



Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe

Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe in Kosovo

About Help

Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe is a German humanitarian and development organization active in Kosovo since 2001, resuming operations in 2015 after a short pause. The organization supports individuals and communities in building sustainable livelihoods through entrepreneurship support, vocational training, and inclusive economic development.

Help works closely with municipalities, national institutions, civil society, and the private sector to promote self-employment, strengthen local economies, and expand opportunities for women, youth, and marginalized groups. Its programs combine equipment grants, business and vocational training, and continuous mentoring, while promoting environmentally responsible practices.

Help has received international recognition, including the EU Award for Roma Integration in the Western Balkans and Turkey for its work supporting Roma employment.

ORGANIZATIONAL PRESENCE

Help at a Glance

- Active in Kosovo since 2001
- 8 dedicated staff members in Kosovo
- Headquarters: Bonn, Germany
- Country Office: Prishtina, Kosovo
- Part of Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe International



Institutional Partnerships

- Partnered with 33 municipalities across Kosovo
- Cooperation with 2 national ministries
- Collaboration with local NGOs, training providers, and private sector partners
- Supported by nine international donors

Program Portfolio

- 21 projects implemented
- €9+ million in project funding managed
- Over 9,000 applications received from entrepreneurs



Economic Development Results

- 2,100+ entrepreneurs supported
- 800 new jobs created
- 136 information sessions conducted
- 2,040+ business trainings delivered
- 3,125 vocational trainings completed

Correctional Service Reintegration Programs

- 18 workshops established in Kosovo Correctional Service facilities
- 212 Vocational and skills training delivered to inmates and correctional staff
- Post-release support for 23 former inmates through entrepreneurship grants



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Current Projects

RECONOMY

Project Region: Regional (Western Balkans)
Duration: 2023 – 2026
Donor: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
Implementing Partner: Helvetas
Budget (Euro): 1,980,258.55 €

A regional programme applying a Market Systems Development approach to stimulate systemic change in high-growth sectors, expand digital employment pathways, and promote inclusive and green economic opportunities for women and youth.

ECONOMIC PROMOTION TO STABILIZE THE LABOUR MARKET IN

Project Region: Kosovo (national focus, rural areas)
Duration: September 2025 – August 2026
Donor: GIZ (on behalf of the German Government and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development of Kosovo)
Budget (Euro): 693,600.00 €

Supports 100 rural entrepreneurs through equipment-based grants and structured mentoring (5,000+ hours), strengthening self-employment, income generation, and labour market stability in rural communities.



Current Donors



RECONOMY

“Digitalization of sectors with growth potential for better economic opportunities”

RECONOMY is an inclusive and green economic development program funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation in partnership with Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe and regional partners.

**Total Project Value:
1,980,258 EUR**

Duration: Jul 2023 - Dec 2026

The program supports economic growth in the Western Balkans through digitalization, focusing on women, youth, and marginalized groups. In Kosovo, interventions strengthen the ICT and BPO sector, expand digital skills and employment pathways, support entrepreneurship, and promote sustainable rural development and green tourism.

Results in Kosovo

- 1,343 individuals with increased income
- €5 million mobilized in investments
- 1,366 individuals with improved skills
- ABSL Kosovo network established and 100 ICT/BPO candidates trained





ECONOMIC PROMOTION TO STABILIZE THE LABOUR MARKET IN KOSOVO

Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe, with the support of the Government of Kosovo through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, and the German Government through GIZ Kosovo, is implementing a grant scheme to strengthen rural entrepreneurship. The project promotes sustainable economic development by empowering women, youth, and marginalized groups to build viable and self-reliant livelihoods across rural communities.

Duration: September 2025 – August 2026

Purpose

- Support the economic self-reliance of rural entrepreneurs in Kosovo.

Target Groups

- Rural women, youth, minorities, and marginalized groups.

Key Support

- Equipment grants for 100 beneficiaries (minimum 30% women)
- Up to 50 hours of mentoring per beneficiary

Expected Results

- 100 rural entrepreneurs supported
- 5,000+ mentoring hours delivered
- 80% of beneficiaries report increased income, improved skills, or business growth

Impact

- Increased self-employment and income opportunities
- Stronger and more inclusive rural economies

**Total Project Value:
693,600 EUR**





RESOCIALISATION & REINTEGRATION

Since 2015, Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe in Kosovo has supported the implementation of the Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS) strategy on the resocialization and reintegration of inmates. This cooperation involves the Correctional Centers of Kosovo, the Ministry of Justice, and prisons across the country. Help’s work follows the Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS) two-stage approach, which combines rehabilitation inside prisons with continued support after release.



Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe

Key Results

€411,356 Invested in Equipment & Workshops

€89,777 Invested in Training Programs

182 Trainees (Inmates and Staff)

18 Workshops Created

23 Grants Provided to Ex-Inmates

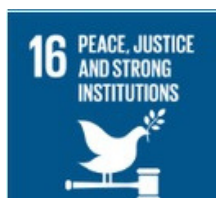
€501,133

Total Funding



Help supports the establishment of workshops and delivers vocational and skills-based training for inmates, while providing grants and practical support to promote self-employment and successful post-release reintegration. At the same time, the organization strengthens the capacities of the Kosovo Correctional Service through targeted staff training and support for improved rehabilitation practices.

Our project acts in accordance with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. In particular, Goals 8, 12 and 13 are considered.



Key areas of cooperation

▶ In-prison rehabilitation programs

Help supports the establishment of workshops and provides vocational and skills based training for inmates.

▶ Post-release reintegration

Help offers grants for self-employment and practical reintegration support to reduce recidivism and improve economic prospects.

▶ Institutional and operational improvements

Help contributes to strengthening KCS capacities through targeted training for correctional staff and support for improved rehabilitation practices.



Skills for a New Beginning

In challenging moments, we often experience remarkable growth, says A.G., a 23-year-old from Prishtina. Before this training, she worked in a beauty salon and had completed design school, but she wanted to expand her skills in tailoring. Thanks to Help, she was able to enroll in a specialized training that filled a gap in her knowledge and prepared her for life after release. Her trainer, Fatmire, encouraged her throughout the program, recognizing her ambition and fast learning, which boosted her confidence in pursuing future business opportunities.

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ARTAN VOJVODA

Artan Vojvoda, a beekeeper from Skenderaj, turned his passion into a path of resilience. After losing his arm in a landmine accident during the war, he refused to give up on his dream. With eight years of experience, he worked tirelessly to maintain and grow his apiary. Through the “Support for Socio- Economic Stability in the Western Balkans” project, implemented by Help Mission in Kosovo, Artan received essential beekeeping equipment. This support became a turning point, boosting his honey production and strengthening his family’s financial stability. Today, Artan continues to expand his production and contribute to his community, standing as a powerful example of perseverance, dedication, and the impact of targeted support.



ATER KORO

Ater Koro started with handmade jewelry but, despite limited space and resources, expanded into traditional foods. With Help’s support, she transformed her shop into a growing business, hired staff, and diversified her products. She also empowered women from the deaf community through skills training. Her business now stands as a strong example of creativity and resilience, with plans to expand her bakery in the future.

Stories of Change



Before receiving Help’s support, Merkur Koshutova struggled with limited equipment and unfair competition from unregulated online businesses. With crucial machinery provided by Help Mission in Kosovo, production became faster and more efficient, increasing income and restoring confidence. Now, Merkur plans to expand, create training and job opportunities, and reach clients across Europe—proving how timely support can turn challenges into growth.



MERKUR KOSHUTOVA

Agnesa Gashi’s story is one of resilience and determination. Before joining the tailoring training program, she worked in a beauty salon and had completed design school, which fueled her love for fashion and creativity. Her biggest challenge was the uncertainty of starting over after her release, but she chose to turn this moment into an opportunity. With Help’s support, Agnesa enrolled in tailoring training while in the Kosovo Correctional Service, gaining skills that complemented her design background. Encouraged by her trainer, she became confident in her future. Today, Agnesa plans to grow a business with her sister and eventually create training and job opportunities for others. “I value life more now,” she says. “I have exciting plans ahead.”



AGNESA GASHI



Erza Sulaj recently attended the Kudo Accounting course and found it outstanding. Even with prior experience in QuickBooks, the course provided her with a solid understanding of the accounting principles behind the software and a thorough grasp of its features. The lecturer, Flutura Bajrami, was professional, patient, and incredibly helpful, guiding participants through each step and answering all questions. She highly recommends the course.

ERZA SULAJ



Kristo Likaj expressed his sincere appreciation for the excellent work and professionalism demonstrated during the QuickBooks Online training. He highlighted the dedication, clarity, and constant willingness to help at every step, which made the learning process exceptionally effective and rewarding. He also expressed his gratitude for the continued support and assistance provided throughout the training.

KRISTO LIKAJ

 21

Completed Projects

 2100+

Grants in equipment

 33

Partner Municipalities

 18

workshops established in KCS