

GRANT INFORMATION

Instrument:	Institutional Grant
Implementing subject:	Organizata për Rritjen e Cilësisë në Arsim (ORCA)
Contacts (address, email, phone number, website):	Str. Henrik Baric, no.6, Pristina info@orca-ks.org +383 45 234 994 www.orca-ks.org
Duration of the grant:	Start date: 01/01/2025 End date: 31/12/2027
Total budget of the organization (EUR):	EUR 834,386.00
Budget supported from EJA Kosovo program (EUR):	EUR 119,950.00
Target groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth • Students
Geographical scope:	Throughout Kosovo
Summary of the grant:	<p>With this project, ORCA aims to foster the missing competition in public higher education and support its further democratization, bringing innovation to public research and advocacy, as well as empowering the main stakeholders of higher education, students. Public higher education tends to lack dynamism and innovation due to its financial security. Funding for public universities is generally stable, and despite policies aimed at linking financial support to performance, the likelihood of a public university losing funding—let alone closing due to poor performance—is extremely low. Such a decision, even if justified, would be highly unpopular. To encourage competition among public universities, ORCA proposes the creation of a National University Rankings Platform. This annual ranking would serve both as an incentive for improvement and a means of accountability. Universities that perform well would be recognized and rewarded, while those that underperform would face public scrutiny. Additionally, this indirect form of evaluation could discourage private colleges from operating without accountability. Since private institutions function as businesses and do not rely on public funds, they often remain outside traditional accountability frameworks. The ranking system would help address this gap. To ensure continuous and sustainable improvements in the quality of education, students—the primary stakeholders in higher education—must be empowered. ORCA proposes several initiatives to achieve this, including activities at the Student Activism Center, small grants for informal student groups, extracurricular educational and recreational programs, and the Student Activism Congress, an annual gathering of previously engaged students. Through these efforts, ORCA aims to foster</p>

Co-financed by:

	<p>a strong and diverse student body that actively demands accountability and transparency, ultimately driving continuous improvements in higher education nationwide. Through this project, ORCA also aims to transform its research, monitoring, and advocacy methods by integrating the latest artificial intelligence technology into its daily operations. This shift seeks to eliminate costly and time-consuming processes, increasing the efficiency of civil society in Kosovo.</p>
--	--