



ANNUAL REPORT ON DISABILITY

Inclusive Kosovo



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DUKAGJIN KELMENDI & LATIFE NEZIRI
Contributet: HANDIKOS, KAD and KAB

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“Promoting inclusiveness and outreach of the consultative processes for governance and public administration reforms in the disability sector at Local, National and Regional Level”

Implemented by HANDIKOS, in partnership with Disability Partnership Finland, Threshold, the Kosovo Association of the Deaf and the Kosovo Association of the Blind

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ABBREVIATIONS

DPF - Disability Partnership Finland

KDF - Kosovo Disability Forum

HANDIKOS - Association of Paraplegics and Children Paralyzes of Kosovo

NIPHK – National Institute for Public Health of Kosovo

CRPD – Convent on the Rights of People with Disabilities

MES – Ministry of Education

MLSW – Ministry of Labor Welfare

WHO – World Health Organization

UN - United Nations

DPO – Disabled People Organizations

PWD – Persons with Disabilities

RC – Resource Center

KAD – Kosovo Association of Deaf

KAB – Kosovo Association of Blind

HUCSK – Hospital and University Clinical Service of Kosovo

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

OGG – Office for Good Governance

Introduction

This report has been prepared in the framework of the project supported by the European Union Office in Kosovo "Promoting inclusiveness and outreach of the consultative processes for governance and public administration reforms in the disability sector at Local, National and Regional Level", hereinafter "Inclusive Kosovo", which is implemented by HANDIKOS, in partnership with Disability Partnership Finland, Threshold, the Kosovo Association of the Deaf and the Kosovo Association of the Blind.

The project aims to have an impact on the disability issues in Kosovo with the expected tendency to achieve an "Inclusive Society in which persons with disabilities realize their full potential and live dignified lives as equal citizens. (National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2023)". To achieve this impact, one of the specific objectives of the project is for "Comprehensive Government and Public Administration Reforms". Therefore, in order to achieve this result, the aim of the project is to increase, among other things, the availability of data on disability issues so that public institutions and DPOs can use reliable data as tools for planning, monitoring and the inclusion of disability-specific initiatives.

In reference to the specific expectations and objectives of the project, an Annual Disability Report will be prepared and published annually, based on the findings of the research report related to the Study of current legislation in Kosovo. As part of this activity an Annual Disability Report will be prepared each year of the project. The report will cover a list of important issues related to the EU accession criteria, the CRPD, the National Strategy and Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities and the European Disability Strategy. Certain issues will be selected by DPOs and their networks which will be used to generate / prepare annual Disability Reports. The findings of the report will be presented to the public at the Conference on 3rd of December, at the event organized to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The findings in this report for 2020, are based on the findings of the research report related to International Standards on Disability Issues "Where does Kosovo stand?". The research evaluates the current legislation of Kosovo compared to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Acquis Communautaire of the European Union, in the respective fields. The evaluation focuses at the international standards on disability codified in the relevant conventions and legal acts, through the following categories: 1. Right to life and justice, 2. Independence, privacy, family and community life, 3. Accessibility, 4. Education, 5. Freedom, protection from torture, integrity and mobility, 6. Equality, non-discrimination (women and children), 7. Health, 8. Employment and social care, 9. Public participation, 10. Statistics and international cooperation. Report was finalized during 2019 and published in early 2020, and it can be found in Albanian, English and Serbian on the HANDIKOS website: <http://www.handi-kos.org/>.

The 2020 report is based on reports of DPOs, monitoring of project staff, workshops conducted during the year and research on project documents, organizations and online platforms.

Executive summary

The Research Report on International Standards on Disability Issues' Where does Kosovo stand ?, has identified ten (10) key areas containing international standards in the field of disability deriving from the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities . During 2020, DPOs have carried out interventions in 5 of the 10 identified areas, which are: Access, Education, Employment and Welfare, Public Participation and International Cooperation. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, many activities have been implemented in various areas related to virus prevention and government measures against the pandemic COVID 19, therefore, will be included in this report even though it is not in the researched areas.

Due to the situation with the COVID 19 pandemic and in line with international measures and measures of the Government of Kosovo, DPOs were obliged to adapt the implementation of their programs in line with these measures. In reference to the guidelines distributed by the UN and WHO, in Kosovo DPOs have responded in the areas of health, accessibility, education and socio-economic welfare for people with disabilities aiming that government measures against COVID 19 to be comprehensive and also address the needs of the disability community.

Accessibility is one of the areas of intervention from the list of international standards, in relation to the limitations due to the pandemic and the change of implementing modalities of activities included physical access for people with physical disabilities, access to information through existing tools and platforms for people for the deaf and blind community. Education is also an important area from the list of standards that addressed in particular the specifics of the deaf community in accessing sign language interpretation and the needs of the blind community for the creation of vocal synthesis in the Albanian language in order for these two communities to have access to education, training and information. Employment and social care is another very important category of international standards that addresses the provision of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in the labor market and especially in the case of Kosovo in the implementation of legislation addressing this component of this standard. International participation and cooperation are also important areas within the standards required for the protection and realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Disabled People Organizations together with public institutions will use the data's of the report to advance the agenda of disability issues to ensure acceptable standards in line with the requirements of European legislation and policies. In this context during 2020, DPOs have intensified their actions in order to advance issues related to the areas identified in this report. COVID 19 and frequent political changes have significantly affected intervention-related activities in each of these areas. Therefore, the interventions have been rational and the method was changed to a great extent.

The data's from this report and the research report are more quantitative than qualitative, because so far the data's from the research and monitoring was focused on the existence of a legal framework for the treatment of the required standards. A research on the implementation of current legislation could provide us with qualitative data on the practical implementation of these standards. Qualitative research in this context will be done in the coming years.

However, based on the findings, we recommend that central and local government institutions ensure the implementation of the current legal framework and the approval of additional legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities in line with international standards and European legislation on disability.

Standards of Research

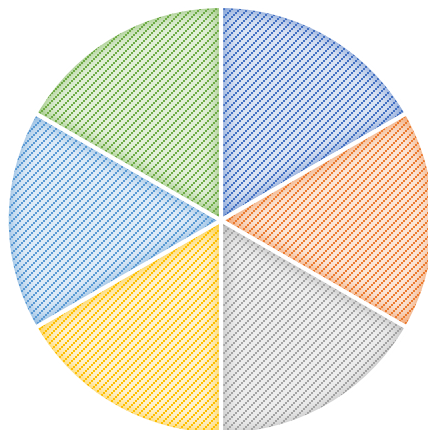
RESEARCH AREAS



- Right to life and justice
- Independence, privacy, family and community life
- Accessibility
- Education
- Freedom, protection from torture, integrity and mobility
- Equality, non-discrimination (women and children),
- Health
- Employment and social care
- Public participation
- Statistics and international cooperation

AREAS OF INTERVENTION -2020

- COVID 19
- Accessibility
- Education
- Employment and social care
- Public Participation
- International Cooperation



Areas of Intervention and Activities

1. COVID 19

COVID-19 has created a human crisis of such magnitude which has not been experienced so far and which has disproportionately affected people with disabilities. As such, this situation required a previously unseen response - an extraordinary approach to support people with disabilities. Disabled People Organizations (DPOs) acted to the best of their ability to support their members, always in accordance with the recommendations, instructions and other relevant documents published by the UN, WHO, NIPHK and the Government of Kosovo. The main goal was to ensure that people with disabilities have access to basic services, including emergency health and social protection services, to overcome the crisis.

The documents published by the UN in reference to the pandemic COVID 19 presented the findings, guidelines and recommendations which the DPOs in Kosovo always implemented focusing on the needs and specifics of the members they represented. The main UN recommendation was that a COVID 19 recovery response by including disability would better serve everyone. These specific recommendations focused on key sectors that included four key areas of action applicable to all: 1. Ensuring the integration of disability into all COVID-19 recovery operations; 2. Providing access to information, equipment, services and programs in response and recovery from COVID-19; 3. Ensuring meaningful consultation with the active participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all phases of COVID-19 response and recovery; 4. Establish mechanisms to ensure the inclusion of disability in the response to COVID-19¹.

The UN report also presented a wide range of impacts of COVID-19 on people with disabilities, including short-term and long-term implications. Among other things, it was concluded that: People with disabilities are at greater risk of COVID-19 infection; have a greater risk of developing more serious health conditions and death; people with disabilities living in institutions are more likely to be infected with the virus and have higher mortality rates; the same are particularly disadvantaged by the socio-economic consequences and measures to control the pandemic; impact on employment and social protection; education; support services; and the effects of violence on people with disabilities. In this context, the report has provided a set of recommendations to ensure an adequate response and recovery for people with disabilities with an emphasis to focus in areas such as: access, participation, accountability and data sharing. Whereas, the implementation of protection measures requested by the UN and other international organizations are as follows: Ensuring access to public health/health information; implementation of safety measures against COVID-19; providing access to services; ensuring non-discrimination in the allocation of medical resources; comprehensive interventions in the mental health of people with disabilities; Protection of persons living in institutions/reduction of the number of people within institutions; Support services / ensuring the continuity of support services; expanding community support for people with disabilities; Social protection and employment; Education addressing / addressing impacts that go beyond learning; Preventing and Responding to Violence / Providing comprehensive and accessible victim support services: raising awareness and knowledge: and Humanitarian Contexts².

In reference to these recommendations and instructions given within the government measures, DPOs in Kosovo (HANDIKOS, Kosovo Association of the Deaf, Kosovo Association of the Blind and the Kosovo

Disability Forum), during 2020, have made various interventions to address the challenges to the COVID 19 pandemic situation.

The primary activity was to identify the needs of persons with disabilities at the beginning of the emergency situation and submit them to the relevant institutions. DPOs, based on the identified needs of persons from their disability community were mobilized to provide services and support through various forms in accordance with government measures. Needs vary, depending on the type of disability and especially the priorities. Persons from the deaf and blind disability community have identified as a priority the need for access to information in order to obtain information on prevention and response during a pandemic situation, as well as to be informed about government measures. While persons with physical disabilities, in the priorities of their needs have identified health requirements as well as adequate measures related to the prevention of infection with COVID 19. While, the education of children with disabilities from all communities of disability is considered a challenge at the time of the pandemic. Socio-economic well-being has been identified as a common priority due to the fact that people with disabilities even in ordinary situations are considered the poorest community, while this situation has worsened even more during the pandemic period.

Therefore, in the framework of interventions related to measures against COVID 19, DPOs have made interventions in the field of: health, accessibility, education and socio-economic well-being, as follows:

In reference to the basic needs for people with disabilities, HANDIKOS in cooperation with the local network throughout Kosovo, in response to health needs, during April and May 2020 alone, supplied more than 300 Persons with Disabilities throughout Kosovo with basic medical equipment (catheters, disinfectants; sterile gloves; masks; urinary bags; urinary condoms). Moreover, for emergencies, the department for distribution of assistive devices within HANDIKOS has operated with all the necessary protective parameters and has distributed a considerable number of wheelchairs and other equipment. HANDIKOS has offered support to the Ministry of Health and Clinic for Infectious Diseases with assistive devices for Covid patients 19.

DPOs from the national and local level have exchanged experiences regarding addressing the emergency situation and how to support people with disabilities and have worked together to meet the most essential health needs of PWDs throughout Kosovo, including the design and distribution of posters with information on COVID-19 as well as video tutorials were shared and used by them. HANDIKOS has supported people with disabilities virtually through social media and other online platforms by publishing video messages and information about COVID-19 and measures to prevent infection. At the same time, instructions regarding the use and maintenance of their assistive devices through video lessons for children and adults have been developed and disseminated online instructions. To address the aspect of social isolation during the pandemic situation, two (2) information sessions were held, one for the parents of children with disabilities and one (1) with adults with disabilities. Parents of children with disabilities were supported virtually through their closed Facebook group to cope with COVID-19 and to support their children, with the same purpose live sessions and video tutorials were continuously provided. The Children with Disabilities Group 'HËNA' (Moon) continuously organized virtual meetings during this period to share the activities that should be implemented and ideas on how to be active during isolation. The services that were previously offered for independent living and rehabilitation in the centers of HANDIKOS, are now adapted to be offered through online platforms.

The Kosovar Association of the Deaf undertook numerous actions to ensure that its members are well informed by providing access to the latest information through sign language. Interpretation of sign language was provided at press conferences organized by the Ministry of Health as well as on public television news. KAD with the support of the Kosovo Disability Forum KDF organized numerous information sessions related to Covid 19 as well as activities with deaf children through the online platform. Only during April 2020, at the time when the information was more than necessary for everyone, KAD produced 14 video information in sign language which were published on the official website and on the social network Facebook page of KAD, this practice has continued throughout the year. Other results during this period of time are the launch of the "Electronic Dictionary" of sign language and the ongoing cooperation of KAD with the Ministry of Education regarding the engagement of sign language interpreters as assistants in schools for deaf children.

The Kosovo Association of the Blind, also in an effort to share the necessary information to its members, developed and used the approach that through social media blind persons were informed about the restriction of free movement, protection measures against the pandemic, including instructions instructions to apply "official permission" to leave their homes in case of need. KAB in cooperation with KDF printed the brochure in Braille for blind people regarding the Covid19 pandemic situation, which was financially supported by CDF and distributed to blind people throughout Kosovo.

In addition to the health implications and access to information, another challenge of the pandemic period was the Education of Children with Disabilities. The inclusion of children with disabilities in the education system in Kosovo was one of the priorities of the Disabled People Organizations (DPOs) in order to support them in following the educational programs organized by the Ministry of Education and Science during the pandemic Covid 19. Kosovo Disability Forum (KDF) together with DPOs have organized numerous meetings with MES, UNICEF and other international organizations to respond with their actions to this challenge. KDF with the support of UNICEF started with the implementation of the Project "Integration and Coordination of Internet services for children with disabilities in Kosovo". The objective of this project was to implement online educational services for deaf and blind children. HANDIKOS, also through the support of various donors has managed to provide "tablets" for children with disabilities in order to enable them to continue the educational program which was already developed online by the Ministry of Education.

The COVID 19 pandemic has also affected the "Social Welfare and Employment" of people with disabilities and their families. In the list of needs identified by DPOs, there was also the need for material assistance for PWDs and their families. DPOs organized numerous meetings with relevant institutions to find ways to support people with disabilities during the economic crisis caused by the pandemic. As the result of such meetings, in the emergency package for first three (3) months, persons with disabilities who received social assistance under the amount of 100 Euros, received a 25% increase. This practice was not applied in the next emergency packages. With the support of many donors, DPOs have distributed hygiene kits and food packages to people with disabilities and their families who were assessed as most at risk in terms of social welfare.

The pandemic situation is still ongoing and requests to address the health, educational and economic welfare aspects of persons with disabilities remain the main priorities of DPOs.

2. Accessibility

Research Report, finds that the Accessibility is among the most important categories and standards which is included only 6.77% in the legislation of Kosovo, while it is partially addressed 79.67%, and 13.55% of the standards are missing or not included at all in the legislation of Kosovo .

In order to facilitate communication, access to information, physical environment, transport, DPO's were engaged through advocacy, lobbying, meetings and cooperation with public and private institutions to advance the position of their communities in relation to the required standards. In reference to the accessibility, 2442 hours of interpretation services were provided for public institutions in the period January-September 2020, the Draft Agreement for the establishment of Vocal Synthesis in Albanian was drafted between the two respective ministries of Kosovo and Albania, various advocacy interventions through meetings and other platforms were implemented, with special emphasis on the Municipality of Prishtina, for the removal and elimination of physical barriers in the city and public institutions and a meeting was held with the representative of the Chamber of Architects in order that the private sector and especially in the phases of applying for "construction-permission" for private buildings to respect and comply with the criteria of the Administrative Instruction for accessibility. To enable the free movement and independent life of persons with disabilities, HANDIKOS, during the pandemic period has distributed 200 wheelchairs, 35 walkers, 20 pairs of crutches, 15 beds, 25 toilet wheelchairs and 13 toilet seats and other supportive equipment. With the same purpose, HANDIKOS in cooperation with UNICEF organized the awareness raising campaign for free movement by placing an installation with 120 carts in the main boulevard of the capital city.

The provision of sign language services is regulated by an act of the Government, which obliges "All public institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, at central and local level, to provide services in sign language to persons from the deaf community as needed and required. However, it is considered that this regulation is not being fully implemented, especially at the local level. The lack of vocal synthesis in the Albanian language has made it impossible for blind people to access all types of information and has made it difficult for them to communicate both personally and professionally. The creation of the Vocal Synthesis in the Albanian language would enable the blind persons of the Albanian speaking community to facilitate communication, access to information, various systems, internet and would create facilities in the system for education of the blind children. Removing and eliminating physical barriers in the city and public institutions would create opportunities for people with disabilities to use the services in the same way as other citizens. Lack of physical access is one of the main barriers for people with physical disabilities to live an independent and dignified life, to educate, to participate in society, because physical barriers restrict freedom of movement.

For the purposes of this report, the following obligations are included:

Areas of research	Scope of Interventions during 2020	Activities / Type of intervention
Equal access to physical environment, transport, ICT and other facilities and services	Applied	Meetings with public officials, through visual media, social networks,

Minimum standards and accessibility guidelines /	Applied	Meetings with public officials, through visual media, social networks,
Private companies remove barriers and do not place new ones	NA	
Training of stakeholders related to the access of persons with disabilities /	NA	
Forms for facilitating communication through Braille and other guides (interpreters) /	Applied	Interpretation services for public institutions, Draft agreement for the creation of Vocal Synthesis in the Albanian Language between the two ministries, Kosovo and Albania
Access to information, systems, internet	Applied	Interpretation services for public institutions,
Access requirements are an integral part of construction projects from the design phase /	Applied	Meetings with public officials, through visual media, social networks,
Organizations of persons with disabilities are consulted on access standards and norms	NA	
Media services are accessible to people with disabilities	NA	

3. Education

Education is among the categories with moderate results. About 42% of standards for disability are included in Kosovo legislation, 50% of standards are partially addressed, and only 8.33% of standards are missing or not addressed at all.

In order to realize the right to inclusive education, individual support for students with disabilities and improve access for students to attend schools, training of teachers and other professionals and professional training of teachers, DPO's during the interventions in 2020 have finalized the publication of the first electronic dictionary of the Kosovar sign language with more than 2700 signs and 150 sentences, the issue of technical equipment and didactic equipment for blind students has been advanced - some equipment has been provided for the community of the blind, while for the Resource Center in Peja the capacity building of the professional staff has been done. Also, since the start announcement of the pandemic situation, by using the online service platforms provided to the blind community their needs have been identified, which were addressed to the responsible institutions in the field of education, health, welfare and administrative services in different forms.

Inclusive education for students with disabilities in general and deaf students in particular is far from the goal, as skills and human resources are lacking in Kosovo schools to properly address this challenge. Technical "tiflo equipment" and "didactic tiflo equipment" are mandatory equipment by law and fall under the competence of line ministries such as: MLSW, MoH and MES.

For the purposes of this report, the following obligations are included:

Areas of research	Scope of Interventions during 2020	Activities / Type of intervention
The right to inclusive education	Applied	Publication of the first electronic dictionary of the Kosovar sign language with more than 2700 signs and 150 sentences.
Prevent the denial of the right to education on the basis of ability	NA	
Students with disabilities attend regular school classes	NA	
Obligations of schools to improve accessibility for school students with disabilities /	Applied	Meetings of DPOs with the Ministry of Education.
Preventing discrimination against girls with disabilities in accessing education /	NA	
Individual support for pupils and students with disabilities	Applied	Providing equipment for the blind community
Engaging teachers (including those with disabilities) who use sign language and Braille	Applied	*The employment of assistants is in process.
Training of teachers and other professionals for inclusive education	Applied	In RC Peja, the capacity building of professional staff has been done by the MES

4. Employment and Social Welfare

Employment and social care is evaluated through obligations (standards) which slightly more than a third (38.88%) of them are included in the legislation of Kosovo, 44.45% are partially addressed while 16.66% are missing or not addressed at all.

Law enforcement, during 2020, has been the main focus for advocacy by Disabled People Organizations. DPOs have continuously advocated to local institutions, through meetings, media and social networks, regarding the implementation of the law and the respect of the rights provided by law. At the same time, work has been done to find secondary alternatives for the employment of people with disabilities, and several projects have been presented aiming at developing social entrepreneurship where people with disabilities would be employed. In reference to this, HANDIKOS will soon start implementing the project funded by Swiss Cooperation and where PWDs will start working and generate income. In this context, the institutions have intervened regarding the issue of services for the blind. The implementation of this law addresses some areas protected by international documents as found in the research report and which are: the right to earn a living from a job that provides access to people with disabilities; prohibition of discrimination in employment on the basis of disability; equal opportunities in working conditions, payment, career and protection from harassment; Effective access of people with disabilities to vocational education programs, employment opportunities and career development.

Based on current data, in Kosovo only 0.1 percent of people with disabilities are employed. This symbolic number of employees has consistently concerned organizations dealing with the rights of persons with disabilities. From a simple statistic prepared by the institutions of Kosovo, in reference to the reporting on the objectives of the National Action Plan for PWDs, the results are showing that for a period of 1 year the following persons with disabilities are registered as jobseekers with disabilities: for the age group 15-24 years there are a total of 24 persons (9 females and 15 males), while for the age group 25-39, there are a total of 156 persons, 51 females and 105 males. Whereas, from this number only 3 persons are employed through employment mediation, 2 females and 1 male.

For the purposes of this report, the following obligations are included:

Areas of research	Scope of Interventions during 2020	Activities / Type of intervention
The right to earn a living from a job that provides access to people with disabilities	Applied	Advocacy for the Implementation of the Law on Training, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities
Prohibition of discrimination in employment on the basis of disability	Applied	Advocacy for the Implementation of the Law on Training, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities
Equal opportunities in working conditions, payment career and protection from harassment /	Applied	Advocacy for the Implementation of the Law on Training, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities
Effective access of people with disabilities to vocational education programs, employment opportunities and career development	NA	
Employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sector /	Applied	Advocacy for the Implementation of the Law on Training, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities
Protection of persons with disabilities from forced labor	NA	
Ensuring an adequate standard of living for people with disabilities and their families (food, clothing, housing) /	NA	
Equal access for people with disabilities to drinking water services /	NA	
Equal access of people with disabilities, especially women, girls and the elderly with disabilities, to social care and programs to reduce poverty	NA	
Financial support and other services for people with disabilities and poor families	Applied	Lobbying for Services for the Blind.

Access of people with disabilities to social housing programs	NA	
Equal access of people with disabilities to pension programs and benefits	NA	Meetings for the benefit of PWDs from Government emergency packages.

5. Public participation,

Public participation remains among the most challenging categories of disability standards, with only 20% of the following obligations included in Kosovo legislation, 20% of standards partially addressed, and 60% of standards missing or not addressed at all.

Disabled People Organizations have consistently advocated for participation in political and public life on an equal basis with others and for full and non-discriminatory participation in public affairs. In reference to this right, in the last elections last year, a person with disability was elected through a citizen vote as a deputy in the Parliament of Kosovo. However, the same MP was faced with physical barriers to be present in the sessions of the Assembly of Kosovo, due to physical barriers, which do not allow him to enter and leave the Assembly building independently, due to the lack of access for wheelchair.

DPOs have send the message to the institutions that these barriers should not exist and have requested that concrete actions be taken to regulate access to the premises of the Kosovo Parliament. Officials in Parliament have provided the deputy with the help of an assistant, but this solution is not the best alternative because it does not provide stability and does not ensure continuity.

DPOs, during 2020, have organized and held the International “Week for Persons with White Stick” and the “Week of the Deaf people”, followed by conferences and meetings with institutions. By marching with wheelchairs, with the participation of the President of Kosovo Parliament, the former Prime Minister, MPs, other public figures and citizens it was marked the international day for wheelchair users. Through these organizations, messages are conveyed for the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities, law enforcement, accessibility and inclusion. All these events were also covered by visual, electronic and social media.

This year, the presence / visibility of people with disabilities in the media, including visual, written and social media, has significantly increased.

For the purposes of this report, the following obligations are included:

Areas of research	Scope of Interventions during 2020	Activities / Type of intervention
People with disabilities are part of political and public life on an equal basis with others (the right to vote and to stand for election)	Applied	Advocacy for parliamentary elections
People with disabilities enjoy a supportive environment for full and non-discriminatory participation in public affairs	Applied	Advocacy for eliminating physical barriers to participate in public life

Access to cultural materials for persons with disabilities /	Applied	Presence in visual, written and social media
Access for people with disabilities to television programs, movies, theater and other cultural activities /	Applied	TV presence, sports activities
Access of persons with disabilities to cultural heritage institutions and monuments.	NA	

6. Statistics and International Cooperation

Statistics and international cooperation is the weakest category among the ten categories evaluated in this study. None of the following standards is part of Kosovo legislation.

In reference to international cooperation, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, DPOs have made efforts for international cooperation. The KAB has been accepted to the European Union of the Blind, as an observer member and participated in the online meeting on the Marrakesh treaty, with the aim of advocating to national institutions for the realization of the copyright for the publication of works by various authors in Braille.

For the purposes of this report, the following obligations are included:

Areas of research	Scope of Interventions during 2020	Activities / Type of intervention
Gathering, analysis and publication of statistical data on the situation of people with disabilities	NA	
International development programs are accessible to people with disabilities	Applied	The KAB has been accepted to the European Union of the Blind as an observer member.
Provide capacity development support through information sharing, training and best practices	Applied	Workshops for Capacity Building of DPOs.
Facilitate research collaboration and access to scientific and technical knowledge	NA	

In the finalization of interventions and the realization of rights from these areas and advocacy and intervention for other areas we will address in the coming years.

7. Other developments

During October 2020, the Office for Good Governance in cooperation with DPOs have organized a five (5) day's workshop with representatives of relevant Ministries and as a result the first draft of the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2023 has been drafted based on the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities.

During September, the Ministry of Health together with the working group has finalized the Administrative Instruction on Auxiliary Equipment, which is based on the Law on the Status and Rights of Paraplegic and Tetraplegic Persons. The instruction has passed the approval phases (proces) within the MoH. Representatives of HANDIKOS were also part of the working group.

The Office for Good Governance in cooperation with the DPOs have developed the terms of reference and the internal regulation for the re-functioning of the Kosovo National Disability Council KNDC. Due to government measures related to the pandemic, the official meeting for the re-functioning of the KNDC has been postponed and should be held in the first opportunity after the relief of measures.

Recommendations

1. Central and local level institutions should involve DPOs at all stages of the process of planning, designing, implementing and monitoring actions for overall recovery from the crisis created by COVID 19, including the provision of essential services to persons with disabilities.
2. Central and local institutions to ensure the full implementation of positive legislation in Kosovo regarding access, including bylaws.
 - 2.1 Monitor the fulfillment of the criteria for access to all contracts related to public procurement. The respective municipal directorates to monitor the implementation of the criteria of Administrative Instruction 33/2007, for physical access in the case of issuing construction permits to construction companies.
 - 2.2 Central and local institutions to ensure the full implementation of Regulation of the Government of Republic of Kosovo No. 15/2014 on the Provision of Services in Sign Language in the Republic of Kosovo, approved at the 197th meeting of the Government of Kosovo, in order for deaf persons to have full access to information and services.
 - 2.3 Central institutions to ensure the development and implementation of vocal synthesis in the Albanian language for the blind so that this community has access to information, education and services.
3. Educational Institutions to provide adequate programs and access for the inclusion of all children with disabilities in the regular educational process at all levels.
 - 3.1 Provide support teachers/assistants in the education for all types of disabilities.
4. MLSW to ensure the establishment of mechanisms for the implementation of the Law on Training, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities.
 - 4.1 MLSW to ensure the inclusion of the Comprehensive Law in the legislative program for 2021.
5. To oblige Public Media Broadcasters to reserve a “time for broadcasting” focused on disability.
 - 5.1 To increase the capacities and knowledge of journalists on disability issues,
6. Kosovo institutions to provide financial and logistical support for the membership and participation of DPOs in the networks of international disability organizations.
7. The Government of Kosovo - the Prime Minister to re-functionalize the National Council for Disability.
 - 7.1 The Government should commit funds and ensure the full implementation of the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2023.