

QËNDRESA QYTETARE ANNUAL RAPORT 2023

Milestones and Achievements





2
Exhibition

8
Workshops

32
Multimedia
Videos

32
Reels

972
Participants/
People
trained

50
Activities
Organized

35
Public hearings with
Central Election
Commission & Appeals
and Sanction
Commission

26
Research
Papers/
Publications

13
Infographics

1
Petition
(6000 Signes)

52
Lecturers

18
Round
tables

3
Academies on
democratic
education

5
Grants for
young
people





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Who are we?

The Civic Resistance is a non-profit organization founded by a group of young professionals, who come with different experiences from civil society, uniting their knowledge and energy to contribute to the country and Albanian society. Our mission is to encourage and empower civic engagement and civil society in general through policy advocacy, raising awareness, and civic participation. Our vision is to develop a wider community of knowledgeable, motivated, and committed people who actively address societal concerns by monitoring and advocating public policies at the central and local levels.

Our particular role in the Albanian civil society:

- Our clear duty and commitment is to support the Albanian civil society and to lobby for the empowerment and protection of the youth.
- We emphasize advancing civil society and civic engagement while addressing youth-related challenges.
- Our capacity to raise the voice of society and give activists the tools to confront the truth to local and national authorities.
- Our ability to develop and support ambitious plans and programs to increase the efficacy of Albanian civil society.



Our Values:

Integrity

We have open and transparent relations with partners, collaborators, and activists.

Creativity

In work and communication, we are guided by innovative and creative approaches to achieve the goals of our organization.

Legitimacy

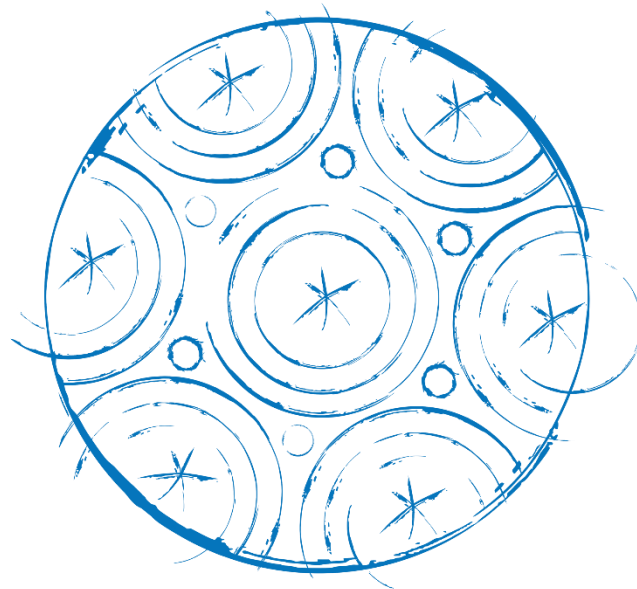
In our work, we address the problems and concerns of the communities we represent, who regularly attend and support our initiatives.

Energy/Activity

We are synchronized, have group energy to achieve societal changes, and work daily to fulfill our mission.

Cooperation

We collaborate with grassroots groups to translate their needs into concrete initiatives and empower their capacities.



Programs

Good Governance and Anticorruption Program

The Good Governance program is directly related to the mission of Civic Resistance to strengthen and increase the capacity of citizens to demand accountability from the government and push for outcomes and higher performance. The methodology used in this program relates to the financial monitoring of the institutions, policy, strategies, and the implementation of the law for the rule of law. The goal of the program is to strengthen the mechanisms that enable citizen participation in national and local decision-making.

Main projects implemented under the Good Governance Program

Project Title: Resistance for Good Governance

#QËNDRESË/MIRËQEVERISJE

Supported by: National Endowment for Democracy NED

Duration: 2021 - 2023

The main objectives:

1. To strengthen the capacities of young public policy analysts in the public debate and democratic processes of the country to promote transparency and accountability of the government.
2. Increasing the influence of young people in the process of drafting and implementing public policies. It promotes civic activism in the function of good governance through active monitoring, public reactions, and recommendations.

Link of details for this project: <https://qeverisja.qg.com.al/>





Project Title: Për Qytetin

Supported by: Leviz Albania

Duration: 01 January 2021 – 28 February 2023

The main objective: Municipal Council decision-making is dictated by the opinion and initiative of citizens committed to good local governance through electronic petitions and initiatives. Through petitions, local initiatives, and raising awareness, citizens lobby for their needs to the local government, also as a form of accountability. This is a process of civic education and exercising democracy by demanding higher performance and outcomes from local governments. Link of details for this project: www.qytetarin.com



Higher Education Program

The higher education program is one of the main areas on which the Civic Resistance team has been conducting research and monitoring since 2016. The program's main focus has been on implementing Law 80/2015 on Higher Education and the "Pact for University". The goal of the program is to promote debate on education and increase student involvement in the decision-making of public universities. Through this program, we aim to empower students as crucial actors in decision-making, act as a watchdog for the financial management of educational institutions, and provide policy recommendations for higher-quality education.

The main projects implemented under the Higher Education Program:

Project Title: Open University

Supported by: Friedrich Ebert Foundation Tirana

Duration: 01 January 2023 - December 2023 (ongoing)

The main objective: Increase accountability and transparency in public universities through student involvement in monitoring the finances and the autonomy of universities. Through this project, we advocate for transparency, and integrity and focus on scientific research. This project intertwines financial monitoring, fact-checking, creative activism, and public debate all in one. It educates students to advocate for better campus facilities, and holds accountable educational institutions on spending, but also paves the way for a democratic culture of debate over finances and how universities should be managed. Another crucial goal of this project is to educate Albanian society on the importance of universities funding and producing scientific research as well as publicly emphasizing the "war" against plagiarism.

Link of details for this

project: <http://qq.com.al/index.php/2018/04/10/monitorimi-i-transparences-financiare-dheautonomise-universiteteve-publike-2>





Supported by: Civic Resistance, Friedrich Ebert Foundation Tirana, Heinrich Böll Foundation, SMART Balkans.

Duration: 14 November 2023 - 22 November 2023
This project invited Albanian society to a week of reflection, discussion, and active engagement on the importance and values of Education in Albania. This week is crucial for our history as it coincides with the week of the Congress of Manastir, the first and most important academic conference of Albanian society. It aimed to completely turn the focus and public discourse towards the problems the education sector is facing and how to overcome them. Activities taking place in this project consist of a poetry night on Albanian poetry, the National Student Congress, student exhibitions on student life and the future of education, an open forum on control of knowledge, and a round table on the financial transparency of universities. Additionally, we published 3 podcasts that focused on the historical meaning of this week, universities as models, and the future of education.

Project Title: "One city for students!"

Supported by: Heinrich Böll Stiftung Tirana
Duration: 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2023

The main objective: Strengthening the capacities of students, and residents of university residences, to increase their demand for accountability and transparency towards decision-making authorities.

It aimed to establish a network of representative students from the 4 university residences in Tirana, who were trained and supported to become activists in their community. Publication of reports and monitoring related to the conditions and situation in the dormitories of the capital took place before the project started and it continued throughout the project duration. Actions

and reactions for the increase of accommodation capacities in Tirana were organized, including the National Student Congress. Main activities taking place: two trainings with a group of students focusing on activism and democracy, a study visit to the University Campus of Prishtina, and monitoring of construction projects on university campuses and the involvement of students in this process.



Democratic Education Program

The democratic education program has focused on educating young people on democracy elements vote, referendum, protests, boycotts, concepts which will be accompanied by new forms and creative public communication and commitment to good governance through the inclusion of independent experts in the country. As part of this program will be conducted studies, political academies, and schools are expected to increase the capacity of young people in the field of democracy.

Main projects implemented under the Democratic Education Program:

Supported by: The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tirana
Duration: 2021 - 2023

The main objectives: **The Citizens in Charge Academy** is an opportunity that serves Albanian youth to increase their commitment and civic

responsibility towards activism, community action, and contribution to the country's democratic processes. The academy is organized in the form of a series of lectures on activism, public policy, the justice system, environmental issues, main democratic processes and institutions, and creative protests. The academy is followed by community action by its students, who are supported with project grants and the Civic Resistance team's expertise to implement their ideas. There were 6 academies organized in 6 different cities targeting youngsters from 12 districts in Albania. For each academy, there have been 20-25 graduated students who now have created a network of activists and young professionals. In addition to physical lectures and actions in the community, the Citizen in Charge Academy also offers the innovation of the online toolbox or summarized video lectures which serve to inform and guide young people who do not have the opportunity to participate in the academy. The main topics of the program are, summarized by the lecturers and prepared by the Civic Resistance team to be easily understood and reached by the interested audience. Link of details for this project: <http://akademia.qq.com.al/>



Misioni Kombëtar Për

INTEGRITET ZGJEDHOR

Project Title: **Electoral Integrity**

Supported by: The British Embassy

Duration:

The main objective:

This project aims to promote electoral integrity, increase the participation of young people in the electoral process, and monitor the usage of state resources during political campaigns.

Civic Resistance conducted an educational campaign during the pre-election period aimed at public administration employees to discourage them from getting involved in electoral activities. Additionally, it provided election literacy for voters and produced video messages on the importance of integrity voting and the consequences of vote buying. An academy on electoral education was organized and equipped 30 youngsters with the knowledge and tools needed to monitor the elections and the misuse of state resources by political actors. An app was created to provide people the means to anonymously report at any time the misconduct they observe. To simplify the information, the data and electoral code were reflected also through infographics that were shared and displayed by the Central Electoral Commission in all the municipalities of Albania.

Civic Resistance analyzed the functioning of the reporting mechanism on electoral subjects and the CEC's decision-making on them, intending to improve the administrative practices of decisions by the CEC. The Civic Resistance increased the effectiveness and efficiency of the CEC in preventing and monitoring cases of the abuse of state resources. 24 hours after the elections, a report with all the findings and observations was published. To conclude this project, Civic Resistance presented recommendations for changes to the Electoral Code in front of the most important actors in the electoral process.





Institutional grant with the support of the Smart Balkan project



During the implementation of the institutional grant, the Civic Resistance (CR) has undergone a great development and change in terms of its infrastructural capacities, but also its strategic ones.

With the relocation to the new premises in January, CR has fulfilled its strategic objective 1 to create and offer a space as a community center, in addition to existing as an affirmed organization in civil society.

During these 6 years, the organization has developed its internal capacities, by assigning a dedicated employee for social media management, and this has helped the organization to increase the quantity and improve the quality of its digital media product.

In terms of sustainability and financial capacities, at this moment of the application process, the organization has been selected as the lead applicant of the first phase in a project launched by the EU delegation in Albania with a focus on good governance and elections. Additionally, we are waiting for two responses to the applications it made during this period.

Regarding technological innovations, CR has applied a new form of its media, election podcasting, which was a format developed and built within the premises of the organization and with the technical tools at its disposal. In total, 6 podcasts were aired in two months, and a second series of podcasts is expected to resume in the fall.

The opportunity to expand to larger physical spaces with the help of this grant, created opportunities to organize more meetings, trainings, and discussion evenings on democracy and fundamental freedoms, as well as cultural and entertainment evenings with our target group (students and young people).

During this period, CR managed to elaborate and strategically plan 2023 - 2027, making it more comprehensible for partners, donors, and interest groups.



9.8%



Kingdom of the Netherlands

1.9%



European Union

9.8%



Institute for Democracy and Mediation

4%

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
TIRANË

Who financed us in 2023 ?

18.3%



NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

14.2%



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

42%



UKaid
from the British people



British Embassy Tirana



Message of the Executive Director



We at Civic Resistance base our work on justice and dignity for all, giving priority to those who are more marginalized, mainly focusing on the Albanian youth. When individuals and their organizations work together, Albania can change. In support of a strong, active, and forward-thinking civil society, we boldly confront local or central authority. We embrace transparency, inclusion, and diversity to impact institutions, to address and advocate for the most serious issues that Albanian society faces. These issues affect most of society and are interconnected with each other. During 2021, we faced new challenges that brought forward the need to embrace new dimensions of new political scopes for our organization. Civic Position played an active role in the April 25

parliamentary elections by monitoring the electoral process. We monitored the state resources and provided election literacy for young people to help them vote for quality candidates who would be good representatives. Quality education and empowerment of students have been our main causes since the founding of the organization. During this year, we held accountable the candidates for deputies on their political agenda concerning policies on education and youth. Likewise, the young public policy analysts in Civic Resistance monitored 6 ministries, published reports, and communicated with the public regarding their findings and issues raised. We will continue to empower ourselves as part of civil society. We consistently work to become more responsible, effective, and innovative actors of change. Additionally, we encourage the cooperation and engagement of our current and future networking members and partners. We will continue to provide opportunities for young people to become critical actors in civil society and to maximize their network capacity through sustainable ways. We will actively lobby and advocate for public institutions that support civil society, and offer ground for coalitions and networks in finding ways to make institutional architecture more tangible, adaptable, and responsive.

