

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	[No] - [Balkan Investigative Reporting Network-BIRN Kosovo] ([BIRN Kosovo])
PIC number:	[PIC number] n/a
Project name and acronym:	[Project 101196593 — RECONCILE] — [RECONCILE]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[5]
Event name:	[Training sessions]
Type:	[Training sessions on transitional justice, war crimes, and responsible media reporting]
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	[Kosovo], [Prishtina]
Date(s):	[08,09,12,19,26 January 2026]
Website(s) (if any):	https://bim.eu.com/network/bim-kosovo/bim-kosovo-news-and-events-2/
Participants	
Female:	152
Male:	79
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Kosovo]:	227
From country 2 [BiH]:	1
From country 3 [Serbia]:	3
Total number of participants:	231
From total number of countries:	3
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
BIRN Kosova as part of the Reconcile project, since the signing of the contract (Partnership Agreement CODE_08_087_2025) between BIRN Kosova and BIRN Hub, immediately began the necessary	

planning to fulfill the requirements arising from the contract, the axis of which was to increase the capacities of students, journalists and public servants. Due to the relatively large number that the project required to be included in this project, in agreement with BIRN Hub, it was decided that this number would be achieved through a broad involvement of participants from relevant institutions and professions who would benefit from going through this project and advancing their knowledge in the field of transitional justice. The initial plan was to go forward with sessions of training, with targeted participants coming from interest groups such as:

- Students: Journalism, Law, Political Science, and Transitional Justice
- Civil society organizations and media representatives
- Civil servants - institutions working on war crimes, transitional justice, and dealing with the past
- Judges, prosecutors, and police investigators

Throughout the first phase of the project implementation, the project team remained in continuous communication with the target groups and relevant institutions including universities, justice sector bodies, civil society organisations, and media professionals. Based on these consultations, stakeholders explicitly requested that no training activities be scheduled in late November or during December due to institutional calendars, academic obligations, and year-end professional commitments. In addition to the rationales mentioned, there is another very important factor: politics. In October and November, we held two rounds of Local Elections, with more than 1.5 million eligible citizens voting. This also meant two electoral campaigns that lasted for weeks. In addition, due to the unprecedented political situation, the President of Kosovo issued a decision to hold snap general elections on 28th of December, with the electoral campaign already underway weeks prior (formal and nonformal). The whole public discourse and the focus were shifted to the political development during the last quarter of 2025, especially with the non-forming of a government and the political situation overall, and there was no readiness to organize such a training session from the interest groups, as derived from the project

The project team therefore concluded that postponing the workshops was in the best interest of the project implementation, as proceeding against the availability and preferences of the target groups would have risked reduced attendance, limited interaction, and therefore the risk of not fulfilling the project requirements, such as the participant numbers. The postponement enabled the team to safeguard cooperation, secure commitment from key stakeholders, and maximise the quality and impact of the training sessions, particularly through the curriculum and overall preparations.

The dates of the training sessions:

- 8 January 2026 - Students, University of Prizren
- 9 January 2026 - Students, University of Prishtina
- 12 January 2026 - CSO, media, researchers
- 19 January 2026 - War crime workers (IKKL, MD)
- 26 January 2026 - Judges. Prosecutors, Lawyers, Police Officers and Forensics

As planned, BIRN Kosovo opened 4 open calls for the group of interest (Students, CSO/media/researchers, War Crime Workers, and Justice System Professionals). The calls were shared on the BIRN website and on the Kallxo.com Facebook page. The participants attending all the trainings session came from two sources - first, the applicants from the open call, and as we had agreed in the beginning, we would contact the relevant institutions to cooperate with us and participate on the events. Both of these sources of participation were very successful, and as a result, the project surpassed its initial contract-based target of participants by **32%**.

First training session**Date:** 08.01.2026**Group:** Students of the University of Prishtina**Venue:** Museum "Reporting House"**Participants:** 45 / 14 M/ 31 F

BIRN Kosovo organised a one-day training session for students from the University of Prishtina, focusing on transitional justice, war crimes, and responsible media reporting, on 8 January 2026 at the Reporting House Museum. The training session gathered 45 students, primarily from the fields of law, political science, journalism, and social sciences. The activity was designed to address gaps in academic curricula on the practical aspects of transitional justice, with a particular focus on Kosovo's post-war context and the roles of institutions, civil society, and the media in documenting and addressing war crimes.

The training sessions were delivered by experienced practitioners and experts in the field, including Kreshnik Gashi (journalist and Managing Editor at Kallxo.com), Drita Hajdari (former war crimes prosecutor), Ibrahim Makolli (expert on dealing with the past and human rights), and Labinot Leposhtica (Head of the Legal Office at BIRN Kosovo).

Key topics covered during the training included international and domestic frameworks for prosecuting war crimes, transitional justice mechanisms, the media's role in documenting and reporting on sensitive issues, and the impact of hate speech and disinformation on post-conflict reconciliation. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of fact-based, ethical, and responsible reporting when addressing past crimes, as well as the long-term consequences of misinformation for public trust and social cohesion.

Students, born after the war, emphasized that the war narrative largely came from their families and relatives, and that training like this is important for a deeper understanding of dealing with the past and transitional justice. They highlighted the relevance of the training to their future careers, particularly for those pursuing work in journalism, law, public administration, or civil society. Moreover, the responsible institutions should consider expanding the inclusion of transitional justice in the state curriculum, increasing youth participation in such processes, and incorporating new technologies for collective memory and the overall war narrative, especially given the potential use of AI in future educational applications.

For this activity the news on the BIRN website was published: <https://birn.eu.com/news-and-events/birn-kosovo-trains-university-of-pristina-students-on-transitional-justice/>

Additionally, the project implementation team published a summarizing video on the Kallxo.com Facebook profile (Followed by more than 500.000 people) to amplify the project outreach. The video [BIRN Kosova nis implementimin e projektit "Reconcile" të mbështetur nga BE-ja](#), gathered 109,000 views.

Second training session

Date: 09.01.2026

Group: Students of the University of Prizren

Venue: Museum "Reporting House"

Participants: 27/ 7 M/ 20 F

On 9 January 2026, BIRN Kosovo delivered the second one-day training session on transitional justice, war crimes, and responsible media reporting for students from the University of Prizren at the Reporting House Museum in Pristina. The session had 27 students, including 20 women from the Faculty of Law at the University of Prizren. The activity was designed to complement formal academic instruction by providing practical insights into transitional justice processes and the role of media and civil society in shaping narratives about the past.

The training sessions were delivered by experienced practitioners and experts in the field, including Kreshnik Gashi (journalist and Managing Editor at Kallxo.com), Drita Hajdari (former war crimes prosecutor), Ibrahim Makolli (expert on dealing with the past and human rights), and Labinot Leposhtica (Head of the Legal Office at BIRN Kosovo). Key thematic areas included the dynamics of war crimes documentation, the reasons behind protracted judicial processes in Kosovo on the war crimes field, and the importance of distinguishing fact-based reporting from propaganda. The session further enhanced participants' understanding of the consequences of conflict, the scale of victimisation, and institutional challenges in delivering justice, contributing to a more nuanced and practical comprehension of transitional justice than typically found in standard coursework.

Students coming from Prizren stated that the training served them to gain more details and fill their conceptual gaps and thus it improved their ability to critically engage with historical issues, particularly in recognising how responsible media practices can support truth-seeking and reconciliation. A particular interest was shown in the lecture given by former war crimes prosecutor Drita Hajdari, since coming from the Faculty of Law, they were particularly more interested on the historical background of how war crimes began to be prosecuted in Kosovo and what is expected from a new law professional who in the future, wants to be included in prosecuting war crimes.

Not having a proper, validated database of all war victims in Kosovo was mentioned as something on which relevant institutions need to work more so that the young people born after the war be properly informed.

Moreover, creating more space by providing young professionals with additional funding to conduct deeper research on the topic would increase their overall involvement.

For this activity the news in the BIRN website was published:

<https://bim.eu.com/news-and-events/birn-kosovo-holds-training-session-on-transitional-justice-for-university-of-prizren-students/>

Additionally, the project implementation team published a summarizing video on the Kallxo.com, Facebook profile (Followed by more than 500.000 people) to amplify the project outreach. The video, [Udhëtimi i studentëve nga Prizreni në drejtësinë tranzicionale](#), gathered 25,000 views.

Third training session

Date: 12.01.2026

Group: Civil society, media, researchers and students

Venue: Museum "Reporting House"

Participants: 38/ 9 M/ 29 F

On 12 January 2026, BIRN Kosovo organised the third training session on transitional justice, war crimes, and responsible media reporting at the Reporting House Museum in Pristina. The training brought together 38 participants, including journalists, civil society organisation members, researchers, and representatives of victim groups, with a strong gender balance, with 29 women participating. The activity was designed to foster inclusive dialogue and address key challenges related to dealing with the past, particularly in war crimes documentation, evidence collection, and responsible public communication.

The training sessions were delivered by experienced practitioners and experts in the field, including Kreshnik Gashi (journalist and Managing Editor at Kallxo.com), Drita Hajdari (former war crimes prosecutor), Ibrahim Makolli (expert on dealing with the past and human rights), and Labinot Leposhtica (Head of the Legal Office at BIRN Kosovo). The training session delivered by the trainers featured practical insights into war crimes investigations, judicial procedures, and ethical challenges in reporting on sensitive and complex topics. Additionally, the lectures addressed the documentation of war crimes in international media, the collection of evidence from both institutional and non-governmental sources, and the transition of war crimes investigations from international to domestic mechanisms, with particular attention to the challenges of building sustainable prosecutorial capacity, and it examined the impact of hate speech and disinformation on truth-seeking processes and accountability efforts. Throughout the training, participants actively engaged in discussions on ethical dilemmas faced when reporting on war crimes and other serious human rights violations. Journalists and civil society representatives emphasized the importance of responsible reporting practices, particularly in protecting victims' identities and handling sensitive information. Participants noted that the training provided valuable guidance on balancing the public's right to information with ethical obligations toward victims and affected communities.

Activists and representatives of victim groups highlighted the need for institutions to take transitional justice and dealing with the past more seriously, to adopt a more victim-centred approach, and to involve victim groups more in the overall process of memorialization and collective memory. In the other hand, researchers and other participants highlighted the need for a more innovative approach, especially when it comes to memorialization and took as a great example the Reporting House Museum which served as a gathering point of dozen of audio-visual materials given by international journalists who worked in Kosovo during the war.

For this activity the news in the BIRN website was published:

<https://bim.eu.com/news-and-events/birn-kosovo-trains-journalists-civil-society-and-researchers-on-transitional-justice/>

Additionally, the project implementation team published a summarizing video on the Kallxo.com, Facebook profile (Followed by more than 500.000 people) to amplify the project outreach. The video, [Profesionistë të shoqërisë civile, mediave e studentë - pjesë e projektit për drejtësinë tranzicionale dhe ballafaqimit me të kaluarën](#), gathered 42,000 views.

Fourth training session

Date: 19.01.2026

Group: War crime workers and students (IKKL, MD)

Venue: Museum "Reporting House"

Participants: 63/ 21 M/ 42 F

On 19 January 2026, at the Reporting House Museum in Pristina, 63 participants, including 42 women, attended a one-day training on transitional justice, war crimes, and responsible media reporting, organised by BIRN Kosovo. Participants represented a wide range of professional and academic backgrounds, including professionals working in transitional justice institutions such as the Ministry of Justice, the Institute for War Crimes in Kosovo, and university law students coming from the University of Gjilan and Mitrovica.

The training sessions were delivered by experienced practitioners and experts in the field, including Jeta Xharra (journalist executive director of BIRN Kosovo), Drita Hajdari (former war crimes prosecutor), Ibrahim Makolli (expert on dealing with the past and human rights), and Labinot Leposhtica (Head of the Legal Office at BIRN Kosovo). The training consisted of a series of lectures delivered by experienced practitioners who shared professional insights into documenting war crimes, collecting evidence from both institutional and non-governmental sources, and the transition of war crimes investigations from international to domestic mechanisms, with a particular focus on strengthening prosecutorial capacity in Kosovo. The sessions also addressed the impact of hate speech and disinformation on truth-seeking processes and broader accountability efforts.

Public servants, professionals working on the transitional justice field emphasize the role of the media in documenting war crimes and on the historical overview of judicial proceedings related to war crimes in Kosovo, especially the participants coming from the Institute of Crimes Committed During the War in Kosovo (ICCW) were interested when it came to just informing, fact-check narratives regarding the war and the session included very professional discussion when it came to the judicial handling of war crime cases and the work done by the relevant institutions since the independence of Kosovo (2008). On the other hand, students, especially those coming from the University of Mitrovica who emphasized the need to include students more in dealing with the past processes in Kosovo. For younger generations, it is very important to document, discuss, and learn so that the next generation can contribute more effectively to peacebuilding efforts.

For this activity the news on the BIRN website was published:

<https://bim.eu.com/news-and-events/bim-kosovo-trains-professionals-and-students-on-transitional-justice/>

Additionally, the project implementation team published a summary video on Kallxo.com and the Kallxo Facebook profile (Followed by more than 500,000 people) to amplify the project's outreach. The video, [Zyrtarë të Institucioneve Publike dhe studentë pjesëmarrës në trainimin e BIRN për drejtësinë tranzicionale](#) gathered 76,000 views.

Fifth training session

Date:26.01.2026

Group: Legal officers from Basic Prosecution Offices and courts, lawyers and legal practitioners, representatives of the Kosovo Correctional Service, staff from the Kosovo Institute of Forensic Medicine, and Police officers from the Kosovo Police unit responsible for investigating war crimes.

Venue: Museum “Reporting House”

Participants: 58/ 28 M/ 30 F

On 26 January 2026, at the Reporting House Museum in Pristina, 58 participants, including 30 women, took part in training session on transitional justice, war crimes, and responsible media reporting organised by BIRN Kosovo and included participants such as legal officers from Basic Prosecution Offices and courts, lawyers and legal practitioners, representatives of the Kosovo Correctional Service, staff from the Kosovo Institute of Forensic Medicine, and Police officers from the Kosovo Police unit responsible for investigating war crimes.

The training was structured around a series of interactive lectures delivered by experienced experts, including Jeta Xharra, Executive Director of BIRN Kosovo; Drita Hajdari, former war crimes prosecutor; Ibrahim Makolli, expert on human rights and dealing with the past; and Labinot Leposhtica, Head of the Legal Office at BIRN Kosovo. Speakers shared professional perspectives and firsthand experiences on war crimes documentation, investigative processes, and the ethical challenges of reporting on sensitive and complex issues.

A central focus of the training was the documentation and prosecution of war crimes, which prompted extensive discussion among participants from various justice system institutions. Topics covered included the documentation of war crimes in international media, the collection of evidence from institutional and non-governmental sources, the transition of war crimes investigations from international to domestic mechanisms with particular attention to strengthening prosecutorial capacities, and the impact of hate speech and disinformation on establishing truth and accountability for war crimes.

Participants included legal officers from Basic Prosecution Offices and courts, lawyers and legal practitioners, representatives of the Kosovo Correctional Service, staff from the Kosovo Institute of Forensic Medicine, and police officers from the Kosovo Police unit responsible for investigating war crimes. Participants highlighted the importance of strengthened inter-institutional cooperation to improve outcomes that benefit society, particularly by clarifying the fate of missing persons. Special emphasis was placed on understanding reconciliation not as forgiveness, but as the recognition of victims' suffering and the acknowledgement of their rights and dignity. Overall, the activity contributed to enhancing participants' knowledge and capacities in transitional justice, reinforcing ethical practices in documentation and reporting, and supporting more informed engagement with the legacy of conflict.

For this activity the news in the BIRN website was published:

<https://bim.eu.com/news-and-events/birn-kosovo-holds-training-session-for-justice-system-professionals-on-transitional-justice/>

Additionally, the project implementation team published a summarizing video on the Kallxo.com, Facebook profile (Followed by more than 500.000 people) to amplify the project outreach. The video, [Profesionistë të sistemit të drejtësisë shkëmbejnë përvojat e tyre në trainimin për drejtësinë tranzicionale dhe ballafaqimit me të kaluarën](#) gathered 48,000 views.

The overall participants from the five training sessions were 231, out of whom 152 were women. In total, 65.8% of the overall unique participants were women.

The overall views from the videos produced regarding the project implementation achieved a total of 300,000 views.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).