





Over the last 25 years Kosovo has made remarkable strides through establishing democratic institutions, creating a pluralistic media landscape, developing accountable public safety bodies and putting a legal framework in place to protect the rights of non-majority communities.

This booklet to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo chronicles powerfully, in images and words, the contributions which the Mission has made at every step of this extraordinary journey, staying true to the mandate it received from the OSCE's Permanent Council.

Building on these achievements, the OSCE Mission will continue to support the consolidation of Kosovo's democratic institutions, the implementation of its framework for protecting human and community rights, and the engagement of public safety bodies with all communities.

As we celebrate 25 years of the OSCE Mission, we would like to thank all our partners and friends in Kosovo, including current and former staff of the Mission itself, who have made this journey possible.

Ambassador Michael Davenport

Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo

## MILESTONES THROUGH THE YEARS 1999-2024

#### 1 JULY 1999

The OSCE Permanent Council, at its 237<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting, adopted Decision no. 305 to establish the **OSCE Mission in Kosovo**, giving the Mission the leading role in matters relating to institution and democracy building and human rights.





# HIGHLIGHTS OF PERMANENT COUNCIL DECISION NO. 305

Following the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, on 1 July 1999 the OSCE Permanent Council adopted Decision 305 setting up the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and tasking it with the lead role in matters relating to institution and democracy building and human rights.

In particular, the Decision set the following tasks for the newly established OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

- 1. Human resources capacity-building, including the training of a new Kosovo police service within a Kosovo Police School which it will establish and operate, the training of judicial personnel and the training of civil administrators at various levels, in co-operation, inter alia, with the Council of Europe;
- 2. Democratization and governance, including the development of a civil society, non-governmental organizations, political parties and local media;
- 3. Organization and supervision of elections;
- 4. Monitoring, protection and promotion of human rights, including, inter alia, the establishment of an Ombudsman institution, in co-operation, inter alia, with the UNHCR;

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo will in its work be guided by the importance of bringing about mutual respect and reconciliation among all ethnic groups in Kosovo and of establishing a viable multi-ethnic society where the rights of each citizen are fully and equally respected.



#### WHO WE ARE

The Mission in Kosovo is an OSCE field operation headquartered in Prishtinë/Priština and maintains five regional offices located in Gjilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pejë/Peć, and Prizren, as well as in Prishtinë/Priština itself.

#### WHAT WE DO

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo, currently the largest OSCE field operation, runs a wide array of activities in the fields of human rights, democratization and public safety. Over the years, the role of the OSCE Mission has been instrumental in establishing and supporting the functioning of democratic institutions and promoting civic participation in decision-making. The Mission focuses a major part of its work on the promotion and protection of human rights and the wellbeing of non-majority communities.

Maintaining an effective and democratic public safety sector is another continuing priority.

The work of the Mission continues to evolve within the framework of its mandate, OSCE Permanent Council decision 305 (1999), and in cooperation with partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders.













The KLC is a non-governmental organization promoting democratic principles and the rule of law.

#### **ESTABLISHES THE KOSOVO BAR ASSOCIATION**

The Association is a self-governing organisation advocating for equal representation for all under the rule of law and supporting legal reforms that benefit the public.

### ESTABLISHES THE KOSOVO JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, NOW KOSOVO ACADEMY OF JUSTICE

The Academy is an independent public institution providing training for judges and prosecutors, administrative staff and legal professionals.

2000

#### ESTABLISHES THE OMBUDSPERSON INSTITUTION

The Ombudsperson Institution is a legal mechanism for the protection, monitoring and promotion of human rights and freedoms. It investigates human rights violations and issues decisions for improvements.





## ESTABLISHES THE ELECTIONS COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PANEL (ECAP) AND ITS SECRETARIAT

ECAP is a permanent body that reviews and decides on complaints and appeals related to the electoral process.

2000





## SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST MUNICIPAL RETURN AND COMMUNITY RIGHTS MECHANISMS

The Municipal Community Officer, Municipal Returns Officer, Municipal Working Groups and Task Forces on Returns support the return and reintegration of displaced persons.



















#### DAAN EVERTS (NETHERLANDS) HEAD OF MISSION 1999-2001



#### SUPPORTS THE LAUNCH OF DOKUFEST FESTIVAL

DokuFest started as an initiative of a group of friends wanting to create a cultural event that would re-establish links between movie makers in the region. It has since grown into the Kosovo's largest documentary film festival that attracts international artists and audiences.

## ADMINISTERS THE SECOND DEMOCRATIC MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN KOSOVO



KOSMA is a network of Serbian-language radio stations, still functioning today.

## ESTABLISHES THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION SECRETARIAT (CECS)

As its operational arm, the Secretariat assists the CEC in its electoral duties, providing expert advice and recommendations.





## SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION (IMC)

The IMC regulates the audio-visual media services and safeguards ethical reporting and freedom of expression in Kosovo. It also plays a crucial role in monitoring the compliance of media coverage during election campaigns.

## SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRESS COUNCIL OF KOSOVO (PCK)

The PCK is a self-regulatory body for print and online news media and a defender of the rights of citizens and journalists. It promotes the Press Code of Kosovo, adherence to professional journalism ethics, and protects the public from false information and reporters from undue criticism.

#### **ESTABLISHES THE KOSOVO MEDIA INSTITUTE (KMI)**

The KMI serves as a mid-career training centre to enhance the professional skills of journalists in Kosovo.















#### PASCAL FIESCHI (FRANCE) HEAD OF MISSION 2002-2005



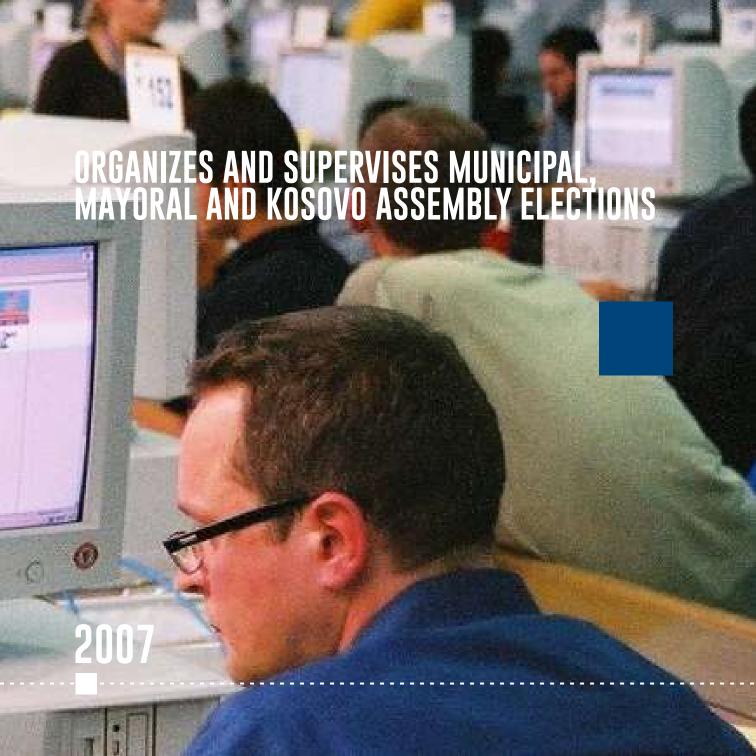
## ESTABLISHES THE POLICE INSPECTORATE OF KOSOVO (PIK)

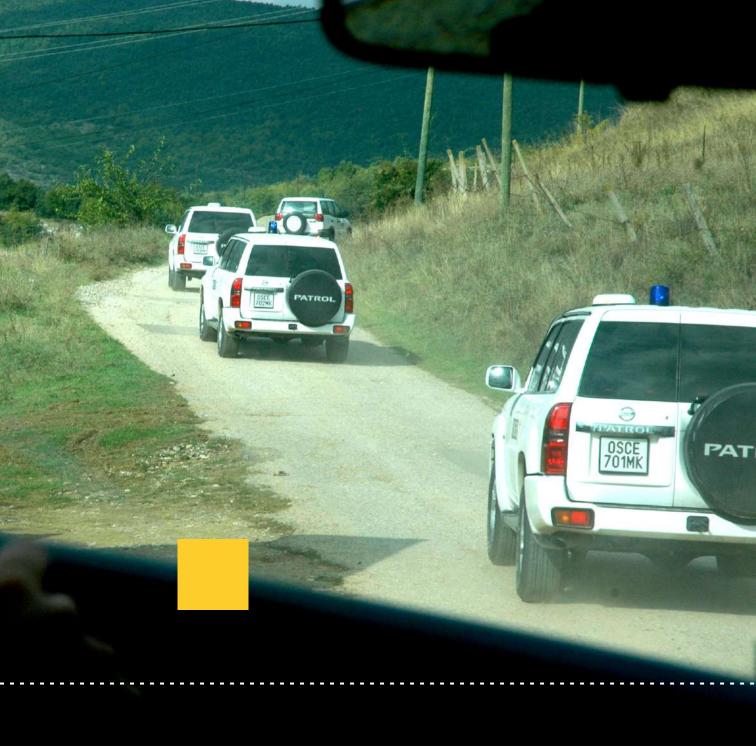
The role of the PIK is to inspect police management areas and investigate potential criminal offences committed by Kosovo Police officers, regardless of rank or position.

# STARTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY SAFETY COUNCILS (MCSC) AND LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES (LPSC)

These local public safety mechanisms bring together community representatives, the police, municipal administration, and the non- governmental sector to identify and address key local community problems.



















#### WERNER WNENDT (GERMANY) HEAD OF MISSION 2005-2007

## SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITIES (CCC)

The CCC is a central level body for community participation in the Kosovo legislative and decision making processes. It serves as a forum for dialogue between government and minorities on relevant issues, enhancing inter-community cohesion.























#### TIM GULDIMANN (SWITZERLAND) HEAD OF MISSION 2007-2008

# SUPPORTS KOSOVO GOVERNMENT STRATEGY FOR THE INTEGRATION OF ROMA, ASHKALI AND EGYPTIAN COMMUNITIES (2009 - 2015)

The Mission supported the development and implementation of the first-ever Kosovo Government strategy for these communities. The strategy established institutional mechanisms to co-ordinate efforts and outlined actionable policies and activities to foster their integration.





### FACILITATES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CAREER CENTRE AT THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN MITROVICE/MITROVICA NORTH

The centre aims to enhance employment prospects of Kosovo Serb graduates.

### PUBLISHES "A CATALOGUE OF REMEDIES AND ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS"

The catalogue provides information on available remedies to safeguard fundamental rights, and serves as a practical reference tool for members of all communities.







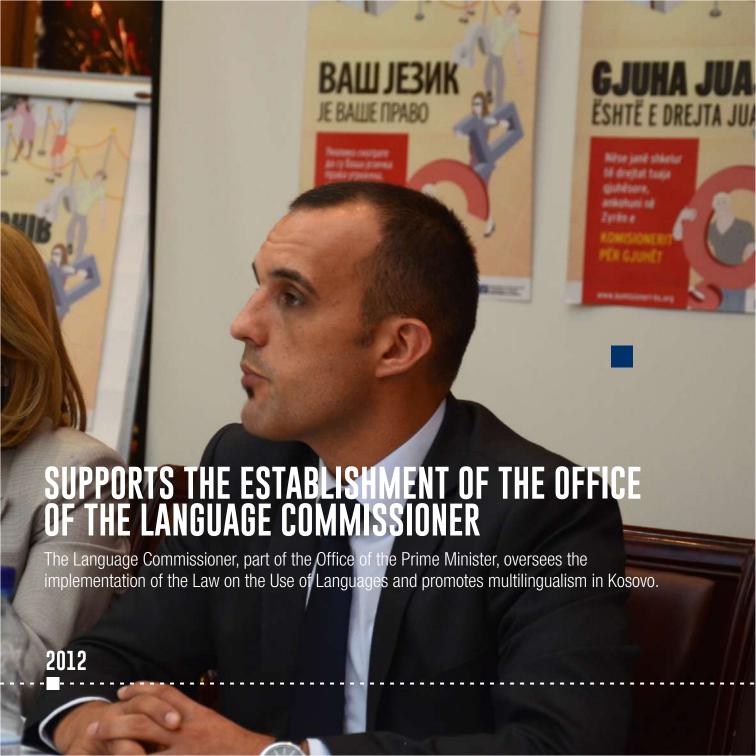
#### SUPPORTS THE KOSOVO FORENSIC AGENCY

The Mission began its support to the Agency in 2011 and continued throughout the years. This has included training in forensic techniques, accreditation of its laboratories, and donating a significant amount of forensics hardware and software.

### 2011







## FACILITATES THE FIRST COLLECTION OF BALLOTS IN THE SERBIAN PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN KOSOVO















### WERNER ALMHOFER (AUSTRIA) HEAD OF MISSION 2008-2012





The Council ensures proper implementation of the Law on Special Protective Zones, which safeguards Serbian Orthodox churches and other heritage sites.

# CONTRIBUTES TO THE FUNCTIONALIZATION OF THE COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE OF PRIZREN AND THE COUNCIL FOR VELIKA HOCA/HOÇË E MADHE

The Councils provide protection to significant cultural centers, preventing the destruction of historic buildings.

#### **LAUNCHES THE SKOPJE PROCESS**

The Skopje Process is a platform for regional dialogue and co-operation on durable solutions for displaced persons from Kosovo. In subsequent years, the Mission facilitated the establishment of implementation mechanisms for the Skopje Process action points for durable solutions.

























#### JEAN-CLAUDE SCHLUMBERGER (FRANCE) HEAD OF MISSION 2012-2016



#### SUPPORTS CO-OPERATION AMONG JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATIONS

In 2018, the European Federation of Journalists adopted a resolution, jointly proposed by associations of journalists in Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade, requesting that the cases of missing and murdered journalists from the 1998–2005 period are addressed. The OSCE Mission facilitated co-operation between the two associations with a focus on missing and murdered journalists.

2018





The agreement between the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kosovo Police, Prosecutor's Office, and Kosovo Judicial Council upgrades the system for treatment of hate crimes in Kosovo.



#### LAUNCHES JOINT OSCE/EU INITIATIVE ON STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL PROCESSES

All Kosovo Assembly caucuses signed a joint declaration through which they initiated a process of implementing EU election observation missions' recommendations.



### PUBLISHES REPORT "PROPERTY RIGHTS MASS-CLAIM MECHANISM: KOSOVO EXPERIENCE"

The report evaluates 20 years of functioning of property rights mass-claim mechanisms in Kosovo.

2020



















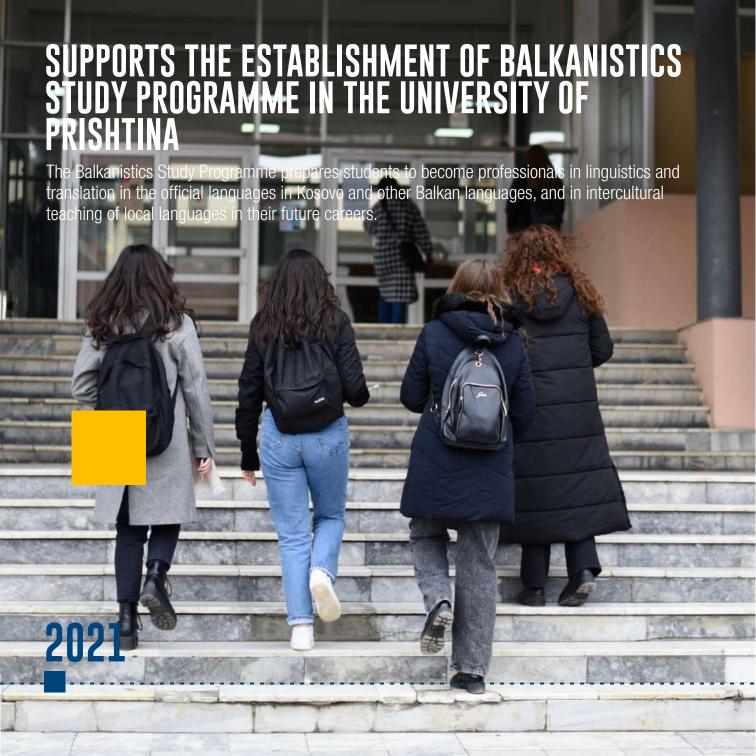








#### JAN BRAATHU (NORWAY) HEAD OF MISSION 2016-2020



### PUBLISHES "THE INFORMATION GUIDE FOR PRACTITIONERS ON ACCESS TO PROPERTY RIGHTS IN KOSOVO"

The Guide provides information on main concepts related to property rights. It explains the process of property registration step by step, and offers an updated directory of main stakeholders that can facilitate exercising one's property rights on the municipal level.

#### SUPPORTS KOSOVO POLICE DEVELOP FIRST GENDER EQUALITY AGENDA AND ACTION PLAN 2021-2023

The Gender Equality Agenda aims to improve the position and the career development of women at all levels and positions within Police.



The report provides insight into the policy, legal and administrative frameworks of cultural heritage protection, analyses close interconnectivity between heritage protection, security, infrastructure and spatial planning issues, and makes recommendations concerning specific features of heritage protection in Kosovo, such as the Special Protective Zones (SPZs) and the Implementation and Monitoring Council (IMC).

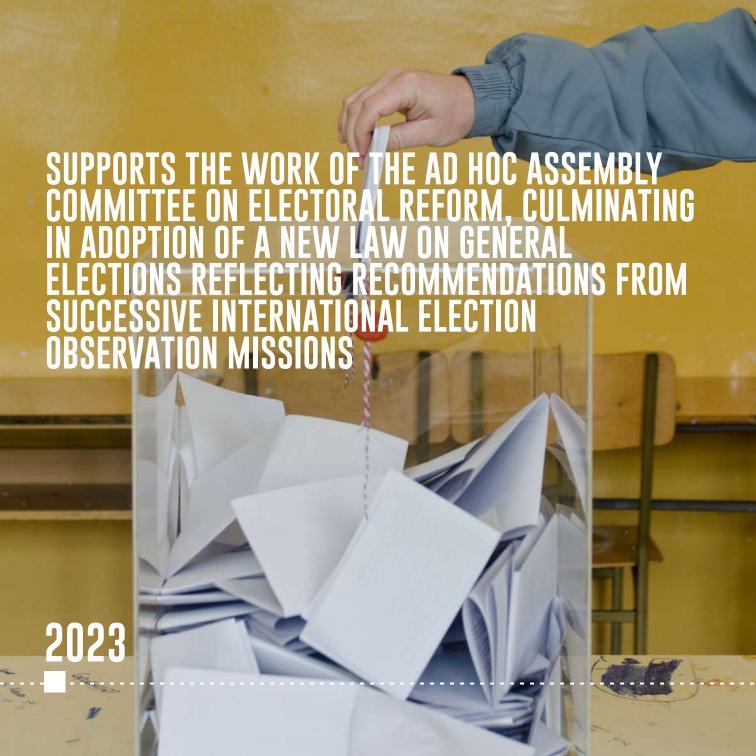


#### SUPPORTS THE ASSEMBLY OF KOSOVO'S DEVELOPMENT OF NEW RULES OF PROCEDURE

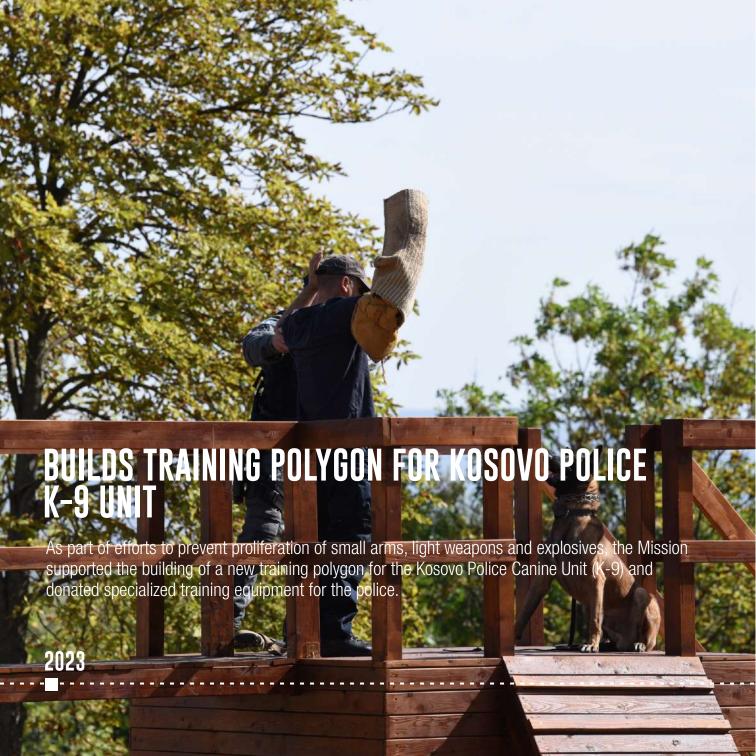
Following more than a decade of targeted technical support and advice from the Mission, along other actors, the Assembly of Kosovo adopted the updated Rules of Procedure in 2022.

## ADVOCATES SUCCESSFULLY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON IMPROVING AND STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ELECTIONS









### PUBLISHES REPORT "OVERVIEW OF LEARNING CENTRES IN KOSOVO AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 19/2018"

# PUBLISHES "GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (MCMDV)"

By 2024, the Mission supported the establishment or revitalization of 26 MCMDVs. In 2023, the Mission published the MCMDVs Guidelines, a practical tool for their members to be used in training and capacity building.



and after the mass resignation of Kosovo Serb judges, prosecutors, and administrative staff in

November 2022.

2024

# PUBLISHES THE "SCHOOL DROPOUT REPORT: BEHIND THE NUMBERS OF DROPOUTS FROM COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN THE KOSOVO SYSTEM 2020-2023"

#### DEVELOPS AN INTEGRATED SOFTWARE FOR THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION

The software focuses on vote counting and results, while also incorporating additional features to enhance transparency, integrity, efficiency and accuracy throughout the electoral processes.



























### MICHAEL DAVENPORT (UNITED KINGDOM) HEAD OF MISSION SINCE 2021

#### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### PRODUCED OVER 280 REPORTS

on criminal, civil and administrative justice in Kosovo, bilingual legislation, property rights, expropriations, cultural heritage, returns, communities access to education, shelters for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, performance of the Assembly, independent institutions, budget processes in municipalities, freedom of media, community safety, and language compliance in Kosovo Police.

## SUPPORTED AROUND **100** STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

on a wide range of topics, including against organized crime, violent extremism that may lead to terrorism, domestic violence, gender equality, integration of vulnerable communities, youth, local self-government, media digitalization, and conservation of cultural heritage of non-majority communities.

## FACILITATED OVER 45 CAMPS FOR YOUTH OF DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES

on cultural heritage, journalism, inter-community relations, religious tolerance, community safety, basketball, and Para Olympic Games for persons with disabilities.

# APPROXIMATELY 25,735 COURT CASES MONITORED

for compliance with fair trial and human rights standards, involving around 37,311 hearings.

The Mission reviewed and provided comments to

450 PIECES OF LEGISLATION

Out of 37 MUNICIPAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (MCMDV)

covering 38 municipalities throughout Kosovo,

26 WERE ESTABLISHED OR REVITALIZED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE OSCE MISSION

Advocated for sustainable financial support to the

#### SHELTERS FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT KOSOVO

through inter-municipal memoranda on financial support to the shelters.

# SUPPORTED INTER-MUNICIPAL DECLARATIONS

for Promotion of Inter-Community Dialogue and Co-operation were signed by 29 municipalities across five regions.

#### TRAINED MEMBERS OF 80 LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES (LPSCS),

of 85 established to date.

THE OSCE MISSION ORGANIZES NUMEROUS TRAINING SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS AND PUBLISHES THEMATIC AWARENESS RAISING MATERIAL ON REGULAR BASIS.





