

CHALLENGE BACKGROUND

The Millennium Foundation Kosovo is supporting the Government of Kosovo to implement policy and institutional reforms in two areas critical to economic growth and poverty reduction: reliable electricity; and transparent and accountable governance.

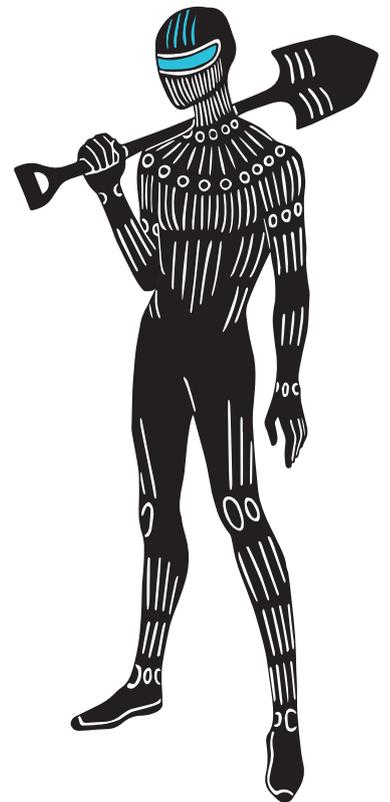
To address concerns regarding the rule of law, we believe that a data-driven approach is needed to increase transparency and accountability in key areas affecting both the reality and perception of rule of law and control of corruption in the country.

Dig Data Challenge seeks to establish and foster productive partnerships between government, civil society (NGOs, the media, think tanks), and private sector and support innovation in data use and analysis.

On one side, this activity is designed to help the government identify key problems they seek support from public in solving, and on the other side it's planned to bring civil society and the private sector into that role as solution-oriented partners.

Quote Petrit Selimi, CEO MFK

"DIGDATA will help Kosovar institutions be more transparent towards the public and supply relevant data in open formats but it will also encourage Kosovo's society to consume open data and participate actively in policy reforms."



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**MCC LABOR FORCE
TIME USE SURVEY**

The starting point for the first Dig Data Challenge was the Labor Force and Time Use Survey (LFTUS), a massive national survey conducted by the MCC in 2017, aimed at understanding key issues related to labor market, unemployment, education, etc.

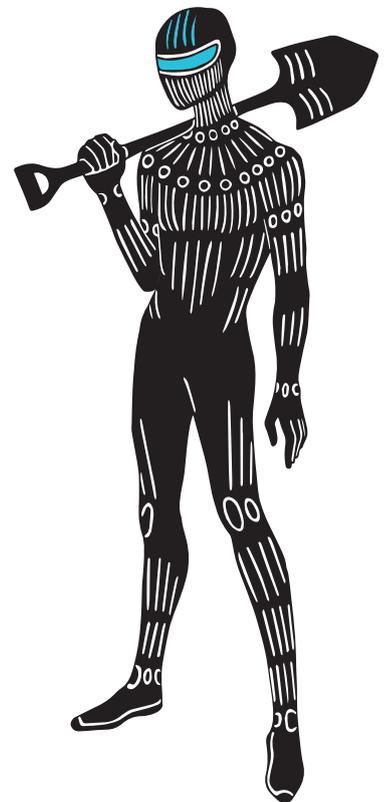
LFTUS was designed to answer nine research questions concerning population-based estimates of the following: labor force participation, job seeking behavior, time use, household decision-making, discriminatory workplace practices, and prevalence and inhibiting factors of entrepreneurship. Given the centrality of labor force participation, the research was designed to examine the relationships between this indicator and field of study, gender norms, and remittances.

To answer these questions, the research team administered a nationally and regionally representative household survey with 8,533 households across 854 Enumeration Areas (EAs). The study used multi-stage stratified cluster-randomized sampling to arrive at a representative sample for each of Kosovo's seven regions.

We offered the data sets to the Dig Data competitors as one of the potential source of reliable data when participating in the competition.

Quote **Sarah Olmstead**, Kosovo Country Director, MCC

"Open data is really critical for governing, for decisions making, and having information is critical not just for governments, in their policy-making, but also for people, the general public to know that the government is working for them."



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DIG DATA CHALLENGE

Dig Data Challenge calls on open data movers and shakers and opinion-makers, start-ups, civil society, the private sector, academia, journalists, designers, technology innovators, and creative problem solvers to submit proposals that address the question:

How can we best aggregate and disseminate improved, targeted, demand-driven information that connects:

- Students to appropriate and effective schooling, training (in their chosen subject and professional conduct), and job opportunities associated with in-demand careers?

- Women to high-value career paths and entrepreneurship opportunities, and employers to strategies to improve recruitment, retention and career prospects for female workers?

- Entrepreneurs to labor market opportunities, prizes and competitions, financing opportunities, and appropriate technical assistance?

This question and derivative issues it raises was formulated after extensive round of consultations with government agencies, NGOs, academia and private sector.

AWARD CATEGORIES

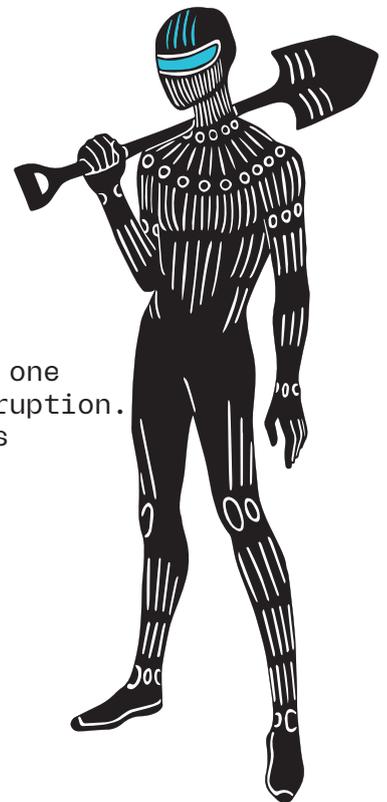
1. Data Communications and Outreach
Seed Funding - 1,000€ - 5,000€
Grant Award - 15,000€

2. Open Data Governance Interventions
(up to 150,000€ available in funding)

Quote: **H.E. Greg Delawie**

U.S. Ambassador to Kosovo

"As I have said before, transparency is one of the most important ways to fight corruption. And, a critical tool for transparency is open data."



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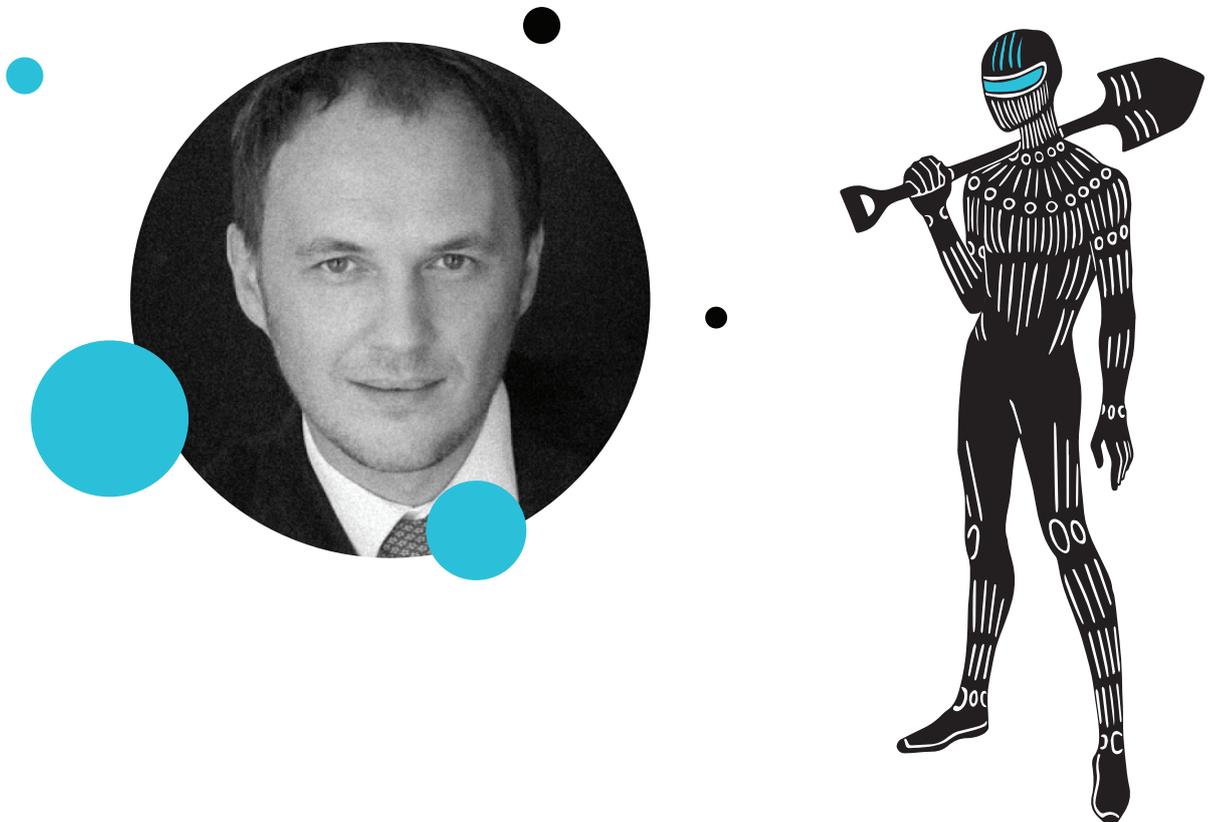
**DIG DATA AWARD
CEREMONY SPEAKERS**

Petrit Selimi, CEO, MFK

Petrit is the Chief Executive Officer of Millennium Foundation Kosovo. He has previously served as the National Coordinator of the Office for Millennium Challenges at the Government of Kosovo where he led the efforts on behalf of the government to reach the second biggest Threshold program in history of MCC.

Prior to his engagement with the MCC Programs, Petrit has served as Foreign Minister in 2016 and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Kosovo in two consecutive mandates from 2010 to 2016. During his tenure in Government, he established several award-winning initiatives in public and digital diplomacy. Following Brussels agreement between Kosovo and Serbia, Petrit served as the National Coordinator for implementation of regional cooperation agreement with Serbia and led the efforts for membership of Kosovo to multilateral institutions including Venice Commission, CoE Development Bank and UNESCO.

He holds a BA in Social Anthropology from University of Oslo, and a has studied for MSc. degree in Media and Communications from London School of Economics, as a recipient of Chevening Scholarship.



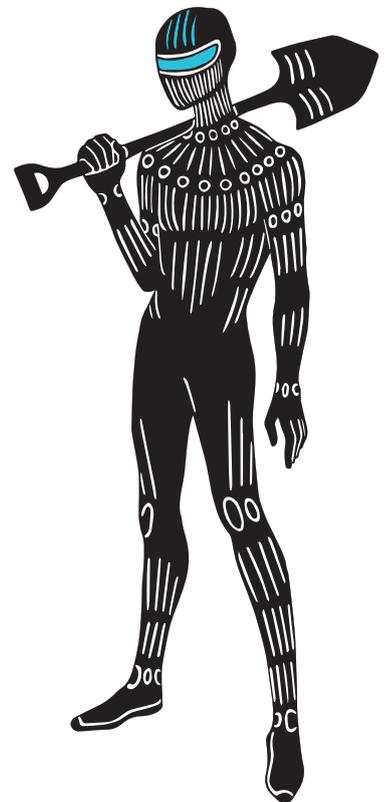
**DIG DATA AWARD
CEREMONY SPEAKERS**

Sarah Olmstead, Kosovo Country Director, MCC.

Sarah is the MCC Country Director for Kosovo. She has been an economist at MCC for nearly six years, providing economic guidance and analysis in eight compact countries, including Georgia, Liberia, and the Philippines, among others.

Before coming to MCC, Sarah worked at the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization at the State Department and the RAND Corporation, focusing in both cases on international development and conflict prevention. Prior to that, she worked in the Science and Human Rights Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Sarah holds a Ph.D. in Policy Analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School and studied physics at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and Harvey Mudd College.



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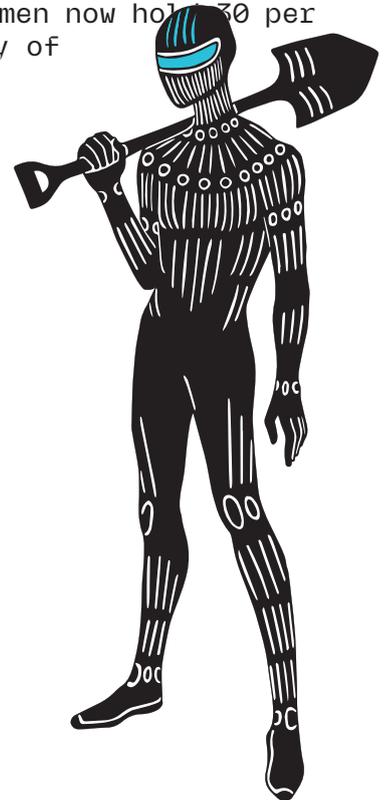
HE Atifete Jahjaga, former President of Kosovo

Atifete Jahjaga is the first female President in the history of Kosovo and the region.

Mrs. Jahjaga served briefly as acting General Director of the Kosovo Police, as well as Deputy General Director of the Kosovo Police from February 2009 until her election as President of the Republic of Kosovo, on April 7, 2011. Since the establishment of the Kosovo Police in early 2000, initially she served as a police officer, progressing at a regional level and that of the General Headquarters.

She completed her studies at the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina. She attended a postgraduate certification program in Police Management and Penal Law at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom and received a Postgraduate Certification in Crime Science at the University of Virginia in the U.S. She has also received extensive professional training at the George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies in Germany, and the FBI National Academy and elsewhere in the United States.

As President, her external focus has been on enhancing the image of Kosovo internationally and establishing its credentials as a future member of the EU and the UN. Internally, she has strengthened the country's democratic institutions, helped to build bridges between ethnic groups and taken strong measures to fight corruption and economic injustice. She has paid particular attention to the participation of women at all levels; women now hold 70 per cent of the seats in Parliament and many of the senior positions in government.



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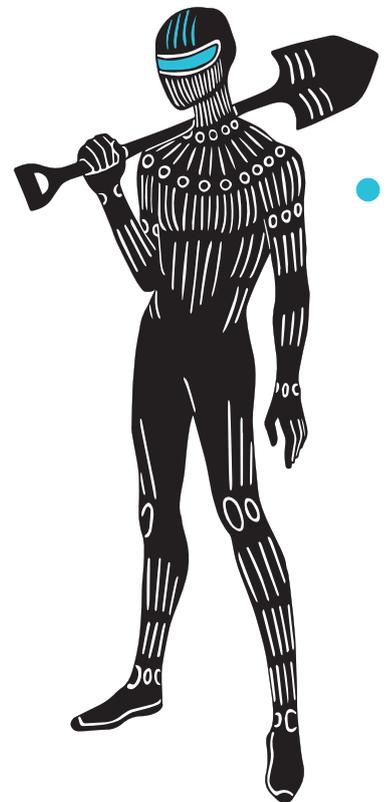
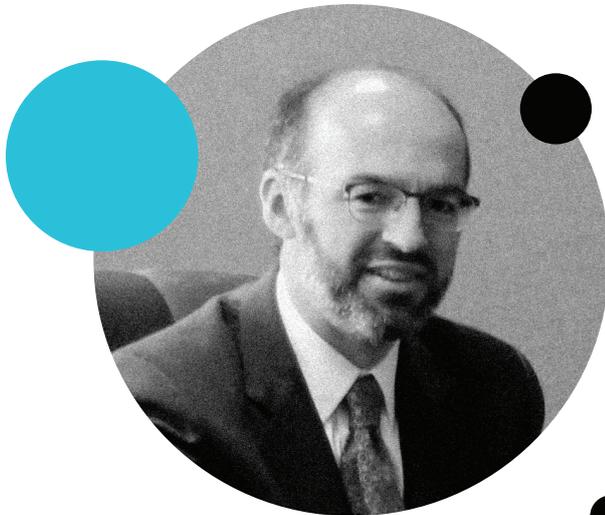
**DIG DATA AWARD
CEREMONY SPEAKERS**

Mr. James Gerard, Managing Director, MCC

As Managing Director of the Millennium Challenge Corporation's Threshold Program, James works with countries to design and implement policy and institutional reforms and thereby support their efforts to become eligible for MCC compacts.

Mr. Gerard joined MCC in 2005 as an Assistant General Counsel, advising teams in the development, negotiation and implementation of compacts with countries across the globe, including Armenia, El Salvador, Morocco, and Malawi. Prior to taking on his current position, he served as MCC's country team lead for the development of the \$277 million El Salvador Investment Compact.

Mr. Gerard brings extensive private sector experience to MCC, having practiced law internationally for more than 10 years at White & Case LLP in New York, Mexico City and Milan. He has advised major banks, corporations and government entities on various cross-border transactions, including structured financings, securities offerings and acquisitions, as well as complex corporate and commercial matters.



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CEREMONY SPEAKERS**

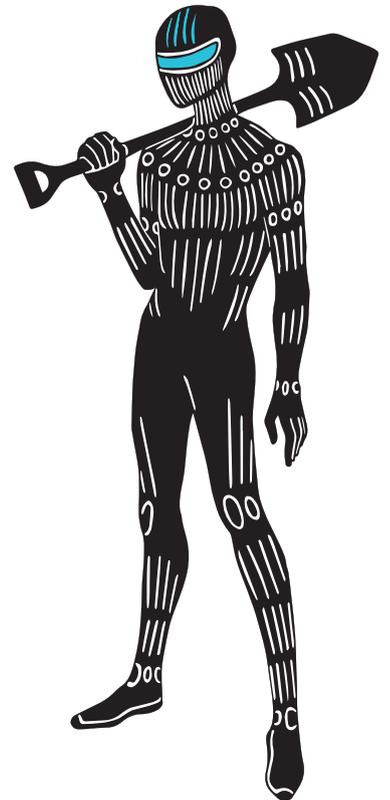
Carl Miller, best-selling author on data and governance; co-founder and Research Director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media at Demos, UK

Carl is the Research Director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media (CASM) at Demos.

He is interested in how social media is changing society, and how researching it can inform important decision including:

- Digital politics and digital democracy
- Cybercrime, and the hacking community
- Cyber-bullying, hate crime, misogyny and abuse online
- Information warfare and online disinformation
- 'Fake news', digital and citizen journalism
- Automated decision-making, Internet governance and digital addiction
- Building new methods and technology to study social media data

He researches and writes widely on these issues, including for Wired, New Scientist, the Sunday Times, the Telegraph and the Guardian. He is a Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London. Recently, he published his first book *The Death of the Gods: The New Global Power Grab* which is an examination of the new centres of power and control in the twenty-first century.



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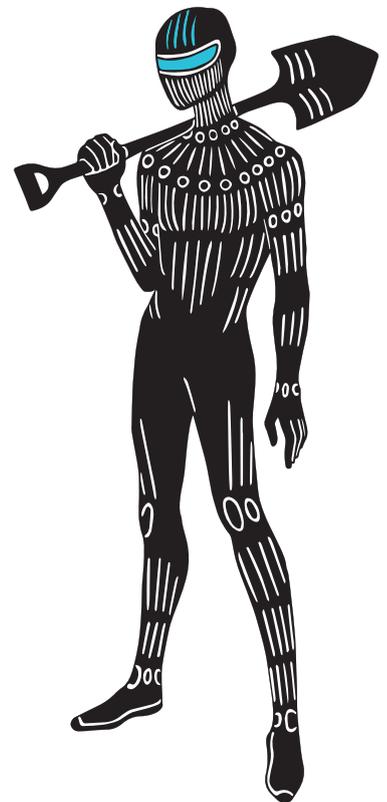
**DIG DATA AWARD
CEREMONY SPEAKERS**

Moderated by Gentiana Mahmuti
Open Data Specialist, MFK

Gentiana joined MFK in the position of Data Governance in May 2014, working at the Transparent and Accountable Governance Project of the Threshold Program.

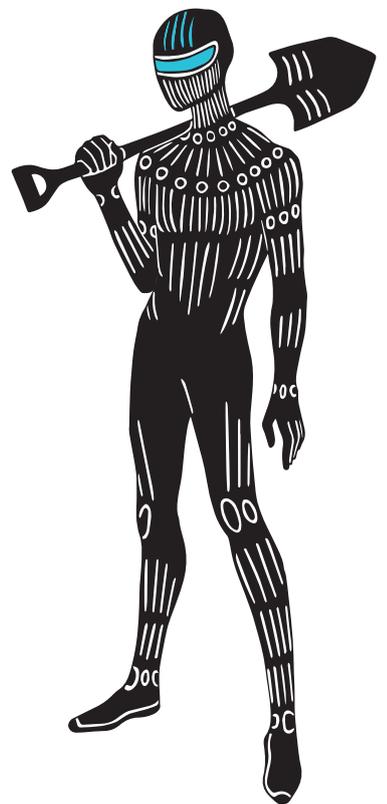
Prior to joining MKF, she worked as a Senior Capacity Development Officer for the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo/Office of the Language Commissioner from 2014 - 2018. She also worked for the Center for Energy and Natural Resources/RIT Kosovo (2011 - 2012), and served as a researcher at the International Crisis Group (2010 - 2011).

Gentiana holds a MBA Degree in General Management from the University of Sheffield, and a BSc. in Management and Public Policy from the Rochester Institute of Technology, New York. Her professional qualifications include Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management & Leadership by the Chartered Management Institute, UK and executive certification in Management and Public Policy from Sciences Po, School of Public Affairs, L'Institut D'Études Politiques de Paris, France.



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