

## Youth Officers Program 2007 and Youth Officers Program 2007 II

Project - No:	02-2008
Period:	July 2007 to May 2008
Region:	Kosova
Partners:	German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

### 1 Background

Kosova has the youngest population in Europe with an estimated 70% of the population under the age of 30. These youth face multiple challenges like unemployment and lacking educational opportunities. However, young people possess potentials that go largely untapped. The GTZ has been working in the youth sector in Kosovo since 2000 and in 2003 launched a project called "Empowerment and Development of Youth in Kosovo" (EDYK). As part of its capacity building activities EDYK decided to carry out a Youth Officers Program (YOP) for professionals from governmental institutions and NGOs operating in the youth sector in the municipalities of Prizren Region.

### 2 Project objectives/Approach/Contents

YOP was conceptualized and implemented by FAI, who also provided facilitators for the workshops, always in close collaboration with the GTZ EDYK team. The overall goal of the YOP was formulated as: "Youth Work in Prizren Region is planned on the basis of a sound analysis of the youth sector and managed in a coordinated manner through improved stakeholder cooperation." YOP consisted of a series of three workshops that brought together Youth Officers from the side of the municipal administrations and managers of Youth Centers and Youth Networks. The objectives of the workshops were:

- to strengthen the capacities of the participants with regards to their methodological and managerial skills for analysis and planning of youth work
- to carry out a process of data collection and analysis to be used as a basis for planning for the youth sector in Prizren Region
- to improve the collaboration of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the youth sector in Prizren Region by promoting the development of joint work plans and regional network structures.

### 3 Results

Among other things the German facilitators observed a process initiated in the first two workshops and the ensuing practical task: the promotion of a spirit of cooperation. Thereby it was possible to utilise the third workshop as a "kick-off" for a Prizren Region Youth Network. Although details remain to be discussed, the formation of a working group formed from the ranks of the participants is a desired and hopeful a step in the right direction.

