Who is TOKA?

TOKA is an organization that has been working on education and skill development for youth in Kosovo since 2015, transforming the lives of more than 30,000 young people through formal and non-formal education activities. These young people have implemented more than 400 volunteer projects in their communities, addressing the needs of thousands of people. TOKA is also the largest organization in Kosovo in terms of the number of engaged volunteers per year, with over 1,000 volunteers actively participating annually.

Purpose of the Donation

Your donation helps NGO TOKA's youth projects—focusing on non-formal education, Experiential Learning, and long-term volunteerism, aiming for positive outcomes and social changes in Kosovo.

The donation contributes to the Non-Formal Education Program through these three projects:

i) ***Service Learning Clubs*** —also known as "Super-Volunteer Clubs," are the most impactful local-level initiatives implemented by TOKA since 2018. A Super-Volunteer Club serves as a second home for 20-25 students (aged 12-15), who meet weekly to learn more about themselves and their community, as well as to plan and implement an Educational Volunteerism project.

Super-Volunteer Clubs are present in 20 municipalities across Kosovo, primarily in rural areas, and for most youth, they represent the only activity they can engage in after school. These clubs transform young people into active citizens and help improve communities.

To date, the Super-Volunteer Clubs have:

- Engaged over 15,000 new members,
- Implemented over 250 community projects benefiting more than 25,000 people,
- Won international awards for their impact and engagement, including first place in the fifth edition of the Regional Service Learning Award in Slovakia in 2024.

ii) ***Solidarity Action Day*** - is the program through which TOKA set regional records in 2023! The idea behind this day is simple—youth work for one day in a business, and their earnings are donated to the Solidarity Day Fund, which supports youth projects. In just one year after piloting, the project has been implemented in partnership with 8 municipalities in Kosovo: Skenderaj, Kamenica, Gjakova, Peja, Ferizaj, Podujeva, Hani i Elezit, and Istog.

In 2024 alone, 500 young people (aged 15-17) participated in the project, working for one day in 100 local businesses and raising the 2024 Solidarity Day Fund of €8,500, dedicated to 8 community projects in the involved municipalities.

Solidarity Day is an ideal opportunity for young people (16-21 years old) as they gain their first work experience, contribute to the community, and improve their employment prospects—with 50% of volunteers being offered job positions after their volunteer engagement.

Overall, Solidarity Day has achieved:
- 1,000 local and diaspora volunteers who have raised nearly €16,000 for the Solidarity Day Fund and over 10 community projects.
- 200 partner businesses that have provided job placements and donations.
- 8 partner municipalities: Skenderaj, Kamenica, Gjakova, Peja, Ferizaj, Podujeva, Hani i Elezit, and Istog.

- Support from the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports (2022-23) and the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Ms. Vjosa Osmani (2023-24).

iii) ***The Volunteerism of the Year Awards*** is TOKA's latest initiative, created to celebrate and support the efforts of individuals and organizations working to make Kosovo a better place. The awards recognize the contributions of young people (aged 15-29), businesses, the diaspora, public figures, teachers, municipalities, informal groups, and NGOs. In its inaugural year, the awards received **100 nominations** from these groups, and at the 2024 ceremony, **8 winners and 7 honorable mentions** were honored for their outstanding contributions.

This campaign has received public support from 50 different stakeholders, including:
- **The Prime Minister of Kosovo:** Mr. Albin Kurti.
- **The President of Kosovo:** Ms. Vjosa Osmani Sadriu.
- **Municipalities:** Ferizaj, Istog, Hani i Elezit, Podujeva, Peja, Suhareka, and Prizren.
- **Diplomatic representations in Kosovo:** The British Embassy, the Swedish Embassy, the Swiss Embassy, and the U.S. Embassy.
- **Local organizations:** 7 Arte, ANIBAR, ATOMI, CDF, CIPOF, DokuFest, Down Syndrome Kosova, EC Ma Ndryshe, ETEA, Foundation 17, Germin, HANDIKOS, ICK, Ipko Foundation, KCSF, Kosova Women 4 Women, KVRL Drenas, KVRL Gjakova, KYC, KQHPSM, Laps, Shoqëria Nënë Tereza, OJQ ZANA, The Hospitality and Tourism Chamber, OMM Gjethi, Orca, QIPS, QKSGJ, RYCO, SHE-ERA, Teach for Kosova, The Ideas Partnership, YIHR.
- **International organizations:** Albinfo, American Advising Center, GAIA, Manchester Aid to Kosovo, Play International, YMCA Kosovo.

Direct Benefits for Participating Youth:
By implementing these activities with young people through TOKA, with your contribution Kosovar youth will benefit in the following ways:
- Development of soft skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, communication, presentation, and more.
- Development of community project planning skills, including conducting interviews with local stakeholders, creating communication maps, budgeting, task distribution, etc.
- Development and demonstration of leadership skills through continuous mentoring by TOKA staff.

Direct Benefits for the Community:
In addition to the direct benefits for young people, your donation from Open Cybernetics SH.P.K. will ensure that the wider community benefits in the following ways:
- Implementation of volunteer work projects within the community and improvement of the current state of youth activism, by engaging and interacting with school students, community members, and more.
- Improvement of local communities (schools, neighborhoods, villages, cities, etc.) through community projects.
- Strengthening of volunteerism and youth activism.
- Enhancement of the implementation of non-formal education methods when working with youth.
- Recognition and empowerment of young people who serve as role models and contributors to Kosovar society through the **Volunteerism of the Year Awards.**

Key costs of the Program:

- Materials for the Club (pens, flip-chart paper, markers, etc) - $50
- Monthly transport costs for Club Mentor visits - $100
- One Service Learning volunteer project - $250
- All expenses for one Service Learning Club (transport, materials, volunteer project, etc) - $500
- Monthly salary of a Club Mentor (employee of TOKA) - $600
- All expenses for implementing Solidarity Action Day in one municipality (transport, materials, workshops, promotion materials) - $1,500
- All expenses for the annual Volunteerism of the Years Awards Conference (venue, food, promotion materials) - $3,000