

# Kosovo's Culture, Youth and Sport

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## Minister Krasniqi officially received the archaeological artifacts of Kosovo recovered in Germany

Seven archaeological artifacts of Kosovo recovered in Germany have been delivered to the Kosovo institutions. The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, at an official ceremony, today received the seven artifacts from the Minister of Science and Arts of the Essen

State, Germany, Eva Kuhne Hormann.

Artifacts were recovered precisely in this part of Germany. Minister Krasniqi expressed gratitude to the Minister of Science and Arts of Essen, for the care they exhibited towards Kosovo artifacts, stating that the gesture

is a testimony to the high culture of the German people. He said that this should serve as an example, especially for the state of Serbia, to return more than one thousand artifacts of Kosovo, taken from the Museum of Kosovo in 1999.

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Ulpiana- Pristina



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## Minister Krasniqi officially received the archaeological artifacts of Kosovo recovered in Germany

➤ *Continued from front page*

“Firstly, on behalf of the people of the Republic of Kosovo and secondly, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, I would wish to thank you for the care you have shown, along with our deepest regard for your generosity and consideration. The treatment of the artifacts indicates that they were at the hands of the people and the country of a very high culture, who appreciate how important and special they are. We hope that the return of these archeological artifacts in the area where they existed with its people for thousands of years, will only serve as a starting point, as many other artifacts were found in the Republic of Kosovo but were unjustly taken away.

The Museum of Kosovo has been emptied in the year 1999 and many artifacts were taken, however their memory will always remain at the place where they slept for thousands of years. I wish and hope that they will soon be returned soon”, he said during the ceremony. The Minister said that the return of these seven artifacts

in Kosovo is an extraordinary event for a country now entering its sixth year of independence.

“The value of archaeological findings is extraordinary for a state that aims to create a beautiful image for other countries and people. Therefore, any cultural artifact that belongs to the Republic of Kosovo is treated with special care, as it is its own property. Returning of artifacts to their place of origin is good news for all citizens and its state institutions. In fact, correctly speaking, I could really use the word Repatriation because the homeland of ‘The Goddess on the Throne’ and six other objects is the Republic of Kosovo, the place where they were so skillfully crafted thousands of years ago”.

On the other hand, the Minister of Science and Arts of the State of Essen, Eva Kuhne Hermann, said she was very happy to have been able to find and carefully preserve an important part of the history of Kosovo. She said, among other things, that they have preserved a history of a country, but also respected UNESCO Conventions.

Cultural heritage is an important part of a country’s identity, and in this case, she stated that its preservation is very significant.

Minister Krasniqi was accompanied to this ceremony by President of the Commission for Education, Culture, Youth, Sports, Public Administration, Local Government and Media, Idriz Vehapi, Director of Museum, Shafi Gashi and Director of the Institute of Archaeology of Kosovo, Enver Rexha. Present at the ceremony was also the Ambassador Kosovo to Berlin, Skender Xhakaliu.

The artifacts will be returned to Kosovo after two days and will be preserved at the Museum of Kosovo. The artifacts belong to the culture of Vinces, dating back to middle sub-neolith, 3500 – 4000 years BC. One of the most interesting artifacts of the total of seven is a figure resembling “The Goddess on the Throne” already located in the Museum of Kosovo, which was returned from Belgrade in 2001. “The Goddess on the Throne” found in Germany is higher than the one in Kosovo. Its height is estimated at 21.5cm. ■



# Archaeological artefacts return

## Minister Krasniqi: Let's preserve our o



**T**he Museum of Kosovo has today been enriched by seven archaeological artefacts, among which a model of “Goddess on the Throne”, at 21.5 cm height. At a ceremony organized by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports at the Museum of Kosovo, seven archaeological artefacts recovered in Germany have been introduced.

The Ambassador of Germany to Kosovo, Peter Blomeyer, the Ambassador of France to Kosovo, Maryse Daviet, Head of Greece Liaison Office to Kosovo, Dimitris Moschopoulos, were all present at the unveiling of the artefacts, along with other representatives of local and international institutions.

In his speech, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi said that he felt very happy that a part of its cultural treasure has now been returned to Kosovo. He expressed gratitude for the Ministry of Science and Arts in Hessen, the police of this State for

the immense care they have shown to the artefacts, which, in Minister's view, speaks of the culture of a people and a country, such as Germany.

He said that this was an example to be emulated by many other countries. “Above all, by Serbia, who in 1999 emptied this Museum, collecting more than 1,200 archaeological and ethnological pieces, which it has been reluctant to return for 13 years”.

“We will never relent in our pursuit to recover all the cultural treasure of our country; quite the contrary, we will step up our efforts to ensure that the stolen artefacts are returned here, along with the seven returned artefacts from Germany”, he said.

Minister Krasniqi said that Kosova has a rich archaeological, ethnological and architectural heritage. Hence, said the Minister, MYCS increased its overall budget for heritage, ranking it among its top priorities.

Stressing the importance of the return of these seven artefacts, Minister Krasniqi said that the society and its institutions now had other obligations.

“One of such obligations is to preserve and protect our heritage and our cultural diversity. If these artefacts were preserved for years into the Kosovo ground, and were then preserved with tremendous care by our German friends and subsequently handed over to us with utmost respect, today it is our opportunity and responsibility to guard these artefacts with jealousy. Not only these, but any other monuments, any small bits, howsoever small, of our cultural treasure”, he urged.

The Minister awarded a token of appreciation to the Ministry of Science and Arts of the State of Hessen, the Police authorities of Frankfurt and Hessen, for their contribution to the entire process of recovery, preservation and re-

# Returned from Germany unveiled own heritage carefully and responsibly

turn of the artefacts.

The German Ambassador in Kosovo, Peter Blomerey, said that return of these artefacts was a very happy occasion for both Kosovo and Germany. He said that the event was a testimony to the cooperation that had developed between the two countries. "It is also a sign of good cooperation between Kosovo and Germany, which represents another occasion for happiness."

"As the Ambassador of Germany, I am very happy of the cultural cooperation that has developed between our two countries. Last year, we signed an agreement of cultural cooperation between our two countries. Since 2008, there were German archaeologists that worked in Ulpiana, while now we have this successful transfer. I am confident that our cooperation will



**Ekhard Laufner**

increase further", he said.

Erckard Laufner, a police officer

from Hessen assigned to cases related to damage and theft of heritage monuments, said that he felt happy that artefacts of Kosovo, stolen several years ago, have now been returned to their rightful place.

"It is also a great pleasure for me to have been invited by the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo as a representative of the State of Hessen to deliver these remarks. Since 1970, Germany had to deal with the issue of artefacts theft inside its territory, while a special issue is also trade of archaeological artefacts from various countries."

The trade of archaeological heritage pieces returned to Kosovo today, previously destined for Hessen and Bayern, has been successfully thwarted and concluded with the return of artefacts to their home", he said. The returned artefacts, which will now become the part of the archaeological treasure of Kosovo, preserved in a Museum, belong to the culture of Vince, dating back to the mid-neolith period, 3500-4000 years BC. ■



# Majlinda struck gold in Dusseldorf

**M**ajlinda Kelmendi added another medal to her trophy stand. On Saturday, the best Kosovar sportswoman won the gold medal in Grand Prix Dusseldorf, and enriched her gold medal collection, which she won during her career as junior and senior competitor.

World media had only words of admiration for the 21 year old sportswoman, who beat the Rumanian Andreea Chitu in the finals for her first career gold medal, after the silver in Paris.

The official website of the International Judo Federation (IJF), dedicated a whole story to the winners of the event in Germany, while praising Peja judo fighter, who excelled in the 52 kg category.

“The Saturday’s final saw Andreea Chitu (ROU) and Majlinda Kelmendi (KOS) pitted against each other. After more than two minutes of fight, Kelmendi found the first big opportunity to put her oppo-

nent out of balance and she scored waza-ari with an almost perfect o-uchi-gari” the website writes<sup>1</sup>.

With such an advantage on the scoreboard, Kelmendi could control the rest of the final and win one more major IJF event to be added in her already long prize list. Majlinda qualified for the final again, but this time won the gold”, the writing continues.

In addition, the media giant Euronews dedicate a feature story to well-known Kosovar sportswoman, which says that she excelled in Germany. “Majlinda Kelmendi put on a wonderful performance, by winning gold in Dusseldorf. The 21 year old was unstoppable, beating the Rumanian Andreea Chitu in the finals”.

Also, the website insidethegames.biz writes that her success in Dusseldorf helped Kelmendi her forget from the disappointment in Olympics ‘London 2012’. “She recovered after the Olympics and took to the finals, beating Andreea

Chitu. During the medal award ceremony, Majlinda Kelmendi was seen shedding tears of emotion”, says the website.

Coach Driton Kuka hailed the success of her judo fighter, stating it was Majlinda’s biggest success yet in her career. Kuka stated that along with her gold medal, Majlinda also won 300 other points. According to him, the judo fighter from Peja will rank in the first two spots in the world judo rankings (presently third).

Unlike Majlinda, the other Kosovar judo fighter Nora Gjakova failed to qualify past the second round -57 kg, after suffering defeat by Megumi Ishikawa from Japan. ‘Grand Prix’ Dusseldorf is one of the most important judo events in the world. ■

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.worldjudoday.com/en/IJF-news-7-GP-Dusseldorf-DAY-1-96.htm-?nc=14&e=bm1lc3NuZXJAcWpmLm9y-Zw%3D%3D>





Sokolica Monastery - Zvecan



## Kosovo and Macedonia sign an agreement for cultural cooperation

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in Prishtina, Mr. Memli Krasniqi, signed a cooperation agreement in the area of culture with the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia, Ms. Elizabeta Kancheska Milevska.

The purpose of this agreement is to enhance the cooperation between the two countries in the area of film, music, theatre, literature, visual arts and among others, entails extending cooperation to the area of youth and cultural heritage.

In addition, the agreement provides for the possibility of Exchange of best practices of cultural cooperation at experts level, cooperation in the area of legislation, encourage

and Exchange information on culture between the two countries and undertake measures to facilitate study and research in the area of culture and cultural heritage.

At the press conference following the signing of agreement, the Minister of Culture, Memli Krasniqi stated that the agreement represented continued enhancement of cultural cooperation and boost the relations between two countries in many areas of culture. He stressed that: "Republic of Kosovo and Republic of Macedonia are making another step ahead towards strengthening the relations as two countries. We are neighbours on their journey towards European

integration and strengthening the cooperation between us is undoubtedly essential for our countries to develop and ensure a smooth and expedient journey towards integration".

Among others, he stated that the agreement will seek to encourage other culture mechanism in the civil society sector, to which we will continue to extend cooperation and undertake joint initiatives for various activities in relevant areas.

Minister Krasniqi declared that signing the cooperation agreement with the Republic of Macedonia is a continuation of a process the Ministry embarked upon with the aim of signing agreements of cultural cooperation with various countries of the world.

On the other hand, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia, Elizabeta Kancheska - Milevska, who on an official visit to Kosovo for the first time, was pleased and grateful with reception that was extended and said that the cooperation between our two countries continues to deepen through the signing of this agreement on cultural cooperation. She further added: "The agreement signed today represents deepening of mutual cultural cooperation and on concrete projects. I take this opportunity to inform you that the

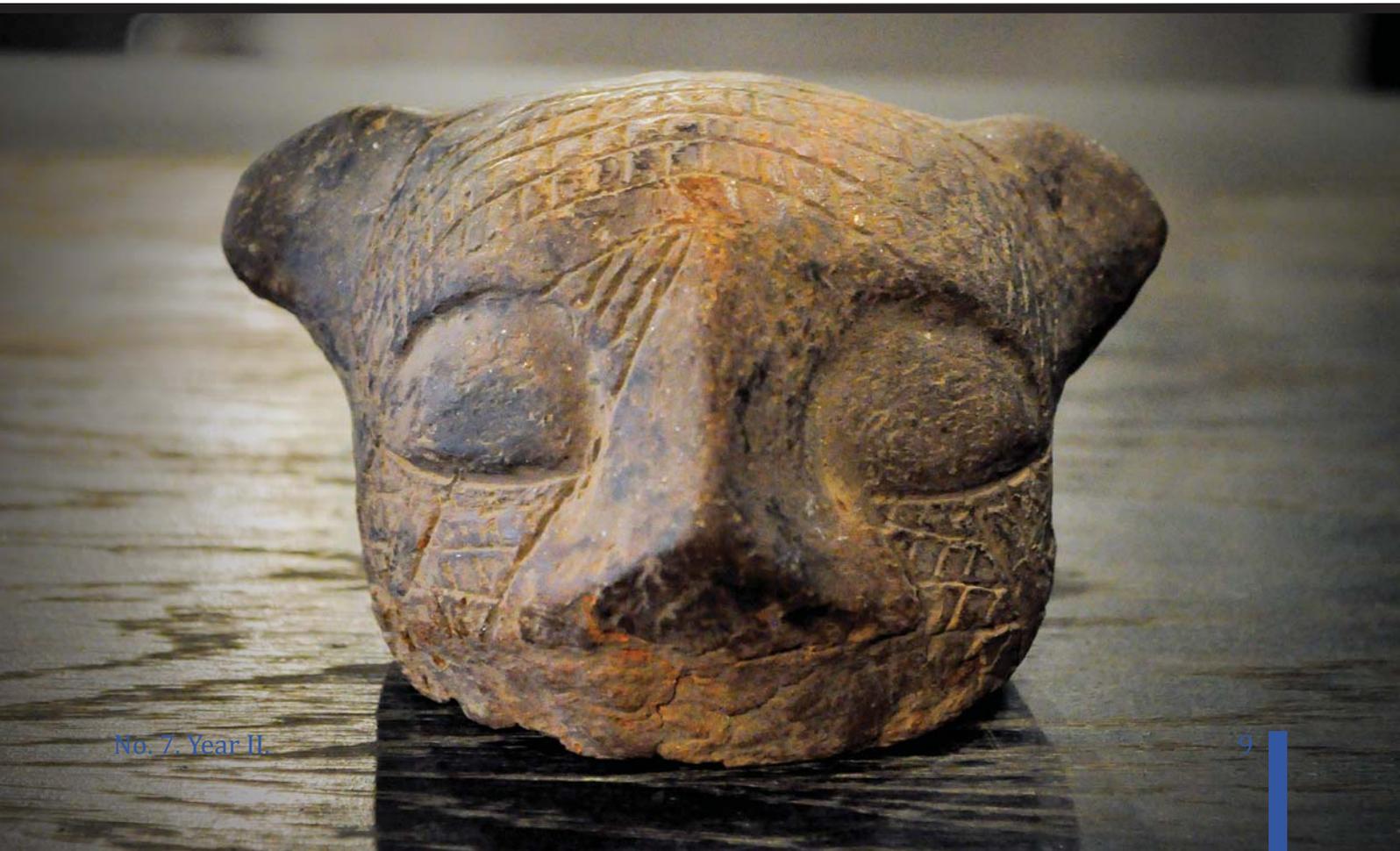




cooperation between Macedonia and Kosovo to date was aimed at implementation of many different projects, such as exchange of participation of artists from Macedonia and Kosovo, coordination of activities, holding exhibitions, cooperation between our philharmonics and our theatres, as well as the cooperation for participating at various events."

She further stressed that her country remains open to cooperation with the Republic of Kosovo and expressed trust that signing of this agreement would help ensure implementation at a higher institution level, adding that she had already proposed projects to which Minister Krasniqi had already agreed in principle.

Minister Kančeska - Milevska, among others, informed her Kosovo counterpart that they agreed on concrete cooperation between the two countries, such as joint concerts of both national ensembles "Shota" of Kosovo and "Tanec" of Macedonia respectively, joint concerns of two philharmonics, publication of books and translation of authors of both countries. ■



# Task Force established to combat piracy and forgery and Regulation on mediation of copyright disputes adopted

**Task Force against forgery and piracy in the area of copyright protection has the following composition:**

- **Director of Office of Copyright and Related Rights, Chairperson – Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports;**
- **Chief Inspector of Market Inspection - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports –Deputy Chairperson;**
- **Director of Office of Industrial Ownership – Ministry of Trade and Industry;**
- **Director of Law Enforcement Directorate - Kosovo Customs;**
- **Director of Directorate for Investigation of Economic Crimes – Kosovo Police;**
- **Director of Directorate for Investigation of Cyber Crimes – Kosovo Police;**
- **Head of the Agency for Administration of Impounded and Confiscated Assets – Ministry of Justice.**
- **The following are invited to attend the Task Force meetings:**
- **Chief Executive Officer of the Independent Media Commission;**
- **President of the Board of Directors of the Post and Electronic Communication Regulatory Authority, and**
- **Other independent institutions and organizations.**

**T**he Government of Kosovo decided today to establish a Task Force to combat forgery and piracy in the field of copyright and related rights. At its regular meeting, the government also adopted the Regulation on Mediation of Copyright Dispute and Related Rights.

Responsibilities of the Task Force are:

Implementation of the Strategy against forgery and Piracy 2012-2016 and the Action Plan;

Coordination of Institutions' activities for fighting forgery and piracy with the aim of undertaking concrete actions by the side of Institutions and competent bodies which are part of the Task Force and other Institutions which are related to fighting forgery and piracy in the field of copyright;

Awareness of Law Enforcement Institutions and public in fighting

forgery and piracy in the field of copyright;

Proposal of legislation associated with the implementation of Strategy against forgery and piracy in the field of copyright;

Meanwhile, the Regulation on Mediation of Disputes in the Field of Copyright and Related Rights determines mediation procedures between collective associations and the representatives of this right users, with a special emphasis on the issue of tariffs.

In his speech at the presentation of the proposed decision to the Task Force, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi said that the establishment of the Task Force will positively impact the increase of creative works quality, while also assisting the creative community in enhancing incomes for their creations.

"Furthermore, fighting against



piracy and forgery, will positively impact the image improvement of the Republic of Kosovo, as a country and a market, where the rights of intellectual property, respectively, copyright and related rights are respected. The budget for the establishment and functioning of the Task Force is a part of expenditures determined and approved for the Strategy against piracy, without the need for additional costs and budget", he said.

Regarding the Regulation on mediation of disputes, Minister Krasniqi said that it is another significant step that enables actors and right users to enter into a dialogue for the tariffs of creativity using.

"This regulation intends the achievements of the European standards concerning the functioning of copyright system in our country, and the development of conditions where copyrights are implemented as in model countries of the European Union. In addition, the implementation of this regulation consists of reaching compensation agreements and it brings material incomes for the authors, performers, interpreters and all other creators of intellectual works. This will enable the compensation of creators' works protected by copyrights in the Republic of Kosovo. This process also creates the economic turnover, which brings considerable income for the budget of the Republic of Kosovo", said minister Krasniqi. ■

# Arta Dobroschi, grabs the “Shooting Stars” award in Berlinale



**T**he actress from Kosovo, Arta Dobroschi has grabbed the trophy “Shooting Stars” for the best young actors in Europe, which is awarded by “European Film Promotion”. During the ceremony held in Berlin, in the International Film Festival “Berlinale”, the actress from Kosovo Arta Dobroschi has drawn the attention of media, as one of promising actresses in the European cinema. Besides drawing the attention by her success, Arta’s wearing also was an element to attract quite much attention of the media that were present at the red carpet. Wearing a black dress made by the model creator Krenare Rugova, she excelled in the parade along the red carpet and in the event of prize award. Except raising the “Shooting Stars” prize, Arta was positively evaluated by the prize jury for her role in the film “Three worlds”.

## **The film “Three worlds”**

“In the film “Three worlds” the actress showed richness, warmth and humanity. Her sensitivity and cleverness occupies the large screen the first minute she is seen.

“An impassable performance” the director Jasmina Zhbaniq said, when she presented the actress from Kosovo. This was also the reasoning from the jury, which was as a ground for this, where Dobroschi was selected in the list of best young actresses in Europe. Before starting with the prize award ceremony, the film “Before Midnight” was presented directed by Richard Linklater. The stars of the film Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy were those who walked along the red carpet. But, not alone, both these actors were selected to hand over the prizes to their colleagues who won the “Shooting Star 2013”. Except Arta Dobroschi, the best young actors of Europe for 2013, are Mikel Boe Folksgaard from Denmark, Laura Birn from Finland, Christa Theret from France, Saskia Rosendahl from Germany, Luca Marinelli from Italy, Ada Condeescu from Rumania, Jure Henigman from Slovenia, Nermina Lukac from Sweden and Carla Juri from Switzerland.

## **Artistic career**

Based on the profile description

of Dobroschi, in the site of EFF, she was in the centre of international attention with her role in the film “Lorna’s Silence”, of Dardenne brothers, the premiere of which was shown in Cannes in 2008 and she won the nomination for the category of the best actress in “European Film Awards”. She started cooperation with Daniel Mulloy in the short film “Baby”, to further continue with other films. Her performance in the film of Catherine Corsini “Three Worlds” gave her the prize for the best actress, “The Barbara Tipple” at “Women’s International Film and Television Showcase” in Los Angeles. As for the prize “Shooting Stars”, Arta was praised also for the roles she had in her films “Later Bloomers”, a coproduction between France, Belgium and Britain, produced in 2010, under direction of Julie Gavras. Besides this, the jury evaluated also for her roles in the film “Baby” under direction of Daniel Mulloy, “Sadness of Ms. Schneider” and for her role in the film of 2005 directed by Kujtim Cashku, “Magic Eye”. Kosovar actress has also been nominated for the prestigious prize “Cesar Award”. The ceremony is going to be held in the end of the month. ■



# Kosovo Cinematography Centre again in Berlinale

**K**osovo Cinematography Centre this year also was present in the Film Festival in Berlinale, more specifically in European Film Market. The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi was present to meet many personalities of film in Europe and in the world. The Chairman of KCC Board Council Arben Zharku and the Director of KCC, Fatos Berisha had numerous meetings with cineastes, directors, producers, scenario writers and actors, where possibilities of cooperation were discussed in between the two countries. Chairman of KCC Board, Arben Zharku said that participation of Kosovo is leading to concrete results, initially at recognition of Kosovo cinematography and related to cooperation with various countries. In this aspect he stressed that it is expected soon in future

to have cooperation agreements with European Film Academy and the Film School in Prague 'FAMU'. Zharku appreciated highly the presence of the Minister Krasniqi in the board of Kosovo, adding that this has really increased the significance and attention for the cinematography of Kosovo. He also said that it is extraordinarily encouraging the fact that continuation is maintained regarding Kosovo participation and presentation in major events of culture in the world.

Besides the numerous meetings in European Film Market, KCC organised welcome reception for many cineastes from various countries, and also for the leading members of European Film Academy, leaders of Berlinale, directors, writers, actors and directors of cinematography centres from several countries. ■



## 'After Miss Julie' and 'The Crashes' - two new plays open the new season at the National Theatre of Kosovo

It is the 26<sup>th</sup> night of July 1945, the British Labour Party has just been defeated by conservatives, led by Winston Churchill. In one of the rooms of the house of a rich British, a "war" was taking place similar to a political one. However, war there has different means and it is developed to defeat distinctions between social classes. Christine (Xhejlane Godanci) and John (Astrit Kabashi) serve to Miss Julie's father (Gresa Pallaska). The first two are on the eve of marriage. But everything gets complicated within the night. Miss Julie, dead drunk, started to flirt with John. Being "simply a man" (as it is mentioned several times in the play), John could not resist Julie's seduction and breaks her virginity. However, when the reality is challenged and people become victims of passion, not remembering class distinctions, have to pay a price. Both of the protagonists pay it. Along with them Christine suffers, too. Julie, who suffers from unhappy memories of her childhood because of her parents' relationships, has priority against the later. Julie is rich, therefore, she orders. On the side, Christine has to obey the orders. Even when the patroness asks to borrow from her the man she has planned to get married with. The rule is



### PËRPLASJET

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Aktorë:  
Çun Lajçi, Afrim Muçaj, Genta Retkoceri

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Dizajni i dritave: Aslan Hymeri

Organizator: Beqir Beqiri, Ispiciant: Bajram Mehmetaj, Përkrahës: Mural Haziri  
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Shel skene: Aziz Molaku, Dekorimet: Hasan Buzaku, Rahman Mehmeti, Fatmir Ardu  
Gardarobier: Fehrid Ahmeti, Gardarobier: Lendita Ahmeti, Grimere: Florije Kasajiqi, Myrrete Tahiri

very clear: money determines the power.

A tale in which "hot" scenes clash, with gloomy and funny ones, together with piano's sounds that are interpreted 'live' at the scene from Jeta Dida – is disclosed at the National Theatre of Kosovo. The play titled "After Miss Julie", written by Patrich Marber", and realised under the direction of Kushtrim Koliqi, it was submitted to the evaluation of the public, on Monday evening.

This is the second premiere for this year after the play "The Crashes" of Ekrem Kryeziu. For more than an hour, the public, which due to the lack of seats had been "accommodated" on the floor, returned back on time to experience shortly life's fevers under the class reign, when money means everything to people. Play was welcomed at the premiere.

The play "The Crashes" written and directed by Ekrem Kryeziu at the National Theatre of Kosovo, is a tale of two real characters imprisoned who are visited by a beautiful girl, who in fact is just an imagination of the main character Ceni who has portrayed the actor Çun Lajçi. The artificial smoke takes the main place during almost the whole scenography realised by Zen Ballazhi. The whole theme of "The Crashes" is developed in prison with dialogues and monologues of the style of Ekrem Kryeziu

between Cen, Toni (Afrim Muçaj) and fictive character Eva, played by Genta Retkoceri. Cen is a man who lives in an unreal world, and he lives with the idea that he has fallen in love and in relationship with Eva. In a scene, he even asks Tom - a young man from the city - to have relation with his friend. Cen kills Toni induced by Eva, who forsakes Cen as well, whose destiny is not known even after the play is over. ■





## The National Literary Prize for Lifetime Achievement “Azem Shkreli” was awarded to the Renowned Kosovo Writer Ramiz Kelmendi

**M**inister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi today solemnly awarded the 2012 National Prize “Azem Shkreli” for Life’s Work to writer Ramiz Kelmendi. The Minister also awarded the annual literature prizes, awarded in several categories. The professional Jury, composed of Hysen Matoshit, the President of the Jury as well as members Merxhan Avdyli, Ilire Zajmi, Bajram Rugovali and Sabit Idrizi, upon review of nominations received through a public competition, decided that Ramiz Kelmendi is awarded the National Literary Award for Life’s Work. For the awards of best books of the year, Ibrahim Kadriu was awarded the national Prize for Best Prose Book, with his novel “Pjella e dreqit” (Satan’s Spawn), Skënder Berisha, winner of the Best Poetry Book, with “Një qind vjet të kërkuj”

(A Lifetime of Waiting) while Ag Apolloni received the Best Literary Critics, for monographic study “Proteus’ Paradigm”.

In his speech, at the ceremony organized by the MYCS, Minister Krasniqi said that this was merely one of the obligations that institutions had to meet towards people who have contributed.

‘It is a good contribution that recognizes the men of letters. It is an obligation of institutions to honour those, through decades, have contributed to promoting our culture. We are committed to continuously give our contribution, as we are required to do’, said Minister Krasniqi, as he commended the personality and contribution of all laureates. He said that Ramiz Kelmendi was and remains an important literary figure, who has contributed extensively to the Kosovo

culture. “Your personality has given a lot to literature, you have been a teacher for so many generations and your pen will undoubtedly remain very valuable to us”, Minister Krasniqi added further. He said that in other areas too, such as theatre, film and music, MYCS awards prizes to people who have been contributing through years. Regarding support for books, Minister Krasniqi said that in the last two years, the budget has increased, although, as he noted, it was never sufficient. Minister mentioned that support will not only be geared towards printing new titles but also purchase of books and donation to municipal libraries, as well as support for publication of literary magazines.

On the other hand, writer Ramiz Kelmendi, while expressing appreciation for the honour he was

bestowed, said that the respect made him happy he was able to contribute to development of literature and culture in general.

Due to lack of competition, the jury decided to forego awarding the literary prize for best translated work.

According to the evaluation jury, the winner of the National Literary Prize "Azem Shkreli" for Lifetime Work, the recipient Ramiz Kelmendi is a prominent name of the Albanian literature and Albanian culture in general. He is a novelist, playwright, critic, screen writer, publicist, author and translator of numerous scientific and literary works and his contribution towards developing the Albanian literature is comprehensive.

The jury finds the novel "Pjella e Dreqit" of the prose award laureate, Ibrahim Kadriu, to be a witness of the reality of life, duly reflected by his artistic projection, in a way that allow the literary work to address, free from hermetic poetry techniques, the majority of human concerns today'.

While the winner of the poetry prize, Skënder Berisha, with

his poetry work "Një qind vjet të kërkoj" ("Lifetime of Waiting") was recognized by the jury for "articulation through the speech of poetry, love and historical remembrance for the Albanian territories, using a purefigurative and straightforward language."

The justification of the jury for the award of the prize on literary critic to Ag Apolloni, for the work "Paradigma e Proteut", the ('Proteus' Paradigm') is that "it is the only monograph on the Albanian novel and it is written through an analytical approach and a clear style. As such, this study is indispensable to those who wish to familiarise themselves with a representative novel of the Albanian literature."

The literary prizes for the National Literary Prize 'Azem Shkreli' are also accompanied by a financial reward of 5000 euros, while other annual prizes are rewarded 2500 euros, all funded by MCYS. The President of the Jury, Hysen Matoshi, said that selection was a true challenge as, in his view, there were many names submitted who have given distinguished contribution to our literature. ■



## Budget for all culture





## Cultural institutions grows – a total of around 20 % increase

The budget for cultural institutions for this year is as follows:

Kosovo National Theatre	300 thousand Euros
Kosovo Cinematography Centre	600 thousand Euros
Kosovo Philharmonic	240 thousand Euros
Kosovo Ballet	120 thousand Euros
National Ensemble 'Shota'	120 thousand Euros
Kosovo National Gallery	120 thousand Euros
Kosovafilm	10 thousand Euros
Gallery 'Qafa'	20 thousand Euros

**M**inistry of Culture, Youth and Sports, following the continued growth of support for culture in general, but for institutions of this area in particular, allocated a budget for subsidiary institutions of the Min-

istry of Culture for the year 2013. As in 2012, which saw an increase compared to 2011, this year's budget too, increased relative to the previous year for each of the institutions. Through the budget increase, the goal of the MCYS is to create as many opportunities for promoting genuine artistic creativity as possible.

To this end, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, stated that MYCS has now ensured even larger independence of institutions. "It is our goal to ensure that, in addition to artistic independence, which is very significant. We also ensure financial independence, which means cultural institutions managing their own budget". ■

Hadum Mosque - Djakova



# 300 thousand dollars for 14 Youth Centres and two Resource Centres



**14** Youth Centres and two Resource Centres of the University of Prishtina, signed contracts for award of grants for this year, as part of Kosovo Youth Development Project, implemented by MCYS and the World Bank. Contract signing ceremony was attended by Minister of MCYS, Memli Krasniqi. 15 thousand U.S. dollars will be allocated to each of the 14 youth centres, and 30 thousand dollars for two Resource Centres.

In his address, the minister stressed the importance of these grants where youth centres are extended help to organize student life and youth activities, but also create greater opportunities for young people to be active in social life. Also, the minister stated, these grants cover youth centres throughout Kosovo, which are of benefit not only for the young peo-

ple in different cities, but students as well.

The minister said that youth centres are important partners of MCYS. He expressed confidence that the youth centre staff will have a more active approach towards representation and empowerment of youth.

"Our support, which has grown in the last two years, will be sustained, and not only in awarding grants but also in other important aspects of the work of these centres. Kosovo will have two other youth centres and MCYS has already planned to start construction this year," he said, as he thanked the international partners, particularly the World Bank for its support.

While congratulating all youth centres managers for their work, the minister asked them to step up their efforts, stating that MCYS will remain their partner. "Another goal

is to build an independent system of work, an objective that I believe we all share; that our efforts do not serve specific interests, whatever those may be, but rather serve a better purpose, uniting the youth development of empowerment plans and dignified representation of the needs of the youth," he said.

On the other hand, Agron Kelmendi, coordinator of Youth Development Project in Kosovo, stated that the contracts that signed with youth centres of various cities in Kosovo represent an accomplishment of youth development project objectives, which serve to enhance the quality of services for young and promote youth centres networking in different cities of Kosovo, the signatories to these contracts. "These contracts are funded by the World Bank for the youth development project in Kosovo. These contracts are signed for a period of 15 months and include around 300 thousand U.S. dollars" stressed Kelmendi.

Kosovo Youth Development Project is co-funded by the World Bank and implemented by the Department of Youth of MCYS. Under this project, in November and December last year, 800 certificates for young people, trained in various fields of entrepreneurship, were awarded. This year, the project is also expected to award grants for new and existing businesses managed by young people. ■



# Activities in honour of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Kosovo



Work "Azem Shkreli" as well as the Annual Literature Prizes by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Mr. Memli Krasniqi, starting at 14:00 at the premises of MYCS. At 20:00 hrs., the "Amadeus" play will be shown at the National Theatre of Kosovo by the author Peter Schaffer, performed by the Albanian National Theatre Troupe, under the director of Altin Basha.

All activities held today as well as tomorrow's show are open; we therefore invite all citizens to attend. ■

In the context of formal organizations in honour of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Kosovo, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport will organize many cultural activities. Celebrations will commence today, on 15 February with archaeological and ethnological exhibition, which will open at 17:00, at the Museum of Kosovo, where archaeological findings of year 2000 and onwards will be presented, along with over 30 sets of national clothing of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century from all Albanian territories.

Activities will continue with the exhibition "Graphics" from the collection of the works of local and international artists of the National Gallery of Kosovo, starting from 19:00 at the premises of the Gallery. Also, today from 20:00 at the National Theatre of Kosovo, a concert of the

National Song and Dance Ensemble "Shota" will be performed.

MYCS will continue its celebration of the anniversary of the independence tomorrow with the award of the National Literary Prize and Lifetime's



## Kosovo participates in CultureScapes and open its first Cultural Centre abroad



**M**inister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi met, in separate meetings, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Pristina, Krystyna Marty Lang as well as Ambassador of Turkey, Songül Ozan, who was accompanied by the new director of Turkish Culture Centres in Kosovo 'YunusEmre', Sadullah Yilmaz.

In the meeting with the Ambassador of Switzerland, in addition to continuous cooperation between two countries in the area of culture, special focus was given to CultureScapes, a project of several months duration, which is due to commence in December this year and will include Balkans countries, including Kosovo. Minister Krasniqi said that participation of

Kosovo in this project constitutes an additional step in promoting our cultural stage, and thanked the state of Switzerland for its support to culture in Kosovo at large. Minister Krasniqi said that in addition to this project, Kosovo will also feature in major cultural events such as Berlinale, Cannes, Bienale and Venice, but also other international events.

On the other hand, the ambassador of Switzerland, Krystyna Marty Lang, while evaluating cultural achievements, expressed readiness to enhance the cultural cooperation between the two countries, along with more joint cultural initiatives.

In the meeting with the Ambassador of Turkey, Songül Ozan

and the new director of 'Yunus Emre', Sadullah Yilmaz the discussion revolved around the cultural cooperation between the two countries, with special emphasis on cultural exchange, especially as during this month, on 23 February specifically, the first Kosovo's Cultural Centre abroad will be open in Istanbul. The Minister stated that this centre will be an important institution to enhance the cooperation between the two countries and bring our cultures closer.

Turkish Ambassador and director of 'Yunus Emre' promised continue support of the Turkish country for promoting our cultural stage, but also for other cultural projects inside Kosovo. ■





## Exhibition in the Kosova Art Gallery



# Kosovo and France committed to enhance cultural cooperation

**M**inister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi welcomed at an introducing meeting, the Ambassador of France in Pristina, Maryse Daviet, with whom they discussed the achievements and challenges in the field of culture in Kosovo. Minister Krasniqi briefed the Ambassador on the achievements and challenges in the field of culture. Minister said the budget increase for cul-

ture, presentation of our cultural scene in the most significant events in the world, such as Cannes Film Festival, Berlinale, Venice Biennale and many other significant events, saw many positive changes to culture in Kosovo.

Minister Krasniqi expressed appreciation for the cooperation between Kosovo and France in the field of culture to date, and expressed commitment to enhance

such cooperation, through joint initiatives in different activities, and by working to develop a connection between the artists from Kosovo with those from France.

The French Ambassador in Pristina, Maryse Daviet, congratulated the Minister for the work carried out so far and also expressed commitment to enhance cooperation between two countries in the field of culture. ■



## MYCS and Council of Europe together into the second phase of the project “Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo”



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi met at a meeting the Director of Department of Democratic Governance in the Council of Europe, Claudia Luciani as well as Tim Cartwright, head of the Office of Council of Europe in Kosovo. The topic of discussion at the meeting was cooperation in the area of cultural heritage, with special emphasis on the Project for Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo. The second phase of this project, to be implemented by the CoE and MCYS will commence tomorrow. Minister Krasniqi found the first phase of the project quite successful, which managed to promote awareness of all people on values of ethnic, cultural and religious diversity in Kosovo, but also contributed to better protection and recognition of the cultural diversity in Kosovo. The Minister was also confident that the second phase will yield even better results, taking into account, he stated, the work that was carried out by the institutions to ensure a smooth start and operation of the second phase. He expressed his gratitude to the Council of Europe for the support they have been providing towards protection and promotion of cultural heritage in Kosovo, especially for continuous cooperation with the MCYS. He said that the cooperation intensified during the recent years and expressed the commitment of MCYS to enhance the cooperation. Cultural heritage, the Minister said, remains a priority of MCYS. Hence, in the recent years, there is an increased number of projects funded by the ministry in order to ensure a better protection and management of the area in general.

On the other hand, the Council of Europe officials praised the commitment of the MCYS towards the cultural heritage, by commending the continued willingness of the ministry to pursue joint cultural heritage projects with the Council of Europe, but also other local and international mechanisms that work in this regard. They reaffirmed that the EC will remain committed to support Kosovo in many areas of life. EC officials also said that the work that done for the start of the second phase of the Project for the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo will provide even greater results. ■

## The second phase of the Project for Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo commenced

The second phase of the Project for Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo has now officially commenced a project which will be implemented by the Council of Europe and MYCS, and funded by the European Commission. At the launch ceremony, present were also Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Hajdin Abazi, Head of the Office of Council of Europe, Tim Cartwright, Head of Operations in the European Commission, Christof Stock, as well as the Director of Department of Democratic Governance of the Council of Europe, Claudia Luciani.

Deputy Minister Abazi, in his speech, stated that the project was one of the best initiatives, which managed to promote awareness of all people on values of ethnic, cultural and religious diversity in Kosovo. He said that the first phase brought considerable concrete results and expressed confidence that the second phase, in view of the work done for its preparation, will yield even better results. He expressed his gratitude to the Council of Europe for the support they have been providing towards protection and promotion of cultural heritage in Kosovo. Cultural heritage, the Deputy Minister Abazi said, is a European value of Kosovo and MCYS will continue to increase investments in it. Hence, in the recent years, there is an increased number of projects funded by the ministry in order to ensure a better protection and management of the area in general.

Tim Cartwright, Head of the Office of the Council of Europe in Kosovo, said that cultural diversity is a value to be protected by all the people of Kosovo. He expressed gratitude to all the team for the work it has been performing on the project.

The Head of Operations of the European Commission Office in Kosovo, Christof Stock, also found the project to be very important, wishing for the best results. He said the EC will continue to support the local institutions in preserving and promoting the cultural heritage to the best of its ability. ■



## 'The Graphics' at the National Gallery of Kosovo

**A**t the National Gallery of Kosovo, an exhibition was opened with art works in honour of the fifth year of the Independence of Kosovo. This exhibition so called "The Graphics", has aroused the curiosity of the public to visit the National Gallery of Kosovo. Works of the artist Andy Warhol, took place just after the entrance of this exhibition, since there is the greatest work of this artist called "The Skater". In this exhibition, there have been displayed works by local and international artists, where many of them are the very great names of the world of art. Certainly, "The skater" was considered to be the main work of this exhibition, since the majority



of the public came to see the work of Andy Warhol painted in 1983.

This exhibition has helped the gallery to invite also the officials of the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports, as well as officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who have decided to support the Na-

tional Gallery of Kosovo. Both of the public institutions have decided together to invest in order to increase the number of works in the fund of the National Gallery of Kosovo.

Up to now, this fund owns 897 works.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi stated "We hope that other donators will participate, too, who would help the fund of Gallery to purchase of as many works as possible". According to the minister Krasniqi, these works tell the ancient history of Kosovars.

He stated further "This exhibition tells the ancientness of the meaning of art legacy". Also the British Ambassador in Kosovo, Ian





Cliff was present in the opening of this exhibition. He said that he is a big admirer of art and that he considers these works to be excellent.

On the other side, the director of the National Gallery of Kosovo, Erzen Shkololli said that this exhibition is very important in the promotion of local artists together with the international ones.

The director Shkololli stated "The participation of international and regional artists gave this exhibition a world context and the influence of foreign artists became evident. These local works exposed together with the international ones, belong to the 70s and 80s. The local works show that the art of Kosovo has always been in pace with the art of world"

There were 93 works in this exhibition. Works that were created by artists such as Fatmir Krypa, Fatmir Zajmi, Edo Murtiq, Gabrijel Stupica, Gjelosh Gjokaj, Franco Gentilini, Henry Moore, Haward Hodkin, Hysni Krasniqi, Mimo Paladino, Hyrije Krupa, Karmon Fan Ferri, Shaip Çitaku, Rexhep Ferri, Ymer Shaqiri, Zoran Jovanovic-Dobrotin, Shyqri Nimani, and Jim Cave.

These works of the exhibition 'Graphics', has arisen a very big curiosity of the public since they were created thirty years ago and are great works of the greatest local and international artists. ■





A model of the “Goddess on throne”

# Memorandum on restoration of Emin Pasha's Mosque is signed



The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), Turkish Agency for Cooperation and Development (TIKA) and Islamic Community of Kosovo (BIK), signed a memorandum for conservation – restoration of the Emin Pasha Mosque in Prizren. Secretary General, Veton Firzi signed on behalf of the MCYS, while on behalf of “TIKA” Agency, the head of office for Kosovo Adem Urfa. Secretary Resul Rexhepi, signed the memorandum on behalf of BIK.

This memorandum provides for the implementation of the project for the conservation-restoration of Emin Pasha Mosque in Prizren, to be carried out by the 'TIKA' Agency in conformity with the Law on Heritage and Law on Constructions of the Republic of Kosovo. Meanwhile, through this memorandum, MCYS is required to provide the information and documentation necessary to obtain authorization for approval of the project and assist in coordination with other relevant institutions to provide permits: municipal, owner's permit, etc. BIK, on the other hand, as the

owner of the facility, is required to issue work permit for this conservation-restoration project.

Secretary General of MCYS, Veton Firzi, recalled that signing the memorandum further enhances the cooperation of the Ministry with 'TIKA' Agency and further promotes the cooperation between the Republic of Kosovo and Turkey. "We believe that 'TIKA' is an important partner of the MCYS, especially in the area of heritage. MCYS has numerous projects, especially in the field of heritage and Turkish "TIKA" is one of our crucial partners. As the ministry, we are, of course, interested to increase our budget, both this and the following years; to consistently increase, especially for cultural heritage projects. I therefore extend our gratitude to representatives of "TIKA" for the work and help they are extending to Kosovo," he pointed out.

The Head of "TIKA's" Kosovo Office, Adem Urfa, stated that the agency has been operating in Kosovo since 2007 and implemented many conservation and restoration

projects targeting cultural heritage sites. "The people of Kosovo have shown their willingness, while the support of Kosovo Institutions and Islamic Community have helped us grow our budget and expand restoration of heritage sites. I wish to emphasize that of all the Balkan's region, Kosovo is one of the countries that has shown the strongest commitment towards these sites and extended the best protection," said Urfa.

In his statement, BIK secretary, Resul Rexhepi, noted that Kosovo, while a small area of few kilometres, had plenty to be proud of, while the bulk of its heritage is made of mosques. "Naturally, time has been merciless to these cultural monuments of our heritage, and to a certain extent the neglect of people, which caused some of the monuments to fall into the current state of disrepair. Therefore, signing this memorandum of cooperation between these three relevant and responsible institutions gives hope that these endangered monuments will withstand the time", said secretary Rexhepi. ■

## Minister Krasniqi and Ambassador Jacobson inspected restoration works in the Vushtrri Castle and preparations for restoration of Vushtrri Hammam



**T**he Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi and the Ambassador of the United States of America, Tracey Jacobson visited the Castle of Vushtrri and Vushtrri Hamam. The castle is now in the process of restoration by a donation from the U.S. Embassy, under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2011 between the Ministry of Culture and the Embassy.

Restoration of Hamam, in the meantime, is expected soon through the funding from "Ambassador's Fund" of the US Embassy. Minister Krasniqi and Ambassador Jacobson were accompanied to this visit by the mayor of Vushtrri, Bajram Mulaku and Secretary General of the Organization Cultural Heritage Without Borders, Margareta Husen.

In his speech, Minister Krasniqi said that the restoration of these monuments constitutes a very important step for the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in Kosovo. He thanked the U.S. Embassy for the continued support that it has extended and continues to extend in this regard. The minister added that, upon restoration, it was very important for these monuments to be preserved and serve the community for various cultural and educational activities.

He said that cultural heritage has been and remains a central priority of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and will remain

so in the future as well. "What we have continuously said and will say again, which is also the main point driving us forward is that cultural heritage is what connects all citizens of Kosovo regardless of ethnic, religious or other backgrounds. In view of this approach, we will continue to work with everyone in order to improve the situation, which at present is not ideal, but with the support we enjoy, the kind of work we do, with the experts and expertise being created in Kosovo, especially by new staff, in the coming years will not only be competitive in the region in terms of cultural heritage, its promotion and presentation, but genuinely become a must-see destination in the region and Eastern Europe in the context of cultural heritage," said Minister Krasniqi.

He congratulated the implementing partner of these two projects, Cultural Heritage Without

Borders, for the professional work they have carried out so far.

On the other hand, the United States Ambassador in Pristina, Tracey Jacobson, said her country is proud and committed to help Kosovo in such project. "This is indeed a beautiful Turkish Bath and just earlier, we were in the castle. I have been in Kosovo for five months and I saw that this place has a wealth of cultural heritage. With the help of the people in general, of all ethnic groups, we must work together to protect all the monuments. I know that this project we are visiting today is rather complex, it is somewhat fragile work, but success will come.

"It will require very good cooperation between the municipality, Ministry of Culture, Cultural Heritage Without Borders and the Embassy and I am looking forward to a successful completion of this project in the future", she said.

Meanwhile, the mayor of Vushtrri municipality, Bajram Mulaku, thanked the U.S. Embassy and MCYS for investments in the preservation and promotion of historic and religious monuments and cultural sites in the municipality. "Municipality of Vushtrri is known for its cultural heritage sites, as mentioned by the minister, and this is an asset to be used for the future, future generations and future institutions," he said. ■



**Shaban Gockas' Tower - Pec**



**KOOWA**

The image displays the word "KOOWA" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are arranged vertically. The letter 'O' in the middle is partially overlaid by a large, yellow, curved swoosh that starts from the left and curves around the top and right of the 'O'. A smaller, similar yellow swoosh is positioned above the 'O', pointing towards the 'K'. The entire logo is set against a plain white background.