

RAPORTI VJETOR

CEL Kosova

2024

CEL KOSOVA

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

CEL Kosovo is committed to empower LGBTI+ individuals, advocate for their rights, and foster a society where they can thrive with dignity and equality.

March 2025

Acknowledgments

The Centre for Equality and Liberty (CEL Kosova) extends its gratitude to Kosovo's local and central institutions, the Kosovo Police, the Ombudsperson Institution, local organizations, international organizations, embassies, media, activists, all collaborating partners, and other stakeholders for their cooperation and support in achieving the organization's objectives and implementing activities throughout 2024. Their contributions have played a vital role in improving the lives of LGBTI+ individuals in Kosovo.

CEL Kosova is especially grateful to the members of the LGBTI+ community who, despite facing challenges and hardships, continue to believe in themselves, in the strength of CEL Kosova, and actively collaborate with us in various ways.

Furthermore, CEL Kosova wishes to thank the members of its Assembly and Board for their invaluable support in strengthening the organization's work and its mission to promote and protect fundamental rights and freedoms, as guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of Kosovo.

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About CEL Kosovo

About CEL Kosova

Centre for Equality and Liberty (CEL) – Advancing LGBTI+ Rights in Kosovo

Founded in July 2013, the Centre for Equality and Liberty (CEL) is dedicated to empowering LGBTI+ individuals in Kosovo, combating discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, raising public awareness of LGBTI+ rights, and advocating for equality in line with the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Kosovo.

CEL Kosova was established in response to the persistent discrimination, stigma, and prejudice faced by LGBTI+ individuals in Kosovar society. Its programs include the Support Program, Capacity Building Program, and Awareness & Activism Program, all designed to create a more inclusive and supportive environment.

As a driving force for progress, CEL Kosova actively works toward building a diverse, tolerant, and equitable society by challenging traditional social constructs and advocating for equal rights and opportunities. The organization also plays a key role in strengthening the legal framework for LGBTI+ individuals and increasing their participation in relevant international and regional mechanisms that benefit both the community and society at large.

CEL Kosova has become one of the leading organizations championing LGBTI+ rights, fostering empowerment, and advocating for an inclusive society that values and respects diversity. Its core principle is that every

individual deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

The Assembly

CEL Kosova's Assembly is the highest governing body of the organization, composed of all its members. The Assembly holds ultimate responsibility for the organization's policies and financial matters. In this capacity, it has the authority to:

- Appoint and dismiss the Executive Director based on the Board's recommendation;
- Approve the Annual Report and Financial Report as proposed by the Board;
- Approve amendments and modifications to the Statute; and
- Decide on the merger, division, or dissolution of CEL Kosova.

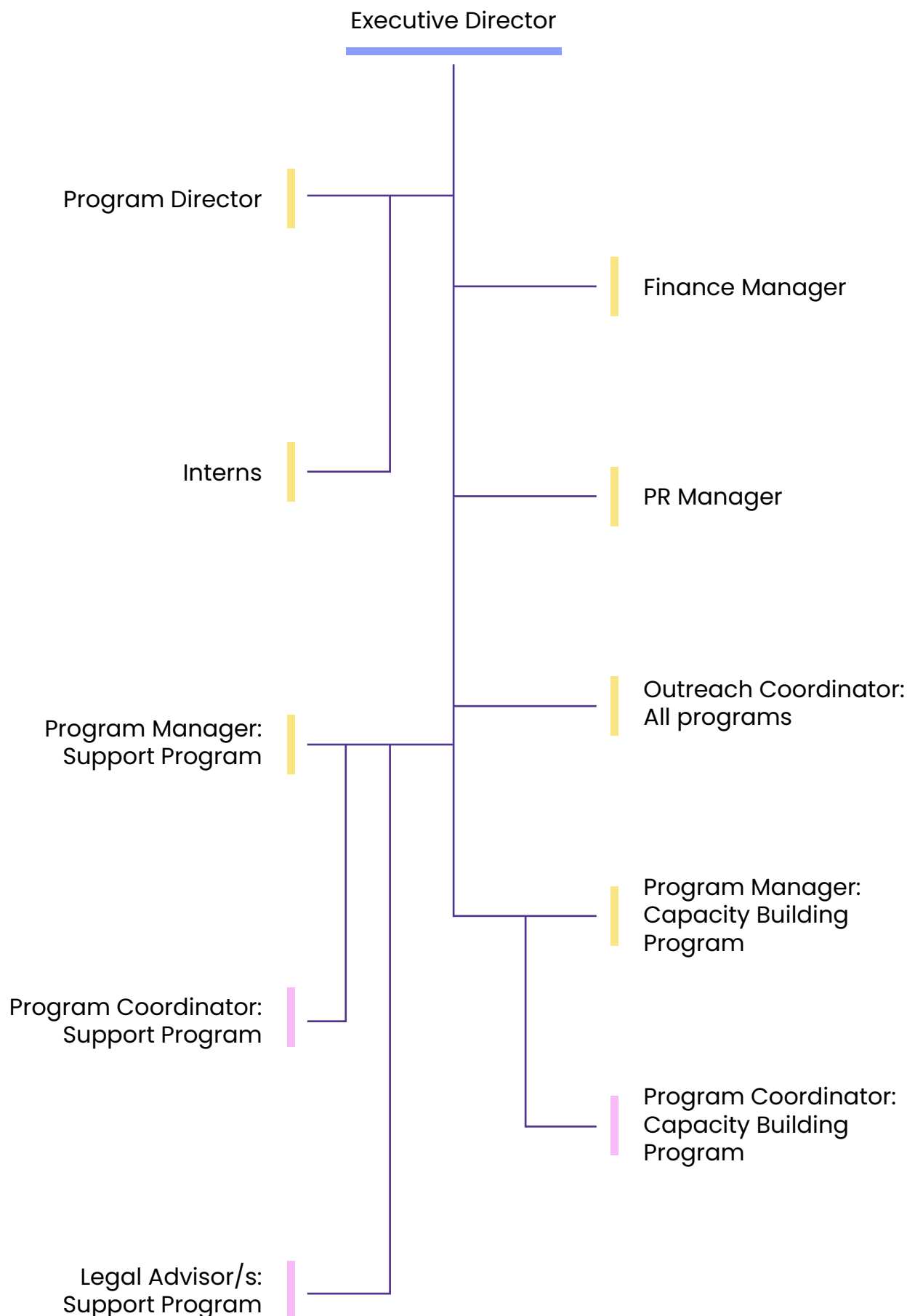
Additionally, the Assembly may delegate responsibilities to the Board and the Executive Director by a majority vote, except for those responsibilities that cannot be delegated under Article 31.5 of Law No. 06/L-043 on Freedom of Association in Non-Governmental Organizations in the Republic of Kosovo and Paragraph 2 of Article 5 of the Statute.

The Board

The Board of CEL Kosova operates according to the responsibilities outlined in the CEL Kosova Statute. These responsibilities include:

- Proposing amendments and modifications to the Statute, as well as other organizational rules and procedures, which are then approved by the Assembly.
- Electing the Chairman of the Board.
- Proposing the Executive Director to the Assembly.
- Proposing the procedure for selecting the Executive Director.
- Monitoring the work of the Executive Director.
- Proposing organizational rules, procedures, and other policies.
- Monitoring new policies proposed by the Executive Director.
- Reviewing the Annual Report and Financial Report prepared by the Executive Director and proposing them to the Assembly for approval.
- Based on a proposal submitted by any Board member, awarding special merit certificates to individuals who have significantly contributed to the work and development of CEL Kosova.

CEL Kosova Organizational Structure



Main milestones

Main milestones

12 cases of reported human rights violations received support and consultation, and were directed through free legal aid to the relevant institutions.



157 people benefited directly from internships, professional training, activism training, lectures on sexuality and gender, student scholarships for research and other activities.



1,095 psychological sessions registered.



CEL Kosova engaged a total of 7,123 direct beneficiaries and reached 517,715 indirect beneficiaries.



The lawsuit is filed against the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo and MP Labinotë Demi Murtezi from CEL Kosova, CSGD and YIHR Kosova



Blert Morina's Nomination for the Tulip Award: A Milestone for LGBTI+ Rights in Kosovo

Blert Morina – CEL Kosova Executive Director, a longtime advocate for LGBTI+ rights in Kosovo, was nominated for the prestigious Tulip Awards, an international accolade recognizing exceptional contributions to human rights. As the first openly transgender person in Kosovo to assume a leadership role in civil society, Blert's nomination is a monumental achievement not only for them personally but also for Kosovo's LGBTI+ community. His tireless work has been instrumental in advancing policies that promote equality, dignity, and social justice, while also fostering greater visibility for transgender and non-binary individuals. This milestone reflects Blert's dedication and the progress being made toward inclusion and acceptance in Kosovo.


Empowering Diversity, Advancing Equality

University of Prishtina Student Advocacy Fellowship: Empowering Future Leaders





Students Advocacy Fellowship was a collaborative initiative between CEL Kosova and the University of Prishtina aimed at engaging students in LGBTI+ rights advocacy through research and public presentations. This initiative provided a unique opportunity for students to contribute to the academic and social discourse surrounding LGBTI+ issues in Kosovo.


The fellowship was structured into three phases: workshops, research and drafting and final publication and presentation of research papers.



Thirteen (13) students benefited directly by being part of this activity.



Five (5) research papers were published and presented in a conference to University of Prishtina students.



Annual School of Comparative Studies on Gender and Sexuality



The 10th edition of the Annual School on Gender and Sexuality, organized by CEL Kosova in collaboration with Prishtina University's Program for Gender Studies and Research, took place from December 4 to 9, 2024. This unique initiative remains the only program of its kind in the region, offering an interdisciplinary approach to gender and sexuality studies. The school brought together students from diverse academic backgrounds such as sociology, anthropology, psychology and law.

Over the course of five (5) days, participants engaged in a dynamic and immersive learning experience that combined lectures, discussions, workshops, field visits and visual materials. The program emphasized critical engagement with gender and sexuality as cultural constructs, fostering deeper understanding and analytical thinking among attendees. Among the key lectures, Dr. Thomas Brorsen Smidt from the University of Reykjavik explored queer inclusion policies through the

lens of Icelandic and global queer communities. Jeta Rexha, a PhD candidate at the University of Münster, provided insights into gender, power, and marginalized voices in post-independence Kosovo. Ethical considerations and professional responsibilities were discussed by Carolyn Copps Hartley from the University of Iowa, while Liridona Sijarina from the Central European University examined gender and labor regimes under developmental neoliberalism.

Further enriching the program, Dr. Kaltrina Kelmendi from the University of Prishtina led an important discussion on resilience and well-being, addressing psychological aspects of gender studies. Dr. Linda Gusia, also from the University of Prishtina, delved into the past, present, and future of feminist solidarities, offering a historical and political perspective on the evolution of gender struggles. Finally, Bleona Kurteshi from the University of Prishtina analyzed representation and gender in the context of Kosovo, highlighting the role of media and cultural narratives.

The event concluded with a public discussion on contemporary activism, followed by the certification of students.



Stitching Dreams

Besides the partnership agreement with Valdrin Sahiti Fashion House, CEL Kosovo signed a Memorandum of Understanding also with BUKUR WORLD, a brand of Blerina Kllokoqi Rugova. This initiative contributes to enhancing the skills of LGBTI+ persons, open doors to employment opportunities and empower them to compete in the labor market while fostering financial independence.

3 individuals received certificates.



Stirring Change: Empowering LGBTI+ Persons Through the Art of Mixology

The Mixology and Barista Training provided LGBTI+ individuals with valuable skills in the hospitality industry. Held in collaboration with Bubble Pub, this five-day training program attracted participants from across Kosovo.

The training covered key aspects of mixology and barista skills, including cocktail creation, coffee brewing, customer service and the use of professional bar equipment.



8 individuals received certificates.

Unlock Your Potential: Elevate Your Skills and Creativity through the Art of Makeup

CEL Kosova in partnership with Sellma Beauty, organized the second edition of its Occupational Training – Make Up, focusing on empowering young LGBTI+ individuals to gain professional skills in the makeup industry.

Under the expert guidance of Sellma Beauty professionals, the participants gained hands-on experience in a variety of makeup techniques. They learned about skin preparation, industry trends, professional application tips, and techniques for working with cameras during glam photoshoots. The training provided a practical skill set that not only enhanced their artistic capabilities but also equipped them to navigate the professional world of beauty and makeup artistry.



Six (6) participants successfully completed their training and received certification from Sellma Beauty.

Mastering Digital Presence

CEL Kosova, in partnership with ROI Academy and Growzillas Academy, organized several Social Media Management and Digital Marketing training programs to empower LGBTI+ individuals with essential digital skills. The programs are the following:

- Digital marketing fundamentals, including platform selection, audience targeting, content creation, advertising, budgeting and analytics.
- Launching a month-long Social Media Management program, where industry professionals guided participants through strategic planning, research methodologies and content creation.
- Supporting unemployed or underemployed LGBTI+ individuals by equipping them with marketable skills in strategic planning, market research and creative content development.



13 individuals received
certificates

Bringing Ideas to Life: Mastering the Craft of Video Animation

CEL Kosova conducted a Video Animation Training aimed at empowering young LGBTI+ women by equipping them with essential animation skills. This activity focused on enhancing the employability of underemployed or unemployed LGBTI+ individuals through hands-on experience in 2D and 3D animation techniques. The training offered a comprehensive curriculum that covered the movement of design elements, creating professional video commercials, and animating diverse illustrated characters. Participants gained both theoretical knowledge and practical experience, allowing them to refine their animation skills.

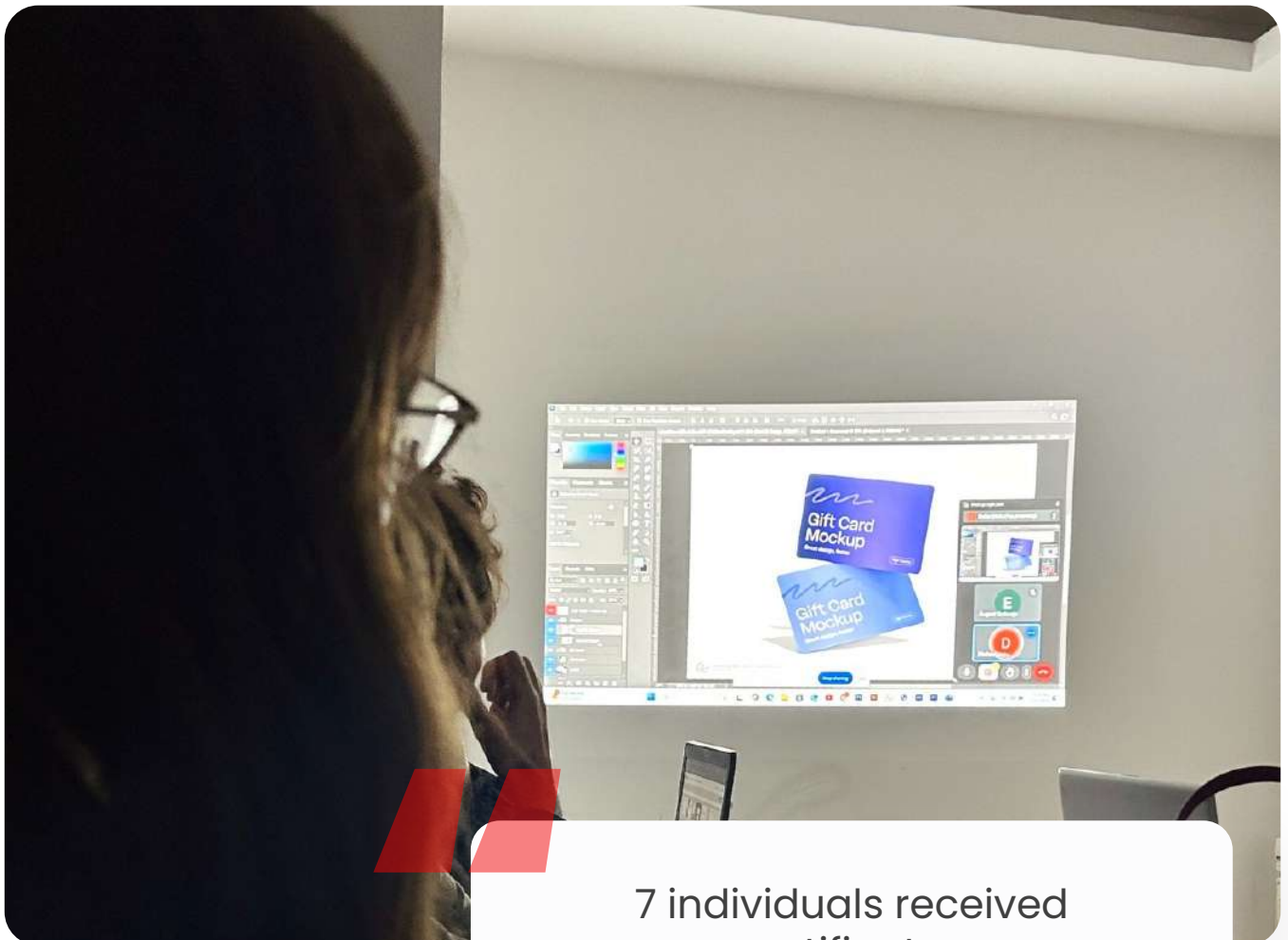
Upon completing the training, participants received certification and were offered a one-month internship with Sharp Company, where they could apply their newly acquired skills to real-world projects.



5 individuals received certificates

Designing the Future: LGBTI+ Youth Unleash Their Creativity

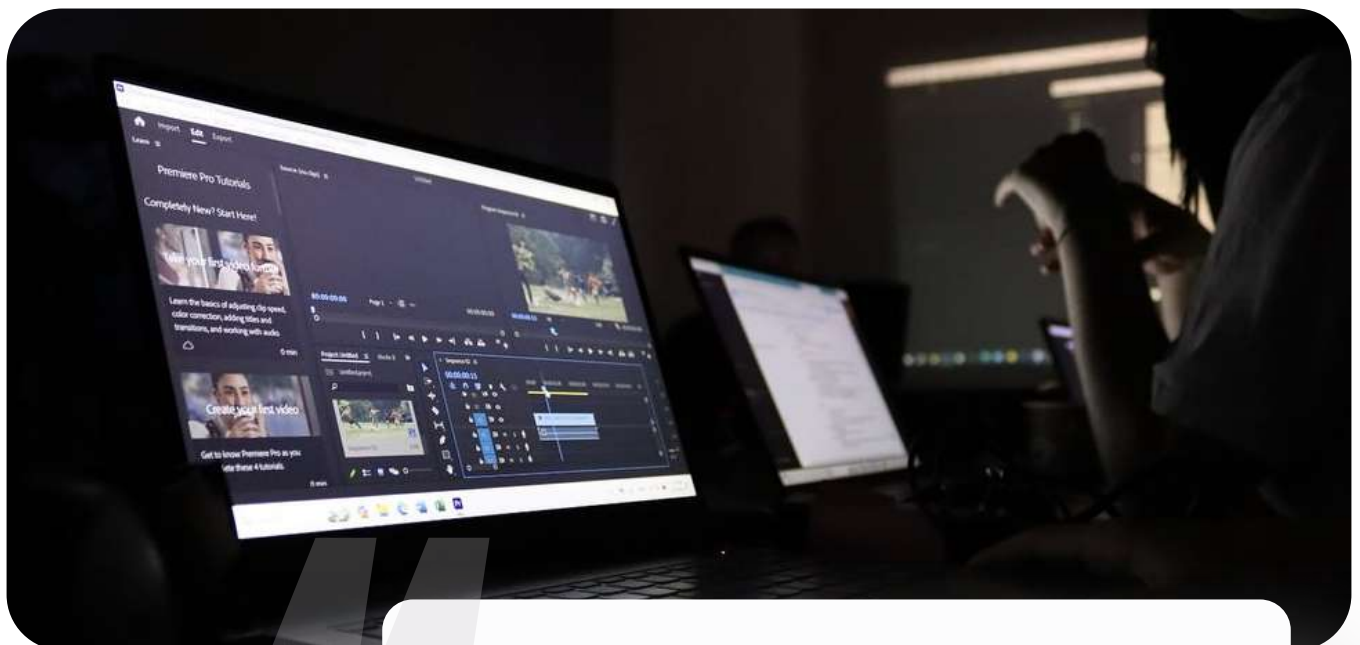
CEL Kosova, in collaboration with ROI Academy, organized training in one of today's most in-demand fields—graphic design. The training covered essential design principles and industry-standard software, equipping participants with skills in logo design, poster creation, and branding. Upon completion, participants received certificates and were offered internship opportunities with Sharp Company to apply their newly acquired expertise.



7 individuals received
certificates

Frame by Frame: Video Editing training

CEL Kosova organized a dynamic video editing training, equipping participants with essential skills to bring their creative visions to life. The training covered the entire editing process, from recording techniques and importing footage to mastering advanced editing tools. Participants explored storytelling through video, refining their skills in composition, pacing, and transitions. By the end of the training, they had gained hands-on experience in crafting engaging video content, empowering them to share impactful stories within their communities. This training was in collaboration with ROI Academy.



12 individuals received
certificates

Empowering the Future: Career Opportunities through Internship Program

CEL Kosova provided an opportunity for three (3) LGBTI+ persons to be part of the organization through its paid Internship Program. Two (2) interns were selected from Kosovo, while the other was a Kosovar who lives and studies in Sweden.

During the five-month internship period, interns actively contributed to CEL Kosova's projects, with a particular focus on developing social media content for international LGBTI+ awareness days. Through their work, they played a key role in strengthening CEL Kosova's online presence and visibility, while gaining valuable skills in digital content creation and advocacy.

Archiving Kosovo's LGBTI+ Legacy

The archive is being updated continuously by CEL Kosova and can be found [here](#).



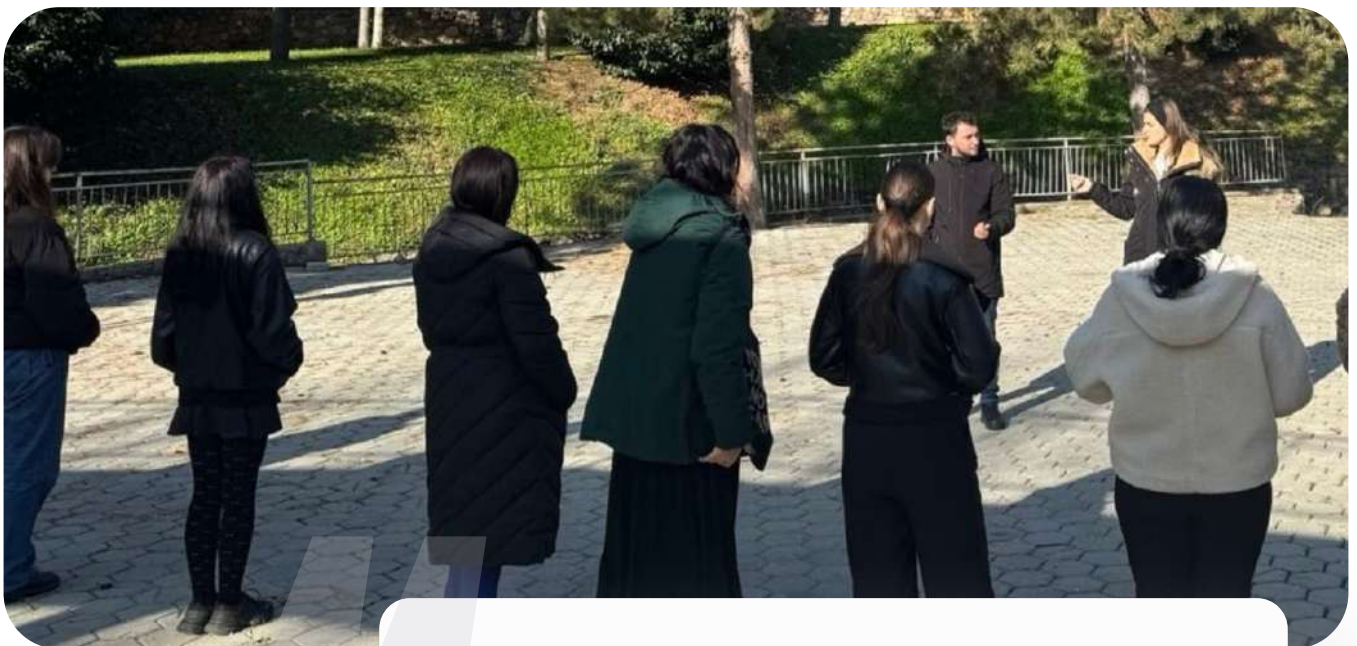
Psychological Support and Counseling for LGBTI+ Individuals in Kosovo

In a society where LGBTI+ individuals often face significant emotional and social challenges, CEL Kosova has created a safe and supportive space dedicated to their mental well-being. CEL Kosova counseling program provides specialized assistance to those seeking support in self-acceptance, coping with discrimination, navigating family and relationship dynamics, and addressing other mental health concerns that impact their daily lives.

Six (6) counselors and mental health professionals affiliated with CEL Kosovo provide confidential and nonjudgmental support to LGBTI+ persons seeking assistance with various psychological concerns. These include issues related to identity acceptance, coming out, family and relationship dynamics, discrimination, trauma, anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges exacerbated by societal attitudes and experiences of marginalization.

Empowering Communities through Legal Aid Workshop

The organization of the Legal Aid Workshop contributed to empowering LGBTI+ persons in Kosovo by equipping them with advocacy skills, legal knowledge and strategies for community mobilization. The three-day training gathered participants who engaged in intensive sessions focused on legal protections, activism and mechanisms for challenging discrimination.



10 individuals benefited
from this activity


Countering Hate Speech: A Public Panel on Monitoring and Prevention





CEL Kosova organized a launching event of the Hate Speech Monitoring, bringing together activists, journalists and community members for a panel discussion on the findings and the broader implications of hate speech in Kosovo. This discussion created an open space for dialogue on media responsibility, legal frameworks and strategies for combating online discrimination.

Further, the Hate Speech Monitoring initiative is a dedicated effort to systematically analyze and document instances of hate speech targeting the LGBTI+ persons across various media platforms in Kosovo. By compiling this data, CEL Kosova contributes to strengthen advocacy efforts and policy interventions to combat hate speech and promote a more inclusive media landscape.



At the core of this initiative is a comprehensive discourse analysis published, that examines how LGBTI+ individuals and issues are portrayed in Kosovo's digital media sphere. Specifically, CEL Kosova monitored twelve (12) of the most influential news portals, selected based on their high readership, frequent news output, and the volume of user engagement in comment sections.




Twelve (12) most influential portals were monitored.



CEL has monitored twelve (12) daily news portals operating in Kosovo.



29 individuals were part of the launching event.



Fabulous Bingo Night

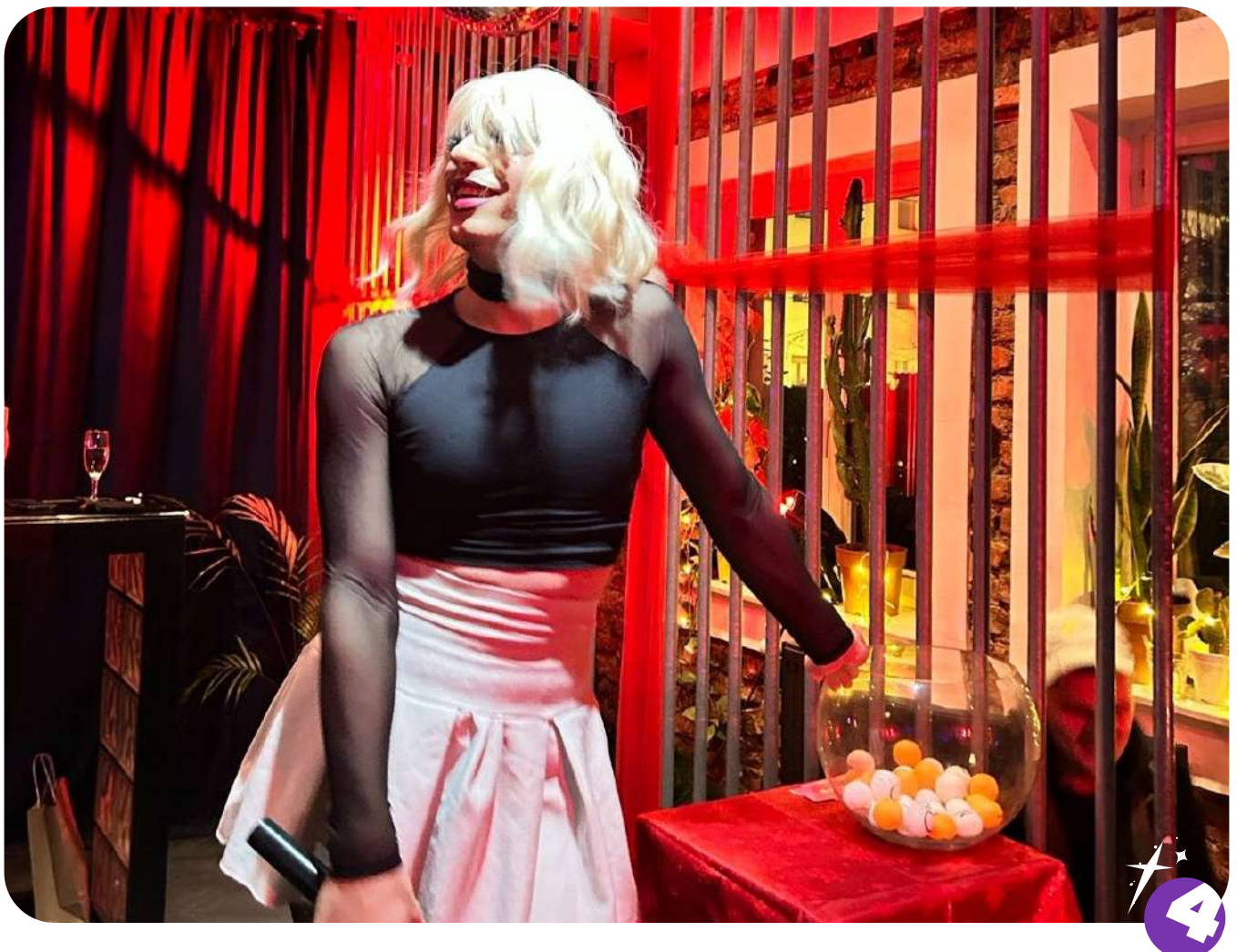
City's first-ever Drag Bingo Night—a night where glamour met games, and every number called was a note in a song of celebration. The venue pulsed with energy as Maggy, the dazzling and charismatic drag queen, took center stage, commanding the room with effortless wit, fierce presence, and the kind of charm that turned an ordinary game into an unforgettable spectacle.



31 individuals were part
of this event.

With bingo balls rolling and hearts racing, participants clutched their tickets, their eyes flitting between the stage and the numbers called, each one drawing them closer to victory. Gasps, cheers, and playful groans filled the air as the suspense built, until finally, three lucky winners emerged, each claiming their prizes amid thunderous applause.

This was not just the first Drag Bingo in Kosovo—it was the beginning of a tradition, a ritual of love, laughter, and liberation.



Queer Talks



The first Queer Talk event organized at Bubble, offered an intimate space for meaningful exchange and storytelling within the LGBTI+ community. The special guest of the evening was Rina Krasniqi, a celebrated queer actress from Kosovo, whose presence and personal story added an inspiring layer to the evening. Rina's narrative was one of resilience and authenticity—she shared her journey as she navigated the intricacies of identity, personal and professional success, and the complex relationship between queerness and art. Her words were not just a recounting of her experiences but a call for representation and self-empowerment.

The second Queer Talk hosted an important and eye-opening discussion that centered on the critical issues surrounding Hormonal Replacement Therapy (HRT) in Kosovo. The event, led by activists Lend Mustafa and Blert Morina, created a space for candid conversation about the obstacles and gaps in medical care for the transgender community. Lend and Blert used their stories to draw attention to the pressing need for public awareness and the urgent necessity for policy reform to ensure that transgender individuals have the right to quality care and respect.



62 individuals participated
on this event

Girl's Night



CEL Kosova's Girl's Night is a recurring event that provides a safe and supportive space for queer women to connect, share experiences, and raise awareness about mental health and available support services.

During 2024, three (3) events were organized.

At Fondacioni Shtatëmbëdhjetë, on Lesbian Visibility Day, the event combined education and music, featuring a panel on feminism and queer women's inclusion in Kosovo's feminist movement, followed by a social gathering with music from Vesa Neziri.

Queer women, non-binary individuals, and male allies, gathered for a night of discussions, music, and socializing, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment.



An evening of solidarity and self-expression, featuring music by Vesa Neziri and a relaxed atmosphere for meaningful interactions.



55 individuals participated
on this activity

Through these events, Girl's Night strengthens community bonds, promotes visibility, and empowers queer women in Kosovo.

Stand-Up Comedy

CEL Kosova's Stand-Up Comedy events create a space for laughter, resistance, and community empowerment through humor and performance.

In one remarkable event, Queen Maggy, Sulltanisha Turkan and Feniksa, famous drag queens from Prishtina, took the stage, bringing a perfect mix of satirical humor and powerful performances that left a lasting impact on the audience. The queens tackled a range of queer experiences, using humor to shine a light on both the struggles and triumphs that come with navigating identity in a society often slow to accept difference. Their performances were not just about entertainment; they were poignant reflections on resilience, celebrating the strength it takes to live authentically in the face of adversity.

Further, the second Stand-Up Comedy event, featuring comedian Hajat Tocilla, was an unforgettable night of laughter and celebration. Hajat's sharp, insightful, and witty commentary on queer life in Kosovo resonated deeply with the audience, shedding light on the challenges, joys, and nuances of queer identity in the region. His humor, delivered with a perfect blend of sass and sincerity, sparked genuine connections and brought the audience closer together. In addition, the night was further elevated by dynamic drag and musical performances that captivated and entertained the crowd. These performances showcased the diversity and creativity of the queer community, providing a platform

for artistic expression and cultural celebration.

Stand-Up Comedies organized were not just about humor; however, they were nights of empowerment, joy, and unity, where participants could freely express themselves, revel in the beauty of queer culture, and embrace the importance of visibility and acceptance.



150 individuals were part of
this event

Queer TV

Queer TV continues to serve as a dynamic platform for raising awareness about queer issues in Kosovo. The fourth edition of Queer TV used a satirical tone to critique the insufficient actions taken by both the government and municipality in addressing the rights and well-being of the queer community. Through its unique blend of humor and serious critique, the video successfully highlighted key issues, engaging the audience in meaningful discourse. By blending entertainment with activism, Queer TV remains an influential tool for amplifying the voices of the queer community and advocating for tangible change in society.



[Play Video](#)

Let's Watch It



Let's Watch It initiative creates a safe space for LGBTI+ individuals to engage with films that highlight queer experiences and challenges.

- The first screening at YIHR HUB featured Prayers for Bobby, a powerful film about homophobia's impact on mental health.
- The second screening at Kino Armata, showcased The Art of Being Alive, a deeply moving film created during the workshop, followed by the 1948 classic Snake Pit.
- The third screening was about a local queer film, emphasizing the importance of telling and supporting local queer stories.

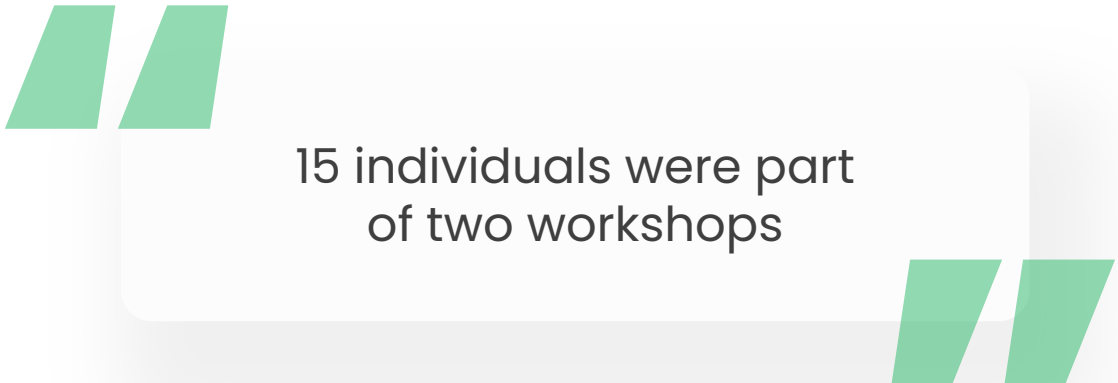
Workshops on Advocacy, Activism and Mental Health



Two 3-day Workshops on Advocacy, Activism, and Mental Health, equipped LGBTI+ individuals with essential skills to become advocates and community watchdogs against gender-based violence. Participants developed strategic thinking, legal analysis, and personal storytelling techniques to effectively challenge structural injustices. Further, the workshops provided a safe space for healing, networking and collective action; thus, fostering a strong support system among LGBTI+ activists.

CEL Kosova extended the reach of these efforts through social media, spreading messages of empowerment and solidarity to a wider audience.

By empowering individuals with knowledge, confidence, and a strong community network, these workshops served as catalysts for lasting change, reinforcing the fight for justice and equality in Kosovo.



15 individuals were part
of two workshops

Pottery Workshop



The Pottery Workshop provided a tranquil and therapeutic space for attendees to explore their creativity and enhance their mental well-being. Guided by a skilled pottery professional, participants learned the art of pottery making, diving into the tactile process of shaping clay with their hands.

The workshop was thoughtfully designed to create a serene environment, incorporating alpha waves and soothing sounds, which fostered relaxation and mindfulness. Gisha, an acclaimed artist, served as mentor.

The space became more than just a pottery class—it became a sanctuary for self-expression, where the process of creating art seamlessly blended with emotional healing.

Heartbreak Hotel: An Exhibition of Love, Loss, and Resilience



The "Heartbreak Hotel" exhibition was a poignant exploration of queer love through the stages of grief, presented in an intimate, hotel-like setting. The exhibition, which utilized three separate rooms, crafted an immersive experience that took visitors on an emotional journey—each space symbolizing a different stage of heartbreak, from raw sorrow to eventual healing.

The hotel itself, with its transient, almost ephemeral atmosphere, served as a perfect metaphor for the often-hidden and fleeting nature of many queer relationships, shrouded in societal stigma and secrecy.

Exhibition was curated by Simon Kurti and Bjeshkë Guri. Attendees wandered through these emotionally charged rooms, quietly reflecting on their own experiences, while also engaging in collective healing. The space not only showcased art but created a sanctuary for connection, where stories that are often left untold were brought to light.



50 individuals were part of
this event

Romeo & Romeo

"Romeo & Romeo" returned to the stage for its second performance, continuing to captivate hearts and minds. Originally created for Pride Week, this bold retelling reimagines the iconic tale through a queer lens, breathing new life into the narrative of love and conflict.



In this iteration, the cast—composed entirely of queer performers—brought fresh perspectives and raw emotion to the roles, weaving together a tapestry of love, heartbreak, and resistance.



With each scene, "Romeo & Romeo", created by Arlinda Morina – Liki, carved out a space where love, in all its forms, could be seen, heard, and celebrated in its fullest expression.



100 individuals were part
of this event

Campaigns

International Human Rights Day

CEL Kosovo published a video to mark the International Human Rights Day. CEL Kosova invited all queer individuals, everyone going through tough times, everyone experiencing success, all members of the LGBTIQ+ communities, and everyone who doesn't need a specific label... everyone, to celebrate this day, for our rights, without infringing on others.

Play Video

AIDS Day!

CEL Kosovo published an article, honoring the memory of Keith Haring, an iconic artist who fearlessly used his platform to fight the AIDS crisis. Haring's bold artwork, like his iconic "Silence = Death" symbol, became a powerful voice for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Read Article

International Transgender Awareness Week

CEL Kosova marked International Transgender Awareness Week by publishing information on transgender persons. Transgender individuals are among the most marginalized groups in Kosovo, facing significant challenges within various societal systems. This needs to change. Policymakers, healthcare professionals, and society as a whole must work together to remove barriers and ensure that transgender individuals have the necessary access to live healthy lives.

Read Article

International Coming Out Day

For International Coming Out Day, an animated video across social media, shedding light on the emotional and social challenges of coming out was shared. The video illustrated the journey of self-acceptance, while also acknowledging the societal pressures and discrimination that persist. Through poignant visuals, the post encouraged individuals to seek support, whether through therapy or a strong queer community, reinforcing the message that no one should navigate this journey alone.

Play Video

International Lesbian Day

CEL Kosova marked International Lesbian Day by sharing an animated video highlighting the stories of resilient lesbian women overcoming social barriers. The video emphasized self-acceptance, courage, and the importance of living openly despite discrimination. Through vivid storytelling and empowering visuals, the initiative aimed to inspire and uplift the LGBTI+ communities. The post was shared across CEL Kosova's social media platforms, spreading a powerful message of pride and resilience.

Play Video

International Mental Health Day

On International Mental Health Day, a graphic post promoting self-care and open conversations about mental health within the LGBTI+ community was shared. The post highlighted nature's healing power and the importance of mental well-being while facing societal pressures.

Read Article

International Lesbian Visibility Day

On International Lesbian Day, CEL Kosova celebrated the love, strength, and resilience of all lesbians.

Play Video

International Bisexual Day

To mark International Bisexual Day and Bisexual Awareness Week, an animated video and a carousel post to celebrate and support bisexual individuals was published. The video portrayed diverse couples, emphasizing the importance of love, acceptance, and surrounding oneself with affirming friends and community.

Play Video

International Non-binary People's Day

To mark International Non-binary People's Day, an animated video that emphasizes the importance of embracing one's true self, regardless of gender. The video carried the powerful message that individuals are free to define themselves as they wish, showcasing diverse characters from various backgrounds to highlight the richness of diversity within the non-binary community. This creative project was designed to foster inclusivity and support for non-binary people.

Play Video

IDAHoBiT - The Quein Exhibition Across Kosovo

To mark International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHoBiT), CEL Kosova organized the impactful "The Quein" exhibition across three cities in Kosovo: Peja, Prizren, and Prishtina. The exhibition highlighted personal stories of LGBTI+ individuals living in Kosovo, showcasing their lives through the lens of art. It poignantly explored the contrast between their everyday realities and utopian aspirations, emphasizing the significant role art plays in advancing human rights.

Read Article

International Intersex Day

International Intersex Awareness Day helps raise awareness about the existence and experiences of intersex individuals. Intersex individuals have often been subjected to discrimination and stigmatization. This day aims to combat stigma and promote understanding and acceptance.

Read Article

International Asexual Day

To celebrate International Asexual Day, a compelling animated video that amplifies the voices of the asexual community was published. This initiative, aimed to foster greater visibility and understanding of asexual identities through storytelling and digital engagement. The video was based on a personal interview with an asexual individual, offering an authentic insight into self-acceptance, identity, and the importance of self-love.

Play Video

Remembering Stonewall: Mark Segal's Story of Resistance and Resilience

For the Stonewall Remembrance Day, an article featuring an exclusive interview with Mark Segal, a prominent figure in the LGBTQ+ rights movement was published. In this interview, Segal shares his personal journey, recounting his experiences during the Stonewall Uprising of June 1969. He reflects on how the Stonewall raid ignited his activism and discusses the formation of the first Gay Pride Parade, as well as the crucial contributions of fellow activists Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson.

Read Article

International Drag Day

To celebrate International Drag Day, CEL Kosova honored the vibrant art of drag with an exclusive interview featuring Propaganda BXL, a talented group of three (3) drag performers. The article explored their personal journeys, challenges, and triumphs in the drag scene, showcasing the power of drag as a form of self-expression and resilience within the LGBTI+ community.

Read Article

International Suicide Prevention Day

To mark International Suicide Prevention Day, CEL Kosova raised awareness about available support for individuals with suicidal thoughts by sharing a post on their social media channels. The post highlighted the free psychological services provided by Linja e Jetes and CEL Kosova, encouraging those in need to seek help.

Read Article

International Non-Violence Day

CEL Kosova marked International Non-Violence Day by sharing a powerful message through a graphic post with the slogan "Stand Strong Against Violence." The post emphasized the importance of creating spaces where everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, feels safe, respected, and loved. This initiative reflects CEL Kosova's ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive, violence-free society. The post was shared across social media, spreading the call for respect and safety for all.

View Post

International Sexual Health Day

CEL Kosova marked International Sexual Health Day with a creative campaign promoting condom use and regular testing for sexually transmitted diseases. A carousel post, designed in a comic book style, featured two characters illustrating the importance of protection, testing, and mutual support within LGBTI+ communities. This initiative reinforced essential sexual health practices, emphasizing safety and care. The post was shared across CEL Kosova's social media platforms, spreading awareness and encouraging responsible sexual health habits.

Read Article

Video Campaign on Gender-Based Violence Against LGBTI+ Communities in Kosovo

To mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a powerful video campaign was launched by CEL Kosovo to raise awareness on gender-based violence (GBV) against LGBTI+ communities in Kosovo. The video informed and empowered viewers by discussing various forms of GBV, including physical, emotional, sexual, and economic violence. It also provided resources for victims, highlighting helplines, NGOs, and police units dedicated to gender-based violence. The campaign's message, "You don't deserve it," emphasized the importance of supporting victims and reporting incidents.

Play Video

International Transgender Day of Visibility

CEL Kosova marked International Transgender Day of Visibility by sharing an insightful interview with Rachel Crandall-Crocker, the founder of the day, and her partner, Susan Crocker. They reflected on their personal journeys, the challenges they faced, and their triumphs in advocating for transgender rights. The interview highlighted the power of visibility in amplifying transgender voices and fostering global solidarity. This impactful conversation was published on CEL Kosova's website and promoted across social media, reinforcing the mission to support and celebrate transgender lives.

Read Article

Disability Pride Month

CEL Kosova marked Disability Pride Month by sharing a graphic post expressing solidarity with the disabled community and emphasizing the importance of inclusivity. The post reaffirmed CEL Kosova's commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities within the LGBTI+ community and provided contact information for those seeking assistance. This initiative aimed to raise awareness and promote accessibility, fostering a more inclusive and supportive society.

View Post

International Pronouns Day

International Pronouns Day is a day to raise awareness about the importance of respecting and using accurate pronouns for individuals, especially those who identify as transgender, non-binary, or as they feel. To respect an individual's pronoun, you simply need to ask how they would like to be referred to. This helps in respecting gender identities.

Read Article

Publications

CEL Kosova plays a crucial role in advocating for LGBTI+ rights by publishing research analyses and legal studies that shed light on systemic inequalities, discrimination, and policy gaps. These publications serve as powerful tools for change, driving impact in multiple ways:

- Evidence-Based Advocacy

Groundbreaking research provides concrete data that strengthens advocacy efforts, influencing policymakers and institutions to adopt inclusive policies.

- Legal Empowerment

Legal studies offer in-depth analysis of existing laws and frameworks, equipping activists, lawyers, and organizations with the knowledge needed to challenge discriminatory practices.

- Raising Awareness

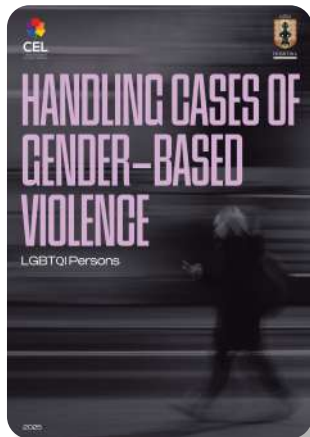
Publications bring visibility to the lived experiences of LGBTI+ individuals, fostering public discourse and societal understanding.

- Policy Reform & Social Change

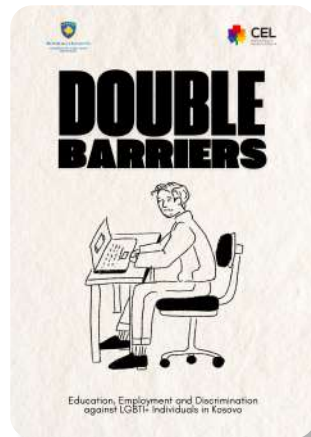
Research-backed recommendations have contributed to legislative improvements and better protection mechanisms for LGBTI+ persons in Kosovo.

By continuously producing and disseminating high-quality research, CEL Kosova not only informs but also empowers communities, shaping a more just and inclusive society for LGBTI+ individuals.

Reports



The Handbook on Social Work:
Handling Gender-Based Violence
Cases against LGBT+ Persons



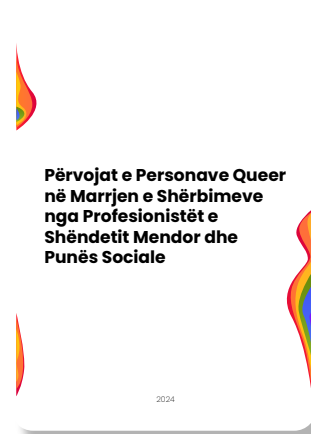
Double Barriers: Education,
Employment and Discrimination
against LGBT+ Individuals in Kosov



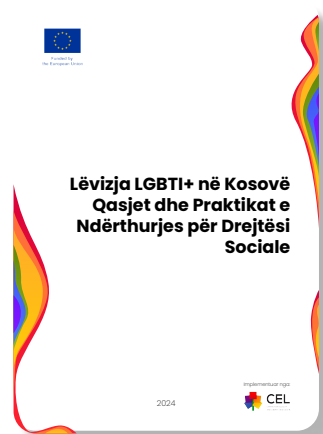
Queer people and therapy Report
on the psychological effects of
marginalization



Experiences of Being a Queer
Youth in Kosovo: Challenges and
Hopes



Queer People's Experiences in
Receiving Services from Mental
Health and Social Work
Professionals

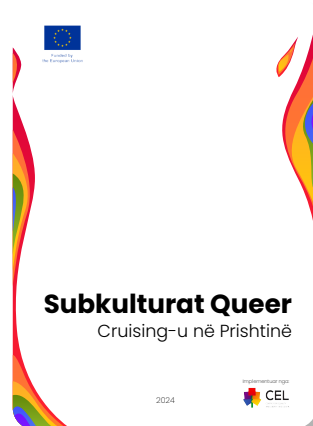


LGBTI+ Movement in Kosovo:
Intersectional Approaches and
Practices for Social Justice

Reports



Renegotiating the position of LGBTI+ communities in the public space



Queer Cruising Subcultures in Pristina



Social Media: Where hatred flows unhindered



Identity and Rights of Intersex Persons in Kosovo



Under the Spectrum of Invisibility: An Analysis of Gender-Based Violence against LGBTIQ+ Communities in Kosovo 2023-2024

PRESS RELEASES AND PUBLIC LETTERS

Strong condemnation of the violent attack against the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in Ferizaj

51 NGO – PUBLIC LETTER ADDRESSED TO Mr. GLAUK KONJUFCA HOMOPHOBES HAVE NO PLACE IN PARLIAMENT!

HOMOPHOBES HAVE NO PLACE IN ASSEMBLY!

Continuous press releases and public statements regarding the hate speech of the Family Coalition during the election campaign and the penalties they have received from the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP)

Public Letter Addressed to the Speaker of the Assembly – Mr. Glauk Konjufca

Public Statement on the Tragic Loss of a Young Life in Gjakova Due to Alleged Medical Negligence

The lawsuit is filed against the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo and MP Labinotë Demi Murtezi

Reaction to the discussion on the bill on reproductive health and medically assisted fertilization

HRN condemns Minister Hekuran Murati's attack on the media and CSOs

Pride Week Special Press Releases

The Draft Law on the KPM Should Not Enter into Force

Human Rights Network Strongly Condemns the Arrest of Kosovo Serb Citizens in North Mitrovica

Vetëvendosje Movement and Their Public Opposition to the Draft Civil Code

Human Rights Network's Reaction to the Media Abuse of Domestic Violence Victims

Reaction to the Act of Violence Against the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities in Ferizaj

Reaction Regarding the Inclusion of Sex Education in the School Curriculum[JB1]

Joint Activities

We were and always will be

Prishtina Pride 2024 officially opened under the motto "We were and always will be" at the Government Building, emphasizing the ongoing demand for recognition and equal rights for all LGBTI+ communities. The event featured speeches from prominent figures, including Albulena Haxhiu (Minister of Justice), Mimoza Kusari-Lila (Chairperson of the VV Parliamentary Group), Alyson Grunder (Deputy Ambassador of the United States), Tomáš Szunyog (Head of the EU Office in Kosovo), Jonas Westerlund (Ambassador of Sweden to Kosovo), and Arber Nuhiu (Executive Director of the Center for Social Group Development).



The **"Let's Pride"** event was a vibrant celebration to kick off Pride Week, bringing together LGBTI+ individuals and allies. The event featured a lively cabaret performance, including "Kosusical," a powerful narrative about a transgender girl navigating a world that challenges her identity.



The "**Journey to Inclusion**" conference served as a platform for presenting the new National Action Plan for LGBTI+ Communities in Kosovo, outlining key goals and strategies aimed at advancing equality, protection, and inclusion for LGBTI+ individuals across the country. The event was followed by a panel discussion with international representatives such as Jörn Rohde (Germany), Jean Lamy (France), Ronald Goldberg (Netherlands), and Mary-Ann Hennessey (Council of Europe), addressing challenges from previous action plans and exploring solutions for effective implementation.



Astrit Ismaili's experimental pop music album "**The First Flower**" was showcased at Oda Theatre. This cross-media project, evolving from his 2019 performance piece "MISS", explores themes of transformation, beauty, and sexuality.



Pride Square, the street action organized, combined the celebration with activism as participants painted the zebra crossings in rainbow colors, symbolizing both visibility and resistance. The action was a powerful statement, claiming public space and reinforcing the pride and diversity of the LGBTI+ community.



"I Am My Own Wife", a performance by Adrian Morina depicted the extraordinary life of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a transgender activist from Germany. Portraying over 30 characters, the Mahlsdorf's journey was brought to life, from her childhood under a Nazi father to becoming the curator of the Gründerzeit Museum, which played a pivotal role in the gay liberation movement in East Germany. This evocative play shed light on the complexity of identity and resilience.



The discussion 'Festivals in Kosovo and the aspect of queerness', on the representation of queer themes in Kosovo's festivals, with a focus on Anibar, DokuFest, and Prishtina Queer Festival, brought together panelists who addressed the challenges and backlash these festivals faced for showcasing LGBTI+ content, while also examining the role of art in challenging societal prejudices and promoting inclusivity in cultural spaces.



The exhibition You Know Me So Well by Martina Menegon, where virtual and augmented self-portraits blur the boundaries between tangible and digital selves was visited. The exhibition You contributed to participants by offering a thought-provoking exploration of identity in the digital age. Through virtual and augmented self-portraits, it challenged traditional notions of self-representation, encouraging visitors to reflect on the fluidity of identity and the intersection between the physical and digital realms. Participants gained a deeper understanding of how technology influences personal expression and how virtual platforms can reshape our perceptions of self, fostering a broader conversation about inclusivity, identity, and the evolving nature of human experience.



The theatrical play "**Romeo & Romeo**", with its bold reimagining of Shakespeare's classic tale, contributed to participants by fostering a deeper understanding of queer love, societal oppression, and the struggle for authenticity. By exploring these themes within the context of Kosovo, the play created a space for reflection on the challenges faced by the LGBTI+ persons. It encouraged open dialogue about love, identity, and resilience, challenging traditional norms and promoting acceptance. The powerful performances of the cast further highlighted the strength of individuals fighting for their truth, inspiring participants to embrace their own authenticity and engage in social change.



"Queer Archives on Display" transformed the Grand Hotel Prishtina into a living narrative of LGBTI+ history in Kosovo, guided by curator and artist Majlinda Hoxha. Through photography, storytelling, and personal artifacts, the exhibition captured the intimate, unfiltered realities of queer life—moments of defiance, tenderness, and resilience. Visitors wandered through a tapestry of triumphs and struggles, witnessing a community that has fought, and continues to fight, for visibility and belonging.



The audio exhibition "**More Women**" amplified the voices of queer women and their allies, using a compelling sound installation to confront homotransphobia and misogyny while shedding light on stories that are often silenced. Created by Dardan Hoti and Luca Tessei Li Bassi, this immersive experience celebrated resilience, challenged societal biases, and advocated for greater inclusivity.

Drag Show organized featured a diverse range of acts, including Belli's Armenian dance, Major Mathilde's gymnastic-infused queer dance, and Daisy's burlesque routines, all three coming together as PROPAGANDA BXL, mesmerizing the audience while celebrating drag artistry and resilience. Hosted by Kosovo's renowned drag performer The Brianka, the show was accompanied by dynamic DJ sets from Erleta, MilicX, and Rebiswan, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere.



Prishtina Pride Parade 2024 transformed the city's streets into a vibrant celebration of identity, love, and resilience. Beginning at "Skënderbeu" Square and concluding at the National Library, the march united LGBTI+ individuals and allies in a powerful act of visibility and solidarity. Marking its eighth edition, the parade stood as a testament to the community's triumphs and ongoing fight for equality.



"All Together" – The Prishtina Pride Concert 2024 was a glorious culmination of a week filled with love, celebration, and inclusivity. The night radiated with energy and joy, featuring an electrifying lineup of queer artists, DJs, and drag performers. Pop icon Vesa Luma captivated the audience with her hit songs, while DJs Gent and Yll kept the crowd dancing with their vibrant beats. The stage dazzled with performances by Diva, Queen Maggy, Fenix, and Sultanesha, whose charisma, style, and artistry embodied the essence of Pride. The concert was a powerful testament to unity, self-expression, and the enduring strength of the LGBTI+ community.





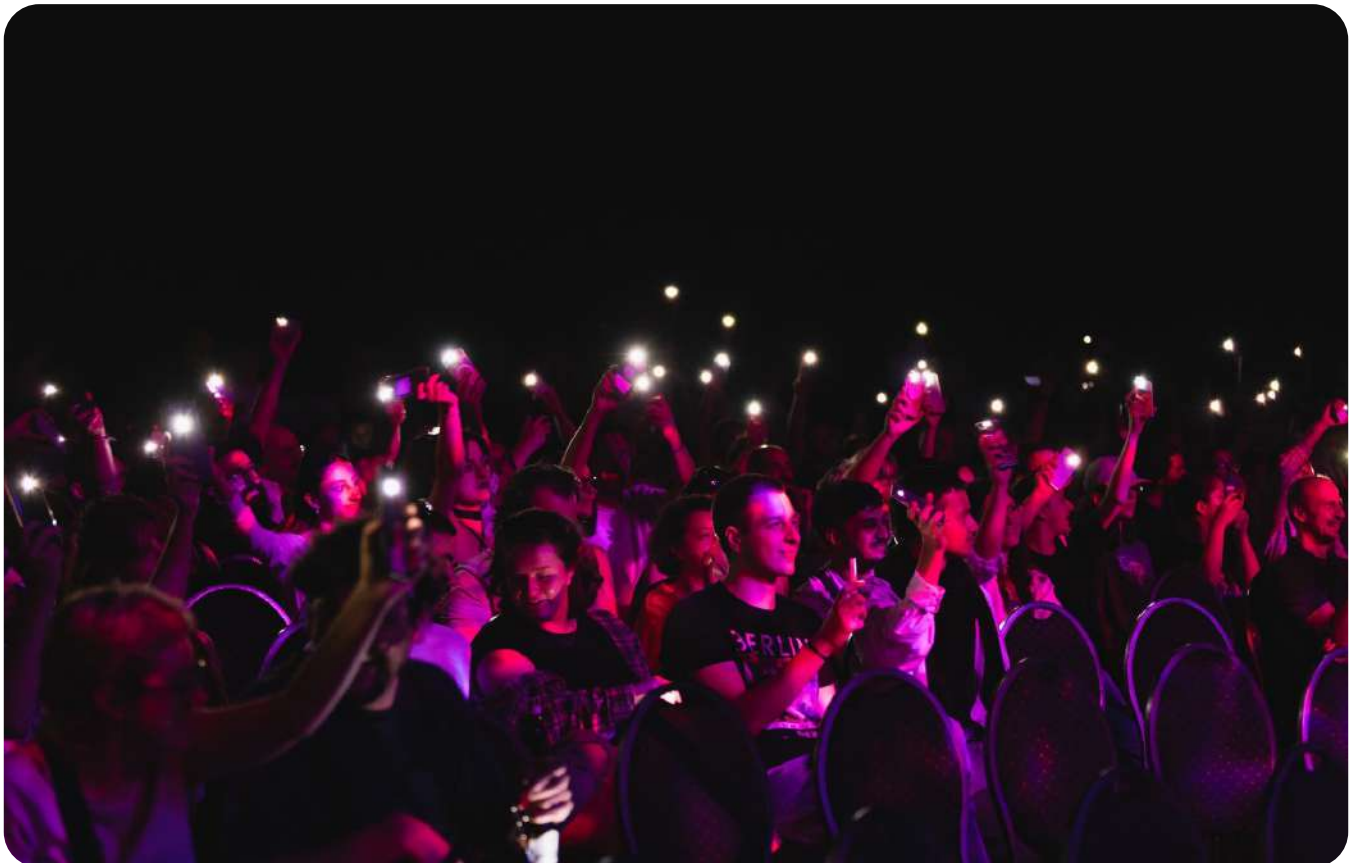
Queer Living Library

The Queer Living Library offered an intimate and engaging adaptation of oral histories, providing a platform for five LGBTI+ individuals to share their lived experiences. The event facilitated one-on-one and small-group conversations, allowing participants to interact directly with the storytellers. Further, the Queer Living Library not only raised awareness but also reinforced the power of storytelling as a tool for advocacy and social change.



Prishtina Queer Festival

The Prishtina Queer Festival, celebrated its second edition. This vibrant celebration of LGBTI+ diversity, resilience, and creativity featured an array of workshops, performances, and screenings by local and international queer artists. Highlights included the "Queer Identity & Self-Acceptance" workshop, led by Edlira Meshau, and the "Let's Talk About Consent, Baby" session. The festival concluded with a lively street party.



Art Therapy Week

As part of Art Therapy Week 2024, a Public Debate on Gender-Based Violence, created a vital space for dialogue on the challenges and realities faced by LGBTI+ individuals. The event brought together community members, activists, and professionals, to discuss the crucial role of communication in mental health and emotional well-being. This debate not only highlighted the intersection of gender-based violence, mental health, and LGBTI+ rights but also reinforced the power of collective advocacy and storytelling in challenging stigma.



42 individuals were part
of this activity

Alaska Thunderf*ck Show

Under the shimmering lights of the Germia Amphitheatre, Prishtina became a stage for unapologetic glamour, fierce artistry, and boundless self-expression. A night unlike any other, it brought together an electrifying mix of music, drag, and celebration, headlined by none other than the legendary Alaska Thunderf*ck, the Winner of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 2. Accompanied by Jeremy on piano, Alaska's performance was nothing short of mesmerizing—a seamless blend of wit, beauty, and sheer performance magic, leaving the audience spellbound.

The amphitheater buzzed with energy, unity, and celebration. The event's impact extended far beyond the stage, igniting conversations, breaking barriers and amplifying the voices of a thriving drag and LGBT+ persons in Kosovo. The dazzling spectacle resonated across social media, where countless clips, snapshots, and words of praise flooded feeds, spreading the spirit of inclusion and artistic freedom far and wide.



This was more than just an evening of high fashion and high notes—it was a cultural shift, a bold declaration of visibility and a testament to the resilience and brilliance of queer artistry.



500 individuals were part
of this event

Hyjneshat

On Halloween night, the Hyjneshat Event was held, creating an inclusive and unforgettable celebration for the queer community. With a vibrant atmosphere fueled by drag performances and energetic music, the event offered self-expression and freedom for the participants. The night celebrated queer joy, bringing together the Hyjneshat Collective's creativity and energy, creating a sense of community and solidarity.

The event was attended
by 300 individuals.



CEL Kosovo Partners for the
organization of Pride Week

CEL Kosovo Partners for the organization of Pride Week

DONORS



Canada

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PARTNERS



CEL Kosova's social media channels

CEL Kosova's publications and information on organized activities are published on the CEL Kosova website, Facebook page, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube channel. All information is published in English and Albanian.

A newly opened Tiktok page is being used as well, when suitable for our posts

During 2024, with the implementation of CEL Kosova's programs and specific activities, the organization managed to reach a considerable number of people indirectly and directly. CEL Kosova's website started implementing Google Analytics by June 2024, with around 5 thousand people visiting the website from June – December 2024.

CEL Kosovo Channels

CEL Kosovo publications and information on activities organized are published on [CEL Kosovo Website](#), [Facebook Page](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube Channel](#). All information is published in English and Albanian language.

During 2024, with the implementation of CEL Kosovo programs and specific activities, the organization managed to reach a considerable number of people indirectly and directly. The direct and indirect people reached, based on their gender, are presented in the graphs below.



CEL Kosova engaged a total of 7,123 direct beneficiaries, fostering inclusion and advancing the rights of LGBTI+ individuals.



CEL Kosova reached 517,715 indirect beneficiaries, raising awareness and promoting the rights and inclusion of LGBTI+ individuals.



Donors

- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – (SIDA);
- Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports;
- European Union in Kosovo;
- Institute for Democracy and Mediation – ID (Smart);
- ERIM Equal Rights & Independent Media – (ERIM);
- Municipality of Prishtina;
- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS);
- German Federal Foreign Office;
- Global Fund for Women;
- Embassy of France in Kosovo.

Throughout 2024, CEL Kosova remained steadfast in its mission to advance LGBTI+ rights, thanks to the invaluable support of our partners and donors. Their unwavering commitment has enabled CEL Kosova to implement transformative programs, advocate for equality, and create safer spaces for the LGBTI+ community. With their support, the organization has strengthened its impact, expanded its reach, and continued the fight for a more just and inclusive society.

A Platform for Internal Management of CEL Kosovo

A Platform for Internal Management of CEL Kosovo is a digital software designed to streamline and optimize various administrative and operational tasks within the organization. It serves as a centralized hub where staff members can access tools, resources, and information necessary for day-to-day operations, collaboration, and decision-making. Key features of the platform include:

- **Document Management:** A centralized repository for storing and organizing documents, policies, and procedures, accessible to authorized personnel.
- **Task and Project Management:** Tools for assigning tasks, setting deadlines, and tracking progress on projects, ensuring efficient workflow management.
- **Communication and Collaboration:** Integrated messaging, video conferencing, and collaboration tools to facilitate communication and teamwork among staff members, regardless of location.
- **Financial Management:** Tools for budgeting, expense tracking, and financial reporting to monitor and manage the organization's financial resources.
- **Data Analytics and Reporting:** Capabilities to generate reports, analyze data, and derive insights to support decision-making and strategic planning.

- **Security and Access Control:** Measures to ensure data security, privacy, and access control, safeguarding sensitive information from unauthorized access or breaches.
- **Transparency toward the donor:** CEL Kosovo is able to generate reports for each program and activity for the donor funding its implementation.
- **Accountability:** Enables tracking and recording of actions taken by staff members, including task assignments, project updates, and decision-making processes. It allows for the establishment of clear lines of accountability, ensuring that tasks are completed on time and that responsibilities are allocated appropriately.

The Platform for Internal Management is designed to enhance organizational efficiency, transparency, and collaboration, empowering staff members to work more effectively towards achieving the mission and goals of CEL Kosovo.

Financial Procedures

CEL Kosovo uses QuickBooks as an accounting software to keep its finances. QuickBooks is an accounting software program that CEL Kosovo uses to manage income and expenses and keep track of the financial health of the organization. The program is used to make invoices, pay bills, generate reports, and prepare for taxes. A professional company was hired to train the Finance staff on how to use the program and continuously provides support when needed to the Finance Officer.

Further, during 2023, CEL Kosovo has grown in terms of staff and budget and has developed a strong financial and inclusive policy. It has developed general financial regulations, which all staff understand and apply. More specifically, CEL has strengthened its overall financial management function, particularly through:

- Drafting a manual for financial and operational policies and procedures in accordance with the Law and donor requirements.
- Adoption of effective computerized accounting software.
- Improvement of payment vouchers and payment orders to clearly define the Project, Budget
- Line, account and amount.

- Development of customized charts of accounts and cost centers, leading to the preparation of a comprehensive annual budget.
- Advancing procurement policies and practices.
- Development of a Purchase Order and Procurement Management System and Tool.

Audit Report

CEL Kosovo annual budget and expenditures divided per category from 2020 until 2024 are presented in the graph.

CEL Kosovo Budget

