





Get Connected

What's it all about?
The Innovations Lab Kosovo is:

- **A creative space:** Encouraging young people to transform their ideas into concrete projects that directly impact their own lives and those of their peers
- **A technological hub:** Harnessing new and emerging open-source and mobile technologies to address some of the most urgent data needs of Kosovo's public institutions
- **A network:** Linking local youth, on-site and remote mentors, Kosovo's public institutions, international resources and open-source communities to develop innovative, youth-led solutions to local challenges
- **A process:** Strengthening the professional capacity of Kosovo's youth, by providing multiple opportunities to gain practical experience in a 'failure-friendly' environment
- **A platform:** Building the capacity of youth to engage in policy issues by introducing a variety of formal and 'alternative' advocacy tools, channels and platforms for youth to directly advocate for themselves, their peers and their communities

How does it work?

The Innovations Lab Kosovo provides a space for young people (aged 16-29) to connect with each other and transform their most innovative ideas into concrete projects that benefit their peers and communities, and address some of Kosovo's key institutional challenges.

Under its three programme components – By Youth for Youth (BYFY), the Design Centre (DC) and the Youth Advocacy Platform (YAP!) – the **Innovations Lab offers:**

- A youth-friendly space for project development and collaboration
- Small-scale funding for creative, youth-led projects and necessary technical equipment
- On-site and remote mentorship and expertise in project development
- Internships and opportunities to gain practical experience using new and emerging user-centered technologies
- Trainings and workshops in formal and 'alternative' advocacy methods, linking web-based social advocacy tools and platforms with offline advocacy initiatives and networks
- Regular 'tech events' to introduce and familiarise Kosovo's youth with Web 2.0 software developments, tools and applications
- Multiple links between Kosovo's public institutions and growing community of young change-makers



Make an Impact

ByFy - make an impact!

By Youth For Youth (BYFY) is the **process** component of the Innovations Lab, serving as a vehicle to nurture and support Kosovo's brightest young minds to find innovative solutions to local challenges and develop professional capacity.

Open to all Kosovan youth between the ages of 16 - 29, BYFY offers:

- A creative, open space for co-working and regular hosting of youth events
- Ongoing mentorship (on-site, mobile and remote)
- Design and communications assistance and expertise
- Micro funding for innovative, youth-led projects
- 'Real-time' experience in project development, management and monitoring and evaluation
- Bi-weekly 'Innovations Cafes' (every second Wednesday) and other regular events aiming to bring youth together to discuss common issues

Examples of some of our successful youth-led projects include:

- **Pristina Bus Transportation Website:** Online mapping of local bus routes using open-source technology
- **My City Has Color:** Inter-ethnic art project involving students from two different schools creating and exchanging art works and creatively transforming their environments
- **Recycle SmArt:** Open art workshops using recycled materials and a series of public video screenings, with the aim of raising public environmental awareness
- **Art Gallery for Visually-Impaired Students:** Project designed to integrate students with disabilities through public exhibition of paintings

How can I apply for a project?

Each project idea must ultimately be presented in the form of a written proposal (in either Albanian, Serbian or English) using our provided template, which is then presented to our Innovations Review Committee. Upon approval, project leaders and team members receive the support, resources and guidance needed to implement, document and monitor their project.

What is innovation?

You tell us! We believe that Kosovo's young people have direct insight into the key issues affecting their peers and communities and are capable of finding innovative solutions to these challenges, given the opportunity. We are open to a wide range of project proposals and mediums - so get creative!

Our only criteria is:

- It must be innovative
- Provide some form of social dividend
- Be led by a Kosovan youth between the ages of 16-29



Find Technology-Based Solutions!

Design Centre (DC)

The Design Centre (DC) leverages recent advances in mobile, open-source and social technologies to help meet the data-collection needs of public institutions working on behalf of children and youth in Kosovo. Our internship programme allows skilled university students to gain valuable practical experience - supplementing a primarily theoretical education - by working with user-centered technologies to directly address key institutional problems.



Linking Kosovo's central institutions with skilled young professionals, the Design Centre:

- Designs and implements technological innovations and applications to address the data-collection needs of relevant public institutions
- Provides much-needed opportunities for Kosovo's youth to gain 'hands-on' IT experience and work with new and emerging open-source technologies
- Links Kosovo youth with international technology experts through in-Lab and remote mentorships and 'one-off' tech events

Ongoing Design Center projects include:

- **Kosovo Youth Map**
- **Birth Registration**
- **Vaccine Management**
- **Collaborative Translation of Software**
- **Data Visualisation**

For more information on current and upcoming projects and internship opportunities, please visit our webpage at :
[**http://kosovoinnovations.org/w/design-center/**](http://kosovoinnovations.org/w/design-center/)



Raise Your Voice

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Youth Advocacy Platform (YAP!)

The newly-launched Youth Advocacy Platform (YAP!) aims to mobilise broad, sustainable demand by youth for youth engagement in social policy issues through a variety of alternative evidence-based tools, trainings and 'access-points' that enable young people to directly advocate for themselves and their communities. It also seeks to bring the core components of the Lab (**process + capacity-building + advocacy**) to marginalized youth in their own physical spaces through a variety of outreach activities and mobile events.

Upcoming YAP! Projects include:

- **Digital Bootcamp:** An intensive workshop, offering hands-on training in a variety of computer and online applications, aiming to introduce evidence-based data visualisation tools and encourage the use of Web 2.0 platforms to amplify offline advocacy efforts
- **Oureach pilot project:** Designed as both a replicable programmatic model for peer education and an inter-ethnic peacebuilding tool, this 15-month project will be implemented in five (5) select minority communities throughout Kosovo, in response to youth demand for specific informal educational activities



- **Kosovo Youth Innovation Camp:** A process of building advocacy networks and generating innovative solutions to key social issues, culminating in a 48-hour event focused on creating sustainable, web-based solutions to social problems
- **YAP! map:** Creation of an interactive, open-source advocacy tool (utilising open-source and rapid SMS technologies) to facilitate real-time monitoring and evaluation of local needs in marginalised and vulnerable communities
- **Regular advocacy training events:** Regular workshops designed to offer diverse experiences of direct participation (vs. observation) and encourage a more holistic skills-transfer for evidence-based among Kosovo youth
- **Resource library:** Development of Lab advocacy resource library (including books, videos and other advocacy materials available in three languages).



get involved!



How can I get involved?

- Come by the Lab and speak directly with our project developers and team members
 - Download and/or submit a BYFY application form (available in three languages) available online, at: www.kosovoinnovations.org
 - Contact your Regional BYFY Focal person to discuss your project idea or submit your proposal
 - Attend the bi-weekly Innovations Café and other BYFY events
 - Participate in ongoing on-site and mobile YAP! training workshops and events
 - Intern through your university at the Design Centre
 - Meet with other youth from throughout Kosovo and share your project ideas
 - Contact us through Facebook, at: <http://www.facebook.com/KosovoInnovations>
- creativity. technology. impact. participation. advocacy. solutions. innovation.**

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