

BRIDGING HORIZONS:

UPF and IAYSP Annual Report 2023

Fostering Lasting Peace in the Balkans and Beyond

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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BUILDING A GLOBAL LEGACY:

The Visionary Leaders of Universal Peace Federation, IAYSP, and WCARP

Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han

In a world often divided by differences, there exist extraordinary individuals who dedicate their lives to fostering unity, understanding, and peace. At the forefront of this global movement are the founders of Universal Peace Federation (UPF), International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP), and the World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (WCARP). These visionary leaders, inspired by the profound teachings of Doctor Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his wife Hak Ja Han, have embarked on a journey to create a better, just, and safer society for all.

The legacy of Doctor Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han, as embodied by UPF and IAYSP, extends beyond traditional boundaries, touching upon various fields such as education, sports, science, academia, and politics. Their tireless efforts have not only inspired but have also brought together leaders of nations, heads of international organizations, and young professionals from around the globe. Together, they are committed to transforming our way of living and governing towards a sustainable future.

One notable achievement in the Balkan region stands out, where UPF and IAYSP have undertaken remarkable initiatives. Among them is the Peace Designer Training program currently underway in Kosovo and North Macedonia simultaneously. Ninety students from diverse backgrounds are participating, creating a unique platform that brings together regional political actors.



This initiative aims to facilitate open dialogue, foster understanding, and build bridges among the youth, mirroring the fundamental teachings of Dr. Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han.

The core message emphasized by these visionary leaders is that, as human beings, our common pursuit is happiness and peace. By recognizing our shared aspirations, the UPF and IAYSP believe that humanity can unite for the betterment of future generations. The success of the initiatives in the Balkan region serves as a testament to the power of these fundamental teachings.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we extend an invitation to dive into the transformative works carried out by UPF, IAYSP, and WCARP. Join the initiatives that are shaping the future, bridging divides, and creating a world where peace and happiness are not just ideals but achievable realities. In the spirit of global unity, let us stand together and contribute to building a legacy that transcends borders and benefits generations to come.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Meet Our Team



FLORA BROVINA

Chairwoman of UPF-Kosovo

Flora Brovina, a former Member of Parliament and Chairwoman of UPF-Kosovo, brings a unique perspective as a professor and human rights activist who endured imprisonment in a Serbian prison during the Kosovo War. In her presentation, she shed light on the resilience of women in Kosovo, emphasizing their commitment to reconciliation by engaging with Serbian women, even in the face of reluctance from political leaders on both sides. Brovina highlighted the impactful work of active women's parliamentary groups, showcasing their creative and strategic focus in the pursuit of peace.

Underscoring these efforts, the Chairwoman of UPF-Kosovo reiterated the organization's crucial role as a beacon of hope for global harmony. With unwavering dedication, UPF strives to cultivate a world marked by enduring peace, guided by principles deeply rooted in interfaith cooperation, sustainable development, and peacebuilding. The vision of UPF extends beyond borders, envisioning a planet where people from diverse backgrounds unite to create a more just and peaceful society.



EJONA ICKA

Secretary General UPF Kosovo I Executive Director IAYSP Balkan

Ejona Icka, in her capacity as the Secretary General of UPF Kosovo and the IAYSP Balkan Executive Director, plays a pivotal role in advancing peace and youth development in the Balkan region. Her influence is significant as a key driving force behind initiatives that involve working closely with policy makers, public figures, and ambassadors for peace. This includes overseeing the work of peace councils at both the local and regional levels, as well as actively participating in the training and empowerment of youth. In this role, she imparts invaluable skills and insights to the emerging leaders of tomorrow. Her unwavering commitment to fostering harmony and understanding is vividly demonstrated through her extensive engagement with the Universal Peace Federation, a commitment that has persisted since October 29, 2015.

Beyond her leadership roles, as a trainer and influential voice in the Balkan region, Ejona Icka stands out prominently in the realms of education and youth empowerment. Currently holding the esteemed position of Professor in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at UBT - Higher Education Institution since February 28, 2022, she channels her efforts into bridging cultural divides and laying a robust foundation for lasting peace. Her diverse role within the Universal Peace Federation underscores a profound dedication to global cooperation and the advancement of societal well-being.



SKENDER KRASNIQI

Skender Krasniqi, a highly regarded figure in Kosovo, currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of both KosovaPress and the Economic Chamber of Kosovo. His unwavering dedication to advancing Kosovo's economic landscape has been instrumental in shaping the trajectory of these influential institutions. Furthermore, Krasniqi holds a leadership role as the Vice Chairman of the General Council of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in Kosovo, indicating his broader involvement in public affairs and the stability of the Balkan region. Through his diverse responsibilities, Skender Krasniqi continues to make significant contributions to the development and prosperity of Kosovo, embodying a vision for a resilient and sustainable future.



MEXHIDE MJAKU-TOPALLI

Mexhide Mjaku-Topalli has emerged as a trailblazer in Kosovo's political sphere, notably serving as the Chairwoman of the Women's Parliamentary Group in the Kosovo Assembly. Her leadership and unwavering commitment to women's issues and empowerment have left a significant mark within the parliamentary context. Presently, Mjaku-Topalli holds the esteemed position of Vice Chairwoman of the General Council of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in Kosovo. Concurrently, she also assumes the role of Chairwoman of the Regional Council of the Universal Peace Federation for Ferizaj, underscoring her continued involvement in regional advocacy and representation.



BERAT ZHINI POTOKU

Berat Zhini Potoku, currently situated within the Ministry of Finance in the Department of Pensions, Division I External, assumes a crucial role in overseeing and coordinating matters related to pensions. Simultaneously, Potoku holds the prestigious position of Secretary of the General Council of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). As a Peace Ambassador since 2012, he has been actively engaged in supporting and participating in UPF activities over the years. Notably, starting from June 2022, Potoku has taken on the role of Secretary of the Council at UPF, further emphasizing his commitment to the organization's mission and objectives.



LABINOT PACOLLI

As Assistant to the Secretary General at the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in Kosovo, Labinot Pacolli demonstrates a deep dedication to promoting the organization's core values of peace, unity, and societal harmony. His vital support ensures the effective implementation of UPF's initiatives and programs.



MIRLINDA KUTLESHI

Mirlinda Kutleshin, an accomplished professional with a background in psychology, currently holding the positions of Presidente e FFBB and Executive Director at the World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (WCARP) in Kosovo, Mirlinda Kutleshin combines extensive academic expertise with practical experience. She is fervently dedicated to empowering the youth in Kosovo and its neighboring regions, placing a significant focus on the cultivation of values and character education.



MIKAELA LLALLA

Mikaela Llalla, Project Manager and Social Media Chief Officer for the IAYSP Balkan department of UPF, excels in administrative support, document organization, and database management. As the architect of the project's digital presence, Mikaela leads social media strategy, website management, and represents the project at public events, emphasizing achievements and fostering relationships. Contributing to academic enrichment and project coordination through student engagement and streamlined information flow, Mikaela aligns seamlessly with UPF, IAYSP department's goals of fostering positive societal change through education and impactful initiatives.

A. INTRODUCTION

I. Overview of UPF's Mission

UPF Kosovo Focus Areas in 2023

In our contemporary world, grappling with multifaceted challenges such as poverty, climate change, and inequality, the need for innovative solutions has never been more critical. The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) recognizes the evolving dynamics of civil society initiatives and the growing influence of "track two" diplomatic efforts involving people-to-people relations as pivotal components in addressing these global issues.

Distinguished by a proven track record, UPF has consistently demonstrated its commitment to service, partnership, and cooperation. Through an array of forums, seminars, conferences, service programs, and interfaith peace initiatives, UPF is actively cultivating a global network of peacebuilders dedicated to contributing to a world characterized by sustainable peace—where freedom, harmony, cooperation, and prosperity are accessible to all.

Mission: Paving the Way for Universal Peace

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) stands as a worldwide alliance of individuals and organizations unified in their dedication to constructing a world where peace thrives, fostering an environment where freedom, harmony, cooperation, and prosperity become shared realities. For UPF, peace extends beyond the absence of conflict and transcends international relations, permeating every facet of human connection.

Advocating for the revitalization of the United Nations, UPF proposes the establishment of an interreligious council within its framework. The organization implements its transformative programs through a global network of Ambassadors for Peace—individuals committed to actively promoting peace in their communities.
UPF champions the idea of interfaith dialogue, encouraging religions to collaboratively work towards peace. The foundation lies in the acknowledgment that human dignity emanates from a universal divine source, forming the bedrock for harmony and unification.

In the intricate landscape of Kosovo, where historical complexities intertwine with aspirations for a harmonious future, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) stands as a catalyst for positive change. As UPF navigates the challenges and opportunities in the region, it unveils a nuanced roadmap for Kosovo, outlining its distinctive focus areas in 2023.

1. Historical Reconciliation and Healing: Addressing Wounds of the Past
Kosovo's history is marked by a tapestry of complex narratives and historical grievances. UPF recognizes the importance of initiating dialogues and projects that facilitate historical reconciliation and healing. By creating platforms for open discussions and acknowledging the diverse perspectives that shape Kosovo's past, UPF aims to contribute to a collective healing process.

2. Interfaith Harmony and Understanding: Bridging Religious Divides
Religion holds a significant place in the hearts of many Kosovars, contributing to the rich cultural fabric of the region. UPF's focus on interfaith harmony involves fostering dialogue and understanding among religious communities. Through collaborative events, conferences, and educational initiatives, UPF aims to promote an environment where diverse religious beliefs coexist peacefully, transcending potential sources of division.

3. Youth Empowerment and Leadership Development: Investing in Kosovo's Future
Recognizing the potential of Kosovo's youth as agents of positive change, UPF places a spotlight on youth empowerment and leadership development. By providing educational opportunities, organizing leadership forums, and facilitating cultural exchanges, UPF seeks to empower the younger generation to actively contribute to the social, economic, and political development of Kosovo.

4. Regional Collaboration and Economic Development: Building Bridges Beyond Borders
UPF envisions a Kosovo that actively engages in regional collaborations, fostering economic development and cultural exchange. By promoting initiatives that encourage collaboration among Balkan nations, UPF aims to dissolve barriers and build bridges that contribute to Kosovo's prosperity within the broader regional context.

5. Environmental Sustainability and Community Engagement: Nurturing a Greener Future

Environmental sustainability is a cornerstone of UPF's focus areas in Kosovo. Recognizing the interconnectedness of environmental issues with peace and prosperity, UPF supports projects that promote sustainable practices, community engagement, and awareness. Through tree-planting campaigns, clean-up initiatives, and educational programs, UPF endeavors to create a greener and more sustainable Kosovo.

6. Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality: Fostering Inclusive Progress

UPF places a strong emphasis on women's empowerment and gender equality as integral components of Kosovo's progress. By supporting initiatives that promote women's leadership, education, and equal opportunities, UPF seeks to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society.

As UPF embarks on this transformative journey in Kosovo, these focus areas represent the organization's commitment to nurturing a future defined by peace, understanding, and shared prosperity. Through collaborative efforts with local communities, leaders, and stakeholders, UPF endeavors to make meaningful contributions to Kosovo's journey toward a brighter and harmonious tomorrow.



Harmony in Discourse:

Unveiling Insights at the 6th Think Tank 2022 Forum - Session V of Peace Summit 2023



Unveiling Insights at the 6th Think Tank 2022 Forum - Session V of Peace Summit 2023

The Think Tank 2022 Symposium in Seoul, South Korea, gathered influential leaders to dissect pressing global challenges. Dr. Yun Young-Ho, UPF's Director General, shed light on the world's current situation, underscoring the impact of the War in Ukraine and the ensuing global political imbalance catalyzed by China's ascent.

Among the distinguished speakers, the presence and remarks of **His Excellency Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of Kosovo**, were particularly noteworthy. Arriving just two hours earlier from a conference in Brussels, Prime Minister Kurti passionately addressed the dual trends sweeping the world: the forces of Freedom, Peace, and Democracy counterbalanced by the ominous shadows of Invasion, War, and Autocracy. Reflecting on the global stage, he highlighted the significant repercussions of the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, reverberating in the Pacific Region—one of the fastest-growing areas globally.

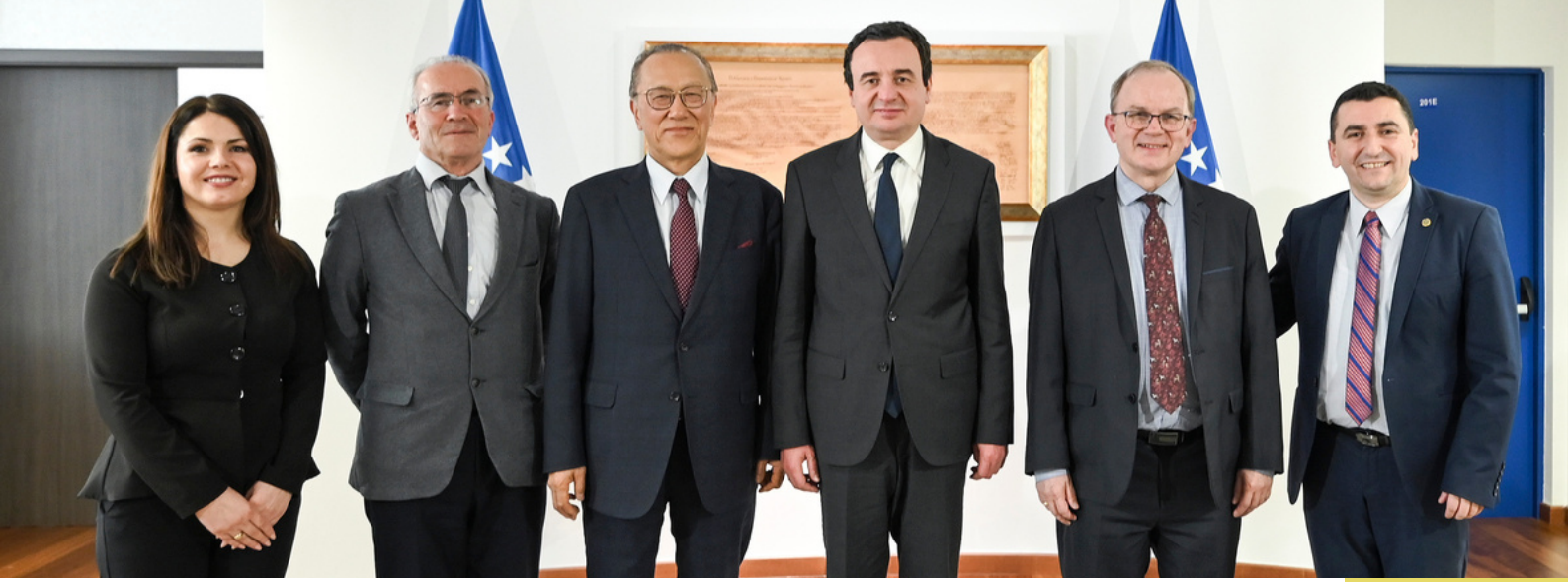
Prime Minister Kurti drew attention to the escalating dangers posed by North Korea's missile launches and the assertive stance China is taking towards Taiwan. In acknowledging the achievements of nations like Japan, Taiwan, and Korea in navigating these challenges, Kosovo expressed admiration.

Concluding his remarks, Prime Minister Kurti left a resonant message:
"People everywhere are good and peace-loving. Free people do not start wars."





The symposium continued with a keynote address by Dr. Michael Pillsbury, who delved into China's strategic intricacies, emphasizing the imperative of understanding China's historical roots. The event further featured insightful commentaries, panel discussions, and proposals for actionable strategies to foster global peace, reflecting the symposium's commitment to exploring diverse perspectives on the geopolitical landscape.



Promoting Peace and Partnership:

Kosovo's Prime Minister Albin Kurti Hosts Delegation from the Universal Peace Federation

In a significant diplomatic encounter, Prime Minister of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, warmly welcomed a delegation from the Universal Peace Federation for Southeast Europe. The meeting, characterized by openness and collaboration, provided a platform to discuss shared values and aspirations between the Republic of Kosovo and the Universal Peace Federation.

Prime Minister Kurti expressed gratitude to the delegation for their visit and took the opportunity to apprise them of Kosovo's recent achievements and ongoing reforms. The discussion delved into key economic and democratic indicators, providing insights into the nation's progress and commitment to fostering a stable and prosperous society.

During the meeting, the participants engaged in a dialogue about the foundation's goals and its collaboration with the Republic of Kosovo. Emphasis was placed on shared values such as human rights, solidarity, friendship, and peace. The exchange of ideas underscored the importance of international cooperation in advancing these common principles.

A government communication shared with the media stated, "The meeting addressed the foundation's objectives, cooperation with the Republic of Kosovo, as well as common values such as human rights, solidarity, friendship, and peace."



The delegation from the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) comprised notable figures, including Katsumi Otsuka, President of the Federation for Southeast Europe, Gani Rroshi, General Secretary of UPF in Albania, and Ejona Icka, General Secretary of UPF in Kosovo.

As the discussions unfolded, Prime Minister Kurti and the UPF delegation recognized the importance of cultivating diplomacy and partnership to foster peace and prosperity. The meeting served as a testament to Kosovo's commitment to engaging with international organizations dedicated to the promotion of universal values.

The encounter between Prime Minister Albin Kurti and the Universal Peace Federation represents a significant step towards fostering global solidarity. By building bridges and collaborating on common objectives, Kosovo demonstrates its dedication to contributing to the broader mission of promoting peace, understanding, and cooperation.

In conclusion, the meeting highlighted the mutual respect and shared commitment between Kosovo and the Universal Peace Federation. As discussions continue, it is anticipated that such diplomatic initiatives will play a crucial role in furthering peace-building efforts in the region and beyond.



UPF Southeast Europe Representatives Hold Constructive Meeting with Former President Sejdiu

In a momentous meeting that epitomized diplomacy in action, representatives of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) for Southeast Europe recently convened with His Excellency Fatmir Sejdiu, the esteemed former President of the Republic of Kosovo and Ambassador for Peace. The gathering, characterized by openness and collaboration, provided a crucial platform to discuss current regional developments and future initiatives aimed at fostering peace and prosperity.

President Fatmir Sejdiu, a towering figure known for his pivotal role in the development of the region, particularly Kosovo, has extended his commitment to global peace as the Ambassador for Peace. His active involvement in international conferences organized by the UPF underscores his dedication to promoting harmony and understanding on a global scale.

The meeting served as a unique forum for the exchange of ideas, emphasizing the shared values that bind the Republic of Kosovo and the Universal Peace Federation. Human rights, solidarity, friendship, and peace emerged as the cornerstones of the dialogue, forming the basis for a collaborative effort to address regional challenges and aspirations.

Central to the discussions were the UPF's goals and its ongoing collaboration with the Republic of Kosovo. President Sejdiu, with his wealth of experience and deep understanding of the region, engaged in a meaningful dialogue about the importance of aligning visions to create a world where common principles are upheld. The emphasis on international cooperation echoed the sentiment that collaborative efforts are essential to advance shared goals effectively.



The participants explored the multifaceted nature of the region's development, delving into both current challenges and potential future initiatives. President Sejdiu's insights, grounded in his active involvement in the international arena, provided a valuable perspective on the interconnectedness of global peace and regional stability.

The Ambassador for Peace shared his optimism about the collaboration, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts to navigate complex geopolitical landscapes. He highlighted the importance of fostering understanding and building bridges, not just within the region but on a global scale.

As the meeting concluded, a commitment to ongoing collaboration was reaffirmed by both parties. President Sejdiu expressed his gratitude for the platform provided by the UPF and stressed the significance of such dialogues in promoting a culture of peace and cooperation.

The discussions during this meeting were not merely diplomatic gestures but a testament to the shared determination to transform aspirations into tangible actions. The collaborative spirit demonstrated by President Fatmir Sejdiu and the UPF Southeast Europe representatives sets the stage for a new chapter in regional and global cooperation, where shared values are championed, and the pursuit of peace takes center stage.



Empowering Women, Fostering Peace:

Insights from 'No Peace Without Women' Conference in Kosovo"

Pristina, Kosovo—The second annual "No Peace Without Women" conference, co-sponsored by UPF and its International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP), recently convened in the heart of Kosovo's Assembly, drawing influential leaders to explore the role of women in peace processes, conflict prevention, and human security in the Balkans.

Under the theme "What Are Women Bringing to Peace Processes, Conflict Prevention, and Human Security in the Balkans?" the event, held on June 13, 2023, featured approximately 120 participants, including three deputy ministers, 12 parliamentarians, and nine ambassadors from countries such as Austria, Japan, Norway, and Sweden. The conference, a collaborative effort involving the Europe-Middle East branch of Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) and the Office of the Prime Minister of Kosovo, aimed to address pressing issues in the region.

The conference kicked off on the eve of June 12, coinciding with the 15th anniversary of Pristina's liberation, commemorating the occasion with a welcoming banquet at Hotel Sirius. Dignitaries present included **Kosovo's Deputy Prime Minister Emilija Redžepi**, **former President Fatmir Sejdiu**, and **former First Lady Nezafete Sejdiu**, among others.

Ejona Icka, the secretary-general of UPF-Kosovo, played a crucial role in coordinating efforts, acting as the representative of WFWP in Kosovo and serving as a liaison with the Kosovar government. Gani Rroshi, secretary-general of UPF in Albania and the Balkan Peninsula, supported the initiative, overseeing the Albanian delegation.



The groundwork for the conference was laid during the UPF Peace Summit 2023 in Seoul, South Korea, where Prime Minister Albin Kurti committed to hosting the "No Peace Without Women" conference in Kosovo. The government of Kosovo demonstrated its support by covering conference expenses and hosting a special closing banquet, further highlighting the commitment to women's crucial role in peacebuilding.

The conference comprised three insightful sessions:

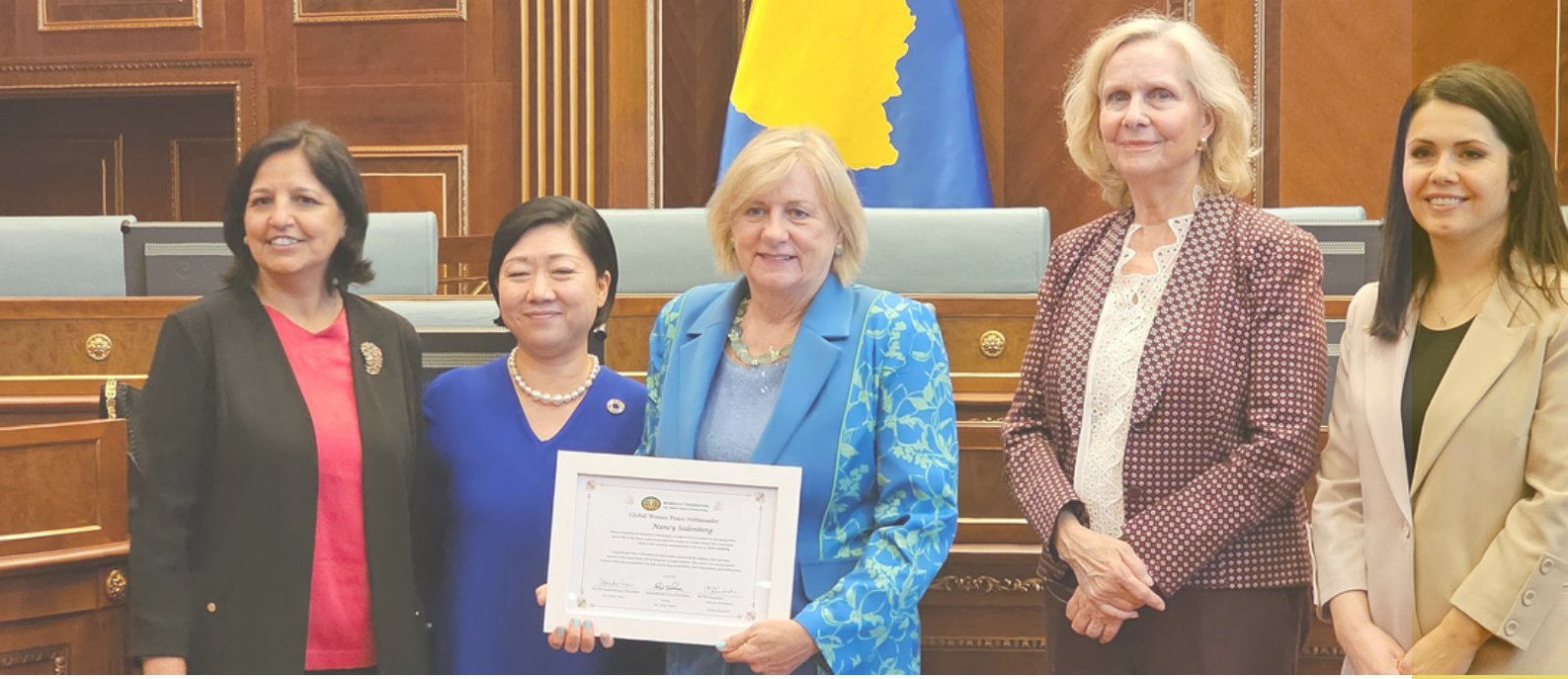
1. Session I: 1325 / UN Agenda on Women, Peace, and Security
   - Kosovo's Deputy Prime Minister Emilija Redžepi emphasized the importance of equal rights for all citizens, transcending ethnic divisions.
   - Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, through a video message, highlighted the critical role of women in peace processes and the need for their inclusion.

2. **Session II: Women in Development, Integration, and Finance**

   - Flora Brovina, former MP and chairwoman of UPF-Kosovo, shared her experiences during the Kosovo War, emphasizing the power of women in promoting peace.
   - Hon. Senida Mesi stressed the economic potential of empowered women, citing the need for a shift in laws and greater female representation in the workforce.

3. **Session III: Peace Leadership: Access and Opportunities for Young Women in STEM, Media Literacy, and Information Technology**

   - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Liza Gashi highlighted women's instrumental role in postwar recovery and emphasized the need for increased female representation in STEM fields.
   - H.E. Teuta Sahatqija, former Kosovar ambassador to the UN, discussed the initiation of dialogue with Serbia through Serbian women and the importance of tech education for women.





The conference concluded with a vibrant closing banquet, graciously sponsored by the Foreign Ministry of Kosovo. The day’s discussions reinforced the pivotal role of women in shaping a peaceful and prosperous future for the Balkans, echoing the sentiment that "No Peace Without Women" remains a guiding principle in the region.



Empowering Change:

Women, the Foundation of Sustainable Peace

In a momentous gathering centered around the theme "Gratë, themel i paqes së qëndrueshme" (Women, the Foundation of Sustainable Peace), the prevailing message echoed loud and clear: women stand as the cornerstone of enduring peace.

Among the 30 women honored as "Ambassadors of Peace," notable figures including **Besarta Jashari, Ferdonije Qerkezi, Fahrije Hoti,** and **Kumrije Prenku** stood out and were acknowledged during the significant event. Flora Brovina, Chairwoman of the General Council of FPU-Kosovo, conveyed sincere gratitude for these exceptional women, underscoring their crucial roles as symbols of resilience and institutions in their own regard.

Nancy Soderberg, Director of NDI in Kosovo, echoed this sentiment, acknowledging Kosovo's groundbreaking efforts in placing women at the forefront of the struggle for change and transparency. "Kosovo is actively positioning women in the forefront of the struggle for change and transparency. We genuinely value the partnership and collaboration with the government. Kosovo stands as a regional leader, notably with a significant number of female parliamentarians earning mandates without quotas. This marks an excellent shift," commended Soderberg.



Jacques Marion, President of the Universal Peace Federation for Europe, underscored that women are the bedrock of sustainable peace. Amid global challenges, particularly in Europe, Marion applauded Kosovo's leaders for their commitment to finding peaceful resolutions.

"Peace must be grounded in more laws, in an ideal family, in dialogue, in reconciliation, and culture. Dialogue must aim for a splendid good. All leaders acknowledge the crucial role of women as peace agents. Studies reveal that women are effective peacekeepers and negotiators," Marion concluded.

The event was a celebration of the appointment of women as "Ambassadors of Peace," recognizing their exceptional contributions. **Sanije Gashi, Vjosa Nimani-Zylfiu,** and others emerged as symbols of peace, resilience, and strength, collectively embodying a commitment to peace-building that not only honors past struggles but also promises a more harmonious future for Kosovo.



Celebrating Kosovo's 15th Independence Anniversary: A Tribute to Peace and Security in the Balkans

On February 18, 2023, the Peace Council of Tirana orchestrated a significant event within the premises of the Peace Embassy, commemorating the 15th anniversary of Kosovo's independence. The theme of the gathering was "Kosovo's Independence - a Precious Contribution to Balkan Security."

The venue was graced by the presence of over 170 distinguished personalities from Albania and Kosovo, including Ambassadors for Peace and friends of the Universal Peace Federation. Their collective presence not only filled the hall but also adorned it with a sense of unity and shared purpose. The event was superbly moderated by Mr. Dëfrim Methasani, the Chairman of the Peace Council Tirana.

The occasion received an esteemed guest, Ambassador Sh.T. Skënder Durmishi, representing the Republic of Kosovo in Albania. Ambassador Durmishi delivered a welcoming address, expressing the significance of the day. Mr. Abdulla Domi, Vice-Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation, conveyed greetings on behalf of the federation's leadership.

Important messages were conveyed by Prof. Dr. Eralda Çani, former Minister of Integration, and Ms. Alketa Gashi, a journalist and RTK moderator. Their insights added depth to the discussions surrounding Kosovo's journey over the past 15 years and its impact on regional stability.



The event resonated with powerful emotions, brought to life through captivating performances. Renowned actor Xhavit Limani, the illustrious singer Lirie Rasha, young violinist Roni Dedic, and the dance group "Trad Folk Tirana" stirred strong emotions with their interpretations.

Following a presentation on the Universal Peace Federation, its principles, and activities by Mr. Gani Rroshi, General Secretary for Albania, 12 esteemed personalities were honored with the title of Ambassador for Peace. This recognition symbolizes their commitment to fostering peace and harmony in the region.

The celebration not only marked a milestone for Kosovo but also underscored the collaborative efforts toward a more secure and peaceful Balkans. The event served as a reminder of the importance of unity, shared values, and the continuous pursuit of peace in the region.





Exploring Family, Society, and Universal Values at UPF's Third Scientific Conference

In a groundbreaking endeavor, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) organized its third scientific conference on November 18, 2023, with a focus on the pivotal theme of "Family, Society, and Universal Values." Held in collaboration with the Academic Commission for Peace, this event marked the conclusion of a trilogy of conferences hosted at the Peace Embassy in Tirana, Albania, commencing from November 19, 2022, and continuing through April 15, 2023.

A New Horizon for UPF Activities:
This year-long initiative signifies a paradigm shift in UPF's scope of activities. Beyond its traditional educational, training, promotional, entertaining, and evaluative pursuits, the organization has embraced a comprehensive agenda that now includes substantive scientific endeavors. This expansion into the realm of science is intrinsically tied to the establishment, just over a year ago, of the Academic Commission for Peace under UPF-Albania.

Highlights and Achievements:

This conference brought together 25 researchers, professors, and social science doctors, with a balanced representation of six from Albania and 19 from Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Kingdom, France, the United States, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, and Hungary. Remarkably, 12 of them were female scholars and students.





Why This Initiative Matters:

The initiative is vital because, despite the abundant literature on families, continuous exploration and discourse on existential issues such as the family are essential. Families need protection from the risks posed by uncontrolled development and its consequences. Without visionary guidance, ideas, legislation, and active supportive policies from science and politics, families may encounter unforeseen challenges.

Key Outcomes and Future Prospects:

- Comprehensive Scientific Lectures: The conferences yielded a collection of well-founded scientific lectures, supported by recent observations, statistical data, interpretations, analyses, and valuable recommendations.
- Holistic View of Albanian and Balkan Families: Contributions from scholars provided a more complete picture of the trajectory of Albanian and Balkan families.
- Bilingual Publication: The publication of lectures in both Albanian and English in special brochures by UPF caters to a broader audience, serving as a reliable reference for scholars.
- Over 150 Citations: The rigor of the authors is evident through more than 150 citations, offering not only scientific accuracy but also serving as an informative source about social science scholars past and present.
- Creation of an Academic Network: The formation of an academic network, especially from the Balkans, fosters potential collaborations for the future—advancing not only science but also solidarity, neighborly understanding, and peace preservation.
- Increased Participation of Researchers: The growing number of researchers now part of the Ambassadors for Peace network is anticipated to infuse new ideas, studies, and experiences into UPF's fundamental mission of achieving peace and prosperity in a just world.



Conference Sessions and Distinguished Speakers:

The sessions on November 18 were expertly moderated by Prof. Dr. Lekë Sokoli and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eva Allushi. Dr. Eva Çipi, President of UPF Albania, and Mr. Jacques Marion, President of UPF Europe and the Middle East, graced the event with their welcoming remarks.

The distinguished lineup of speakers included:

- Mr. Gëzim Tushi, Sociologist and Researcher, Albania
- Dr. Jelena Tanasijević, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Serbia
- Dr. Sofija Georgievska, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, UKIM, North Macedonia
- Dr. Denis Celcima, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Psychology, UBT University, Kosovo
- Dr. Sarina Bakić, Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Gabor Vasmatics, Information Technology Engineer, Hungary

The conference concluded with Dr. Saemira Pino, Chair of the Academic Commission for Peace, presenting insightful conclusions. In summary, UPF's scientific conferences have not only enriched our understanding of family dynamics but have also laid the groundwork for a more connected, informed, and collaborative future in the academic realm. The photographs from the November 18 conference tell a story of intellectual exploration and shared commitment toward creating a world of enduring peace and understanding.



International Scientific Conference: Exploring Social Capital and the Public Sphere

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF), in collaboration with the Albanian Institute of Sociology, played a pivotal role as one of the 17 organizing partners in the International Scientific Conference held at the University of Vlorë on November 10-11, 2023. The event focused on "Social Capital and the Public Sphere in Contemporary Society."

Gathering representatives from 22 countries and featuring 154 papers by 245 contributors, the conference was hosted at the University's "Ismail Qemali" premises. During the opening ceremony, UPF, alongside the Albanian Institute of Sociology, honored seven esteemed professors from Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia with the title "Ambassador for Peace," recognizing their significant academic contributions.

The honored professors presented their papers in a dedicated session titled "Peace in the Balkan Context," organized by UPF and the Balkan Sociology Forum. Moderated by Dr. Saemira Pino, Chair of the Academic Commission for Peace at UPF Albania, the session involved active participation from students and professors of the University of Vlorë.

Covering various aspects of social life related to peace, the presented themes included studies on war, social capital, family as the first institution of peace, the intersection of peace and religion, the role of education, spirituality, and seeking peace in apocalyptic times.

We extend our gratitude to all the professors for their valuable contributions, with special appreciation to Prof. Dr. Lekë Sokoli and the Albanian Institute of Sociology for organizing this impactful conference, alongside other esteemed partners.





Charting Unity, Integration, and Peace at the Balkans Leadership Conference 2023

In the heart of Skopje, North Macedonia, history unfurled its wings on October 14 as leaders from the Western Balkans and distinguished guests from Croatia and Slovakia convened for the momentous Balkans Leadership Conference. Under the theme "Western Balkans Integration into the European Union: Perspectives and Challenges," this gathering, meticulously organized in collaboration with the Podgorica Club, delved into pivotal issues surrounding the EU integration process. The overarching goal: to collectively pursue enduring peace, reconciliation, and regional cooperation.

Distinguished Guests:

The event radiated with the esteemed presence of leaders, including H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, President of North Macedonia, and luminaries like former President Crvenkoski (North Macedonia), President Moisiu (Albania), President Mesic (Croatia), President Ivanic (Bosnia), President Sejdiu (Kosovo), Prime Minister Dzurinda (Slovakia), and Prime Minister Luksic (Montenegro), among other influential figures. Their collective wisdom and insights imbued discussions, fostering aspirations for a united and peaceful future.

Insightful Sessions:

Opening & Session 1: President Pendarovski's eloquent words set the tone for engaging discussions on EU integration, led by regional leaders, laying a robust foundation for fruitful dialogue.



Session 2: The afternoon session delved into critical themes of peace and reconciliation. Hon. Talat Xhaferi, Mrs. Slavjanka Petrovska, former presidents Vujanovic (Montenegro) and Meidani (Albania), and former Prime Minister Cvetkovic (Serbia) led insightful discussions, culminating in a powerful speech by Dr. Fasslabend.

Session 3: The final session focused on policies and projects fostering regional cooperation in youth and EU integration. Youth leaders, including Hon. Bekteshi, Mr. Mojsovski, Mr. Hani, Mr. Ruzin, Ms. Jakimovska, and Ms. Kosturanova, shared invaluable insights. Dr. Balcomb emphasized the importance of spiritual values, inspiring all in attendance.

Building Bridges for Peace:

The fervor and commitment exhibited at the Balkans Leadership Conference underscore the transformative power of unity and collaboration. As we journey forward, let us harness this momentum to construct enduring bridges of peace, understanding, and cooperation.



Toward Peaceful Coexistence

In a significant assembly of diplomatic minds, the Albanian Peace Council brought together around 20 representatives from Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, the Presheva Valley, and Chameria. The distinguished gathering took place at the prestigious Hilton Hotel in Skopje on October 13, 2023.

The conference aimed to navigate the intricate landscape of the current Balkan scenario. Delving into the pressing issues, the participants engaged in discussions concerning the recent developments in Kosovo post the Banjska incident, the looming threats stemming from the Ukrainian conflict, and the most recent turmoil in the Israel-Palestine region. Throughout the discussions, the focus remained on exploring ways in which Albanians, guided by the principles of the Universal Peace Federation, could play a pivotal role in fostering peace and sustainable development.

The discussions and insights exchanged during this gathering marked a crucial step toward fostering cooperation, understanding, and a shared commitment to peace in the Balkans. As the region faces complex challenges, the collaborative efforts of the Albanian Peace Council and its distinguished participants aim to contribute to a future characterized by peaceful coexistence and sustainable development. The Hilton Hotel in Skopje served as a fitting backdrop for this crucial dialogue, emphasizing the importance of diplomacy and dialogue in navigating the intricate geopolitical landscape of the Balkans. The collective wisdom and shared vision of the attendees provide a beacon of hope for a more harmonious future in the region.

The gathering was further elevated by the esteemed presence of distinguished guests, particularly former presidents, who added considerable significance to the occasion:

His Excellency Alfred Moisiu, who served as the President of the Republic of Albania from 2002 to 2007.

Former President Rexhep Meidani, who held office in the Republic of Albania from 1997 to 2002.

His Excellency Fatmir Sejdiu, who served as the President of the Republic of Kosovo from 2006 to 2010.

Their participation not only heightened the prestige of the event but also brought a wealth of experience and insights to the discussions.









Ambassadors for Peace Convene in the Netherlands: A Pinnacle of Global Collaboration

In a momentous stride towards fostering international cooperation and harmony, ambassadors for peace hailing from 17 states across Europe and the Middle East recently converged in the picturesque Netherlands. This transformative forum served as a unique platform for professionals spanning various fields to come together, share experiences, exchange best practices, and delve into the foundational principles essential for lasting peace.

The primary objective of the forum was to facilitate an open and constructive exchange of ideas among the ambassadors. Participants seized the opportunity to illuminate successful peacekeeping strategies employed in their respective regions. The sharing of firsthand experiences not only enriched the collective knowledge base but also forged a profound sense of unity, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries.

Throughout the event, forums and workshops, led by distinguished experts in the field, covered a spectrum of topics crucial to the pursuit of lasting peace. The discussions ranged from cultural sensitivity and effective communication to the pivotal role of international collaboration in conflict prevention. The expert-led training aimed to equip ambassadors with a comprehensive understanding of the nuanced intricacies involved in sustaining peace.

Ambassadors engaged in vibrant dialogues, shedding light on the importance of cultural sensitivity in conflict resolution. Insights shared during the forum underscored the significance of appreciating diverse perspectives and understanding the socio-cultural fabric of different regions. This cultural awareness, it was emphasized, forms a bedrock for effective communication and lays the foundation for sustainable peace initiatives.

Furthermore, the forum delved into the indispensable role of international collaboration in preventing conflicts and maintaining global stability. Ambassadors explored ways to strengthen existing partnerships and cultivate new alliances to address shared challenges. The emphasis on collaborative efforts echoed a sentiment that transcended political and regional differences, emphasizing the common goal of fostering a world free from the scourge of conflict.



An Artistic Celebration for Family Values in Ferizaj

On May 15, 2023, in honor of the International Day of Families, the Regional Council of Ferizaj infused emotion and joy with a special artistic activity. The goal was to promote and appreciate the importance of the family in society.

The artistic performances presented by the Ferizaj community showcased the beauty and depth of family emotions. Local artists made an extraordinary contribution by conveying heartfelt and meaningful messages.

In this special event, three distinguished figures from Ferizaj were also honored: **Agron Bajraktari, Shkelzen Marevci,** and **Zyhrije Vata,** who added value and prestige to the large family of Ambassadors for Peace.

The Ferizaj Regional Council revealed the community's abilities in organizing and executing such a significant activity. Every detail was carefully and thoughtfully prepared, creating a warm and inspiring atmosphere for all participants.

Special thanks go to Ferizaj for this extraordinary display of love and family values. Thank you, Ferizaj, for your contribution to strengthening solidarity and collaboration spirit in the community!




FPU
AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE
Universal Peace Federation





UPF-Ferizaj Regional Council Commemorates Women's Role in Nation-building

In a heartfelt homage to the pivotal demonstrations of 1981, the U-Ferizaj Regional Council orchestrated a compelling conference titled "Kontributi i Gruas Ferizajase në Shtetformim" (The Contribution of Ferizaj Women to State Formation) on April 3. The gathering captivated an engaged audience, featuring compelling narratives from three tenacious women: **Salihe Salihu, Elmaze Grainca,** and **Linda Fetahu Krivanjeva.**

The shared stories were a blend of poignant emotions and spine-chilling recollections, leaving the audience in admiration of the personal odysseys detailed by these exceptionally brave women. The tales intricately painted a vivid panorama of the challenges and victories experienced by these women during the historic demonstrations of 1981.

Dr. Flora Brovina, Chairwoman of the General Council of FPU-Kosovo, set the tone with warm opening remarks, paying tribute to the strength and resilience of the women who left an indelible mark on the history of Ferizaj. **Mrs. Mexhide Mjaku Topalli**, Chairwoman of the Ferizaj Regional Council, provided a historical reflection on the events of 1981.

A musical tribute to the demonstrations of 1981, led by conductor **Lindita Isufi**, Ambassador for Peace, added a cultural richness to the conference. The adept moderation by **Zyhrije Vata** and **Arta Tahiri Beqa** ensured a seamless flow of the event.

The gathering was further graced by seven notable personalities from the Ferizaj region, joining the esteemed family of Ambassadors for Peace. Among them were **Vjollca Fazliu, Remzije Berisha, Hava Berisha, Elmaze Grainca, Salihe Salihu, Sanije Alija Sherifi,** and **Lindita Viqa Shabani.**



Expressing gratitude to the enchanting city of Ferizaj for hosting this significant event, the FPU-Ferizaj Regional Council concluded the conference by extending heartfelt wishes for the success of the new mission undertaken by all Ambassadors for Peace.

As the tales of courage and resilience reverberated through the conference hall, it served as a poignant reminder of the indispensable contributions made by Ferizaj women to the establishment of the state. The event not only paid homage to the past but also sparked a collective commitment to forging a brighter future, guided by the indomitable spirit of these extraordinary women.



A Resounding Triumph at the Second Edition of Kokrat e Rrushit Kendojne"

In a harmonious blend of talent and melody, the second edition of "Kokrat e Rrushit Kendojne" unfolded with dazzling brilliance, creating an enchanting symphony that echoed through the hearts of attendees. The stage witnessed the mesmerizing performances of 17 soloists, each delivering a spellbinding rendition, adding an extra layer of splendor to this year's festival.

The diverse array of performances showcased the distinctive styles and voices of the participants, contributing to the overall vibrancy of the second edition. Already enjoying significant recognition in the city of Rahovec, the festival surpassed expectations this year, capturing the hearts of attendees from diverse regions.

A notable addition to this year's festivities was the introduction of the "Xhevdet Bajraj Poet Prize," a highly prestigious award that added further distinction to the event. This accolade recognized the poetic elements and lyrical depth within the performances, emphasizing the seamless fusion of music and poetic expression.

Furthermore, the second edition proudly appointed three young peace ambassadors under the guidance of Prof. Ejona Icka, the General Secretary of UPF Kosovo. These ambassadors, chosen from the winners of the "Kokrat e Rrushit Kendojne" festival, embody the spirit of peace and cultural harmony.



The festival's success can be traced back to the enthusiastic support of Rahovec's residents, the diverse talents from various regions, and the strong connections formed among authors, lyricists, composers, orchestrators, and parents alike.

As the festival continues to ascend in stature and influence, it transcends its role as a mere platform for musical expression. It stands as a beacon of unity, fostering connections and cultural understanding. "Kokrat e Rrushit Kendojne" has undeniably become a cultural phenomenon, celebrating the beauty of diversity through the universal language of music. With anticipation building for future editions, it is evident that this festival has secured its place as a harmonious celebration of talent, artistry, and the enduring spirit of togetherness.



Promoting Universal Peace Principles in Peja: UPF Hosts Recognition Event

The Universal Peace Federation organized a significant event in the Municipality of Peja, Kosovo, titled "Promoting the Principles of the Universal Peace Federation." The event, moderated by Mrs. Dardane Kastrati, Secretary of the UPF Council for the Peja region, featured welcoming remarks from Dr. Flora Brovina, Chairperson of the General Council of UPF-Kosovo, and Prof. Mehrije Hoti, Chairperson of the UPF Council in Peja.

During the event, Mrs. Ejona Icka, General Secretary of UPF, presented the attendees with the principles of the Universal Peace Federation and highlighted the various activities organized by the federation to date.

A special recognition was bestowed upon eight distinguished personalities from the Municipality of Peja, who were honored with the title "Ambassador for Peace." The recipients of this prestigious title included **Prof. Dr. Edmond Beqiri, Prof. Dr. Halit Shabani, Prof. Dr. Denis Celcima, Mrs. Xhenet Syka Kelmendi, Mr. Gjemajl Kelmendi, Mr. Ukë Nimani, Mrs. Fitore Haxhihasani,** and **Dr. Adnora Nurboja.**

To the Ambassadors for Peace in Peja, heartfelt congratulations are extended, wishing them great success in their noble mission. The addition of these respected individuals to the Peace Ambassador family further strengthens the commitment to fostering peace and understanding within the community. The Universal Peace Federation remains dedicated to promoting harmony, cooperation, and goodwill among individuals and communities, and events like these play a crucial role in achieving that vision.



Ambassadors of Peace Join Forces with the Department of Culture, Youth, and Sports for New Year Wishes

In a heartening year-end gathering, Fitore Cena Haxhihasani, Chairperson of Peja's Universal Peace Federation, collaborated with Xhenet Syka, who holds dual roles as the Director of the Department of Culture, Youth, and Sports in the Municipality of Peja and a distinguished Peace Ambassador. The focus of the celebration revolved around the touching collection of New Year wishes from the children. Each gathered wish transformed into a poignant symbol of unity and shared optimism within the community, brought to life through the collective efforts of the Peja Ambassadors for Peace and supportive institutional representatives.

This meaningful event, strategically held on International Children's Day, brought together a dynamic mix of young minds and dedicated peace ambassadors in Peja. Beyond the global celebration of children's rights, the collaboration sought to establish a heartwarming connection between the community's youth and those committed to promoting peace.

Collecting New Year Wishes:

A highlight of the celebration was the heartwarming collection of New Year wishes from the children. Ambassadors of Peace, alongside municipal representatives, actively engaged with the young participants, encouraging them to express their hopes, dreams, and aspirations for the approaching New Year. Each wish collected became a symbol of unity and shared optimism within the community. Subsequently, these wishes were granted through the contributions of the Peja Ambassadors for Peace and institutional representatives who supported the initiative.



Beyond the festive atmosphere, the gathering aimed to build bridges of understanding and solidarity within the community. The collaboration between the Department of Culture, Youth, and Sports, along with Peace Ambassadors, demonstrated a commitment to inclusivity and the well-being of every child in Peja.

A Message of Peace and Hope:

As the day concluded, it left behind a heartwarming message of peace and hope. The collected wishes for the New Year symbolized the shared aspirations of a community united in its dedication to creating a brighter and more harmonious future for all.

In the spirit of giving and togetherness, the event showcased the power of community engagement and the positive impact that can be achieved when different segments of society come together with a common goal — spreading joy and building a foundation of peace for the generations to come.



Wishing you happiness, success, and loads of fun in the New Year, dear children!

UPF & Department of Culture, Youth, and Sports Pej





Challenges and Opportunities

Unveiling a Harmonious Future

In the intricate tapestry of the Balkans, where history, culture, and diverse communities converge, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) has been steadfastly weaving threads of unity and understanding. As it traverses the challenging terrain of the region, UPF's initiatives resonate with the essence of fostering lasting peace and cooperation.

UPF's Vision in the Balkans:

Embarking on a mission rooted in the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values, UPF endeavors to actualize a vision of a unified Balkans, free from the shadows of historical discord. The region, marked by a complex history and diverse ethnicities, has found in UPF a beacon illuminating the path toward reconciliation, dialogue, and sustainable development.

A Glimpse into Complex Realities:

As UPF confronts the Challenges in the Balkans, it grapples with multifaceted issues that have historically shaped the region:

Ethnic and Religious Diversity: The rich mosaic of ethnicities and religions in the Balkans, while contributing to its cultural tapestry, presents challenges of harmonizing coexistence. UPF recognizes the importance of interfaith dialogue and cultural exchange as catalysts for understanding and unity.



Historical Grievances: Lingering historical grievances among communities pose a formidable challenge. UPF recognizes the need to address these wounds delicately, fostering an environment conducive to healing and reconciliation.

Political Fragmentation: Balkan nations, marked by diverse political landscapes, face the challenge of cohesive regional governance. UPF engages in diplomatic efforts to bridge political divides, advocating for collaborative strategies that transcend national borders.

UPF's Transformative Initiatives

Within the complexities of the Balkans lie unique opportunities for positive transformation:

1. Youth Empowerment: UPF recognizes the untapped potential of the region's youth. Through initiatives focused on education, leadership development, and cultural exchange, UPF aims to empower the younger generation as catalysts for positive change.
2. Interfaith Dialogue: Acknowledging the role of religion in shaping Balkan identities, UPF actively promotes interfaith dialogue. By fostering understanding and tolerance among religious communities, UPF envisions a harmonious coexistence that transcends religious differences.
3. Collaborative Regional Projects: UPF envisions a future where Balkan nations collaborate on shared projects that promote economic development, cultural exchange, and sustainable practices. By encouraging regional cooperation, UPF aims to dissolve barriers and build bridges between communities.



Future Horizons: UPF's Commitment to a Unified Balkans

As UPF continues its dedicated work in the Balkans, navigating the III. Challenges and Opportunities, the organization remains committed to fostering a future defined by unity, mutual respect, and shared prosperity. Through its multifaceted initiatives, UPF endeavors to contribute to the transformation of the Balkans into a beacon of peace and cooperation, transcending historical divisions and paving the way for a harmonious tomorrow.



"EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S LEADERS:

World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (WCARP) in Kosovo

Discover the stories of resilience, empowerment, and positive change as IAYSP guides youthful minds to become the leaders of tomorrow, sparking transformation in the heart of the Balkans.



Workshop Highlights

In the dynamic landscape of collegiate education, the World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (WCARP) in Kosovo has been a beacon of intellectual exploration and personal development. Throughout the year 2023, WCARP hosted a total of 24 CARP meetings, each bringing together an average of 19 participants. These meetings served as a platform for engaging discussions and workshops centered around character education and self-development.

The workshop topics delved into profound subjects such as "Growth Mindset," encouraging participants to embrace a mindset of continuous improvement and resilience. The exploration of "Healthy Relationships" provided valuable insights into fostering meaningful connections, both personally and professionally. One particularly intriguing workshop, titled "Can We Change Our Brain?," delved into the neuroplasticity of the human brain, unraveling the potential for transformation and personal growth. Another thought-provoking discussion, "What Makes Us Who We Are?," aimed to unravel the intricate web of influences that shape our identities.

WCARP's commitment to holistic development was not confined to intellectual pursuits alone. The organization recognized the importance of social and cultural understanding in shaping well-rounded individuals. Notably, the workshops extended beyond traditional academic themes to include captivating explorations of societal and cultural dimensions.



Cultural Exchange Events

Among the highlights of WCARP's initiatives in 2023 were the Cultural Exchange Events, where participants had the opportunity to immerse themselves in diverse global perspectives. An exemplary event was the session on "Korean Culture" presented by Dong Hee and Dong Hyo. During these sessions, attendees had the chance to learn about South Korea, its traditions, and rich cultural heritage.

The engaging lecture provided a deep dive into various aspects of Korean life, including traditions, customs, and contemporary societal norms. What set these sessions apart was the interactive nature, allowing guests to actively participate by posing questions and engaging in discussions. This open dialogue not only enriched the understanding of Korean culture but also fostered an atmosphere of cross-cultural appreciation and mutual learning.

To add a delightful practical dimension to the exploration of Korean culture, the final session included a hands-on experience of making "kimbap," a traditional Korean dish. Dong Hyo, with her expertise, guided participants through the intricate process, and to complete the experience, attendees were taught the art of using chopsticks. The joyous atmosphere and the shared experience of preparing and savoring Korean cuisine left a lasting impression, making these Cultural Exchange Events an integral part of WCARP's initiatives.



Task Forces on Regional Cooperation

Beyond individual and cultural development, WCARP recognizes the importance of collaborative efforts on a broader scale. In line with this vision, the organization established Task Forces on Regional Cooperation. These task forces serve as dynamic platforms for participants to engage in collective initiatives that transcend national boundaries.

By fostering collaboration among individuals from diverse backgrounds, these task forces aim to address regional challenges and promote mutual understanding. Participants bring their unique perspectives and skills to the table, contributing to the development of innovative solutions for shared issues. WCARP's commitment to regional cooperation reflects a forward-thinking approach that seeks to harness the collective potential of its members for the betterment of communities and societies at large.

In conclusion, the World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles in Kosovo has demonstrated a multifaceted commitment to fostering growth and understanding. Through engaging workshops, enriching cultural exchange events, and collaborative regional initiatives, WCARP has positioned itself as a catalyst for positive change in the educational landscape and beyond. As the organization continues its journey into the future, its dedication to holistic development and cross-cultural exchange promises to leave a lasting impact on the individuals and communities it serves.



"EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S LEADERS:

IAYSP's Impact in the Heart of the Balkans"

Discover the stories of resilience, empowerment, and positive change as IAYSP guides youthful minds to become the leaders of tomorrow, sparking transformation in the heart of the Balkans.



IAYSP - Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders

Established on February 23, 2017, in South Korea by Dr. Hak Ja Han, the International Youth and Student Association for Peace (IAYSP) is a dynamic non-governmental organization on a mission. Driven by the belief that the youth hold the power to shape a peaceful global society, IAYSP endeavors to construct a robust support network for the development of young individuals. Formally introduced in Kosovo during the 2019 conference at the Assembly of Kosovo, IAYSP stands tall, guided by four core values that form the bedrock of its impactful initiatives.

Mission and Vision:

IAYSP's mission is a beacon that illuminates its path, focused on empowering the youth, fostering a global citizenship mindset, and promoting sustainable peace. Centered around providing tools, knowledge, and opportunities, the mission aims to transform young individuals into proactive contributors to their communities and the world at large. The vision extends beyond the horizon, envisioning a future where youth play a pivotal role in positive change, embrace diversity, and cultivate a lasting culture of peace.

1. Responsibility:

At the philosophical core of IAYSP lies a profound belief in human responsibility our duty to manage ourselves and our environment. This sense of responsibility is a pathway to unparalleled freedom, the realization of our highest values, and the embodiment of our noblest ideals. By instilling a commitment to responsibility, IAYSP empowers youth to become agents of positive change.



2. Integrity:

Integrity, defined as "the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles," is a cornerstone within each individual associated with IAYSP. It commences with the alignment of words and deeds, creating a foundation for trust and ethical conduct. The cultivation of integrity stands as a pivotal element in the character development of young individuals.

3. Service:

Living for others is not just a choice but a foundational and indispensable principle for creating good character and fostering true love between people. IAYSP encourages a culture of service, instilling in youth the understanding that by contributing to the well-being of others, they contribute to the betterment of society as a whole.

4. Empathy:

Empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of others as if they were our own, is a guiding principle for IAYSP. The organization recognizes the family as the natural environment to develop this heart of familial love, which is then extended into society to create a culture of peace. Through fostering empathy, IAYSP envisions a world where compassion and understanding form the bedrock of interconnected communities.

As IAYSP continues to inspire and empower youth globally, these four core values serve as a compass, guiding the organization and its members towards a future defined by responsibility, integrity, service, and empathy. The essence of IAYSP's mission and vision lies in these values, shaping the trajectory of positive change and global impact.



IAYSP-UBT Joint trainings and projects

Empowering Youth Leaders: UBT's Journey with IAYSP Training Programs

In the past year, UBT has emerged as a cornerstone supporter of IAYSP's mission to empower youth in Kosovo. This collaborative effort has resulted in the successful implementation of our comprehensive training programs at UBT, where 40 students underwent a transformative six-month journey. Beyond personal development, our training instilled a sense of social responsibility, encouraging participants to actively address societal issues. The culmination of this initiative led to the selection of two outstanding projects representing UBT at the European-level activity known as SINERGY.

The IAYSP Assembly in Vienna served as a melting pot for students and young individuals from across the Balkans and Europe. Participants seized a unique opportunity to explore the prestigious UN headquarters, gaining insights from seasoned professionals. Engaging in collaborative brainstorming sessions, they passionately deliberated on and shaped future initiatives aimed at making a positive impact on their region and nation.



PEACE DESIGNER

Welcome to the Second Year of Peace Designer Training

We are thrilled to embark on another year of the Peace Designer Training program, building on the success and achievements of the inaugural year. This unique initiative, a collaboration between IAYSP and UBT Education Institution, has proven to be a transformative experience for students passionate about peace, leadership, and positive societal impact.

What to Expect in Year Two:

Expanded Curriculum: Our second year brings an enriched curriculum that delves even deeper into the principles of peacebuilding, leadership, and sustainable development. Participants will engage in a diverse range of modules designed to enhance their understanding and skills in these crucial areas.

Real-world Applications: Building on the theoretical foundations of the first year, the second year emphasizes practical applications. Students will have opportunities to implement their knowledge through community projects, partnerships, and initiatives that directly contribute to peace and social harmony.



EMPOWERING SYNERGIES

Bilateral Collaboration Agreement Signed between UBT Education Institution and IAYSP

Building on the accomplishments and youth engagement during the training offered in the academic year 2022-2023, UBT and IAYSP have officially entered into a collaborative agreement. The signing ceremony, attended by UBT's Rector, Prof. Dr. Edmond Hajrizi, and IAYSP representatives, including Executive Director Prof. Ejona Icka and Project Manager Mikaela Llalla, featured UBT students from the winning projects of the previous year.

This collaboration serves as a robust institutional, social, and regional platform for the youth in the Balkans, enabling their participation in training sessions and competitions at the Balkan level. The winning groups emerging from this agreement will receive the necessary support for the implementation of their projects.



IAYSP-UT Peace Designer Program and Collaborative Agreement

Explore the transformative collaboration between the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) and the University of Tetova (UT) through their joint Peace Designer Training Program. Delve into the innovative initiatives, collaborative projects, and the impactful journey of nurturing youth leaders for positive change in the heart of the Balkans.



IAYSP-UT Joint trainings and projects

The Peace Designer Training Program at the University of Tetova

In the transformative year of 2022, the University of Tetova took the initiative to host a groundbreaking six-month Peace Designer Training program. This inclusive endeavor served as a unifying platform, bringing together students and young individuals representing diverse ethnicities, genders, and cultures. Throughout the intensive training period, participants engaged in collaborative efforts to address prominent issues affecting their cities, states, and regions. The program went beyond theoretical discussions, encouraging hands-on involvement and practical problem-solving. This approach not only fostered a sense of collaboration but also empowered the participants to actively tackle pressing challenges in their communities.

The culmination of the training resulted in the selection of two outstanding projects that stood out for their innovation and potential impact. These chosen initiatives are now set to be presented at the European level, showcasing the creativity and dedication of the participants.

One of the key strengths of the Peace Designer Training program was its ability to transcend boundaries and bring together individuals from different backgrounds. By promoting unity and understanding among diverse groups, the program not only addressed immediate challenges but also contributed to the broader goal of building bridges between communities.

As we reflect on the success of the Peace Designer Training program at the University of Tetova, we celebrate the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and empowerment that defines this initiative. It stands as a testament to the potential of youth-led initiatives in creating positive change and fostering a sense of unity in the face of diverse challenges.



Bilateral Collaboration Agreement Signed between University of Tetova and IAYSP

The Peace Designer Training Program at the University of Tetova

In a historic moment on October 13, 2023, the University of Tetova (UT) and the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) officially joined forces in a collaborative endeavor. This groundbreaking partnership, graced by the esteemed presence of UT's Rector, Prof. Dr. Jusuf Zejneli, and IAYSP's Executive Director for the Balkans, Ms. Ejona Icka, signifies a momentous stride toward a brighter future for the entire region.

Shared Dreams, Unified Aspirations:

Rooted in shared dreams and aspirations, this alliance is more than a mere collaboration between institutions—it's a commitment to breaking barriers, promoting mobility, and empowering youth and professionals not only in the Balkans but also beyond. The visionary guidance of UT and IAYSP propels this collaboration, marking the onset of a transformative era that opens doors to increased opportunities and regional progress.



Breaking Boundaries, Promoting Mobility:

A key objective of this collaboration is to dismantle geographical boundaries and promote mobility among students and professionals. Through joint initiatives, exchange programs, and collaborative projects, UT and IAYSP aim to cultivate an environment where individuals can seamlessly navigate between academic, cultural, and professional spheres.

Empowering the Youth:

Central to the collaboration is the shared goal of empowering the youth. By providing platforms, training programs, and opportunities for collaboration, UT and IAYSP seek to nurture a generation of leaders and change-makers. The focus is on equipping young minds with the skills, knowledge, and global perspective necessary to navigate and contribute to an ever-evolving world.

Looking Ahead: A Transformative Era Begins:

As we embark on this collaborative journey, the University of Tetova and IAYSP are poised to usher in a transformative era. This partnership is not just a moment in time; it's a commitment to continuous growth, mutual learning, and the collective pursuit of regional progress. Together, UT and IAYSP stand at the forefront of fostering positive change, innovation, and empowerment, setting a precedent for collaborative excellence in the Balkans and beyond.



Building a Brighter Tomorrow: Regional Collaborations for Social Impact

Embark on a journey exploring the transformative force generated by collective efforts in our region. Witness institutions collaborating to contribute to the greater social good through key regional initiatives aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This narrative underscores the crucial role of collaboration in shaping a sustainable and brighter future for all. Experience the impact of shared endeavors as they foster positive change and lay the foundation for a better tomorrow.



Projects Supporting SDGs Implementation and Collaborations: Regional Initiatives

In recent weeks, our dedicated team has been actively involved in the implementation of impactful projects, fostering crucial partnerships with local institutions such as the municipality and the police department. Noteworthy among these engagements is our productive dialogue with Bilall Kasami, the Head of Tetovo Municipality, where we explored collaborative opportunities. The primary focus is on a proposed project designed to raise awareness among citizens about the importance of maintaining a cleaner city, sustainable waste management, and the adoption of recycling practices.





Breaking Gender Barriers: Paving the Way for Inclusivity in North Macedonia's Policy Departments

Additionally, our team has proactively initiated discussions with the Sector for the Prevention of Crime and the Juvenile Delinquency Unit at Tetovo Police Offices. This marks a significant stride in addressing the pressing need for transformative change within North Macedonia's policy departments, with a particular emphasis on promoting gender equality. Historically, these sectors have been predominantly male-dominated, and our collaborative endeavors are strategically designed to usher in positive transformation and inclusivity. Through these initiatives, we are not only championing the cause of sustainable development but also actively contributing to the broader goal of fostering a more equitable and inclusive society.



A Dynamic Journey of Collaboration and Idea Exchange:

Over the course of the last two years, we have embarked on a truly remarkable journey marked by collaboration and the vibrant exchange of ideas. A diverse and engaged community of around 200 students has played an active role in our extensive training sessions and projects, creating a tapestry of initiatives that cover a broad spectrum of themes.

These initiatives traverse various realms, encompassing everything from the intricate realms of peace design and synergy to the foundational aspects of character education, the commemoration of UN days, and the execution of impactful peace projects. This collective effort has not only brought together minds from diverse backgrounds but has also provided a rich and fertile ground for the cross-pollination of ideas.



As we contemplate the achievements of the past two years, it becomes clear that our initiatives not only served as a platform for networking and idea exchange but also played a pivotal role in nurturing a community of changemakers. The flow of ideas has transcended the confines of our projects, creating a ripple effect that permeates various aspects of the students' lives.

In summary, our unwavering dedication to fostering collaboration, idea exchange, and transformative initiatives has established the groundwork for a community wholeheartedly devoted to positive change. Looking ahead, we hold firm in our belief that the combined endeavors of these students will persist in shaping a future characterized by resilience, understanding, and a steadfast commitment to constructing a more harmonious world.



In addition, we acknowledge and celebrate the noteworthy contributions of Ermira Berisha and Labinot Pacolli to the initiatives of UPF, WCARP, and the inception of IAYSP. We extend our heartfelt wishes for Ermira Berisha's success in her new career and studies.



Empowering the Future:

Triumphs at the IAYSP EUME Autumn Assembly 2023

In a joyous celebration of unity and collaboration, students from UBT and high school representatives, including those from the University of Tetova who underwent Peace Designer training and contributed to winning projects, came together at the IAYSP EUME Autumn Assembly 2023 held in Vienna 🇦🇹 and the United Nations Headquarters.

A Confluence of Minds:

The assembly witnessed the convergence of a diverse group of students from UBT and high school delegates, along with individuals from the University of Tetova. This dynamic gathering formed a powerful alliance of young minds from the Balkans and Europe. Representing the distinguished winners of the Peace Designer training program, these individuals united to explore new horizons and share their visions for a brighter future.

Experiencing Excellence at the UN Headquarters:

A standout moment of the assembly was the exclusive opportunity for participants to explore the prestigious United Nations Headquarters. Against the backdrop of the UN's rich history and significance, attendees gleaned invaluable insights from inspiring professionals. This experience left an indelible mark on each participant, underscoring the critical importance of global collaboration in addressing shared challenges.

Collaborative Initiatives for Positive Impact:

Engaging in fervent collaborative brainstorming sessions, participants passionately deliberated on shaping future initiatives. Serving as a catalyst for dynamic discussions, the assembly empowered students and young leaders to craft projects aimed at making a positive impact on their respective regions and nations. The emphasis on synergy and collaboration reverberated throughout the event, fostering a profound sense of shared responsibility for the betterment of communities.

From Training to Triumph:

Representatives from the University of Tetova, who had undergone the transformative Peace Designer training and played pivotal roles in winning projects, showcased the potent combination of education and innovative thinking. Their presence served as a testament to the tangible results that emerge when young minds are equipped with the tools to effect positive change.

The IAYSP Assembly & SINERGY:

Encompassing the overarching theme of "The IAYSP Assembly & SINERGY," the gathering encapsulated the essence of collaboration and synergy. The diverse backgrounds and experiences of the participants wove together a rich tapestry of ideas, reinforcing the belief that collective efforts can pave the way for a brighter and more harmonious future.

In conclusion, the IAYSP EUME Autumn Assembly 2023 emerged as a resounding triumph of collaboration, empowerment, and innovation. As these young minds return to their respective communities, the impact of this assembly is poised to resonate, leaving an enduring legacy of positive change and shared aspirations for a better world.



Bogdan Pammer

President of IAYSP Europe and the Middle East, played a pivotal role in launching IAYSP in Kosovo. As a dedicated leader, he has been instrumental in inspiring the development of IAYSP in the Eastern and Middle Eastern European region, fostering an environment for youth to thrive and contribute to a better, more peaceful society.



MIKAELA LLALLA

Project Manager and Social Media Chief Officer

Addressing Challenges in Youth Empowerment, Mobility, and Networking

Taking on the role of Project Manager at the Balkanic level for the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP), Mikaela Llalla plays a pivotal role in leading initiatives focused on empowering the youth, facilitating mobility, and fostering networking. In the dynamic landscape of the Balkans, Mikaela shares her insights on the future while exploring the challenges and opportunities intertwined with youth empowerment in the region.

Empowering the Youth: A Gateway to the Future

Mikaela emphasizes the transformative power of empowering young individuals, considering them not just as recipients but as active contributors to the development of their communities. "Youth empowerment is not just about giving opportunities; it's about cultivating a mindset that propels the youth to take charge of their own future," she states.

The IAYSP's projects in the Balkans are designed to provide the youth with the tools they need to become leaders, change-makers, and advocates for positive transformation. Mikaela believes that investing in the youth today is an investment in a brighter and more sustainable future for the entire Balkan region.

Mobility as a Catalyst for Growth

Discussing the significance of mobility, Mikaela points out how exposure to different perspectives and cultures enhances personal growth and broadens horizons. "Mobility is not just physical movement; it's a journey of self-discovery and understanding. By facilitating mobility programs, we aim to break down barriers and create a sense of unity among the Balkan youth," she explains.

In the face of challenges such as limited resources and logistical constraints, Mikaela remains optimistic about the potential impact of increased mobility on the youth. She envisions a future where young people from diverse backgrounds collaborate seamlessly, bringing fresh ideas and perspectives to the table.

Networking Challenges: Turning Obstacles into Opportunities

Networking forms the backbone of any successful youth empowerment initiative. Mikaela acknowledges the challenges of building effective networks in the Balkans, where historical and political complexities often create barriers. However, she sees these challenges as opportunities for growth and learning.

"Overcoming networking challenges requires innovative approaches and a commitment to fostering open communication. By creating platforms for dialogue and collaboration, we can bridge gaps and build enduring connections that transcend borders," Mikaela shares.

Looking Ahead: A Vision for a United and Empowered Balkan Youth

As Mikaela looks to the future, she envisions a Balkan region where empowered youth play a crucial role in shaping a harmonious and prosperous society. "Our projects are not just about the present; they are investments in the potential of the next generation. I believe that by nurturing the youth today, we are sowing the seeds for a more united and resilient Balkans tomorrow," she affirms.

In conclusion, IAYSP dedication to youth empowerment, coupled with its strategic vision for the future, serves as an inspiring narrative for the transformative journey that the Balkan NGOs, Civice Society and youths are undertaking.

Acknowledgments and Gratitude

In embarking on the noble pursuit of building a better region and securing a brighter future for all, it is with profound gratitude that we acknowledge the invaluable contributions of numerous great figures, esteemed academics, public representatives, and distinguished personalities who have generously lent their expertise and unwavering support to our collective efforts. The fruits of their labor, well-documented throughout this report, stand as a testament to their dedication and commitment to positive change. While the entirety of their work is woven into the fabric of our shared aspirations, we wish to express special recognition to a select few whose exceptional efforts have left an indelible mark on our journey. Their vision, leadership, and tireless dedication have been instrumental in shaping the path toward progress, and it is with sincere appreciation that we extend our heartfelt thanks to these outstanding individuals. May their contributions continue to inspire and guide us as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

DALE ROSE AND FAMILY



A Heartfelt Thank You to the Dale Rose Family for Fostering Hope and Development in the Balkans

In the spirit of gratitude and appreciation, we extend our deepest thanks to you and your family for your unwavering support in actively championing initiatives aimed at fostering the growth and development of young people in the Balkan region, with a special focus on Kosovo, Albania, and North Macedonia. Your dedication to creating positive change has left an indelible mark on the lives of many, and we are profoundly grateful for your generous contributions.

Your financial support has played a pivotal role in the success of the Peace Designer Project currently underway in Kosovo and North Macedonia. This transformative project is touching the lives of 90 students, providing them with invaluable opportunities for personal and professional growth. Your commitment to investing in the education and well-being of these young individuals is not only shaping their futures but also contributing to the broader goal of creating a more harmonious and prosperous society.

The International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) takes immense pride in being supported by notable figures and families such as yours. Your active involvement in initiatives aimed at cultivating healthier families and societies aligns perfectly with our mission to empower young people to become catalysts for positive change. It is through the support of compassionate individuals like you that we can continue our work towards building a world where families thrive, and communities flourish.

Your generosity goes beyond mere financial contributions; it reflects a genuine belief in the potential of the younger generation to shape a brighter future. By actively participating in initiatives that prioritize the well-being and development of young people, you are sowing the seeds of positive transformation that will undoubtedly yield lasting benefits for the entire region.

As we express our heartfelt gratitude, we also want to acknowledge the profound impact your support has had on fostering a sense of hope and possibility among the youth in Kosovo, Albania, and North Macedonia. Your commitment to making a difference is inspiring, and we are honored to have partners like you who share our vision for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Once again, thank you, Dale Rose and Family, for your invaluable support and for being true champions of positive change. Together, we are making a meaningful impact on the lives of young people, paving the way for a brighter and more harmonious future.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Ejona Icka
Executive Director IAYSP Balkan
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A Tribute to Prof. Dr. Edmond Hajrizi, Rector of UBT

At this moment of reflection and appreciation, we express our deepest gratitude to Prof. Dr. Edmond Hajrizi, the esteemed Rector of UBT. His visionary leadership has been the driving force behind the embrace of innovative initiatives, notably the warm welcome extended to the Peace Designer Training at UBT. Through his efforts, he has effectively embodied the title of Ambassador for Peace bestowed upon him by the Universal Peace Federation in Kosovo.

Prof. Hajrizi's unwavering support goes beyond mere endorsement; it reflects a genuine commitment to the well-being of young people. By cultivating an environment aligned with the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he has played a crucial role in establishing a transformative space for positive change within the institution.

We extend sincere gratitude to Prof. Hajrizi for his dedicated efforts in empowering the youth. His unwavering belief in the potential of young minds and the creation of impactful opportunities underscores his profound commitment to their growth and development. This recognition celebrates his instrumental role in shaping a future where the youth are not only welcomed but also empowered to thrive.



Prof. Afet Mamuti's Pivotal Contribution to the Peace Designer Training at the University of Tetovo

In 2022, the University of Tetovo embarked on a transformative journey, hosting a six-month Peace Designer Training program under the guidance of Prof. Afet Mamuti, an esteemed Associate Professor and luminary in law. Throughout the program, Prof. Mamuti shared insights, facilitated discussions, and provided future-oriented ideas, extending his involvement beyond the academic sphere. His contribution was instrumental in shaping the program's success, fostering collaboration, and encouraging practical problem-solving approaches. The dedication of participants was evident as they actively addressed pressing challenges in their communities.

Beyond immediate impact, the Peace Designer Training program addressed broader goals, transcending boundaries, and fostering unity among diverse groups. Prof. Mamuti's role as a catalyst for collaboration and understanding contributed to the program's success in building bridges between communities. As we reflect on the achievements at the University of Tetovo, Prof. Afet Mamuti's influence emerges as a beacon of transformative collaboration—a collaborative spirit driven by innovation and empowerment, setting a precedent for positive change and unity in the face of diverse challenges. His work sets a precedent for positive change and unity in the face of diverse challenges, exemplified by his representation of the title of Ambassador for Peace bestowed upon him by the Universal Peace Federation .



Future Prospects and Recommendations: Advancing Peace through Youth Empowerment in the Balkans

The International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) in the Balkan region has been making significant strides in fostering peace and sustainable development through its innovative approaches. This article explores the future prospects and recommendations based on the work accomplished thus far, particularly in the areas of youth engagement, peace designer training, and project implementation supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

II. Youth Empowerment and Engagement:

The Balkan region, marked by a complex history and diverse cultural backgrounds, has witnessed the transformative power of youth engagement. IAYSP has successfully created platforms for young people to collaborate, exchange ideas, and contribute to building a more peaceful and sustainable future. The involvement of youth in peace-building initiatives not only enhances their leadership skills but also promotes a sense of responsibility towards their communities.

Peace Designer Training:

One of the cornerstones of IAYSP's efforts in the Balkans is the Peace Designer Training program. This initiative equips young leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge to design and implement projects that address local challenges. By fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration, the Peace Designer Training program empowers young individuals to become catalysts for positive change.

Project Implementation Supporting the SDGs:

IAYSP Balkan's commitment to supporting the United Nations SDGs is evident in the projects implemented across the region. These projects address critical issues such as poverty, education, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. By aligning initiatives with the SDGs, IAYSP ensures that its work contributes to the global agenda for a more just and sustainable world.

Recommendations:

1. Scale Up Youth Engagement Initiatives: IAYSP Balkan should continue to expand its efforts in engaging more young people from diverse backgrounds. This can be achieved through outreach programs, partnerships with educational institutions, and leveraging social media platforms to connect with a wider audience.
2. Enhance Technological Integration: To stay relevant and effective, IAYSP should explore the integration of technology in its programs. Online platforms, virtual training sessions, and digital collaboration tools can facilitate broader participation and knowledge exchange among youth.
3. Strengthen Partnerships: Collaborating with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities will amplify the impact of IAYSP's initiatives. Strong partnerships can provide additional resources, expertise, and support for sustainable project implementation.
4. Monitor and Evaluate Impact: Implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework will help IAYSP assess the impact of its programs accurately. Regular feedback from participants and stakeholders can inform strategic adjustments and improvements.
5. Advocate for Policy Change: To create lasting change, IAYSP should actively engage in advocacy efforts to influence policies at local, national, and regional levels. By aligning with government priorities and contributing evidence-based solutions, the organization can become a key player in shaping the future of the Balkans.

As IAYSP Balkan looks towards the future, its commitment to youth empowerment, peace designer training, and supporting the SDGs remains unwavering. By implementing these recommendations, the organization can further solidify its position as a driving force for positive change in the Balkan region, fostering a legacy of peace, sustainability, and prosperity for generations to come.

WE HAVE WORKED WITH

Furthermore, this journey has been characterized by vital partnerships. Reputed institutions like the UN, UBT, UT, and the Kosovo Assembly have stood alongside us, contributing their support and expertise to our initiatives. Their active involvement has enhanced our projects, rendering them more impactful and all-encompassing.

Conclusion:

As we conclude this journey through the Annual Report 2023, we are reminded of the transformative power of collaboration, youth empowerment, and a shared commitment to peace. The pages you've explored capture the stories of resilience, innovation, and positive change that have unfolded in the heart of the Balkans.

Together, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), WCARP and the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) have built bridges—connecting communities, generations, and visions for a better world. The narratives within these pages are a testament to the indomitable spirit of individuals dedicated to shaping a future defined by understanding, compassion, and unity.

As we step away from these pages and into the unfolding chapters of the coming year, let us carry the lessons learned, the successes celebrated, and the challenges met. The journey towards lasting peace is ongoing, and it requires each of us to be active participants in the creation of a harmonious and equitable world.

Thank you for joining us on this odyssey of hope, inspiration, and shared purpose. May the bridges we've built together serve as enduring pathways towards a future where peace knows no boundaries.

With gratitude,
UPF & IAYSP Kosovo

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