

# TOKA'S QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

From Kosovo to the World: Planting seeds of change



# Celebrating a Decade of Impact: TOKA's 10-Year Anniversary Gala

We're not just getting older — we're getting wiser, bolder, and more determined to shape the next decade of youth changemakers.



🎉 On June 12, we marked a major milestone with **TOKA's 10-Year Anniversary Gala** — a celebration of a decade dedicated to youth empowerment, volunteerism, and community impact. 🎉

The event brought together over **200 guests**, including **Kosovo's Prime Minister**, the **British Ambassador**, educators, municipal leaders, youth alumni, and many long-time supporters of our work.

🌟 The evening also raised **€3,000 for the "Lulëzojnë" Scholarship Fund** through a vibrant market-style fundraiser supported by eight local businesses.

🎓 The **"Lulëzojnë" Scholarship** supports young people from marginalized communities - especially girls, rural youth, and first-generation students - who are pursuing Bachelor studies in Kosovo or abroad.

It is awarded to students who combine academic success with community engagement and a strong motivation to give back to their communities.

Recipients receive up to **€1,000** in financial support (including taxes), which can be used for their needs.

**Learn more [HERE!](#)**

# Youth-Led Volunteering Across Kosovo

Empowering Young Changemakers to Transform Their Local Communities



This quarter, we concluded the 2024 cycle of our **Solidarity Action Day (SAD)** program in eight municipalities.

Through 48 peer-led club meetings, **196 youth volunteers** identified community needs, designed and implemented impactful local projects, and reflected on their learning using the Service-Learning methodology.

## Where?

Ferizaj, Han i Elezit, Pejë, Skënderaj, Podujevë, Istog, Gjakovë, and Kamenicë.

## What's new?

- 100% of youth were satisfied with the project selection process
- 99% gained new knowledge through their experience
- A **new partnership** was signed with the Municipality of Shtime, expanding the SAD program to **9 municipalities** for 2025-2026

# Recognizing Changemakers: Volunteerism Awards Launched

Celebrating the Spirit of Volunteerism for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row!



In May, we launched the second edition of the **Volunteer of the Year Award** campaign to celebrate outstanding contributions in youth volunteerism and community service across Kosovo and beyond.

After a successful first edition, with over 100 nominations and support from 50 partners, we are once again recognizing changemakers who see community improvement as a personal responsibility.

This year's awards will honor individuals, municipalities, schools, businesses, diaspora representatives, and public figures who contribute through volunteer work and community engagement.

🏆 Award Categories include:

## Youth

- Volunteer of the Year
- Courageous Volunteer
- Most Creative Volunteer
- Rising Volunteer

## Supporters of Volunteerism

- Supportive Business of the Year
- Supportive Municipality of the Year
- Supportive Diaspora Representative
- Supportive Public Figure
- Lifetime Contribution to Volunteerism

Learn more [HERE!](#)

# Good old Service-Learning in Action

Where Learning Continues to Meet Action for a Better Tomorrow



Our Service-Learning Clubs remain dynamic hubs of youth-led community impact. In recent months, **7 new projects** were implemented: 5 focused on environmental protection, and 2 on vision health, addressing local needs through volunteer action.

Interest in Service-Learning leadership continues to grow, with **175 teachers applying** to join the next **cohort**, eager to bring civic engagement practices into their classrooms.

We also organized a **Youth Festival in Hani i Elezit**, where young advocates promoted mental health awareness through workshops and performances, showcasing youth-led civic engagement in small municipalities.

At the national level, we strengthened advocacy efforts to integrate Service-Learning and climate education into Kosovo's education policies.

In partnership with **ASAS (Albanische Studenten und Akademiker Stuttgart e.V.)**, we launched the project **"Future Green Leaders of Kosovo"**.

This initiative focuses on advancing climate education through research and policy recommendations.

Follow us to learn how we plan to turn this vision into action and influence lasting change.

# First-Ever Volunteering Days in the Diaspora in TOKA style

The Successful Implementation of Solidarity Action Day in Brussels and London



For the first time ever, we brought the spirit of volunteerism beyond Kosovo! In partnership with ALSA UK and VLERA Belgium, the Solidarity Action Day in Diaspora (SADD) took place in:

🇬🇧 London (June 20): 17 volunteers, 5 businesses

🇧🇪 Brussels (June 25): 14 volunteers, 9 businesses

Diaspora youth worked in Albanian-owned businesses and chose to donate the proceeds to TOKA's "Lulëzojnë" Scholarship Fund, supporting marginalized students in Kosovo.

**We're proud to have 31 new volunteers join the movement internationally, laying the groundwork for future SAD in Diaspora events in Europe: including Norway in 2026!**

**Heartfelt thanks to our partners ALSA UK and VLERA for their unwavering support, dedication, and valuable collaboration throughout this inspiring journey.**

If you want to see where TOKA's volunteering projects are spreading around the world, follow us and stay connected.

# What's TOKA Cooking Up Next?

- Youth Leadership Camps & Service-Learning Teacher Trainings
- International Peacebuilding Camp
- "Lulëzojnë" Scholarship Open Call & Winner Selection
- Volunteer of the Year Awards
- Career Orientation Camps with Roma, Ashkali & Egyptian youth
- Solidarity Action Day in 10 municipalities

**Thank you for helping us shape the next generation of active and compassionate citizens.**

**Your support makes this possible!**



## 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!



**Follow us!**

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.