

Newsletter

Corruption, is not a challenge for the corrupted.
Anti-corruption is a **challenge** for the citizens.

FOL Movement has become a member of the Anti-Corruption Convention of the United Nations

FOL Movement has become a member of the Anti-Corruption Convention of the United Nations, respectively the UNCAC Coalition. UNCAC Coalition, is a global network consisting of more than 350 civil society organizations from more than 100 countries worldwide. This network of organizations, is committed to promote anti-corruption fight through advocacy for the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the Anti-Corruption Convention of the United Nations - UNCAC. The coalition was established in 2006, through the mobilization of civil society organizations of UNCAC in international, regional and national level.

Fidan Kalaja, Programs Director of FOL Movement, has become a member of Coordination Committee for Europe in the Anti-Corruption Convention of the United Nations

FOL Movement praises the work of media organizations and its partners, who supported and contributed to the selection of Mr. Kalaja as a member of the Coordination Committee for Europe of the UNCAC Coalition. Being part of the UNCAC and its Coordination Committee, FOL will be even more engaged in promoting anti-corruption war in Kosovo

by exchanging experiences and implementing effective practices of the UNCAC Coalition members in fight against corruption.

Besides the promotion of the principles and values of the UNCAC Coalition in fight against corruption, the members of this committee are responsible to consolidate and strengthen the coalition and its members in the fight against corruption and support the performance of the coalition in national, regional and international level.



**OPEN GOVERNMENT
PARTNERSHIP KOSOVA**

Kosovo's road toward OGP

On July 19, 2013, Kosovo Government through the Ministry of European Integration officially sent its Letter of Intent to OGP

campaign advocating Kosovo's membership to Open Government Partnership (OGP).

In July 2012, FOL sent an official letter to the President of Kosovo, Ms. Atifete Jahjaga, thus proposing her to initiate the process of Kosovo's membership to OGP.

FOL, one of the leading NGOs in the field of anti-corruption, transparency, and accountability in Kosovo, started in 2012 a

Considering it as a strategic objective, Kosovo's membership to OGP subsequently became part of FOL strategy 2013-2015.

What's Inside

p2 Corruption Monitor

p5 Index of Transparency

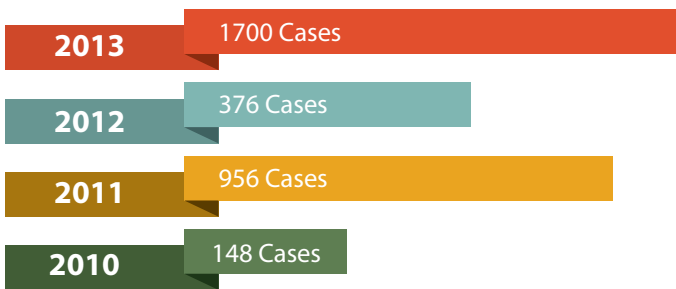
p4 Procurement Monitor

p7 OGP Kosova Fact-Sheet

Corruption Monitor 2010

Since the beginning of 2010, FOL (eng. Speak Up!) has started monitoring the activities and policies undertaken by the public institutions in the fight against corruption. In doing so, FOL has been scrutinizing the state institutions that are in charge of preventing and fighting corruption, including Kosovo Police, State Prosecutor's Office, Courts, Government, and Kosovo Assembly. Since then and up to date, FOL has published more than 25 Corruption Monitoring Reports.

Performance of State Prosecutor



Corruption Monitor 2011

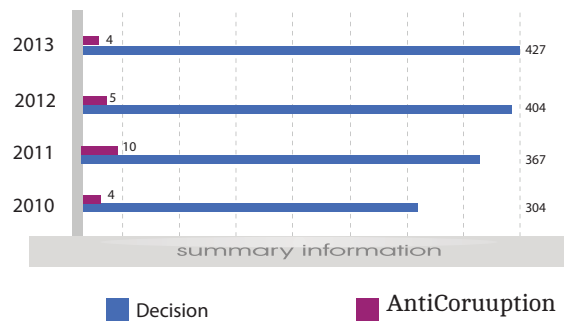
Kosovo Government had approved ten decisions only in the fight against corruption out of 367 in total throughout the year 2011

According to the findings of these reports, although in 2010 there was some progress noticed in preventing and fighting corruption, yet it was very limited and insufficient. In 2011, public institutions also failed to reduce the overall high level of corruption. For instance the

findings of the report Corruption Monitor (2011) show that, Kosovo Government had approved only ten decisions in the fight against corruption out of 367 in total throughout the year 2011.

These decisions, entailed primarily anti-corruption legal framework, such as the draft-law on Public Procurement, on Disclosure, Origin, and Control of the Property and Gifts of Senior Officials, on Prevention of Conflict of Interest, on Protection of Whistleblowers, Protection of Witnesses, Financing of Political Parties, and finally, the draft-law on Benefits of Former Senior Officials.

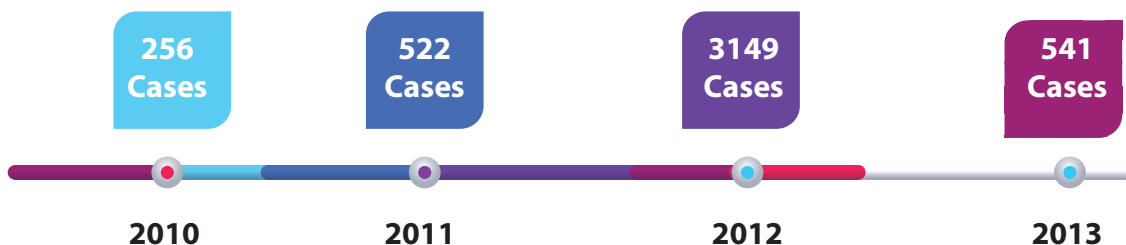
GOVERNMENT DECISIONS



Corruption Monitor 2012

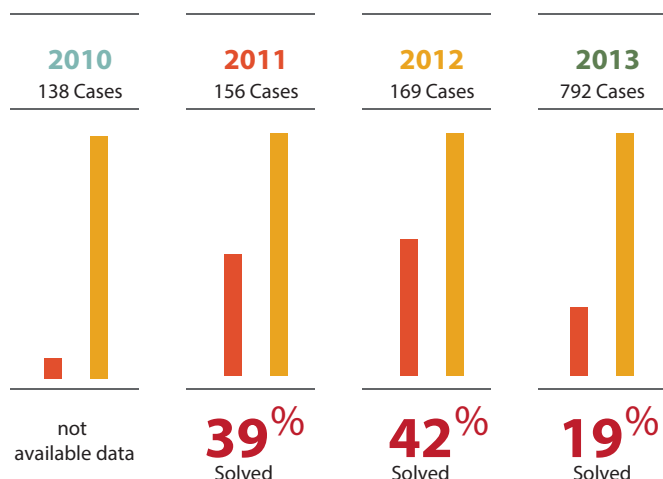
A similar situation continued in 2012. According to the findings of the report Corruption Monitor (2012), although the senior officials made rhetorically public statements on preventing and fighting corruption, they did not undertake any concrete step which could reduce the high level of grand political corruption in the public institutions.

KOSOVO POLICE PERFORMANCE



Corruption Monitor 2013

Courts Performance



FOL advanced its anti-corruption tracking mechanisms, by launching an Online Platform of Anti-Corruption Statistics.

In 2013 FOL advanced, its anti-corruption tracking mechanisms, by launching an Online Platform of Anti-Corruption Statistics.

This Platform comprised of anti-corruption statistics conducted by public institutions, in charge of preventing and fighting corruption, such as Kosovo Police, State Prosecutor's Office, Courts, Government, EULEX, and Kosovo Assembly. According to the results in 2013, Kosovo Police has investigated 57 cases on the suspicions of taking bribe; it has raised charges against 22 persons, while 12 persons were arrested. In the meantime, Kosovo Police

has investigated 43 cases on the suspicions of giving bribe, against 16 persons were raised charges, whereas 10 persons were arrested. Besides that, Kosovo Police has investigated 441 cases on the suspicions of the misuse of the public authority, against 242 persons were raised charges, whereas 45 persons were arrested.

Check this out!

<http://www.levizjafol.org/platforma-statistikave-anti-korrupsion/?message=true&FaqeID=1>

The level of knowledge and experiences of public officials about the Law on Protection of Informants

FOL has prepared, a policy brief indicating the low level of knowledge of officials on the content of the Law on Protection of Informants, approved by the Assembly in August 2011 and enacted by the President on the same date. According to the findings of this survey, only 73.6% of officials holding various public functions are informed about the existence of the Law on Protection of Informants, while 26.4% of them are not aware of the existence or non-existence of the law, even those aware for the existence of the law, have limited or no knowledge at all for the content of the law. Only 15% of public officials, in central and local level have very good knowledge about the content of the law, 60% good knowledge, 21% little knowledge and 4% claimed to have no knowledge at all.

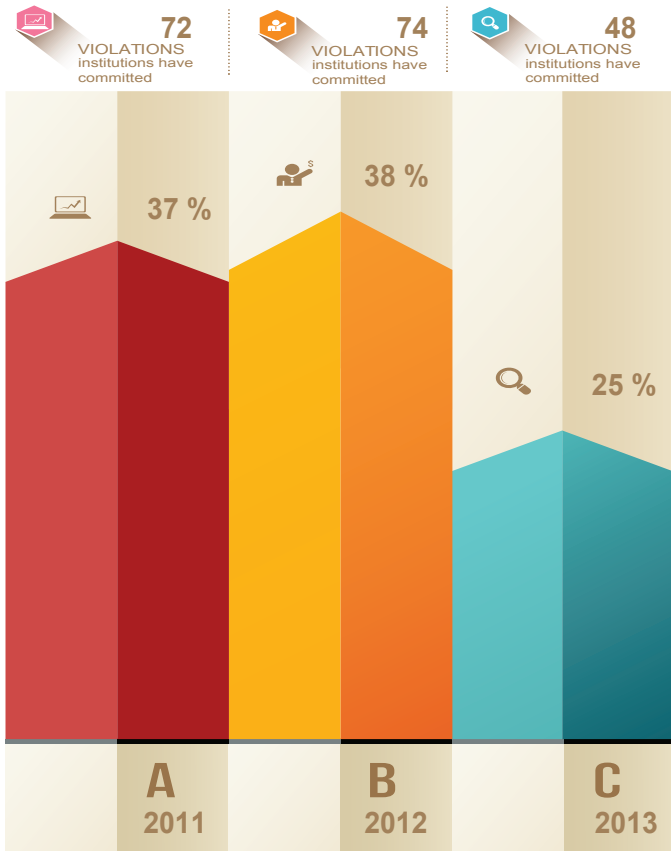
Further, the findings of this research prove the poor and insufficient level of public officials regarding the denunciation of criminal charges against official duty. According to this research, it turns out that only 36% of public officials have reported cases of corruption, while 73% of them had a 'blind eye' to what they had seen.

Only 15% of public officials, in central and local level have very good knowledge about the content of the law

Why there is such a low level of implementation of the Law on Protection of Informants, the research has identified two main kinds of reasons: a) normative aspects of legal gaps and b) empirical aspects related mainly to the knowledge and experiences of public officials.

Multiple legal gaps and vulnerabilities that accompany this law, lack of knowledge of the officials about the contents of this law, fear of retaliation and reprisal that may undergo reporting officials by their superiors, and the unwillingness of parliamentarians to organize public discussions regarding the implementation of the law are just some of the reasons that explain the low level and insufficient enforcement of the Law on Protection of Informants

Procurement Monitor



Violations continue

In a similar vein, FOL has been monitoring the procurement activities during 2012. According to the Public Procurement Monitor (2012), report ministries of the Republic of Kosovo have made numerous legal violations in 27 different tenders.

By the same token, public-owned companies did not comply with legal provisions in a total of 27 tenders, whereas municipalities failed to comply with procurement provisions in a total of 27 procurement activities.

Unfortunately, propensity of legal violations from the specified contracting authorities continued increasingly during 2013 as well.

Procurement Monitor

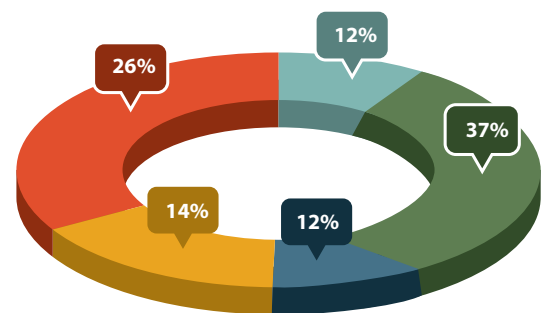
While adding more pressure on public institutions for more transparency in the public procurement, especially on how public contracts are being given to economic operators, FOL since 2011 has started monitoring the procurement procedures at contracting authorities, state institutions in charge of ensuring a fair and transparent public procurement process, such as OSHP, while publishing as well various reports and policy-briefs on the public procurement sector, both in the local and national level.

violations, fraud, and corruption in the public procurement sector. As findings of the report Public Procurement Monitor (2011) clearly indicate, “ministries have made numerous legal violations in thirty different tenders,” making consequently the public procurement as one of the leading corrupted sectors

According to the Public Procurement Monitor (2012), ministries of the Republic of Kosovo have made numerous legal violations in 27 different tenders.

According to FOL’s findings, Kosovo institutions in 2011 did not take necessary and sufficient measures to prevent vio-

in the Republic of Kosovo.



Top 5 violators of public procurement law

- Kosovo Energy Cooperation 29 Violations
- Post and Telecom of Kosova 20 Violations
- Municipality of Prishtina 11 Violations
- Municipality of Gjilan 9 Violations
- Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport 9 Violations

Index of Transparency

FOL Movement, through this report shows the progress that was made by institutions and public enterprises in regards to communication and public information.

This assessment focuses on the extent, to which institutions and public enterprises have developed their formal structures and capacities to ensure full and effective implementation of constitutional and legal provisions that guarantee the right of citizens to access public documents, in order to strengthen the transparency and accountability to the public.

Collection of the data, is conducted through a questionnaire consisting of 25 components: 24 questions and a table. The intention has been to collect quantitative and qualitative information on each issue through the questionnaire.

The results from the assessment of all central institutions and PEs included in this report, have shown an Institutional Transparency Index (ITI) with aggregate value of 50.81, which means that, in general, during 2012, central institutions and PE have been closed. The following table presents the ranking of all institutions and PE that are included in the assessment for 2012, according to Institutional Transparency Index (ITI) for 2011 and 2012.

Transparency of Institutions and Public Enterprises (ranking for 2011 and 2012 - Comparative overview)



Ranking for 2011-2012

- 1 Kosovo Custom (KC)
- 2 Ministry of Health
- 3 Ministry of Justice
- 4 Ministry of Local Government Administration
- 5 Kosovo Police
- 6 Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo
- 7 Anti-Corruption Agency
- 8 Ministry of European Integration
- 9 Kosovo Judicial Council
- 10 Ministry of Communities and Returns
- 11 Ministry of Finances
- 12 Post and Telecom of Kosovo
- 13 Ministry of Kosovo Security Force
- 14 Institution of Ombudsman
- 15 Ministry of Economic Development
- 16 Office of the Prime Minister
- 17 Ministry of Diaspora
- 18 Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
- 19 Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare



Disinfecting Corrupt Government

On December 9, the International Day against Corruption, FOL Movement held a public performance to “disinfect” corrupt civil servants and elected officials, at the main entrance of the Government building in Prishtina. The primary goal of the performance was to express FOL’s concerns over high levels of corruption in public and government institutions. The FOL Movement asked the institutions not to engage in corruptive actions and to fight them with all available legal and institutions instruments. The Movement also demanded that empty declarations are transformed into concrete actions and tangible and visible results.



The Government of Dirty Hands

Feb 21, 2013 - Today is the second anniversary of the government “Thaçi 2.” Exactly two years ago, Kosovo’s citizens had hoped that the Kosovo government will be “a government with clean hands.” Expectations of the citizens, but also international mechanisms, had come after a three-year period of bad governance of PDK and LDK, parties which showed that the only thing they couldn’t do was a democratic and transparent governance. Therefore, we as a FOL Movement organized such a performance, which in addition to its symbolic character has a character of revolt as well against the high level of political corruption of this government, which during this two year period has governed with dirty hands.



Corruption Connecting Politicians

Feb 17, 2012 - Today as Kosovo celebrates its fourth anniversary of independence, it is important to remind ourselves of the most important challenge to the new state of Kosovo: Corruption. All of us applaud and celebrate the creation of the state of Kosovo, which is built on democratic principles, which in the words of Abraham Lincoln means “a government of the people, for the people and by the people.”

In this context, we have organized today a performance under the slogan ‘Corruption Connecting Politicians’, a civic protest against the negligence and lack of result against corruption. Corruption is widespread in all state institutions as European Commission reminds us every year, and this can only be sustainable because it is the will of Kosovo’s political elite who have captured the public budget of the country for their private gains.



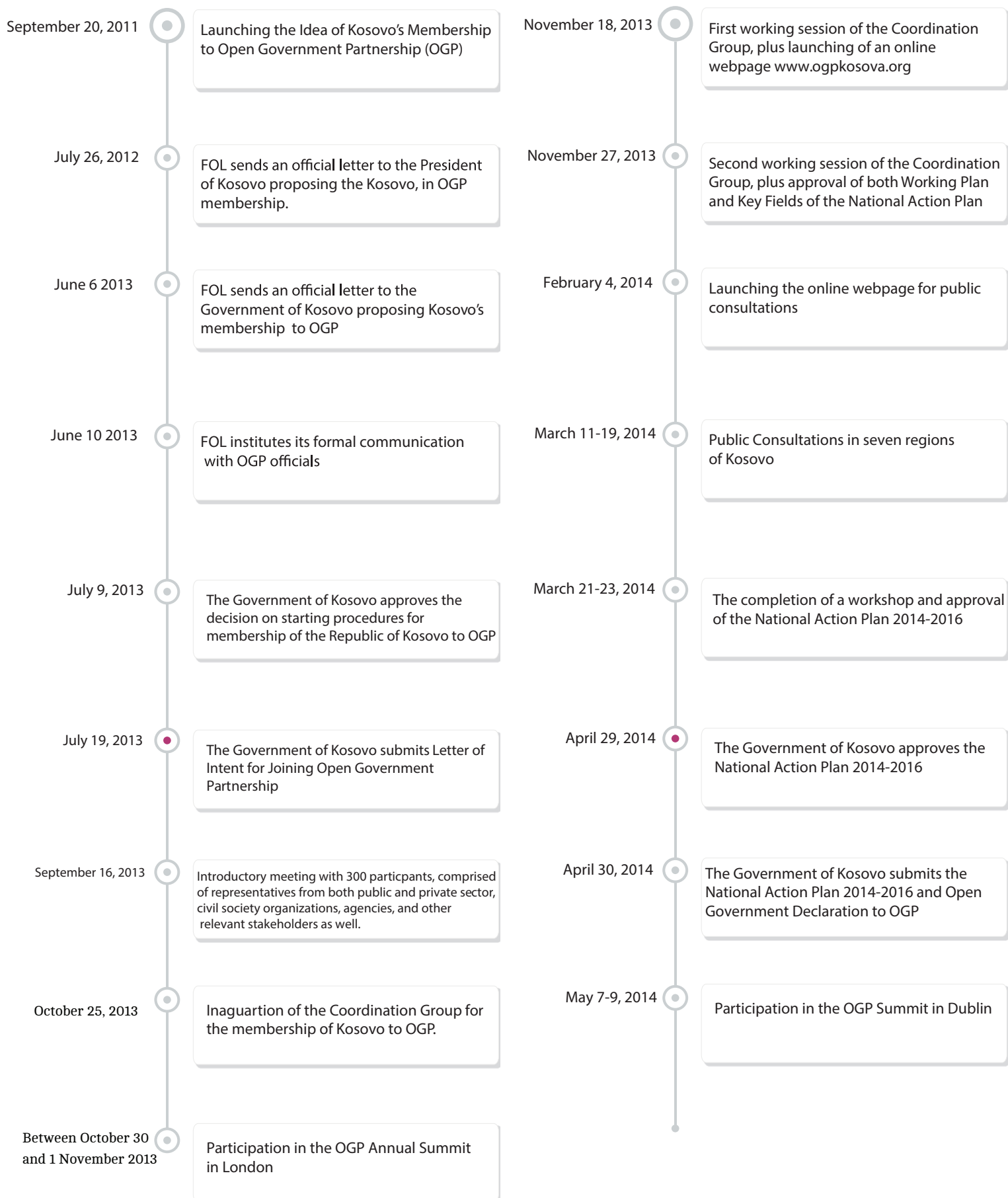
A Black Curtain Covered Kosovo

December 19, 2009 - In close cooperation with IPOL and INPO, FOL staged a public performance covering the New Born Monument with a black curtain, as a reaction toward the isolation of Kosovo from the visa liberalization.

On this date, the Council decided to grant visa free travel to and throughout area for citizens of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, whereas in the case of Kosovo the process of visa liberalization had not been started yet. As such, while during the Cold War the world had been divided by the Iron Curtain, between liberal-democratic countries and communist systems, nowadays Europe is split between EU member states and those aspiring to be part of the European Union, such as the case of Kosovo.

Thus, by not including Kosovo in the visa liberalization process, the EU clearly helped it in its further isolation, practically raising a curtain on the newest state in Europe. Moreover, and concerning enough, Kosovo has the highest Visa Refusal Rate in the region. Unfortunately, Kosovo is the most isolated country in the world.

OGP Kosovo Fact-Sheet



OUR PARTNERS

- KOSOVAR CIVIL SOCIETY FOUNDATION
- SWISS COOPERATION OFFICE KOSOVO
- BALKAN TRUST FOR DEMOCRACY
- CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS (CRD)
- OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION
- THE CHARLES MOTT FOUNDATION
- KOSOVO FOUNDATION FOR OPEN SOCIETY
- BRITISH FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
- EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES PRISTINA, KOSOVO
- ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY
- ISC KOSOVO through USAID
- ADVOCACY TRAINING & RESOURCE CENTER
- DEMOCRACY IN ACTION KOSOVO
- MICROSOFT
- NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY



ABOUT US

FOL Movement (The Speak Up! Movement) is a non-government organization in Kosovo established in 2008 that campaigns for active citizenry and increase of transparency and accountability of public institutions in order to contribute to good governance and prevent corruption.

In addition to strengthening the transparency and accountability of decision-making authorities and public officials, Speak Up works to open up new channels of communication between the government and citizens and reduce civic apathy through its Debate Program. Speak Up operates three programs: the Debate Program, the Good Governance Program, and the Public Engagement Program. Speak Up's programs focus on public expenditure, conflict of interest, institutional negligence, and accountability.

Through research, advocacy campaigns, and networking, Speak Up increases public pressure on decision-makers to reduce public waste and abuse of power.

OUR MISSION:

FOL Movement Mission is fight against corruption through research, education and public policies advocacy, which prevents and reduce the forms of misuse of power and public money.

OUR VISION:

Transparent and accountable public institutions, and active society in decision making processes.