

WALLETS

OF PARLIAMENTARY POLITICAL ENTITIES 2.0

DECEMBER, 2023





The Kosova Democratic Institute is a branch of Transparency International for Kosovo

KDI's mission is to support the development of participatory democracy and the fight against corruption by promoting transparency, accountability and integrity at all levels and sectors of society.

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INTRODUCTION

In September 2022, the new law on the financing of political entities in Kosovo entered into force. This law has marked progress in terms of transparency and financial accountability of political entities. However, the legislation still contains shortcomings and problems regarding sanctions in case of violations, due to low fines. The issue of (self) financing of candidates, online campaigns and campaigns by third parties remained unregulated as a whole.

Moreover, the secondary legal framework has not been fully consolidated, including the internal regulations of the Office and the CEC on financial control, as well as other acts that are expected to be issued by the Ministry of Finance.

While, in practice, the Office still continues to be without the necessary resources for the exercise of adequate financial control, in the absence of the necessary staff since only three people are still engaged as staff, while the law foresees at least 10 such.

The audit reports of the financial statements of political entities for the year 2022 were published by the CEC at the end of November 2023. Previously, the unaudited reports were published as early as April 2023.

The audit of the annual financial reports was performed by the Office for Registration, Certification and Financial Control of Political Entities, which selected an operator to perform the audit.



Among the political entities



whose annual reports were audited.

24

opinion,

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received a qualified an unqualified a qualified opinion, while the other four received a negative opinion.

WHAT DO THE AUDIT REPORTS OF FINANCES OF POLITICAL ENTITIES SAY?

As every year, the parliamentary political entities during 2022 have received a full 4 million and 200 thousand euros from the public budget, which are divided proportionally with the number of seats in the Assembly.

The auditors engaged by the CEC have been responsible for auditing the annual financial reports of 52 political entities registered with the CEC. Of these, 14 are annual reports of parliamentary political parties - which are beneficiaries of financial resources from the Fund for the Support of Political Entities - which have generally received positive evaluations from the auditors.

Among the parliamentary political entities, four entities received unqualified opinions, xx qualified, xx abstained opinions and the opinion of one political entity was denied.

Unqualified opinions have been received by the Vetëvendosje Movement (LVV), Jedinstvena Goranska Partia (JGP), the VAKAT Coalition (VAKAT), Socialdemokratska Unija (SDU), the Progressive Movement of the Roma of Kosovo (LPRK), Nova Demokratska Stranka (NDS), and the New Democratic Initiative of Kosovo (IRDK), with audit reports that assess that the financial statements and other documents are all in accordance with the law.

Within the parliamentary political entities, the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK), the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK), Srpska Lista (SL), and Kosova Demokratik Turk Partisi (KDTP), have received a qualified opinion, since their reports contained problems, especially regarding rents and bank accounts.

The Democratic Party of Kosovo has received a qualified opinion, based on the lack of financial data and lease contracts that this party has throughout the country. Likewise, this party still has three active bank accounts in different banks (although there have been no financial transactions from them), even though the law clearly states that it must have a single account.

The Democratic League of Kosovo has also received a qualified opinion, due to the problems identified by the auditors regarding accounts payable (in the amount of 75 thousand euros), the non-presentation of contracts related to the headquarters in Prishtina, as well as the existence of a second bank account (even though the closing request has been sent).

For the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo, the qualified opinion highlights problems with the presentation of office rents, emphasizing that although AAK has formally declared 10 branches at the country level, it has presented data on office rents only for the headquarters in Prishtina.

In the qualified opinion for the Serbian List, the audit report emphasizes the lack of internal financial policies for financial management and control, as well as non-compliance with procurement procedures for budget expenditures.

The GUXO party is the only political entity represented in the Assembly, which received an abstained opinion, based on the reporting of zero financial activities throughout the year 2022. Meanwhile, the Ashkali Party for Integration (PAI) received a denial of the opinion, due to of lack of information, non-cooperation and unfair reporting of income and expenses for 2022.

HOW MUCH INCOME HAVE POLITICAL ENTITIES DECLARED?

Parliamentary political entities benefit from public funding of 4.2 million euros every year. These funds are allocated through the Fund for the support of political entities – 3.8 million euros are allocated to political entities, while 400 thousand euros are allocated to the relevant parliamentary groups.

In this legislature, there are a total of 15 parliamentary political entities, which benefit from the Fund. The Vetëvendosje movement, as the largest parliamentary entity, receives 2 million euros every year, followed by the Democratic Party of Kosovo which receives 665 thousand euros, the Democratic League of Kosovo 525 thousand euros, the Serbian List 315 thousand euros, the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo 280 thousand euros, the Turkish Democratic Party of Kosovo 70 thousand euros, as well as other entities¹ with 35 thousand euros each. The vast majority of political entities have declared a budget surplus.

For the year 2022, the Vetëvendosje Movement has declared that it has generated revenues in the amount of 2,052,868.37 euros, of which 1,990,255.10 euros are from the public budget, while around 30 thousand euros are donations.

The Democratic Party of Kosovo has declared about 670 thousand euros in revenues, of which 660 thousand euros are from the public budget. Similarly, the Democratic League of Kosovo has declared revenues of around 500 thousand euros, 487 thousand of which are from the public budget.

The Alliance for the Future of Kosovo and Serbian List are the two parliamentary political entities, all of whose revenues have been declared to come from financing through the public budget. AAK has declared about 280 thousand euros of income for 2022, while the Serbian List about 350 thousand.



¹ Gl za Slobodu Pravdu i Opstanak, Koalicija Vakat, New Democratic Initiative of Kosovo, Romani Iniciyativa, Nova Demokratska Stranka, Socialdemokratska Unija, Ujneštena Goranska Partija, Party of Ashkali for Integration, and Progressive Movement of Kosovo Roma.

HOW MUCH DID THE POLITICAL ENTITIES SPEND IN THE NON-ELECTION YEAR?

Despite 2022 being a non-election year, parliamentary political entities have continued to spend broadly the same – at least on paper. What is observed from the financial reports is that political parties spend more than half of their annual budgets on salaries and compensations. While, despite the obvious expenses in paid political advertising, political entities still continue to report template formats, where detailed data on political advertising is not provided.

The Vetëvendosje Movement has spent over 1.3 million euros, of which over 700,000 are in salaries and compensations. Meanwhile, around 300 thousand euros were spent in the category of general expenses, which include rents of premises and offices. In the category of "advertising, representation and conferences", the Vetëvendosje Movement has declared expenses of 180 thousand euros.

The Democratic Party of Kosovo has spent around 610,000 euros, of which 75% in salaries and compensations. About 150,000 euros were spent on advertising, representation, conferences, rental expenses and other expenses.

The Democratic League of Kosovo has declared expenses in the amount of 430 thousand euros, within which the expenses for salaries and compensations prevail with 280 thousand euros. LDK has declared only about 30,000 euros in expenses for advertising, representation and conferences, while about 60,000 euros for office rent.

Of the approximately 220,000 euros in expenses declared by AAK, over 120,000 were given for salaries and allowances. The rest is stated to have been spent on rent, advertising, representation and conferences, as well as the purchase of office supplies.

The Serbian List has declared expenses of over 210 thousand euros during 2022. However, unlike other parliamen-

tary political entities, only a quarter of the expenses of the Serbian List have gone to salaries and compensations, while half of the budget - over 100 thousand euros - has been spent on cultural and recreational activities.

Payments over 5 thousand euros

The Vetëvendosje Movement is among the few political entities that have declared payments worth 5 thousand euros, with a total of 12 such, reaching a total value of over 110 thousand euros. According to the declared values, mainly these payments were made for daily activities of political entities and measurement of public opinion.

The Democratic Party of Kosovo has reported a total of 6 payments worth more than 5 euros, amounting to more than 80 thousand euros - which includes payments for marketing, legal advice, public opinion research, and others. The Democratic League of Kosovo has declared only two payments over 5 thousand euros, which include cars with leasing, as well as accommodation and tickets.

The Alliance for the Future of Kosovo has declared 11 payments worth more than 5 thousand euros, which reach the total figure of almost 90 thousand euros. Measuring public opinion, salaries, obligations for the 2021 elections and the purchase of IT equipment are the purposes of these payments.

The Serbian list has declared the most payments over 5 thousand euros, with over 20 such, which reach the total value of about 150 thousand euros. What stands out, and which was also evidenced by the audit findings, is that most of these payments are fixed at 5,000 euros for a non-governmental organization and a cultural centre, for the organization and development of trainings/seminars/conferences.

Political entity	Revenues	Expenditures
Vetevendosje Movement	€ 2,052,868.37	€ 1,310,341.74
Democratic Party of Kosovo	€ 674,056.36	€ 613,239.14
Democratic League of Kosovo	€ 497,414.01	€ 431,131.82
Srpska Lista	€ 351,900.00	€ 214,048.18
Alliance for the Future of Kosovo	€ 279,700.00	€ 219,370.78
Kosova Demokratik Turk Partisi	€ 84,306.66	€ 82,959.10
Jedinstvena Goranska Partia	€ 35,000.00	€ 26,839.14
Vakat coalition	€ 35,367.98	€ 45,812.98
Party of Ashkali for Integration	€ 35,000.00	€ 34,979.83
Socialdemokratska Unija	€ 38,415.45	€ 36,925.71
Progressive Movement of the Roma of Kosovo	€ 35,000.00	€ 35,073.67
Nova Demokratska Stranka	€ 35,019.20	€ 36,583.30
New Democratic Initiative of Kosovo	€ 35,431.33	€ 33,736.35
TOTAL	€ 4,189,479.36	€ 3,121,041.74

DONATIONS TO POLITICAL ENTITIES

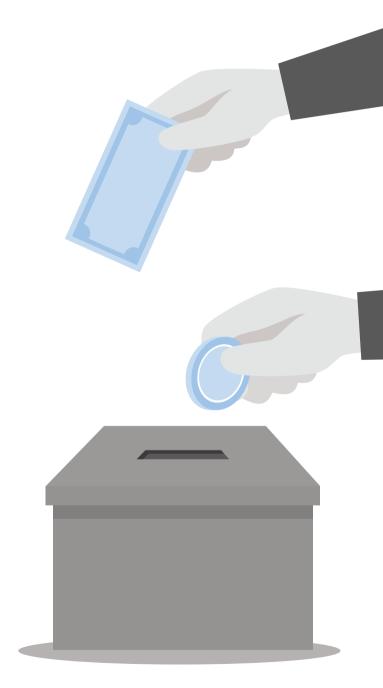
Political entities are allowed to accept donations from natural and legal persons, subject to limits set for the total amount that can be accepted within a calendar year. For natural persons, the limit is 2 thousand euros within a calendar year, while for legal entities 10 thousand euros within a calendar year. Contributions in kind are also included in this limitation.

However, political entities continue to generally not report in-kind contributions. This phenomenon, together with that of donations from members of political entities, are quite expressed in the context of political financing in Kosovo. Meanwhile, the part of the candidates' self-financing is not reported at all in the candidates' financial statements.

The Vetëvendosje Movement is the political entity that has declared the most donations, namely 180, worth about 30 thousand euros - half less than in the previous year. Almost all the donations reported by the Vetëvendosje Movement are from members - including MPs, ministers or municipal councillors - who have offered donations in different amounts throughout the year, although the Vetëvendosje Movement has declared a surplus of around 750 thousand euros for 2022.

The Democratic Party of Kosovo has declared only one donation in the amount of 1,000 euros. The Democratic League of Kosovo is the same, with only one declared donation, in the amount of 1,000 euros. The Alliance for the Future of Kosovo and the Serbian List have not declared any donations received.

The Vetëvendosje Movement is the only political entity that has declared that it has received contributions in kind, albeit of minimal value - of around 5 thousand euros.



GENDER BUDGETING

Despite the fact that parliamentary political subjects had revenues of 4.2 million euros throughout 2022, as well as expenses of 3.1 million euros, none of them have allocated separate lines for forums or other units of women's organization. In fact, in the absence of details on expenses, there is no information on how many of the activities organized by political subjects were activities of women's forums. However, according to the statements of the officials of the political entities, apart from the fact that within the parties there are no special funding lines for the activities of women's forums, even those that are organized are usually co-financed or organized by international or local organizations, in the form of trainings or workshops for increasing capacities.



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