



Techstitution is an initiative aimed at imparting practical software engineering skills to young people, who then use those skills to develop technologies to digitize institutional platforms. The project engages youth in democratic processes by instilling in them software skills to contribute to the formation of 'smart institutions' that deliver high-quality services to Kosovo citizens. Techstitution strives to develop digital solutions to complex institutional challenges and to empower youth to become social innovators in their communities, all while strengthening the capacities of public institutions on the integration of rights-based approaches to adolescent and youth empowerment and participation.

Learning to code empowers young people from the most marginalized communities, and especially girls, to engage in meaningful undertakings that have the potential to greatly boost their professional skills. These activities include hand-crafting websites, becoming an active citizens, becoming part of a great local tech community, and finally, acquiring a thorough grasp of technology shaping our world.

Techstitution participants work side-by-side with their mentors, identify problems and propose and design civic-tech solutions to them.

From UNICEF Kosovo's perspective, TechStitution is a platform that empowers young people to become social innovators with the ability to see opportunities and resources where others see problems; and to mainstream digital solutions into governance systems. It is a knowledge-sharing means and a direct contribution to problem solving while creating simple digital solutions to complex institutional challenges. Ultimately, the purpose of TechStitution is to empower adolescents and youth with 21st century skills on digital literacy and solutions to unmet social needs; and to help simplify bureaucratic processes to improve the timely delivery of essential public services to children and families.

Project activities include:

- Engaging adolescents and youth (ages 14-24) in democratic processes
- The acquisition of new software skills
- Digital production for institutions
- Creation of smart institutions

Technologies learned during the series of trainings:

-HTML/CSS/Bootstrap/JavaScript: Developing beautiful, responsive, and mobile-first web sites

-MongoDB: NoSQL Document Database

-Node.js: - JavaScript Backend Framework

-Express.js - Node.js Framework

-jQuery: JavaScript library that simplifies HTML Document traversal and manipulation

-AJAX: is a client-side script that communicates to and from a server/database without the need for a postback or a complete page refresh.