



The Outreach Programme of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC), funded in part through a generous contribution from Switzerland, aims to promote understanding of the mandate and proceedings of the KSC and to foster dialogue about its work in Kosovo and the region. The Principals of the KSC have defined outreach as a key priority in the work of the court. Therefore, in addition to the events conducted by the Outreach Team each month, the Principals make every effort to personally engage with civil society in Kosovo on a regular basis. The Outreach Programme strives to inform the public about the KSC and to provide people with the opportunity to voice their questions and concerns. The Court Information Network (CIN) was formed to provide feedback and support to the KSC Outreach Programme, and consists of a number of CSOs and NGOs from Kosovo and Serbia. (photo: President Ekaterina Trendafilova and Registrar Fidelma Donlon in an outreach meeting with civil society and media in Pristina in September 2021).

COURT INFORMATION NETWORK (CIN)

The KSC established a Court information Network (CIN) comprised of NGOs from Kosovo and Serbia. Thanks to these partnerships, the KSC is able to reach a variety of audiences. Through regular contact with the network, the KSC receives constant feedback on its Outreach Programme and communications.

TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION

Disseminating accurate information is only part of the KSC Outreach Programme. Responding to questions and discussing misunderstandings about the work of the court in dialogue with citizens is equally important. The KSC regularly consults with civil society on its outreach activities, with the aim of reaching as many people as possible with clear and relevant information.

REACHING THE PEOPLE

The questions, concerns and opinions expressed at outreach events cover a wide range of topics and interests. Reflecting this diversity, the KSC Outreach Team carries out its activities throughout Kosovo and communicates with as many people as possible.

In order to increase the impact of the Outreach Programme, activities are designed to engage specific key audiences and the general public. Through its outreach events, the KSC directly engages with young people, community representatives, civil society, students, journalists, legal professionals and others.



Spokesperson Michael Doyle in a TV interview with the German TV channel ARD.

CONTACT

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

KSC outreach activities are designed to provide information tailored to the interests of the audience and the relevant stage of judicial proceedings. Since 2018, the Outreach Team has established a pace of approximately monthly visits to Kosovo to provide different groups with information and to respond to their questions and concerns. Between 2018 and 2022, the KSC conducted over 130 outreach events throughout Kosovo, reaching some 3,000 participants directly. During the Covid-19 pandemic, outreach meetings as well as meetings with the Court Information Network continued online. The KSC implements its outreach activities in close cooperation with partners in Kosovo.

Examples of outreach activities organized by the KSC include:



KSC Spokesperson, Angela Griep, in a short television clip on Frequently Asked Questions (October 2021)

MEETINGS WITH THE CIN AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Round tables, workshops and panel discussions, organized in Kosovo. Audiences vary depending on the event and include, for example, interested citizens, local community leaders, and legal professionals. During these meetings, KSC representatives present different aspects of the Court's mandate and proceedings and allow for questions and discussion.

LECTURES WITH UNIVERSITY AND LAW STUDENTS

Representatives of the KSC give presentations about the Court to students at their universities and encourage discussion.

VICTIMS' PARTICIPATION INFORMATION SESSIONS

A key element of any presentation given by the Outreach Team is on victims' participation. This information includes how persons may apply to participate in the proceedings as victims as well as information on the rules regulating victims' participation.

YOUTH WORKSHOPS

Interactive workshops with high school and university students are organized to explain the background, mandate and activities of the KSC.



The President and the Registrar discussing the outreach programme with the CIN and receiving their feedback (Oct. 2022)

MEDIA COMMUNICATION AND TRAININGS WITH JOURNALISTS

The KSC replies to media queries in a timely manner to ensure that journalists are able to report accurately and receive up-to-date information. The KSC also holds meetings with journalists in Kosovo and the region to inform on its mandate and proceedings. Periodically, the KSC organizes or participates in workshops for journalists to support professional and accurate court reporting.

INFORMATION MATERIALS

Short video clips explaining the KSC mandate and main features are frequently broadcast on television in Kosovo in Albanian and Serbian and posted on YouTube. Additionally, infographics, factsheets, reports and other publications are available online and copies are distributed during meetings and events.

All material is available in the three official languages of the court: English, Albanian and Serbian (including Cyrillic).

GROUP VISITS TO THE KSC

In an effort to bring its work closer to interested groups, the KSC welcomes students, legal professionals and other interested groups to visit its premises in The Hague.



The KSC Outreach Team conducting an informative session with law students in Gjilan/ Gnjilane, Kosovo (June 2022)