KOSICT

NARRATIVE REPORT

KosICT TECHNOLOGY FESTIVAL

11th EDITION
7-8 OCTOBER 2002

Brought to you by:

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KOSOVO ICT ASSOCIATION

Powered by:

ProCredit Bank

THE KOSICT FESTIVAL KICKED OFF ITS ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY WITH 60 SPEAKERS AND OVER 2200 PHYSICAL PARTICIPANTS, REAFFIRMING ITSELF AS ONE OF THE LEADING EVENTS IN THE REGION FOR EXCHANGING AND PROMOTING TECHNOLOGY IDEAS.

KOSICT WAS CELEBRATED IN THE YOUTH AND SPORTS CENTER IN PRISHTINA, AND WAS POWERED BY PROCREDIT BANK KOSOVO.

BETWEEN 7TH AND 8TH OF OCTOBER 2022, TOP DECISION MAKERS AND OFFICIALS, COMPANY EXECUTIVES, STARTUP DEVELOPERS AND WELL-KNOWN EXPERTS FROM VARIOUS TECHNOLOGY SECTORS SHARED THEIR VISION AND BEST PRACTICES WITH PARTICIPANTS WITH DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND PROFESSIONS.

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WHAT IS KOSICT?

KosICT is a tech festival which held its first edition in 2012 with the aim of bridging the gap between the local and international ICT markets by highlighting and bringing the latest technological trends and developments to the Balkans, through local, regional and international experts who would share their experiences and knowledge with the audience comprised out of software developers, ICT enthusiasts and experts, C-level Executives, Academia Representatives and Students.
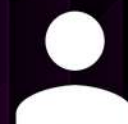
Another very important goal of the KosICT tech festival is to promote the local ICT sector on an international scale through visitors from international companies attending KosICT, our partner associations and renowned speakers that grace the stages of KosICT and act as ambassadors for Kosovo and the local ICT sector by promoting their experience here to their colleagues, business partners, etc.

As a technology festival, KosICT is enriched by a few different elements including two conference format stages highlighting some of the latest topics and trends in the ICT industry, an innovation fair focusing on some of the most prominent start-ups, companies fair and a brokerage event bringing together local & international businesses and Business Lounge area where many of the company representatives had the chance to meet and create potential linkages for the future, future developer's corner, and last but certainly not least, two eSports tournaments highlighting the talents among STIKK member companies (CSR Tournament and professional tournament) with the aim of promoting the gaming community in Kosovo.

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11TH EDITION SUMMARY

During the two days of the festival, a total of **60 speakers** (26 international and 34 local) explored topics like Blockchain, Metaverse, Artificial Intelligence, Power of Innovation, Internet of Things, Industry 4.0, Digitalization, 5G Networks, Smart Cities, Women in Tech and many more.

The KosICT tech festival was attended by over **3200 participants.**

Continuing the tradition of supporting and promoting promising Start-ups, KosICT once again welcomed the **Innovation Fair**, where **9 start-ups** highlighted their work. A total of **9 ICT companies** and **44 kids** from **Shkolla Digjitale, J-Coders, BONEVET and Finnish school** were part of **Future developers Corner**, sponsored by **Gjirafa.**

The Brokerage Event brought together 24 **local and international businesses** for 36 private meetings and potential partnership explorations for two days.

Two **E-gaming tournaments** were part of the festival as well.

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SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

FACEBOOK STATS - KOSICT

POSTS ABOUT KOSICT: 81

USERS REACHED: 164.100

LINKEDIN STATS - KOSICT

POSTS ABOUT KOSICT: 50

IMPRESSIONS : 77.699

INSTAGRAM STATS - KOSICT

POSTS ABOUT KOSICT: 119

USERS REACHED: 50.100

TWITTER STATS - KOSICT

POSTS ABOUT KOSICT: 126

USERS REACHED: 40.300

TOTAL REACH

332,231

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MAIN STAGE AGENDA DAY 1

09:30 - 10:00
REGISTRATION

10:00 - 10:30
OPENING REMARKS

VALON CANHASI
President of the Board of Directors of STIKK

H.E. ALBIN KURTI
Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosova

H.E. JENS ERIK GRONDAHL
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Republic of Kosovo

ALBAN ZOGAJ
Deputy Mayor of Prishtina

URANIK BEGU
Executive Director of Innovation Center Kosovo

10:30 - 11:10
The Power of Innovation

PRAMOD KALYANASUNDARAM
Senior Vice President of Engineering & Operations
Wasabi

11:10 - 11:30
Teaching kids globally from Kosovo

DARSEJ RIZAJ
CEO
Digital School

11:30 - 12:10
Metaverse and Space - How the technology will change our life

GIAMPAOLO PANARIELLO
CTO in the Mediterranean Region and CTO for Non-Terrestrial Networks Opportunities Development
Nokia

12:10 - 13:00
NETWORKING BREAK #1

13:10 - 13:50
How ICT can increase the competitiveness of SMEs

Panel Discussion Sponsored by **ProCredit Bank**

Moderator: ARGJIRA KADRIJAJ DUSHI
Pro Credit Bank

Panellist:

LEONORA KUSARI
Regional Coordinator, EBRD

ARBER BAKIJA
CEO, Bbros LLC

KRESHNIK SHEHU
CEO, Shehu LLC

13:50 - 14:20
How to create intelligent, data-driven experiences

ANDREW CLARK
Director of Product
Kin + Carta Europe

14:20 - 14:50
High employee rating in ICT industry: How to achieve and retain it

IVAN LUPIC
Director of Business Development, New Areas at Ericsson Nikola Tesla

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MAIN STAGE AGENDA DAY 1

14:50 - 15:50

Digital solutions for safe, smart and green cities

Panel Discussion Sponsored by
UNDP

Facilitated by: ARLINDA RUSHAJ SADIKU
Technical Lead - Urban Shifts, UNDP Kosovo

Panellist:

HENRY WILLEM FARR
Sales and Marketing Manager, Virtual City
Systems (VCS) Berlin

DONJETA SAHATÇIU
Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Prishtina

SERVET SPAHIU
General Secretary, Ministry of Environment,
Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

CALM HANDFORD
Advisor, Digital Health and Smart Cities, UNDP
Global Centre for Technology, Innovation, and
Sustainable Development

GRESA NEZIRI
Urbanist and Executive Director
Spacesyntaks

15:50 - 16:20

NETWORKING BREAK #1

12:10 - 13:00

Strategy + People C-Level Panel Discussion

Sponsored by Coders Friendship Gathering
Kutia

ARIANIT FAZLIU
CEO, Kutia

ENGJËLL RRAKLLI
CEO, Division5

ALEN HUSKANOVIC
CEO, Async Labs

BOYKO BODUROV
CEO, Infoleven Group

NENAD NOVOVIC
Founder and CEO at Amolitudo

DARKO IVANOVIC
CEO, Digital Den Hub

17:20 - 17:40

The nexus between digitalization and economic development: A comprehensive measurement framework

HANA HOXHA
PhD Researcher, University of Ljubliana

17:40 - 18:10

Back to the Future - An imaginary trip to 2042, how our life is going to look like 20 years from now, based on the current technology that is being developed by Israeli Startups

MICHAEL MIZRAHI
Head of the Research, Innovation and
Entrepreneurship Authority
Azrieli College of Engineering, Jerusalem,
Izrael

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MAIN STAGE AGENDA DAY 2

10:00 - 10:30

Blockchain in 2022 and beyond: Potentials, misconceptions and promising use cases

HORST TREIBLMAIER
Professor and Head of the Department of International Management
Modul University Vienna, Austria

10:30 - 11:00

5G Non-Public Networks

JOSE COSTA-REQUENA
CEO - CUMURORE
Research Manager - Aalto University

11:00 - 11:40

Reimagining Work: The office of the Future and Talent Acquisition

Panel Discussion sponsored by Coders Friendship Gathering
Kutia

Moderator: DURESA GASHI
Kutia

Panellist:

ÇELIK NIMANI
Managing Director, Kin + Carta
Southeast Europe

MARINA ZUBIC
CMO, Async Labs

FROSINA DENKOVA ZAFIROVSKA
PhD - Chief People & Talent Officer

ILIYAN KAVRAKOV
Human Resources Manager

11:40 - 12:30

NETWORKING BREAK #1

13:10 - 13:50

Prepare Today for the Skills of Tomorrow

Panel Discussion

Moderator: VISAR JASIQI
Head of Product and Engineering
Radix Kosovo

TEUTA SAHATQIJA
Women in Tech Ambassador
Women in Tech Kosovo

DRENUSHA SHEHU
Transformation Agile Coach
Raiffeisen Bank Kosova

ANTIGONA UKA
Executive Director
Kosova Center for Distance Education

ARBEN SALIHU
Director / Founder
Smarter Skills

13:10 - 13:40

AI+EU: A Job Creating Machine

REZA MOUSSAVI
Director - General
AICenter Sweden

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MAIN STAGE AGENDA DAY 2

13:40 - 14:20

Digital Transformation Challenge or Opportunity

Panel Discussion

Moderator: TANZER ABAZI
Co-Founder and Managing Director at FINDBUG.io

AGIM KUKAJ
Director of ICT Department, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Kosovo

FATBARDH VESELI
Capgemini, IT & Cybersecurity Architect

KASTRIOT FETAHAJ
Lead CyberSecurity Engineer, Noexis

14:20 - 14:40

The Blank Collar - Work is for Bots, Life is for Humans

KRISTIAN KABASHI
Global Executive Director
Dents International

14:40 - 15:20

Paving Kosovo's fintech future

Panel Discussion

Moderator: DIOR HALILI
ICT Lead, USAID Compete Activity

Panellist:

MELITA YMERAGA
CEO & Managing Partner,
Melita & Partners SHPK

ULPIAN MORINA
CTO / Co-Founder, Swinto

GAZMEND SELMANI
Founder, IBAS.world

15:20 - 16:20

Future Developers Presentations

16:50 - 17:15

Award Ceremony - Scholarships for Women in IT

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kutia DEVELOPERS STAGE

AGENDA DAY 1

10:00 - 10:30

Developing solutions for Azure - Best practices

FISNIK DOKO
Azure Cloud Solution Architect
Microsoft Trainer

11:00 - 11:30

Go Concurrent

ROMAN HOOG ANTINK
Senior Project Manager Development at Open Systems AG

11:30 - 11:50

Starting and Running a Company of One

VAL SOPI
Founder, Handmade Spaceships, Inc

11:30 - 13:00

NETWORKING BREAK #1

13:00 - 14:00

The Now & Future of Frontend Development in the Balkan Region

Sponsored by Coders Friendship Gathering
Kutia

Panellist:

FATON SELISHTA
CTO, Kutia

DON SEKIRAQA
CTO, FRAKTON · Part of Kin + Carta

NESAR HAVOLLI
Frontend Developer, d.labs

FRESKIM VELIU
Team Leader & Full Stack Developer, Tenton

14:00 - 14:30

MySQL High Availability with ProxysQL

EGËZON BERISHA
Senior Site Reliability Engineer
Twitter

14:30 - 15:00

Implementing Finnish working culture in Kosovo's IT sector

TAIJA-MAIJA KORHONEN
Legal Advisor I Business Development
Co-Founder
Wave Company

15:00 - 15:30

Industry 4.0 innovations in Agriculture and Agro-intelligence

SELIM TEMIZER
Head of Department of Computer Science
Universum College

15:30 - 16:30

NETWORKING BREAK #2

16:30 - 17:00

Creating web apps that scale

LOKMAN MUSLIU
Lucky Media, CEO & Lead Developer

17:00 - 17:30

5G from SW developer perspective

TOMISLAV STEFANEC
Line Manager in traffic control
ERICSSON NIKOLA TESLA

17:30 - 18:00

Web 3 - A critical viewpoint

DANILO KASEMI
Project Manager
Landmark/Moveo Technologies

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The main stage of the 11th edition of KosICT was moderated for the third time in a row by Global Public Speaking & TEDx Coach, Peter Hopwood who officially opened the festival by highlighting some of the main topics to be discussed over the two days. The welcoming note for the audience was made by the President of the Board of Directors of Kosovo ICT Association (STIKK), Mr Valon Canhasi who also gave a brief description of the path and achievements of KosICT over the last 11 years.

"Kosovo is one of the few countries with 100% internet penetration, now dear Prime Minister we need 100% concentration on the ICT sector and I hope that we will have it" - V. Canhasi

The 11th edition of KosICT was honoured by the presence of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Albin Kurti who spoke about the support of the government to the ICT community in Kosovo, as well as, some of the future plans related to the growth of the local ICT industry. The floor was then passed to Norway's Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, H.E. Jens Erik Grøndahl who highlighted the potential of digitalization and the ICT industry for the development of Kosovo and the whole region. Then, the Deputy Mayor of Pristina Mr Alban Zogaj shared the will of the Municipality of Prishtina to support all future ICT projects in the future. His remarks were followed by the Executive Director of Innovation Center Kosovo, Mr Uranik Begu.

"KosICT is not just an event, it has become one of the main Tech Platforms which integrates and interconnects all of us, including Universities, Start Ups, Students, Corporates, Governments, and Donors, all coming at least once a year to deliver, talk and connect, but also at the same time inspire each other for the future" - U. Begu

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The first keynote presentation for the event came from Mr Pramod Kalyanasundaram, Senior Vice President of Engineering & Operations at WASABI. In his speech, Mr Kalyanasundaram presented the foundational overview of the startup's lifecycle and startup DNA where innovative value creation typically happens; How Innovation can come in different forms including incremental and radical innovation and can be technical, business model, or process-oriented. He also explained how innovation requires the confluence of enablers, disruptions, and the vision to come together to ensure that the startup can ride the innovation wave and how to avoid missing opportunities and what companies that are riding the wave should look out for.

The next keynote speaker was Mr Darsej Rizaj, the CEO of the Digital School in Kosovo. Mr Rizaj shared with the stage that the process of teaching kids globally from Kosovo works. Germany, Singapore, Brazil, Mexico, and much more have adopted the curricula and teaching methodologies developed by Digital School in Kosovo. This presentation will let the audience know how a company from Kosovo is teaching coding to over seven thousand kids globally.

Another International CTO entered the stage, Mr Giampaolo Panariello, CTO in the Mediterranean Region and CTO for NTN (Non-Terrestrial Networks) Opportunities Development at Nokia. Mr Panariello led the audience into the intriguing concepts of the Metaverse & Space and how technology will change our lives. The Metaverse is the fusion of the digital and physical worlds, accessed by Human augmentation. In Nokia, we believe that there are three different types of Metaverses: Consumer, Enterprise and Industrial with each having a different degree of maturity. In the near future, the 5G Advanced won't be enough- hence 6G is required for the Metaverse to be accessible everywhere in the world, where this can only be possible by the Space Telecommunication Networks.

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The first discussion panel of the 11th edition concentrated on How ICT can increase the competitiveness of SMEs, sponsored by ProCredit Bank. The discussion was moderated by Ms Argjira Kadrijaj Dushi from Pro Credit Bank. The panellists that participated in the discussion were Ms Leonora Kusari, Regional Coordinator at EBRD, Mr Arber Bakija, CEO at Bbros LLC, and Mr Kreshnik Shehu, CEO at Shehu LLC. The discussion aimed at highlighting the current situation of SMEs in regard to digitalization and their opportunities to grow through it.

The discussion panel was followed by the presentation of the Director of Product at Kin + Carta Europe, Mr Andrew Clark, with the topic of How to create intelligent, data-driven experiences. Mr Clark shared share his knowledge of how Digital Transformation in the last decade was defined by the unification of business and technology. And how the next decade of digital transformation will be defined by becoming intelligent about your customer - the unification of marketing and digital.

Mr Ivan Lupić, Director of Business Development, New Areas at Ericsson Nikola Tesla was the next keynote speaker who disclosed the high employee rating in the ICT industry and how to achieve and retain it. In his speech, Mr Lupic brought his personal experience to describe activities to attract, develop, and retain employees.

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The next discussion panel focused on Digital solutions for safe, smart and green cities, supported by UNDP Kosovo. The panel was facilitated by Ms Arlinda Rushaj Sadiku, Technical Lead – of Urban Shifts at UNDP Kosovo. Contributors to the discussion were Mr Henry Willem Farr, Sales and Marketing at City Systems (VCS) Berlin and Mr Calum Handford, Advisor, Digital Health and Smart Cities, UNDP Global Centre for Technology, Innovation, and Sustainable Development who joined the panel virtually. Another panellist was the Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Prishtina Ms Donjeta Sahatçiu. And Mr Servet Spahiu, General Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure was also a panellist, together with Ms Gresa Neziri, Urbanist and Executive Director at SpaceSyntaKs.

The Coders Friendship Gathering theme was the next discussion panel, composed of Mr Arianit Fazliu, CEO at Kutia, Mr Engjëll Rraklli CEO at Divison5, Mr Alen Huskanović, CEO of Async Lab, Mr Boyko Bodurov, CEO at Infoleven Group, Mr Nenad Novovic, Founder and CEO at Amplitudo and Mr Darko Ivanovic, CEO at Digital Den Hub. This panel revealed an intensely competitive business environment and with the increasing speed of technology-enabled change, the importance of strategy implementation has increased exponentially. Market disruption has accelerated transformation and forced executives to reimagine their business models.

Next, the stage welcomed Ms Hana Hoxha, PhD Researcher at the University of Ljubljana who presented "The nexus between digitalization and economic development: A comprehensive measurement framework." This presentation addressed multidisciplinary issues related to several fields of research, such as sustainable development, economics, and digitalization, and was focused on the European Union countries. The main objective of this presentation was to define the relationship between digitalization and economic development.

And at the end of the first day of the event, the last but not the least keynote speaker was Mr. Michael Mizrahi, the Head of the Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Authority at the Azrieli College of Engineering, Jerusalem, Izrael. Mr Mizrahi's speech took the audience on an imaginary trip to 2042 to see how our life is going to look 20 years from now, based on the current technology that is being developed by Israeli Startups. This was the end of the day for the main stage, with a great closure and a clear vision for the future.

The second day of the ProCredit Main stage was opened with a great speech about Blockchain in 2022 and beyond: Potentials, misconceptions and promising use cases, presented by Mr Horst Treiblmaier, Professor and Head of the Department of International Management at the Vienna Modul University. Professor Treiblmaier explained how blockchain is a decentralized ledger with the potential to transform economies through the development of innovative use cases. It can serve as the technical platform for disruptive innovations as well as an enabler of diverse peer-to-peer interactions, besides being the foundation of many cryptocurrencies. It can also ensure immutability, security, and data privacy. Non-fungible tokens (NFTs), for example, enable the transfer of value between peers without the use of intermediaries and are poised to alter how businesses interact with their customers.

Mr. Jose Costa-Requena, the CEO of CUMURORE and Research Manager at Aalto University, was the next keynote speaker of the second. In his speech titled "5G Non-Public Networks", Mr Costa explained how 5G is taking mobile networks to the next level to support deterministic communications entering into new segments such as non-public networks for media, entertainment and industry 4.0 among others. His presentation gave a general overview of the technical advances of 5G in NPN, the challenges, and the enormous potential for economic growth.

After two great keynote speeches, the ProCredit Bank main stage was shared by another discussion panel. The topic of this panel was Reimagining Work: The office of the Future and Talent Acquisition. Moderator of the panel was Ms. Duresa Gashi from Kutia. Mr. Celik Nimani, Managing Director at Kin + Carta Southeast Europe; Ms. Marina Zubic, CMO at Async Labs; Ms. Frosina Denkova Zafirovska, PhD. Chief People & Talent Officer and Mr. Iliyan Kavrakov – Human Resources Manager were the panelists who discussed about Workplace Culture, Empathy and Work-Life Integration in remote work model. As well as Picking our Future Stars: Vocational skills in the ICT sector and exchanging models: how are regional companies managing the skill development and talent acquisition process.

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The next Panel offered a wide discussion on how to prepare today for the skills of tomorrow. Mr Visar Jasiqi, Head of Product and Engineering at Radix Kosovo, was the moderator. The other panellists were Ms Teuta Sahatqija, Women in Tech Ambassador at Women in Tech Kosovo. Ms. Drenusha Shehu, Transformation Agile Coach at Raiffeisen Bank Kosova. Ms Antigona Uka, Executive Director at Kosova Center for Distance Education. Arben Salihu, Director and Founder at Smarter Skills.

Mr. Reza Moussavi, General Director at the AI Center in Sweden, occupied the main stage to present to the audience the AI+EU: A Job Creating Machine. Mr. Moussavi as an intelligence analyst and tech innovator explained how the present AI as not just technology but also a vast field of knowledge, skill, and opportunity. Small businesses, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers can benefit from AI technology, tools, and opportunities to enhance and secure their businesses and the future of their jobs.

After an interesting presentation from Mr Moussavi, the stage was prepared for the next panel discussion, moderated by Mr Tanzer Abazi, Co-Founder and Managing Director at FINDBUG.io. During this discussion, the panellists had the chance to express their knowledge and thoughts about Digital Transformation, if it is a challenge or an opportunity. The panel was composed of Mr Agim Kukaj, Director of the ICT Department at the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr Fatbardh Veseli, IT & Cybersecurity Architect at Capgemini and Mr Kastriot Fetahaj, Lead CyberSecurity Engineer at Noexis.

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The Global Executive Director at Dentsu International, Mr Kristian Kabashi entered the speech next as keynote speaker, to present The Blank Collar – Work is for Bots, Life is for Humans. Mr Kabashi as the founder of The Blank Collar and the Co-Founder of Numarics, an award-winning Swiss fintech company and currently the Global Executive Director of Dentsu International, presented the "The Blank Collar" and why it's the future of work and why is the lever that enables people to achieve their full potential and raise humanity to the next level while robots carry out the rote work.

The next and final panel discussion was about Paving Kosovo's fintech future. The panel was moderated by Mr Dior Halili, ICT Lead at USAID Compete Activity and panellist Ms Melita Ymeraga, CEO & Managing Partner at Melita & Partners; Ulpian Morina, CTO and Co-Founder at Swinto and Mr Gazmend Selmani, Founder at IBAS.world.

The Main Stage of KosICT22 lowered the curtain with the scholarship award ceremony. Kutia and Coders Lab Kosova awarded 17 scholarships for a total of 10,000 € to women in IT.

These scholarships will support female seniors studying computer science and engineering in their pursuit of an IT career by providing them with top-notch professional training from subject matter experts!

DEVELOPERS STAGE

The first keynote speaker at the Developers stage, sponsored by KUTIA, was Mr Fisnik Doko as the Azure Cloud Solution Architect and Microsoft Trainer. In his speech, Mr Doko shared his knowledge of Azure Architecture's best practices and configurations for various resources. The session covered resources for deploying and securing web applications, with a focus on configuration details.

The next keynote speaker unfolded the different kinds of algorithms and practically how to transform them into concurrent code and how more. Mr Roman Hoog Antink, Senior Project Manager in Development at OPEN SYSTEMS AG, also added that more and more companies are using Go for the backend of new software projects, while some companies replace core components written in older well-established languages such as Perl, C++, or Java.

After an interesting speech from Mr Antink, the stage welcomed Mr Val Sopi, Founder of Handmade Spaceships, Inc. In his speech, Mr Sopi presented to the audience the opportunities in running a "Company of One" and various options on how to lead a less stressful life while generating income equivalent to or greater than those running companies with hundreds of employees.

The KUTIA dev-stage was prepared for the first-panel discussion of the day, the aim of which was to know the goal of the now and future of frontend development in the Balkan region. Mr Faton Selishta, CTO at Kutia; Mr Edon Sekiraqa, CTO - FRAKTON (Part of Kin + Carta); Mr Nesar Havolli, Frontend Developer at D.Labs and Mr Freskim Veliu, Team Leader & Full Stack Developer at Tenton were the panellists.

Following the panel, Mr. Egëzon Berisha, Senior Site Reliability Engineer at Twitter, occupied the stage to unfold to the audience his experience in MySQL and the high availability with ProxySQL. Mr. Berisha furth more presented how ProxySQL is a high-performance protocol-aware proxy for MySQL and can improve MySQL performance by distributing the read-only traffic to multiple nodes.

Ms Taija-Maija Korhonen the Legal Advisor, Business Development and Co-Founder of Wave Company was the speaker at the Dev Stage. Ms Korhonen explained how business environments around the world are experiencing new and faster changes. The presentation addressed the changing expectations between employers and employees and reflected on the country-specific differences between Finland and Kosovo, and how to solve the situation.

Industry 4.0 innovations in Agriculture and Agro-intelligence was the next topic at the KUTIA Dev-Stage, presented by Mr Selim Temizer, Head of the Department of Computer Science at Universum Collage. During his speech, Mr Temizer talked about a couple of projects he carried out with The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, where they applied artificial intelligence and data science methodologies to come up with high-impact solutions and automation mechanisms such as determining the optimal time to apply pesticides, counting and classifying pests, and analyzing agricultural commodity markets for providing financial suggestions to traders of agricultural products.

Next on the Stage came Mr. Lokman Musliu the CEO & Lead Developer of Lucky Media. Mr. Musliu discussed how to create web applications that can scale. This is important, as Mr. Musliu explained, for businesses that experience a lot of web traffic or need to be able to handle a large number of users. He covered topics such as caching, smart data fetching, CDN networks, and serverless technologies etc.

The next discussion was about 5G, from the SW developer's perspective. Mr Tomislav Štefanec, Line Manager in traffic control, at Ericsson Nikola Tesla, discussed how in the past few years, 5G has been mentioned as one of the technologies that will transform the world in the upcoming years by giving us very high connectivity speed and ultra-low latency.

At the closing of day one of the KUTIA Dev-Stage, Mr Danilo Kasemi the Project Manager at Landmark & Moveo Technologies concluded the day with the topic of Web 3, a critical viewpoint and his view on it for the future.

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Continuing the tradition of promoting professional and competitive games, for the 11th edition, KosICT in cooperation with Xportal eSports, organized the CS: GO CSR Tournament and VALORANT XP KosICT Champions Professional tournament.

CS: GO CSR Tournament was organized between 14 teams from ICT companies. Team LINK PLUS and Frakton made it to the final that was held on the second day of the KosICT Festival. Team LINK PLUS won the tournament. The winning team would choose the beneficiary of the donation for the charity.

VALORANT KosICT Champions Professional tournament brought together the best players in Kosovo and the region for a battle and prize final of 3,000 Euros. The four best teams from the qualifiers played in the semifinals and the grand final during KosICT.

BUSINESS LOUNGE & B2B

Part of KosICT 2016 was the Business Lounge – a specific separated place at the Palace of Youth and Sports where only speakers, investors, entrepreneurs, and representative of companies had access to enter.

As a networking space, Business Lounge provided a chance for everyone to feel comfortable talking to each other with the aim to share their potential business ideas and create new partnerships. Business Lounge was decorated in a more exclusive manner, offering catering and a comfortable area where B2Bs would take place. The Brokerage Event brought together 24 local and international businesses for 36 private meetings and potential partnership explorations for two days.

FUTURE DEVELOPERS

gjirafa.com

At this edition of KosICT, one corner was arranged for the children, named as "Future Developers". Young ICT enthusiasts aged 6 to 16 years old, presented their work and highlight their skills on the stages of KosICT.

44 kids from Shkolla Digjitale, J-Coders, Finnish school and Bonevet were part of Future Developers Corner, sponsored by Gjirafa

SHKOLLA DIGJITALE   BONEVET™   Finnish School of Kosovo   coders ACADEMY

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INNOVATION FAIR

Continuing the tradition of supporting and promoting the work of promising regional startups, coming from the Kosovo Innovation Center (ICK), another important part of the eleventh edition of KosICT was the innovation fair. 9 new and innovative startup companies, were presented at this year's fair.

During the two days of the festival, the selected startups had the opportunity to present more about their work, passion for technology and entrepreneurship and discuss with participants about potential products and investments.

The following Start-Up companies have participated in the Innovation Fair of the tenth edition of the KosICT technology festival.

INNOVATION FAIR

As an early-stage start-up, GoBeyond is striving to harness the nutritional power of insects for the future of food and animal feed. It uses organic side- and waste streams to bio-convert them into high-quality protein and natural fertilizer. This process is designed to mitigate climate change effects and as a Zero-Waste approach fully integrates into a circular-economy environment.

Nerdy Creative is a software development company specialising in digital solutions. They help clients solve problems by creating, designing, and maintaining brands, websites, and apps. They work with startups, individuals, organizations, and enterprises from various industries, helping them create and launch products that are used by millions of customers around the world.

CloudMyBusiness is a software development company focused on creating in-house products for the car industry. Currently, CloudMyBusiness has two products: VeCheck is an innovative vehicle health check platform. It is subscription based, used by auto services as a web application and mobile app. VeCheck helps businesses grow their sales and build strong connections with their customers. CloudMyCar is a subscription-based digital product for the car care industry. Car care companies use this product, as a web application and mobile app to manage all of their work.

Biotech Agriculture is an innovative start-up company that operates in South Europe, Kosovo. We automate a different kinds of agriculture processes. Currently, we have two products on the market: Smart Greenhouse and Smart Irrigation system.

Kosovo Glass Recycling is to date the only company in Kosovo dealing with glass waste. Founded in 2019, the company's main mission is to ensure sustainable employment through recycling and upcycling. Some of their products include terrazzo tiles, glass cullet, pool filtration glass media, sandblasting media, interior and exterior elements like tables and countertops, and artisan handmade products. KGR employs six people at their location in Gjakova and is working on increasing collection and processing capacities throughout Kosovo.

AutoNet LLC is a company established in September 2019. With the newest technology, we provide an online auto auction marketplace that allows companies and individuals from Kosovo, Albania and North Macedonia to bid and buy their vehicles in online auctions—bid from anywhere, anytime. Our platform www.bidautonet.com provides used cars from reputable manufacturers, European banks, leasing companies and fleet agencies.

Crossplag™ is the most holistic tool for plagiarism checking. We are dedicated to democratizing plagiarism checking while enabling users to have full ownership and control over their data. Our Vision is to support individuals and institutions in upholding academic integrity and ensuring originality in their writings without language barriers. We support more than 100 languages and have archived more than 300 Million documents and more than 70 Billion web articles for comparison.

We bring to life entrepreneurial ideas. It is very important for us to help businesses distinguish from competitors and become more competitive. Software development can improve the client's experiences, bring more feature-rich and innovative products to market, and make setups safer, more productive, and more efficient. We also have created our own product called SenseCase which will digitalize how you measure body temperature.

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TRAILBLAZERS FAIR

During the two days of the festival, 9 ICT Companies had the opportunity to present more about their work and discuss with participants about potential products and investments.

The following companies have participated in the Companies Fair of the tenth edition of the KosICT technology festival.

Beriflapp is an IT Company headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. The company was created in 2012 by 3 colleagues during their studies. After 4 years of activity in Switzerland, Beriflapp opened its office in Kosovo in 2016. Beriflapp provides specialized and high-quality software development, consulting and support services to various clients, primarily in Switzerland.

Radix was born out of necessity and frustration for the lack of options available to get better, more accurate data in real-time, and our strong conviction to build a platform tailored for the multifamily industry. Our user and feedback-oriented approach focus on expanding the data-driven capabilities of all multifamily professionals. Today, our platform is the leader in comp and performance benchmarking, and market research with tools designed to take on the challenges of a rapidly evolving industry.

Incodeks specializes in the development and maintenance of phone and web applications, applications based on Artificial Intelligence (Chat & Voice bots) and other dedicated services. Whether you need to build a product from scratch or take care of a particular component, whether it's a backend, frontend, virtual assistant, phone app or API, you can count on us. We take the time to understand your business needs and then provide you with a dedicated development team whose expertise matches your project's requirements and goals.

Universum College was established in March 2005, in Prishtina and Ferizaj. The college is a higher education provider accredited by the Kosovo Agency of Accreditation with the evaluation conducted by international experts. It is renowned for its academic background, research facilities, and international opportunities offered to its students and academic staff. It is a centre for scholarship, research, and creative activity involving the creation, testing, and dissemination of knowledge, understanding, and techniques. Its mission is to provide high-quality and affordable educational services to Kosovar, regional and international students. Through excellence in teaching, lifelong learning applied research, and partnership building its aim is to prepare students to be successful, responsible citizens, and to support economic development in Kosovo and the region.

Team Finland network promotes Finland and its interests abroad by providing international opportunities for Finnish enterprises, promoting investments in Finland, and improving the Finnish country brand. Team Finland operational model brings together key actors and services in these fields. The Team Finland network in Kosovo works in an adaptive way and it is well-fitted to the local conditions. Public diplomacy is an important part of promoting export and trade. The reputation of the Finnish embassy as an active and versatile actor in Kosovo has increased in all aspects of society thanks to the development policies and public diplomacy that is practised through EU instruments.

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Protecht was established as a cooperation between Kosovo and Swiss teams to provide information technology solutions for businesses, institutions and organizations. Our mission from the very first day has been to cultivate professional relationships with our clients to provide effective and reliable information technology solutions for their needs. The team at Protecht is equipped with a highly developed skillset, and experience not only in information technology but also in business processes across a range of industry sectors. As an established technology-intensive company, we pride ourselves on providing a comprehensive suite of solutions comprising infrastructure consultancy, on/offsite services, custom software and web development, software and web application testing, and enterprise architecture consulting. Our team consistently delivers state-of-the-art solutions in various areas including, but not limited to, integrated business solutions, system applications, product development, Network & System development/administration, CRM & BI Solutions, Internet/Intranet applications and communication, mobile development

CACTTUS is the leading company in Kosovo in solutions and services in the field of information technology and telecommunications. Our portfolio of services includes networks and telecommunications, information security, system integrations and Cloud services, IT consulting and auditing, software development, business solutions, professional education and training. With highly skilled engineers, specialists and developers who hold the most renowned certifications in the ICT industry, we offer ready-made integrated solutions to our clients. By designing and developing modern and adaptable infrastructures and solutions for our clients, we help them run their operations and thereby grow their businesses. With over 15 years of company experience and over 30 years of individual experience of our founders, we have earned a reputation for high performance and reliability which is based on providing services and products that represent innovation and quality for a wide range of industries.

StarLabs is an ICT company located in Prishtina which offers cost-effective ICT services for the international market through an outsourcing approach. The services offered by Starlabs combine a number of technologies which help international companies design IT network solutions, system integrations, Outsource Business Processes, System Testing, Development and IT managed services. Our main expertise is in Business Process Outsourcing – BPO which helps international companies optimize their ICT infrastructure to meet their business goals. Starlabs works for ICT international companies who are interested to reduce their operations costs by maintaining work quality.

Ericsson is the driving force behind the Networked Society – a world leader in communications technology and services. Ericsson's long-term relationships with every major telecom operator in the world allow people, businesses and societies to fulfil their potential and create a more sustainable future. Ericsson Nikola Tesla is an associated company of the Ericsson Group which leads and supports modern communications. The company's activities include marketing and sales, research and development, design of the total communications solution, services in the multi-service and mobile networks area including the mobile Internet and complex system integration in all business areas. The company provides innovative ICT solutions that constantly improve people's lives and create new value.

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KOSICT NIGHTS

To make the Tech Festival even more attractive and fulfilling, KosICT had set up great evenings, one at Centrum Bar and one at Annex where the participants and everyone else could meet our speakers in person and discuss the KosICT Topics.

During the KosICT nights, under the sounds of music played by Dj Oda and Dj Matale, our guests had the opportunity to have fun and get to know each other by clinking glasses in the Centrum Bar.

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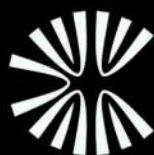KOSOVO ICT ASSOCIATION

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