

THEY ARE HERE!!!

**MEET THE WINNERS OF
KOSOVA VOLUNTEERISM OF
THE YEAR AWARDS FOR 2026**



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.

Launched by TOKA in May 2024,, this campaign has included all youth, municipalities, schools, businesses, diaspora representatives, and public figures and individual with lifetime contribution who contribute to the community in various ways, with a special focus on contributions through volunteer work.

The Awards Ceremony is held within the national conference “Building a Culture of Volunteering: From Individuals to Institutions,” hosted at the University Library's Amphitheater Hall, at the University of Prishtina. As part of the Conference we had:

- Two panel discussions on local partnerships and mental health
- Ceremony of the Volunteerism of the Year Awards to honor and promote outstanding volunteers whose work strengthens communities across Kosovo.

70

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.

114

Nominations recieved for the Volunteerism of the Year Awards, of which 70 were youth and 40 were Volunteerism Enablers.



Meet the winners below!



Kosova's Most Courageous Volunteer of the Year

Sara Çeshko

Sara completed over 100 hours of volunteer work, but her impact goes far beyond numbers: she opened doors for dialogue, built bridges of cooperation, and created space for young people's voices in key democratic processes. Through the EU&ME – Kosovo's Vision platform, she helped organize dialogues between youth and EU ambassadors, strengthening European belonging and cooperation.

As part of the United Youth Task Force, she contributed to the organization of the UN Youth Assembly, engaging over 200 participants from across Kosovo.

As a Young European Ambassador, she led awareness campaigns on youth participation and regional cooperation, reaching hundreds of young people both online and offline. In her role as a UN Community Volunteer for Civic Space within UNDP, she supported International Youth Day activities and was selected for the Regional Youth Peacebuilding Fellowship, where she is developing skills in peacebuilding and inclusive participation.



Kosova's Rising Star Volunteer of the Year

Diar Bekteshi

Diar has dedicated dozens of volunteer hours to defending children's rights, protecting the environment, and creating inclusive spaces for youth across Kosovo. As Deputy Chair of the Respect Our Rights (ROR) group and an Environmental Assembly Member at EcoZ, he has represented children and young people at high-level decision-making platforms. He participated in the Interministerial Committee for International Children's Day, where discussions contributed to the launch of the government's anti-discrimination platform.

In the environmental field, Diar has designed and led several impactful campaigns:

- "Think About the Earth", engaging over 20 youth through creative environmental awareness sessions;
- SHIFT – "Car-Free Capital", an international campaign involving more than 150 citizens in discussions on air quality in Prishtina;
- The revitalization of the "Omni Sport" park in Mitrovica, promoting interethnic cooperation;
- Installation of inclusive seating for people with disabilities in Karagaç Park, Peja;
- A water-saving campaign, donating sensor-activated faucets to "Bedri Gjinaj" School in Mitrovica.

Diar also moderated a public panel with the Prime Minister of Kosovo during the 10-year anniversary of ROR, bringing the voice of youth directly to decision-makers.



Kosova's Volunteer of the Year

Edesa Ibrahimiri

Edesa has completed over 800 hours of volunteer work during 2024–2025, contributing to national and international events, educational programs, STEM projects, community initiatives, and youth mentoring.

She dedicated 150 hours to the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) as the lead guide for the U.S. team and coordinator for more than ten international teams in an event with 400 participants, and 70 hours to the Kosovo–Albania Mathematical Olympiad (KAMO) supporting accommodation, test supervision, logistics, and ceremonies.

As a member of the U.S. Embassy Youth Council, she led activities on education, the environment, and human rights, representing her team in meetings with KUSA and other partners. Through the Kosovo Youth Event – Sci-Tank, she contributed 160 hours in application review, budgeting, training, and event logistics. With her initiative “Mapping the Future with STEM,” she founded a platform that empowers girls in science and technology, launched the CTRL+Her event now expanding internationally, and built a community of over 400 followers.

She has also provided tutoring in math, physics, and biology to dozens of primary school students. During the TechGirls program in the United States, she completed 50 hours of community service and later organized info sessions and coding trainings for Kosovar youth. Through robotics activities and her work as a volunteer at the “Miushi Miki” kindergarten, she has supported more than 70 children through educational and recreational activities.



The Most Supportive Municipality of the Year

Municipality of Istog

The Municipality of Istog has distinguished itself for its inclusive and practical approach to supporting volunteerism. Through its Directorate of Education and Directorate of Youth, the municipality has built a sustainable institutional model that promotes volunteerism and meaningful youth engagement. Notably, the municipality has initiated six volunteer-based projects, engaging hundreds of students and teachers.

It has strengthened cooperation between civil society, schools, and local businesses to expand and support volunteer initiatives. In the past year alone, 78 students from “Haxhi Zeka” Gymnasium and the vocational school “Mithat Frashëri” volunteered with 33 local businesses, with the funds they collected reinvested into improving school and community spaces. These efforts resulted in hundreds of hours of volunteer activities, increasing civic awareness and community mobilization.

The Municipality of Istog has also provided more than 2,000 euros in direct financial support for structured volunteer programs, in addition to its regular Education and Youth budget. Furthermore, it has awarded certificates of appreciation to volunteers and teachers, and it has supported the organization SHPIK, which delivered voluntary IT-training sessions in all Istog schools and provided professional development for teachers.



Most Supportive Business of the Year

AnchorzUP

AnchorzUp is a Prishtina-based technology company specializing in staff outsourcing and digital solutions, where over 30 young professionals work on international projects.

In just one year, AnchorzUp has contributed more than €7,450 to initiatives that support the environment, education, and youth development. One of its most significant efforts is the Zagragja Scholarship at RIT Kosovo, through which the company donated €6,250 during 2024-25 and a total of €25,000 over four years, enabling students Art Hajdari and Emela Bajrami to complete their studies with success.

AnchorzUp also donated €1,000 to the KAEF Gala, supporting scholarships for Kosovar students pursuing master's studies in the United States, demonstrating a strong commitment to advancing education and career opportunities for young people. On Earth Day, the company contributed €200 and organized a volunteer neighborhood cleanup around its office, engaging staff and raising environmental awareness.

Furthermore, AnchorzUp has introduced an internal Volunteer Work Policy that provides employees with dedicated paid days off to participate in volunteer work, making community engagement a core part of the company's identity.



Kosova's Most Supportive Diaspora Ambassador of the Year

Egzona Morina

Egzona is the founder of the Xheladin & Xhufe Morina Foundation, through which she has supported more than 400 students from Kosovo in scientific, academic, and professional programs since 2018, building strong bridges between the diaspora and young Kosovars by bringing global expertise directly into the country.

During 2024–25, she distinguished herself especially through two major and transformative initiatives: BrainCamp 2024, a free one-week neuroscience program that brought eight international lecturers and more than 60 participants together—fully funded by her foundation – and the SCOPE Program, through which she financed 14 medical students to complete one-month clinical specializations in European hospitals.

In total, she has donated more than \$15,000 for scholarships, BrainCamp, and medical specializations. In addition, Egzona leads a scientific research laboratory based in both the United States and Prishtina, where she works with three Kosovar students on international-level projects, directly engaging them in cutting-edge scientific research.



Kosova's Most Supportive Public Figure of the Year

Parnvera Hyseni

Pranvera is a planetary astronomer and the founder of the program "Astronomy Outreach of Kosovo." For more than a decade, she has worked voluntarily to bring astronomy to every corner of the country, inspiring thousands of children, students, and young people to dream beyond the boundaries of Earth.

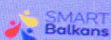
Over the past year, she led one of the most important scientific projects of the decade in Kosovo: the construction and opening of the National Observatory and Planetarium, the most advanced science center in the country. Through her work, over 200,000 euros worth of astronomical equipment were secured from the United States, along with an additional 310,000 euros invested in the construction of the center – turning this project into reality through international cooperation and personal dedication.

Pranvera has invited renowned international scientists, created planetarium programs, organized workshops, lectures, and scientific shows for students, and built a sustainable educational center that, in the past year alone, has welcomed over 15,000 visitors.

She is also a powerful international voice – representing Kosovo in global conferences, NASA activities, and scientific forums, where she has often been the only representative from the country.



LEMAN KAMBERI MURIQI



Kosova's Lifetime Contribution Volunteer of the Year Leman Kamberi Muriqi

Leman's contribution includes 20 years of volunteering, which covers education, culture, the environment, social inclusion, and historical memory. During the war, Leman volunteered by reporting from the field and translating for major international media outlets such as Libération, Le Figaro, RFI, 24 Heures, The Daily Telegraph, AFP, ANSA, and RTBF. She continued translating materials for foreign journalists and human rights organizations, ensuring accurate information reached the international community.

She is also a pillar of the Francophone community in Kosovo, strengthening cultural and professional cooperation with French-speaking countries. Leman has supported countless international youth activities, organizing discussions, cultural visits, and educational screenings for students from Europe and Asia.

She founded the LEZAMI club for children, offering language, art, and cultural programs, and organized Kosovo-France youth exchanges in 2013 and 2014, where 20 Kosovar children stayed with host families in France at no cost, and later welcomed French youth to Kosovo.

WAIT A MOMENT, 20 YEARS CAN'T BE INCLUDED IN ONE PAGE - SEE MORE!!!



Kosova's Lifetime Contribution Volunteer of the Year Leman Kamberi Muriqi

Her volunteer work also includes extensive support to the diaspora through translation and collaboration, including projects with the Swiss Institute for Albanian Studies (ISEAL).

She has spent over three years volunteering with The Ideas Partnership, supporting marginalized families, facilitating community initiatives, and connecting people across cultures and generations. She has donated books and musical instruments to schools, supported environmental actions, and continuously responded to community needs.

In 2019, she published *Kosova, ashtu siç e kanë ëndërruar*, accompanied by a conference, discussions, and an exhibition with around 100 participants—an important contribution to collective memory and understanding of the past. Since 2022, she has volunteered on the documentary *Return to Kosovo*, which has been screened in dozens of festivals and venues worldwide, including the European Parliament in Brussels, Stuttgart, Munich, Zurich, Geneva, London, Bern, Saudi Arabia, and most recently New York, with France coming soon. The film has also been shown free of charge to youth groups in Kosovo and abroad to educate them about the war, trauma, justice, and dignity.

Most recently, she contributes to Women Who Can Make Things Happen, a group of 30 volunteer women working on solidarity, education, and social development, and is currently helping design a new initiative for adults with special needs.



National Service Learning Award – 1st Place

Solidar Club – Gymnasium “Bedri Pejani, Pejë

The project aimed to empower young people to respond to urgent educational and social inclusion needs in their community, improving the quality of learning in school and supporting children with disabilities. Around 80 youth collaborated with more than 35 businesses and organized “Solidarity Day,” through which they raised €2,266.

With the support of two teachers and their mentor, they identified key needs, planned the steps, and implemented solutions by investing in technological equipment for the school and educational materials for children with disabilities.

The project also included awareness-raising activities for the entire school community and, thanks to strong support from businesses, parents, and local institutions, improved learning conditions for more than 1,000 students while fostering a strong culture of solidarity and inclusion.



National Service Learning Award – 2nd Place

Super Volunteer Club "Yjet"

This award goes to the "Yjet" Super-Volunteers Club, who, through their project, brought attention to a vital issue for children's health: vision problems, especially myopia. With professionalism and dedication, they conducted a community needs assessment, launched the initiative in their school "Rexhep Akllapi," secured free eye examinations from specialists, provided glasses to every child in need, and created a wide awareness campaign for parents, teachers, and the community.

Around 130 children benefited directly, and over 1,500 others were reached indirectly through distributed materials and awareness activities.

With approximately €2,350 in funds (also supported by the Municipality of Lipjan), these young people built a model that is now being replicated in other schools across the municipality.



Honorable mentions 2025

Youth



Ylli Syla
Volunteer of the Year for
Volunteer Engagement



Sara Shabani
Rising Volunteer of the Year
for Volunteer Engagement



Verena Shabani
Rising Volunteer of the Year for
Volunteer Engagement

National Service-Learning



Super-Volunteer Club "Dituria", Suharekë





Honorable mentions 2025

Public Figure



Ermira Murati

**Public Figure for Leadership and
Community Mobilization in Volunteerism**



Uta Ibrahim

**Public Figure for Impact and
Contribution to Volunteerism**

Lifetime Contribution



Eldita Mullahasani

**Lifetime Contribution Volunteer for
Leadership and Community Mobilization**



Agim Bajrami

**Lifetime Contribution Volunteer for
Impact in Volunteerism**



Honorable mentions 2025

Municipality



Ferizaj
Municipality for Innovation in
Volunteerism



Kamenicë
Municipality for Highest
Impact in Volunteerism



Obiliq
Municipality for Highest
Impact in Volunteerism

Business



StarLabs
Business for Contribution, Impact,
and Innovation in Volunteerism



Tartine L.L.C
Business for Contribution and
Impact in Volunteerism



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!



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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.