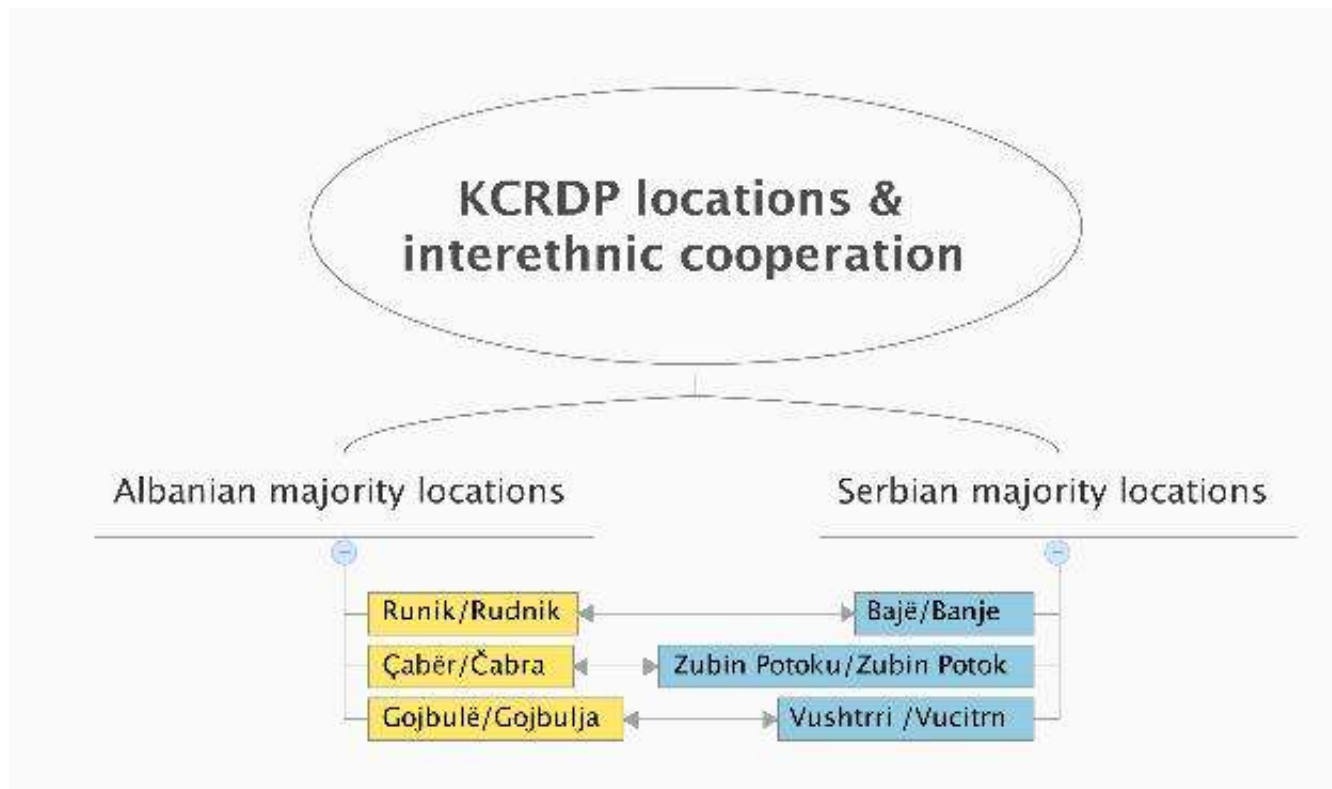


BRIDGING THE DIVIDE
ASSISTING COMMUNITIES ON ECONOMIC GROWTH
Kosovo Community Reconciliation and Development Program (KCRDP)

Since 2009, Partners Kosova and NGO Fractal have been implementing the Kosovo Community Reconciliation and Development Program (KCRDP), financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The main goal of the program is to promote interethnic cooperation and reconciliation, through the realization of economic development projects in six different locations.

The KCRDP is implemented in Mitrovica region, throughout six locations: **Bajë/Banje, Runik/Rudnik, Çabër/Çabra, Zubin Potoku/Zubin Potok, Gojbulë/Gojbulja and Vushtrri/Vucitrn**. The project partners have selected these locations due to their specific ethnic composition and geographical position, which covers the entire Mitrovica region.



RUNIK/RUDNIK

The working group in Runik/Rudnik has been very active in generating different ideas regarding the implementation of small grants that would have a direct impact on the development of the local economy. With the assistance of Partners Kosova and NGO Fractal, the selected members of KCRDP working groups, after a thorough examination of all the proposals, have decided to use the available funds into the realization of an **“Inox” chairs production factory**. The factory will be realized with a co-investment of a local investor from Runik/Rudnik and will employ from five to ten workers. This project will increase cooperation in the community and will be a good example for other possible investors interested in similar industrial activities in the area. The “Inox” chairs that will be produced in the “Floattex” factory in Runik/Rudnik will meet international quality standards (ISO9001), issued by the Federal Republic of Germany – under Product Branding and Marking Company. All the chairs that will be produced in “Floattex”, in the next three years, are going to be sold to different governmental institutions and private companies in different countries throughout the European Union. Moreover, “Floattex” does also possess the “Kosovo INOX”, Certified Dealer Certificate, which guarantees higher chances of success in the market and it therefore makes the KCRDP investment safer.



“Floattex” “Inox” chairs are designed to stack, they are lightweight, and they have UV treated seat shells and a stainless steel frame. This very functional chair is suitable for office “break areas”, as well as for busy bars or restaurants. The leather component will be available in a variety of colors. Nevertheless, this KCRDP project will be also locally funded by the municipality of Skenderaj/Srbica, which will finance 10% of the KCRDP grant (4500€), as a support to the newly created business within the municipality.



VUSHTRRI/VUCITRN & GOJBULË/GOJBULJA

The representatives of both above mentioned location has agreed on joining their funds and on opening a **Plastic mesh production factory**

The cooperation of Vushtrri/Vucitrn and Gojbulë/Gojbulja working groups (one from an Albanian majority location and one from a Serbian majority location) has lead to a joint proposal, which has major chances of success, due to the specific need for such product in the local market. The factory will be based in Vushtrri/Vučitrn, will employ up to 12 persons and will bring together members from Albanian and Serbian communities from both project locations.



In terms of interethnic cooperation, this project represents a very good and positive example, since two working groups from Vushtrri/Vucitrn and Gojbulë/Gojbulja (Serbian and Albanian) decided to collaborate on a more intensive level by joining the available funds allocated to each project location for Community Economic Development Initiative on setting the Plastic **mesh production factory**.



ZUBIN POTOK

In the past, the area of Zubin Potoku/Zubin Potok, used to be particularly famous for fish breeding, in Kosovo as well as in other neighboring countries. The very favorable conditions, such are the proximity of the Gazivode Lake, and the appropriate weather made this area suitable for this kind of activity. For the already mentioned reasons and in order to guarantee sustainability to the project (by using already available resources in the area) the Zubin Potoku/Zubin Potok working group has decided to invest the available funds in **fish breeding**. The main benefits of the project are economic development, because of employment and interethnic cooperation (employees will be from different ethnic groups).

At the current stage, the members of the working group who all have considerable experiences in local agricultural cooperatives and fish breeding, have found an appropriate place for such activity. Moreover, the fish has been recently delivered and it is now already in the pools. This means that the Zubin Potoku/Zubin Potok project is now running and we expect soon to see the results of this economic activity.



BAJË/BANJE

The village of Bajë/Banje is well known in the region for producing **high-quality homemade Rakia** (called Nigh Dragon). For this reason the local community (represented by the working group) decided to use the already existing know-how and resources and establish a factory for the production of the typical homemade Rakia. The opening of such a factory will have direct economic impact on employment (five people will be employed) and on interethnic cooperation, since the group representatives will have to collaborate with farmers from all surrounding Albanian majority villages (Runikë/Rudnik, Suriganë/Suhogrlo, etc.) that produce pears. Therefore, this project will have many direct and indirect economic beneficiaries and will certainly contribute to a better relationship between the ethnic groups living in the region.



What gives to this local Rakia a specific flavor and makes it recognizable on the market is the pear, which grows in this particular area at an altitude of around 700m. A similar project has been previously tested by the department of economic development of the International Civilian Office, with great success on the market. Nevertheless, this KCRDP project will be also locally funded by the municipality of Skenderaj/Srbica, which will finance 10% of the KCRDP grant (4500€), as a support to the newly created business within the municipality.

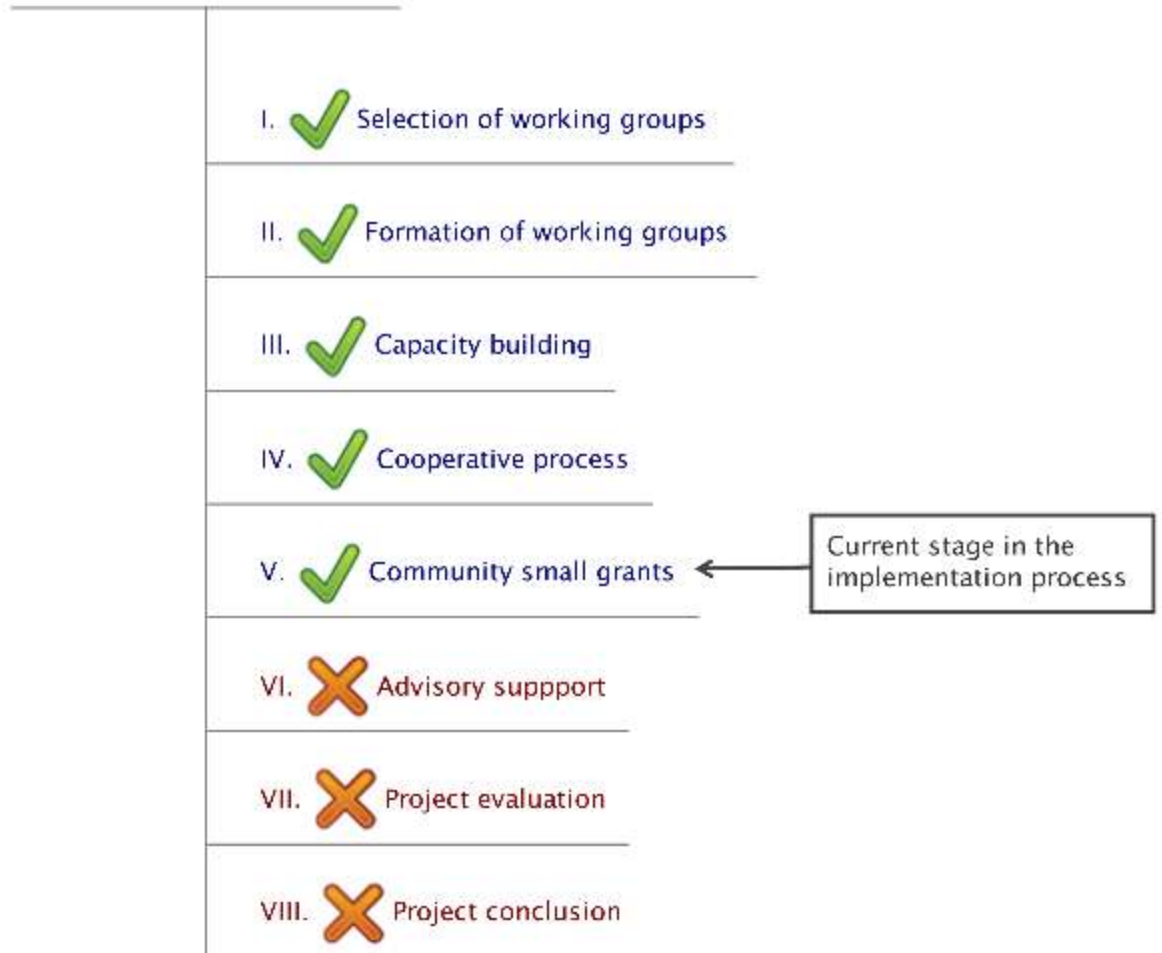


CABËR/ÇABRA

Located between municipality of Zubin Potok and the municipality of Mitrovica, village of Çabër/Çabra is Albanian dominated village within the Zubin Potok municipality with approximately 800 inhabitants from Albanian community. The KCRDP project group as in any other project location has been actively involved in identification and selection of potential idea for implementation of mini grant initiative foreseen with KCRDP project. The group has been shifting between “Bee keeping” and “Strawberry cultivation/ production”. With the analyses of KCRDP External Economical Expert, was recommended that village of Çabër/Çabra establishes “ The factory for producing and packing the Rice and Noah’s pudding and packing the other food products composed of powder and grains “. The expert has identified a local investor interested to implement this project in Çabër/Çabra. Despite the advantages of the project, the village representatives and the working group has refused to support the recommended proposal by the KCRDP External Economical Expert due to their lack of trust on project success, nevertheless alternative project ideas where not offered by the working group neither village representatives. In order to overcome this situation PK& Fractal have identified two interested local inhabitants from Çabër/Çabra intested on investing part of their local funds on **Establishing Cattle farm for fattening in Çabër/Çabra**. The idea was presented to Partners Kosova and Fractal along with other documentation, Business development plan for next five years, list of land and other necessary assets for implementation of cattle farm project. The village of Çabër/Çabra for is a relatively suitable location with Ibër/Ibar river on one side and with mountainous and hilly ground on the other, perfect for establishment of such a farm. The proposed project has a capacity for growing up to 30 cattle’s at the time, between 4 – 18 month old. The project foresees the employing at least 4 people as direct beneficiaries, while the entire village of Çabër/Çabra and surrounding villages will be indirect beneficiaries of this project. The project beneficiaries will use all the local resources such as newborn cattle, Cattle food, Land rental, and milk for free for village families under social assistance.



KCRDP timeline



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