

The Impact of International Cooperation in Public Safety Training and Education: the Case of the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS) 2014-2022

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The paper aims to enlighten impact of the international cooperation on establishment and development of public safety training and education system in Kosovo according to internationally recognized standards. There will be shown efforts of international partners, mainly the Western world, consisted namely by the United States and the European Union, to address policies and strategies of capacity building in law enforcement and public safety of an after-war country, such is Kosovo.

Moreover, there will also be explained the absorbing capacities of a consolidating society, such is the one of Kosovo, to improve and strengthen its educational system both in vocational training and higher education in the field of public safety. This, amongst others, has been achieved through the IPA funds of the European Union, setting up a well-established system according to the European Qualification Framework (EQF). Additionally, there will also be described internationally recognized quality assurance achievements, such is accreditation and re-accreditation of the highest possible level from the US-based International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST). Moreover, due to the certain status of Kosovo in its European integration path, there will also be described concrete results of inclusion of Kosovo law enforcement officers in the different capacity building activities of the European Union Agency on Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL).

Keywords: Kosovo, public safety, law enforcement, international cooperation, vocational training, higher education, quality assurance

I. Introduction

According to the Kosovar Center for Security Studies (KCSS), there are three periods that characterize security sector in Kosovo during the first decade after the war (1999 - 2009). The first period was from 1999 - 2005, known as the Security Sector Building (SSB), when the competences in this sector belonged to the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), that was, in fact, Head of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and locals had no responsibilities during this period. The second period lasts from the end of 2005 until the beginning of 2008, when the competences were gradually transferred from internationals to locals, it was prepared the Internal Security Sector Review (ISSR) and the newly established ministries of Internal Affairs (MIA) and the Justice (MJ) gradually got competences from the UNMIK. Whereas the third period started when Kosovo declared the independence and was drafted and entered into force the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, by which new security institutions were established and some others were reformed.²

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² Qkss.org, ‘Chronology of Security Sector Reform in Kosovo’, *Kosovar Center for Security Studies*, July 21, 2009,

Due to the specifics of the security sector of Kosovo especially after the war of 1999 and onwards, there have been published a lot of different materials, where it has been widely explained and elaborated this issue. It has already been known the fact that, as a post-conflict area, the responsibilities for maintaining peace and security in Kosovo after 1999 for several years have belonged to the international community. Namely the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) and other mechanisms were the ones that established and further developed Kosovo Law Enforcement institutions.

Throughout the years, it is an institution that played an important role as regarding the capacity building of public safety and law enforcement institutions of Kosovo. Established by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, the Kosovo Police Service School (KPSS) was the only institution in Kosovo in charge of capacity building, first of all for the police officers, but later on also for other law enforcement institutions. The institution through the time changed its name firstly to the Kosovo Center for Public Safety Education and Development (KCPSD) (2006 - 2011) and later on to Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS), a name that also holds nowadays.^{3 4}

However, on the recent years, supported and assisted always by the international partners, KAPS has gone through a significant transformation from an institution giving the necessary skills to the police and other law enforcement officers for the after-war emergent security needs to a modern European institution that provides both vocational training and higher education for six public safety institutions according to the most advanced European and international standards in the field. Having the current name since December 2011, when it entered into force the Law No. 04/L-053 on Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, KAPS is an Executive Agency of the Kosovo Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) “responsible for providing training and higher education, implementation of policies and strategies of training, higher education and the development of capacities in the field of public safety for all institutions of public safety, but not limited to: Kosovo Police, Correctional Service, Probation Service, Kosovo Customs, Emergency Management Agency and the Kosovo Police Inspectorate.”⁵

Since that time, KAPS has achieved significant results by achieving to validate all the vocational training curricula for all the six public safety institutions according to the Kosovo and thus European Qualification Framework (EQF), to establish higher education dedicated to the public safety officers, including their mid and senior management staff, as well as initiating, developing and further extending the internationalization of the institution by and with different European and international mechanisms in and related to the Public Safety education for both educational levels mentioned above.

II. Kosovo Public Safety training and education system and the EU and US contribution and recognition

In this main part of analysis, there will be discussed the specific system that Kosovo, supported by its international partners, choose to give knowledge to its Public Safety institutions. In the continuance, there will be described the impact of both EU-funded Twinning Projects that were

https://qkss.org/images/uploads/files/Chronology_of_Security_Sector_Reform_in_Kosovo_762910.pdf

³ Osce.org, ‘OSCE Mission in Kosovo and Kosovo Academy for Public Safety’, *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe*, December 17, 2020, <https://www.osce.org/mission-in-kosovo/474018>

⁴ Aksp-ks.net, ‘Kosovo Academy for Public Safety: Background’, Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, <http://aksp-ks.net/?page=2,6>

⁵ Gzk.rks-gov.net, ‘Law No. 04/L-053 on Kosovo Academy for Public Safety’, Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosova No. 26 (online), 2011, <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=2785>

implemented in the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, the international recognition of the vocational training of this institution through the International Association of the Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST), as well as benefit of these officers of different levels through two EU mechanisms: the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and the Erasmus+ program.

A Kosovo's unique public safety educational system: how and why did it start?

Undoubtedly the international community has had an extraordinary role on security in Kosovo after the war of 1999. As Geci Sherifi pointed out, “the shaping and direction of the security policies in Kosovo after the end of the war was conducted mainly by the international actors as responsibility for security belonged to the international community and was progressively transferred to the Kosovo security institutions.”⁶ One of these institutions was also the one where the human resources of these institutions were created, that is now called the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety.

Kosovo is relatively small country with also small number of inhabitants: it has in total 10,887 square kilometers with a total number of population estimated in 2023 of 1,964,327 inhabitants⁷. Therefore, since the establishment on September 1999 of the Kosovo Police Service School (KPSS), the previous name of the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS), apart from the Kosovo Police Service (KPS), previous name of the Kosovo Police (KP), in its second year was immediately joined also the basic training for the Kosovo correctional officers, nowadays represented by the Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS). After two years, in 2002, apart from two aforementioned institutions, on that time in KPSS it started also training of Customs officers, thus being known as an institution specialized for professional training not only for police, but also for other Public Safety agencies.

During 2006, name of the institution changed into Kosovo Center for Public Safety Education and Development (KCPSED), when the competences were transferred gradually from internationals to locals.⁸ Finally, on December 2011, the Assembly of Kosovo approved the Law No. 04/L-053 on Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, which changed again the name of the institution, made responsible the institution to provide vocational education, but also higher education, to six Public Safety institutions in the country: Kosovo Police, Correctional Service, Probation Service, Kosovo Customs, Emergency Management Agency and the Kosovo Police Inspectorate.⁹

The role of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo during this period of time was to involve actively the human rights and democratic policing principles to train the Kosovo police officers. But before coming to this stage, the recruitment process included oral interview, written examination,

⁶ Shkendije Geci Sherifi, ‘The Role of International Organisations in the Development of Security Sector in Kosovo: Advantages and Constrains’, *Hungarian Defence Review*, Special Issue Vol. 147, Nr. 1-2 (2019), 85.

⁷ Cia.gov, The World Factbook: Kosovo - Country Summary, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/kosovo/summaries>

⁸ Osce.org, ‘OSCE Mission in Kosovo and Kosovo Academy for Public Safety’, *OSCE Mission in Kosovo*, <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/c/7/474018.pdf> 2021

⁹ Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosova, Law No. 04/L-053 on Kosovo Academy for Public Safety.

psychological test, medical exam and background investigation¹⁰, procedures that continued to be applied also nowadays for selection of the Kosovo Police cadets.¹¹

So, due to the aforementioned facts and institutional development into stages, it was seen reasonable to have different types of capacity building and further education activities, each of them depending on the educational level and previous work experience of the respective officers, for six Public Safety institutions together under the same roof. There were two main reasons behind it: firstly, by being trained together, officers establish and further strengthen their cooperation and thus build network and trust amongst them, that is very much necessary when they have to take part jointly in the operations, e.g. police and customs officers in the borders, police and emergency management officers in different types of disasters, etc.; and secondly, the cost effectiveness reflecting on financial rationality using same facilities and services for learning, eating, accommodation, ICT, logistics etc. to all the Public Safety officers in the country. As a result of this approach, there could be seen quite often law enforcement officers coming from different institutions who take part on the same training courses.¹²

B Coordinated assistance on public safety education sector: two EU-funded Twinning Projects and overall local and international support

Through approval of the Law on the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety by the Assembly of Kosovo, that entered into force on December 2011, KAPS got the competence to provide both vocational training and higher education, not only for the officers of Kosovo Police (KP), Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS), Kosovo Customs (KC) and the Emergency Management Agency (EMA), to whom it was provided first component, the vocational training, but also to other two institutions, such are the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK) and the Kosovo Probation Service (KPS).¹³ It meant that it was created a great institutional structure for the purpose of training and education, that could bring on the board all the Public Safety, respectively Law Enforcement institutions in the country. This was indeed a solid fundament to make the decision-makers think a step ahead: how to further consolidate the already existing vocational training in the quality assurance and accreditation point of view and, paralelly, how to further upgrade in general the education in this field, that on that time had already a bit more than 12 years in a more or less same track.

As regarding the political orientation and ideology, Kosovo has chosen to be part of the pro-Western liberal democracies, being characterized, amongst others, by the following values: respect of human rights, rule of law and free market economy. Apart from a free will of the waste majority of its citizens, it is also a logical determination, due to the fact that US, UK, EU Member States and other overseas liberal democratic countries have played a decisive role on ending the Milošević regime over Kosovo and providing humanitarian intervention to end the ethnic cleansing and

¹⁰ Oya Dursun-Ozkanca and Katy Crossley-Frolick, 'Security sector reform in Kosovo: the complex division of labor between the EU and other multilateral institutions in building Kosovo's police force', *European Security*, (2012), 4.

¹¹ Kosovopolice.com, 'Open vacancy for recruiting police officers according to the foreseen competition conditions based on the Decision of the General Director of Kosovo Police No. 01/0344 on 19.06.2023', 2023, https://www.kosovopolice.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/01_SHQIP.pdf

¹² The information and perception on this paragraph have been achieved through the personal observation and discussion of the author with different officers about the KAPS system of Public Safety education, as a result of the working experience for more than 14 years, from March 2009 and onwards.

¹³ Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosova, Law No. 04/L-053 on Kosovo Academy for Public Safety.

massive killings of the majority ethnic Albanians in Kosovo from that regime that ruled in Serbia in 1999.^{14 15}

Therefore, due to the Kosovo's pro-European and pro-Western political orientation, its aspiration for EU integration is one of the coincidences of this orientation. In general terms, it means that the country has to adapt its legislation in line with the *Acquis*. Therefore, the country made a lot of efforts in order to be closer to the EU in its EU integration path. In the aspect of Public Safety capacity building, it meant that there have to be taken huge reforms in order to adjust it according to the European standards.

In Kosovo case, luck in misfortune was that, starting from September 1999, when the Kosovo Police Service School (KPSS), back than established by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, training of police officers in particular and of the other Public Safety institutions in general started from the very beginning. It meant that previous communist sytem police officers and superiors, former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) warriors, as well as young boys and girls with no previous experience, they all had to attend the same basic training and thus had to follow the same Public Safety educational standards, coming generally from the liberal democratic countries.

In the national level, a step ahead on harmonization of educational system between Kosovo and the EU was taken in the same year when it entered into force the Law on KAPS, in 2011, when the National Qualification Authority (NQA) drafted the National Qualification Framework (NQF), supported by the EU-funded project "EU KOSVET - V", that is according to the European Qualification Framework (EQF)¹⁶.

Due to the above-mentioned facts, Kosovo choosed a very prosperous way to further upgrade and improve its Public Safety education. Therefore, from 2012 until 2014 it was implemented the EU-funded Twinning Project "Improved Education in Public Safety and Security Sectors in Kosovo", implemented by Finland and Estonia. Amongst other achievements, the most notable outcome of this project was undoubtedly establishment of the 4-year Bachelor level study program on Public Safety, with branches of: Police and Police Inspectorate, Corrections and Probation, Customs and the Emergency Management.^{17 18}

Prior to this, it was initially completed the legal bases (consisting of 7 by-laws), accreditation process and donation of necessary books to serve as a literature for new students, a valuable contribution funded by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kosovo and implemented by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, as a great example of international coordination.¹⁹ Furthermore, the project served as a good basis for formalizing cooperation between KAPS and respective Finnish and Estonian institutions, such are: Police College of Finland, Estonian

¹⁴ Sidita Kushi, 'Does the West still want a democratic Kosovo?', *Aljazeera*, July 14, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/7/14/does-the-west-still-want-a-democratic-kosovo>

¹⁵ Ivo H. Daalder and Michael E. O'Hanlon, *Winning Ugly - NATO's War to Save Kosovo* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2001), 21.

¹⁶ Akkks.rks-gov.net, National Qualification Framework (NQF), *National Qualification Authority*, 2011, <https://akkks.rks-gov.net/Documents?idType=1015>

¹⁷ Aksp-ks.net, Twinning Project completed successfully, *Kosovo Academy for Public Safety*, 11.06.2014, <http://aksp-ks.net/?page=2,4,325>

¹⁸ Aksp-ks.net, Opening of Faculty of Public Safety, *Kosovo Academy for Public Safety*, 15.10.2023, <http://aksp-ks.net/?page=2,4,350>

¹⁹ Aksp-ks.net, The OSCE donates 300 books for Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, *Kosovo Academy for Public Safety*, 10.03.2016, <http://aksp-ks.net/index.php?page=2,4,449>

Academy of Security Sciences, Laurea University of Applied Sciences in Finland and the Training Institute of Prison and Probation Services in Finland.²⁰

KAPS further continued its way of improvement and transformation by the same tool. So, from 2016 until 2019, the second in row EU-funded Twinning Project “Further Support to Public Safety Education in Kosovo” was implemented by the same EU Member States, Finland and Estonia. In difference of the first one, the second Twinning Project was more focused on consolidation of the vocational training. It also consisted of three Components: the first one entitled “Contribution to a sustainable vocational training structure for all Public Safety Agencies” was dealing with the validation of vocational training curricula for all six Public Safety institutions; the second one “Contribution to KAPS Bachelor degree program further upgraded and advanced” made possible re-accreditation of the Bachelor study program and further continued the idea of having a Master degree within the Academy, a follow-up of a Feasibility Study done previously by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo; whereas the third one “Contribution to KAPS institute of Research and Development becoming fully functional for the benefit of all public safety agencies in Kosovo” was exclusively dealing with the R&D Institute of the KAPS Faculty of Public Safety (FPS).²¹

C International recognition: US-based IADLEST accreditation and the Award of Excellence

Since the establishment of the higher education at KAPS until 2022, the institution was subject to several external quality assurance processes. As regarding the higher education, KAPS study program was initially accredited from 2014 to 2017, re-accredited from 2017 - 2020 (COVID-19 period accreditation extension till 2021), for the second time re-accredited from 2021 to 2024 and the institutional re-accreditation was received from 2017 to 2022, and again re-accredited from 2022 - 2023. Whereas as regarding the vocational training validation and accreditation, there were passed both institutional accreditation and program validation from 2018 to 2021 and than again both of them from 2021 to 2024.²²

The most notable accreditation is undoubtedly the international one received by the US-based International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST). In the first one, received on 15 May 2018 until 14 May 2021, KAPS was the only institution worldwide out of the US to receive such an accreditation.²³ Whereas by the re-accreditation received on 1 November 2021 that is valid until 20 October 2024, KAPS was awarded with the Award of Excellence, as the second institution in the world after another institution in the US to receive such a valuable recognition.^{24 25}

These achievements undoubtedly could not be achieved without a strong support and contribution in all the stages of development of the institution after 1999 from few US governmental

²⁰ Aksp-ks.net, KAPS International Cooperation - International cooperation, *Kosovo Academy for Public Safety*, <http://aksp-ks.net/?page=2,247>

²¹ Kosovoprojects.eu, Further Support to the Kosovo Academy of Public Safety (KAPS), *KosovoProjects.EU*, <https://kosovoprojects.eu/project/further-support-to-the-kosovo-academy-of-public-safety-kaps/#>

²² Aksp-ks.net, SIGURIMI I CILËSISË (from Albanian: QUALITY ASSURANCE), Akreditimet (from Albanian: Accreditations), *Kosovo Academy for Public Safety*, <http://aksp-ks.net/?page=1,284>

²³ Aksp-ks.net, *Kosovo Academy for Public Safety*, http://aksp-ks.net/repository/docs/IADLEST_-_May_15,_2018_-_2021.pdf

²⁴ Aksp-ks.net, *Kosovo Academy for Public Safety*, http://aksp-ks.net/repository/docs/IADLEST_-_November_1,_2021-2024.pdf

²⁵ Justice.gov, Kosovo: Public Safety Academy receives International Reaccreditation, *The United States Department of Justice*, <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-icitap/blog/kosovo-public-safety-academy-receives-international-reaccreditation>

mechanisms in charge of internal affairs and justice in the country. These efforts have been led by the US Embassy in Prishtina, Kosovo, respectively the Office in Kosovo of Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the US Department of State through the Program in Kosovo of International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) of the US Department of Justice.²⁶

D Benefits of Kosovo Law Enforcement officers from the CEPOL and the Erasmus+: a quantitative analysis

After a bit more than 3 years from the first introductory visit to KAPS²⁷, the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training, CEPOL, than called as European Police College, signed in Kosovo on 27 March 2017 the so-called Working Arrangement with KAPS on behalf of Kosovo²⁸. As a result of it, since then until the end of 2022, there have been in total 210 Kosovo law enforcement officers who benefited from the various CEPOL capacity building activities, such are: residential courses (both in Kosovo and abroad), online courses, exchanges, study visits and preparatory meetings. The officers come from all the law enforcement agencies of the country, including: Kosovo Police (KP), Kosovo Customs (KC), Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Kosovo Tax Administration (KTA), Kosovo Forensic Agency (KFA), prosecution and judiciary, as well as a smaller number from the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS) itself.²⁹

Moreover, Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS), including the Public Safety Institutions of the country, have also benefited from the opportunities given through the Erasmus+ program of the EU, mainly on mobility of students, academic and administrative staff. As a result of the efforts to benefit from this program, from 2016, when KAPS started to use it, until the end of 2022, in total there have participated 105 students, members of both academic and administrative staff, 90 out of them outgoing and 15 incoming. The institutions KAPS has implemented the mobilities with are: Estonian Academy of Security Sciences (EASS) in Tallinn, Estonia; Main School of Fire Service (SGSP) in Warsaw, Poland; The Brandenburg School of Applied Police Sciences in Oranienburg, Germany and the Norwegian University Police College (PHS) in Oslo, Norway.³⁰

III. Evaluation of KAPS through the EU Progress Reports from 2015 until 2022

Even though Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS) by this name exists since December 2011, but with its two previous names since 1999, it was mentioned firstly as an institution in the EU Progress Report for Kosovo just in 2015. Therefore, the EU Progress Report for 2015 recognized it as an institution in charge of both basic and specialized training in the field of Public Safety. Moreover, it also mentioned the pillar of higher education that was established within the institution a year ago, in 2014: “The Kosovo Academy for Public Safety is responsible for basic

²⁶ General information about the US Embassy in Kosovo contribution in Security and Justice can be found at: [Xk.usembassy.gov](https://xk.usembassy.gov), International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Sections & Offices, *U.S. Embassy in Kosovo*, <https://xk.usembassy.gov/embassy/pristina/sections-offices/>

²⁷ [Cepol.europa.eu](https://www.cepola.europa.eu), CEPOL visits the Kosovo Academy of Public Safety, *CEPOL*, <https://www.cepola.europa.eu/newsroom/news/cepola-visits-kosovo-academy-public-safety>

²⁸ [Cepol.europa.eu](https://www.cepola.europa.eu), CEPOL signs working arrangement with the Kosovo Academy of Public Security, *CEPOL*, <https://www.cepola.europa.eu/newsroom/news/cepola-signs-working-arrangement-kosovo-academy-public-security>

²⁹ Source: KAPS External Relations Division

³⁰ Ibid.

and specialised training and offers a bachelor's programme in public safety".³¹ All the EU Progress Reports of the years after 2015 also mentioned always KAPS as an institution responsible for training and education in Public Safety, evaluating its good level. Throughout the years, from 2015 until 2022, in all the EU Progress Reports there were tiny changes in wording when it comes to KAPS. More precisely, the Reports of 2016 and 2018 (that covered also 2017) described it as an institution that provides "a good level of initial and continuous training to police and public security bodies such as correctional or customs services",^{32 33} whereas in the Reports of the next years, 2019 and 2020, the word "continuous" was replaced with "in-service", not making and significant change.^{34 35} The Report covering 2017 also mentioned that the Academy signed the Working Arrangement with the CEPOL, putting it at the section of "Implementation and enforcement capacity", apart from the section it was almost always in all the EU Progress Report, the "Institutional set-up and legal alignment".³⁶ Formulation changed a bit in the Reports of the upcoming years, 2021 and 2022, by replacing the word (good) "level" to (good) quality. Moreover, the Report of 2021 gave a more comprehensive description of the scope of the Academy by mentioning the education for police and other agencies: "The Kosovo Academy for Public Safety provides a good quality of education for police and other public safety agencies in Kosovo."³⁷ Whereas the Report of 2022 was referring to the scope of the Academy only as a good quality education: "The Kosovo Academy for Public Safety provides good quality education."³⁸ So, even it is not any significant change in the formulation of the sentences for the Academy from 2015 to 2022 in the EU Progress Report, the facts that it is mentioned establishment of higher education, signing the Working Arrangement with CEPOL, as well as replacement of word (good) "level" with (good) "quality", it shows clearly for the achievements of the Academy and its relatively good reputation in comparison to overall evaluation of Kosovo through these Reports.

³¹ Neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu, COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Kosovo* 2015 Report, *European Commission*, Brussels, November 10, 2015 18-19, https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-12/20151110_report_kosovo.pdf

³² Neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu, COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Kosovo* 2016 Report, *European Commission*, Brussels, November 9, 2016, 69, https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-12/20161109_report_kosovo.pdf

³³ Neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu, COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Kosovo* 2018 Report, *European Commission*, Strasbourg, April 17, 2018, 29 and 31, <https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2019-05/20180417-kosovo-report.pdf>

³⁴ Neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu, COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Kosovo* 2019 Report, *European Commission*, Brussels, May 29, 2019, 33, <https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2019-05/20190529-kosovo-report.pdf>

³⁵ Neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu, COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Kosovo* 2020 Report, *European Commission*, Brussels, October 6, 2020, 40, https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-10/kosovo_report_2020.pdf

³⁶ COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Kosovo* 2018 Report, *European Commission*.

³⁷ Neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu, COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Kosovo* 2021 Report, *European Commission*, Strasbourg, October 19, 2021 39, <https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-10/Kosovo%202021%20report.PDF>

³⁸ Neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu, COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Kosovo* 2022 Report, *European Commission*, Brussels, October 12, 2022, 44, <https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-10/Kosovo%20Report%202022.pdf>

IV. Conclusion

Kosovo was lucky to start everything from the beginning after the war of 1998 - 1999. The newly established Kosovo Police Service (KPS) on September 1999, as well as other Public Safety institutions, such were, amongst others, Kosovo Customs (KC), Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS) and the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), made possible for the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and one of its pillars, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, to bring together and train on the same standards of modern western liberal concepts of human rights, rule of law and democracy, the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) warriors, former police and law enforcement officers of the former Yugoslav communist system, as well as young and unexperienced boys and girls, who entered in the system for the first time on their lives. This element was one of the most important ones that indicated in later development stages to upgrade the level of professionalism through a modern educational system in the field of public safety.

Kosovo has achieved a great success for a relatively short period of time to transform its education and training in the field of Public Safety. For about 7 years, from 2012 until 2019, there have been finalized successfully two EU-funded Twinning Projects, that established higher education in this field for the first time in its history, and further designed and gave shape to the vocational training, both of them according to the European Qualification Framework (EQF). Paralelly with these achievements of these two main capacity building pillars, it was set up also the quality assurance system according to the best European and American practices. Additionally, it was achieved an intense internationalization of the institution, formalizing cooperation with almost all the similar institutions of the Western Balkans: in Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia, as well as those of the EU and the EEA, with countries such are Estonia, Finland, Germany, Norway and Poland.

All the aforementioned achievements have been reached only with close coordination, cooperation and harmonization amongst all the international partners of the Academy, such are: OSCE Mission in Kosovo, ICITAP Program in Kosovo, EU Office in Kosovo and many others. Amongst others, it shows from a perspective of a relatively small institution the orientation of the contry, Kosovo, towards the liberal democracies, represented mainly by the EU and EEA countries and the United States.

Therefore, this extraordinary trans-atlantic cooperation and coordination, together with the great wish and commitment of the locals, in this case in the field of Public Safety training and education, brough a great example worldwide how is possible that a small after-war country turned on to an example for its Western Balkan neighbours, but even wider.

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