Kosovo's
Culture, Youth and Sport

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COUNTRY OF YOUTH

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo through Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and in partnership with the international institutions always supports and sustains the youth and youth organizations with grants and different projects, and thus making Kosovo attractive and convenient environment for youngsters, a country of young people, of young Europeans. *P.4-10*

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Petrit Halilaj: "The places I'm looking for, my dear, are utopian places, they are boring and I don't know how to make them real"; 2010; Wood, iron, various materials; 8 x 11 x 13 m; Unique; Installation view 6th Berlin Biennial for contemporary art, June 2010; Photo credits: Photo by Berlin Biennale 2010 / Uwe Walter; Copyright Berlin Biennale 2010; Courtesy the artist and Chert, Berlin

Another grant for new businesses in

One more grant from the Project for Kosovo Youth Development issued. Around Euro 500 thousand were allocated to 192 young people aiming at support to small businesses. The Project for Kosovo Youth Development is implemented by World Bank and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. In total it reaches the value of $ 2.8 million.

In the ceremony of presentation of these grants, and signing of contracts, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi was present. He congratulated the youth for receiving these grants and wished them success at implementation of their business ideas. Minister Krasniqi thanked the World Bank for the great support they have given to youth and in particular through the Project for Kosovo Youth Development. Moreover he pointed out that new businesses that are supported constitute good news for the whole society.

"Grants we are sharing today are not only a personal and professional benefit of yours, but first of all they are a direct contribution for the society development, because thus we have around 200 young people managing businesses, employing hundreds others and expanding the competition in economy", minister Krasniqi said. He stated that in the recent years great results have been achieved witnessing the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo for the youth as a permanent priority. "Youth is inevitably a national priority and is going to be so in the future. Young people are one of the greatest potentials our country has. In the post independence years, young people assumed a very important role in the institutions and in the public life in general, and they have testified their serious commitment to lead forward the vision of a democratic state and for a part of the European family", he said. In addition he also mentioned the approval of Kosovo Youth Strategy, as a very important step toward addressing and realisation of youth needs. In reference to small enterprises constituted by these young people, Minister Kras-

n the amount of 500 thousand Euros

niqi said that besides the financial support by the state, they now also have a better business making environment. “In addition to the fact that you are starting your businesses, you are also empowering them with a substantial support, you are found in a better business making environment. When I state this, I refer to the World Bank report from the last year about making business, where Kosovo has marked the most thorough reforms, by shortening bureaucratic procedures for business, eliminating the unnecessary permits and licences, decreasing administrative tax fees, etc. This reform tends to be continuous, and undoubtedly for many of you this is very good news, and facilitates your way towards implementation of your ideas at business”.

Some of the beneficiaries have presented their business plans. The supported ideas are mainly from the professional fields of information technology, marketing, artisans, etc.

Earlier, within the Project for Kosovo Youth Development grants have been administered for equipment for 49 existing businesses belonging to young people, where $ 300 thousand provided to several youth centres and about 800 young people were trained in various professional fields. Besides the joint support with our partners, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports has increased its budget in the two last years for youth, and has also expanded the support forms. In the Department of Youth subsidies have already been allocated in the first stage for the nongovernmental organisations, in total value of about Euro 150 thousand. During the year public competition announcements will e available for subsidising various projects linked to MCYS program policies.■

Minister Krasniqi: Entrepreneurship shall be a priority of MCYS

As part of the Project for Youth Development in Kosovo, a project being conducted in cooperation of Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports and the World Bank, in Prishtina grants were allocated for equipment and working tools for 49 beneficiaries in various business fields, like: beekeeping, home electricity, tailor, carpentry, construction, marketing, pastry, etc. The value of these grants reaches up to $ 3500.

MCYS minister, Memli Krasniqi, considers these grants for 49 young people as a significant support, but also a commitment of these youngsters to build their future, in function of individual development but also for the society in general.

"I consider very important that grants have been given for specific fields like carpentry, beekeeping, tailoring, etc., where they are really needed to be developed and cultivated, with some of which our parents and grandparents dealt with. And I am glad to see that there is still passion for these fields and the tradition is being preserved," minister Krasniqi said.

He also expressed his thanks for the World Bank, Italian Embassy, and all other partners who are continuously and in particular in the recent years showing dedication to support youth ideas in Kosovo and also their desire and will for a wide participation in the public life.

Minister Krasniqi recalled that within the Project for Youth Development, four months ago certificates were issued to 800 young people trained in the various professional fields. Amidst the positive developments in the sector of youth, Minister Krasniqi mentioned also the issuance of other grants allocated to youth centres and the adoption of the Strategy for Youth 2013-2017 by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo.

"The strategy, which I believe you had the chance to read as well, is quite a good document which foresees concrete steps for strengthening and supporting the youth. The strategy amongst other important chapters contains exactly the entrepreneurship, which in these two years and continuously will be a priority of MCYS.", the minister said.

Whereas for the future the minister promised that MCYS in cooperation also with its numerous partners is going to present also other projects, other forms of support for youth, and one of these projects is going to be construction of two youth centres in two towns of Kosovo. Related to youth budget, Minister Memli Krasniqi stated that MCYS has continuously increased the budget this sector and assured that this trend is going to be maintained stressing the need for a more active role also from the municipalities in this direction. "MCYS will continuously support inovative projects and those that are of youth interest for the professional fields" in the end minister Krasniqi said.

Whereas, Marinella Ariano, World Bank Expert, expressed her pleasure for the commitment of Kosovo Government for the role it is playing at empowerment of Kosovo youth by also estimating issuance of such grants as a very important step and a quite significant support for these young people. "This is a very important project and I feel enthusiastic when I see the commitment of the government at strengthening the youth role", she said. ■

MCYS allocates over 150.000 Euros subsidies for projects of youth organisations

Around 100 youth nongovernmental organisations signed contracts with Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports for subsidising various projects in the fields of human safety, social integration, youth participation, sports and culture. Subsidising of NGO-s is carried out through a public competition and the total support reaches the amount of over Euro150.000.

In the ceremony of contracts' signing present was also the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi. In his speech, while congratulating the organisations for receiving these subsidies, he requested from them to implement projects in the most efficient way possible and to have tangible results.

"These are not the only subsidies from the Department of Youth for this year. Other public calls will be organised for these fields and other ones as well related to informal education and the component of entrepreneurship, a very important aspect, following specific training of the youth and helps them at realisation of their ideas for new and inovative businesses. I would like to request from you to really implement these activities in the most efficient way possible and we jointly learn from the results, so that the cooperation between us increases further in the future", he said before the representatives of the organisations. He highly valued the engagement of the organisations for their contribution toward fulfilment of youth needs and art implementation of projects aiming the activation of society. The minister emphasised that the support from MYCS for these projects is evidence of the cooperation between the state institutions and the civil society toward empowerment of youth role and its' greater participation in public and decision making life. He further added that besides the increase of MCYS budget this year, other projects have also been implemented together with many partners including World Bank in value of $ 2.8 million, projects with OSCE, UNICEF and other partners.

That youth is priority of MYCS, is also obvious by the fact of the base document having been drafted for the five coming years minister Krasniqi said, emphasising here the Youth Strategy 2013-2017. He stated that this strategy is a very good document, consulted with all groups of interest and foresees specific steps towards support for the youth. "Undoubtedly there still remain challenges ahead of us, but we jointly as institutions and society and the youth organisations as well work together to really create greater opportunities for our youth. Youth organisations, the youth themselves must work with full dedication to properly represent the youth demands, without discrimination or political impact and similar", he added.

Whereas representatives from several supported organisations in these competitions appreciated the support which was continuously provided by MYCS for the projects of numerous youth organisations. They have presented their intentions in the projects to be implemented thus indicating commitment for high results and greater inclusion of youth in those projects. ■

Youth strategy, a document which a

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) held a conference in Kosovo Government Building (former Rilindja), introducing the Youth Strategy of Kosovo 2013-2017 and the Action Plan 2013-2015 as well which is a strategic document aiming at improvement of situation of the youth in the Republic of Kosovo.

Present in the conference were the French Ambassador, Maryse Daviet, Slovenian Ambassador, Jozef Hlep, representatives from other international institutions like UNICEF, World Bank, USAID, OSCE, and representatives of youth centres and youth nongovernmental organisations.

In his speech Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi estimated that youth living in the Republic of Kosovo constitute the main asset it has and this way the state must take this property into consideration and protect it. And having this fact in consideration, minister considers that the legal support is one of the most important elements for efficient functioning and organisation of this asset. "Kosovo Youth Strategy 2013-2017 and Youth Action Plan 2013-2015 is undoubtedly a legal

- **Youth Participation**

It foresees youth participation in decision-making processes and extensive inclusion of youth at sectoral policy-making influencing directly at youth.

- **Informal education**

Aims at educating and preparing youth to face life challenges, as responsible members of the local and European community.

- **Employment and entrepreneurship**

It foresees a range of activities which will promote employment through training and support of new entrepreneurs.

- **Health, education and health promotion**

Aims at increase of youth awareness regarding the importance of their individual and social health and welfare protection, and also at contributing from them as responsible citizens of the country.

- **Human security**

Foresees preparing youth to identify, prevent and effectively address the risk they face.

- **Sport, culture and recreation**

Its' aim is integration of youth at social, economic and cultural life by supporting various cultural and sports activities.

ddresses youth needs and concerns

document of particular importance drafted recently with the purpose of creating conditions for further empowerment of youth in our country. Therefore I would like to thank all those who participated and offered their efforts into its drafting and first of all the Youth Department as a leader in this process," minister Krasniqi stated.

He also promised that MCYS is going to continue supporting youth and follow the needs of youth and intervene wherever considered necessary, and a good example of support may be considered this strategy as well, which in the legislation point of view is a document which addresses youth needs and concerns in a consistent manner. "We will be a continuous support to the youth and for the youth sector of the Republic of Kosovo, because it is the most important part of the social treasure. Youth is amongst the main priorities of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and thus we are creating a standard to be implemented in continuity by the (MCYS) in the coming years as well", minister of MCYS, Memli Krasniqi said.

Whereas the deputy Finance Minister, Ramadan Avdiu called the Youth Strategy of Kosovo a consistent document and promised that the Ministry of Finance will keep at its priority the projects and youth related coming requests, considering the latter as the most important group of our population. "We often hear that Kosovo has natural resources, Kosovo has resources but I have always said that the greatest resource Kosovo has are the human resources, are the youth who need to have the opportunity for education and to open their perspective for development of the country," deputy Finance Minister, Ramadan Avdiu said.

This one day conference was organised in five sessions: Informal Education Promotion, Employment and Entrepreneurship; Youth Policy Development; Prevention and Social Integration; Representation of International Organisations and Representation of Local Organisations.

Strategy consists of two parts: base strategy document and the action plan, which contains a plan of activities, foreseen during this period based on the following central Strategy pillars: youth participation; informal education; employment and entrepreneurship; health, health education and promotion, human safety; sports, culture and recreation. ■

Youth, a special focus of Kosovo - U.S. cooperation

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi has met the first Deputy Assistant of the Secretary of State covering culture and education, Adam Ereli, with whom he discussed the cooperation in the field of cultural heritage, culture, sport and especially about youth.

Minister Krasniqi informed the first Deputy Assistant of the Secretary of State by emphasizing achievements in the mentioned areas, andconsidering the fact that there has been continuous increase of the state budget. He thanked the United States for the support they have given in the field of cultural heritage but also in sport and culture.Minister Krasniqi has praised the cooperation of MCYS and the U.S. Embassy in Pristina on many projects and mentioned the Memorandum of Understanding for the restoration of several monuments throughout Kosovo.

A topic that was discussed with special emphasis was youth. Minister Krasniqi informed the U.S. official about steps Kosovo has taken in this regard, by stressing that the projects and support are increasingcontinuously. He mentioned the increase of subsidies for youth organizations, the approvalof the Youth Strategy 2013-2017, as well as building new places for youth activities, such as two youth centers that for the first time were built from the MCYS budget.

Another segment that the minister has stressed as a priority for the future in the field of youthis education and entrepreneurship. In this regard he also spoke about the progress of the Youth Development Project in Kosovo, which is implemented in the cooperation with the World Bank and through which are given grants for new or existing businesses, for youth centersand for professional trainings.

Minister Krasniqi said that these forms of support will be the focus of MCYS in the future as well, because this way the youth really strengthens its role of in society and learns more about the professional fields in order to be much more ready for the job market.

On the other hand, the first Deputy Assistant of the Secretary of State for Culture and Education, Adam Ereli has assessed the achievements in Kosovo in the field of cultural heritage, culture, sport and youth. He said that the United States of America except giving support for preserving and promoting cultural heritage are also committed to assist in the advancement of youth, by initiating various projects for education and youth development in the key areas.

Minister Krasniqi and Dep. Ass.of the State secretary Ereli have discussed various ideas for joint projects that would enable a greater advancement of youth in Kosovo, without distinction, and to increase communication and exchange of experiences with young people from America and other countries as well. They agreed to continue cooperation and communication in order to make the initiatives in this regard concrete as soon as possible. ■

Pavilion of the Republic of Kosovo

Pavilion of the Republic of Kosovo in the Venice Biennale, in the 55th edition of the International Art Exhibition in 2013 (first official participation)

Artist: Petrit Halilaj
Commissioner: Erzen Shkololli
Curator: Catherine Rhomberg
Organisation: Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Kosovo and the Kosovo National Gallery
Place: Arsenale, Venice

For the first time in the history ,the Republic of Kosovo was represented at the Venice Biennale, where the young artist Petrit Halilaj developed a specific space installation.

Petrit Halilaj artistic practice is driven by a constant research of what is reality and what can be presented as reality through art. Memories of his rural childhood, personal experiences in war, destruction, and exile are the basis of his reflection on life and the human state.
The Artist moves between countries: between Kosovo, where he grew up and where his family many of his friends live; Italy, where he studied; and Berlin, where he currently lives. This transnational way of life not only enriches his experience, but also reflects the specific manner that Petrit Halilaj has in researching art and reality, as well as his continuing effort to translate or transform one into another. This way, Halilaj's art builds bridges between different worlds, perceptions, ideologies, generations and life periods.

Halilaj transnational existence is not only a reality of modern life but also is the starting point of its installation in Kosovo Pavilion in the Venice Biennale. The installation also shows Petrit observations about the world that surrounds him, which he recorded through drawings, notes and text.

What will appear is a space filled with experiences of effort, desire, and the search for identity - the opposite reality of Petrit Halilaj counterproposal, that of a world which becomes a poetic environment of unpredictable collective desires.

Petrit Halilaj was born in Kostërrc (Skenderaj Kosovo) in 1986. He lives and works in Berlin, Kosovo and Italy.
His personal exhibitions include: WIELS Contemporary Art Center, Brussels; National Gallery of Valencia (upcoming 2013), "Who does the earth belong to painting While the wind?", Kunsthalle St. Gallen (2012); Kunstraum Innsbruck; Statement, Art Basel (2011), "Back to the Future", station, Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina, Cher, Berlin (2009).
Group exhibitions include: "SUPER Visions - Zeichnen und Sein", curated by Stefanie Heckmann, Museum Schloss Moyland (2013), "New Public", curated by Rein Wolfs, Museion, Bolzano, "30 Künstler/30 Raum", curated by Kathleen Rahn, Kunstverein Nürnberg, Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft (2012), "ernstt Tiere: Petrit HALILAJ, Judith Hopf, Bedwyr Williams", curated by Christina Végh Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn; "Ostalgia", curated by Massimiliano Gioni, the New Museum, New York; "Based in Berlin", curated by Angelique Campens, Fredi Fischli, Magdalena Magiera, Jakob Schillinger and Scott Cameron Weaver, Atelierhaus Monbijoupark, Berlin (2011).

Official website of the Kosovo Pavilion comes soon: www.kosovopavilion.com

Kosovo will be a special story in the International Contemporary Art Exhibition in Venice

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted in a meeting the artist Petrit Halilaj, who is going to represent Kosovo in the Biennale of International Contemporary Art Exhibition in Venice, and the commissioner of Kosovo Pavilion, the director of National Gallery of Kosovo, Erzen Shkololli. Minister Krasniqi congratulated them for the work they have done until now for the best possible representation of Kosovo. He highly valued the success and the work of Halilaj, but also of the curator, Kathrin Rhomberg stating that this way Kosovo has witnessed that it really is a country that cultivates authentic art values. "The focus of many media and international dignitaries at the artist Halilaj, and Kosovo participation in biennale is evidence that we already are a special story of the whole exhibition" the minister said.

Besides this, the minister pointed out that Kosovo participation for the first time in the exhibition marks another important step towards promotion of our culture scene, but also the country in general. It is quite essential that now in these years we have created the tradition that Kosovo be present in the most important events of culture in the world and this undoubtedly must be maintained in the future years as well. Minister Krasniqi offered his full support from MCYS for the whole team of Kosovo in biennale.

On the other hand, the artist Petrit Halilaj and the commissioner Erzen Shkololli thanked the minister for the initiative and all provided support in order for Kosovo to have a serious presentation. They updated the minister on their preparations they are undertaking for biennale, considering that a great job has been done.

Halilaj said that he has felt honoured by representing Kosovo in the most important event of contemporary art in the country, and he further added that he has taken this task with high responsibility.

The well known biennale begins on 1st of June and is concluded on 24 November. Petrit Halilaj was born in 1986. He has had personal exhibitions in many countries around the world. ■

Below are the biographies of Petrit HALILAJ, Catherine RHOMBERG and Erzen SHKOLOLLI:

Petrit HALILAJ – (1986, Kosovo) his artistic experience – sculpture, installations, drawing with pen or ink – is constructed around his biography and life conditions. He puts in question the social codes, beginning with the identity and integration in the border of the invisible between cultures and social groups. He uses simple materials as soil or wooden boards, but also living hens and objects found at archives of museums disappeared in Kosovo, to build / re-construct places or objects dedicated to his memories, his family members or relatives. Petrit lives and works in Berlin, Kosovo and Italy.

His most recent personal exhibitions include: "Who does the earth belong to while painting the wind?!", Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, St. Gallen (2012); Art Basel Statements with Chert, Berlin (2011); Kunstraum Innsbruck, Innsbruck (2011); "Back to the Future", Station, Prishtina (2009); Chert, Berlin (2009).

Some of the selected group exhibitions include the following: "New Public", Museion, Bolzano (2012); "30 Artists 30 Rooms" ("30 Künstler 30 Räume"), Kunstverein Nürnberg, Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft (2012); Temoraneao, Nomas Foundation, Rome (2011); "Ernste Tiere", Bonner Kunstverein, Bon (2011); "Ostalgia", New Museum, New York (2011); "Structure and Organism" ("STRUKTUR & ORGANISMUS"), Marillenhof – DestillerieKausl, Austria (2011); "Clumsiness of idiot's figure" ("Maladresses ou La Figure de l'idiot"), Institute of Social Hypocrisy, Paris (2010); "Based in Berlin", Atelierhaus Monbijoupark, Berlin (2011), Biennale the 6th for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2010). Next: personal exhibition in the Museum Fridericianum, Kassel (2014); "SuperVisions"; group exhibition in Museum of Schloss Moyland, Bedburg-Hau (2013).

Catherine RHOMBERG studied history of arts and Archaeology in the University of Salzburg. From 1990-2001 she has been a curator and leader of exhibitions in Secession, Vienna. In 1998 she was selected as one of international curators of Manifesta 3 – Biennale of Contemporary Art, Ljubljana (together with Maria Hlavajova, Ole Bouman and Francesco Bonami). She is a co-curator (with Maria Hlavajova and Charles Esche) of the long term project for researches, education, exhibition and publication - FORMER WEST (2008-2013). Rhomberg has earlier been director of Kölnischer Kunstverein, Köln since 2002 to 2007, whereas in the period 2002-2006 she was artistic director in "Project Migration", (with Marion von Olsen), an initiative from Federal Cultural Fund in Germany.

She is a co-author of transit network which supports exchange and practicing of the contemporary art in Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Rumania. In 2009 she was a curator of the Czech and Slovak Pavilion, Roman Ondák Loop, in 53rd Biennale of Vienna. Other curatorial projects lately include: Christoph Schlingensief. "Fear in the Core of Things", BAK, basis voor actuele Kunst, Utrecht and Galerija Novi, Zagreb 2012 (personal exhibition). 6th Biennale of Berlin, Berlin, 2010 (group exhibition); Ion Grigorescu: "In the Body of the Victim" 1969–2008, Modern Art Museum in Warsaw, 2009 (retrospective); Sanja Iveković. "General Alert". Works from 1974–2007 (with Nataša Ilić), Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona, 2007 (retrospective). Rhonberg lectures Arts and theory of arts in the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. She lives in Vienna.

For more information, Kathrin Rhomberg was responsible for launching Petrit Halilaj in the international arts scene, presenting his work in the 6th Biennale of Berlin.

Erzen SHKOLOLLI (1978) is one of most distinguished personalities in the new scene of arts in Kosovo. Internationally affirmed, he is an active mediator in the inter-cultural dialogue between Kosovo and the world and also inside the art in Kosovo. Shkololli is qualified for artistic and cultural project management, considering that his experience comes straight from professional seminars and residences in the field of cultural management. He possesses a rich network of contacts and has had direct contacts and access in the whole spectre of culture stakeholders, from grass-root group in Balkans to references for cultural institutions and organisations with influence all over the world.

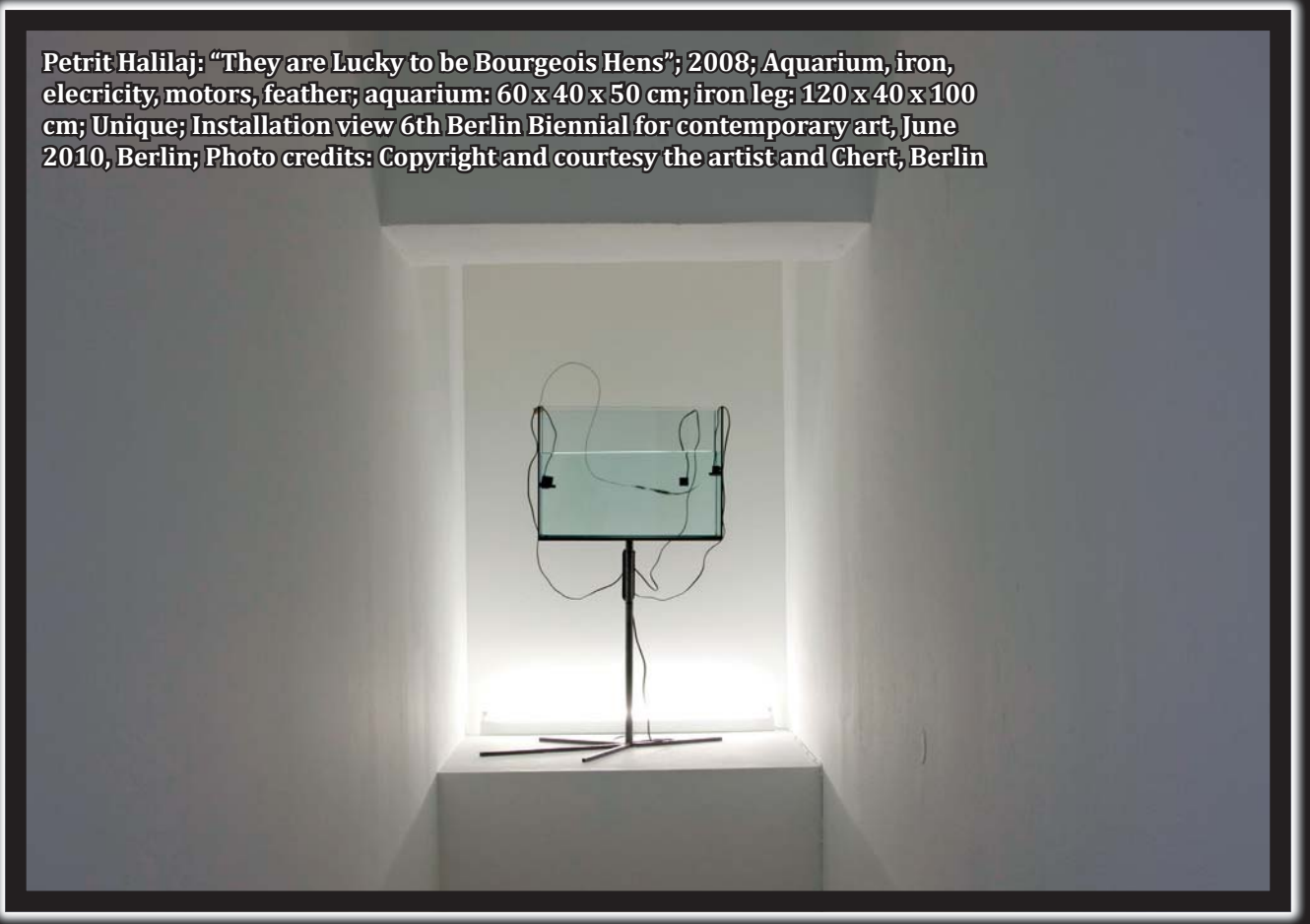
He has been a curator of numerous international exhibitions of some of most popular contemporary foreign and Albanian artists of this period, including: "Reappearance" in the Museum of Kosovo, Prishtina (2004); "History started playing with my life", presented in DAL, Holon, Israel (2007); "The World Won't Listen", in art workshop Lazareti, Dubrovnik, (2007). Shkololli was also artistic director of EXIT gallery in Peja from 2003 until 2006. Since 2003 he is a member of European Cultural Parliament and an invitee in the program DAAD in Berlin in years 2008/09.

As an artist, Shkololli has been internationally introduced with personal exhibitions in Czech Republic (2005), in Lucca, Italy (2001), and in many shows and biennale, including here Interrupted Histories, in the Museum of Modern Arts, in Ljubljana, 2006; Gorges of the Balkans in Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kasel 2003; and recently in New Video, New Europe, The Kitchen, in New York, 2006. His work has also been shown in important museums around the world, in the museum of Stedelijk in Amsterdam and Tate Modern in London.

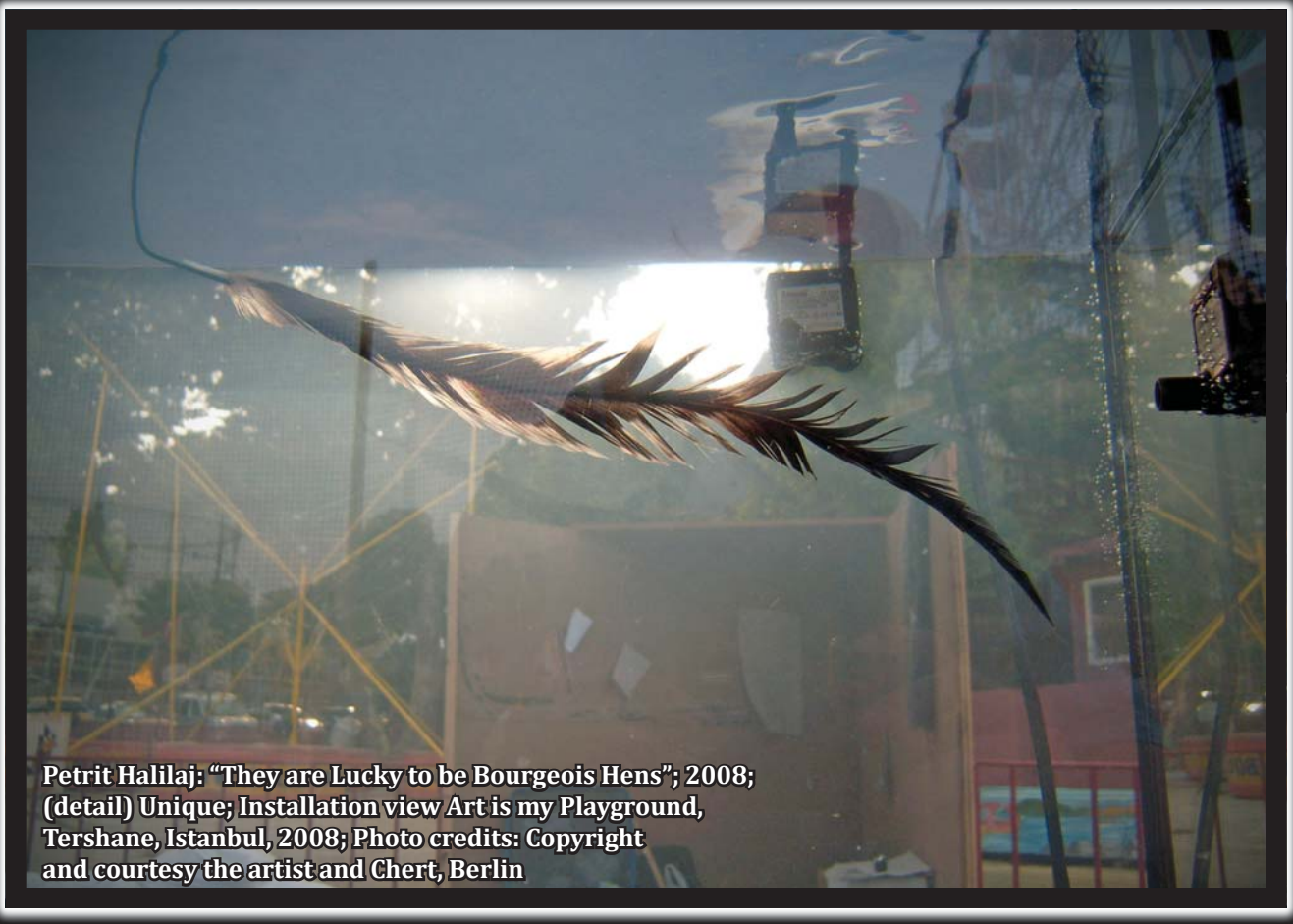
In September 2011, Erzen Shkololli was appointed as director of National Gallery of Kosovo. Now he is working towards a new level of Gallery development. His goal is to enable varieties in the program and to expand the attending audience, thus playing a progressive role in the society and by creating new links within the northeast reagion and beyond.

Petrit Halilaj: "Kostërrc (CH)"; 2011; hole (600 x 400 x 230 cm high) in Kostërrc hill, Kosovo. Soil transported in Basel, CH; Unique; View of Kostërrc hill, Kosovo; Photo credits: Copyright and Courtesy the artist and Chert, Berlin

Petrit Halilaj: "Kostërrc (CH)"; 2011; Soil (60 tons circa), grass, metal container; Art Basel presentation: 230 x 600 x 400 cm; Unique; Installation view Statements, Art Basel, 2011, with Chert, Berlin; Photo credits: Copyright and Courtesy the artist and Chert, Berlin



Petrit Halilaj: "They are Lucky to be Bourgeois Hens"; 2008; Aquarium, iron, elecricity, motors, feather; aquarium: 60 x 40 x 50 cm; iron leg: 120 x 40 x 100 cm; Unique; Installation view 6th Berlin Biennial for contemporary art, June 2010, Berlin; Photo credits: Copyright and courtesy the artist and Chert, Berlin



Petrit Halilaj: "They are Lucky to be Bourgeois Hens"; 2008; (detail) Unique; Installation view Art is my Playground, Tershane, Istanbul, 2008; Photo credits: Copyright and courtesy the artist and Chert, Berlin

Minister Krasniqi in CoMoCoSEE: Se

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi appealed Serbia to act in manner of principle and return over 1200 Kosovo artefacts, which were taken from Kosovo Museum in 1999. Minister Krasniqi expressed this appeal in the last meeting of Council of Ministers of Culture of South-eastern Europe held in Brdo - Slovenia. In this meeting ministers and deputy ministers of culture of other countries of South-eastern Europe participated as well, including the one from Bulgaria, Croatia, Rumania, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bosnia, Albania, etc, and the EU Commissioner for Culture, Education and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou, General Director of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, and the Director for Democracy in the European Council, Snezana Samardzic – Markovic.

Minister Krasniqi pointed out that Serbia must follow the example of Germany that several days ago returned to Kosovo seven artefacts which years ago were smuggled. "I would like to repeat my appeal addressing authorities in Belgrade to act in principle way and as soon as possible our countries start the process of returning these artefacts to Kosovo Museum. If we are dedicated to following European civilisation principles, then I believe that this process of return shall not delay", Minister Krasniqi said in his speech. During the speech of the minister the Serb delegation led by Slovenian ambassador in Slovenia Aleksandar Radovanovic left the meeting. The Serb delegation returned at the meeting following

conclusion of the speech by minister Krasniqi in sign of reaction against request for return of artefacts. The Serb ambassador amongst others stated that the request for return of artefacts constitutes a pollicisation of cultural heritage, and in this case Minister Krasniqi stated that the request to return artefacts is principle based and is not related to politics at all'. He further on stated that there is no better place than the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-eastern Europe to raise this matter, as this is exactly the initiative where the countries of the region work for regional cooperation and for respect toward cultural diversity, as a common value.

During his speech, Minister Krasniqi expressed his pleasure that Kosovo for the first time is represented in this meeting, though in the position of observer, but it has requested and shown his confidence that Kosovo will be a full member in the next meeting of the Council. In this case he raised the request for Kosovo to be an equal member of every regional and international initiative for culture and heritage. "I would also like to express our irreversible goal to soon be a member of other important mechanisms, like UNESCO and Council of Europe, and other international institutions and organisations", he said. Minister Krasniqi stated again that the Republic of Kosovo is dedicated to the European way and spirit of cooperation between the peoples. "In the recent years the public awareness has increased in regard to importance of cultural heritage for a state and the society. This is a result of us having followed an approximation road.

A monument first of all is a part of the whole cultural treasure belonging to all and that should serve as a point of approximation of people".

Moreover, in his speech, minister Krasniqi informed the homologues about the achievements and challenges in the cultural heritage and culture in general in Kosovo.

In the last two years Kosovo

rbia should return Kosovo artefacts!

has gone in opposite direction compared to European trends, increasing the budget for culture and cultural heritage, citing the increase of about 50 % of the budget for culture institutions, and the increase of the financial support for independent cultural organisations and for the artists in general. "for the first time, in these last two years Kosovo has been presented in important cultural events, like the Biennale of Venetia, Film Festival in Cannes, Berlinale, Montreux Jazz Festival, and many other important events. This is in function of our goal for promotion and affirmation of the artists", he said, while he also stated that Kosovo is working towards enhancement of the legislative framework on culture and cultural heritage in order to have it harmonised with the highest international standards.

The minister continued by stating that from the next year, the cultural heritage is going to be included in the primary and secondary school curricula, expressing the confidence that this is a step to bring in the long term plan concrete results not only at increase of pupils' knowledge about the heritage, but also at increase of cultural awareness and social cohesion in general'.

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports from Albania, Suzana Turku expressed her pleasure for the presence of minister Krasniqi in this meeting stating that Kosovo must be a member of Council of Ministers of Culture of South-eastern Europe, and this regional initiative to further expand as much as possible.

Within the meeting frame, minister Krasniqi had meetings with his homologues including that of Slovenia, Uros Grilc, Croatia, Andrea Zlatar Violic, Montenegro, Branislav Micunovic, and with the deputy minister from MTCYS of Albania Suzana Turku, with whom he discussed opportunities of cooperation and specific initiatives which would be beneficial to culture development, protection and promotion of heritage.

In the meeting of Council of Ministers of Culture of South-eastern Europe, the main topic of discussion was regional cooperation in the field of culture and education about art and heritage. Member countries have approved a declaration calling for regional cooperation in the field of culture, education and tourism in this aspect. This declaration also calls for unification of all existing platforms of regional cooperation in these two fields. In the end of the meeting the presidency of the Council was transferred to Macedonia.

Council of Ministers of Culture of South-eastern Europe is an inter-governmental cooperation organisation established by 11 states on 31 March 2005, in Copenhagen. The goal of CoMoCoSEE is strengthening of regional cultural cooperation and protection of cultural heritage. ■

Rewards for Kosovo athletes higher than in most of the countries in the region

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Kosovo Olympic Committee and sports federations discussed today about the sublegal acts related to rewards, pensions and scholarships, and a consensus was reached in regard to amounts and other procedures for such issues. Drafting of such acts has been highly valued by the heads of federations, stating that this is going to raise the motivation for athletes and the support of the state is felt more in the field of sports.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi stated that it is important as this matter should have been concluded long ago, therefore this must be completed in full concordance. He declared that rewards that are going to be given in Kosovo according to these acts are going to be higher than in the countries in the region. Minister also declared that rewards, scholarships and the permanent support shall be an incentive for all those working hard to achieve success but also to reward their results in the meritorious way. He then added that MCYS is working to clearly regulate the form of Olympic Committee and federations' financing, thinking towards a way of allocating annual budget from the state. Minister Krasniqi requested from the Olympic Committee and federations to have a more active role considering that their role will be central in the whole process of sports development. From this meeting a consensus was reached that all parties of Kosovo Olympic Committee, within this month together with the federation to work on the regulation for categorizing sports and athletes as it is regulated in other states, and that is essential for the support that must be provided. Following categorization it was also stated that efforts must be put at drafting procedures and setting amounts for rewards in national level. According to these acts rewards shall be given to winners of international official competitions of member federations of Sports Accord. Following additional consultations regulations will go through other procedures in governmental level until their full approval.

Upon proposal by minister Krasniqi, reward, perma-

Rewards:

Olympic Games	
Olympic record	€ 200 thousand
Olympic gold medal	€ 100 thousand
Silver medal	€ 60 thousand
Bronze medal	€ 40 thousand

World Championship	
World record	€ 100 thousand
Gold medal	€ 40 thousand
Silver medal	€ 20 thousand
Bronze medal	€ 14 thousand

European Championship	
European record	€ 40 thousand
Gold medal	€ 20 thousand
Silver medal	€ 14 thousand
Bronze medal	€ 8 thousand

nent support and scholarship amounts increased.

Scholarships for Olympic talents will be € 150 per month. It envisaged that up to 10 scholarships per year are shared. The age of beneficiaries is from 14 to 21 years old.

Permanent support for top athletes will be as follows: € 800 per month for winner of Olympic gold medal, € 600 for winner of Olympic silver medal, € 500 for winner of Olympic bronze medal. € 600 for winner of World Championship gold medal, € 500 for the silver, € 400 for the bronze. Whereas for the winner of European Championship gold medal the pension is going to be € 500, for the silver € 400 and for the bronze € 300. The athlete is entitled to pension from age 45 years old, and is not entitled to reward for the same medal from another state at the same time.

In the draft it is foreseen that the coach of athlete(s)' having won medals, is going to receive as a reward 50% of the athlete reward amount.

Young athlete achieving results in Youth Olympic Games, World Championships and European Championships in the categories up to U23 shall be rewarded in the level of 25 percent of the values listed above. ■

Minister Krasniqi: MCYS is going to continue to support judokas Kelmendi and Gjakova

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted in a meeting the kosovar judokas Majlinda Kelmendi and Nora Gjakova and their coach Driton Kuka.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated the judokas for their success marked in the international competition few days earlier in Duseldorf, where Majlinda was awarded the gold medal and the other competition in Prague where Nora was awarded the silver medal. The minister pointed out that this is a good example of an untiring work and a very good representation for our country through sports.

Seeing these successes in continuity, the minister stressed the fact that MCYS in the two last years had its priority focused at supporting judokas. This support is going to continue in the future as well, said the minister.

Particular emphasis was given by the minister to the work being done for the first time at producing the legal infrastructure which assures proper treatment for the athletes, stressing here regulations for rewarding the top athletes, scholarships for young Olympic talents, categorisation of sports, rewards for the sports instructors, the retired, etc. Minister also noted that for a process to have its' best progress, MCYS upon request by the Olympic Committee and from some federations has extended the time limit until tomorrow for the KOC federation to provide their comments pertaining the regulations in order to jointly work toward finalisation of these regulations as soon as possible and to afterwards follow other procedures to their adoption.

He stressed that the rewards envisaged by these regulations are going to be higher than in the majority of countries in the region.

A specific topic of discussion was the various offers addressed to the judoka Kelmendi from different countries. Minister Krasniqi pointed out that Kosovo institutions are committed to continuing their support to judokas, so that they represent Kosovo state at any future competition.

On the other hand, Driton Kuka, the coach of the judokas updated the minister regarding the successes they achieved and their importance in reference to Olympic Games. He and judokas Kelmendi and Gjakova thanked minister Krasniqi for the support given in the two last years and their high readiness for this support to continue. They stated once again that their aim is to work hard and to compete for the state of Kosovo, working towards this goal with the Judo Federation and MCYS. ■

Majlinda grabs the bronze in European Championship - remains the first in the world!

Majlinda Kelmendi was adorned with the bronze medal at the European Championship held in Budapest, Hungary.

The Kosovo judoka, though suffering defeat in the quarterfinals at the hands of Italian Odette Giuffrida, recovered brilliantly at the next fight, bringing the first medal of any European championship to Kosovo for seniors in the past 30 years.

Initially, the defeated the Hungarian Barbara Maros and at the medal contention she bested the German Mareen Kraeh.

Meanwhile, judokas Nora Gjakova and Distria Krasniqi dropped earlier in the game.

This, however, is not her only success. Majlinda Kelmendi is now the best judoka in the world in the category of up to 52 kilograms.

She may be considered the best, if the world ranking is taken as a basis, from among the results achieved at various tournaments.

21-year old from Peja, scored 1,480 points in the category up to 52 kilograms and is ranked ahead of the Japanese Yuki Hashimoto, which held the top spot until now. Hashimoto dropped to second with 1.310 points.

Kelmendi gained the top spot owing to a successful series achieved in the last six months, namely after the Olympic Games “London 2012”, where she did not manage to fight for medal contention.

Kelmendi ranked first at the "Grand Prix" tournament, held in Samsun, Turkey. She was awarded 300 points at the world rankings. In February she also appeared in two major tournaments. In "Grand Slam" held in Paris, she ranked second and was also awarded 300 points, while for the gold medal that she won in "Grand Prix" Dusseldorf, she won 300 other points. ■

Minister Krasniqi met the representatives of the Kosovo Sport Shooting Federation

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted in a meeting the representatives of Kosovo Shooting Federation, with whom he discussed about the achievements at sports but also challenges encountered in this field. Particularly emphasising the discussion on specifics related to the sports of shooting.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated the representatives of this federation for the work done till now and for the marked successes. He promised that the support from MCYS for this federation but for other federations as well will continue in all aspects.

In particular the minister of MCYS mentioned that the Shooting Federation will receive the support in conformity with the legal responsibilities for completing the sports equipment they need, and which is considered a special inter-institutional treatment aspect. He stressed that MCYS is now creating the legal framework for permanent support to the athletes and for the rewards for those achieving high results, and in this direction he encouraged the leaders of the federation to work even more for success and qualitative competitions in the country.

On the other hand the President of the Federation, Ali Pllana thanked the minister Krasniqi for the support and stressed that significant steps have already been undertaken for the athletes.

He disclosed an update of work and successes achieved by this federation, not forgetting numerous challenges in the way ahead. The President of federation Pllana showed his commitment for a greater work and for a qualitative organisation which would bring even greater results. ■

Further support for the Kosovo Tennis Federation

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted in a meeting the representatives of Kosovo Tennis Federation, led by the president Shkelzen Domi. Minister Krasniqi congratulated the representatives of this federation for the work done till now in particular for numerous initiatives to promote this sport as much as possible and to distinguish young and new talents.

Minister promised that the support from MCYS for this federation but for other federations as well will continue in all aspects. As for tennis, minister added that there are special projects destined to improvement of the infrastructure so that the young people, those passionate of this sport will have more space for competitions. A special aspect of discussion in the meeting was engagement for membership of Kosovo Tennis Federation into European and world mechanisms of this sport. In this direction the minister offered his full support.

Mentioning here the fact that the legal framework is being completed for permanent support to the athletes and them Minister appealed the Tennis Federation to work even more for success and qualitative competitions in the country.

On the other hand the president of Tennis Federation, Shkelzen Domi thanked minister Krasniqi for the support provided to the federation and to all sport in Kosovo. He then updated the minister on the work done and the plans for the future. ■

KOSOVO AND CROATIA: two close partners in sports

Republic of Kosovo and Republic of Croatia are going to soon sign an agreement of cooperation in the sphere of sports. Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted in a meeting the Minister of Science, Education and Sports of Croatia, Zeljko Jovanoviç, who jointly discussed about the ways of cooperation between the two countries in the field of sports. In particular for this, the ministers had as a topic of discussion starting of work towards drafting an agreement of cooperation which is going to envisage the specific steps of this cooperation.

Minister Krasniqi thanked the minister Jovanoviç for the support that his state has given to Kosovo in development of sports and more specifically in the process of internationalization thereof. He estimated that the relations between the two countries and the two peoples date back long way before, and many athletes from Kosovo have competed and continue competing in Croatia, and also those from Croatia in Kosovo.

"All this cooperation between our clubs, federations and institutions are an incentive for us to increase the cooperation, aiming at joint activities, greater exchange of experiences and probably in everything targeting at sports development", minister Krasniqi said. He further added that Croatia is one of the countries of a wealthy sports tradition and serves as a good model to Kosovo. Minister then continued by saying that there are already significant changes noticed in Kosovo regarding sports, but also asserted that challenges still remain ahead.

Undoubtedly, Croatia as a country with a great sports tradition, with amazing successes at sports, not only in our region, but also in the European and world level I would say that it has been and continues to be one of the best models which we have followed also in regard to sports legislation and as you may know we have tried that in our laws and sublegal acts, some of which are expected to be soon adopted, in a near future, to take such good examples from a state that obviously has similarities with us, but a state which is going to soon be formally a part of European Union", he stated in the press conference following the meeting.

Minister Zeljko Jovanoviç estimated that Kosovo has had and continues to have a potential at sports but also in the field of culture. Taking into consideration the importance sport has, but also the relationships between our countries, he stated that Croatia is going to provide support to Kosovo in the field of sports.

"I wish Kosovar athletes help Kosovo to be recognised all over the world. Therefore, Croatia provides all the support to Kosovo on its way to becoming a member of all international sports organisations, including International Olympic Committee, thus Kosovar athletes undertake international matches and subsequently win medals be them world or Olympic ones", he said. He appreciated the achievements marked by Kosovo, and promised his will for signing the agreement between the two countries in the sphere of sports as soon as possible, and to have as many joint sports activities as possible. ■

Minister Krasniqi: Caring about athletes with dis

Kosovo Paralympics Committee organized today in Prishtina a Conference on Education of girls and women with disabilities through sports activities, with the support from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) and USA Embassy in Kosovo.

The conference consisted of two sessions, one of them related to education of girls and women with disabilities through sports activities, implementation of legislation, opportunities in vocational education and training and the second session where situations, analysis and recommendations were presented for the civil society regarding persons with disabilities.

The host of this event Njomza Emini, the head of Kosovo Paralympics Committee, following her thanks addressed to MCYS and to US Embassy in Kosovo for their support to the organisation of the conference further added that Kosovo Paralympics Committee is committed to provide support and opportunities to female gender in particular to young women with disabilities. "The support from local and international institutions is an additional motivation for us to make the people with disabilities feel equal with us in many activities of the social, cultural and sports life in Kosovo," Emini said.

While minister Memli Krasniqi, stressed the importance of education for sports as very important in our life in general in particular when we refer to female gender and especially for females with disabilities and considering the initiative of Kosovo Paralympics Committee, for this conference with the purpose of female education and participation in sports activities as a very important step. "I would like to congratulate Kosovo Paralympics Committee for this new initiative but also in general for the work it has done toward integration of persons with disabilities in the public life, by really creating an environment where they now begin to feel involved by the society and institutions," minister stressed.

In addition he stressed that MCYS has been one of the main supporters to Paralympics Committee and the support is going to continuously increase as MCYS considers sports expansion as one of its' priorities, and caring about people with disabilities as an institutional and human obligation. On the other hand the minister used the opportunity to thank the international partners for their logistic and financial support they provide to our country, and minister Krasniqi also recalled that MCYS has increased its budget more than 100% for sports in the two last years, and this has played a role in support to Kosovo Olympics Committee, Paralympics Committee and federations for the internal organisation of sports. On the other hand he emphasised that Kosovar sports unfairly remains isolated although we have marked significant steps towards sports internationalisation in the two last years. Minister, Memli Krasniqi further added: "We have invested a lot at renovation of sports halls and at building new ones, including as well many sports fields. Now, more space is available for activities. Our aim is for the increase of the budget to continue next year and in other years to come."

In the end of his speech, the minister, Krasniqi promised that support to sportsmen and women shall continue and new regulations are expected to be adopted regarding scholarships for the sportsmen and women and for those with disabili-

abilities is an institutional and human obligation

ties as well, and rewards are expected to be the highest in the region.

Whereas the representative from USA Embassy in Kosovo, Paul Engelstad, pointed that he is pleased to see increased participation of women in sports activities and emphasised that it is important to support the female gender at sports development. "I think Kosovo is doing a good job at expanding all activities for people with disabilities. We have supported the Down syndrome association it, HandiKOS, but more remains to be done not only by the government, but more volunteering is needed in Kosovo, more private initiatives are needed in support to such type of activities", the representative of American Embassy, Engelstad said.

Whereas the Great Britain Embassy representative, Joe Preston, spoke about the experience of Great Britain which last year organised the Olympic and Paralympics Games "London 2012" where about two million people participated, and he showed his delight regarding participation of Majlinda Kelmendi, stressing the fact here that he felt disappointed that Kosovo flag was not allowed to be carried by her, hoping that this will not be the case in 2016. "I hope that your athletes, and perhaps any of you present here today will represent your country in the Games in Rio de Janeiro", Joe Preston said.

Participants of this conference were also the parliament members Teuta Sahatçiu and Suzana Novobërdaliu, representatives of many NGO-s dealing with people with disabilities. ■

Government of Kosovo appointed mediators in the field of the Copyright

Government of the Republic of Kosovo rendered a decision for appointment of mediators in the field of the copyright. Their role pursuant to the Law on the Copyright and Other related Rights shall be mediation between the bearers of the right and users of this right.

In his speech before the government cabinet, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi said that this is another significant step that the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports is undertaking in continuity aiming at provision of the necessary conditions for the efficient protection of copyright.

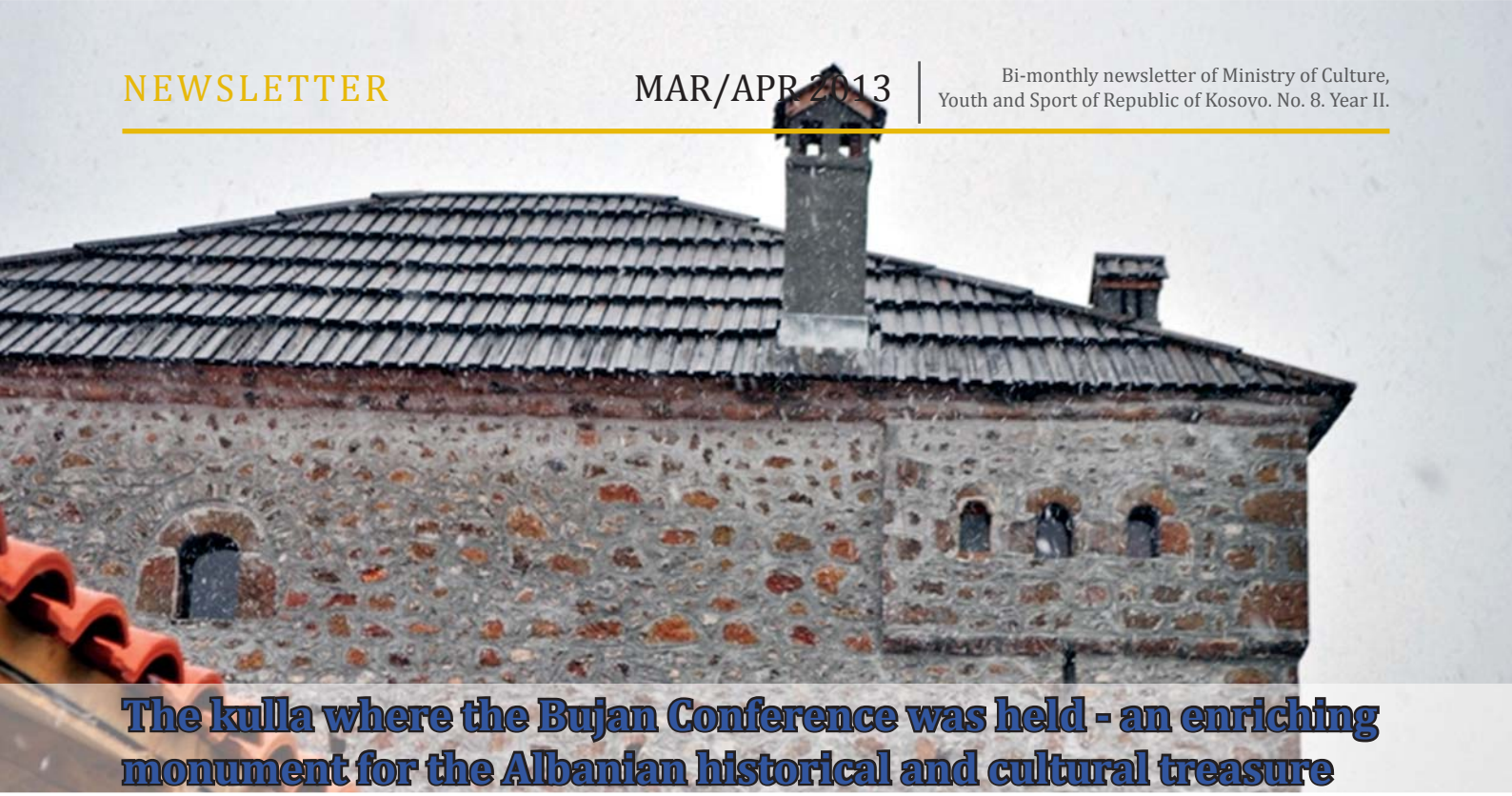
He provided updates to the government cabinet by disclosing some other details linked to the process of mediation. "Aiming at establishment of a functional system of the copyright, where the holder of the right shall be compensated for the use of his/her rights by other persons, and in function of reaching a comprehensive agreement for use of rights, between these parties, as provided for by the law on copyrights envisaging the mediation procedure. In cases when negotiations between the associations for collective administration of the rights and the representatives of users of such rights are concluded unsuccessfully, then the Law on Author Rights foresees a process of mediation as an alternative option, and as a mandatory stage for determining the general fees", he said.

Mediators in the issues related to the copyright have been selected following a call for application addressed to all those who have been licensed mediators from the Ministry of Justice, and who met the additional criteria as provided by Regulation 05/2013, for mediation at disputes for the copyright, adopted by the Government of Kosovo. The already appointed mediators have attended the advanced training for mediation in the author right related matters, with particular emphasis on mediation in determining the general fees for use of the right.

Mediation process and engagement of mediators is made upon request by the parties. All incurred expenditures are covered by the parties in the process, and Kosovo budget bears no cost whatsoever. Furthermore, reaching an agreement in the mediation process generates material revenues, for authors, performers, interpreters, all other authors of intellectual works and for the budget of the Republic of Kosovo. ■

Pursuant to the decision, the following mediators have been appointed:

1. Ilir Gaxha, mediator;
2. Mentor Hajdaraj, mediator;
3. Besim Kajtazi, mediator;
4. Albana Tigani, mediator;
5. Destan Bujupi, mediator;
6. Jusuf Jahmurtaj, mediator;
7. Faton Morina, mediator.



The kulla where the Bujan Conference was held - an enriching monument for the Albanian historical and cultural treasure

The kulla of Sali Mani, in Bujan, Albania, where Bujan Conference was held, with an investment of around Euro 70.000 by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, now has already a different view from what it had several years ago.

Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Hajdin Abazi, together with his homologue from the Republic of Albania, Abaz Hado inaugurated today the restoration works in this tower. Present at the ceremony were also the local officials from Bujan Municipality, Gjakova, and representatives from Antifascist and National Liberation War Veterans Association from Kosovo, amongst whom Vahide Hoxha as well.

Deputy Minister Abazi highly valued the importance this monument has for the Albanian history, and this importance is further valued by its' restoration.

"Today's inauguration is important for our cultural, historical and spiritual heritage. This tower is a monument which tells about the important events developed in the first half of the 20th century, where Bujan Conference is distinguished for unification of Albanians", he said. Abazi added that this tower must not be perceived as only a restored monument. While he symbolically handed over the keys to the Mayor of Bujan, requested that this historical monument be a place where people will come and learn about the history of Albanian people, and be a space where our heritage is promoted.

"Moreover I demand from you to protect this building, because from now on it is even more important. We really worked for it to take this view, but now we must set an example on how we take care of such monuments", deputy minister Abazi said.

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports in Albania, Abaz Hado thanked for the engagement of MCYS at restoration of this monument, for which he said that is a symbol that unites the Albanian people. He also pointed out that this place really deserves to be transformed into a museum to celebrate and remember the generations which gave contribution years ago, and who followed the ideals of many of our forefathers.

On the other hand, the Mayor of Bujan, Bujar Hasanpapaj stated that Bujan is a place which has united Albanians in every historical period and not occasionally Bujan Conference was held at exactly this tower. He expressed high consideration for the contribution made by MCYS for protection of this monument.

On behalf of Kosovo Antifascist and National Liberation War Veterans Association, Vahide Hoxha stated that restoration of this monument is richness for Albanians to remember the historical developments.

Bujan Conference was held on 31 December 1943 and 1 and 2 January 1944, where a resolution for Albanian people unification was signed. ■

Kulla of Sali Mani where the Bujan Conference was held

Deputy minister Elshani visited the minority communities in Fier

Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), Gani Elshani, was for a two day visit in Albania where he had various meetings with mayors of Fier district, meetings with students and community and a visit in primary school "Dino Ismajli".

The main theme of these meetings was enhancement in education and employment of the community where deputy minister Elshani closely saw difficulties the community in Fier faces with. Whereas on the other hand deputy minister of MCYS, Gani Elshani informed the authorities in the visited municipalities about the MCYS work on support that this ministry provides to youth not excluding RAE communities in Kosovo.

In the meeting with the students of the community in Fier city, it was stressed the issue that students after university studies face the problem of employment and engagement to local institutions, pointing out that in Fier district there are 35 students who despite finishing the university did not get employed and as a result these young people are forced to leave the country. This concern was also expressed by the parents of the students, and stated that the number of young people wishing to study has decreased as there is no interest shown from them to continue further education exactly because of disappointment that although they have completed the university these young people cannot find a job. Fier minority students informed the deputy minister Elshani that they are not represented at local and governmental institutions.

While in the visit of deputy minister Elshani conducted at the kindergarten "Dino Ismajli", the director of the school Gazmira Birqaj informed Elshani regarding the number of students, which this year increased because the Ministry of Education of Albania distributed at no cost books for the two last years, especially for the communities, emphasising that one of the results contributing to increase of this number is the opening of preschool education in this school.

Deputy minister Gani Elshani, also had one meeting with the Director of Education and Culture in the district of Fier, Miranda Bullapi who notified that in this district there are seven villages of the community, where one of them, Baltëza is entirely a minority village.

In the course of his meetings, deputy minister Elshani had also meetings with the mayor of Grabjan municipality, Avdi Snava and Levan municipality with the mayor Xheladin Malaj. In these meetings it was discussed about employment of minority community members, for improvement of the infrastructure of villages, for the social assistance and support to pupils and students who till now are not stimulated through any scholarship thus leaving the community to lag at education.

But, despite the difficulties that the minority community is facing in the district of Fier, passion and will are still there to deal with activities enlivening optimism and hope for the community. Deputy minister Elshani visited an exhibition of a student of arts opened in Fier who expressed his great wish to present this numerous works' exhibition in Kosovo as well. ■

Krasniqi: Prizes for theatre are an institutional a

In a formal ceremony in the National Theatre of Kosovo, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports awarded the National Prize for Life's Work in the field of theatre and Annual Prizes for Theatre. The National Prize for Life's Work was awarded to actor Istref Begolli (post-mortem). It was Minister Krasniqi who awarded this prize to actor's daughter, Alba Begolli – Pashku.

In his speech, minister Krasniqi highly valued the activity of the actor Begolli, saying that he has left inerasable traces in theatrical life in Kosovo.

"His monumental roles, his personality filled this room full of emotions, he made us all feel proud, and above all was also an inspiration for many generations of actors", he said, stating that he is pleased that now outstanding art personalities are being honoured in institutional manner.

Award of the National Prize for Life's Work and Annual Prizes for Theatre, minister Krasniqi said, is an honour but spur as well for young generations to work, as their work will be evaluated meritoriously. He said that besides the prizes in the theatre, MCYS has established prizes in other fields of art as well, including cinematography, music and visual arts.

Date 27 March is the World Theatre Day. Minister Krasniqi said that this day already finds the theatre life in the country with two more important steps. "National Theatre of Kosovo, for the first time as an institution of the state of Kosovo became a member with full rights in the European Convention of Theatres, an institution extremely important for the theatre in the whole Europe. Now our theatre artists are going to have many opportunities to perform in the European stages but also to see in Kosovo theatrical bodies from several European countries. Another important step is also opening of the International Theatre Institute office in Prishtina. These two achievements are evidence for successful breakthrough of all our cultural scenes in the greatest cultural events around the world", he said, while he also added that MCYS will continue to support the theatre and the whole artistic community, constantly for the aim that their work brings authentic values, so that they are free at creating activity and not be subject to any kind of influence.

In other categories, prizes were awarded as follows: The annual prize for the best show for 2012 was awarded to "The Twelfth Night" of Shakespeare directed by Ilir Bokshi and with production of National Theatre. The annual prize for the best director for 2012 was awarded to Fadil Hysaj for directing the show "Shtëpia në ankand-House in Auction". The annual prize for the best actor for 2012 was awarded to actor Ismet Azemi, for his role

in the show "Vrasja e Mushkonjës – Mosquito's Murder" and Annual prize for international successful presentation for 2012 was awarded to Theatre House "AKT".

Upon receiving the Prize, the director Fadil Hysaj said that Kosovo has already become a place where artists are creating each day more space where they can freely present their work. He highly valued the role of the ministry at establishing

ppraisal for artists

these prizes and for the undertaken steps leading towards increase of the support for our artists.

Actor Ismet Azemi said that this prize for him is a very important valuation and gives him more encouragement to work even harder for the theatre life in the country.

In the formal ceremony of prizes' award, thus celebrating the World Theatre Day, it was also read the Declaration for the theatre selected for this year, which was presented by the Italian playwright Dario Fo, literature Noble prize winner in 1997.

Based on the regulation on prizes, the laureate of the National Prize on Life's Work is awarded with Euro 5.000. Whereas in the four other categories awards are of value of Euro 2.500. The jury for awarding National Prize on Life's Work in the field of theatre and other annual prizes, appointed by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, composed of: Emin Kabashi, Besim Rexhaj, Fatos Berisha, Naser Shatrolli and Mirsad Ferati. ■

Minister Krasniqi met the OSCE ambassador in Kosovo, Jean-Claude Schlumberger

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted in a meeting the OSCE ambassador in Kosovo, Jean-Claude Schlumberger with whom discussed the achievements and challenges in the field of heritage and youth, two segments subject of continuous cooperation between MCYS and OSCE. Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Memli Krasniqi updated the ambassador on the steps undertaken in heritage, its promotion and protection and at strengthening of youth. As for the latter, minister Krasniqi informed the ambassador that the government has already adopted the strategy 2013-2017, which envisages concrete steps toward support of youth. He emphasised that this strategy among others keeps as its important component that of employment and entrepreneurship, sports and culture, informal education and participation of youth in public life in the country.

Minister Krasniqi thanked OSCE for the cooperation provided till now and expressed the commitment for this cooperation to grow.

OSCE ambassador, Jean-Claude Schlumberger estimated the steps undertaken at youth and heritage. Particularly he greeted the establishment of the Implementation and Monitoring Commission. OSCE ambassador pointed out that OSCE will be continuously committed to be a partner of Kosovo institutions. ■

Memorandum signed for the separati National Library part of MCYS, Central Unive

From now on Kosovo is going to have the National Library separately and the Central University Library as well. In the opening of the Week of Library, the 11th edition, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed for division of the National and University Library of Kosovo. It was signed by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Ramë Buja, Rector of Prishtina University 'Hasan Prishtina', Director of NULK, Sali Bashota and the deputy finance minister, Ramdan Avdiu.

National Library pursuant to the Law on Libraries shall be an institution of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, while the Central University Library will be part of Prishtina University 'Hasan Prishtina'.

In his speech before the attendees, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi said that this process is already being finalized and that MCYS and MEST are fulfilling their commitments they showed in 2011. He estimated that separation of NULK is an essential process. "There is no doubt that we are making one more important step toward development of libraries and creating an institutional chain in conformity with the best practices in this field. MCYS guarantees to permanently support the management of the National Library, by always playing only the role of the facilitator, for better work conditions, for enrichment of the fund and for liaison of cooperation with international sister institutions. We have already commenced with our engagements toward this", the Minister said while he also added that in the future days, based on the competences by law, is going to appoint the National Library Steering Council, as a body which is going to draft the statute and all other documents for functioning of this institution. The minister stated that the book and the bibliotheca have been and continue remaining on of the priorities of MCYS. "We adopted last year new programs of support for the book and publishing. Besides the support for publication of new books, the ministry for the first time this year is going to allocate special means for buying books and for their distribution into municipal libraries. We will also support from this year in particular the publication of literature magazines. Furthermore, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports this year as part of the competition for cultural projects and pursuant to the New Law on Libraries, for the first time has allocated a special fund for enrichment of many municipal libraries' funds and for the library of the blind \"Syri Ynë\" in Prishtina. As part of

on of National and University Library ersity Library part of University of Prishtina

our program policies has also been and continues to be the support for various book associations, publishers and writers, a support which has obviously increased in the last two years", he stated.

Minister also spoke about the importance that the Week of the Library has. He pointed out that for 11 editions now it has been one of the main activities which helped the development process of the National and University Library of Kosovo and bibliotheca in general in Kosovo, by following this way the world trends and by bringing this institution continuously closer to the reader and to the public in general. He congratulated management for their and all the staff of NULK for the continuous work they have done, and also thanked the international partners in particular the American Embassy in Prishtina for their continuous support to the Library.

The Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Ramë Buja stated that division of the Library is a step that will surely enable positive progress and compliant with the trend and the best practices.

"I strongly believe that besides making two directors, two administrations, we will also a much stronger effect at management, distribution and use of the book". Minister Buja, meanwhile added that the Week of Library is a very important activity towards strengthening the cooperation in the field of bibliotheca and bringing here the best stories in this field.

Director of NULK, Sali Bashota, spoke about the program of the Week of Library, stating that it is a diverse program and putting special focus to various libraries all around Kosovo, with the aim at bringing library as close to the reader as possible. Bashota also stressed out that some lectures are going to be provided by various studiers from America, Great Britain, Albania and Kosova as well.

While the deputy director for public relations from the American Embassy in Kosovo, Jennifer Washeleski, besides others stressed the importance that the library as an institution has for development and education of people and for further enhancement of the society vision for the future. She said that library always remains an irreplaceable institution, and as such it keeps something what people may not be able to learn elsewhere.

On the other hand the Rector of Prishtina University - 'Hasan Prishtina', Ibrahim Gashi stated that the role of the library remains determinant to the degree of general emancipation. Gashi further added that the University of Prishtina 'Hasan Prishtina' is going to increase its' engagements so that the Central University Library is able to manage in efficient manner and to constantly be a strong support for the students. ■

MCYS and CHWB sign a memorandum for investment of 500.000 Euros for emergency interventions in 50 monuments of cultural heritage

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Swedish organisation Cultural Heritage Without Borders signed today a Memorandum of Understanding for emergent interventions into 50 monuments of cultural heritage in Kosovo in 2013 and in 2014.

The memorandum was signed by the Secretary of MCYS Veton Firzi and Director of CHWB for Kosovo, Sali Shoshi. In the ceremony of signing this agreement present was also the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi.

Through this memorandum, MCYS is going to allocate Euro 300.000 for these two years for emergent interventions, Euro150.000 each year whereas CHWB is allocating Euro 200.000 for the two years, Euro 100.000 each year.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi said that this memorandum is another important step in the field of cultural heritage and is a continuity of the program of MCYS for emergent interventions which began two years ago. He thanked CHWB for the cooperation with the institutions of Kosovo for many years now and for the dedication towards enhancement thereof.

"We plan besides this amount of Euro 300.000 to allocate other means as well for emergency interventions. Emergent interventions are a program which began before two years, and before all this is a step which helps on prevention of further damages that a monument may suffer, until full restoration conditions are created. We allocated last year more than Euro 200.000 for this program, where restorations were carried out or are in their final stage in more than 30 monuments", he said, by further adding that the signed memorandum guarantees a more professional job in the field, during the interventions and it will serve as a model for further advancement of restoration works and protection of the heritage. Minister said that in the field of culture heritage numerous changes occurred in the two last years, mentioning here implementation of numerous projects be them from MCYS or initiatives and support by other international partners. "There are of course other challenges before us, but we are really committed to work, by increasing the professionalism and responsibility at work, in every sphere and in particular in the field of cultural heritage being a very important work and requiring responsibility and high professionalism", he said.

On the other hand Sali Shoshi, director of CHWB for Kosovo congratulated MCYS for the emergent intervention program stating that this way it is shown that there is a high commitment for protection and promotion of the heritage. Shoshi said that the memorandum is divided into several stages and amongst is the inclusion of local community is foreseen in this program, including their stories for each restored monument in order to truly maintain the originality. He further stated that there will be a bilateral commitment in order to conduct the work in professional manner and with due and special care but also to promote this high number of monuments determined by MCYS and the community. ■

More than 600.000 Euros for cultural projects

As it occurred with cultural institutions, as compared to the previous year their annual budget increased, MCYS increased the budget this year compared to the previous year also for subsidies, more exactly in the support providing for the annual competition for cultural projects. Compared to the previous year when around Euro 500.000 were given, this year the competition amount increased to over Euro 600.000. The support increased in all fields as follows, theatre, film, music, visual arts, promotion, literature, etc. Except through competition for projects, MCYS is going to offer continuous support during the year for other projects as well.

In the projects related to the theatrical field in the country, MCYS has shared more than €120.000 for various projects. In this field is also included allocation of budget of Euro 10.000 for seven theatres of the cities in the country, and the Theatre ODA. While for the Festival 'Etno Fest' Euro 15.000 were allocated.

As for the projects related to the field of cinematography, where various festivals are included, MCYS has also allocated a budget of over Euro 120.000. Some of the traditional projects which have also been supported this year are as follows, PriFilmFest with Euro 20.000, DokuFest with Euro 15.000, Skena UP with Euro 15.000, ShqipFilmFest with Euro 8.000 and the Festival 'Goddess on Throne' with Euro 8.000.

In the field of visual arts projects have been supported reaching in total an amount of around Euro 80.000, amongst which tens of personal exhibitions have been supported, and the annual program of the Centre for Contemporary Art 'Station' with Euro 8.000.

Over 50.000 Euros have been allocated for various projects related to cultural promotion. In the category of projects related to literature around Euro 50.000 has also been allocated. In this view Euro 14.000 has been allocated as budget for annual activity of Kosovo Writers' League, and meanwhile Euro 15.000 has been allocated to the Association of Kosovo Publishers for their annual activity where Prishtina Book Fair is included, the Fair in Frankfurt and the one in Tirana. PEN Centre of Kosovo was supported with an amount of Euro 10.000.

Based on the Law on Libraries which was adopted last year, MCYS has shared means for enrichment of the book fund for the municipal libraries. In this case, pursuant to the law MCYS allocated over Euro 30.000 for enrichment of the book fund for the municipal libraries of Mitrovica, Malisheva, Peja, Kamenica, Kaçanik, Ferizaj, Gjilan, Skenderaj, Junik, Orllan and the library of the blind \"Syri Ynë\" in Prishtina. This financial support for the municipal libraries is given parallel to the support that they will get for the first time through the competition for purchase of books, which was published weeks ago.

With the purpose of promoting the cultural diversity, more exactly for support to cultural projects of minority communities, MCYS has allocated from the competition around Euro 50.000 for projects of all communities living in Kosovo.

Whereas in the category of music arts over Euro 120.000 was allocated. For the first time following re-functionalization, MCYS supported with Euro 7.000 Kosovo Association of Composers for their annual activity. Whereas, the annual festivals have been supported this year as well. Thus the festival 'ReMusica' was supported with Euro 9.000, 'Kosova KamerFest'with Euro 9.000, Festival 'Chopin PianoFest' with Euro 7.000, 'Kosovarja Këndon' with Euro 7.000 etc. Importance has been given to support of folklore music festivals 'Hasi Jehon', 'Anadrinia Jehon', 'We sing to the Freedom' and 'Albanian Rhapsody' which were supported with Euro 4.000 each.

More than 300 projects competed in all these fields in the annual competition, out of which about 200 were financially supported. ■

Minister Krasniqi: combating piracy and counterfeiting in focus

Kosovo has made substantial steps for the protection of copyright. This is what Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, said among others at a round table in Pristina, organized by the European Union Office in Kosovo, to observe April 26, the World Intellectual Property Day. This meeting was attended by representatives of various local institutions dealing with the international protection of copyright and intellectual property.

Minister Krasniqi said that until two years ago, Kosovo was lagging considerably in this regard, but noted that in the past two years, the legal and institutional safeguards protecting the right of creativity have been put in place. The creators of each area, said Minister Krasniqi, should step up their efforts to avail of the legal and institutional remedies available in order to protect authorship and seek redress.

He mentioned some of the steps that the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport has the right to copyright, and that the Feasibility Study for Kosovo made by the European Union are considered as one of the greatest progress recorded in Kosovo.

He recalled some of the steps that the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports have undertaken regarding the copyrights, which was pointed out as one of the major progresses achieved in Kosovo by the Feasibility Study on Kosovo, carried out by the European.

Minister noted that the Republic of Kosovo has a substantive Law on copyright and related rights, standardized with the best international practices and European Union legislation. Copyright Office in MCYS, said Minister Krasniqi, has been made operational and in addition to directors, there are two principal officers for promotion and international cooperation and one legislation officer. "In the Criminal Code of Kosovo, in cooperation with the Ministry of

Justice, copyright violations have been qualified as crime, and in addition, cases related to the subject are now to be treated as a matter of priority by the courts. The law also stipulates adoption of certain other acts. We have adopted Regulation on licensing of associations for collective administration of copyright. Immediately following this, the two first associations were licensed: IPAK, which protects the rights of creators in the field of music, and VAPIK, which administers the rights to video productions. In several occasions, I have been calling at both meetings such as this or at separate meetings that other authors, especially those of literature, to unite and establish an association which would have the full support of MCYS in making it expediently operational" he said, as he announced that a Regulation on mediation has been adopted by the Government and first copyright mediators have been appointed.

Minister Krasniqi stated that one of the most important aspects of the commitment of MCYS and other institutions has been the adoption of the strategy against piracy and counterfeiting, and establishment of the Task Force against piracy and counterfeiting. He said that the Task Force is developing a concrete work plan, and will undertake concrete action in the coming days. "Campaign for raising awareness of the public about the consequences of piracy and counterfeiting to our economy, and above all the importance of creative original values will launch soon. One of the segments of this campaign will be the call to all those who sell or in another way use the creativity of an author for their benefit, without authorization, either obtain it or remove it from their business. After the campaign that will last more than two months, the Task Force will give the green light for action to seize and dispose of all counterfeit and pirated materials in certain activities", he said as he pointed out that establishing such a system of protection from piracy and counterfeiting is one segment that helps in combating the informal economy, protection of creativity and enrichment of genuine values in each of these areas.

On the other hand, Thomas Gnocchi, Head of the Political Section of the European Union Office in Kosovo, said that from today, in cooperation with national institu-

s in the coming months!

tions, the EU launched "Strengthening the System of Intellectual Property Rights", a project which will provide extensive assistance to national institutions in the protection of intellectual property and striking cooperation with international mechanisms. He said that Kosovo has made significant strides in this regard and added that with a greater commitment, more achievements could be recorded.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Cuneyd Ustaibo, said one of MTI's are is the protection of intellectual property, and mentioned some of the steps that the ministry made in this regard. He appreciated the cooperation that the European Union extended in the protection of intellectual property and expressed MTI's commitment to work even harder. "I believe that the field of Intellectual Property has great economic importance to Kosovo. Through the further development of this field, we encourage new technological developments, encourage innovation and inventions, protect the reputation of national and international brands and create enabling environment for investment, investment protection to boost creativity", he said. ■

Minister Krasniqi called for establishment of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Kosovo

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi met in London, the Secretary General of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, John May. This award is one of the most important in the world for youth, and the main goal is to bring together youth from around the world in various challenges aimed at their training. The award is accredited in hundreds of world universities and however is awarded the prize, is appreciated highly for the commitment and skills.

On the occasion, Minister Krasniqi submitted to secretary May a request that the award may be established in Kosovo, thus expressing the full cooperation of MCYS to commence proceedings for the application of this award as well as for involvement of as many young people from Kosovo in the program. He informed Mr. May of the country's commitment to support young people, saying that youth is a national priority. The Minister spoke about various projects being implemented in Kosovo with the involvement of young people, such as subsidizing young businesses, various youth projects, establishing relevant mechanisms to meet the needs of the youth, promoting volunteerism, investment in sporting and cultural infrastructure for various activities, as well as setting up a good legislative basis for youth, such as drafting of the Kosovo Youth Strategy 2013-2017. The minister said that young people in Kosovo, as a vital part of society, are a part of leadership in many governmental and non-governmental institutions, adding that this approach was regularly expanding in scope.

On the other hand, Secretary John May commended Kosovo institutions' efforts directed at youth, stating that Kosovo has huge potential in this regard, with a healthy and active youth. He extended his support to Minister Krasniqi in the process of establishment and implementation of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Kosovo as well.

Minister Krasniqi and Secretary May agreed to maintain communication on the matter as well as work together on other initiatives geared at involvement of Kosovo youth in various international initiatives.

Minister Krasniqi also attended the annual ceremonial reception of the Award, hosted by Prince Edward, part of the Great Britain royal family.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award dates since 1956 with the involvement of over 8 million youth to date. Last year alone, about 1 million youth from 140 countries were part of the programme. ■

Minister Krasniqi met the President of Peace and Sport Organization, Joel Bouzou

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi met in Dubai, the venue of the next Conference of Peace and Sport, the founder and president of Peace and Sport Organization, at the same time, the president of the World Association of Olympians, Joel Bouzou. At the meeting, the Minister was accompanied by the President of the Olympic Committee of Kosovo, Besim Hasani.

The Minister briefed Mr. Bouzou on achievements and challenges of the Kosovo sports, especially in the area of internationalization. He spoke of some of the steps that the sports community and state institutions have undertaken in both directions, i.e. internationalization and internal development.

The Minister reiterated the fact that Kosovo sportsmen are subject of an injustice for several years in that they are not equal in international competitions. He urged Mr. Bouzou to extend his support in internationalization, especially in the process of accession of the Olympic Committee of Kosovo to the International Olympic Committee.

He added that Kosovo was simultaneously working to significantly improve the sports infrastructure as well harmonize the legislation to the best international practices. Kosovo, said the Minister, has many young talents who are working passionately in spite of unfavourable conditions and under an international isolation. These are the reasons, said the Minister, that the Government of Kosovo has listed as one of its priorities for sports development of university and school sports, which will help in massovization and emergence of new talents. He added that Kosovo sees sports as an opportunity to bring people closer.

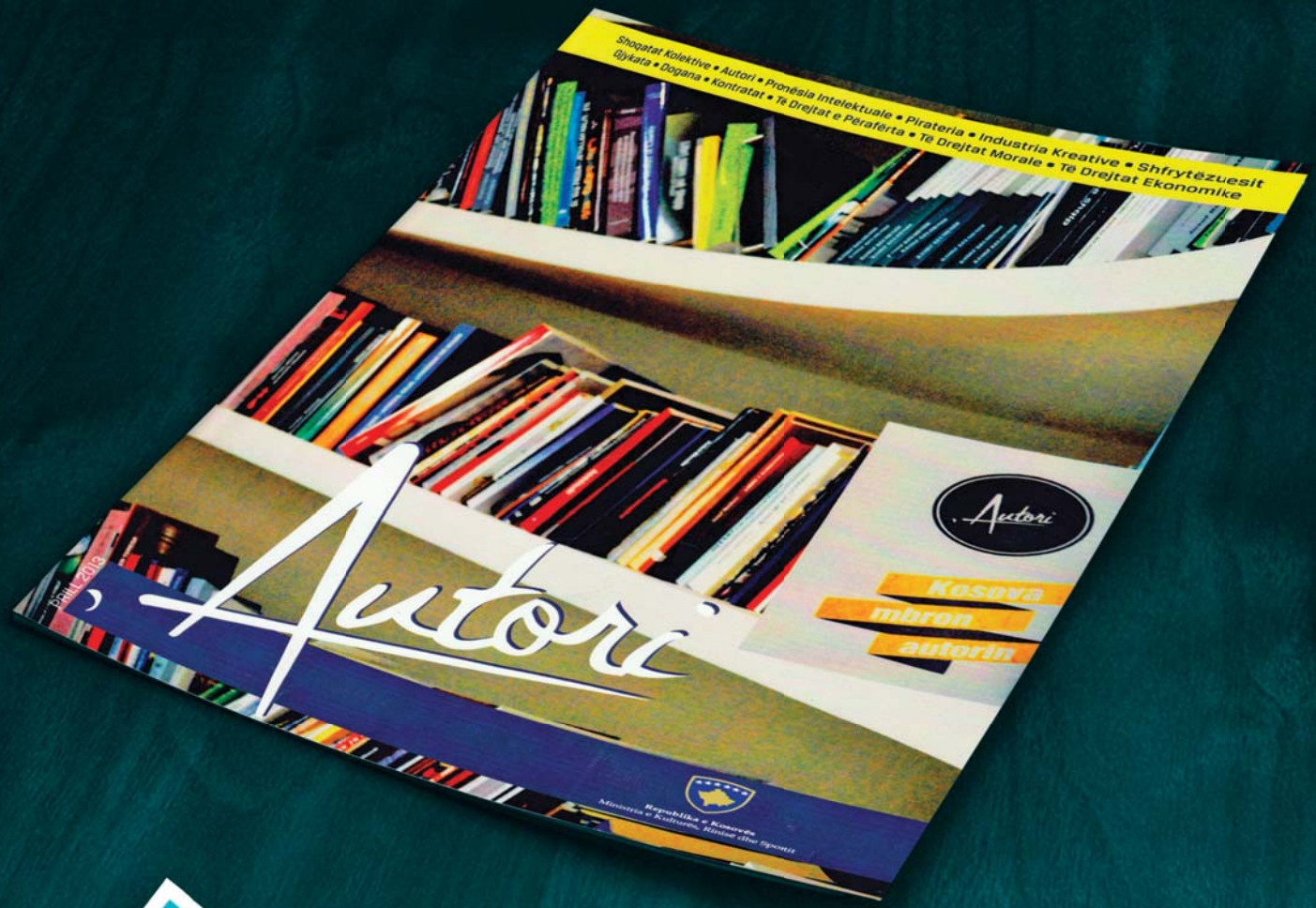
On the other hand, the President of Peace and Sport, Joel Bouzou welcomed the presence of Minister Krasniqi and President of OCK Hasani to the conference. He commended Kosovo efforts to promote sportsmen. Bouzou supported Kosovo's plight to become part of all international sports competitions. The President of Peace and Sport also expressed willingness to cooperate with Kosovo's sports community, adding that it would also promote peace through sports.

Peace and Sport was established in 2007 by Joel Bouzou with a very broad extension throughout the world. Every year, the organization gathers hundreds of state representatives to its annual meeting the purpose of which is to promote peace through sports, focusing on younger generations. The initiative to establish Peace and Sport was carried out under the auspices of the Prince of Monaco, Albert II. This year's conference in Dubai is held under the auspices of the Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. At this year's forum, present are many ministers of sports from various countries of the world, presidents of federations and sports associations as well as many businessmen who regularly sponsor sports. ■

Back Cover caption

Petrit Halilaj, "Bourgeois Hen", 2009-2010, drawing on paper, 20 x 30 cm; Photo credits: Copyright and Courtesy the artist and Chert, Berlin

Republic of Kosovo
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport



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