



## BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR CITIZENS OF FUSHE KOSOVE/KOSOVO POLJE AND OBILIQ/OBLILC: PARTICIPATION, PROTECTION AND MULTIETHNIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

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### Social inclusion and better employment opportunities for disadvantaged youth in Kosovo through social enterprises

The quality of life in Kosovo is affected by several factors, including lack of access to employment opportunities and sustainable livelihood, poor social service delivery and vulnerability to shocks. The compounded results of these elements is that vulnerable groups such as minorities, woman, elderly, people with disabilities live in situations of social exclusion, which prevents them from actively participate in the economic and social development of their communities. Against the backdrop of the need for institutional reforms of the welfare system, provision of safety nets and ensuring access and equal participation by the citizens, ‘social enterprises’ have emerged as an alternative tool and policy instrument for service delivery and social inclusiveness. The idea of social enterprise is part of a broader framework of social economy which involves the civil society in creation of economic and social values.

Within the framework of the project “Building the better future for citizens of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/Obilic” UNDP and Municipality of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje have established the social enterprise “Generation-Y”. As the first pilot enterprise in Kosovo, SE “Generation Y” is established with the aim of creating a sustainable social enterprise that can facilitate social inclusion through labour market integration of marginalized individuals and assistance to long-term unemployed and minorities in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje municipality. The founders of the SE “Generation Y” are individuals, representatives of the Municipality and of the local civil society.



Disadvantaged young man got employed with a social enterprise after completing professional training in welding.  
Credit: UNDP

SE “Generation Y” is serving the communities through the provision of competitive integrated maintenance services (cleaning, welding, electric installation, central heating system, hydraulics, household equipment repair and maintenance etc.) to public institutions: municipality buildings, high schools, schools and kindergarten, Family Medicine Centre and ambulances checkpoints, etc. as well as private owned apartment buildings, business offices, etc. The services are provided mostly by employees recruited from the people in need, qualified within intensive professional training programs.

During 2 months of operation SE “Generation Y” has managed to employ 12 long-time young unemployed from marginalized and vulnerable communities in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje municipality. These individuals have successfully completed professional trainings in hydraulics, electrical installations, thermo-hydraulics and welding. Social enterprise is well equipped with tools and equipment needed to deliver professional services in the market. The future objective of SE- Generation- Y is to expand the number of employers by providing more employment opportunities for excluded individuals.