



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Building Institutions, Escaping Development Traps

[An Eye on Justice: Monitoring Kosovo's Courts](#)

As Kosovo prepared for independence in 2008, it lacked a court system that was efficient, trusted, and open to public scrutiny. In response, two Kosovar nongovernmental organizations began training recent law school graduates to observe and report on court sessions, including the conduct of judges, prosecutors, and lawyers. By 2014, civil society monitors had covered more than 8,000 sessions, and their reports documented improvements in the openness of court proceedings and in adherence to proper judicial procedures.

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Unveiled on the day Kosovo declared independence, the Newborn monument stands in Pristina, Kosovo. Photo by Tristan Driesbach.

Featured ISS Interview

[General Reshat Maliqi](#), assistant commissioner for operations in the Kosovo Police, discusses some of the challenges faced by police forces in the years after the war in Kosovo. He also describes the process of transition from the United Nations forces to the Kosovo Police, and identifies the Community Policing Unit as a key success story.

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Contact Us

206 Bobst Hall
Princeton University
83 Prospect Avenue
Princeton, NJ 08544
USA

ISS: Improving Government Accountability and Leading Reform

Phone: +1 609-258-5258

Fax: +1 609-258-7762

Email: iss@princeton.edu

Innovations for Successful Societies (ISS) helps public servants, policy makers, and scholars share institution-building strategies that work in especially challenging contexts. Interview-based case studies facilitate these exchanges and provide a basis for scholarly research. To date, ISS has published more than 140 case studies and 378 interviews, all of which are available free online. Governments use the materials to learn from each other, inspire discussion in their ranks, and recall the steps they took to implement a reform. Universities and training programs use the case studies in the classroom to engage students in the operational and strategic aspects of public sector reform.

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