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# Youth Voices Group - Kosovo

## Report: Standards for Kosovo



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# Standards for Kosovo

## Youth Initiatives and Involvement

### **Acknowledgements**

It is important to emphasize the work of many people in implementing the project. Therefore, I would like to thank first of all Mr. Shakar and the whole staff of World Bank Kosovo, for their willingness to cooperate with the group in all the projects; coordinator Zana Hoxha for a continuous work and eagerness; Mr. Avni Arifi and Mr. Driton Balaj for sharing their knowledge and experience with us without whom the project would not be completed; and finally the whole group for their effort and support during the entire process of project implementation.

### **Introduction**

The project, ‘Standards for Kosovo’ – Youth initiatives and involvement, was created for the purpose of offering the Youth Voices Group a closer and clearer understanding on the implementation of standards, which have been put forward on December 2003 by UNMIK. Based on the fact that this process is one of the major and essential parts of Kosovo towards democratization and further integration into the European structures, we have considered necessary to be part of these developments by having representatives of the Government of Kosovo, or experts on the field of standard implementation educate us on these standards.

Although, there is much to elaborate and discuss about them, we have considered two days sufficient to get a general knowledge on how their process of implementation is working. Therefore, on the first day (April 22) we have had Mr. Avni Arifi – Government Coordinator of Standards – come and explain us for approximately two hours how standards work in general and how the evaluation process is going by also giving us a clearer picture on the importance of standards toward democratization and further integration into the European Union and other international organizations. Whereas, on the second day (April 29) we have had Mr. Driton Balaj – Coordinator for the standard on Economy – for the same amount of time, talk on standards with a focus on the economic development by pointing out the

relevance and relation of this standard to other standards. To sum up, these days served not only as lectures but provided useful expertise which led to long discussions.

## Outcomes

Youth Voices Group considers that the main importance in implementing such a project was the fact that the group got to obtain significant information on the emerging situation of Kosovo, which necessarily include implementation of 'Standards for Kosovo'. Not only was it essentially to be part of the current situation of our country, but it was also necessary to see what our role (the role of youth) is in implementing these standards.

In this way, by having had two officials elaborate on standards, we have come closer to knowing what is the responsibility of the major part of the population – youth – and then come up with new ideas and mechanism on how they can be incorporated in this process, i.e. through information gathering.

It is important, also to emphasize the truth that while implementing this project we have established contacts with Government representatives and experts on the field of standard implementation. These contacts will be used in putting other projects in action, which will certainly need the coordination of high officers.

## Conclusions

Combining two days of discussions, we have come up with five important points on 'Standards for Kosovo':

- Kosovar society should comply with 'Standards for Kosovo' as they are part of every developing society,
- Priority standards should be fulfilled before the talks for Final Status begin,
- There is additional progress on standards since the beginning of implementation,
- There is a misperception of standards by the society, which can be faded by education on this field,
- There isn't a great involvement of youth on the implementation on these standards.



## Recommendations

Youth Voices Group came up with the idea that this project could turn into a practice by having other officials on a regular basis teach us on the standards and its developing. This will certainly depend on the dedication to other projects and on the willingness of other Government representatives.