Auditor, stating that they will address 60% of the recommendations. KALLXO.com has found that some of these recommendations require more than one year of work to be addressed. The optimistic statement of the mayor of Peja will be monitored and investigated by the findings of the audit report of 2018.

#### 2018 Fast Facts:

|  
Unique Visitors:

**1,039,737**

|  
Page views:

**1, 2391,644**

|  
Daily Visits:

**3,354**

|  
Facebook fan page:

**247, 563**

BIRN KOSOVO

# Prishtina Insight

During 2018, Prishtina Insight extensively covered current political affairs, socio-economic developments, education, culture, sports and institutional reforms in line with the European Reform Agenda. Some of the highlights of the year were marked by original stories and investigations.

- Prishtina Insight also published articles that discussed sports in Kosovo and beyond, from football to judo, curling, rugby, weightlifting and other sports as well as various news, analysis and features on environmental issues, particularly on degradation of Kosovo rivers. Prishtina Insight also contributed with a number of articles that featured the perils for Kosovo's wildlife as well as continual reporting on violation of animal's rights.

## 2018 Fast Facts:

Features:  
**102**

News:  
**400**

Op-ed:  
**93**

Big Deal:  
**36**

Guide:  
**15**

# Prishtina Insight's **top 10**

most read<sup>9</sup> stories include

- 1** The Sound of Tallava: Ardit Kika's article explores the significance of tallava in Kosovar society, which goes far beyond the music.
- 2** Telling Kosovo's tales of the broken hearted, a story written by Eve-Anne Travers: The museum, which tells stories of past loved ones and relationships by collecting objects and memories from people in Kosovo and around the world, strove to encourage open-minded artistic expression and storytelling, as well as a therapeutic way of moving on from painful relationships, or memorializing fond ones.
- 3** Albania and Greece seek to solve long standing dispute: Fatjona Mejdini's piece brings to the readers a history of political grudges between the two NATO members combined with a human perspective of those that had been personally affected by the unresolved issues of the past of the two neighboring countries.
- 4** Should I register my temporary residence in Kosovo?: Faith Bailey's article concentrates in the lack of investments in the department of citizenship, asylum and migration in Kosovo that creates bureaucratic obstacles and discrimination for citizens.

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<sup>9</sup><https://prishtinainsight.com/2018s-top-read-stories-mag/>

- 5 'Shaci' as another product of Albanian orientalism: Adem Ferizaj's article treats issues pertaining to Albanian identity among those living in Germany, Switzerland and Austria.
  - 6 Now it's time for Serbia to recognize Kosovo as a reality: Florian Bieber's opinion explores the final solution that would end the long chapter in the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia
  - 7 The panic Serbia and Kosovo leave in the wake: Nevena Radosavljevic's article concentrates on the harm that both Albanian and Serbian citizens experience due to irresponsible politics of both countries.
  - 8 Kosovo gets into rugby with its first all-female-team: In an interview with the team, members of the newly-renamed Balkan Lynx Rugby Club explained why rugby has become such an important sport for them.
  - 9 9. Flying blind: negligence, nepotism and graft at Kosovo Airport: Our most read article for 2018 featured details of an investigation at Kosovo's international airport "Adem Jashari," and the unsafe logistic conditions to fly. Jeta Xharra's investigation exposed the direct risks to the lives of passengers due to irregularities and corruption that characterizes the management of the airport of Prishtina 'Adem Jashari'.
-

**10** Border changes reveal Kosovo's true worth: Hehir wrote on the growing support to the idea of land swaps by the international community and the perils behind it. In the piece Hehir gave a short historical background of the Western influence on domestic political life in Kosovo, and the push for agendas that found little support from the local community but benefitted western interests.

## 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 analysis with a regional and local context, the latter with a focus on war crimes trials.

In 2018 BIRN has continued to inform vast audiences in the WB region and abroad, generating a record of 8.5 million page views, by producing over 700 premium articles and 3,000 news pieces on Balkan Insight. Likewise, in 2018 Balkan Insight has had a record of 87.7% of new visitors to the website.

BIRN Hub's most important and successful social media channels are those for its flagship outlet, Balkan Insight. The Facebook and Twitter accounts for this platform bring the vast majority of social traffic to the Balkan Insight website, with most coming via Facebook (73%).

One of our aims in 2018 was to increase our Twitter coverage and video production. In the reporting period, we garnered 41,708 more sessions from Twitter compared to the year prior. That is a growth of 19%.

Overall, social media accounted for 1,031,502 sessions on Balkan Insight for this reporting period. This is an additional 43,027 sessions compared to the same period the year prior.

Over this reporting period, Balkan Insight and its affiliated programs all increased their followers on social media. Looking specifically at Balkan Insight's Facebook, our main source of social traffic, we grew our followers from 72,423 to 81,048. That is an increase of 8,625 followers (a growth of 12%).

On our Balkan Insight's Transitional Justice Facebook page, we saw a more dramatic increase. In 2018, our followers grew from 5,152 to 6,746 (an increase of 31%).

BIRN's social media accounts also showed growth in 2018. We gained 1,070 new followers on BIRN's Facebook account, which is a 27% increase.

Our social videos earned over 673,000 views in 2018. Our three highest-performing videos gained over 73,000, 61,000 and 47,000 views each.

We produced more than 100 videos in 2018, of varying lengths and for various BIRN Hub programmes. These included our annual series of ten Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence videos, short promotional videos for BIRN investigations or Premium content, and some stand-alone video stories.

The total reach of our videos was 2,131,745.

Looking more at our Twitter coverage, we gained 5,316 new followers for Balkan Insight in the reporting period, at an average of 433 per month. This amounts to a 17% increase in followers over the reporting period.

The number of sessions coming to Balkan Insight from our Twitter account in 2018 was 261,658. This was up from 219,950 in 2017 – an increase of 41,708.

Our engagement levels have also increased. Using average re-tweets as an example, we earned around 110/day in 2018, compared to an average of 90/day in 2017.

On BIRN's Twitter account, we also saw the number of followers grow by 770, bringing our total count to 1,760. This is a growth of 78%.

On our English-language Balkan Insight's Transitional Justice Twitter account, we saw the number of followers grow by 1,320, taking our total at the end of 2018 to 6,588. This is a growth of 25%.

In 2018, Balkan Transitional Justice website was visited by 1,173,281 unique users, and had 1,309,039 page views. The number of new users was 503,899. The most read article on BTJ website was co-created by journalists from Kosovo (Die Morina) and Serbia (Maja Zivanovic and Filip Rudic) - LIVE: Kosovo Serb Leader Ivanović Shot Dead in Mitrovica with 18,563 page views.

During the reporting period, Balkan Insight was quoted and republished in numerous regional and worldwide publications, including the very prestigious ones: The New York Times, Washington Post, Independent, BBC, Telegraph, Guardian, Wired, Al Jazeera English, NY Post, Politico, Media freedom page of the Council of Europe, EU Observer, Radio free Europe, Tokyo Times, Euronews, derStandard. Articles published on Balkan Insight have had 8,097 regional and 2,837 international republishings.

In total, the contribution of BIRN Kosovo's journalists was a total of 192 articles, including 39 analysis and opinions, and 153 news.



# Monitoring and Advocacy

## 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.

Prishtina Insight published 33 articles on the BIG Deal section during 2018.

News, analysis, features and OP-ED from in-house journalists and contributors of Prishtina Insight have been published on our website.

Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia and the consequences it produced in bilateral relations between Kosovo and Serbia has been kept on the spotlight while also ramifications the dialogue created in the daily life in Kosovo, e.g. issues of documents, free movement have been covered.

### Public Procurement:

During 2018, BIRN Kosovo, supported by USAID, closely monitored public procurement processes in Kosovo. BIRN Kosovo's conviction that the municipal level introduces the most loopholes to corruption led us to monitor the work of municipalities. During this reporting period, BIRN Kosovo covered all municipalities in Kosovo and reported on stories of success and failure. Aiming to ensure efficiency, accountability, and transparency, in 2018, BIRN Kosovo monitored and published twenty one (21) articles on the first stage of tendering processes, held a roundtable to launch the report on public procurement and discuss its findings, produced and broadcast seven (7) televised shows in Life in Kosovo and Justice in Kosovo addressing irregularities within procurement, and published over fifty (50) fact-checking articles on Krypometër, on cases of public procurement in Kosovo municipalities.

Our work on public procurement incorporated analyses on requests for re-evaluation and the two-folded instances for complains, analysis on the lack of knowledge on who to appoint responsible for addressing requests for re-evaluation, analysis on illegal signatures and/or illegal issuance of contracts to economic operators, either before procurement procedures have been finalized, analysis on small tenders for big spending elaborating on the misuse of the public money for end-of-the-year holidays, and analysis on the electronic procurement, and the staff preparation to proceed with electronic procurement activities.



## Judiciary

During 2018, BIRN Kosovo continued its systematic monitoring of the work of institutions, court hearings, and content of official documents which commenced in 2008. Monitoring covers various domains. In total 520 court hearings were conducted throughout the year, sent in total of 235 complaints to the responsible institutions. Out of the 235 complaints, 85 of them were requests for access to legal documents. The continued success of our legal office indicates an improvement of the relationship between BIRN Kosovo and state institutions.

The cooperation that KALLXO.com established with institutions and media outlets increased the reputation of BIRN Kosovo's products. The high number of republications of stories proves this; the number of articles/ stories republished by other local media for the period of January 2018 until December 2018 was over 4,916, and 1024 republications of Balkan Insight production.

In May 2016, the fourth European Commission report on the criteria for visa liberalization for Kosovo required the fulfillment of the remaining criteria: a) ratification of the border agreement with Montenegro and b) strengthening the results in the fight against corruption and organized crime.

After a painstaking border demarcation process with Montenegro, the criteria that remains to be fulfilled in order to get the visa-free regime like the rest of the WB states, is the fight against corruption and organized crime.

Aiming to fulfill the second criterion, the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council identified several high level corruption and organized crime cases that need to be resolved, classified as "targeted cases". In March 2018 BIRN produced a report called the "Corrupted Liberalisation" where all of these cases have been analysed. The analysis exposes the deliberate delays negligence of responsible institutions handling these cases.

## Energy and environment

Issues related to energy and environment are seen as a key issues by the society in Kosovo. For the last 20 years, Kosovo has unsuccessfully managed the energy issues in Kosovo, and above all the environmental protection has been the last of the priorities in practice, by all governmental bodies.

BIRN has been actively involved in monitoring and advocating on these issues, and this includes raising citizen awareness and debates on these issues, producing TV debates and analysis, and writing of numerous articles. The highlights include:

## Jeta në Kosovë:

Broadcasting of sixth conference of KOSID regarding the public health issues in Kosov; Air pollution; Waste management and the problem of sanitary landfills in Kosovo; Protection of water resources; Hydropower plants and their impact;

## Drejtësia në Kosovë

Drejtësia në Kosovë covered the research on the profitability of small hydropower plants in Kosovo, who are the companies behind the investment, and their privatization process.

## Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë treated issues related to coal, waste management, as well as deforesting.

As the works related to Kosova e Re coal power plant lacked transparency, BIRN also oversaw this issue, and in cases used the truth-o-meter to hold accountable public officials, as is the case of holding accountable the Minister of Economic Development for disclosing the agreement contract for the construction and operation of Kosova e Re power plant, a contract signed between the Government of Kosovo and Countour Global LLC, the company whose selected bid for the project carries legal challenges.

Countless articles were written in Kallxo.com regarding all of the issues, followed by Prishtina Insight, and Balkan Insight.

In December 2018, BIRN Kosovo's project proposal, with three partner organizations, Environmentally Responsible Action Group (ERA), TV Mreza, and CEE Bankwatch Network, was selected by the EU Office in Kosovo. The project aims in dealing with environmental and energy issues in Kosovo as a tool for institutional accountability, and a pathway towards European Integration.

The project will start its implementation in January 2019, and will last for 42 months.





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# Training and Media Development

On-the-job training:

## March

Jeta Xharra, Kreshnik Gashi, and Visar Prebreza held trainings for 20 young journalists and students of journalism.

## April 17<sup>th</sup>

BIRN Kosovo held on the job training with the Ombudsperson, on the usage of social media.

## April 27<sup>th</sup>

BIRN Kosovo in cooperation with the Association of Journalists of Kosova held training with about 30 young journalists and journalism students. Trainers and guest speakers included Meri Jordanovska from BIRN Macedonia, Visar Prebreza from BIRN Kosovo who talked about following the paper trail and databases while guest speakers included Fatos Bytyqi from Reuters and Xhemajl Rexha from KOHA Group.

## May

Jeta Xharra and Faik Ispahiu (director of Internews Kosova, partner organization) held the keynote speeches on “Media Communication Training for Prosecutors and Prosecution Officials” organized by EULEX and Academy of Justice.

## Between June 8 –25

BIRN Kosovo held training for young journalists and students of law and journalism, on media ethics at the University of Prishtina, AAB College, UBT College, University of Gjilan, University of Prizren, and North of Mitrovica.

## October 3

Kreshnik Gashi held a lecture for students of journalism and the youth organized by the Balkan Group for Research and Policies.

## November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Kreshnik Gashi, BIRN Kosovo’s Senior Editor held training in Mitrovica on development of critical thinking on handling terrorist cases.

## November 26<sup>th</sup>

Kreshnik Gashi held training for Kosovo Police Officials on communication with the public.

## March

BIRN Kosovo held a training for the spokespeople of the Kosovo Council, Basic Court of Prishtina, and Basic Court of Gjilan, on social media usage and communication with the public.

## April 20<sup>th</sup>

BIRN Kosovo held an on the job training and presented the social media guide for Kosovo courts, on the usage of social media and how to regulate communication with the media and public. This was held for the spokespeople of the Kosovo Judicial Council, Basic Court of Prishtina,

## May 11 – May 12

BIRN Kosovo held a retreat with 30 journalists of all communities in Kosovo in Peja to talk about the challenges of the media sector.

## May

BIRN Kosovo held training with 20 young journalists and students of journalism, where Jeta Xharra, Kreshnik Gashi and Visar Prebreza held trainings while Gazmend Sylja from Klan Kosova was a guest-speaker.

## September 21<sup>st</sup>

Kreshnik Gashi held a workshop with a focus group in Prizren on the Ombudsperson’s role in the society. At the same time a public discussion was held with the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Kosovo and the Ombudsman of Kosovo about the role of the latter in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights.

## October 5

Kreshnik Gashi held a training course for law students of AAB University from Ferizaj titled “Forms of Violent Extremism and Reporting on Terrorism Cases” where Special Prosecutor Drita Hajdari also participated

## November 13<sup>th</sup>

Kreshnik Gashi held training for judges, spokespersons for judges and Kosovo Bar Association on communication with the public and writing communiqués.

## December 7<sup>th</sup>

Kreshnik Gashi held training in the Municipality of Gjilan on prevention of extremism with university students.

## 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 2018, BIRN Kosovo submitted 85 requests for access to public documents.

## Legal Department

On 2018, 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 12 major laws including:

- The Penal Code of the Republic of Kosovo
- Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Kosovo
- Civil Code
- Law on Courts
- Law on Kosovo Judicial Court
- Law on Disciplinary Responsibility of Judges and Prosecutors
- Law on Extended Competencies for Confiscation of Assets
- Law on Amending and Supplementing the Law on Non-Contested Procedure
- Law on Amending the Law on Inheritance
- Law on Notary
- Law on Consumer Protection
- Law on Access to Public Documents

## Legal follow-up of cases reported by citizens on KALLXO.com

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

The reports that are sent to [www.kallxo.com](http://www.kallxo.com) are followed up by investigative teams who consist of monitors in the field, journalists, and then by the legal office.

When the 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.

During 2018, KALLXO.com received 1318 reports, 358 reports were verified, 527 reports were not verified, 150 reports were unverifiable, and 224 reports were invalid/null.

## Awards

Considering the impact of the stories published by BIRN Kosovo outlets, its journalists were awarded for their stories in a number of occasions:

**On December 20th, 2018**, NGO Coalition for the Protection of Children, KOMF, awarded three journalistic pieces produced and supported by the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, BIRN.

**On December 20th, 2018**, KALLXO.com journalist Emirjeta Vllahiu was awarded with a prize for the article titled “The 10 Euro bonus does not cover essential expenses for raising children,” on the resolution approved by the Kosovo assembly to give 10 euros monthly for children under 16 years of age.

## 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     | 26. KOSMA network of Serbian local TV stations               |
| 2. Advocacy Training and Resource Centre – ATRC      | 27. Kosovo Civil Society Foundation – KCSF                   |
| 3. Austrian Development Agency – ADA                 | 28. Kosovo Foundations for Open society – KFSO               |
| 4. Balkan Green Fund                                 | 29. MILLENIUM DPI PARTNERS                                   |
| 5. BIRN HUB  | (USAID's Justice System Support Program),                    |
| 6. British Embassy Prishtina                         | 30. Mott Foundation  |
| 7. Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies - CEAS           | 31. Mreza TV   |
| 8. Charles Stewart Mott Foundation                   | 32. National Endowment for Democracy - NED                   |
| 9. Community Building Mitrovica – CBM                | 33. NGO AKTIV  |
| 10. Community Building Mitrovica, CBM                | 34. NGO Change, Gjilan                                       |
| 11. Crossing Bridges Productions                     | 35. Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG)        |
| 12. DAI  | 36. Radio Television 21                                      |
| 13. Danish International Development Agency - DANIDA | 37. Radio Television of Kosovo                               |
| 14. Dokufest   | 38. Rockefeller Brothers Fund - RBF                          |
| 15. European Union Special Representative in Kosovo  | 39. Royal Norwegian Embassy                                  |
| 16. Fondacija Krila nade EU-IPA Regional             | 40. RTV Puls   |
| 17. Foreign and Commonwealth Office                  | 41. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC       |
| 18. Forum for Civic Initiative                       | 42. Syri i Vizionit, Peja                                    |
| 19. Free Press Unlimited – FPU                       | 43. The Advocacy Training and Resource Center – ATRC         |
| 20. Group for Legal and Political Studies, GLPS      | 44. The Government of the Grand Duchy Luxemburg              |
| 21. Initiative for Progress, NGO in Ferizaj          | 45. The Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo - HLC Kosovo          |
| 22. Institute for Advanced Studies, GAP              | 46. The State of the Netherlands                             |
| 23. Institute for Development Policy, INDEP          | 47. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency |
| 24. International Visegrad Fund                      | – SIDA   |
| 25. Internews Kosova                                 | 48. TOKA   |

## Regional partnerships

- |                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| 49. BIRN Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 50. BIRN Macedonia              |
| 51. BIRN Serbia                 |
| 52. BIRN Regional               |
| 53. OCCRP                       |
| 54. TV Aldi, Presheve           |

## International Cooperation and Partnerships

- |                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| 55. European Climate Foundation |
| 56. Frontline Club              |
| 57. Saferworld                  |
| 58. SCOOP                       |
| 59. Sierra Club                 |
| 60. 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

## FUNDING IN 2018

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Through 2018, 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 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.

BIRN Kosovo is looking forward to maintaining, nurturing, and strengthening 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 televised programmes on Life in Kosovo;
  - Systematic monitoring of the performance of public services and production of Justice in Kosovo weekly TV program;
  - Production of electoral debates;
  - Publication on KALLXO.com, and Krypometër;
  - Publication of Balkan Insight, Prishtina Insight, Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë and the Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence
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# Western Governments/Governments and agencies/Independent and Public Foundations

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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.

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# Donors

are listed in alphabetical order:

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- Advocacy Training and Resource Centre - ATRC
  - Balkan Investigative Reporting Network - BIRN Serbia
  - BIRN HUB
  - Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
  - Austrian Development Agency Grant - ADA
  - The Dutch Fund for Regional Partnerships - MATRA Programme (MATRA stands for maatschappelijke transformatie, meaning 'social transformation')
  - 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
  - NTERNEWS 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
  - 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 - BTM
  - 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 - supported Prishtina Insight's publication.

**2**

Rockefeller Brothers Fund - The Rockefeller Brothers Fund was the first donor to help support and design the very successful project for monitoring public services, which began in 2008. RBF's support through 2016 brought an extension 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 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.

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- 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 Kosovo’s project of empowering women to seek their inheritance rights.
- 6** Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – SIDA supported BIRN Kosovo 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 titled Missing Rights - Finding Solutions.

## Advertising:

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

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## CHALLENGES AHEAD

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BIRN Kosovo exists to assist the socio-political and socio-economic developments of Kosovo. As a result, the challenges of the people in Kosovo will be the challenges of BIRN Kosovo.

The work of all our media platforms has shown continuous success, with our anti-corruption platform, KALLXO.com, being the second most trusted platform to report crime. As such, our work is known from state and private institutions, and it can be challenging in case the latter rejects collaboration and automatically become targets for public pressure. BIRN Kosovo is under the service of people in Kosovo, as such, it will continue to advocate for their well-being. Our mission becomes greater with the increase of the public trust in our organization. BIRN Kosovo team remains sensitive to structural inequalities, and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, gender, sex, and abilities. In this regard, a challenge that follows our work is the adjustment of the legal framework that either directly discriminated vulnerable groups, or entails loopholes that allow the discrimination of vulnerable groups. BIRN Kosovo has been working on this aspect since its establishment, and will continue to do so by every year.

Our true challenge remains collaboration with state institutions and state officials. BIRN Kosovo has a published mission and strategy of work that shows we work to strengthen state institutions and increase people's wellbeing. As such, BIRN Kosovo believes that every institution aiming the same will not reject our collaboration.

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# Acknowledgements

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## Previous Staff and Interns

We would like to thank staff members and interns who were part of BIRN Kosovo in 2018:

- Syzana Firza Puka
- Deniza Mulaj
- Erjonë Popova
- Vullnet Bugaku

## Who are we?

The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) is the leading investigative reporting organization in the Balkans, and is a trusted and well-respected civil society actors in the region.

BIRN emerged in 2004 through a long-term media development project run by the UK-based Institute for War and Peace Reporting. Since 2005, it has worked as an independent non-profit media-training organization in the Balkans. It specializes in developing and implementing investigative and analytical reporting projects, theoretical and practical training for local journalists, and capacity building 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 threats towards the journalists. These debates have pushed public reforms and contributed to increased levels of accountability among elected and appointed officials in post war Kosovo.

Starting with a staff of only three members in 2005, BIRN Kosovo has evolved into a leading media NGO, with a staff of 63 full-time and part-time employees and contributors at different times, which employs and nurtures the best investigative journalism capacity in Kosovo

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