

**ymca** 

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2022**

**empowering young people**

# About our YMCA

The YMCA is the oldest and largest youth organization in the world, spanning 120 countries with 65 million members. The YMCA in Kosovo focuses on working with young people and being active in local communities. The red triangle of the YMCA also embodies our values and approach to work, ensuring that all our programs and projects serve the needs of young people and their communities.

Originally started in 1920 by the British the YMCA closed in the 1940s after the Second World War. The YMCA was then reintroduced in Kosovo in 2003, growing fast and introducing initiatives like the blue bus and work and travel. As Kosovo developed and became independent the movement fell on hard times.

In 2013 the YMCA was rebooted with a new structure and mission; one YMCA for the whole country instead of the traditional federation model. With the new structure, the movement grew fast, buying assets, establishing strong partnerships, and putting down strong foundations in communities across Kosovo.

Today's YMCA runs across Kosovo with retail shops, youth spaces, and the first-ever youth camp for the country in Pjetershan. We are full members of the European Alliance of YMCAs and the World Alliance of YMCAs.



**Prishtina**  
**Peja**  
**Gjakova**  
**Rahovec**  
**Junik**  
**Decan**

## **Mission**

To be an inclusive movement where people grow in mind, body, and spirit.

## **Vision**

A strong, credible organization working locally, nationally and internationally.

Building future and present leaders and investing in youth.

Promoting peace and unity and celebrating each other's differences and diversity.



**Honesty**



**Caring**



**Respect**



**Responsibility**



empowering young people

Dear friends,

We are honored to present to you our Annual Report for the year 2022, a remarkable period that will be remembered not only for the milestones we achieved but also for the resilience and unity that defined our journey.

As leaders we are immensely proud of the strides we have made, especially considering the challenging backdrop of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The year 2022 marked a pivotal moment in our history, as we proudly became members of the World Alliance of YMCA. This association opens doors to a global network of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and mutual support, strengthening our commitment to serving communities far and wide.

While celebrating this significant achievement, we remained steadfast in our dedication to those we serve. The lingering effects of the pandemic necessitated innovative approaches to engagement, and we are thrilled to report that we successfully reached out to more than 4000 young people during this time!

In closing, we extend heartfelt gratitude to every member of our organization, our partners, and our stakeholders. Your unwavering support and dedication have been the driving force behind our achievements. Together, we have not only weathered the storm of COVID-19, but also marched towards full YMCA membership, engaged more young people than ever before, made a national TV program, and are on the brink of our non-formal center, Camp Pjetershan opening!

We invite you to explore the pages of this report, which encapsulate the essence of our accomplishments, challenges, and aspirations for the future. As we continue to write the next chapters of our journey, As we lay the ground for our next national strategy and align with the global vision 2030 strategy we extend our hands for you to join us!

With utmost appreciation,



**Petrit Bejdoni**  
**President**



**Dorina Lluka**  
**National General Secretary**

# 2022 Highlights



## World YMCA Membership

After a 10 year journey for our movement at the World Council in Aarhus, Denmark we were officially welcomed as full members of the World Alliance of YMCAs after an unanimous yes vote from the members. Vice President Auron Kadrija signed the golden members book. We had 5 staff and volunteer attend the event.

## West Balkan YMCAs First Meeting

At the beginning of August, we held the first physical meeting for the West Balkan Leaders after over 10 online meetings for the next West Balkan initiative. The purpose of the first meeting was to design together an action plan for the region that will help build youth programs, good governance, and the self-sustainability of our YMCAs in Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Albania.

We were also supported by YMCA Europe leadership who joined for some online sessions around Governance and Private Sector support. It was a successful with YMCAs returning home feeling supported.



## Coalition for Youth

Together with Artpolis - Art and Community, Domovik, IPKO Foundation, BONEVET Prishtina, Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo (YIHR KS), Balkan Sunflowers Kosova, 7 Arte, and Cel Kosovo we formalized a new Coalition: "Coalition of Non-Formal Education Organisations".

Together we agreed and will work to advocate for more investment in non-formal education, take a stand on issues that address the rights and needs of young people in Kosovo, and Kosovo's membership and networking in international institutions.



# 2022 in numbers

829

Youth project participants

2,725

School Session Participants

110

UPSHIFT & PODIUM  
Participants

€17,500

Awarded for youth  
soution grants

17,000+

YMCA Centre Visits

43

Teachers Trained

€29,857

Retail Revenue

486

Enrollments for HP Courses

17k+

Digital Fans & Followers

70

Peer Trainers

empowered by ymca 



**SPEAK  
FREELY**

# YOUTH WORK

YMCA continues to operate youth centers in Prishtina, Gjakova, and Peja alongside work in rural municipalities like Junik, Decan, and Rahovec however this year we also implemented projects in other Cities that didn't have a physical YMCA. We again ran our core programming which covers leadership, gender, arts, training of trainers, and mental health. Below is a snapshot of some parallel youth initiatives and projects which serve to help us in our mission.



This year we were selected as one of 7 global YMCAs to pilot delivering HP courses for young people. After working on a methodology and testing appropriate courses over 450 young people registered for online courses with 350 completing them within our learning Lab. Young people have been able to learn more about effective leadership, 3d printing, and critical thinking parallel to their youth programmes. A welcome addition to our YMCA!



Mr. Nicholas Abbott, British Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo visited our National Office and presented the youth workers with their OCN Level 2 Qualification in Youth Work Practice which was done online and in partnership with YMCA Ireland. We had a national team go through a 10-month training and complete an evidence-based portfolio and monitored youth work sessions. Congratulations to them all.

In Peje, we ran a two-day training for the Ecosphere program, which focuses on the green agenda and environmental protection. Young people had the opportunity to learn about and write mini projects in groups, to reflect on the days they spent together and what the next steps they will take for environmental protection. This project was funded by the Municipality of Peje.



We were happy to welcome two Italian volunteers from YMCA Siderno and a Jamaican volunteer from Y's Men International Y GO program. All three worked in the Gjakova YMCA and lived independently in the city. All delivered youth programs mix in their own experience and culture. It was the first time we have hosted international staff and added real depth to the youth programming at that YMCA.

To mark the international day of mental health, the YMCA in Kosovo has launched the "Speak Freely" campaign, through which we have encouraged young men and women to speak freely and normalize discussions about mental health. Together we have organized activities in our youth centers in Prishtina, Gjakove, and Peja where young people had the chance to talk about their feelings and mental health in a safe space.







In June we launched the first episode of Y-Heroes which is a TV show for children and young teens focusing on Environment Protection, at the Kino Armata in Prishtina. The full series was launched on national TV and through the YMCA media channels. While we were recording the team also lead information workshops and community actions to help clean up. The point of Y-Heroes is that everyone can take action and be a hero you don't just need superpowers.

Young people also made informative video about the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 for youth, peace, and security. The purpose of this video was informative and with the main aim to advocate for this resolution to be adapted in Kosovo as well- for this our organization will keep pushing!



The young men and women of secondary schools of applied arts in Peja attended workshops which included "Expressing my feelings" where by the end of the year over 100 young people had taken part. A new project funded by Kosovo Women's Network.

Green Testament, was a 8 month project, which aimed to promote religious tolerance, where young people from Gjakova explored such topics tolerance, faith, unity and importance of community. In the end of the project young people build a small park in the municipality of Gjakova as a symbolic sign of unity.



As part of the open call "Support with equipment for young entrepreneurs", ten applicants received equipment. This equipment will support their business and their work as young entrepreneurs. This formed part of our 1 to 1 project which was supported by the Ministry of Culture , youth and Sport and aimed to prepare and support young people entering the labour market.

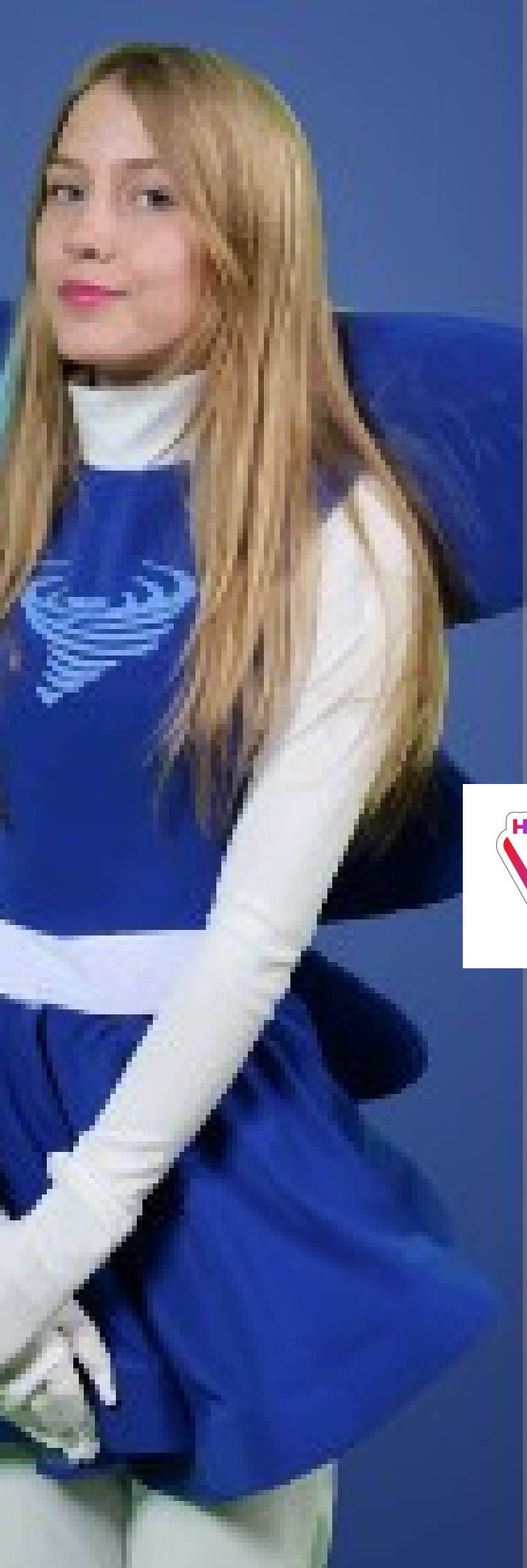
Our Youth Workers attended the European Youth Worker Camp in Germany. Around 70 participants from 10 other countries met together and shared different experiences from their YMCAs. Plenaries, projects, experiences, and evening activities have been prepared by all the YMCAs. Our team's feedbacks were amazing and we are very looking forward to the next meeting together.



International Girl Child Day was marked in collaboration with Gjakova Municipality, where 5 girls which are volunteers of the YMCA, lead the plenary session of the municipal assembly. Leaders of Gjakova municipality were present in the session, where they answered the questions made by young people. The aim of this activity was showcase the potential of young girls in Gjakova and give an example of a world where girls are in leading positions.

Young Advocates, was a youth led solution, where young people produced 6 informative boards with information about employment and entering in the labor market. These boards were displayed in 6 different high schools and YMCAs.





# RETAIL & AID

Following on from a successful 2021 our retail department continued to operate three shops in Prishtina and Gjakova. This also ensured jobs for young staff were available throughout the year and we continued to work with our two staff with additional needs who are upskilling all the time. One major development was that we managed to negotiate a shop in Prishtina which is a Municipality unit and will not cost the organization rent for two years. Below are just additional highlights and projects beyond our everyday operations.

2022 started with the re-opening of our online shop. Through the YMCA shop webpage, After the pandemic the focus had been on establishing the main shop units but our organization continues to move into the online spaces.

As part of our initiative to donate clothes, our retail team is always making sure to stay close to our communities. Lately, we have donated toys and games for children at SOS Village in Prishtina. This was also complimented by 10 boxes of baby/children's clothes being donated to the Ideas Partnership in F. Kosova- We are thrilled to have the chance to support our local communities.

A new clothes recycling container was placed at Peja YMCA. The container is very easily accessible and it will give the chance to the community members to donate. This is the 5th container placed and we also acquired 3 more from a local Peja business that was selling them,

Another lorry from Hardernes Ys Men Club, full of boxes of clothes and furniture for YMCA Camp Pjetershan. We want to thank Hardernes Ys Men Club for their donations and continuing support for our movement and development of our shops and Camp!

YMCA visited the Catholic Church of Pjetershan "Famullia Shën Jozefi Punëtor" and donated an organ to the church. The organ came from our friends from Denmark,

We organized a round table on the topic "Social Enterprises and the employment of young people with special needs", where together with representatives from the European Union office in Kosovo Mrs. Majlinda Statovci Ferizi, Director of Social Welfare in the Municipality of Pristina, Mrs. Adelina Sahiti, representative of civil society and beneficiary of the project, we discussed social enterprises and the employment of people with special needs.





# UNICEF PARTNERSHIP

Our long-standing partnership with UNICEF continues as the HUB has been successfully integrated into the Gjakova YMCA space. We continue to offer young people national programs like UPSHIFT, Podium and working with schools and teachers to widen the scope of work and reach,

UPSHIFT is a methodology that aims to help young people become social and entrepreneurial innovators, through shared ideas, addressing social problems previously identified by young people, and solving them through various educational and innovative methods.

PODIUM is a social advocacy methodology that teaches youth and adolescents of marginalized groups in Kosovo how to advocate for the needs and rights of their community.

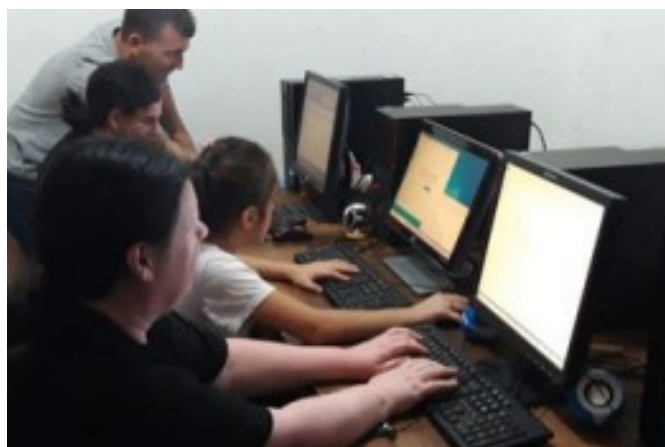
Teachers from 2 upper secondary schools in Gjakova after finishing the Teachers Training have been implementing these 2 methodologies as tools to develop their subjects in formal education. Below are some examples of youth-led groups and the types of activities they are involved in.

'The Power group' completed both pieces of training which lasted for 4 weeks. The first training was related to training blind people to read and write in Braille, while the second training was related to training on how to use technology. At the end of the training, all the participants were also given certificates from the implementing team.

One of the winning groups of Podium, 'PawPatrol' placed the feeding plates for dogs in four different locations of the Municipality of Gjakova. The group asked for the help of citizens and all dog lovers to have the opportunity to feed them during the day by placing food/water on these plates. In this way, the group aimed to remove the risk of being attacked by hungry dogs from not being fed, as well as advocate for the protection of stray dogs.

'Happy Children' group, completed the reconstruction of a playground where the children of this neighborhood and also of the community learning center "Bethany Christian Center" have the opportunity to relax throughout the day and during study breaks. In order to contribute to the protection of the environment, the group planted various trees.

Elvis and Hiseni, two young people from the YMCA who have implemented their "Virtual Cabinet" project within the Thematic UPSHIFT program, participated in the 5th edition of the Digital Summit- Western Balkans, which this time was organized in Pristina. They had the opportunity to present their idea in the framework of the [shkollat.org](http://shkollat.org) platform in front of many participants, among them the Prime Minister of Kosovo Mr. Albin Kurti.





podium

podium

podium

# CARE PARTNERSHIP

YMCA continued the partnership with CARE International in the Balkans for delivering the Young Men Initiative in high schools in Kosovo and parallel campaigns. The following includes highlights on top of workshops, clubs, and school sessions we normally run.

In February our staff participated in a three-day training in Belgrade on the topic "Capacity building of partner organizations in the field of strategic and smart advocacy". The main aim of the training is to identify advocacy goals, develop advocacy plans, identify decision-makers and networking, and creation of the advocacy partnership increasing skills, competencies, and capacities of the partner organizations included in the YMI Program.

Twice this year we held training for trainers once in cooperation with SIT and a second time at the YMCA in Prishtina. Both times the training included detailed information about the manual set of Program Y's topics, as well as interaction and group presentations. During the Prishtina 3-day training 11 workshops were developed and discussed, which had content from violence, drugs, interpersonal relations, etc.

Dorina, and Erlinda, attended the strategic partners meeting organized by Care International Balkans in Belgrade. In this meeting, a total of 9 partners from different countries in the Balkans were present. The majority of the discussions were about 'Be a Man Club, and campaigns for marking 16 Days of Activism, individual and regional campaigns.

To mark the 16 Days of Activism - the global campaign against gender-based violence, the YMCA in Kosovo has started the [#MeetAHero](#) campaign. Since the theme for 2022 is "UNiTE! Activism to end violence against women and girls", YMCA has brought together 16 institutional decision-makers, influencers, and young activists and advocates for the prevention of violence.

YMCA sent a team of 6 to the regional Youth Leadership Camp. The camp activities took place at National Park Tjentište in Sutjeska, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, and was organized by CARE International in Balkans and partner organizations of YMI. During those days young people from across the region learned basic leadership concepts, gained insight into the value of leadership, saw new perspectives, and participated in various outdoor team-building activities that were full of energy and fun.







Audit report was carried out by:  
 Armend Osaj - Statutory Auditor  
 ACA - Audit & Consulting Associates  
 Pristina, Kosovo  
 05 July, 2023

## FINANCES

### Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended December 31, 2022

	December 31, 2022 (in EUR)	December 31, 2021 (in EUR)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and bank balances	37,738	150,781
Inventory	6,138	3,000
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>43,921</b>	<b>153,781</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property and equipment	223,361	209,705
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>223,361</b>	<b>209,705</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>267,283</b>	<b>363,486</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Tax Liabilities	1,770	1,999
Deferred Revenue	36,013	132,239
<b>Total current Liabilities</b>	<b>37,783</b>	<b>134,238</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Fund	248,413	229,248
Retained surplus	(18,913)	(15,915)
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>229,500</b>	<b>229,248</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>	<b>267,283</b>	<b>363,486</b>

	END YEAR 31 December 2022 (in EUR)	END YEAR 31 December 2021 (in EUR)
<b>Revenues</b>		
Revenues	380,149	231,364
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>380,149</b>	<b>231,364</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Project expenses	215,666	81,284
Personnel expenses	133,188	117,350
Other operational expenses	31,295	32,730
Depreciation expenses	18,913	15,915
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>399,062</b>	<b>247,279</b>

# DONORS

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH & SPORT  
EUROPEAN UNION  
KCSF  
Y USA  
Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL  
UMIK  
UNICEF  
CARE INTERNATIONAL  
YMCA GERMANY  
Y'S MEN DENMARK  
WORLD YMCA/ HP FOUNDATION  
YMCA EUROPE  
KOSOVO WOMENS NETWORK  
GJAKOVA MUNICIPALITY  
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NDI

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JUNIK MUNICIPALITY  
DECAN MUNICIPALITY  
RAHOVEC MUNICIPALITY  
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YMCA FINLAND  
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