



PROVISIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF SELF GOVERNMENT

**KUVENDI I KOSOVËS**  
**СКУПШТИНА КОСОВА**  
**ASSEMBLY OF KOSOVO**

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**Law No. 02/L-51**

**ON PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES AND BOOKS**

Assembly of Kosova,

Pursuant to Chapter 5.1 (g) and 9.1.26 (a) of the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo, UNMIK Regulation No. 2001/9 of the 15th of May 2001.

For the purposes of developing of a modern publishing activity and books, which is meant to ensure publishers and book users a more advanced way in publishing, republishing, and promotion of reading, acquiring new knowledge and information,

Hereby adopts the following:

**LAW ON PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES AND BOOKS**

CHAPTER I  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1  
Goal

1.1. The goal of the present Law is:

1. determining of basic principles and practices for development of publishing activities, development of literature, artistic, scientific, professional and cultural creation in Kosova.
2. ensuring of a role and importance of a publisher in providing, dissemination and promotion of a final product together with other factors partaking in writing, compilation, publishing of book and book related products.
3. creating conditions that writing, publishing, preserving, protection, dissemination and promotion of books be proclaimed as activities of national interest.
4. setting of conditions based on which the publishing activity should be developed in order for the book to perform its primary function, in growth and capacity building of human personality.
5. influencing in creation of public awareness regarding value and operation of the book as a primary factor in building and information of human personality, in transfer of knowledge, dissemination of culture and encouraging of scientific-cultural research.

6. providing access to books and encourage reading habits.
7. guaranteeing of a free circulation of books and book related products, and their dissemination both inside and outside the territory of Kosova by means of any technique and technology.
8. encouraging development of a publishing industry in the benefit of books and book related products.

1.2. The Ministry of Culture, Youth, Sports and Non-resident affairs (hereinafter: The Ministry of Culture) proposes and takes necessary measures for achievement of the goals set out in this Article.

## Article 2 Object

The present Law shall define rules in the field of creation, production, preserving, protection, dissemination and promotion of books and book related products in the territory of Kosova.

## Article 3 Definitions

In the present Law, the following terms shall have those meanings:

1. “**A book**” means a unitary whole, illustrated or not, published under one title in whatever form aiming at materializing of a mentally derived product of one or more authors, published once or periodically, in one volume or many volumes.

2. “**Its related products**” (with book) include: almanacs, annuals, catalogues, stamp collecting albums, albums on dying, illustrated albums for children, repertoires with numerical information, alphabetic repertoires, brochures explaining operation of apparatus connected to them, simple music scores disseminating text and music of a song, music notebooks for homework, and other similar publications, such as: books with discs, magnetic tapes, cassettes, films or slides with double condition:

- a) so those shall constitute one single whole and their elements shall not be an object of a separate selling, and
- b) their audio-visual support is supplemental to the book and not the opposite, shall be considered books in the sense of point 1 of this Article.

3. “**An author**” means a physical person (or physical persons) who creates, produces a literary, scientific, artistic work, a school text-book and other related products, to be published in a form of a book, and therefore the name of its creator should be noted on it.

4. “**Publishers**” means private publishers and public institutions with the right to publish who select works created by authors or order their compilation, order translation of works or perform other necessary services in order to turn them into books, and their carry out a process of creation, publication and distribution of books.

5. “**Distributors**” means private publishers and public institutions with the right to publish who carry out purchase or wholesale of books.

6. “**Booksellers**” means private publishers and public institutions with the right to publish who conduct the activity of selling books in market environments.

7. “**Editors [Printers]**” means private publishers and public institutions with the right to publish who perform production activities with printing as their object, who possess necessary industrial equipments and tools for printing and production of books.

8. “**Translators**” means private publishers and public institutions with the right to publish who translate a work from one language into another.

9. “**Artgraphic designers**” means private publishers and public institutions with the right to publish who make choice of an idea, carry out the whole graphic preparation and displaying, design printing notes, format internal diagramming and illustrate books.

10. As a **publication** shall be considered books, and books with gramophone diskettes, with audio-visual cassette, with geographical maps, and other similar additions (multimedia publications), brochures, off-prints, magazines, newspapers, artistic reproductions, artistic works written in scores, geographic maps, atlases, globes of all kinds, urban plans, placards, catalogues, programs, postcards and printed photos, slides etc., and their integral parts reproduced graphically, gramophone diskettes and compact discs, audio and visual registered cassettes, registered computer discs and other works, which can be reproduced in printing or in another similar way.

## CHAPTER II FREEDOM OF PUBLICATION AND CIRCULATION OF BOOKS

### Article 4

Publication and circulation of books is conducted by private publishers and public institutions with the right to publish stipulated in Chapter VII of the present Law.

### Article 5

Present law shall guarantee, protect and promote the freedom of publication in local and foreign languages and circulation of books both inside and outside the territory of Kosova. The freedom of publication and circulation of books shall be limited only on basis of a court decision, in cases when publication or circulation of books is conducted in contradiction with the applicable legal provisions.

## CHAPTER III COUNCIL OF BOOKS

### Article 6

6.1. Based on the present Law, the Council of Books shall be appointed by the Minister of Culture, and it will be an advisory body aiming to provide initiatives and propose decisions in the benefit of publishing activity, of books and their reading.

6.2. Members of the Council of the Books shall have a 4 years mandate.

Article 7  
Composition of the Council of Books

The Council of Books is composed of 11 members, as follows:

1. The authorized representative of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport;
2. The authorized representative of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology;
3. Representative of the University of Prishtina;
4. The representative of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova;
5. The authorized representative of the League of Writers of Kosova;
6. The representative of the National and University Library of Kosova;
7. The representative of the Association of Kosova Publishers;
8. Representative of the Institute of Albanology;
9. Three (3) outstanding creators (according to literary genres: one poet, one prose writer, one literary critique) to the choice of minister in the Ministry of Culture.

Article 8  
Duties of the Council of Books

8.1. The Council of Books shall have those duties:

1. Propose measures for ensuring support for the public and private sectors in order to achieve objectives of the present Law;
2. Propose plans and programs on promotion of books, encourage reading and development of publishing industry in the country according to public interests;
3. Give recommendations on legal matters and on issuance of sub-legal acts based on the present Law, and international agreements related to scope of books and reading;
4. Propose forms for encouraging reading and promotion of books at all levels of education in co-operation with the Ministry of Education;
5. Propose measures for preserving and protection of book tradition in the country in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture;
6. Support strengthening of the library system with the Council of Libraries, and to preserve bibliographical heritage according to newly created techniques and technologies;
7. To propose the organisation of international meetings with other necessary entities to increase export of books and book related products produced in the country, and for dissemination of books outside of Kosova;
8. Assist participation of authors, translators, publishers and booksellers to meetings, fairs and other national and international activities dedicated to books and book related products;
9. To organize together with publishing entities competitions for awarding prizes for literary and scientific works, and for publications in fields it finds of priority for national culture;
10. Propose measures for supporting publication of works with particular cultural, educational and scientific value;

11. Encourage supporting publication of literary works for children, of works in deficient genres and those targeting handicapped and those with physical disabilities;
12. Encourage original creations and its promotion in the country and abroad;
13. Recommend presentation of original creations in foreign languages;

8.2. The Council of Books shall propose to the minister in the Ministry of Culture taking of necessary measures for enforcing a policy in scope of books.

#### Article 9 Organization and operation of the Council of Books

Organization and operation of the Council of Books shall be determined with sub-legal acts.

### CHAPTER IV STIMULATING MEASURES FOR INCOURAGING PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

#### Article 10

10.1. Private publishers and public institutions with the right to publish whose primary object of their activity is publishing and distribution of books, authors, translators, book artgraphic designers and those of products related to it may enjoy the right to be exempt from taxes and other fiscal and customs duties.

10.2. Recipients of those stimulating measures, whose rights to use such measures had been once cancelled or terminated due to their omissions, shall not be allowed again the use of tax and fiscal exemptions foreseen by the provisions of the previous paragraph of this article.

#### Article 11

Import of books in their complete or incomplete form, import of photos, films, electromagnetic recordings and other reproducible book elements, according to the present law shall be exempt from any custom tax.

#### Article 12

Donations in books, magazines, brochures, catalogues made to educational institutions and institutions of culture, to libraries, non-profitable associations or trade unions enjoy benefits in accordance with Law.

#### Article 13

Books published in Kosovo will be subject to reduced postal fees.

## CHAPTER V SCHOOL TEXT-BOOKS

### Article 14

14.1. The concept of a school text-book, conditions for its compilation and permission, and publication of school texts, rights and obligations of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), and the publishers' rights and obligations are determined by a special law.

14.2. Preparation, editing, printing, distribution and sale of school text-books approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and University shall be conducted by publishers who remain entitled to copyrights of these works in accordance with an agreement reached with authors.

## CHAPTER VI RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE INSTITUTIONS

### Article 15

Central and local institutions, NGO-s and their responsible individuals shall initiate requests for publishing books and create conditions to encourage reading through:

1. Organisation of cultural, educational and informational activities through teaching institutions and media;
2. Awarding prizes for promotion, publishing and dissemination of books and their reading;
3. Providing funds for purchasing of published books with destination to the national network of libraries or to centers of documentation with public character;
4. Organisation of exhibitions, book fairs in accordance with legal acts.

### Article 16

16.1. In order to achieve the popularization, affirmation, and the advancement of the publishing activity as well the both original and translated books of all the genre, the central and local bodies, the central institutions of art, science and culture, also those regional and local, according to the present law, are obliged to purchase or award each year for libraries and their needs, whereas for cultural institutions and bodies about 5 published copies, in the same year by the publishers registered in the Ministry of Culture.

### Article 17

17.1. The Ministry of Culture supports purchasing books for enrichment of funds in public libraries, in accordance with the needs of libraries.

17.2. The Ministry of Education supports purchasing books for enrichment of funds in school libraries, in accordance with the needs of libraries.

### Article 18

Central and local institutions through relevant bodies, in agreement with the Ministry of Culture and upon proposal from the Council of Books, shall undertake necessary measures for dissemination and encouraging of reading in relevant local and central units.

## CHAPTER VII REGISTER OF PUBLISHERS

### Article 19

19.1. To be engage in the publishing activities, the private publishers and public institutions with the right to publish, primarily need to have registered their publishing activity as a business in the relevant Ministry, in conformity with the law, as well as to be licensed and registered in the special register in the Ministry of Culture.

19.2. The license for the publishing activity defined in the previous paragraph shall be issued by a special committee in the Ministry of Culture.

19.3. Criteria and conditions for practicing the publishing activity are determined by the Ministry of Culture on proposal of the Council of Books.

19.4. Publishers who practice this activity prior to entry into force of the present Law should be registered and licensed on the Register of Publishers within 6 months deadline from the day of entry into force of the present Law.

### Article 20

Rules concerning registration and de-registration of publishers on/from the Register of Publishers shall be determined by the Council of Books, and implemented by the Ministry of Culture.

## CHAPTER VIII BOOK INDEXES AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISED BOOK NUMBER (ISBN)

### Article 21

Every book published in Kosova must contain the following indexes:

- i. Title of work;
- ii. Name of author;
- iii. Name of translator, drafter, compiler;
- iv. Year of publication;
- v. Place and name of printing house;
- ii. Name of publisher or name of publishing institution;
- iii. International standardized book number (ISBN);
- iv. Price;
- ix. Copyrights;
- x. Cataloguing in publication (CIP);
- xi. Other indexes according to the specifics of publication, if applicable;
- xii. Circulation in published items.

### Article 22

Regulation of the Agency on Standardization of Book Publishing shall determine procedures to be followed by a publisher in seeking, obtaining and applying of ISBN.

CHAPTER IX  
SALES PRICES OF BOOKS

Article 23

Every private publisher and public institution with the right to publish who publishes, imports and exports books shall set sales price to books, with the exception of publications for school purposes, and an approval should be obtained concerning them from the Ministry of Education.

Article 24

Sales price should be made public by noting a price tag on the out cover of the book, either by printing or by labeling it. In case of labeling, the tag will bear contain publisher's name as well.

Article 25

Each publisher, distributor, exporter and importer of books is obliged by the publishing to readably and clearly put also the price of the book.

Article 26

26.1. For books put on sale prior to issuance of the present Law and which do not bear their sales price, noting of sales price is the duty of publisher or importer of the book and of the bookseller upon publisher or importer's authorization.

26.2. Noting of sales price shall be implemented by bookseller or bookselling network based on documentation of relevant prices by the publisher or importer of the book.

26.3. The supervision and control regarding the obligation defined in article 25 in conformity with the law is done by competent market inspectors.

Article 27

27.1. A publisher or importer shall make changes to the sales price of books, by communicating it to the bookseller and bookselling network in a documented manner, only by a decision of the steering body of the Publisher, unless with an agreement or a contract is not decided otherwise.

27.2. Deadline from communicating this change until its implementation should be sufficient, so bookseller and bookselling network can complete noting on the copies in stock. This deadline may not be longer than 15 (fifteen) days.

27.3. A bookseller or distributor may not change sales price of the book or to similar products with consignment without publisher's approval.

Article 28

Sales price by means of subscription or advance payment respectively shall be indicated on documents about the sale or on catalogues whereby they were ordered.



## Article 29

For violation of provisions from Chapter IX of the present Law, every affected individual, legal entity, association for protection of consumers' rights, publishers association, professional publishers' trade union or book dissemination, or the author of the book himself/herself, or any copyrights agency, shall have the right to request a halt in violation of his/her rights and claim for the damage with the relevant bodies.

## CHAPTER X OBLIGATORY DELIVERY OF COPIES

### Article 30

30.1. Publications in form of books, brochures, pamphlets, postal maps, geographical atlas, musical and choreographic scores, regardless of their material sustaining and technical procedure of its production, publishing and distribution, printed inside or outside territory of the country by the private publishers and public institutions with the right to publish exercising activities in the field of publishing and distribution in Kosova, once becoming available to public, they constitute an object of obligatory delivery of five (5) copies to the National Library of Kosova.

30.2. Each private publisher and public institution with the right to publish that publishes publications in Kosova, dedicated to public use, is obliged to send five copies of every publication to the National Library of Kosova, within 30 days from the day of the publication.

30.3. If the publisher is not identified or he/she does not have residence or headquarters in Kosova – this obligation will be carried out by the printing house, or the entity that carried out reproducing.

### Article 31

Delivery shall be carried out under terms and conditions established by the Law on Libraries.

### Article 32

In cases of production of a book or a book related product, in more than one format or cover, containing a different identification ISBN number, such products shall be considered as different publications and shall be subject to obligatory delivery of copies.

## CHAPTER XI ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

### Article 33

Violation of binding provisions of the present Law shall constitute an administrative minor offence and will be fined against.

#### Article 34

34.1. Violations of the following provisions shall be considered a minor administrative offence and further fined:

1. Conducting a publisher's activity without the license and registering in the Register of Publishers shall constitute a minor administrative offence and will be fined from 1.000 € to 10.000 €
2. When a publishing, complete or partial reproduction, photocopying of a book or of the products related to it, including translation is made by entities which have not obtained these rights based on an agreement in accordance with provisions of the Law on Copyrights and Related Rights and when this act does not constitute a penal act based on the Penal Code, is fined from 1.000€(one thousand) to 10.000 €(ten thousand euros), also depending on its circulation.
3. Publishing and distribution of books to trade without including book indexes foreseen under the present Law shall be fined ten (10) times of the book's public sales price.
4. Any change in book sales price by booksellers or distributors, without approval of its publisher may be fined from 500 €to 1.000 €
5. Breach of the obligation for an obligatory delivery of copies shall constitute an administrative minor offence and shall be fined based on the Law on Libraries.

34.2. Financial assets collected based on this Article shall be remitted to the Kosova Consolidated Budget.

#### Article 35

Units of local government are obliged that within their annual budget make appropriations for purchasing of books for public libraries.

### CHAPTER XII TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

#### Article 36

Upon entering into force of the present Law, the Law on Publishing Activity (SAPK Official Gazette No. 7/74), and any other act in contradiction with the present Law shall be repealed.

#### Article 37

The present law shall enter into force after adoption by the Assembly of Kosova on the date of its promulgation by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

**Law No. 02/L-51**  
**16 March 2006**

**President of the Assembly**

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**Kolë Berisha**