

Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo

Subject: Annual report- Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo

Period covered in report: January the 1st 2014 – 31th of December 2014

Prishtinë/Pristina, January 2015

1. Organizations background

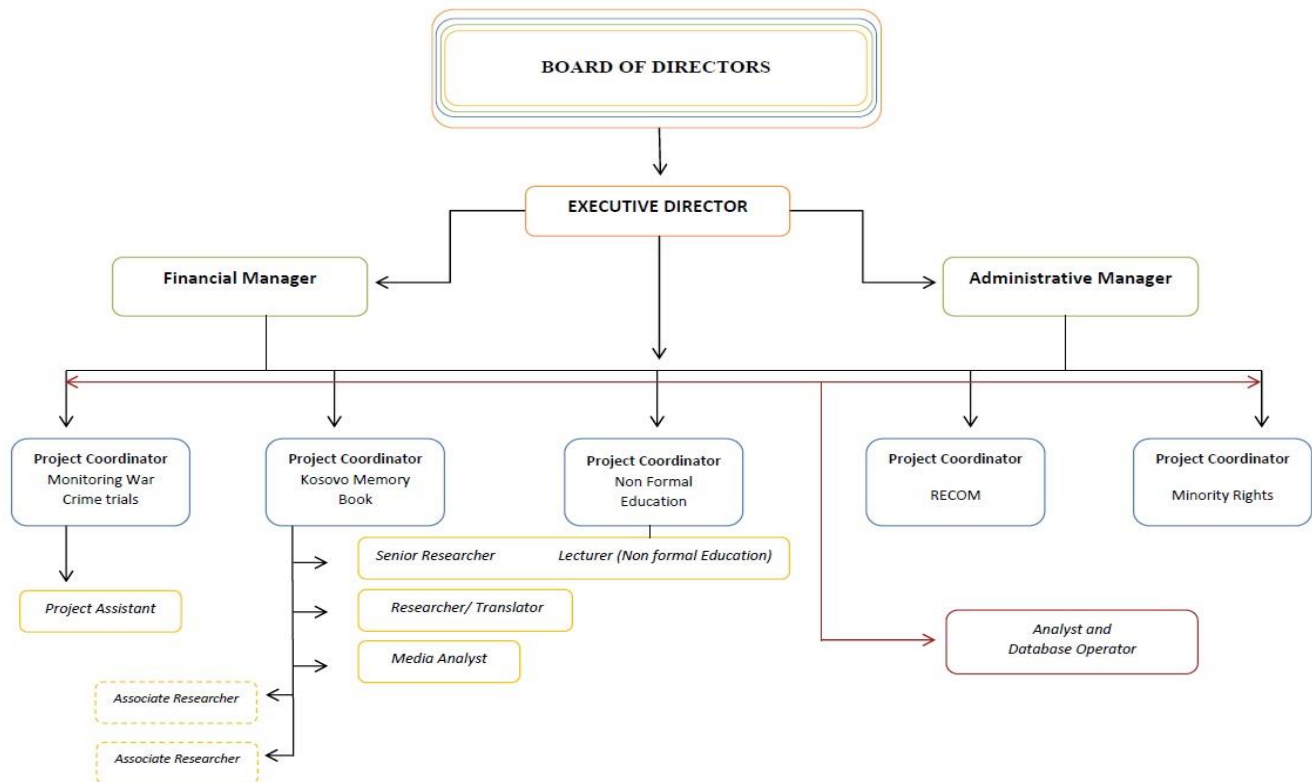
The Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) Kosovo was established in Prishtinë/Pristina in May 1997, by a well-known human rights activist Mrs. Nataša Kandić, as a branch office of the Humanitarian Law Center. Until the outbreak of hostilities between Serbian security forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army in February 1998, HLC Kosovo focused on documenting police repression towards Albanians, investigating cases of torture, illegal detention, and political trials. After this date, HLC Kosovo shifted its focus to documenting the killings and disappearances of Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs. When NATO intervened in 1999, HLC Kosovo temporarily moved its office to Montenegro, where it continued its documentation work among the Albanian refugees there. Following the June 1999 peace agreement, that ended the war, HLC Kosovo returned to Prishtinë/Pristina to continue its documentation work. Since that time, HLC Kosovo has published numerous reports, advocated for the rights of victims, monitored trials, urged authorities to bring war crimes perpetrators to justice, and investigated the killing and disappearances of Albanians, Serbs, Roma, Bosnians and other minorities in Kosovo. Today, HLC Kosovo focuses its work on documenting crimes, trial monitoring and promoting ethnic minority rights. HLC Kosovo has created and is still in the process of implementing a program for teaching youth about the past. The non-formal curriculum is participant-oriented, based on facts and victims' stories. Since 2011 Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo has been functioning as an independent organization implementing projects and activities, some of which are conducted in cooperation with HLC in Serbia. The Initiative for Regional Commission for the Establishment of the Facts about War Crimes and other Gross Violations of Human Rights Committed on the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia (RECOM) are some of these projects. HLC Kosovo contributes to RECOM Initiative by promoting public support for the process in Kosovo through consultations and public engagement in the work with communities. Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo (HLC Kosovo) during 2014, continued implementing activities under its two programs – Transitional Justice and Integration of National Ethnic Communities. Under the Transitional Justice program the goal is to promote reconciliation through truth telling, criminal accountability, institutional reform, reparations and education of youth on transitional justice issues. Under the Integration of National Ethnic Communities program the goal is to have improved implementation of legal obligations on community rights and the establishment of mutual trust between communities and the state and have improved civil dialogue for public tolerance of communities.

Since April 2011, HLC Kosovo has been registered as a new organization. The organization is registered at the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Kosovo.

The board members of HLC Kosovo are:

- Nataša Kandić, human rights activist, Serbia
- Teki Bokshi, lawyer, Kosovo
- Ismet Hajdari, journalist, Kosovo
- Kosovare Kelmendi, lawyer, Kosovo
- Mario Mažić, human rights activist, Croatia and
- Veton Nurkollari, artist, Kosovo

Organizational governing bodies (Management and Board) share power, and usually function together when it comes to decision-making processes. HLC Kosovo organizes two meetings per year with all board members. During these meetings, HLC Kosovo's executive director presents the narrative, financial and external audit report, and reports to board members on the functionality of the organization. Board of the directors is a decision making body and is responsible for the strategic development of the organization.



2. HLC Kosovo's Vision, Mission and Project Objectives

The vision of HLC Kosovo is a society that faces the past and where rights are respected equally. HLC Kosovo seeks to fulfill its **mission** by contributing to the Kosovo's ability to establish the rule of law, face the past and restore the dignity of victims.

3. Strategic planning HLC Kosovo 2015-2018

From 27th – 29th of September, 2014, the HLC Kosovo engaged in a strategic planning meetings jointly with Nenad Golčevski as a facilitator to plan the strategy of the organization for the 2015-2018 period. The meeting focused on the SWOT analysis of the organization and SMART analysis of each project.

During strategic planning HLC Kosovo staff came up with new activities and projects that will be developed during coming three years period. HLC Kosovo, will keep implementing existing projects such as: Monitoring War Crimes trials, ethnically and politically motivated crimes; Non Formal Education; RECOM; Kosovo Memory Book (joint project with HLC Serbia); Reparations for Victims of unlawful detention (joint project with HLC Serbia); Batajnica Memory Initiative (joint project with HLC Serbia). Also, HLC Kosovo will work on develop following new projects: Monitoring the work of Special Court (to be established); Representing victims in cases for War Crimes and submitting criminal reports; Publication on completed court cases; Promoting the realization of the right to Reparation and strategic litigation for war victims; and develop new activities within existing projects.

Regarding Fundraising and Outreach component HLC Kosovo currently relies on executive director and project coordinators to assist with drafting reports and proposals, even though the staff in some areas identified weakness that need to be addressed, this will remain the strategy for dealing with this weakness for a short-midterm.

4. Completed project's and activities January the 1st 2014 – 31th of December 2014

During 2014, HLC Kosovo has implemented the following projects:

4.1. Monitoring War Crime Trials and Politically and Ethnically Motivated Crimes in Kosovo for the period of January – December 2014

Kosovo judiciary system is still engaged in prosecuting war crimes cases related to a conflict that has ended fifteen years ago. Due to the sensitivity of certain cases, presence of international judges and prosecutors was introduced in the Kosovo judiciary through the EULEX's rule of law mission as European biggest civilian mission ever. Although the creation of new EULEX's Special Court for crimes committed between 1998 and 2000 was announced, local judiciary is still a chief pillar of bringing justice to victims of the war crimes and human rights abuses. International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) has almost ended its work and small numbers of cases related to Kosovo crimes were finalized several years ago.

HLC Kosovo is still the single organization to systematically cover, monitor and analyze majority of the war crime trials and trials for ethnically and/or politically motivated crimes at Kosovo level. Thus, all professional and general audience relies on the HLC Kosovo reporting in order to receive unbiased information about the trials.

The practice of writing report on each court sessions, publishing the analysis following the final verdicts and comprehensive annual reports additionally strengthened the HLC Kosovo position as main source to provide recommendations on best ways of improving the performance of the judiciary, as well as legislation and procedures applied in trials for war crimes and ethnically and/or politically motivated crimes.

During the reporting period, HLC Kosovo continued monitoring sensitive trials for war crimes and ethnically and politically motivated crimes before the mixed panels in Kosovo. Based on its monitoring findings, HLC Kosovo has produced an annual report, which contains important recommendations on how best to improve the performance of the judiciary and legislation and procedures applied in trials for war crimes and ethnically and politically motivated crimes.

4.1.1. Court Monitoring

Within its project Monitoring War Crime Trials as well as Politically and Ethnically Motivated Crimes in Kosovo for the period of January 1st – December 31st, 2014, HLC Kosovo conducted a total of 127 days of monitoring trial sessions, produced daily reports of these monitoring trials and conducted 24 meetings with students who were undertaking internships at HLC Kosovo. HLC Kosovo has collected 1009 documents from investigation phase, evidences, testimony of witnesses and decisions were collected from 22 cases amounting to 16227 pages of court documents in pre-trial proceedings and investigations. From the following cases –. Gracanica case (Gani Konjuhi) - Ethnic - 18 sessions; Ismet Haxha and others (war crime) - 11 sessions; Slobodan Martinović (war crime) - 12 sessions; Žarko Veselinović II (ethnic) - 9 sessions; Alban Kelmendi and Artmir Bytyqi (terrorism) - 1 session; Milaim Zeka and Rustem Rrukolli case - 1 session; Sabit Geci and others (war crime) - 32 sessions; Jovica Dejanović and Đorđe Bojković - 2 sessions; Mirian Ilinčić and others - 1 session; Agim Demaj and others - 13 sessions; Ivan Radivojević - 7 sessions; Fahredin Gashi - 1 session; Bllaca III - 1 session; Bedri Krasniqi case - 2 sessions; Klecka case - 3 sessions; Oliver Ivanović (war crime) - 2 sessions; Sekiraga case - 1 session; Sabit Geci and other - 2 sessions; Lirim Jakupi case - 1 session; Radovan Radić and other (Ethnic) - 1 session; Slobodan Sovrlić and other (Ethnic) - 1 session; and Enver Sekiraga case - 3 sessions.

Preparation and printing of the annual report *"Witnesses still the Achilles Heel in high profile trials"*

HLC Kosovo after drafting the annual report from war crime trials monitoring during 2013, in the beginning of 2014 published the report in three languages and organized the roundtable. The issue of witness protection, was evinced as a main obstacle for those trials, thus, HLC Kosovo has decided to name the report *"Witnesses still the Achilles Heel in high profile trials"*. The report was translated in three languages, Albanian, Serbian and English. The report contains 6 (six) following chapters and HLC Kosovo analysis on finished cases: 1) Deciding (hearing) upon indictment, 2) Guilty pleas, 3) First instance trials, 4) Repeated first instance trials, 5) Appellate proceedings, 6) The Supreme Court of Kosovo (upon request for the protection of legality and was published on 27th of March 2014.

4.1.2. Roundtable discussion - *"Witnesses still the Achilles Heel in high profile trials"*

HLC Kosovo held a roundtable on 27th March 2014, where they published their yearly report on monitoring war crime trials and politically and ethnically motivated trials for 2013. After the opening statements, the first session was dedicated to the presentation of the report in front of the audience which included the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Kosovo, Hajredin Kuçi, the founder of HLC Kosovo, Ms. activist Nataša Kandić, and representatives of EULEX, SPRK as well as lawyers and journalists who work in the field.

The project coordinator, Mrs Anka Kurteshi Hajdari, in the opening remarks expressed her concern stressing that there are no prosecutions of rape as a war crime; even though there were a large number during the war, only one case has been prosecuted, for which the defendant was acquitted.

During the debate the participants mentioned that the society should not fear the prosecution of former KLA soldiers, as this will aid those who fought without committing war crimes.

4.1.3. Prepared and published case analysis

During the reporting period, HLC Kosovo prepared and published 5 (five) finished case analysis: Ivan Radivojević, Ismet Haxha and others, Slobodan Martinović and others, Žarko Veselinović and Jovica Dejanović and Đorđe Bojković.

4.1.4. Online published finished court cases

During this period HLC Kosovo prepared and published on its webpage the main court documents for 5 (five) finished court cases: Ismet Haxha and others¹, Ivan Radivojević², Sabit Geci and other, Nazif Visoqi and Avdyl Pergjegjaj.

4.1.5. Internship

During the reporting period, HLC Kosovo involved **15** interns to monitor war crime trials and ethnically and politically motivated crimes in Kosovo. The reports were drafted by the interns, who followed each trial session.

All students have prepared the reports for the trials that they monitored. In total **281** students' reports were submitted during the reporting period. HLC Kosovo's coordinator held a total of **24** meetings with interns to discuss and analyze the trial sessions that they have monitored.

4.2. Dealing with the past: innovative non-formal education opportunities for youth in Kosovo

The objective of the project is keeping Kosovo audience aware and active in understanding transitional justice principles. This project also aims promoting the importance of implementation of transitional justice mechanisms such as: criminal prosecutions, reparations, institutional reforms and truth commissions. In the aftermath of the systemic human rights violations, implementation of some or all of the Transitional justice's judicial and non-judicial measures ensure that not only victims, but also their families and societies are served with justice. Clearing the stance toward the past and relying on the judicial facts or testimonies given during a truth commissions' work enables societies to move forward.

¹ <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B6-jGwgOqWJtd2FFQTg3TUI5QUk/edit>

² <http://freepdfhosting.com/1c5e8876ac.pdf>

Since 2011, HLC Kosovo is working throughout the whole Kosovo to reach out to as many university and high school students as possible, as well as a wider Kosovo audience in general. The final aim of the project is to include TJ in civic education official curricula.

During the Reporting period HLC Kosovo within its project: “Dealing with the Past: Innovative Non-Formal Education Opportunities for Youth in Kosovo” as planned, has held 21 workshops and organized a summer school on transitional Justice.

4.2.1. Workshops

Workshops start with a short documentary movie, that show what happened to a society that did not deal with its past yet and didn't implement the four pillars of Transitional Justice. The short movie serves well as a base ground for a debate that later opens the path for introduction to Transitional Justice. During the debate with the students regarding the movie, HLC Kosovo has realized that students comprehend the definition of Transitional Justice much easier after talking about what they saw in the movie. In the second part of the Workshop, HLC Kosovo, informs students briefly with the history of Yugoslavia (Dissolution: Wars, Causalities..etc.), with a focus on Kosovo's history. After the examples are presented to the students, together with facts and findings, students are presented to all four pillars of transitional justice. For better understanding of the topic, as well as engaging students, HLC Kosovo offers a chance to the students to participate in a mock-truth commission. During this mock-truth commission, students take different roles (Commissioners, Victims, Perpetrators and Observers) and mock the work of a truth commission during a public hearing, as well as preparing a one paragraph “report” with their recommendations.

In the end of each workshop, students fill out our evaluation sheets. From the feedback that we gathered from the students, we noticed a pattern with the most common answers. Although workshops last for five hours, students often thought that they should've lasted longer, all of the students stated that this topic was important and the majority of students stated that this topic should be a part of their curricula.

From the HLC Kosovo observations, it has been noticed that the student's engagement during the lectures as well as their approach to the topic depended on the region where they come from. For example, in the regions that were more touched by war, and where students personally lost someone during the war or knew that there were victims in their community, were more willing to talk about the crimes and causalities committed by both sides. On the other hand, in the parts (sections) where students were not so exposed to the atrocities, it was noticed that (students would rather talk about victims of their ethnic community and perpetrators of other communities) there was lack of empathy for the victims of other ethnic backgrounds as well as justification of the crimes committed by persons of the same ethnic background. Even though these children were only one or two years old during the conflict, many still harbored judgmental attitudes towards other ethnic groups.

Until the day of this reporting HLC Kosovo organized 21 workshops in these high schools, where about 600 students participated:

1. Mileniumi i Trete – Prishtinë/ Priština
2. Fehmi Lladroci – Glogoc/Glogovac
3. Skenderbeu – Glogoc/Glogovac
4. Hivzi Sylejmani – Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje
5. Sami Frasheri – Prishtinë/Priština
6. Nexhmedin Nixha- Gjakovë/Đakovica
7. Hajdar Dushi-Gjakovë/ Đakovica
8. Luigj Gurakuqi- Klinë/Klina
9. Shaban Hashani – Ferizaj/Uruševac
10. Isa Boletini – Podujevë/Podujevo
11. Gjon Buzuku – Prizren
12. Bedri Pejani – Pejë/Peč, with Albanian students
13. Bedri Pejani – Pejë/ Peč, with Bosnian students
14. Zenel Hajdini – Gjilan/Gnjilane
15. Frang Bardhi – Mitrovicë/Mitrovica
16. Gymnasium 17 Shkurti and Hasan Tahsini High School – Obiliq/Obilič
17. Eqrem Cabej – Vushtrri/Vučitrn
18. Naim Frasheri – Shtime/Štimlje
19. Xhelal Hajda Toni – Rahovec/Orahovac
20. Jeta e Re – Suharekë/Suva Reka
21. Don Bosko – Prishtinë/Priština

Overall, HLC Kosovo was very satisfied with the organization and student participation and interest shown during the lectures. High school students were very active during discussions, raised very interesting issues mostly related to reparations and war crime trials. The time period of 1998-1999 was well known in terms of Kosovo's recent history, but lacked information about causalities particularly about victims of other communities.

In general, HLC Kosovo is very pleased with how the students are responding to and engaging with the topics; they show a strong interest in the topic and also often ask for more information.

4.2.2. Summer School on Transitional Justice

As it was expected, during DokuFest a summer school on transitional justice was organized. For participation in the school an open call was announced, where more than 90 applications were sent. All of these applications were carefully analyzed and then a group of 50 students was interviewed and 30 of them were selected. The school's agenda was carefully drafted. An entire day was dedicated for each pillar of Transitional Justice. Then for each pillar there were four lecturers invited to present specific topics to the students. One day students had the opportunity to visit the places where crimes occurred during the war and meet the survivors and listen to their stories. Students visited Landovicë/Landovica, Krusha e Madhe/Velika Kruša, Staro Gracko/Grackë e Vjetër and Podujevë/Podujevo. Each school day, students had the

opportunity to watch documentary movies of the Human Rights Box, which were closely related to the topics presented during the school. Students were also invited to attend the debate on Dealing with the Past organized by DokuFest.

At the end of the school students were given Certificates and asked to fill in an evaluation form. Overall, from the evaluation sheets we found out that participants were happy with the organization, appreciated highly the chance to meet their peers from different parts of Kosovo and different ethnical background and acknowledged the importance of information they received during the school. All of the participants strongly recommended the school to their peers and suggested that similar schools should be organized annually. As a conclusion, 28 students attended the school, aged from 18-25, coming from different cities of Kosovo and representing different nationalities. The summer school took place in Prizren during Dokufest, from 18-22 August 2014.

4.2.3. Outreach

During the reporting period HLC Kosovo was invited by the RROKUM³ TV in their morning show called “ditë mbas dite” to talk about the Project “*Dealing with the Past: Innovative Non-Formal Education Opportunities for Youth in Kosovo*”⁴.

Having in mind the importance of the social media in today’s world, HLC Kosovo opened a Facebook group, where all the students could join the group. In this group we post the pictures of each workshop, and also update the students with the latest news relating to Transitional Justice, in which they can also post and comment on.⁵

On 23rd of December 2014, HLC Kosovo signed a memorandum of understanding with the private university AAB. In this memorandum among other things it was agreed that HLC Kosovo will organize lectures on Transitional Justice for the law students of this university during 2015.

4.3. Human Loses - Kosovo Memory Book

During 2014, HLC Kosovo has conducted 665 interviews with eyewitnesses and/or family members of victims. Using information gathered through 665 witness statements, files of 940 victims (683 Albanian, 220 Serb and 37 others) were amended with the information related to circumstances of death. Also, during 2014 HLC Kosovo’s researchers have conducted 984 verifications, both by phone and by meeting witnesses or family members of victims. For each verification researchers have filled out a particular form with new information about circumstances of incidents. Using those 984 verification the fate of 825 alleged victims was clarified. It was documented that 434 “potential victims” are not war related victims (386 Albanian, 37 Serb and 11 other) and that names of 391 were wrongly written so they are real

³ <http://www.rrokum.tv/>

⁴ http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1id46v_dite-mbas-dite-dea-dedi-fdh-kosove_news?start=1

⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/510757602378412/>

victims but registered into KMB database with different names (367 Albanian, 10 Serb and 14 others).

Apart of verification of the status of 1071 potential victims from observed sources [Jusuf Osmani, Joseph Martinsen, LDK and KMLDNJ] in the verification process are included 239 more reported Serb victims which sources of information are refereeing to third hand information, as well as 376 victims, mostly Albanian, who are mentioned in media reports and books published by association of families of victims, but without source of information. Having in mind results of already finished verifications it is realistic to expect that the research of remaining 1.686 potential victims only a small number of them will be included in the register of war victims.

4.4. Support for victims of unlawful detention in the exercise of the right to reparations

Since 2004, HLC Kosovo together with the HLC Belgrade has provided support to victims of illegal detention from Kosovo in the exercise of their right to material reparation from the Republic of Serbia in the courts in Serbia.

During the reporting period starting from January 1st to December 31st, 2014, HLC Kosovo organized medical examination of the two ex-prisoners in Belgrade. HLC Kosovo staff members always accompanied victims of illegal detention to Belgrade and provided documentation in more than 24 authorizations for the Strasbourg Court for 6 family members of victims.

During the reporting period 7 court sessions were held in Belgrade's courts. Out of these sessions (in which HLC represented the three victims of illegal detention), Court of Appeal in Belgrade returned the case for retrial, the other decision in which HLC represents 4 (four) victims of unlawful detention in Kosovo, were Basic Court in Belgrade took a positive verdict for material compensation in the total amount of 400,000 dinars (100,000 dinars individually) due to low compensation amount HLC lawyers appealed against this decision of the court.

HLC Kosovo is in direct communication with victims of illegal detention in order to inform them of the court procedure, process, and results.

4.5. RECOM Initiative

The objective of the project is achieving a regional consensus regarding the past that is based on facts. Advancing the process of reconciliation between different communities, groups and institutions, through creation of Regional inter-state Commission for Establishing and Disclosing the Facts about all Victims of War Crimes and Human Rights Abuses in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia, from 1991 – 2001 (RECOM). Gaining public and institutional support for establishment of RECOM.

RECOM process, which began as an initiative of a handful of human rights NGOs, is now driven forward by the regional Coalition for RECOM with more than 2000 members – organizations and individuals from all post-Yugoslav states. After years of lobbying with governments of former Yugoslav states, it is envisaged (expected) that RECOM will be established during 2015.

The presidents of Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo and Macedonia are expected to present their mutual initiative to the public and to their respective national parliaments.

Activities/Conferences held/attended

On 29th of April and 5th of May 2014 the activity “I support RECOM” was held in Prishtinë/Priština. During the activity, signatures were collected and leaflets were distributed, regarding the latest news about RECOM Initiative. During these activities people were informed about the upcoming action “I run for RECOM” which took place on 1st of May, 2014. The action was part of Prishtinë/Priština half-marathon.

During the preparing period regarding the above mentioned action, several meetings were held with the head of Kosovo Athletic Federation, Mr. Halil Sylejmani. As a result, about 100 participants ran in T-shirts imprinted with the RECOM logo, showing support to RECOM. Human rights activist, representatives of the embassies and citizens from the region participated in this activity.

HLC Kosovo has participated in organizing the seventh assembly of Coalition for RECOM, respectively the 10th forum of transitional justice, held in Belgrade during 14-16 of November 2014. HLC has been engaged in necessary preparations for the participants from Kosovo.

Distribution of !Voice

During the reporting period 1 of the series of !Voice was published, in electronic form. The bulletin was sent via email to NGOs, embassies and the University of Prishtinë/Priština.

Media relation and Project outreach

The media were informed about the activities of RECOM Coalition in Kosovo. The participation of the half marathon was covered by the media.⁶ Press release from the Assembly of Coalition for RECOM was published in the media⁷

4.6. Batajnica Memory Initiative:

The project's goal is to raise awareness about what happened in Batajnica through a documentary movie which will tell the story of the mass graves in Batajnica and through organizing post-screening debates in Serbia and Kosovo. Through its database Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo identified the family members of victims who were found in massive graves in Batajnica and then contacted them for the oral interviews.

During the reporting period, there were 13 oral history interviews conducted with family of victims' found in Batajnica mass graves. Interviews were conducted with the following persons:

19.01.2014- Haxhi Qerreti, Besim Huskaj and Fatime Kelmendi

⁶ <http://kosoalbaner.com/2014/05/koalicioni-per-komra-pjesmarrije-masive-ne-maratone/>

⁷ <http://infodirekt.tv/index.php/lajme-all-fix/21909-koalicioni-per-komra-perkrah-ndryshimet-e-statutit-te-komra-s>

25.01.2014- Ferat Tiriqi
08.03.2014- Shemsie Mirena, Sahide Kabashi and Shefkije Kabashi
10.03.2014- Alemsha Krasniqi
16.03.2014- Serbeze Dana, Xufë Selmani and Ryvije Shtrembari
09.05.2014- Nurie Zymberi and Avni Zherka

After finishing the transcript and translation, the process of their correction has started, which is still an ongoing process.

4.7. Regional School of Transitional Justice:

The regional school on transitional justice is a 10-days non-formal educational program focusing on instruments which ponder the past. The attendees of the program will have the opportunity to hear lectures on: established elements of juridical process at the Hague tribunal and national court processes on war criminals; out-of-court mechanisms for establishing elements on crimes in the past; victims having their human rights violated and archive/media contributions for affirming truth and responsibility; processes of consolidation in post-conflict societies. Apart from these topics, which the participants will be able to tackle through the lectures, they will be also able to communicate and talk on the developmental processes of adopting strategies on transitional justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia, along with respective experts from the countries mentioned previously.

Regional School for Transitional Justice raises awareness for its participants about the importance of accepting the facts about the armed conflicts of the 1990s by all post-Yugoslav nations. By providing them with knowledge about the facts, it empowers them to spread that awareness further in their communities and countries.

The regional character of the educational programs produces an alumni network of activists and professionals active in various segments of the civil and political societies in the region. This contributes to a greater cohesion between these individual activists, as well as between their organizations from different countries of the region, and enable them to act together or in close coordination (collaboration), in order to raise awareness, and advocate for, the need of the post-Yugoslav societies to reach a shared view about their joint (common, mutual), recent, violent past.

Through educating young, socially and politically active citizens of the target countries the Regional School for transitional justice aims to achieve several interconnected goals, all aimed at facilitating the processes of peace-building through inter-ethnic dialogue, careful management of the crucial post-conflict issues, and peaceful conciliation of the conflicting historical memories held by different ethnic groups.

An additional relevance of this project comes from its segment aimed at advocating the inclusion of the fact-based educational content related to the war crimes and mass human rights abuses committed during the wars of the 1990s in the formal educational curricula of the universities in B&H, Kosovo and Serbia.

HLC Kosovo participated in interviewing participants from Kosovo. In total 30 applicants were interviewed while 9 of them were chosen. During the school HLC Kosovo has assisted in the maintenance of the school, which was held from 18th to 27th November in 2014. After the school, HLC Kosovo continued with offering materials to students to complete their post-school papers.

4.8. Promoting the protection of minority rights in Kosovo

The overall aim of the program is to contribute combating discrimination and promoting the protection of minority rights. HLC Kosovo has identified specific goals related to this program such as: ensuring that the legal measures and mechanisms guaranteeing minority rights are effectively implemented, raising the awareness of the Kosovo Assembly and relevant public institutions of their responsibilities to protect the rights of communities in Kosovo and triggering adequate policies for the achievement of return and reintegration of communities. Moreover, the violent events in March 2004 underscore the crucial need for the promotion and protection of community rights in Kosovo.

During reporting period HLC Kosovo continued to monitor the implementation of legal framework on promoting the protection of ethnic community rights in Kosovo, and assisted community members in different requests such as documentation through field visits and meetings with relevant institutions. From January to December of the year 2014, two (2) meetings with International students took place at HLC Kosovo's office. The students were interested on the work of HLC Kosovo about promoting the protection of ethnic communities in Kosovo and inter-ethnic relations.

HLC Kosovo has assisted ethnic community members in their request for documentation and return process: Živanka Patrnogić application to benefit from the Law for families of civilian victims⁸; Assisted Svetomir Milošević and Randel Mitić, displaced persons from Kosovo, in contacting Local and Central institutions (Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka and Ministry for Communities and Return) in order to get more information about their request to return in village of Mushtisht/Muštiste, municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka. After our intervention another meeting has been organized between municipality and ministry with Svetomir Milošević and Randel Mitić on March 2014.

HLC Kosovo has issues a press release on "Tenth anniversary about incidents of March 2004"⁹, requested from Institutions to address the liability and remedy.

4.9. EU funded regional project "Civil Society networking on Critical Human Rights values" - Coalition for Equality "STEP".

⁸ Law No. 04/L-054

⁹ <http://koha.net/?id=27&l=3223>

From October 2012 HLC Kosovo, as a partner organization for Kosovo, started the implementation of an EU founded project ""Civil Society networking on Critical Human Rights values in Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo "".

Time frame of the project is: October 2012 to February 2015.

Activities planned for Kosovo, were implemented in 5(five) Municipalities in Kosovo: Municipality of Prishtinë/Priština, Prizren, Ferizaj/Uruševac, Pejë/Peć and Gračanica/Graçanicë.

Key stakeholders for the action within this project are representative of executive, legislative and judicial power, CSOs (with focus on human rights defenders) and media in the three countries. In general, the topics to be covered by the action are common European values and, as such, embodied in *acquis communautaire*. Therefore, the same values have become imperative for the decision-makers of the three countries, which are in different stages of the EU accession process. The authorities have shown more than just verbal support for implementation of the topics proposed by the action in the respective states. In addition, each partner in the action has had positive experience in cooperation with either local or national authorities in previous projects. Together with the imposed obligations from EC, commitment of decision-makers to fulfill accession requirements and previous successful cooperation, it can be anticipated that cooperation will continue to be fruitful on all levels.

4.9.1. Regional Conference in Prishtinë/Priština on 12 February 2014

HLC Kosovo organized the regional meeting Regional Conference of Coalition for Equality STEP - LGBT Right in the Region - Wednesday 12th February 2014 at EU Information and Cultural Centre, Prishtinë/Priština. The purpose of this meeting was to establish a regional network of civil society organizations, interested individuals and the media from Serbia, Kosovo and Montenegro, with the aim to discuss and contribute towards improving and promoting respect for LGBT rights in the region. In this conference 38 individuals participated, who represented local and international institutions.

4.9.2. Regional Conference in Podgorica on 3rd of June 2014

HLC Kosovo participated in a regional meeting organized by our partners in Montenegro on The position and influence of woman in public and political life in the Western Balkans 3rd June 2014, EU info centre, Podgorica. The topics discussed in this conference were as follows: Women and politics – how toward? The gender balanced in political decision making; Discrimination and violence against women-current condition, preventive mechanisms and sanctions; Gender equality in and through media; Women's Activism in the region - challenges in the work of women's civil society; The establishment of regional network for women rights and their representation in public and political life. In this conference there were 6 participants from Kosovo: Shemsije Seferi , Director of NGO ALMA; Miradije Gashi, Director of NGO VENERA; Uratë Ramadani - Civil Society Activist; Erolina Morina, Project Manager at ISDY; Valentina Sadiku, Civil Society activist and Betim Zllanoga from Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo.