



**Sweden is a firm advocate of Kosovo integration**

Five Questions for Swedish Ambassador Ingrid Johansson



**Kosovo receives praise for its Digital Diplomacy Strategy**



**Kosovo joins EBRD and RCC**

Kosovo becomes full-fledged member in two important international bodies

# Kosovo's New Diplomat



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## Kosovo in dialogue with Serbia over normalization of relations

EU is facilitating dialogue that intends to close the remaining open chapters in the relations between two sovereign countries and former foes. World media are following closely the dialogue facilitated by Baroness Ashton of EU, while deal is expected to open path for European integrations for both capitals

That representatives of Serbia and Kosovo were sitting at the same table for talks was an achievement in itself. But whether the two sides could reach an agreement to overcome ethnic enmities in the former Serbian province — and clear the way for their eventual membership in the European Union — remained uncertain Tuesday.

The talks were being mediated in Brussels by the European Union, which both Serbia and Kosovo are eager to join. But the Union is extremely wary of importing a frozen conflict into the bloc, and Brussels has made clear that the former enemies must normalize relations.

If the talks are successful, they would mark a seminal moment for Serbia and Kosovo, which declared independence from Serbia on Feb. 17, 2008, almost a decade after NATO bombs helped push the Serb former strongman Slobodan Milosevic out of Kosovo and end a brutal civil war against majority ethnic Albanians.

In mid-April the Union's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, is scheduled to produce a report that will determine whether to open membership talks with Serbia.

Such a step would be a landmark for the country and could help rejuvenate its struggling economy and cement its links to the West.

A central issue in the talks is how much autonomy the Kosovo government is willing to grant to its Serbian minority. Belgrade has retained de facto control over a small Serb-majority area in northern Kosovo, where until now the Serbs have eked out a life in isolated enclaves that do not recognize the Kosovo government.

Under a potential agreement, municipal structures in Serb-majority northern Kosovo would attain greater autonomy in return for Belgrade's improved cooperation with the Kosovo government.

Both sides have red lines they say they are unwilling to cross.



Photo by Arben Llapashtica, one of the winners of InstaKosova Competition

Serbia, which has long considered Kosovo its medieval heartland, has refused to recognize the government, arguing that its declaration of independence breached international law while threatening to spur separatism elsewhere in the world. Even now, recognizing independence for Kosovo remains a step too far, Serb representatives say.

Meanwhile, Petrit Selimi, the deputy minister of foreign affairs for Kosovo, said in an interview that his government was vehemently opposed to any executive body in the north that would constitute a state within a state.

But the talks themselves were an achievement, analysts said. The lead negotiator on the Kosovo side, Prime Minister Hashim Thaci, was a former guerrilla

commander in the Kosovo Liberation Army, which fought the Serbs during the bloody Balkan wars of the 1990s. His Serb counterpart, Prime Minister Ivica Dacic, was the wartime spokesman for Mr. Milosevic, who was overthrown in a revolution in 2000 and died in jail in 2006 while being tried for crimes against humanity.

Mr. Selimi said the agreement would benefit both Serbia and Kosovo by clearing the way for their eventual E.U. membership, bringing regional stability and encouraging foreign investment. But critics on both sides also warned that an agreement also ran the risk of reinforcing rather than overcome ethnic hostility.

By Dan Bilefski, The New York Times

**FIVE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE**

## Long Road to EU

Kosovo is 5 years old this 17th of February. It's as good time as any to recapitulate where are we in terms of state-building, institutions-building and trust-building between communities. Our path to statehood was not the easiest one.

In the former Yugoslavia, Kosovo was the odd one out, a province of a special history, with majority population not consisting of south Slavs. After the fall of Ottoman Empire, we had the misfortune



**HASHIM THAÇI**  
PRIME MINISTER OF KOSOVO

of replacing one foreign rule, with another – even harsher one. Atrocities and domination were unfortunately used extensively by Serbia and later Yugoslavia to suppress Kosovars for a century. There was a period after 1974 and the extensive decentralization of former Yugoslavia, when Kosovo started building its won identity, when University was finally allowed to be taught in Albanian, when fledgling middle class started to establish itself, but this progress proved to be a mirage, quickly disappearing as soon as nationalist forces got foothold in neighbouring Serbia.

Thus started our long road to freedom. Firstly via peaceful resistance which didn't take us very far, but did save Kosovo's population at time when genocide was unfolding in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Later we started our rebellion, which I am proud to have led. Young women and men from Kosovo and around diaspora gathered to resist punishing police campaigns.

### International conference on public diplomacy and regional cooperation

Kosovo's Foreign Ministry has organized a conference «Public Diplomacy and reconciliation». Many important guest speakers such as Ambassador Adam Ereli, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Department, Adam Bye, the Digital Diplomacy

director of FCO, Kosovo's EU Minister Vlora Citaku, Tim Judah of The Economist magazine, Arjeta Emra, Director of British Council, Besa Luzha Director of Fridrich Ebbert Stiftung, Andrej Nosov of Heartefact Foundation, etc will discuss the way how mo-

dern communications and public diplomacy projects can support the ongoing efforts of increasing cross-border cooperation in Balkans and improving Kosovo's outreach to the neighborhood by means of culture, digital diplomacy, academic exchanges, etc.

## Diplomatic Bits &amp; Pieces

## 5 QUICK QUESTIONS

## Sweden is a firm advocate of Kosovo's integration to the European Union

**1 What is the best thing about working and living in Kosovo?**

First and foremost, it is the interaction with all Kosovars. Wherever I go, I am greeted in the warmest, friendliest manner. It is easy to live and work in a place where one can easily contact people, both professionally and privately. I also enjoy the wonderful Kosovo outdoors! I take every opportunity to explore historic sites and trek in the mountains. During my stay, I have noted how people start to take an active interest in the environment and Kosovo's rich cultural heritage and I can see the emergence of a promising eco-tourism sector.

**2 How big is the Swedish presence in Kosovo??**

It varies but lies constantly in the range of 150-200 officials on the ground in different capacities. For Sweden, that makes Kosovo one of the top countries in terms of presence and resources. There are also a number of individuals with dual Swedish-Kosovar citizenship residing in Kosovo, which the Embassy serves in different ways. Sweden has a substantial, long-term development programme in Kosovo. There are some 70-80 Swedes serving in EULEX, another 60-70 in KFOR. Swedes are also serving in other international bodies. There are five Swedish NGOs with permanent presence in Kosovo.

**3 How do you see Swedish-Kosovan relations developing?**

Through my 4 years in Kosovo, the formal relations between our countries have deepened, through intensified contact in a growing number of areas. Sweden has entered into bilateral agreements in many sectors where relations are particularly close, such as development cooperation, police and customs cooperation and migration. In addition, Sweden is a firm advocate of Kosovo integration to the European Union. We direct our capacity-building support to Kosovo to areas of strategic importance to the EU process. And we are active within the EU to promote Kosovo's gradual integration

Swedish  
Ambassador  
Ingrid  
Johansson



based on conditionality and merit. In the coming years, we will make more efforts to intensify our relations within business, trade and investment. They are now much too modest. I believe there are a few sectors, such as the environment, energy, mining and forestry, where Swedish industry could play a role in Kosovo in the future.

**4 What is your favorite part of Kosovo?**

What first comes to mind is a stone to rest on, high up in the mountains on a sunny day with a cup of coffee in one hand, sandwich in the other and a spectacular view. I find more and more gems all around Kosovo, often where locals themselves have jointly renovated their cultural sites with care. It could be the Sharrmountains, Junik with surroundings, Gjakova, Gracanica and many other places.

**5 What is your current reading list?**

I tend to mix fiction with non-fiction and keep several titles going at the same time. I just finished the Swedish Jens Lapidus "Quick Cash" - one of the most famous books coming from Sweden currently and about to become a Hollywood movie. Currently, I am at different stages of reading into a few different titles; Carsten Jensen "We, the drowning", FolkeSchimanski "Berlin - a tale of a city" and Ma Jian "Red Dust - A Journey through China". All this is true for when I am not making yet another hopeless attempt to get thought my pile of interesting reading of reports and papers on Kosovo and the Balkans...

SHORTNEWS  
FROM THE EMBASSIES**President of Kosovo attends global energy summit**

President Jahjaga met President of France, Mr. François Hollande, Queen Rania of Jordan, Prime Minister of Montenegro, Mr. Milo Đukanovic, etc.

In January 2013, President of Kosovo Atifete Jahjaga took part in the proceedings of the World Future Energy Summit, which was held in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, under the patronage of HE Sheikh Mohammad bin Sayed. President Jahjaga was accompanied to the summit, by the Environment and Spatial Planning Minister Dardan Gashi. Kosovo's clean energy investment opportunities were presented in this event, that gathered too global leaders such as President Hollande of France, President Fernandez de Kirchner of Argentina, President Grimsson of Iceland, Queen Rania of Jordan, etc.

**Important Kosovo visits to Athens and Bratislava**

One of Kosovo's priorities for diplomatic service is advocating for the full recognition of Kosovo's independence by the 5 members of EU that have still not done so. In the first quarter of 2013, relationship with the 5 EU capitals thawed to the point of direct interaction. I beginning of the march, Kosovo's Ministry of Foreign Affairs have collaborated with British Council to ensure a high-level visit by 12 Kosovo MP's to Slovakia within the joint KSTALKSEU program, while few weeks later Minister Enver Hoxhaj also visited Greece for the first time ever for a Kosovo minister, where agreement was reached for Kosovo to open a trade office in Athens.

**Prime Minister Thaci and FM Hoxhaj attend inauguration of Pope Francis**

Prime Minister of Republic of Kosovo Hashim Thaci and Foreign Minister Enver Hoxhaj attend the inauguration of the new Pope of Roman Catholic Church, Francis. The high-level state delegation was treated as a sovereign guest to the Holy See and PM Thaci had a private audience with Pope on the margins of ceremony. PM Thaci



also had a bilateral meeting with Vice President of US Joe

Biden where Kosov-Serbia talks were discussed at length. VP Biden gave full support to Kosovo government stance on dialogue.

**PM Thaci and FM Hoxhaj attend OIC summit in Cairo**

With the special invitation by the President of Egypt Morsi, PM of Kosovo Hashin Thaci and FM Enver Hoxhaj visited Cairo where they attended the global summit of Organization of Islamic Cooperation. This was PM's first visit to Egypt. Separate bilateral meetings were held with the President of Egypt, while Kosovo delegation also greeted the OIC resolution that called for its' membership to recognize Kosovo.

NOS SCIMUS,  
NON SOLUM  
SCRIBERE



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Kosovo's  
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# NEWKOSOVOREADS

EVERY ISSUE OF NEW DIPLOMAT WE WILL RECOMMEND BOOKS, REPORTS OR WEBSITES WITH INTERESTING AND UPDATED CONTENT ON KOSOVO.

**Title:** Liberating Kosovo  
**Authors:** David L. Phillips  
**Publisher:** The MIT Press  
**Publication Date:** July 20, 2012  
**Source:** Amazon

Kosovo, after its incorporation into the Serbian Republic of Yugoslavia, became increasingly restive during the 1990s as Yugoslavia plunged into internal war and Kosovo's ethnic Albanian residents (Kosovars) sought autonomy. In March 1999, NATO

forces began airstrikes against targets in Kosovo and Serbia in an effort to protect Kosovars against persecution. The bombing campaign ended in June 1999, and Kosovo was placed under transitional UN administration while negotiations on its status ensued. Kosovo eventually declared independence in 2008. Despite internal political tension and economic problems, the new nation has been recognized by many other countries and most

of its inhabitants welcome its separation from Serbia.

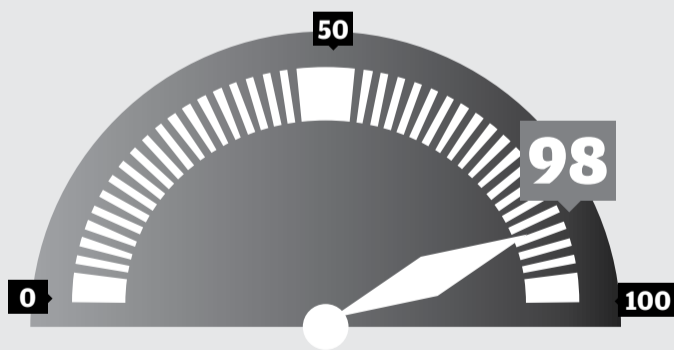
In *Liberating Kosovo*, David Phillips offers a compelling account of the negotiations and military actions that culminated in Kosovo's independence. Drawing on his own participation in the diplomatic process and interviews with leading participants, Phillips chronicles Slobodan Milosevic's rise to power, the sufferings of the Kosovars, and the events that led to the disintegration

of Yugoslavia. He analyzes how NATO, the United Nations, and the United States employed diplomacy, aerial bombing, and peacekeeping forces to set in motion the process that led to independence for Kosovo. He also offers important insights into a critical issue in contemporary international politics: how and when the United States, other nations, and NGOs should act to prevent ethnic cleansing and severe human-rights abuses.



## RECOGNMETER

KOSOVO CEMENTED  
 ITS INTERNATIONAL  
 RECOGNITIONS: TIMOR-  
 LESTE, FIJI, ST.KITTS  
 AND DOMINICA HAVE  
 RECOGNIZED KOSOVO. EGYPT  
 ANNOUNCED DECISION TOO.



Timor-Leste, Fiji, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica and Pakistan have confirmed the recognition of the Republic of Kosovo. Egyptian President Morsi also announced that recognition of Kosovo will take place soon, Egypt hence becoming first country in North Africa to do so.

Every two months, Kosovo's New Diplomat will report on the rate of recognitions of Kosovo's sovereign and

independent status by UN member states, international institutions and sports and cultural organizations.

## Kosovo Digital Diplomacy Strategy reviewed as one of the best in Europe

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo has been selected as the author of the best National Strategy for the Digital Diplomacy out of all the Balkan countries, from the prestigious Turkish journal on Public Diplomacy, "Yeni Diplomasi". The Digital Diplomacy Strategy of Kosovo is considered as one of the best after that of USA, the Great Britain and Israel by Turkish experts, evaluating the content of strategies of dozen countries and various actions that Foreign Ministries and world diplomacies have launched for digital affirmation of its own countries.

Halil Ibrahim Izgi, a Turkish expert on public and digital diplomacy, in an authorial writing in Yeni Sahat journal, announces the findings of the analysis of "Yeni Diplomasi", where it is noted that: "Kosovo has become one of the most active states on the digital diplomacy. This is strongly associated with country's attempts for more recognitions. Kosovo diplomats have had also a huge support from the dynamic digital Diaspora representing Kosovo's biggest asset. This survey denotes Kosovo as the fourth country with the best Strategy in the internet, after the super-powers such as USA, the Great Britain and Israel.

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Kosovo, Petrit Selimi, responsible for initiating design and implementation of Kosovo Digital Diploma-



"Kosovo has become one of the most active states on the digital diplomacy"

cy says that "Kosovo this year has scored an extraordinary progress in communicating via digital means". Initially, we have gained support from experts of sisters ministries, then asked for sponsorship and we are pleased for the support extended to our actions in the digital diplomacy by the Norwegian and British government. In accordance with the Strategy, we have invested in creation of mobile phones apps, and are preparing Wikipedia trainings, while having many other portal actions and projects to be

implemented even for 2013. Starting in January we will be launching an interesting portal presenting Kosovo in five languages. Arjeta Emra, a Director of the British Council is proud of cooperating with MFA of Kosovo and the digital community on establishing the content, trainings and other actions in the field of digital diplomacy with a modest assistance we have received. With more resources, we shall have more results and, in this context, we thank all the activists in the internet that helped Kosovo promote its diverse culture, sports, policy and society via digital means. This appreciation from Turkey reveals that we are on the right path as far as the affirmation of Kosovo agenda is concerned".

## About us

### Kosovo becomes a sovereign member of EBRD

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo announced that procedures for the membership of the Republic of Kosovo in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are now complete and that Kosovo won majority votes for its inclusion to this important international institution. Deputy Minister Selimi during a press conference said that Kosovo's membership in this institution is a great victory of the Kosovar diplomacy and economy.

"Firstly, Kosovo's membership in the EBRD is of a great diplomatic and political importance, as it is a result of a long struggle of Kosovo with partner countries and the EBRD itself to acquire a sufficient number of votes, given the voting system in the EBRD, which requires the obtainment of a two-thirds vote."

In this context, he also noted there was a very long effort by the Prime Minister Thaci, Minister Hoxhaj, Minister of Finance

Hamza and Minister of European Integration, "who for several months have been engaged to collect the votes one by one to acquire the necessary number for membership into the EBRD".

"The EBRD is a bank which was established to help companies and countries in transition, has investment capital of 10 billion euros annually and Kosovo, with its membership in the EBRD, will benefit from bilateral aid and low interest loans for various businesses and initiatives. Prime Minister Thaci has also scheduled for next week meeting of the Economic Council and state actors involved in the economy, where participants will discuss the modalities of establishing the body which will help businesses in developing serious projects and forms and different methodologies that will enable the entry of capital and liquidity of the EBRD in the Kosovar economy and enterprises as well as in various banks.



### Kosovo becomes full-fledged participant of Regional Cooperation Council

A meeting of the Board of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) was held today in Sarajevo. RCC, the main umbrella organization of regional cooperation in South-eastern Europe, numbering 46 members, welcomed Kosovo, by a unanimous decision, as a new participant with full powers in this body, which is considered as the main instrument of the EU pre-accession and regional cooperation. Kosovo was represented by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kosovo, Petrit Selimi.

As it was announced yesterday by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo, Enver Hoxhaj, today's decision is historic because it opens doors to membership of Kosovo into several dozens of initiatives and funds, while the participation of Kosovo is equal and without discrimination vis-à-vis all participating countries.

Kosovo's participation was previously limited by the UN-MIK, while even after the agreement on Regional Representation Agreement last year between Kosovo and Serbia, there were attempts of resistance to Kosovo's full participation in the RCC by claims of technical obstacles.

With today's decision of the Board, which changed the statute of the organization and its founding declaration, to withdraw UN-

MIK's reference and Kosovo to enter as a participant in this process, a completely new situation was created, where Kosovo now will have the vote and will be an independent participant. Today's decision was welcomed by countries like the United States, Turkey, Albania, Sweden, representatives of the EU, and so forth.

Deputy Minister Petrit Selimi thanked RCC's new director, Goran Svilanovic, and all the countries which unanimously supported today's decision stating that Kosovo's regional cooperation and inter-neighbourly relations are a priority for the people and government of Kosovo on the path towards European integration. Participation in RCC opens up new opportunities of membership and cooperation in various fields. Deputy Minister during his official visit to Sarajevo met with Stefano Sannino, the Director-General for Enlargement at the European Commission, Goran Svilanovic, director of the RCC and diplomats from Albania, Turkey, etc.

RCC was founded after the Thessaloniki Summit, and, along with the IPA Fund of the EU, it is considered as a means of pre-accession and the umbrella organization of many regional initiatives.



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## NEW DIPLOMATS

### VALËZA ORUQI

■ **What do you do, where are you based?** I am Consul at the Consulate General of the Republic of Kosovo in New York, USA, since 2010.

■ **What is the most you like about the job you do?** I am honored to be one of the first diplomats to serve for my country in one of the greatest Kosovo's ally as it is United States. My job gives me the opportunity to meet diplomats

from different countries based in New York, serve Kosovo citizens that live in US and represent my country to New York Institutions and its citizens.

■ **What is the best thing about the city you live in?** New York is one of the liveliest places in the world and one of the most diverse where every day I am introduced to different cultures and traditions that enriches my world.

### PËLLUMB KALLABA

■ **What do you do, where are you based?** I am a Foreign Policy Adviser and the newest MFA cabinet member. My primary responsibilities are focusing on EU affairs and security policy, international crisis and speech writing.

■ **What is the most you like about the job you do?** I feel privileged to be a part of an institution and a policy which is consolidating itself, with only 5 years experience, in order to protect and promote the interests of our citizens. Indeed, along with its unpredictable nature the foreign policy is a never-ending process, therefore it is a real challenge but also a rare opportunity to experience it. While the Europe is the cornerstone of our engagement with the

world, at the same time we have to deal with many urgent issues on daily bases in a myriad of various situations, each seemingly—and often in fact—unique. Regardless of geographical location, you have to be 'updated' with all relevant developments.

■ **What is the best thing about the city you live in?** Once discovered, Prishtina exposes its charm and vivid character—especially because of young people and international presence. In my opinion, it is a city which tends to avoid its daily problems due to the former socialist heritage and lack of urban planning after 1999. At the end of the day, it is an unavoidable part of my identity with all its Goods and Bads.

### LENDITA HAXHITASIM

■ **What do you do, where are you based?** I am First Secretary at the Kosovo Embassy in Brussels. My role involves, among others, external relations with European institutions such as the European Council and the European Parliament. My primary responsibility is to represent the interests of my country in Belgium and within the European Union, while at the same time being my country's eyes and ears on developments in Brussels.

■ **What is the most you like about the job you do?** What I enjoy the most is working closely with the representatives of EU Member States in Brussels, exchanging information on daily changes to the EU Integration Process and their evolving po-

sitions. My job is to follow developments related to a set of dossiers on Kosovo's EU agenda, without losing sight of the broader developments within Kosovo and EU.

■ **What is the best thing about the city you live in?** Far from being a European "quarter", Brussels is a hub for numerous international cultural events. Brussels' Art Nouveau and architectural gems further enrich Brussels' creative spirit. The city's vibrancy comes for the many people from all over the world who come to work or visit Brussels, even for a short time in their life. Living in a "human size" city while enjoying the opportunities which only big cities can offer is more than one can wish for!

### DELFIN PLLANA

■ **What do you do, where are you based?** I am Minister-Counselor at the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Hungary, being tasked with segments of political, commercial and consular affairs. I am based in Budapest since January 2010.

■ **What is the most you like about the job you do?** Beyond everything it is a big pleasure to serve citizens of the Republic of Kosovo and promote national interests in various areas as well as to contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relations between the Republic of Kosovo and Hungary. Further, I like the interaction with the officials and people from the receiving country, as well as with diplomats from many countries of the world based in Budapest that generate possibilities of

experiencing multi-polar dimensions in foreign policy.

■ **What is the best thing about the city you live in?** Being one of the most attractive cities in Europe, Budapest is also called 'the Paris of the East'. Budapest is famous for its extraordinary heritage and architecture, the existence of which dates back to the Austro-Hungarian empire period and beyond. It is a charming city with beautiful Danube river and islands (Margaret, Csepel, Hajogyari etc.) that separate Pest and Buda, thermal spas and the expressive and lively downtown areas. Moreover I commend very much the hospitality of the people, giving merits also to the quality of life offered versus the value of time and resources one spends while living in Budapest.

# PHOTOS *of the* MONTH



SOURCE: WWW.KOSOVOGUIDE.COM

## Vushtrri Castle

The Vushtrri Castle is one of the oldest monuments in the municipality of Vushtrri. Located at heightening geographical coordinates, the castle is classified as an 'old castle' according to historical evidence. This signifies it has been through a string of reconstructions from its initial build.

The castle is a blend of Illyrian and Dardanian architecture as pointed by its construction material, the design type and other clues presented by related scientific research. The construction consists of formless stones which were assembled together by slaked lime. Its entrance is on the southeastern part of the complex.

## Jazhinca's Lake

Jazhinca's Lake is located at the roots of Bistra 1 peak and the Lake's Peak. The lake has a dark green color, reminiscent of sapphire, and is surrounded by big rocks. Approximately the length of the lake reaches 120 m, while the width is somewhere around 80 m. The water seems very deep but there is no accurate data. The lake's water is very cold, which makes it inappropriate for swimming, although there are few audacious people who have the guts to try their luck.

## Conquering of Luboteni Peak

Luboteni peak is the highest peak in Sharri Mountains, at an elevation of 2498 above sea level. When arrived at the top, one may see two countries at the same time; as a result of its location at the Kosovo - Macedonian border.

The glacial Lake of Livadica offers a rare impression, also, being situated at an elevation of 2173 meters.

The arrangement includes a direct departure from Prishtina, to the spot from where the expedition starts. Along the mountainous paths, climbing on the way to the top peak in Luboteni, the group stops beside the Lake of Livadica for a rest and lunch.

## FIVE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Long Road to EU

This resistance led to ever-more brutal attempts at ethnic cleansing. World did not repeat the mistake from Bosnia or Rwanda. Genocide was prevented. Milosevic was stopped and freedom was obtained for Kosovo.

A decade of UN rule followed during which institutions of self-governance were created and peace was cemented. UN was good to establish and keep peace, but not develop self-sufficient economy or indeed a long-term basis for development of a society. Status-quo was the main principle of operation. UN did appoint an envoy to complete the Resolution 1244 which called for UN arbitration in finding Kosovo's final solution.

After extensive rounds of negotiations and almost 10 years of administration which saw a Brazilian, French, German, Finnish, Dane take turns in leading Kosovo's UN and local state apparatus, a plan was drafted by Finnish President Ahtisaari that offered conditional independence. Kosovo was to be fully unsupervised only if it can prove that it can build a democratic system dedicated to democracy and committed to devolve power from the capital to the municipalities.

How did we fare in this process?

Despite the fact that Kosovo was born as a republic in the midst of worse financial and economic crisis that hit the region and the continent in decades, we had a consistent GDP growth of over 5% for 5 consecutive years. Our GDP per capita doubled from 2007, the last year of UNMIK. We have employed a Keynesian stimulus package and increased the salaries of public employees and started a campaign of reconstruction that included building 100 schools and a major highway to Adriatic coast and ports of Albania and Montenegro. Through prudent financial policies, we remain the least indebted country in European continent. We expect to finish this summer our International Airport that will enable over 1.4 million passengers (and growing) to fly to and from Kosovo, making our capital most frequented city per capita in Balkans. We have also some of the

safest cities in Europe, with low levels of street-crime. Serbs living in southern parts of Kosovo as well as other minorities have embraced the Ahtisaarian model of decentralization and are making full use of the newly found political leverage. My Deputy Prime Minister is a Serb as are many ministers and mayors. Constitutional Court is strong and independent and has made decisions that were disliked by political parties, but respected by all, including dismissing 2 Presidents.

Almost 100 countries recognized Kosovo as sovereign and independent including over 2/3 of EU member states, NATO members, Council of Europe, etc. We became members of World Bank, IMF, EBRD as well as regional organizations and initiatives.

Following the positive finding of International Court of Justice, EU started negotiations that intend to normalize relations between two former foes and new two countries insisting on their EU path of integrations. I have met Prime Minister of Serbia to find solutions to every-day problems of the people, caused by Serbia's less than forthcoming policies in the past. This stance is quickly changing and we agreed to recognize Kosovo diplomas, car plates, to exchange liaison officers in each other capitals. We will soon find a solution to close the illegal "parallel" structures in north.

This enormous societal, economic and political progress was noted by friends of Kosovo and world democracies. They gathered in September 2012 to announce that Kosovo was to End International Supervision. Commissioner Stefan Fule regarded this as the very first step to Kosovo's full EU membership, and words were reciprocated with start of Feasibility Study for SAA for Kosovo and the Roadmap of Visa-Free travel to Eu for Kosovo citizens, two important instruments granted only to states willing to engage in reforms.

We, the leaders and people of Kosovo, made a promise 5 years ago. I am happy to report we kept it and we will continue to stay dedicated in our long road to EU membership.

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# Kosovo in 2012



President Ahtisaari giving a speech at the End of Supervised Independence conference



"Kosovo Calling" conference



Nathan Coley's exhibition "A Place Beyond Belief" in Kosovo

# KOSOVO IN 2012



Former U. S. Ambassador to Kosovo, christopher Hill



Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi's address to the Kosovo Assembly on the occasion of the End of Supervised Independence



Participants at Germia Hill Conference



Kosovo President Atifeta Jahjaga's address at the annual Germia Hill conference



Former U. S. Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, speech at the International Women's Summit in Kosovo



Kosovo President Atifeta Jahjaga opening the International Women's Summit in Kosovo



Minister for European Integration of Kosovo, Vlora Çitaku at the Germia Hill conference

# From the Chains of the Past to our Bright Future

After the violent disintegration of Yugoslavia, Kosovo sought to create a strong state governed democratically by the will of its people.

As we commemorate the anniversary of the Balkan Wars, we look back at the past hundred years with great heartache and distress to realize that our region has yet to find a sense of accord and create amiable relations. Today, it is not an invading army, but those who should be our neighbors and allies for democracy who present the greatest hindrance to peace in the Balkans. The Republic of Kosovo has a legitimate, democratic government that meets highest international standards and provides freedom and security for its people.

After the violent disintegration of Yugoslavia, Kosovo sought to create a strong state governed democratically by the will of its people. The Declaration of Independence came only after having exhausted all other avenues for a negotiated settlement with Serbia. The United States and 22 of 27 EU members and many other countries recognized Kosovo quickly and established diplomatic relations.

In the past five years, Kosovo has demonstrated its ability to

uphold all international obligations and its desire to contribute to the international community. We clearly hold a European agenda and stand for all the European Union upholds such as free movement of goods, people, ideas, and friendly neighborly relations. 2012 marked a new phase in the EU-Kosovo relationship, with a rich agenda that includes a roadmap for visa liberalization, a positive outcome on our feasibility study for a Stability and Association Agreement.

Kosovo looks to continue to use this process for genuine transformation. All proposed legislation is evaluated against EU requirements before it is passed in Parliament. EU Accession will constitute a win-win outcome for the EU as well as Kosovo.

Kosovo also shows its willingness and desire to be a contrib-



**ENVER HOXHAIJ**  
Foreign Minister

uting part of the international community as a member in good standing in many international organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and many other regional organizations. This is a testimony of Kosovo's statehood, sovereignty and progress toward becoming fully integrated into the global community of free nations.

Kosovo's efforts to work with the international community stem from Kosovo's great success strengthening community rights, economic development, and rule of law. Many World Reports mark this improvement, such as Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions index. The World Bank's "Doing Business" report increases Kosovo's rank by 28 from 126 to 96 in only one year. Kosovo's growth rate was steady even as the world sees major economic turmoil.

Kosovo is also making great social strides within the country as well. Our nation was built on the principle of citizenship. We have

no minorities, only varied communities. Many worry about the integration of Kosovo's Serb population, but Kosovo already has an integration plan that has been successfully implemented for 100,000 Serbs who live peacefully in the south. The northern Kosovo will see the same exemplary results that demonstrate that all people of Kosovo may live in harmony. Kosovo is their homeland and they are its citizens.

Unfortunately, Kosovo's desire to live peacefully is not entirely reciprocated by Serbia. Our two countries have had nine rounds of technical dialogue where seven agreements were reached. Kosovo implemented all its agreements in good faith, but Serbia has yet to fulfill theirs. As the goal of the dialogue is to normalize relations, we expect that Serbia will play a contributing role to find a peaceful way to coexist and that Serbia will join us as we seek a mutually better future.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo has a dedicated staff that has made admirable progress working with

international experts and dignitaries to further our shared goals. Kosovo continues to meet the world where it can with strong public and digital diplomacy, utilizing conferences and technology, such as Instagram, to work with the people who make democracy so successful. This praiseworthy work led to 12 new recognitions in 2012. Kosovo is recognized by over half of UN member states to date. We have 21 embassies and 15 consular missions around the world which seek to further Kosovo's ability to augment the efforts of the international community as a strong contributing member.

The most effective way to mend difficulties is to move forward from past burdens and recognize the bright future ahead. Kosovo is a responsible member of the international community but can only fully bring those benefits to its people and the world once the world recognizes the reality of Kosovo's sovereignty. The Republic of Kosovo continues to seek ways to move away from the bitterness of the past and forward to a better future where all truly find peace.

## Many challenges for Kosovo—but not religion

Kosovo's independence confirmed the country's desire to become democratic, open - and secular society

Anders Breivik, the infamous Norwegian mass murderer, claimed in his manifesto to be working for the benefit of Europe against the so-called "Islamic danger". He mentioned Kosovo in his Manifesto many times. He was not the only one, though he is the most extreme and dangerous one ever to have made a propagandistic claim that Kosovo's Islamic heritage is of danger for the rest of Europe. Even US politician Rick Santorum, who almost became a Republican candidate at US elections, earlier wrote a letter to the former Orthodox Bishop Artemije stating that he always "warned about the dangers of radical Islamic violence in Kosovo. Jihad terror in Kosovo is a mortal danger not only to the Christian Serb community there, but to the rest of Europe and to America". These are rather strong words coming from someone who almost came to the mainstream of US politics. Even Bishop Artemije himself became so radical and extremist that his own Orthodox Church of Serbia decided to let him go and subsequently excom-

municated him from the Church, declaring him a heretic.

Some of these statements do come from the fringes of political and faith discourse. From evangelists in US who are not as well-versed on global events, to the mainstream politicians in Serbia, to the pockets of religiously-inspired journalists in Europe, there has been a consistent stream of news and items for many years that try to paint the Kosovo picture and conflict in religious terms.

Mind you, Serbian official propaganda does this deliberately. Even some of the more progressive politicians in Serbia are fond of falsely comparing Kosovo with Jerusalem. Former President Tadic once stated that "Serbia is the last barrier to Islam in Europe" – a statement that is blatantly false and



**PETRIT SELIMI**  
Deputy Foreign Minister

depicts in a rather disingenuous terms the situation in Balkans.

Truth is that Kosovo conflict is not religious and has never been so. Prishtina is a capital with a majority Muslim population, but as you drive from Prishtina International Airport to the city, you must pass through Bill Clinton Avenue, cross Bob Dole street, arrive at Mother Theresa Boulevard, only to see the great new Catholic cathedral built with money fundraised by American-Jewish Senator from New York Chuck Schumer. Albanians are of three religions and many Catholics were in the forefront of battles for Kosovo's independence from fellow Christians from Serbia. Except that Christianity had nothing to do with it.

Kosovo is very rich and diverse area as it was in epicentre of many moving armies and Empires. Illyrians and Romans, Dardans and Celts, Byzantines and Serbs, Albanians of first ever Balkan Sufi orders, medieval Hungarians and Croats, Romas and Spanish Jews, Vlachs and Turks, many diverse people came to Kosovo settled of waged wars in the plains of this

beautiful and rich Balkan corner.

When Serbian dictator Milosevic occupied Kosovo and stripped the province from its' extensive autonomy, his initial impulses were based on communism, but he soon shifted discourse to nationalism and religious fanaticism as he found allies in Serbian landscape to wage wars against Croats, Bosniaks and Kosovars. Religion became a tool in gathering support and explaining wars. Over 300 Kosovo mosques were burned and destroyed by the Serbian forces during 1998-1999 war, some of them being the oldest in Balkans. Islamic Library in Prishtina was razed to the ground and oldest Qurans and manuscripts vanished forever. Some subsequent and unfortunate revenge attacks by Albanians also were focused on the churches, but only because Churches were seen as representatives of the Serbian political system rather than due to religious hatred. Church was never hated among Kosovars (how could it be, when Mother Theresa's own father was born in the beautiful Prizren). Nor was mosque ever the

place of the political mainstream. Our societies are very secular. We produce wine for millennia (primitive sort of grapes, so beloved in Kosovo, origins from the Roman times) and today the modern urban bars produce best mojitos in Balkans.

Hence it's important that the Kosovars don't fall into trap of the recent spread of political interpretation of religion and the attempts for faith to be the basis of political considerations. The state is strictly separated from the faith; one belongs to the public, the other one to the personal domain. I am happy to see that the tolerance that was cherished for centuries is not threatened in Kosovo so much by the war and I do hope that projects such as [www.interfaithkosovo.org](http://www.interfaithkosovo.org) can help highlight some of the enormous wealth we have inherited from past generations, from UNESCO-protected Serbian Orthodox monasteries, to the beautiful and rare urban mosques in Prishtina, Prizren, Gjakova, to the other vernacular and religious buildings that dot Kosovo's beautiful landscape.

## Digital Diplomacy

# The winners of #InstaKosova competition announced, amid thousands of photos sent

"The national competition #InstaKosova has proven in the best way that our Kosovo is beautiful" - says Adriatik Kelmendi, the head of the jury that selected the best Kosovo photos on social networks

'#InstaKosova', a competition initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo (MFA), in which thousands of Kosovars sent photos for the best photos with the theme of Kosovo, in the fifth year of its existence as a Republic, has come to an end.

The contest called InstaKosova was organized within the digital diplomacy of the MFA, supported by a joint project with the Norwegian Embassy, the British Embassy and the British Council. Over 8000 photos were posted on social networks with InstaKosova hashtag. He purpose was to encourage citizens to take photographs many beautiful sites of Kosovo and to post them in social networks.

The national competition for best picture was opened in January 2013. The professional jury evaluated the best photos in three categories: "Places in Kosovo", "People of Kosovo" and "Events in Kosovo".

Due to the enormous interest, the fund for the awards increased, hence best 15 photos received a 200 euro award, whereas the winners of best 5 photos in each category will receive 600 euro. 100 best photos will be published in a special edition that will be sent to the embassies and diplomatic missions of the Republic of Kosovo.

To ensure the fairness of the competition, the jury has selected the best photos after verifying their authenticity through signed statements by the contestants.

Jury chairman, publisher and editor Adriatik Kelmendi said that "the national competition #InstaKosova has proven in the best way that our Kosovo is beautiful. The



Photo by Shkëlzen Rexha, one of the winners of InstaKosova Competition

contest has proven that will and a only a little effort is needed, such as the effort to make a picture, to reveal its true beauty".

Arjeta Emra from the British Council who is also a partner of the MFA of Kosovo in the implementation of projects of public diplomacy, said that "the race attracted more interest than we expected which proves that the best way of communication was reached. Photos will remain forever on the internet. I congratulate the MFA for the valuable and the ideas developed in the context of Digital Diplomacy".

Petrit Selimi, deputy foreign minister "thanks the jury for a mas-

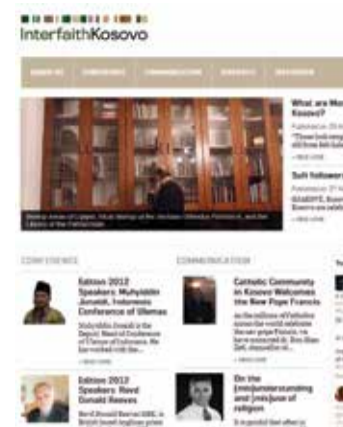
sive job. MFA has initiated this idea, believing that the random citizens are often more decent diplomats in terms of promoting our country.

The winners of best 5 photos are: Arben Llapashtica, Beni Cufi, Besnik Hasanaj, Fisnik Dobreci, Shkëlzen Rexha. While the winners of best 15 photos are: Abdurahim Abdushi, Besian Durmishi, Bujar Gashi, Dita Sylja, Enis Abdullahu, Gent Gjilkolli, Ilir Llonçari, Linda Dibra, Nëntor Oseku, Petrit Daku, Nita Pallaska, Faredin Agaj, Rejhana Rexhaj, Trim Kabashi, Valon Majanci.

In the InstaKosova book category, the photos of the following

contestants have been selected: Abdurahim Abdushi, Agata Cetta, Alban Dragoshi, Albert Hasani, Amir Selmani, Arben Llapashtica, Arber Berisha, Arber Nushi, Arjan Selmani, Armend Krasniqi, Art Navakazi, Atdhe Kollçaku, Bekim Kqiku, Beni Cufi, Berat Murina, Berin Hasi, Besnik Hasanaj, Bujar Gashi, Demokrat Dervishaj, Denis Baruti, Dita Sylja, Enis Abdullahu, Erjon Halili, Eroll Bilibani, Fahredin Spahija, Fisnik Dobreci, Fisnik Halilosmani, Florent Marmullaku, Gent Gjilkolli, Hazir Reka, Ilir Llonçari, Kushtrim Krasniqi, Linda Dibra, Liridona Ponosheci, Llukman Ibrahim, Mili Grabovci, Mimoza Miftari, Naim Grabovci, Nedih Limani, Nentor Oseku, Nita Pallaska, Petrit Daku, Ramadan Gagica, Rejhana Rexhaj, Rinor Ajeti, Sharr Reznici, Sherif Ahmetaj, Shkodran Hajdini, Shkumbin Saneja, Trim Kabashi, Valon Balidemaj, Xhemail Shabani dhe Vesasa Deva.

InstaKosova is the third project conducted in recent months aimed at enriching content about Kosovo on the internet. The contest was preceded by AppCamp Kosovo and Wiki Kosovo Academy competitions aimed at increasing the presence of mobile application on Kosovo as well as the largest encyclopedia, Wikipedia. The Public Diplomacy project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo with the British Council has recently been mentioned an example of cooperation between Kosovo and Great Britain by Baroness Warsi, the British Foreign Minister, at a session of the British Parliament.



## MFA launches Interfaith Kosovo portal

The portal Interfaith Kosovo is established as a follow up activitz from the Milvian Bridge Conference organized by the American University of Kosovo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo with participation of many ecumenical organizations from around the world. In this multi-language portal you will be able to read content related to tolerance and dialogue between the religions of Kosovo and the region. We hope that this is a small contribution to promoting peace in our societies.

The Interfaith Conference will continue in May, 2013, with another session of global gathering of inter-faith leaders, while activists will continue work on this portal and workshops on inter-faith diplomacy.

The team behind the portal consists of a group of students and researchers led by editors: Geneva Garland and Astrit Zatriqi. The site is sponsored by British Council Kosovo, Kosovo Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Embassy Prishtina, British Embassy Prishtina.

## Foreign Ministry's competition enriches Wikipedia with information on Kosovo

Wiki Academy Kosovo 2013 has ended, a youth training project for the use of the world's largest encyclopedia, Wikipedia, which was aimed at increasing the information about Kosovo in this valuable information resource.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo, in cooperation with the IPKO Foundation, the Free Libre Open Source Software Kosova (FLOSSK) and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo have completed the national competition and the Wiki Academy Kosovo 2013 training cycle.

This contest was organized in the framework of the Strategy for Digital Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has enabled the participation of over 200 contestants who have been awarded with a total fund of 10,000 euro prize.

Fifty-seven (57) new articles on Kosovo and its features were submitted. The three main winners include article on the Kosovo Information Technology by Dardan Ahmeti, the Classical Music in Kosovo by Liburn Jupolli, Edona Vatoci and Mic Sokoli, while the winner is the

new article on Kosovo archaeology by Atdhe Prelvukaj. In addition, best photos on Kosovo on Wikipedia were selected, where 23 winners were announced: Bujar Gashi, Arben Llapashtica and Arben Islami.

Petrit Selimi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the initiator of the project, said that one of the main problems facing Kosovo diplomacy is the lack of information from Kosovo and not only political, but also information on the culture, arts, economy and everyday life of Kosovars to break prejudices but also to pro-

mote Kosovo positively with accurate encyclopedic information.

Norwegian Ambassador Jan Braathu said that this is among the most welcomed projects that the embassy has co-financed, encouraging the participants to stay in Wikipedia for a long time to counter propagandists who do not wish well for Kosovo.

Theresa Crawford from IPKO Foundation said that Wiki Academy Kosovo is a project that is organized in a series of innovative projects such as AppCamp Kosovo and InstaKosova designed to meet the identified

gaps in online portals for Kosovo. IPKO Foundation will continue to support such projects that encourage the development of online content and for Kosovo in general.

Wiki Academy project aims to become an annual commitment to increase as much as possible information from Kosovo, while the Digital Diplomacy Strategy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo, drafted in cooperation with the British Foreign Office (FCO), was recently selected as the 4th best by the magazine "Yeni Diplomasi".

# Finding New Ways to Connect in Kosovo

In June, Kosovo will make its pavilion debut at the Venice Biennale. The exhibition is sponsored by Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo, and will be the first such presentation in world's biggest art event

Petrit Halilaj, a 26-year-old artist whose artistic talent of drawing simultaneously with both hands was first spotted at a refugee camp in Albania, will be representing Kosovo in a solo exhibition. He creates large-scale installations that combine piles of earth and rubble, live chickens and his intricate drawings.

It's a major coup for both Mr. Halilaj and the Kosovo contemporary art scene, but it doesn't come without controversy. Everything to do with Kosovo boils down to politics, and the contemporary art scene is no exception.

Countries like Russia, China and Spain do not recognize Kosovo, which declared independence from Serbia five years ago. Kosovo's participation as a country pavilion at one of the world's premier art events is certain to ruffle some feathers.

Representing Kosovo "is a beautiful challenge, which has lots of layers," said Mr. Halilaj, who splits his time among Berlin, Pristina and Mantova, Italy. Despite the tricky political aspects of his participation, however, many involved in the art scene here see Venice as an important step.

"When you think of Venice you think of it as a dream," said Erzen Shkololli, an artist who is also the director of the National Gallery of Kosovo in Pristina. "So it's amazing that we have the chance, for the first time, to really be a part of this event."

The problems that artists in Kosovo face go beyond international politics, however; first and foremost, the schism between Kosovar Serbs and Kosovar Albanians remains a formidable barrier.

Since the war ended in 1999 there have been almost no collaborative projects between Kosovar Serb and Kosovar Albanian artists.

After the war, most Kosovar Serbs fled the city and Kosovar Albanians began running the art institutions — including the art academy at the University of Pristina and the National Gallery — that they had been kicked out of during the regime of the Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic. That meant not only starting over with those institutions but also trying to create a new arts infrastructure.

Only this year, the art academy introduced a conceptual art module, yet it offers no courses in art history or curatorial studies. "The



Petrit Halilaj (2010), Installation view, 6 Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art

scene functions without any properly trained art historians or curators," said Dren Maliqi, an artist who now works in arts management.

One of the positive things happening in the artistic community of Kosovo is the re-emergence of the National Gallery of Kosovo, formerly known as the Kosova Art Gallery, which was established as the main state gallery in 1979.

The shows it produced in the past decade mostly focused on Kosovar Albanian artists. Mr. Shkololli, the gallery's director — whose work will be featured in a small solo show at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, Netherlands, beginning April 6 — was appointed by the culture minister to take over the gallery in late 2011.

During his short tenure, he has set about modernizing the gallery, inviting international curators to organize shows, and holding exhibitions that highlight local and international contemporary artists.

The gallery has also benefited from the fact that Kosovo went against the current trend in Europe and increased its funding for cultural institutions last year. As a result, the gallery's budget increased by 20 percent for 2013. There are also plans for a Museum of Contemporary Art; the money is earmarked but the ministry is still in negotiations with the city government for a space.

But the Pristina art scene still faces the fact that there are very

few art collectors and no auction houses, meaning the market for art is limited. Travel is also an issue for artists: People in Kosovo need visas to travel almost anywhere, making it challenging for artists to take part in international shows.

"I was taking part in a show in Russia but I could not go," said the artist Alban Muja. "But it was not even about getting a visa, they didn't recognize my passport." Surviving as an artist in Pristina is a difficult proposition, with many having to take jobs in art management or teaching to pay the bills.

"It's Darwinian because it throws out the people who do not want to do it for real," said Brilliant Pireva, 19, an award-winning artist who spent a large chunk of his childhood as a refugee in New Zealand. "You live poorly and you cannot afford anything, so the only reason you are doing it is because you either love it or you need to. I wish I was born loving economics or computer programming but art is my thing."

Despite these issues and the lack of exhibition spaces, artists have "a lot of energy and enthusiasm," said Shkelzen Maliqi, a philosopher who sits on the board of the Kosova Art Gallery. One successful example of this was, "Prishtine — Mon Amour," an evening of performance art held last September in the burned out Boro Ramiz exhibition hall in the center of town. More than 2,500

people watched 33 performances — some by artists and others by members of the public.

"We wanted to do something different, beyond anything that was done before," said Astrit Ismaili, one of the young artists who organized the event and the 2011 winner of the Kosova Art Gallery's Artist of Tomorrow Award. "If you want to do something here, you have to invent your own path. So maybe that is what makes this city interesting," he said, adding that "it's always shifting."

One of those shifts has been some tentative steps by Kosovar Serb and Kosovar Albanian artists to learn more about each other. While in recent years some Kosovar Albanian artists have worked with their counterparts who live in Serbia, it's been more rare to find collaborations involving Kosovar Serbs, who complain that they have not been incorporated into the Pristina contemporary art scene.

But there are hints that things are starting to change. In December, a three-day contemporary art training project brought together artists from Gracanica — a Serb-dominated suburb of the capital — and Pristina.

The project was organized by the Alternative Culture Center Gracanica and the noncommercial Stacion Center of Contemporary Art. Lately, when the center in Gracanica opens a new exhibition or program — it holds 30 to

40 a year — more and more Kosovar Albanians are coming to have a look.

"We had a vision for this place to not just be for the Serb artistic community but as a drop-in place for all different people," said Nenad Maksimovic, who co-founded the culture center in 2011. "It is not just an artistic space but it has an important societal component too. So we are pushing people to see what we are doing, that we are an effective part of society that contributes to the entire art and cultural scene."

The center has also recently wrapped filming the "Kosovo Reality Show" — a four part series focused on artistic projects, including street art, and conversations between Albanian and Serb artists in and around Pristina, Prizren and Gracanica. There were some problems when it came to filming the show. Some of the artists did not have cellphones, making it hard to track them down, and a few of the Albanian and Roma participants dropped out when photos of them being involved in the project appeared on Facebook.

But, over all, the series reflects a positive step. "I do not know a lot about the scene there," the artist Astrit Ismaili said of Gracanica. "But I will go there and visit. I think they have to get involved in the art scene here. It is such a small scene so it should be presented together."

**The New York Times**

## Cultural Diplomacy

# How did London see Balkans and Kosovo 100 years ago

Two separate art events were organized in Kosovo to mark the 5th anniversary of the Kosovo independence. In one exhibition, old documents and drawings from UK were exhibited, while the National gallery presented its' best graphics, including works by Andy Warhol and Henry Moore

National and University Library of Kosovo has opened the exhibition "How did London see Balkans 100 years ago", where photographs, paintings, documents, maps, cartoons and other materials were presented, through which the British press has represented the events that occurred in Kosovo, Albania and in the Balkans.

In the hall of the respective library were exposed writings, photographs, maps, documents and paintings of Albania and Albanians published in the British press. The exhibition "How did London see Balkans 100 years ago", on the joint occasion of the 100th anniversary of independence of Albania and the 5th anniversary of the declaration of independence of Kosovo, was organized by the Centre for Albanian Studies in London and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Enver Hoxhaj, said that during his studies in Vienna and Prishtina he has the chance to see a part of these materials published in various books, but never had the opportunity to see them in the form that they were offered in this event. "This exhibition offers views, images and content from the 17th century, 18th, 19th and especially 20th century, describing the fate



and status of Albanians in the Balkans, but above all, having in focus the establishment of the Albanian state, shaping of the Albanian state, the Balkan wars and it is clear that the opening of this exhibition from me as foreign minister has a political message", said Hoxhaj. He added

that "Great Britain, along with Austria-Hungary were the two crucial states that have enabled the creation of the Albanian state in the early 20th century and Kosovo state in 2008, I say this with great historic competent".

Great Britain was represented in the event by Myrna MacGre-

gor, First Secretary of the Embassy of Great Britain, whereas the Republic of Albania was represented by Ambassador Islam Lauka.

The researcher Bejtullah Destani said that in recent years he engaged himself to bring some images which are of historical

nature and educational nature, including various cartography and cartoon, which reflect the history of Albania, Kosovo and the region.

The exhibition was attended by the public and was a activity organized in the context of celebrating Kosovo's 5th Anniversary.

## Graphics art exhibition marks the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood

National Gallery of Kosovo, to mark the fifth anniversary of the statehood of Kosovo, has presented to the public 93 from 897 artworks of its collection, brought in graphics, including names like Shyqri Nimani, Franco Gentilini, Andy Worhol, Fatmir Krypa, Jim Cave and 15 other artists. This was the first exhibition for this year that was organized by this gallery, entitled "Graphics" and curated by its director, Erzen Shkololli. The latter has revealed that the Art Gallery, now National Gallery, has a rich fund of works and a good part of it consists of work in graphics.

The exhibition included works from the 70's and 80's and was focused on the graphic collection of the National Gallery, which is quite rich.

The inclusion of international artists, including those from the region, has put the exhibition in a global context and has provided the public with an opportunity to the public to see the influence of foreign artist in Kosovo scene and how the latter has been developed during the 70s-80s. While Shkëlzen Maliqi, a member of the Board of the National Gallery, who also wrote a text for the exhibition which was published in the publication of the exhibition of the collection, spoke about the importance of maintaining a collection of the Gallery.

"From the day that we were appointed to our positions, the Board of the National Gallery has been engaged to better protect the collection and one of the ways is to draw collection works



The exhibition included works from the 70's and 80's

for exhibition and put them in frames. With this exhibition we have sensitized the public that the something should be done in

relation to the collection, to improve the conditions, to create tools to enrich it and to invest in heritage conservation in the field

of contemporary visual arts", said Maliqi.

The director of the National Art Gallery of Kosovo, Shkololli, talked about plans for the preservation of the collection. He said he will engage this year to make a selection about the fund of the gallery for the preservation of works. "We will create the conditions for the preservation of the collection and then start to think about increasing the number of artworks. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports has plans to build the Museum of Contemporary Art where the collection will be transferred", said Shkololli.

In the end, Shkololli announced that he intends to present the "Graphis" exhibition in other cities in Kosovo, starting with Prizren and Peje.

EDITORIALS PUBLISHED IN MACEDONIA'S LEADING DIPLOMATIC NEWSPAPER "MACEDONIAN DIPLOMATIC BULLETIN"

## Personal integrity proves vital in diplomacy and communication

The end of this year is usually a time of combined emotions; everyone is in a rush to perform as much work as it is left in order to leave room for enjoying the holidays and at the same time to recap as it happens whenever a process ends.

Writing for the Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin means to share these thoughts and feelings with your colleagues. Indeed, my diary is dedicated to them, or it is better to say, some of them, who will not be anymore with us here in Skopje.

December 12, 2012, with all its symbolism carefully chosen by the dean of our diplomatic corps, Albanian Ambassador Arben Çejku, was the day of bidding farewell to two honored colleagues: Alexandra Papadopoulou and Tomislav Djurin.

Both of our colleagues are distinguished by outstanding careers. Mrs. Papadopoulou has served at many important positions, from the United Nations to the Balkans, and is now preparing to take up a position of interest to Athens at the European integration policy, especially for the countries of our region that aspire to be part of the great family of European values. I have no doubt that our former colleague, Mrs. Papadopoulou, with all her knowledge about this region will be a great asset when Greece takes over the EU Presidency in early 2014.

Mrs. Papadopoulou is the first diplomat who opened a Greek office in Prishtina, for which I once again publicly express my gratitude. Mr. Djurin is a very valuable colleague liked by the entire diplomatic corps. His sense of professionalism, collegiality and sincerity made him loved and accepted by all. His departure to Belgrade

will surely contribute to the very momentum of understanding and cooperation in the region.

I must say that neither of these countries (Greece and Serbia) has yet recognized my country Kosovo, the younger country in Europe, which has already been recognized by almost 100 countries, 22 of which are in the European Union, of which Greece has been a long-time member and which Serbia and Kosovo seek to join.



**YLBER  
HUSA**

Ambassador  
of the Republic  
of Kosovo to  
the Republic of  
Macedonia

Both our colleagues have shown how, despite the political difficulties and diplomatic relations, with the personal role and integrity, the most necessary and fundamental in diplomacy – personal communication – can be achieved!

This human value is very important in diplomacy and its mission which entails understanding and peace.

Moreover, we are about to begin a highly expected dialogue that must produce a solution with which we must live by addressing in this way not only bilateral issues but the awareness of stability in the region in the light of the aspirations of being part of the European values.

All of this is always easier when represented with dignity and professionalism as both our former colleagues, Papadopoulou and Djurin, did.

To them, and to all of us, I wish happy holidays, and an even greater year, 2013.



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## Kosovo is significant trade partner to Macedonia

One more year filled with the usual dynamics typical for the situation in Kosovo is behind us. The race against time is something one has to become accustomed to in order to stay present in the political life in which situation often change at an incomprehensible rate.

Some of them leave a longer trail as others only occasionally upset the spirits of another time before being conceded to oblivion. The diary of the Embassy says:

We commenced the year that passed with the first official visit of Trajko Veljanoski, Speaker of the Macedonian Parliament, to Kosovo – the first of its kind since the establishment of diplomatic relations – as nine others at ministerial level immediately followed. Each of them had its own objective and contributed to the strengthening of the relations between the two neighbors.

However, in the past year, a priority was given to the economic cooperation, which, even in aggravated conditions for doing business, yielded some positive results.

Instead of a summary, we are going to underline that in the year that has remained behind us the export of Macedonian products to Kosovo exceeded 300 million euros, which confirms that Kosovo is an impor-

tant trade partner to the Republic of Macedonia. The upward trend in trade is a result of the long-standing traditional relations clearly marked by mutual trust and the legal framework closely defining all aspects of the bilateral relations.

In this context, I would like to single out the meeting of the Mixed Committee for Economic Cooperation held in Skopje, at which, with a very serious approach, the shared interests in the field of energy and infrastructure, particularly the construction of the Skopje-Prishtina highway, the repairs of the 400 KV power line

and the possibility of connecting Kosovo to the South Stream gas pipeline through the Republic of Macedonia, were agreed upon.

The possibilities for cooperation are immense. The priorities, to the realization of which there are no barriers, have been differentiated.

The new page of our diary has already been turned.



**STOJAN  
KARAJANOV**

Ambassador of  
the Republic of  
Macedonia to  
Kosovo

## Facing the truth aids the process of reconciliation

Youth from the region meet in Belgrade to break prejudices about each other

Young people from the Republic of Kosovo, including myself, participated in the Youth Reconciliation Ambassadors Program, organized by the Youth Education Committee, which aims to provide the young people from the Republic of Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Serbia with an opportunity to discuss and compare the experiences of their societies with the processes of reconciliation and transition in the region by using the European integration as a tool. The



**Astrit Zatriqi**

program, funded by the British Embassy in Belgrade, included lectures by speakers from different spheres of society as well as visits to various institutions. Accordingly, I found the program very beneficial.

There were lectures by political scientists, historians, human rights experts,

to politicians. Among topics discussed were human rights, war crimes, multi-perspective approach to the teaching of history, conflict prevention. The participants also visited the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Officer of the War Crimes Prosecutor, the Humanitarian Law Center, the Anti-Corruption Agency, and so forth. In most cases, sufficient space was provided for the inclusion of the participants in the lectures through questions, comments and debate in general.

I was accompanied by the

following compatriots: Allem Isanoviq, Endrit Kadriu, Hadis Karatashi, Rejhan Kurbashevq, Sanella Sadikoviq and Violeta Hamza.

Presentations by participants from Kosovo, in a private capacity, were of a particular importance given that the public in Serbia, as it is well known, did not have the adequate opportunities to objective, impartial and well-intentioned information on the developments in Kosovo.

Although the normalization of relations between the

Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia, as a complex process, should be initially preceded by an apology to the people of Kosovo from the Serbian state, and finally by the mutual recognition between the two states, such programs provide young people in both countries the opportunity to exchange knowledge about their countries and to shatter prejudices.

All participants from the Republic of Kosovo, but also young people from other regional countries cited the

# Photo Collage

# CELEBRATION OF 5<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD IN KOSOVO EMBASSIES



Kosovo's ambassador to Australia, Skender Durmishi, waving Kosovo's flag on the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood



Celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood in Brussels

Celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood in Albania. Ambassador Sylejman Selimi addressing the guests.



Celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood in Turkey. Ambassador Avni Spahiu.

Celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood in Hungary, Ambassador Shkendije Geci Sherifi

# CELEBRATION OF 5<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD IN KOSOVO EMBASSIES

Celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood in Germany. Consul Astrit Zemaj



Celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood in Germany. Ambassador Skender Xhakaliu and ministers Ibrahim Kadriu and Memli Krasniqi



Celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood in Albania.



(Top) Celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood in the United States. Ambassador Akan Ismaili with Congressman Eliot Engel



Celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood in Netherlands. Ambassador Nexhmi Rexhepi.

(Left) Celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood in the United Kingdom. Ambassador Lirim Greiçevci

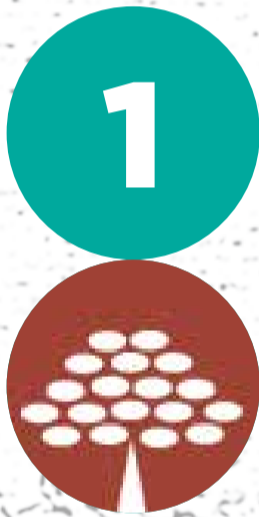


(Bottom) Celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kosovo's statehood in Slovenia. Ambassador Mimoza Ahmetaj

## Interfaith Initiative

— JAVA E TOLERANCËS  
DHE PAJTIMIT • THE WEEK  
OF TOLERANCE AND  
RECONCILIATION • NEDELJA  
TOLERANCIJE I  
POMIRENJA —

20-26 MAY



20 MAY

**Stone for Peace  
Ceremony in Kosovo -  
Prishtina**

— Ever since 1991, a Japanese NGO called The Stone for Peace Association of Hiroshima goes around the world to share cobble stones from streets of Hiroshima that witnessed the A-bomb blast in 1945. Presidents, Prime Ministers and other leaders of the world attend the ceremonies that are meant to promote peace and tolerance around the globe. Kosovo will be one of the countries that will receive “The Stone for Peace”, which is now considered to be a symbol of desire for peace around the world. President Atifete Jahjaga of Kosovo, Japanese Ambassador to Kosovo, representatives of Hiroshima and The Stone for Peace Association will attend the ceremony that will link Kosovo to over 100 countries that have already mounted the stone in their cities.



23 MAY

**Commemoration of the  
victims of Holocaust in  
Kosovo - Prishtina**

— The history of Jewish presence in Kosovo mirrors that of the Jews in rest of the Balkans. There were many Jewish families that settled in various cities in Kosovo as they fled from Spain in 15th century, while the region was still part of Ottoman Empire. Although Albanians have saved most of the Jews in the territories occupied by the Italy and Germany during the WW2, there were still dozens of Kosovo Jews that disappeared in the tragedy of the Holocaust or Sho'ah. The war of 1999 further decimated the number of Jews in Kosovo as they shared the fate of their Kosovo compatriots and left the country on permanent basis to Israel.

Prime Minister of Kosovo Hashim Thaçi with leaders of all faith communities will inaugurate a memorial plaque to commemorate the Kosovo Jewish victims of Sho'ah, in the centre of the capital city of Prishtina where the last remaining synagogue used to stand, while the famous Israeli Ron Arad will present to the local public and guests the concept for the Jewish Memorial Centre of Kosovo, supported by the Ministry of Culture of Republic of Kosovo.

3



24 – 26 MAY

### **International Conference “Faith and reconciliation: What is the Future of Interfaith Dialogue?” – Peja/Pec**

– Kosovo will host over 150 theologians, faith leaders, civil society activists and diplomats that are engaged in the issues of the global interfaith dialogue. The conference is organized by an ecumenical organization Soul of Europe with the support of Kosovo Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Embassy, British Embassy, British Council and Tony Blair Faith Foundation and intends to research contemporary issues connected to the interfaith dialogue such as role of social media in promoting agenda of tolerance, protection of physical places of memory as important aspect of interfaith dialogue, social activism as a facet of the interfaith dialogue, etj. Nobel prize winners, global faith leaders and famous activists will hold panel discussions in the beautiful city of Peja that is also the headquarters of the famous Patriarchate of Peja of Serbian Orthodox Church.

4



24-26 MAY

### **10th Anniversary of South East European Gathering – Breakfast Prayer Ceremony**

– This event is organized by the Parliament of Kosovo, taking into account the National Prayer Breakfast in US, a gathering of world leaders in politics, diplomacy, economy that is held every year in United States with the intention of forging bonds between US and world leaders to promote values of peace, belief and tolerance.

Since 2003, Balkan governments have been hosting events modeled and supported by the US organizers and Kosovo is honored to host the 10th Anniversary of the South East European Gathering that will assemble a range of lawmakers, diplomats, executives from South East Europe, US and the world. The ceremony is on 25th of May, however the special guests will have the opportunity to meet and network with Kosovo leaders from all parties and communities in order to promote the positive agenda and reconciliation in the Balkans. Its especially important that this year's gathering will be organized with an important backdrop of the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue that is meant to bring reconciliation between two countries on their road to Euro-Atlantic integrations.

• **For more information on the events,  
please contact:**

kastriot.orana@rks-gov.net and  
dasara.peci@assembly-kosova.org

• **For media inquiries, please contact:**

drilon.zogaj@rks-gov.net

• **For news from Kosovo on interfaith  
dialogue please consult**

[www.interfaithkosovo.org](http://www.interfaithkosovo.org)

**InterfaithKosovo**

Promo

Grafika

Koleksioni

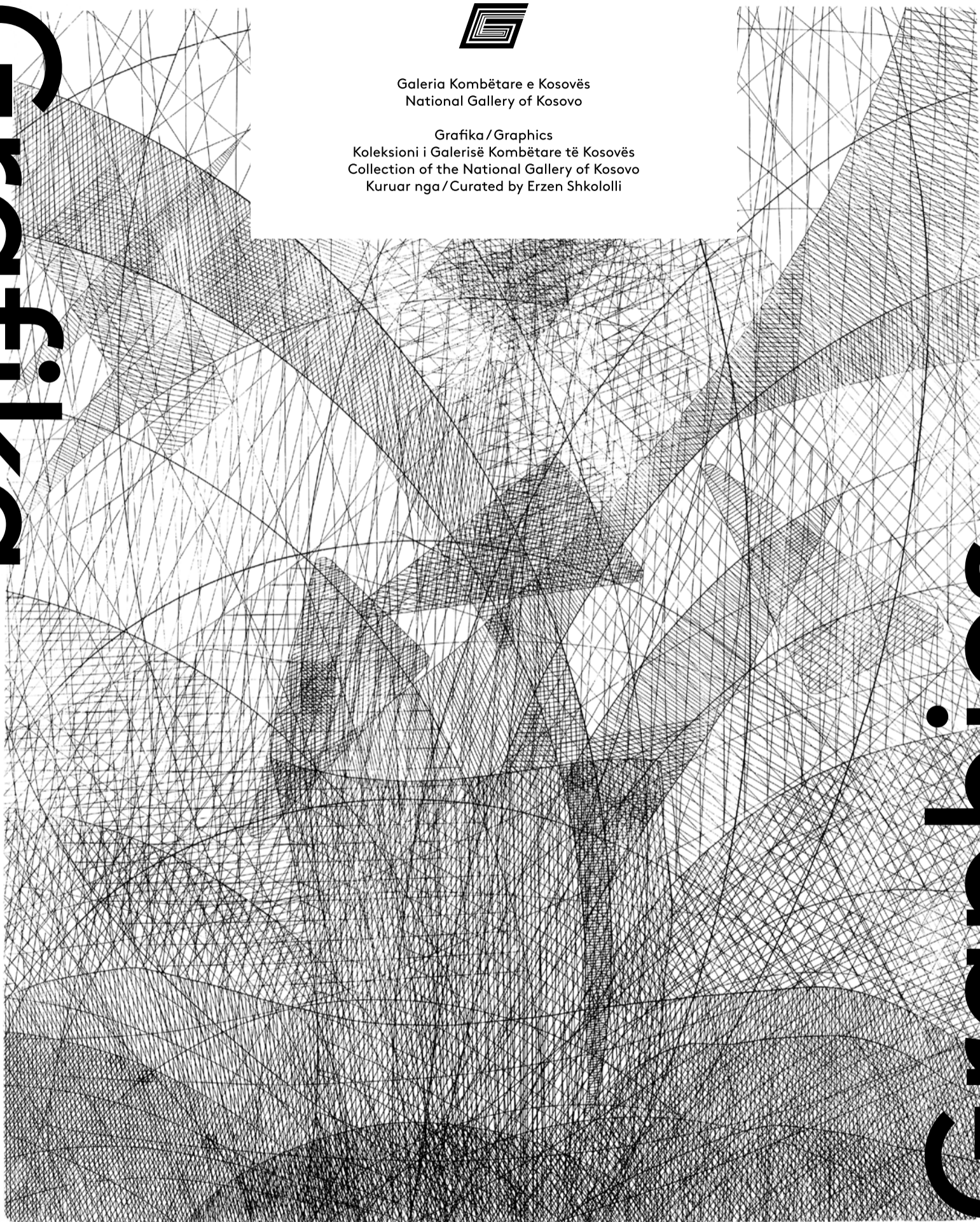


Galeria Kombëtare e Kosovës  
National Gallery of Kosovo

Grafika / Graphics  
Koleksioni i Galerisë Kombëtare të Kosovës  
Collection of the National Gallery of Kosovo  
Kruar nga / Curated by Erzen Shkolli

Collection

Graphics



*EA "Vozë me lule"  
- Shqipri Nimani -  
Shqipri Nimani  
1980*

## Artistët / Artists:

Andy Warhol, Edo Murtić, Fatmir Krypa, Fatmir Zajmi, Franco Gentilini,  
Gabrijel Stupica, Gjelosh Gjokaj, Howard Hodkin, Henry Moore, Hyrije Krypa,  
Hysni Krasniqi, Jim Cave, Karmon Fan Ferri, Mimo Paladino, Rexhep Ferri,  
Shaip Çitaku, Shyqri Nimani, Ymer Shaqiri, Zoran Jovanović-Dobrotin