



Kosova Women's Network

Serving, Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls

KWN, ADA Sign Three-year Contract to Advance Women's Rights in Kosovo

On 27 November 2014, The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) announced their continued cooperation for three years via the "Advancing Women's Rights Initiative".

Mr. Karlheinz Kopf, the Vice President of the Austrian Parliament; Christian Geosits, Head of Office of ADA in Kosovo; Igballe Rogova, Executive Director of KWN; and Ariana Qosaj-Mustafa, Chair of the KWN Board of Directors, spoke at a press conference yesterday, announcing this continued cooperation. Mr. Johann Brieger, the Ambassador of Austria in Kosovo also attended.

"On behalf of our parliament, allow me to say that we are very happy that our state is supporting the agenda of women's issues in Kosovo. With this cooperation, today we are opening a new chapter," said Mr. Karlheinz Kopf. "To have an open society, we need women also to have important decision-making positions. That is why it is important to have organizations such as yours that create opportunities for women. When we support KWN, we are supporting all women and girls of Kosovo."

The contract was officially signed by Christian Geosits, ADA Head of Office in Kosovo and Igballe Rogova, KWN Executive Director.

"One of the main issues where ADA works is advancing women's rights," said Christian Geosits. "We work with partners where we know that the outcome will be what we were hoping for in the beginning. We found a very strong, I think the strongest actor in this country for women's rights in the Kosovo Women's Network."

The Advancing Women's Rights Initiative is set to begin on 15 December 2014 and to continue through 31 December 2017. The purpose of the project is to improve the capacities of women-led civil society organizations (CSOs) and public officials in supporting, protecting and promoting women's and girls' rights and interests. Through this initiative, KWN will achieve the following expected results:

1. Women-led CSOs will have formed, cooperated in coalitions towards and engaged with officials in rights-based advocacy.
2. Women's participation in politics and decision-making in municipal and national levels will be further increased and improved, as per the Law on Gender Equality.
3. Awareness of and attention to addressing gender-based violence will be improved among officials and citizens.

KWN will achieve these aims through interactive workshops and individualized mentoring for its members and public officials (including towards institutionalizing gender responsive budgeting); transparently distributing at least 29 grants to women-led CSOs amounting to €122,000; networking; awareness-raising; research; and advocacy.

ADA's support will be crucial in contributing to the implementation of KWN's recently adopted Strategy for 2015-2018. Further, it will build on key results achieved during ADA's prior two years of supporting KWN.

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