

George Williams Youth Association

The Official Representative of the
World YMCA in Kosovo

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

George Williams Youth Association in Kosovo

The official representative of the World YMCA in Kosovo



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Kosovo participants join young people from YMCAs around Europe for a conference alongside COP21 in Paris (December)



Young people preparing for water activities at YMCA Greece Camp (August 2015)

SECTION 1**AN OVERVIEW OF GWY****ABOUT US****Our mission**

To be an inclusive movement where people grow in mind, body and spirit

Our vision

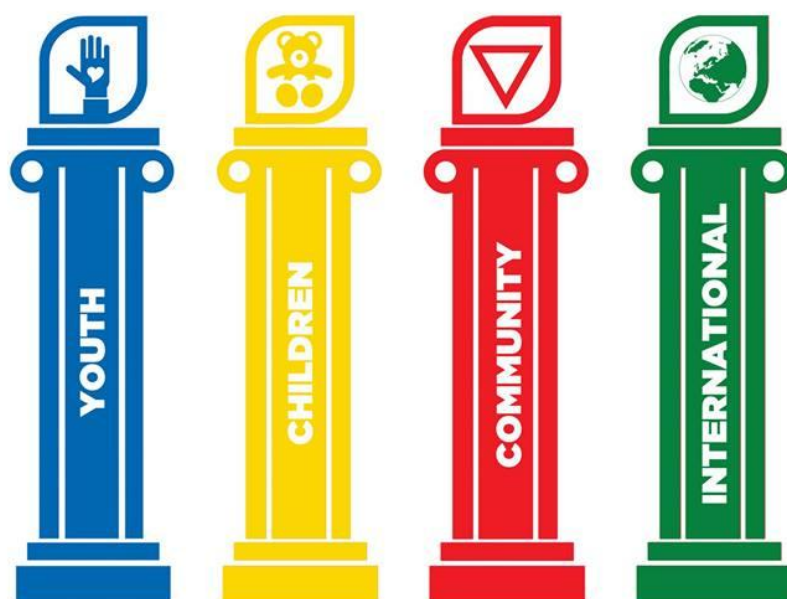
To be a strong, credible movement where people grow in mind, body and spirit.

Building future and present leaders and investing in youth

Promoting peace and unity and celebrating each other's differences and diversity

About us

George Williams Youth Association in Kosovo is a value based organisation made up of volunteers that aim to inspire and encourage youth leadership and assist in the healthy development of communities. The red triangle of the YMCA also embodies our values and approach to work, the team tries to ensure that all projects help people develop in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by the worldwide YMCA a National Office in Kosovo was established in August 2003, a re-brand and restructure in 2013 allowed us have our own identity within Kosovo while retaining links with the rest of the movement, the current vision and mission was approved at the 2014 assembly meeting.

Pillars of work

OUR PEOPLE

Board members/Trustees

| Name | Position | Service |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Besnik Leka | President | April 2015- Present |
| Benita Ajroni | Vice President | April 2014- Sep 2015 |
| Dominik Demaj | Treasurer | April 2014- Present |
| Milot Ferizi | Board Member | April 2014- Present |
| Rinor Hasi | Board Member | April 2014- Present |
| Zana Jaha | Board Member | April 2015- Present |



Board of Trustees and the staff team

Staff & Volunteers

| Name | Position | Name | Position |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Dorina Lluka Davies | National CEO | Laura Qarkakhija | Youth Worker |
| Adelina Qarri | Finance Officer | Adrian Sheremeti | Youth Worker |
| Adhurim Bekaj | Finance Officer | Dorina Gllloxhani | Youth Worker |
| Floriye Lluka | Shop Worker | Qendrim Lluka | Youth Worker |
| Myrvete Arllati | Shop Worker | Glera Lusha | Intern |
| Valbone Kabashi | Shop Worker | Shiqiprim Hyseni | Children's Worker |
| Erina Arllati | Shop Volunteer | Shqipe Mula | Children's Worker |
| Adrian Davies | Youth Coordinator | Arita Zherka | Children's Worker |

Thank you to the staff who have moved on

| Name | Position |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Fjolla Meqa | Children's Worker |
| Rina Domi | Finance Officer |
| Kanina Rrustemi | Shop Worker |
| Blerina Kabashi | Shop Worker |
| Ardit Cana | Membership Coordinator |

FIELD GROUP & DONORS 2015

| FIELD GROUP MEMBERS | | |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
| YMCA England http://www.ymca.org.uk | YMCA Finland http://www.ymca.fi | Y USA http://www.ymca.net |
| INTERNATIONAL | | |
|  |  | |
| Ys Men International & Ys Men Region Denmark http://www.ysmen.org | | Holstenbro Nødhjælp www.holstenbronødhjælp.dk |
| LOCAL | | |
|  |  |  |
| Kosovar Civil Society Foundation http://www.kcsfoundation.org | A.R.S Progetti S.P.A http://www.culture-ks.org | Terre des hommes http://www.tdh.ch |

Kosovo is a small and landlocked territory in the centre of the Balkan Peninsula. The majority of the population is Albanian (88%), while the most numerous among the other ethnic groups are the Serbs, Bosnians, Turks and Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian. The most prominent religions are Muslim, Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox. According to a World Bank. Kosovo's difficult labor market conditions have been especially severe for youth. Estimates suggest that unemployment among 15–24- year-olds exceeds 55 percent. The generally poor quality of the education system, coupled with limited employment opportunities, makes it difficult for young people to access and retain jobs;

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| <p>Gjakova</p> <p>https://kk.rks-gov.net/gjakove</p> | <p>Peja</p> <p>https://kk.rks-gov.net/peje</p> | <p>Fushe Kosovo</p> <p>http://kk.rks-gov.net/fushekosove</p> |
| <div data-bbox="416 909 552 1144">  </div> <div data-bbox="552 909 1160 1144"> <p>REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO</p> <p>MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT</p> </div> | | |
| <p>http://www.mkr-ks.org</p> | | |

▼ Pejë

▼ Gjakovë

▼ Fushë Kosovë

▼ Prishtinë



Young people enjoying high wire activities at the YMCA Greece Camp (August 2015)

SECTION 2

WORK

2015 PROJECT REPORT

Dear Friends,

In 2015, we made great progress in implementing our plan and delivering our mission for Youth Empowerment and Serving the Community. In 2015 we have exceeded all our targets; this would not be done without an excellent team of staff and volunteers that lead our organization by building it locally, nationally and internationally.

Guided by our long-term vision to build leaders that can serve the community I'm proud to say that we have set a good standard and built good flagship work programs in the Municipalities of Gjakova, Peja and Fushe Kosovo in 2015 and we look forward to starting new partnerships with new municipalities in the coming year.

We were able in 2015 to navigate our work through a lot of challenging situations such as high youth unemployment and a lack of adequate non formal education remain huge obstacles alongside Kosovo's development and the need for visa liberalization.

We have walked with our mission and vision everyday in our work with dedication and commitment but we all know it is worth it knowing that we can make the lives of youth and children in Kosovo better.

We have engaged hundreds of youth and children in our projects over the year, and we are proud that on top of everything we do we have created jobs; we are now a team of 10 staff with an army of active volunteers. We are proud of our work this year and our YMCA is a good example of team work and success for the Balkan region.

Regards,



Dorina Lluka Davies
National CEO



Besnik Leka
President

2015 Plan

| Draft plan for 2015 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Projects | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Afterschool | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weekend camps for preschools | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leadership training | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Charity shop (income generating) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Opening the second charity shop | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Starting youth activities in Peja (new town) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puppet show (income generating) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Women "Tea time" | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| English language courses (income generating) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leading Change conference 2015 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Board meeting | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Change agents from Kosovo-WAY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Board training | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Y-Women | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| YE General Assembly Meeting and *YES in Estonia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Roots YE- Hungary | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assembly meeting | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tree planting | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colorado USA work and travel program | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Y's Men Denmark visit in Kosovo | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greece (Summer camp for Kosovar youth) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *YMCA Portugal (Change Agents meeting) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *YMCA Norway /TT Festival | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *YMCA France | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Field group & Assembly meeting 2015 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Award ceremony for 2015 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food Parcels (Gjakova, Prishtina, F. Kosova) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Erasmus+ application | | | | | | | | | | | | |

YOUTH PROJECTS

Leadership Program



Our main youth empowerment program is our 'peer to peer' leadership training program working with youth between the ages of 14-20 years old. The project helps develop leadership skills and encourages youth to embrace the "pay it forward" methodology. 2015 saw the project being implemented in three cities with over 400 young people involved.

Youth Highlight of the Year

For the second successive summer our organization took 30 young people aged from 15-18 years old to YMCA Greece's Summer Camp in Thessaloniki. The transport was provided by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and youth were able play sports, water activities, hiking, first aid, obstacle course and other camping activities.



Y WoMan



Our 12 week program for both genders between the ages of 14-20 years old, the curriculum takes different topics and hopes to challenge the young people and build strong opinion leaders. In 2015 we switched from our tradition round table style training in order to work with a group over a certain period of time. It's hoped this project will create an informal network of youth activists on gender issues.

Statistics

| | |
|--|------------|
| Leadership Participants January-June | 224 |
| Leadership Participants September- December | 248 |
| Y WoMan Participants | 60 |

National Awards

2015 saw the second time our movement honoured individuals with awards.



Attendee of the Year: Ardit Glllogjani
 Youth Volunteer of the Year: Dren Haxhija
 Volunteer of the Year: Rinor Hasi
 George Williams Special Award: Jan Pate



CHILDRENS PROJECTS

Afterschool Project

Our After School project started in 2013, serving more than 200 hundred children in Gjakova, we have been assisting in homework activities, social issues and seasonal activities. In early 2015 the project stopped due to the organisation leaving its temporary premises and moving to our current location. The project then morphed into the weekend camps project where the organisation was able to reach greater numbers providing a more cost effective model yet still maintaining the ethos and methodology of work.

Weekend Camps



This project is implemented in partnership with the local government where we provide non-formal activities to children using their primary school as a base at weekends. The project started in February 2015 and has seen over **700 children** involved as the team move round to different schools within the city. Activities include games, arts & craft, music & dance and much more.

Children's Highlight 2015

In Summer 2015 we teamed up with Bethany Christian Service to deliver a Summer Camp for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children at the Zef Lush Marku school in Gjakova. The project was funded by Terre Des Hommes and worked with under privileged children ensuring that each day started with breakfast and helping children develop soft skills like team work, turn taking, learning to share and also learning while doing. More than 80 children attended over the two weeks and we had a visit from the British Scouts who led games.



Fusion



The project works with children aged 11, 12 and 13 who are too old for our children's camps yet too young for our youth projects. The weekly session provides a host of activities for the participants. The project started in November 2015 after conversations with the Municipality in Gjakova and also includes children from disadvantaged families.

Puppet Show Project

From 2013-2015 we have implemented our puppet show project where through performances we taught children between the ages of 4-8 years old about their rights and responsibilities, good deeds and gender quality using the puppets. The project ran in Gjakova and F.Kosovo and more than **700 children** watched our performances.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Charity Shops



We currently have two shops in Kosovo, the first originally financed by Ys Men International through their time of Fast fund in 2014. The shops have a dedicated team of staff and volunteers who work hard to raise funds that contribute towards our aid projects. In an additional partnership with Holstenbro Nedhjaelp in Denmark, second hand goods (clothes, toys, house ware etc) will be shipped to Kosovo twice a year up until 2020. This usually takes a huge effort from a dedicated team of volunteers to unload tons of donations usually going deep into the night.

Community Highlight of the Year

After Opening the first NGO shop in Kosovo we made the decision to open a second shop in Gjakova. This has helped our organisation create extra jobs and volunteer opportunities. In 2015 we also provided a scholarship for one of our volunteers and had the perfect base in which to reach out to the community.



Food Parcels

Supporting families in need is one of the most humble values of humans. 2015 saw our organisation provide over 200 families with food parcels. The project has been running since 2013 and donations have come from across the world from organisations and personal contributions. An army of volunteers usually buy, make and distribute the food parcels, this happened 4 times alone this year. 2015 also saw us partner with Kadri Kusari school who raised funds themselves and partnered with us.

Clothes & Toys for Roma Children



Our organisation has donated teddy bears, items of clothes and games and puzzles to children around Kosovo this year as part of its aid giving. All of these items came from our charity shops and were cleaning and prepared by volunteers, looking like new when they were given. The purpose of this project is to not only help struggling families but to also raise awareness that more support must be given to certain communities, each time we have given items we have ensured that the organisation has appeared on the news.

Statistics

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Food Parcels | Over 240 |
| Teddy Bears | Over 200 |
| Clothes | Over 150 |
| Games & Puzzles | Over 50 |

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

YMCA Europe Activities

This year participants from Kosovo were involved in YMCA Europe initiatives such as the Roots for Reconciliation reunion in Budapest, the YES seminar and European General Assembly in Estonia and the National General Secretaries meeting in Italy.



International Highlight of the Year



2015 saw us partner with YMCA Ireland & YMCA England to deliver an introduction to youth work training. Kosovo has 6 participants who visited England in October for the first of three exchanges. The first training conference took place at YMCA Fairthorne near Southampton and saw the group look at the history, ethics, practice and personal boundaries. We were joined by the Director of the Youth department for Culture, Youth and Sport who also supported our participants financially. The next training will take place in Northern Ireland in February 2016.

Erasmus Partnerships

2015 saw us link up with other YMCAs around Europe in Erasmus bids. We were able to take 6 young leaders to the Global Week festival in Norway along with 6 young leaders to YMCA Frances Climate Conference with ran alongside the COP21 in Paris in December.



Change Agents

Kosovo once again joined the World YMCAs Change Agent project, which is a global leadership development project. Our Change agents have already been involved in a regional training in Switzerland and a global gathering that took place aboard the Peace Boat sailing from Japan to Singapore. 2016 will see them continue their international mentorship alongside delivering projects within Kosovo.

Hosting



We believe that International work is not just sending our people to other countries or YMCAs but also bringing people to Kosovo. This year we have had many groups visit us here including Y's Men from Denmark, YMCA Denmark "Globetrotters" project, Our Field Group, Winchester Scouts and YMCA England and Ireland project leaders and participants.

International Participants 60

Visitors to Kosovo 61



YMCA Denmark visit a school to give out presents and play games (October 2015)

FINANCES**George Williams Youth Association in Kosovo - YMCA in Kosovo
Financial balance statement for 2015**

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Program Operation cost | 51, 384.59 euro |
|------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Management and administrative cost | 15, 889.07 euro |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Total | 67,273.66 euro |
|--------------|-----------------------|

From total amount 24.6 % of funds came from our income generating projects

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOU

Field Group Members

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jan Pate (Y USA) | Jenni Enqvist (YMCA Finland) |
| Paul Smillie (YMCA England) | Adam Rychlik (YMCA Europe) |



The field group met with Kosovo officials in Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport (October 2015)

Aid Project Donors

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jenni Enqvist- Finland | Ys Men Denmark Region |
| Ken Montgomery- England | YMCA Denmark |
| Jan Pate – USA | YMCA Finland |

Volunteers

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Sebastian Merdita | Artan Asllani |
| Skender Lluka | Rexh Bezera |
| Natyra Xharavina | Martin Berisha |







Peer Trainers



| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Pylljon Nura | Qendresa Azemi | Shkelqim Iloqanaj | Toska Pruthi |
| Drenusha Rogova | Fiona Shyti | Leart Kastrati | Qendresa Tara |
| Ariana Sahatqija | Agon Meqa | Alban Lakuci | Dion Cana |
| Eli Bytyqi | Lorina Leti | Diellza Salicana | Jon Bytyqi |
| Ardit Cana | Drilion Rogova | Qendresa Peni | Leart Cana |
| Dea Bejtullaha | Dren Haxhija | Lirak Kerleshi | Jeta Tetrica |
| Etnik Dautaga | Diona Doli | Rina Arllati | Ndriqim Doli |
| Errisa Hasimja | Vlera Doli | Gresa Pozhegu | Jona Zajmi |
| Doruntina Golaj | Era Ferizi | Qendrim Azemi | |



Staff and young leaders distribute puzzles and games children (November)

YMCA PARTNERS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |
| YMCA Greece http://www.ymca.gr | YMCA France http://www.ymca.gr | YMCA Ireland http://www.ymca-ireland.net |
|  |  |  |
| YWCA YMCA Denmark http://www.kfum-kfuk.dk | YWCA YMCA Norway http://kfuk-kfum.no | YMCA Tirana |

| | |
|---|--|
| YMCA Europe http://www.ymcaeurope.com | World YMCA http://www.ymca.int |
|  |  |
| YMCA Europe Na Porici 12, CZ-110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic | World Alliance of YMCAs 12 Clos Belmont, 1208 Geneva, Switzerland |



Pylljon & Glera, the Kosovo Changes Agents for the 2015-16 programme

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CONNECT



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/YMCAinKosovo>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/YMCAKosovo>

Google Plus: <https://plus.google.com/+YmcaKosovo/posts>

Fliker: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/99135595@N04>

Blog: <http://ymcainkosovo.blogspot.com>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/YWCAYMCAinKosovo>

CONTACT US

George William Youth Association in Kosovo,
St. Ismail Qemali n.n.
Gjakova,
50 000,
Republic of Kosovo

georgewilliamsyouthassociation@gmail.com