

**MK**

INSTITUTI  
PËR  
POLITIKA  
SOCIALE

# NEWSLETTER

2024

## About the Newsletter

Dear readers,

As we reflect on 2024, the Musine Kokalari Institute remains committed to advancing social values and fostering a more just, equal, and inclusive society in Kosovo and the region. This newsletter aims to provide a brief overview of our key activities and accomplishments over the past year, highlighting our efforts to promote women's and workers' rights, strengthen civic capacities, and encourage regional cooperation. In addressing shared challenges, we continue to draw on universal social and political values, working towards a society that embraces diversity, equality, and solidarity.



The Academy for Public and Social Policy gathered convened 24 young individuals from diverse backgrounds. From July 8-13, 2024, participants engaged in a comprehensive program featuring over ten lectures & workshops led by professors, experts, and activists from Kosovo, Albania, Serbia etc. Topics covered during the five-day event encompassed social history, nation-building, nationalism, citizenry, environmental and climate change issues, political ideologies, social equality, human and socio-economic rights, as well as public and social policies



The Regional Academy for Decent Work brought together 60 representatives from trade unions and civil society. Hosted by Musine Kokalari Institute in Kosovo, CPE in Serbia, SWA in Montenegro, and Zora in Bosnia & Herzegovina, the event focused on advancing labor rights in the Western Balkans. Discussions covered EU directives, unpaid care work, gender equality, living wages, the Green Agenda, and health in climate change. The Academy concluded with strengthened regional cooperation and commitments to improving labor standards.

## Thematic Areas

- Social Policy Research
- Labor Rights
- Education
- Kosovo-Serbia:

A Different Approach

# Publications

## A Living Wage for Workers in Kosova

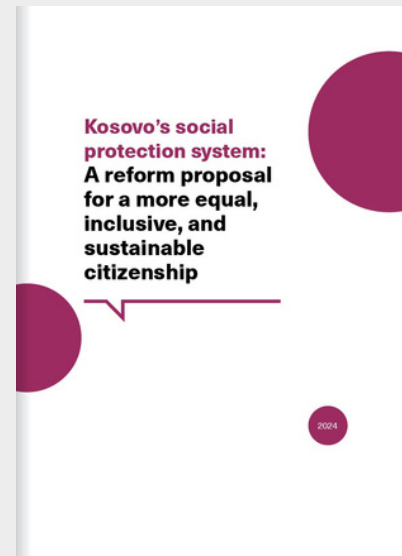
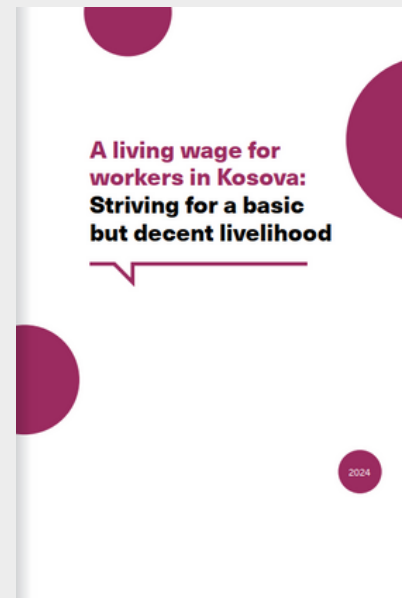
The publication "[A Living Wage for Workers in Kosovo: Striving for a Basic but Decent Livelihood](#)" by economist Edison Jakurti estimates the living wage needed to meet essential costs for a decent standard of living. Highlighting the gap between current wages and basic needs, it serves as a vital resource for policymakers in addressing poverty and advocating fair compensation. The estimated net living wage is €720 for one person and €1,152 for a family of four.

## Kosovo's social protection system: A reform proposal

In "[Reforming Kosovo's Social Protection System](#)" Dr. Artan Mustafa, lecturer and social policy researcher, presents a comprehensive reform proposal aimed at fostering dialogue between citizens and policymakers. The report outlines key methodologies to create a more equitable and inclusive society while addressing gaps in the social sector. By tackling issues like mass emigration, it provides actionable pathways to mitigate the effects of underdeveloped social policies in Kosovo.

## Enhancing Workload Equity in Kosovo

Written by researcher Hana Bacaj, "[Enhancing Workload Equity in Kosovo: Strengthening Policies for Fair Distribution](#)" explores the challenges of unpaid care work in Kosovo, emphasizing the need for policy reforms to recognize and redistribute care responsibilities. It highlights the role of unpaid care work in social cohesion and discusses policy advancements. The paper calls for collective dialogue to create a more inclusive and equitable environment in Kosovo.





# Projects

## Improving Kosovo-Serbia Economic Relations

In partnership with the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory in Belgrade, we published [recommendations to improve Kosovo-Serbia economic relations](#) under Article VI of the 2023 Ohrid Agreement. A roundtable with CSOs in Prishtina and one in Belgrade were held, during which participants finalized a joint report emphasizing free trade, labor market access, and northern Kosovo development plans to foster cooperation and regional peace.

## Youth Mock-Debates

The Musine Kokalari Institute for Social Policy, in collaboration with the New Social Initiative, organized two separate two-day workshops in March and November. Both workshops brought together young, diverse individuals from Kosovo to explore negotiation techniques and the complexities of the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue. Participants developed critical thinking and diplomacy skills, with the overarching goal of fostering understanding, collaboration, and leadership for a more prosperous and cohesive region.

## Kosovo-Serbia: A Different Approach

Jointly with New Social Initiative, we conducted a second public opinion poll and published the report [Kosovo-Serbia: A Different Approach – Serb Community Attitudes](#). Highlighting issues like corruption, political freedom, and economic conditions, the report emphasizes improving internal dialogue between Kosovo institutions and Serb communities, addressing security, healthcare trust, and mixed perceptions of minority policies and inter-ethnic relations.

# Projects

## Empowering Trade Unions

The Musine Kokalari Institute for Social Policy hosted a well-attended all-day training session led by Edison Hoxha from the Center for Labor Rights in Albania. The event focused on improving union members' communication with the public and government, and developing negotiation strategies to protect workers' rights and advocate for fair wages. The training aimed to equip union members with best practices for effective communication and strategic negotiation, revitalizing their efforts in social dialogue.



## Endless Cycle: Unpaid Care Work and The Double Shift

In September we organized an event where participants gathered to watch the video performance "VITRUVIAN WOMAN" by feminist artist Ms. Indefinite. This compelling performance vividly depicted the endless labor women endure in both paid and unpaid spheres, providing a stark and artistic reflection of these challenges. Following the performance, a panel discussion was held, featuring Dita Dobranja, Gender Economist; Visar Ymeri, E Musine Kokalari Institute; Luljeta Demolli, Kosovo Center for Gender Studies; and Hana Bacaj, Researcher. Moderated by Dafina Halili from Kosovo 2.0, the panel engaged in an insightful conversation about the persistent issues surrounding unpaid labor.



## Methodologies for Assessing the Real Costs to Health of Environmental Stressors

In April, we hosted a workshop as part of the MARCHES Horizon Europe project. Researchers from Aarhus University, Tartu University, & ISGlobal Barcelona joined local authorities & CSOs in Prishtina to address air pollution. The discussions focused on innovative mitigation measures and the health impacts of pollution, aiming for a cleaner, healthier future.



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