



UNIVERSITETI PUBLIK "KADRI ZEKA" UNIVERSITY
Zija Shemsiu pn., 60000, Gjilan, Republika e Kosovës
www.uni-gjilan.net tel: 0280390112

The speech of the Rector Prof. Assoc. Dr. Artan Dërmaku at the Conference marking the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the OSCE in Kosovo.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's a great pleasure to welcome everyone here today.

First off, I'd like to warmly welcome Ambassador Michael Davenport, the Chief of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. Your leadership and hard work are crucial for our joint efforts toward peace and growth in the Kosovo

I'm also pleased to greet the MEJORS of our municipalities—Mr. Alban Hyseni, Mr. Kadri Rahimaj, Mr. Sokol Haliti, and Mr. Agim Aliu. Thank you for your commitment to our local communities and for driving our progress forward.

I'd like to recognize the representatives of civic societies as well. Thank you for your tireless work and dedication to improving our community and strengthening our democracy.

Welcome to all the professors and students and everyone else attending today. Your involvement makes this event special and important.

Today, on the 25th anniversary of the OSCE's, we have gathered here to discuss the significant impact that the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has had in Kosovo, especially in strengthening local governance and ensuring justice.

Since the end of the war in Kosovo, the OSCE has been deeply involved in rebuilding and enhancing local governance systems. Their work has been all about ensuring that local governments are effective and transparent. They have trained local officials and provided the necessary tools for good governance, which has LED to better administration and better public services for everyone.

One of the standout projects from the OSCE has been their efforts to involve people more in the democratic process. They have helped in holding many forums and workshops where citizens

can interact directly with their representatives. This open dialogue has helped people understand more about how their government works and has encouraged a cooperative spirit that is essential to improving democracy.

In terms of justice, the OSCE's role in Kosovo has been crucial. They have supported the rule of law, working hard to support the judiciary and ensure that justice is fair and accessible to all. Their training programs for judges and legal staff have greatly improved how the legal system operates, making it more efficient and trustworthy.

Additionally, for a society emerging from war, quality education is one of the most important aspects. Over these 25 years, the OSCE has actively helped improve the education system through hundreds of staff trainings and also through direct assistance in infrastructural aspects. As someone from the academic field, I express deep gratitude for the help that the OSCE has provided.

In summary, the work and presence of the OSCE in Kosovo, with its impact on local governance, justice, police, education, and all other important areas in Kosovo, have changed Kosovo for the better and have helped establish a foundation of trust, justice, and democracy that will assist in guiding the future growth and stability of Kosovo.

Thank you for your attention, and let's continue to support these INITIATIVES that are making a real difference in people's lives.

Gjilan, 31.05.2024