

The TOKA logo is positioned at the top center of the image. It features the word "TOKA" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a circular icon containing a stylized wave or sun motif in shades of green, yellow, and blue.A decorative yellow flower icon with four petals and a central stem is located to the left of the text.

Kosova Volunteerism Award Winners



How did we get here?

Kosova is full of changemakers who see community improvement as a personal responsibility, and we believe that everyone's contribution should be honored and rewarded – especially when all the dedication comes in the form of volunteer work. For this reason, we launched first annual campaign and event for the Volunteerism of the Year Awards with the aim of recognizing, promoting, and expanding participation in volunteerism.

This campaign has included all youth, municipalities, schools, businesses, diaspora representatives, and public figures who contribute to the community in various ways, with a special focus on contributions through volunteer work. See below some of the digits that made us proud:

50

Supporters of the Volunteerism of the Year Campaign, including the Prime Minister's and President's Offices of the Republic of Kosova, diplomatic institutions such as The British, US, Swedish and Swiss Embassies in Kosova, including the municipalities of Peja, Podujeva, Hani i Elezit, Istog, Ferizaj, Prizren and Suhareka. As well as international and local organizations.

307,747

Number of reaches the Volunteerism of the Year Campaign recieved accross Social Media platforms.

100

Nominations recieved for the Volunteerism of the Year Awards, of which 44 were youth and 56 were Volunteerism Enablers.

175

Participants joined TOKA in marking International Volunteer Day in a hall filled with community leaders. Among them were young volunteers, representatives of central and local institutions, business owners, members of the diaspora, and public figures who make Kosova a better place every day through their contributions



Kosova's Most Courageous Volunteer of the Year

Gazmend Hasani, 29, Mitrovica, Kosova



Gazmend Hasani from Mitrovica has **overcome personal challenges** as a person with disabilities and has completed over **180 hours of volunteer work**, primarily focused on environmental protection. He has collaborated with the Municipality of Mitrovica and other organizations. His dedication has **challenged stereotypes** about people with disabilities, making him an inspiring example in the community.

*Winning this award has been one of the most special and emotional moments for me. It was an indescribable feeling to see so many people applauding me at the same time. For a moment, all the effort and challenges I've faced seemed to be rewarded. I feel very proud that my volunteer work has been recognized, especially with such an honor that shows my work has had an impact. This award is not only a **great honor** for me personally but also a **huge motivation** to keep working even harder in the future.*

*It was so heartwarming to see the reactions from the Mitrovica community, which were extraordinary. It made me feel even more connected to them because I saw that **my work has had meaning**. Additionally, even though I have a disability, this doesn't mean I am not valued. Winning this award motivates me even more to give my best and to keep moving forward without stopping.*

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Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Hajrulla Çeku, awarding Gazmend his prize



Kosova's Most Creative Volunteer of the Year:

Dion Istrefi, 17, Mitrovica



Dion Istrefi, only 17 years old, has dedicated over **70 hours to volunteer work**. He has led the Media Club at "Frang Bardhi" high school, where, among other activities, he organized **awareness sessions** with citizens over the age of **50** about **internet risks and fake news**.

*For me, winning this award means a lot. It is more than just an award, it's a **recognition of all the time, effort, and dedication** I've put into helping my community. I didn't do it for any kind of recognition, but the fact that my work has been noticed truly makes me feel **proud and motivated**.*

*This award is not just for me but also for **everyone who has collaborated** with me and supported me along the way. To me, volunteering means that even the smallest actions, no matter how small they may seem, can bring about big changes for others.*

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Kosova's Volunteer of the Year

Violë Maksuti, 21, Gjilan



Viola Maksuti has made an extraordinary contribution with over **900 hours of volunteer work** across **15 projects**, empowering **350 young people** and promoting gender equality in STEM. She has led initiatives such as the Girls in STEM Club and the Public Discussion with the Mayor of Gjilan, **creating opportunities for youth** and strengthening dialogue between them and local authorities to find **innovative solutions** to social and economic challenges.

Winning the title of 'Volunteer of the Year' is one of **the greatest honors** a young person from our vibrant new state, Kosovo, can receive. This award not only represents recognition for past efforts but also serves as an **encouragement to continue dedicating myself** to new volunteer projects. It is a confirmation that my efforts, along with those of the teams I've worked with, **have not gone unnoticed**.

For me, this achievement is proof that change can happen when we invest time, energy, and heart into our community. It reminds me that every hour spent helping others is **a step toward a better and fairer society** and motivates me to continue my years-long work for development and progress with even greater passion and dedication.





National Service Learning Award Winners

“Kikirikët” Youth Club, Prishtina



A club of 24 high school students from Prishtina **created a website** to help people learn about **mental health**. They did everything themselves – building the website, managing social media, and organizing events with speakers like Minister Arben Vitia, impacting over **200 people** through their work.

Winning the National Service Learning Award as a club is an **extraordinary recognition** and a **great motivation** to continue our mission. This award proves that our volunteer work has had a **positive impact** and is valued by the community. For us, this is a **moment of pride** and an encouragement to be even more creative, collaborative, and dedicated in our future projects. It also serves as a reminder that **every effort** to contribute to education **matters** and can make a significant **difference in society**.

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The Most Supportive Municipality of the Year

Municipality of Hani i Elezit



Hani i Elezit stands out for its **support of volunteering** through **meaningful recognition** and **strategic partnerships**. By collaborating with local organizations and **providing practical support**, the municipality creates conditions for volunteer initiatives to thrive, **despite limited resources**.

Being a winner of the Volunteerism of the Year Awards is a **great honor for us**, as part of that community or as representatives of the institution recognized for its contribution to society or the community through volunteer work.

It reflects the dedication and effort to help and **contribute to positive changes** in society, showing that **even small actions** can have a **significant impact**. We are **deeply motivated** to continue supporting such initiatives in our community.





Most Supportive Business of the Year

Kutia, Prishtinë



Kutia has demonstrated excellent leadership by **combining business with community development**. With over **250 training scholarships**, including 30 for women in ICT, and an **IT lab established in a rural school in Drenas**, they have **expanded access** to technological education and addressed societal challenges.

Winning the "Most Supportive Business of the Year" Award reminds us of the **responsibility we carry as a business**. While our services reach international markets and we collaborate with successful global clients and corporations, **our mission feels complete only when we contribute to Kosova's development**—whether through building local capacities, creating equal opportunities, or supporting our community.

For us, **success** is also **measured** by the **impact** we have beyond our workplace, in improving the economic and social landscape of our country.

The name "Kutia" reflects not only our approach to providing clients with everything they need in one box but also the inspiration to think and act outside the **boundaries of the ordinary**. This award is both a **confirmation** of our inclusive approach and a call to **continue focusing on social impact**—something every business can and should strive to achieve.





Kosova's Most Supportive Diaspora Ambassador of the Year

Bujar Neziri, 55, Düsseldorf - Ferizaj



Bujar Neziri, president of the **Kosova Düsseldorf Football Club**, has led volunteer activities, raising over **€200,000** for people with disabilities in Ferizaj and establishing a **special center** for them. Through the engagement of around **200 citizens**, he has promoted **diaspora solidarity** through sports and humanitarian activities, making an extraordinary contribution to the community.

This award is a **testament to the power of unity** and dedication to such an important cause. I dedicate this award to all my collaborators who shared the **same vision and energy**. A special thanks goes to Handikos Ferizaj for the nomination and, of course, to the NGO TOKA for this recognition, which makes me feel both **proud and humbled** for this sacred work.

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Kosova's Most Supportive Public Figure of the Year

Donika Shahini Lami, 47, Prishtinë



Donika Shahini has contributed to **preserving important historical artifacts** for over 25 years, which were showcased this year at the Reporting House museum in Prishtina.

She has provided **support and treatment for survivors of sexual violence** and those who have experienced trauma, dedicating herself to **advancing mental health in Kosova overall**.

This recognition means so much to me. Often, the appreciation we receive from others becomes the **driving force that keeps us going**, no matter what life throws at us. Before the war, we were just a handful of people, mobilizing to support our international colleagues and informing the world about what was happening in Kosova. We continued along this path without ever seeking awards, because the **love for our homeland is priceless!**

When I meet young people, like the winners of these awards, my heart swells with pride – and that is the greatest reward anyone can give. TOKA has done incredible work over the years, and for me, this recognition is **truly extraordinary** because the message it carries is extraordinary!



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2024



WE WANT TO GET YOU INVOLVED!



Volunteer!

Click on the heart so we can set you up with some volunteering opportunities.



Donate!

Click on the hand to find how you can help our mission by donating. Every little bit counts!



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Click on the plus to follow our channels and to stay updated in our open calls and latest news.



Spread the word!

Share our mission and story with your friends, family, and community. Be our bridge of connecting with like-minded people.