







NARRATIVE REPORT



THE KOSICT FESTIVAL KICKED OFF
ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY WITH OVER
50 SPEAKERS AND OVER 800
PHYSICAL PARTICIPANTS,
REAFFIRMING ITSELF AS ONE OF THE
LEADING VENUES IN THE REGION FOR
EXCHANGING AND PROMOTING
TECHNOLOGY IDEAS.

A DECADE KOSICT WAS CELEBRATED IN PRIZREN, AND WAS POWERED BY USAID COMPETE.

BETWEEN 22 AND 23 OCTOBER 2021,
TOP DECISION MAKERS AND
OFFICIALS, COMPANY EXECUTIVES,
STARTUP DEVELOPERS AND WELLKNOWN EXPERTS FROM VARIOUS
TECHNOLOGY SECTORS SHARED THEIR
VISION AND BEST PRACTICES WITH
PARTICIPANTS WITH DIVERSE
BACKGROUNDS AND PROFESSIONS.





KOSICT X EDITION























WHAT IS KOSICT?

KosICT is a tech festival which held its first edition in 2012 with the aim of bridging the gap between the local and international **ICT** markets by highlighting and bringing the latest technological trends and developments to the Balkans, through local, regional and international experts who would share their experiences and knowledge with the audience comprised out of software developers, ICT enthusiasts and experts, C-level Executives, Academia Representatives and Students.

Another very important goal of the KosICT tech festival is to **promote the local ICT sector** on an international scale through visitors from international companies attending KosICT, our partner associations and renowned speakers that grace the stages of KosICT and act as ambassadors for Kosovo and the local ICT sector by promoting their experience here to their colleagues, business partners, etc.

As a technology festival, KosICT is enriched by a few different elements including two conference format stages highlighting some of the latest topics and trends in the ICT industry, an innovation fair focusing on some of the most prominent start-ups, a company and VET provider's Fair and a brokerage event bringing together local & international businesses, a future developer's corner, and last but certainly not least, two eSports tournaments highlighting the talents among STIKK member companies (CSR Tournament and a professional one) with the aim of promoting the gaming community in Kosovo.





X EDITION SUMMARY

During the two days of the festival, a total of **54 speakers** (18 international and 36 local) explored topics like: eCommerce, CyberSecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analysis, Internet of Things, Industry 4.0, Digitalization, Diaspora involvement, Women in Tech and many more.

The KosICT tech festival was attended by over 5500 participants in three various platforms; KosICT Web Platform (3023 visitors), YouTube (1654 views) and physically attended by 823 persons (251 women).













Continuing the tradition of supporting and promoting promising Start-Up's, KosICT once again welcomed the Innovation Fair, where 14 Start-Up's highlighted their work. A total of 5 ICT companies and 2 VET providers were part of the Companies Fair, while 30 kids from Shkolla Digjitale, J-Coders and Robotics Lab of Finnish school were part of Future developers Corner, sponsored by Vigan Group.

The Brokerage Event organized under the umbrella of Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) brought together 35 local and international businesses for two days of 34 private meetings and potential partnership explorations.

Two E-gaming tournaments were part of the festival as well.





SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

FACEBOOK STATS - KOSICT

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POSTS ABOUT KOSICT: 89

USERS REACHED: 162,121

FACEBOOK STATS - STIKK

POSTS ABOUT KOSICT: 29

USERS REACHED: 23,493



LINKEDIN STATS - KOSICT



POSTS ABOUT KOSICT: 16

USERS REACHED: 12,536

LINKEDIN STATS - STIKK

POSTS ABOUT KOSICT: 15

USERS REACHED: 9,812



INSTAGRAM STATS - KOSICT



POSTS ABOUT KOSICT: 33

USERS REACHED: 16,674

INSTAGRAM STATS - STIKK

POSTS ABOUT KOSICT: 28

USERS REACHED: 5,005



TOTAL REACH

229,641







MAIN STAGE

AGENDA: 22 OCT, 2021 (DAY 1)

10:00 OPENING REMARKS

Donjeta Sahatçiu - STIKK - President of the Board Albin Kurti – Prime Minister of Republic of Kosovo Jörn Rohde – German Ambassador to Kosovo Zeinah Salahi - USAID Kosovo Mission Director

10:30 CYBERSECURITY: A CHALLENGE AND AN **OPPORTUNITY**

Moderator: Mr. Kujtim Dobruna – ACCESS Tony Pietrocola - AGILEBLUE Butrint Komoni – VOID International TBC Granit Beka – PBC

Blerim Rexha - University of Prishtina Xhavit Gashi - Cacttus



11:15 THE GERMAN IT SME SOFTWARE INDUSTRY AS AN **OPPORTUNITY FOR KOSOVAR IT DEVELOPERS**

Tarek Annan - DigiKompass Albert Vallendar – Job Impulse GmbH

13:15 KOSOVO DIGITAL AGENDA 2030 & DIGITAL **INNOVATION**

Moderator: Ahmet Jetullahu – Prishtina REA

Vesna Prodnik - Vaffer [Virtual] Ratja Mohar Bastar – Digital HUB [Virtual] el Artane Rizvanolli – Ministry of Economic Development, Republic of Kosovo







13:45 HOW A SPONTANEOUS SOLUTION EVOLVED INTO A BUSINESS SOLUTION [KEYNOTE] VIGAN

Arjodita Mustali - Vigàn



State of giants.







MAIN STAGE

AGENDA: 22 OCT, 2021 (DAY 1)

14:15 DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION READINESS

Michael Mann - Innovate Jordan

15:00 BETTER TOGETHER: DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM **DEVELOPMENT**

Simon Floeth - Head of Digital Transformation Center in ITP Prizren Muhamed Rexhepi - ITP Prizren ussion Panel Driton Hapçiu - Entrepreneur / Consultant Enis Qafëleshi - Makerspace Prizren



15:45 FREE & OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE IN BUSINESS

Alex Braun - AXXITE Business Consulting

17:00 THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLIED RESEARCH FOR **INNOVATION IN INDUSTRY**

Arianit Kurti - Linnaeus University

17:30 THE STORY OF ISRAEL AS A START-UP NATION [KEYNOTE]

Arianit Kurti - Linnaeus University







MAIN STAGE

AGENDA: 23 OCT, 2021 (DAY 2)

10:00 IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE & PUBLIC SECTORS

Moderator: Durim Hoxha - ACCESS
Burim Balaj - Agency of Information Society
Arianit Fazliu - Kutia
Zana Tabaku - AppDec
Lulezon Jagxhiu - Advisor to the Prime Minister on Information Technology



10:45 THE POWER OF LIGHT: THE ERA OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION IN OPTICS

Zeev Zalevsky - Bar-Ilan University, Israel

11:15 START-UP INVESTMENT

Moderator: Mr. Valon Canhasi - Hallakate Ardian Hoxha - Keiretsu Forum Leonora Kusari - EBRD Visar Dobroshi - Recura



11:45 DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: PERCEPTION VS REALITY

Melinda Pacolli - Professor & Digital Transformation Expert

13:00 THE LATEST INNOVATION IN THE BANKING MARKET, 100% ONLINE ACCOUNT OPENING

Moderator: Ermal Sadiku - Linkplus IT TBC
Erblina Byci - ProCredit Bank
Andrei Georgescu - QUIPU
Agim Kukaj - Ministry of Economy, Republic of Kosovo









AGENDA: 23 OCT, 2021 (DAY 2)

13:45 WOMEN ENTREPRENEURISM AND ITS IMPACT IN THE INDUSTRY

Moderator: Alejtin Berisha - Finnish School International Zana Tabaku - President of WIT Cluster Arta Shehu-Zajmi - Labbox nel Donjeta Sahatçiu - Rrota Ms. Zana Budima - SQA Consulting SEE

SPONSORED TOPIC

14:30 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & CREATIVE **INDUSTRIES IN KOSOVO**

Moderator: Veton Rasapom Ioannis Kikkis - EU IPR Project Zjarrta Osmani - Kosovo National Audit Office

15:00 TEACHING ONLINE AT THE RIGHT LEVEL

Antigona Uka - Kosovo Center for Distance Learning

15:45 ENTREPRENEURSHIP & BUSINESS GROWTH

Albion Sutaj - Kutia

17:00 ECOSYSTEMS NEED ECOLEADERS

Drenusha Shehu - Raiffeisen Bank







AGENDA: 22 OCT, 2021 (DAY 1)

SOFTWARE AS A TOOL FOR THE 10:30 DIGITALIZATION OF HR PROCESSESS

Berat Recica - Evro Target







DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF 11:00 BUSINESSES

Ahmet Jetullahu - Prishtina REA

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL 11:30 CYBERSECURITY (RESILIENCE) ECOSYSTEM







SPONSORED TOPIC

Blerton Abazi - University for Business & Technology (UBT)

TRANSFORMATION OF THE EDUCATION 13:00 **SYSTEM TO A DIGITAL ERA**

Daniele Cristian Passalacqua - LuxDev

API DEVELOPMENT WITH SPRING BOOT 13:30 & KOTLIN

Manuel Bogner - OpenResearch GmbH



SPONSORED TOPIC





HACKATHON: ICT FOR KOSOVO'S 14:00 GROWTH

DOTA 2, KOSICT CHAMPIONS 17:00











AGENDA: 23 OCT, 2021 (DAY 2)

HOW BUSINESSES FROM DIASPORA 10:00 AFFECT KOSOVS'S GDP

Moderator: Dior Halili - USAID Compete Kujtim Tali - 3CIS Fitim Rama - PECB Vigan Disha - SPEEX Berat Recica - EvroTarget



BRAIN DRAIN TO BRAIN GAIN 10:45

Aleksandar Prelevic - Montenegrin ICT Cluster

THE FUTURE OF E-COMMERCE 11:15

Vjosa Shala Sahiti - Nerdy Creative

ORGANIZATION HEALTHY CHECK 11:45

Driton Bejtullahu - Be Consulted

CS:GO CHAMPIONS - CHARITY TOURNAMENT 13:00



Grand Finals

DOTA 2, KOSICT CHAMPIONS 14:30



Semi & Grand Finals (Professional eSports Tournament









The main stage of the 10th edition of KosICT was moderated Global Public Speaking & TEDx Coach, Peter Hopwood who officially opened the festival by highlighting some of the main topics to be discussed over the two days. The welcoming note for the audience was made by the President of the Board of Directors of Kosovo ICT Association (STIKK), Ms. Donjeta Sahatçiu who also gave a brief description of the path and achievements of KosICT over the last 10 years.





The 10th edition of KoslCT was honored by the presence of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Albin Kurti who spoke about the support the government has extended to the ICT community in Kosovo, as well as, some of the future plans related to the growth of the local ICT industry. The floor was then passed to the German Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, Joern Rohde who highlighted the potential of digitalization and ICT industry for the development of Kosovo and the whole region. His remarks were followed by USAID Kosovo Mission Director, Zeina Salahi.

"Events like KoslCT demonstrate the path to Kosovo's economic development and self-sufficiency as one in which all of us play e key role. This is not only an important event for the ICT community but also for the private sector, diaspora, government, academia, associations, civil society, donors and other stakeholders in the region. I urge you all to take advantage of this forum", said Ms. Salahi.









The first discussion panel of the 10th edition concentrated on the topic of Cybersecurity and was sponsored by ACCESS (Austrian Development Agency). The discussion was moderated by Mr. Kujtim Dobruna from ACCESS and the panelists who participated were Mr. Butrint Komoni from Void International, Mr. Granit Beka from PCB, Mr. Blerim Rexha from University of Pristina, Mr. Xhavit Gashi from Cactus and virtually Mr. Tony Pietrocola form Agileblu. The discussion aimed at looking Cybersicurity from two points of views, as a challenge and as an opportunity.

The discussion panel was followed by a presentation on: The German IT SME software industry as an opportunity for Kosovar IT developers by Tarek Annan founder of DigiKompass and Mr. Albert Vallendar, CEO of Job Impulse GmbH.





The next discussion panel focused on Kosovo Digital Agenda 2030 & Digital Innovation. The panel was moderated by Mr. Ahmet Jetullahu from Prishtina REA and the contributors to the discussion were Kosovo's Minister of Economic Development Artane Rizvanolli and virtually Ms. Vesna Prodnik, CEO of Vaffer LTD and Ms. Katja Mohar Bastar, director of Digital HUB Slovenia. This panel discussion was sponsored by ICT for Kosovo's Growth.

Next was delivered the first keynote of the 10th edition, by Ms. Arjodita Mustali, founder of Vigan Group who revealed to the audience, how a spontaneous solution evolved into a business solution, a topic she is an expert as a co-founder of 5 enterprises over the last years.









Three further presentations enriched the program of the first day at KoslCT, the first focusing on Digital Transformation Readiness, the second on Free & Open-Source Software in Business and the third on The importance of applied research for innovation in industry. These topics were discussed by experts of the above-mentioned fields including: Michael Mann, team leader of the Innovate Jordan program, Axel Braun, COE of Axxite Business Consulting and Dr. Arianit Kurti, associate professor and head of informatics department at Linnaeus University in Sweden.





A further topic, Better together: Digital Ecosystem Development, sponsored by ITP Prizren, was brought forward by Mr. Simon Floeth, Head of Digital Transformation Center in ITP Prizren Mr. Muhamed Rexhepi from ITP Prizren, Mr. Driton Hapçiu ICT sector lead at USAID Compete and Mr. Enis Qafëleshi, executive director of Makerspace Prizren.

The first day at the Pro Credit Bank MAIN STAGE was concluded with a keynote in regards The story of Israel as a startup nation by Mr. Michael Mizrahi, head of the research, innovation and entrepreneurship authority at the Azrieli Academic College of Engineering in Jerusalem.









The second day of presentations and discussions at the Pro Credit Bank MAIN STAGE kicked off with a discussion panel on the importance of digital transformation for the development of private & public sectors, that brought together four distinguished speakers, Mr. Burim Balaj Head of Directorate for Rationalization of Administrative Porcesses at Agency of Information Society, Mr. Arianit Fazliu, CEO of Kutia, Ms. Zana Tabaku, CEO of APPDEC and Mr. Lulezon Jagxhiu Advisor to the Prime Minister on Information Technology. The panel was moderated by Mr. Durim Hoxha from ACCESS which also sponsored it.

Two further discussion panels sponsored by **USAID Compete** explored topics such as Start-up investment and Woman entrepreneurism and its impact in the industry. The panels were respectively moderated by Mr. Valon Canhasi CEO of Hallakate and Mr. Alejtin Berisha, Executive Chairman of Finnish Schools International. In the discussion participated experts of the abovementioned topics such as, Mr. Ardian Hoxha founder and Chapter President of the Keiretsu Forum SEE, Ms. Leonora Kusari, Regional Coordinator of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Mr. Visar Dobroshi Managing Partner in RECURA Financials, Ms. Zana Tabaku, President of WIT Cluster, Ms. Arta Shehu-Zajmi founder of Labbox and Ms. Donjeta Sahatçiu, CEO of Rrota Ms. Zana Budima CEO of SQA Consulting SEE.





Continuing with the theme of entrepreneurship, Mr. Zeev Zalevsky, Professor of electrical engineering and nanophotonics at Bar Ilan University gave a presentation on The power of light: The era of entrepreneurship and innovation in optics while Mr. Albion Sutaj, CEO of Kutia held a speech on Entrepreneurship & Business Growth. A discussion panel on the latest innovation in the banking market, 100% Online Account Opening was sponsored by Pro Credit Bank. The discussion brought together, Mr. Agim Kukaj, director of Department of Post-Telecommunications and Information Technology at Kosovo's Ministry of Economy, Ms. Erblina Byci, Head of Digital Channels and Business Support at Pro Credit Bank Kosovo and Mr. Andrei Georgescu, Member of the Board of Administration at Pro Credit Bank Romania and Managing Director at Quipu GmbH.









Focusing on Kosovo, a panel moderated by Communication expert, Mr. Veton Kasapolli, discussed on the topic of Intellectual Property & Creative Industries in Kosovo. The contributors to the discussion were Mr. Ioannis Kikkis, expert on EU IPR Project and Ms. Zjarrta Osmani Senior Officer at Kosovo National Audit Office.

A few of the other topics covered during the second day of the 10th edition of KosICT at the Pro Credit Bank MAIN STAGE included: Digital Transformation: Perception vs Reality, Teaching Online and the need of Ecosystems for Ecoleaders. The abovementioned topics were presented respectively by Ms. Melinda Pacolli, Professor & Digital Transformation Expert, Ms. Antigona Uka, Executive Director of Kosovo Center for Distance Learning and Ms. Drenusha Shehu, Aglie Coach at Raiffeisen Bank.





The 10th edition of KoslCT tech festival was brought to a close by the executive director of Kosovo ICT Association (STIKK), Ms. Vjollca Çavolli, who as the organizer of KoslCT thanked the speakers, sponsors & partners and the whole team for putting together the first edition after the difficult situation that was created by the Covid-19 pandemic.











Kutia DEVELOPERS STAGE focused on technical presentations offering insight into some of the latest programming languages, new features and developments, as well as, highlighted detailed technical aspects of topics like: Software as a tool for the digitalization of HR processes, Social Media as a tool for eCommerce, API development with Spring Boot & Kotlin, Brain drain to Brain Gain, The Future of eCommerce and Organization Healthy Check.





A discussion panel on How businesses from diaspora affect Kosovs's GDP, sponsored by the USAID Compete, brought together panelists Mr. Kujtim Tali, board chairman of 3CS, Mr. Fitim Rama deputy director at PECB, Mr. Vigan Disha managing director at SPEEX education and Mr. Berat Reçica business Unit Manager within evroTarget LLC. The panel was moderated by Mr. Dior Halili, Skills Development Specialist at USAID Compete Activity.







A few of the other topics covered at the Kutia DEVELOPERS STAGE included: Digital transformation of businesses, Establishing a national cybersecurity ecosystem and Transformation of the education system to a digital era. All these topics were sponsored by the ICT for Kosovo's Growth project.





Apart from the many interesting topics discussed during in the Kutia DEVELOPERS STAGE over two days, one of the events that attracted attention was the HACKATHON where the floor was left to six teams who presented digital solutions for helping the promotion of tourism. Altina Rexha and Dafina Elshani, two newly graduated software developers won first prize for their web application which aimed at helping artisans promote high quality products. The Hackathon was sponsored by ICT for Kosovo's Growth project.















Continuing the tradition of promoting and promoting professional and competitive games, for the 10th edition, KosICT in cooperation with Xportal eSports, organized the CS:GO Charity Tournament, and DOTA2 KosICT Champions Professional tournament.

CS:GO Charity Tournament was organized between 10 teams from ICT companies. Team Starlabs and Frakton made it to the final that was held during the second day of KosICT Festival. Team Starlabs won the tournament. The winning team would chose the beneficiary of the donation for the charity.





DOTA2 KosICT Champions Professional tournament brought together the best DOTA2 players in Kosovo and the region for battle and prize final of 3,000 Euros. The four best teams from the qualifiers played the semifinals and the grand final during the two days of KosICT.









FUTURE DEVELOPERS

In this edition of KoslCT was organized the children's corner "Future Developers". Young ICT enthusiasts aged 6 to 16 years old, presented their work and highlight their skills on the stages of KoslCT.

30 kids from Shkolla Digjitale, J-Coders and Robotics Lab of Finnish school were part of Future Developers Corner, sponsored by Vigan Group.

The jury selected by the organizers of KoslCT evaluated their projects, and made the selection of the first three awards.

Also J-Coders donated 30 lab box kits for all the participants in the Future Developers Corner while SQA Consulting provided the price for the winning teams, a Mana monthly subscription card.







INOVATION FAIR

Continuing the tradition of supporting and promoting the work of promising regional startups, coming from the Kosovo Innovation Center (ICK), another important part of the tenth edition of KosICT was innovation fair. 14 new and innovative startup companies, were presented at this year's fair.

During the two days of the festival, the selected startups had the opportunity to tell more about their work, passion for technology and entrepreneurship and discuss with participants about potential products and investments. Also, one of the stands of the innovation fair was reserved for the ICT project for Kosovo's Growth, in which they focused on the main goals of the project and the participants had the opportunity to be informed about the different parts of the project and how they can benefit from it.

The following Start-Up companies have participated in the Innovation Fair of the tenth edition of the KosICT technology festival.









COMPANIES FAIR

During the two days of the festival, 5 ICT Companies and 2 VET providers had the opportunity to tell more about their work and discuss with participants about potential products and investments.

The following companies have participated in the Companies Fair of the tenth edition of the KoslCT technology festival.















Polar Bear Agency





BROKERAGE EVENT

The Brokerage Event organized under the umbrella of Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) brought together 35 local and international businesses for two days of 34 private meetings and potential partnership explorations.

Participating companies had the opportunity to arrange private meetings and explore opportunities for potential collaborations and partnerships.

This event was organized in collaboration with:









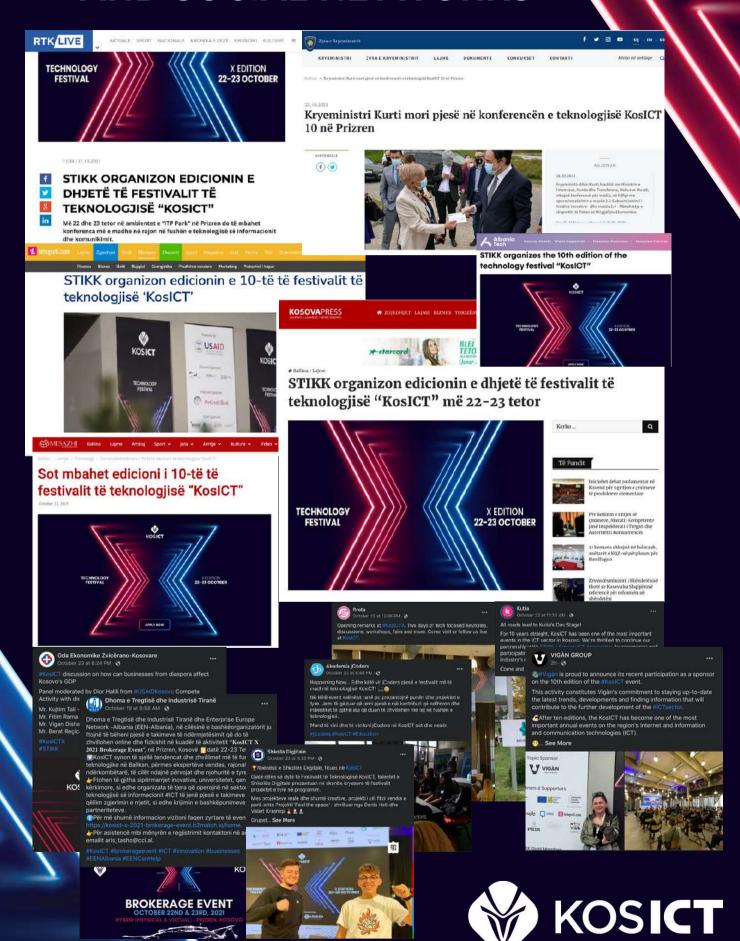








PRESENCE IN MEDIA AND SOCIAL NETWORKS





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