



PRISTINA INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES



A FEW WORDS *from the Director*

Leonora Kryeziu



One of the most challenging things that I face each year is the excitement of selecting the thirty new participants for the school. One might be surprised, but I would say that the Pristina Institute for Political Studies has become a matrix for young aspiring leaders, consensus-builders, promoters, who are keen to see change really happen in Kosovo.

The Pristina Institute for Political Studies (PIPS) had a great year in 2006. We moved further in our role as promoters of modern political culture. We have successfully met our goals by educating another generation of young leaders and by strengthening the already existing links between the school's alumni.

The school seminars are a great learning and growing opportunity for PIPS participants. Above all, the success of these seminars underscores the importance of the networking between political parties and civil society organisations in building support and influencing the decision-making process in Kosovo.

Our achievements are the results of all the parties involved in the school who have inspired, supported and worked with us all this time.

On the eve of major changes in Kosovo, the PIPS is fully aware of the tasks and challenges that lie ahead for Kosovo institutions and citizens. We are committed and ready to step up our efforts, mobilise our resources, and concentrate our energies on contributing effectively so that Kosovo young leaders will play an active role in meeting these needs and ensuring peaceful, democratic developments. We shall do this by continuing our mission in promoting democratic values.

School team

Leonora Kryeziu
PIPS Executive Director

Arjeta Hasani
Project Co-ordinator

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Accountant

MISSIONS *and objectives*



The mission of the Pristina Institute for Political Studies is to introduce members of the new political class in Kosovo to the skills and concepts of democratic politics. Our objective is the promotion and strengthening of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and European values. **We seek to achieve these goals by:**

- Educating young leaders in modern political thought and attitudes;
- Creating a public forum to facilitate dialogue between politicians who share common principles and ideas;
- Developing and supporting a network of young political and civil society leaders, which would help create civil society and efficient democratic institutions.



SELECTION *process*

Each year the school recruits 30 new candidates through an open competition. Candidates come from all fields of society – political parties, NGOs, judiciary, civil service, media, business, policy-makers, **representatives from minority communities** and others.

The selection procedures favour applicants who demonstrate open-mindedness, readiness to engage in debate and express their opinions, as well as interact and network with other participants and speakers/experts at the seminars.

The selected applicants are required to show a clear awareness of not only how the school will benefit them in their activities but also of the enhanced impact which their future activities will have on the communities they serve.

ACTIVITIES *and events*

The school operates principally through seminars. In the course of one year the school organises four seminars, which cover the main aspects of governing a pluralist, democratic, free market society.

The learning process brings together a wide range of national and international lecturers and trainers, who not only present and train the participants, but also interact and exchange practical experiences with them. Upon the completion of the school course, participants become members of the school's association "FORUM".

During seminar sessions, participants practise open discussions with experts on different issues of special importance for Kosovo. They discuss political, economical and social dimensions of transitions, the role of political parties in the transition systems, political communication, relation of politics and media, European integration processes, free elections, privatisation, decentralisation, corruption, etc.

EVALUATION

The objective of our school is to assess the long-term impact of the project and its sustained influence on the participants. Following the end of each seminar, participants are asked to complete an evaluation form designed to estimate the impact the seminar had on them and their views on where improvements could be made.

At the end of the project, participants are asked to review the impact the project had on them and its anticipated impact on their life and work.



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ALUMNI

The school supports a democratic network of its alumni who contribute to the development of civil society in Kosovo. The alumni association called "FORUM" was established in 2005.

As from this year, the alumni are invited to share their experience and the knowledge they have acquired during the school's seminars.

PARTICIPANTS' COMMENTS

"Knowledge gained, exchange of ideas, thoughts, attitudes and experiences among people who come from all fields of society, cannot be found anywhere else better than in the Pristina Institute for Political Studies. The school's programme is a unique one for Kosovo and I would love this school to become traditional."

Salije Gajtani

Journalist, Koha Ditore

"The political school is a forum that helps facilitate dialogue and exchange between the present and future leaders of Kosovo. Its importance is many-fold for a society desperately in need of genuine dialogue among the elite in order to build consensus on the way ahead."

Dardan Velija

Kosovar Research and Documentation Institute

"The school had a very positive impact and made me understand that civilisation is the process in which one gradually increases the number of people included in the term 'we' or 'us' and decreases those labelled 'you' or 'them'."

Shqipe Breznica

National Albanian American Council



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