



## YOUTH Innovations Lab

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

Kosovo is the youngest society in Europe, with 53 percent of its estimated inhabitants under 25 years old. Yet the inclusion and protection of youth and adolescents remains a continuous challenge.

There are important links between the needs of Kosovo's youth and the global phenomenon of mobile, open, and social technologies - presenting unparalleled opportunities for innovative solutions to local problems. The Innovations Lab is a vehicle to explore those opportunities.

## PROGRAMME SUMMARY

**By Youth For Youth (BYFY)** is a platform for empowering Kosovo's youth to participate in processes that affect them through development and implementation of projects that positively impact their own lives and those of their peers. Using new (and old) technologies to create positive social change for themselves and their communities, youth receive extensive support for selected projects through ongoing mentorship, equipment and infrastructure, funding, physical space, assistance in proposal development, opportunities for diverse participation, and links to formal institutions, international collaborations and academia.

**The Design Center** directly conceives and implements technological innovations and projects to serve the data and information needs of Kosovo's institutions, youth and children. By ensuring that technological developments improve information flow between government and vulnerable communities, this project aims to build the technological capacities of youth, based on open source, mobile, and social technologies that address the most critical needs of Kosovo's public institutions.

**The Youth Advocacy Platform (YAP)** supports Kosovo's youth in developing innovative evidence-based solutions to key social issues within their communities, with the goal of establishing a sustainable network of youth-led advocacy, civic engagement and policy influence. A platform for both grassroots social advocacy and central-level engagement for Kosovo youth, the YAP seeks to combine both the organic principles and platforms of open-source and new media technologies with a variety of creative offline advocacy tools and methods to create an expanding community of young social entrepreneurs, activists, political representatives, and IT experts actively engaged in developing technology-based solutions to address relevant social policy issues.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

Encourage and empower youth to actively engage in the process of demanding and improving quality social services for themselves and their communities.

Support key government institutions to collect and use data to develop evidence-based policies and strategies in alignment with international standards, through the use of innovative technologies for its collection, filtering, analysis, and mapping.

Assist targeted institutions in key sectors to monitor the quality of social and protective services for a greater number of children and youth.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

Encouraged, empowered and employable youth that actively engage in political, civic and economic life.

Key government institutions formulate policy based on evidence captured through the use of innovative technologies.

Targeted institutions in key sectors have improved the quality of social and protective services for a greater number of children and youth.

## PARTNERS AND COUNTERPARTS

Implementing partners include PEN and OJAZAS, with practical technical assistance offered by the University of Pristina, the American University in Kosovo, UBT, AAB, and others, as well as the open source community. This project also seeks to partner with government institutions in improving data collection, analysis and representation – including (but not limited to) the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Justice.

**PLANNED INVESTMENT 2012-2013:**  
**\$3,000,000**

