



**Ministry of Local Government Administration**

**Environmental and Social Management Framework  
For Project**

**Connecting Youth: Kosovo Youth Inclusion and  
Entrepreneurship**

April 2020, Prishtina

## **Acronyms**

CEFTA	Central Economic Free Trade Area
CYP	Connecting Youth Project
EA	Environment Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental Social Management Plan
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Products
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GoK	Government of Kosovo
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JSDF	Japan Social Development Fund
KEPA	Kosovo Environment Protection Agency
KLMC	Kosovo Landfill Management Company
MLGA	Ministry of Local Government Administration
MED	Ministry of Economic Development
MIE	Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment
M4Y	Municipalities for Youth
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PMU	Project Management Unit
PAS	Protected Areas of Kosovo
OHS	Occupation Health and Safety
SAA	Stabilization and Association Agreement
SG	Safeguards

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## 1 Introduction

Marginalized youth in Kosovo face multiple dimensions of social and economic exclusion. The Government of Kosovo (GoK) is proposing a project to enhance socio-economic inclusion by empowering targeted youth with the critical thinking skills, technical expertise and financial resources to incubate startups, and increasing their role in decision-making at the community and municipal level. The proposed *Connecting Youth: Kosovo Youth Inclusion and Entrepreneurship Project (CYP)* is also aligned with multiple national policies and strategies: the Kosovo National Development Strategy (2016–21), the National Strategy for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (2019-2023), the Kosovo Strategy for Youth (2019-2023), the 2018-2020 Action Plan - Increasing Youth Employment, and the Strategy on Local Self Government (2016-2026).

The project will directly benefit at least 7,500 young Kosovars between the ages of 19-29 with entrepreneurship support and another 30,000 young women and men with access to community and municipal facilities and voice in decision-making.

All project beneficiaries will be marginalized youth – 50 percent of whom will be young women, and 30 percent of whom will be disadvantaged. The characteristics that make young people vulnerable within the context of Kosovo have been considered in the following project definitions.

- **Marginalized.** Youth, ages 19-24, will be eligible for project support if they have at least one of the following characteristics: (i) are resident in a rural area or underserved urban neighborhood; (ii) belong to a marginalized minority group;<sup>1</sup> or (iii) are NEET, in occasional employment or a low productivity job. The age range for marginalized women will be extended to 29 years.
- **Disadvantaged.** Of these marginalized youth, those groups of youth considered disadvantaged will be specifically targeted. They will have at least one of the following characteristics: (i) not having completed upper secondary school; (ii) identifying as a RAE; (iii) a returnee or internally-displaced person; (iv) having a disability; (v) a victim of domestic violence or a female head of household; or (vi) in conflict or in contact with the law (offender or witness).

All 38 municipalities will benefit from improved skills and capacity to engage youth in citizen participation processes as well as investments in local livelihoods-related facilities. Within municipalities, underserved and disadvantaged communities will be selected to target support geographically as well as on target groups.<sup>2</sup>

### 1.1 Purpose of the ESMF

The project includes a government grant program with community and municipal sub-projects that have not been identified at appraisal, which is why the Framework approach is deemed to be adequate. Environmental Social and Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared by Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA), relying on the WB Safeguards Policies for this type of project. The ESMF document, amongst other things, serves as a tool to screen the sub-projects and based on the screening results guides the client and other stakeholders on the environmental due diligence procedures including EAs and environmental management in all phases of the project cycle.

The ESMF provides guidance and procedures for managing potential environmental and social risks and impacts of unknown sub-projects, guidance on how negative impacts will be avoided, minimized or mitigated. All sub-projects to be financed under the CYP will be subjected to an environmental and social review process incorporating the procedures described in this document. These procedures and

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<sup>1</sup> Serbian minorities will be represented proportionately to reflect the specific ethnic and linguistic diversity of the municipality.

<sup>2</sup> While all municipalities are included in the project, in small municipalities (defined by the number of youth), the whole municipality will be included; in larger municipalities, a study will be carried out to identify target underserved and disadvantage communities.

requirements incorporate Kosovo's environmental legislation and the World Bank's (WB) safeguard policies. All Project activities must comply with the national regulation and WB Policies, the stricter prevailing as a rule. The Framework serves as a guidance tool for the Implementing Agency (MLGA)/Project Management Unit (PMU) and any other stakeholder relevant to risk management, in identifying and assessing the potential environmental and social impacts of subprojects and ensuring necessary mitigation measures are implemented to minimize or prevent any adverse environment and social impacts. The Framework will also serve as guidance on environmental and social monitoring and reporting.

The environmental review procedures essentially consist of environmental screening, Environmental Assessment (EA), environmental management planning, mitigation measures and monitoring of compliance with the plan of actions recommended for mitigating environmental risks. The Environmental Screening will be carried out by the implementing agency (MLGA/PMU) for all subprojects at an early stage in subproject review to determine the appropriate environmental category for the proposed sub-projects. Based on the outcome of screening, an EA respective to the attached environmental category will be applied to proposals. The users of funds (MLGA, subgrants applicant) will be responsible for preparing required EA (ESMP or ESMP Checklist) and for confirming that any clearances necessary for the proposed sub-grants are obtained from the relevant authorities as prescribed by the national legislation and that is in line with the World Bank procedures as described in this document. Overall responsibility for environmental compliance of the CYP lies with MLGA/PMU. Depending on the attached environmental category, that for this project can be B or C and the location features, the EA includes one of the following:

- a) an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP),
- c) a simplified environmental assessment, so-called ESMP Checklist, or
- d) a justified statement that no EA is required.

The implementation of the ESMPs is responsibility of Contractors/grantees while it will be monitored by the MLGA/PMU and municipality respectively. The overall review, approval, and supervision process carried out by municipality will additionally be monitored by the MLGA/PMU. Sub-projects that are A and/or high-risk or require EIA under the Kosovo's Law on Environment will not be financed.

Light civil works category B and C category activities only are expected under the project while sub-projects that are A or high-risk or require EIA under the Kosovo's Law on Environment will not be financed. Overall, the environmental and social procedures applied to the sub-project cycle and responsibilities of key parties are described in detail below.

## 1.2 Kosovo in a Nutshell

Kosovo is a landlocked country in the center of Southeast Europe bordering on Albania, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Its total area is 10,887 sq km. The country is situated at an elevation of 400-700 m above sea level surrounded by several high mountain ranges, with elevations of 2,000 to 2,500 m<sup>3</sup>.

Kosovo's 1.8 million population continues to grow, and therefore there has been an increase in settlement expansion, and land use changes. In 2012, settlements covered 4.7% of Kosovo's territory, compared with 3.7% in 2002. Agricultural lands decreased from 31.3% of Kosovo's territory in 2002 to 27.8% in 2012 (due to the expansion of settlements). Forest lands increased from 42.1% of Kosovo's territory in 2002 to 44.7% in 2012. In 2012 around 78% of the population was supplied with water from the public water supply (4 % more than in 2011), while around 56% of the population had access to waste-water services (5% more than in 2011)<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/countries/kosovo>

Kosovo contains the upper watersheds of four rivers that flow into three different Seas: the Adriatic, Aegean, and Black. The Iber/Ibar River flows into the Danube River, making it part of one of Europe's major river systems. Kosovo provides a catchment for water flowing to neighboring countries, but because of its elevated topography, does not receive water from outside its borders. There is only one major dam in Kosovo that was constructed to generate hydroelectricity, but neighboring countries have constructed dams on rivers downstream of Kosovo. Many stretches of rivers have been severely disrupted by sand and gravel mining and attempts to control river flooding with artificial levees<sup>5</sup>. Kosovo's climate is influenced by its proximity to the Adriatic and Aegean Seas as well as the continental European landmass to the north. The overall climate is a modified continental type, with some elements of a sub-Mediterranean climate in the extreme south and an alpine regime in the higher mountains. Winters are cold with an average temperature in January and February of 0 degrees centigrade and with significant accumulation of snow, especially in the mountains. Summers are hot, with extremes of up to 40 degrees. The average annual rainfall in Kosovo is 720 mm but can reach more than 1,000 mm in the mountains. Summer droughts are not uncommon. The varied elevations, climatic influences, and soils within Kosovo provide a wide diversity of microhabitats to which plant and animal species are adapted<sup>6</sup>.

Kosovo is prone to a wide variety of natural hazards—including floods, landslides, droughts, earthquakes, and wildfires—that could pose serious damages to the economy, fiscal balances and well-being of vulnerable populations. Many of these climatic related hazards are expected to magnify with future climate change. These climate and disaster risks can seriously impact productive sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, infrastructure, energy, water resources, and communities and households. Natural disasters and climate change can also hamper reforms and add pressure on the fiscal position, exacerbate existing expenditure pressures, redirecting public resources away from long-run development plans and limiting a country's ability to build cushions for development programs and future needs. They can also divert scarce government administrative capacity toward emergency operations<sup>7</sup>.

Kosovo's economy has shown progress in transitioning to a market-based system and maintaining macroeconomic stability, but it is still highly dependent on the international community and the diaspora for financial and technical assistance. Remittances from the diaspora - located mainly in Germany, Switzerland, and the Nordic countries - are estimated to account for about 17% of GDP and international donor assistance accounts for approximately 10% of GDP. With international assistance, Kosovo has been able to privatize a majority of its state-owned enterprises<sup>8</sup>.

Minerals and metals production - including lignite, lead, zinc, nickel, chrome, aluminum, magnesium, and a wide variety of construction materials - once the backbone of industry, has declined because of aging equipment and insufficient investment, problems exacerbated by competing and unresolved ownership claims of Kosovo's largest mines. A limited and unreliable electricity supply is a major impediment to economic development, but some milestones have still been achieved. In 2012, Kosovo privatized its electricity supply and distribution network. In cooperation with WB and the US Government, MED is working to conclude a commercial tender for the construction of Kosovo C, a new lignite-fired power plant that would leverage Kosovo's large lignite reserves. MED also has plans for the rehabilitation of an older coal power plant, Kosovo B, and the development of a coal mine that could supply both plants<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/Pnact349.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnact349.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/Pnact349.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnact349.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/282091494340650708/pdf/Kosovo-SCD-FINAL-May-5-C-05052017.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kv.html>

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

In June 2009, Kosovo joined the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and began servicing its share of the former Yugoslavia's debt. In order to help integrate Kosovo into regional economic structures, UNMIK signed (on behalf of Kosovo) its accession to the Central Europe Free Trade Area (CEFTA) in 2006. Kosovo joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 2012 and the Council of Europe Development Bank in 2013. In 2016, Kosovo implemented the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) negotiations with the EU, focused on trade liberalization. Under the SAA, Kosovo — which gets approximately 58% of government revenue from tariffs on imports — is required to phase out tariffs on EU goods over the next seven years. In 2014, nearly 60% of customs duty-eligible imports into Kosovo were EU goods. In 2015, Kosovo negotiated a \$185 million Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF following the conclusion of its previous SBA in 2014. The IMF requested an extension of the current SBA to August 2017 to facilitate policy continuity and allow sufficient time for ongoing structural reforms to progress. In August 2015, as part of its EU-facilitated normalization process with Serbia, Kosovo signed agreements on telecommunications and energy distribution, but disagreements over who owns economic assets, such as the Trepca mining conglomerate, within Kosovo continue<sup>10</sup>.

While Kosovo's economy continued to make progress, it needs further reform and investment to enable the level of growth required to reduce unemployment and raise living standards in a meaningful way<sup>11</sup>.

### 1.3 Protected Areas (PAs) of Kosovo

The national network of protected areas consists of 116 nature areas (or 10.9% of the country's territory<sup>12</sup>). The greatest territory of protected area is taken up by the "Sharri" and "Bjeshket e Nemuna" National Parks<sup>13</sup>.

When, in 2012, Kosovo announced the creation of its second national park Bjeshkët e Nemura (62.488 hectares), it also expanded the territory of its first national park, Sharri. These two actions increased the total share of protected areas in Kosovo from 4.36% (in 2003) to 10.9% of national territory. Besides its two national parks, Kosovo has 97 other Nature Protected Areas of various categories<sup>14</sup>. See the below map for visual representation of the protected areas<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kv.html>

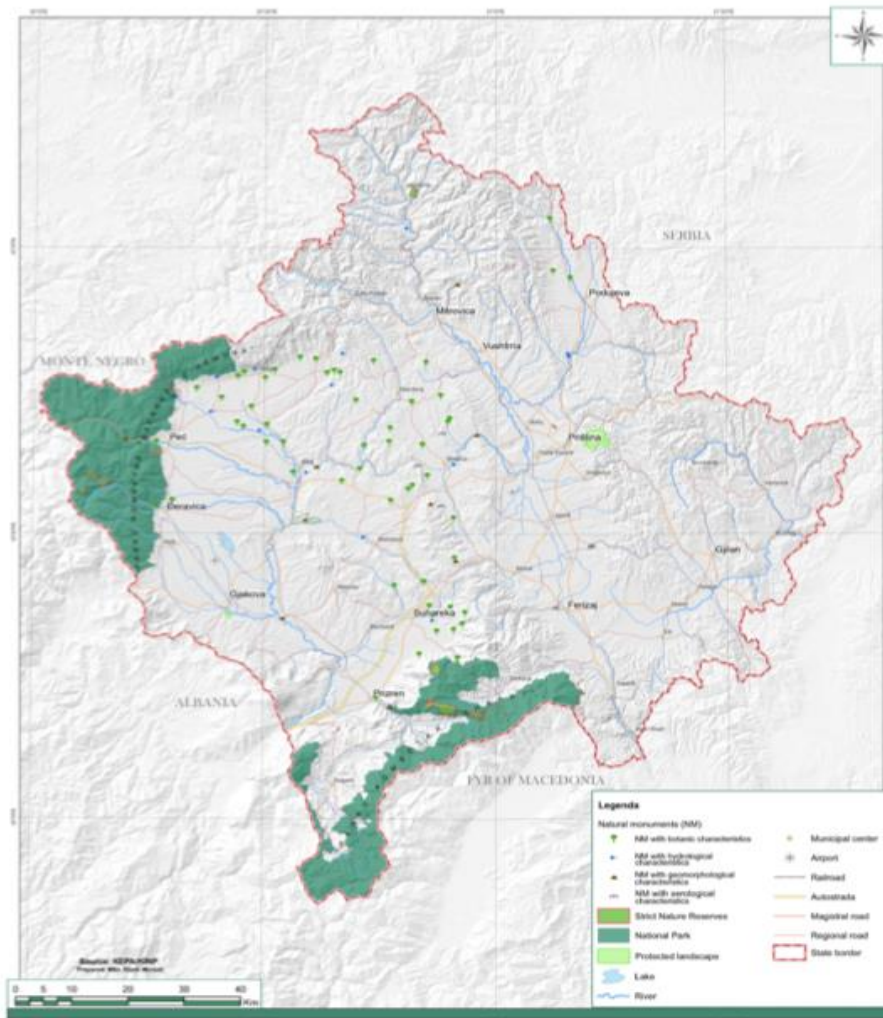
<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kv.html>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.landscapeonline.de/wp-content/uploads/DOI103097-LO201545.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> *Biodiversity and Protected Areas in Kosovo (PDF Download Available)*. Available from: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259368759 Biodiversity and Protected Areas in Kosovo](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259368759_Biodiversity_and_Protected_Areas_in_Kosovo) [accessed Feb 26 2018].

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/countries/kosovo>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.landscapeonline.de/wp-content/uploads/DOI103097-LO201545.pdf>



Source: Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (2015)

#### 1.4 Physical cultural heritage

Kosovo has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Recent archaeological finds date back to the early Neolithic period, i.e. the 6th millennium B.C., and include various anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figurines of fertility and painted ceramics. In the Antiquity, there were highly urbanized centers of refined culture in the area of present Kosovo<sup>16</sup>. It is therefore no wonder that Kosovo is home to significant cultural and religious heritage, not only natural landmarks.

Cultural heritage of Kosovo includes monuments, sites, artefacts as well as their intangible attributes created by all peoples who have lived in Kosovo throughout the centuries.

As for the landmarks, there are a number of small to medium-sized lakes in Kosovo including some alpine lakes of glacial origin that are of scientific and scenic interest.

#### 1.5 Major environmental concerns

Kosovo struggles with several environmental risks, air pollution, water pollution and availability, untreated municipal and hazardous waste, degradation of forest and land, contamination from mining and other industrial activities, are just some of the Kosovo plentiful environmental problems. These environmental issues have heavy impact on health, ecology and agriculture, water resources and generate economic losses. The growing environmental protection and climate change challenges call for considerably more political will.

<sup>16</sup> <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001344/134426e.pdf>



Some progress was achieved, notably through the adoption of the relevant strategies, but serious environmental problems continue to impact people's livelihoods and health.

➤ Air pollution is a significant problem in Kosovo's urban areas and a moderate problem for the country. Urban ambient air quality is poor particularly in Pristina, the Obiliq area, the Drenas area, and in Mitrovica. The principal sources of pollution include (a) the burning of wood and lignite for household/building heating purposes, and, to a lesser extent, energy and mining production activities; (b) smoke and emissions from large industrial complexes; (c) landfills of urban and industrial waste which tend to have more specific local impacts; and (d) vehicular emissions. Key health impacts from air pollution are related to the high levels of particulate matter (PM), also known as fine particles or dust<sup>17</sup>.

➤ Water Quality. Data from the Institute of Public Health on the quality of drinking water show that the pollution of drinking water is generally associated with bacterial rather than chemical contamination. Much of this bacterial (fecal) contamination occurs in the water supply systems of small cities and rural areas where a large proportion of wells and springs are thought to be contaminated, although no firm numbers exist. There is also a lack of operating wastewater treatment plants in Kosovo<sup>18</sup>.

➤ Untreated Hazardous and Municipal Waste. Historical and current industrial waste has remained—for long periods of time—in production sites, storage areas, and industrial hot spots. In addition to mining and industry activities which generate about 2.5 million tons per year of waste (commercial, hazardous and nonhazardous), an estimated 426,000 tons of municipal solid waste is generated yearly. At present, there is a near-total lack of proper waste management in Kosovo for all waste types—domestic, industrial, health care, and hazardous waste—as well as for legacy pollution from historical contamination. Current waste management practice, if left unchanged, will lead to high levels of pollution of groundwater, soil and air (for example, through methane or landfill gas), but also dioxins and fine particles when burned.

➤ Forest resources are under pressure since 1990 with a majority of illegally harvested timber used for firewood and occurrence of heavy harvesting for rebuilding houses after the war. In addition, lack of financial resources for proper sericulture treatment, especially pre-commercial thinning in the young stage of forest development is required to bring the forests back into the desired management and growth<sup>19</sup>.

## 2 Project Objectives and Components

### 2.1 Project Development objective

The PDO is to develop livelihoods opportunities for marginalized young women and men and to promote their voice in communities and local government.

### 2.2 Project Description

The project will focus on developing resourceful young men and women with the capability to create and develop their own economic opportunities, strengthen their communities and support the capacity building of state and non-state stakeholders. This will be achieved through the delivery of three interlinked areas of support: support for micro entrepreneurship (training and subgrants),

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<sup>17</sup> <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/282091494340650708/pdf/Kosovo-SCD-FINAL-May-5-C-05052017.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

support for linking youth to communities and enhancing their voice and agency; and support for connecting youth into local governance systems.

CYP will complement a US\$ 2.79 million grant from the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) that is focused on increasing socioeconomic opportunities for marginalized youth through access to civic engagement and skills building activities. The Municipalities for Youth (M4Y) Project will provide 10 municipalities with subgrant allocations earmarked for youth initiatives that will allow them to expand their youth programming.

## **Project Components**

### **Component 1: Connecting Youth to Entrepreneurship Opportunities**

Component 1 will aim to address the technical and financial constraints that hinder unemployed and marginalized young men and women to develop a pathway to self-employment. The Connecting Youth Project will establish a system of support for young men and women to develop small 'learning-by-doing' enterprises through a micro-entrepreneurship program that includes: (A) the coaching and mentoring needed to support their transition onto a pathway for developing micro-businesses; and (B) microgrants which facilitate the incubation of microenterprises.

**Subcomponent 1A: Microentrepreneurship support services for marginalized youth.** This subcomponent will finance the support system for engaging marginalized youth in microenterprises. The support system for young microentrepreneurs is specifically designed to support marginalized youth to develop sustainable microenterprises. The support system involves a comprehensive system of coaching, mentoring, and training organized around five primary stages: (i) outreach and orientation, (ii) idea formation, (iii) business organization and team formation, (iv) product development, and (v) marketing, sales and troubleshooting. Each stage will encompass three streams of learning: (i) business learning, (ii) ICT learning, and (iii) personal initiative and soft skills.

**Sub-component 1B: Microentrepreneurship microgrants for marginalized youth.** The project will support 2500 microenterprises. To accommodate the differing needs, skill-base and interests of marginalized youth, the microgrants will be structured and made available through two windows: (i) microgrants for ICT micro-entrepreneurship and the digitalization/modernization of production sectors; (ii) microgrants for high potential sectors identified in local market assessments; and (iii) social and environmental microentrepreneurship. The proportion allocated to each of these windows will be determined according to the needs of the marginalized beneficiary groups in largely peri-urban and rural areas. The microgrants funded under Component 1B will be in the range of US\$3,000-10,000.

### **Component 2: Connecting Youth to Communities and Municipalities**

Component 2 will finance those community-based livelihoods facilities and services needed to support vulnerable and marginalized young men and women to join the pathway to socio-economic inclusion. This component will then finance livelihoods facilities needed to support marginalized young men and women to optimize project opportunities for economic inclusion. The youth targeted in the project will lead the selection of investments, and have roles in their implementation and operation.

**Subcomponent 2A: Support for youth participation in communities and municipalities.** This subcomponent will finance a process of youth-led decision-making in selected communities, linked to municipal investment planning and budgeting, and youth-led social accountability. Specifically, it will support three cycles of activities: (i) information and awareness building about project activities and processes; (ii) formation of inclusive youth groups; (iii) participatory needs assessments, planning and prioritization of small community and larger municipal subprojects through facilitated focus group and community-level discussions; (iv) dialogues with municipalities on youth-determined priorities to

obtain municipal commitment to procurement, implementation and operations and maintenance (O&M) of facilities to ensure sustainability and project management; and (v) establishing, where relevant, youth engagement in managing community-level and municipal-level facilities (e.g. microenterprises could be developed around creches or digital cafes).

**Sub-component 2B: Subgrants for livelihoods facilities.** This sub-component will provide subgrants for livelihoods facilities selected by Component 1 young entrepreneurs through the processes described in sub-component 2A. These livelihoods subprojects (LSPs) will enable the targeted youth in Component 1 to sustain microenterprises by addressing obstacles they face in microenterprise development – they will enable youth to work, or have more time to work toward, a sustainable livelihood. Beneficiaries will choose from a relatively open menu of digital/traditional options).<sup>20</sup> While they are demand-driven and it is therefore not possible to define precisely what youth will prioritize, preliminary consultations suggest that LSPs will include both the place to make the products/services to earn a living, and facilities that enable them to do so (such as child care facilities). They are thus likely to range from small-scale local neighborhood or community-level investments (such as digital cafes, workshops, kitchens, child care facilities, elderly centers, after school centers) to investments in municipal facilities (such as multi-functional maker-spaces, incubation centers, IT centers to access digital opportunities and support services, rehabilitation of agricultural or ecotourism facilities and infrastructure, or recycling facilities).

Subgrants to each of the participating municipalities will vary from US\$13,000 for small municipalities to US\$200,000 for the larger urban municipalities over the project implementation period. Procedures for fund distribution and procurement will follow Municipal Performance Grant procedures established by the MLGA.

### **Component 3: Capacity Building and Project management**

**Subcomponent 3A: Capacity building of MLGA and municipalities.** This subcomponent will finance the development of knowledge and skills aimed at building the capacity of elected and appoint MLGA officials, municipalities and other agreed stakeholders so that they can support the development of the socio-economic inclusion of youth. It will finance an initial capacity assessment, trainings/workshops/conferences to build skills and understanding of the principles, design, implementation of the project and peer-to-peer learning (i.e. showcasing good practices from municipalities around youth programming, cross-learning events, etc.).

**Subcomponent 3B: Project management, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation.** This subcomponent will also finance the incremental costs of the MLGA for overall project coordination, management, and supervision of implementation as well as procurement and financial management, including project audits. This subcomponent will fund a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU), comprising experts in project management, youth, gender, microentrepreneurship, local governance and community development, IT, safeguards, procurement, FM and M&E. This subcomponent will also finance all M&E activities and establishment of a management information system (MIS).

### **2.3 Lines of Financial Support**

Finances would flow from the World Bank to the Treasury, Ministry of Finance and to the Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA). All project related finance will be managed by MLGA. All project expenditures including staff, project activity costs, contractors, sub-awardees, and project administration will be managed by the MLGA in accordance with World Bank's finance management

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<sup>20</sup> A negative list will be detailed in the POM. New irrigation canals will not be financed; however, rehabilitation of canals will be eligible to enable repairs that reduce losses, rectify other faults.

and procurement procedures.

Subcomponent 1B subgrants administration will be outsourced to qualified microenterprise Implementing Partners (IPs), who will be responsible for the implementation of the respective FM requirements.

Under Subcomponent 2B, subgrants will be channeled to the municipalities through the Municipal Performance Investment Fund (MPIF) following procedures established by MLGA and approved by the Bank. Through this mechanism, project funds will be transferred to the municipalities, on an annual basis, from the MLGA budget, and then the funds will be used for eligible expenditures/subprojects. The indicators in the areas of governance, financial management and audit are assessed on an annual basis, with a clean audit opinion established as a minimum requirement for the subgrant.

### 3 Ineligible activities

No activities in protected areas and on cultural heritage objects and/or locations as well as those triggering WB Safeguard Policies other than 4.01 Environmental Assessment will be funded under the project.

No activities that trigger World Bank Operational Policy (OP) 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement are permitted under this project. Additionally, this project cannot finance sub-projects that would include:

- Activities that limit or deprive of individual or community's access to land or available resources;
- Activities that cause land acquisition or displacement of individuals or communities;
- Activities in the protected areas and sensitive or critical natural habitats, as well as sub-projects that include logging;
- Activities that introduce changes in use of pesticides;
- Activities that affect cultural heritage;

Subprojects that may result in generation of large quantities of hazardous waste (asbestos waste, CFLs, lead paint debris, heating oil contaminated tanks, etc.) or special types of hazardous waste (e.g. radioactive lightning rods) will not be eligible for funding.

While risks associated with various subprojects may vary from low to moderate to risk, all of them are expected to fall under EA Category B or C.

#### 3.1 Exclusion list

A number of activities are ineligible for financing under the Project. These include the acquisition of land, A category and high-risk projects, as well as the activities from the general WB exclusion list, as follows:

1. Trade in wildlife and wildlife products prohibited under the CITES convention,
2. Release of genetically altered organisms into the natural environment,
3. Manufacturing, distribution and sale of banned pesticides and herbicides,
4. Drift seine netting in the marine environment,
5. Manufacturing, handling and disposal of radioactive products,
6. Hazardous waste storage, treatment and disposal,
7. Manufacturing of equipment and appliances containing CFCs, halons and other substances regulated under the Montreal Protocol,
8. Manufacturing of electrical equipment containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in

- excess of 0,005 % by weight,
9. Manufacturing of asbestos containing products,
  10. Nuclear reactors and parts thereof,
  11. Tobacco, unmanufactured or manufactured,
  12. Tobacco processing machinery, and
  13. Manufacturing of firearms.

## 4 Project Management

The Kosovo Ministry of Local Government and Administration (MLGA) will be the responsible implementing agency for the project. The MLGA will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) responsible for the overall implementation of the project. The PMU's main responsibilities will include: project coordination, procurement, FM, safeguards, communication and knowledge management, M&E, and grievance redressal. The PMU will be responsible for: (i) managing the budget (a funds distribution formula will be defined in the POM); (ii) assessment of the municipalities' management capacity for project implementation; (iii) procuring and contracting implementing partners to support Component 1 and Subcomponent 2A activities; (iv) financial management and disbursement of project funds, including the management of subgrants; (v) supervising municipal compliance with project criteria; (vi) providing no-objections for subprojects to ensure compliance with project, fiduciary, and safeguards requirements; and (vii) M&E and knowledge dissemination. The MLGA will work closely with municipalities and IPs to ensure the effective implementation of project activities, and establish an informal youth working group comprised of experts on project objectives.

The PMU will comprise a team of seconded staff from the MLGA, as well as a small team of consultants to support key technical, reporting, fiduciary, and safeguards functions. Seconded staff from the ministry are likely to include Subgrant and Procurement specialists responsible for Component 2, a Capacity and Municipal Performance specialist, and an M&E specialist, while the team of consultants financed by the project will include a Project Coordinator, an FM specialist, a procurement specialist, and a safeguards specialist. MLGA has also adopted a merit-based recruitment approach overseen by an international NGO which would further enhance World Bank procedures, with careful attention paid to gender. The team will report to the General Secretary, MLGA. In addition, the MLGA will provide working space and transportation, and cover logistical and administrative expenses.

MLGA as the project Implementing Agency is responsible for the project's overall environmental and social safeguards compliance. MLGA will hire a safeguards specialist within 6 months of project effectiveness to oversee screening of subgrant applications and ensure compliance with the provisions of the ESMF.

**Municipalities.** The MLGA will conduct a thorough capacity assessment of municipalities to ensure their capacity to effectively participate in the project. This assessment will be based on the MLGA's Performance Management System, which evaluates municipal performance on a range of financial and management indicators, and now includes/as well as consideration of youth programming. MLGA will sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with eligible municipalities. Participating municipalities will be required to contribute, from the municipal budget, the equivalent of 15 percent of the subgrant allocated for community and municipal subprojects (from their capital investment budget).

## 5 Monitoring and Evaluation

MLGA will track progress of all youth-led livelihoods investment using an Management Information System (MIS). The MLGA M&E team will track, document, and communicate the progress and results of the project according to the procedures described in the project operations manual (POM). Youth monitoring will be supported under subcomponent 2A. The quality of support services, mobilization and inclusion activities, for instance, will be measured through community scorecards, which will be discussed and verified, along with financial records and project implementation records, in community check meetings – the MLGA-PMU M&E team will collate and analyze the results of the youth monitoring/social accountability and perception-based results, and the BFM, and include them in the MIS and semi-annual reports. Semi-annual reporting and results measurements will ensure reporting on outcomes defined in the results framework and the output indicators defined in the POM.

An independent evaluation (IE) will include a baseline, midline and endline, to capture the results of the activities and investments funded. A Completion Report (that draws on both participatory and IE results) will be conducted by MLGA-PMU three months prior to the project closing date.

Sets of measures to be undertaken towards compliance of predefined sub-projects with the WB Safeguard Policies and national environmental legislation will be prepared as a draft ESMP Checklist template, an integral part of ESMF (please see Annex 3). ESMP Checklist template (containing mitigation measures and monitoring plan) will be adjusted to each individual B- (minor civil works) category sub-project. In addition, it will define supervision and reporting responsibilities and timeline. ESMP will be produced for all other sub-projects and activities with potential negative impacts.

The Contractor monitors the mitigation measures according to the monitoring plan outlined in the ESMP and regularly reports to the Municipality, who in turn informs the PMU (Safeguards Specialist) and the livelihoods facility beneficiary youth group. PMU Safeguards Specialist will perform regular supervision of the ESMP Checklist/ESMP implementation through field visits/spot checks and regularly report to PMU on environmental (ESMP, ESMP Checklist) compliance. Youth monitors (trained under subcomponent 2A) will also conduct regular field monitoring of environmental management activities. While reporting is periodical, any significant incompliance will be reported by the Municipality to the PMU immediately. The mitigation measures proposed by PMU will be implemented in an acceptable timeframe. In the case the subproject (Contractor) fails to implement corrective measures, further steps will be taken until the measures are in place (or in the well assessed cases will be quit the subproject). PMU reports environmental compliance to the WB in the regular project implementation reports, unless agreed differently (in subproject ESMPs).

## 6 Environmental Screening

Environmental Screening is the first step in the environmental due diligence process of reviewing the subproject application/concepts. Its purpose is to determine the environment risk associated with the proposed subproject, reject applications which are unacceptable due to the nature of the proposed activities or/and location, classify acceptable applications by environmental categories and identify the type of EA that will be required. Results of the Environmental Screening shall be reflected in the EA and environmental screening report.

In the process of screening, depending on the type, location, sensitivity, and scale of the project and the nature and magnitude of its potential environmental impacts, the sub-project will be classified into one of four categories:

## 6.1 Category A

**Category A activities will not be financed through the subgrants scheme** for livelihoods subprojects.

A proposed subproject is classified in this category, if it is likely to have highly significant, diverse, and/or long-term adverse impacts on human health and natural environment the magnitude of which is difficult to determine at the sub-project identification stage. These impacts may also affect an area broader than the sub-project sites. Measures for mitigating such environmental risks may be complex and costly.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is therefore required to identify and assess the future environmental impacts associated with the proposed project, identify potential environmental improvement opportunities and recommended any measures needed to prevent, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts.

The sub-borrower is responsible for preparing a report, normally an EIA. The sub-borrower would in parallel provide the techno economic feasibility study of the sub-project. The costs of the mitigation measures would be included in the EIA and incorporated in the feasibility study.

For the category A projects environmental impact study is prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Kosovo, especially The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (NO.03/L-214). The mentioned legal act identifies projects for which, according to the Kosovo regulations, the EIA is mandatory as well as optional (request of the Competent Authority). The activities identified in the Annex I and Annex II (optional) of the Law on EIA would not be supported by the project<sup>21</sup>.

## 6.2 Category B

A proposed project is classified as Category B on the understanding that if it has potential adverse environmental impacts on human populations or environmentally important areas those are less adverse than those of Category A projects. These impacts are site-specific; few if any of them are irreversible; and in most cases mitigation measures can be designed more readily than for Category A projects. The scope of EA for a Category B project may vary from subproject to subproject like Category A EA, it examines the project's potential negative and positive environmental impacts and recommends any measures needed to prevent, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for adverse impacts and improve environmental performance.

## 6.3 Category B+

For category B+ projects, the borrower is responsible for preparing a full EIA (depending on opinion given by Ministry of Environmental and Spatial Planning or the county office or a pre-EIA (simpler form EIA) that includes, as necessary, elements of the other instruments which may simply require specifying well-defined mitigating measures and adopting accepted operating practices. The sub-borrower would in parallel provide the techno-economic feasibility study of the sub-project. The costs of the mitigation measures would be included in the EIA or ESMP and incorporated in the feasibility study.

## 6.4 Category B-

Category B- projects require an EA to assess any potential future environmental impacts associated with the proposed project, identify potential environmental improvement opportunities and recommended any measures needed to prevent, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts. The scope and format of the EA will vary depending on the project, but will typically be narrower than the scope of EIA, usually in form of ESMP (full ESMP or ESMP Checklist).

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<sup>21</sup> <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2708>

The scope of ESMP is defined in Annex 4. For the projects involving simple upgrades, reconstruction or adaptation of the buildings, ESMP Checklist would be used (see Annex 3). B- Category would include sub-projects that also: (a) involve working capital loans which include purchase and/or use of hazardous materials (e.g. pesticides) or (b) process improvement loans that involve purchase of equipment/machinery presenting a significant potential health or safety risk. A proposed project is classified as Category B- if its future environmental impacts are less adverse than those of Category A and B+ projects taking into account their nature, size and location, as well as the characteristics of the potential environmental impacts.

### 6.5 Category C

A proposed project is classified as Category C if it is likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental impacts and therefore requires neither an EIA nor an Environmental Analysis. Beyond screening, no further EA action is required for a Category C project.

Environmental Category	Environmental Documentation to be included in Sub-loan Application Package
Category C	Rationale for the category (Any official approval/permits if applicable)
Category B-	Any official approval/permits (if applicable)  A) ESMP (annex 4); or B) ESMP Checklist (annex 3)
Category B+	Option 1.  Any official approval/permits  The statement of "EIA is not required" (if applicable)  Pre-EIA report (if applicable)  ESMP (annex 4)  Option 2.  Stand-alone ESMP

### 6.6 Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

The Kosovo Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA) will be the responsible implementing agency for the project. The MLGA's mandate is to support local autonomy and strengthen municipalities' capacity for delivering cost-effective services to its citizens. The MLGA has not previously implemented a World Bank financed operation; it has the technical expertise, systems, and project management experience to effectively implement the proposed project, however, no experience in safeguards. To strengthen the capacity further the MLGA will also be supported by a team of specialists, including a safeguards consultant (SG).

SG Consultant will be experienced in environmental management at infrastructure projects and



preferably in Safeguards in WB or other international FI projects. The consultant will receive a half day training in ESMF and WB Safeguard Policies and Procedures from the WB Environmental Specialist.

The MLGA will guide selected municipalities in managing and preparing calls for proposals. In addition, municipalities will be responsible for: (i) supporting community outreach activities, alongside Implementing Partners (IPs), to introduce the project to participating communities and potential youth beneficiaries; (ii) providing refurbished space for project meetings, training events, and youth co-working; (iii) supporting the agreed process for the selection of youth-driven subprojects described under component 2A in full cooperation with the IPs and youth leaders; (iv) ensuring project-supported investments are included in municipal development plans for sustainability of youth programming; (v) allocating engineering staff to facilitate the design and specifications, implementation, and supervision of subprojects; (vi) carrying out O&M for any municipal infrastructure or equipment, and encouraging young entrepreneurs to operate project-supported facilities; and (vii) providing overall support for subproject implementation at the municipal level.

## 7 World Bank Policies that Apply to the Project

The World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies are indispensable to World Bank twin goals of fighting extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. The objective of these policies is to prevent and mitigate undue harm inflicted during the development process on to populations, their livelihood, and habitat. These policies provide environmental protection and compliance guidelines for WB and Borrowers/Clients in the identification, preparation, and implementation of programs and projects.

According to World Bank Policies, project has been assigned an Environmental Category B meaning no significant impact to environment is envisaged from the implementation of the project activities. The Project is classified as category B due to the small-scale civil works envisioned under subcomponent 2B.

### **World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies that Apply to the Project**

According to World Bank policies, project has been assigned an Environmental Category B meaning no significant impact to environment is envisaged from the implementation of the project activities. Small-scale civil works and installation works are a part of two subcomponents. During the assessment of the project preliminarily only one World Bank safeguards policy was triggered, per below:

#### 7.1 OP/BP 4.01 (Environmental Assessment) – triggered

A proposed project is classified as Category B and triggers the policy due to the subgrants that will support light civil works in youth focused small livelihoods facilities and infrastructure (e.g. rehabilitation and repair of child care facilities, after school centers, investments in workshops, community kitchens, etc.) under subcomponent 2B. These civil works may cause temporary and localized environmental impacts typical for such as dust and noise emissions, waste generation, traffic safety risks, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) risks and other. To effectively manage environmental challenges in the implementation, the Implementing Agency MLGA drafted the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which will be publicly consulted and finalized before the appraisal. An overall ESMF is prepared for the Project, following WB Policies and Procedures on consultation and disclosure, in advance of project appraisal. The ESMF sets procedures and guides sub-project screening and assessment, including preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and/or ESMP Checklists in the course of the project that will also be publicly consulted before contracting works. To ensure capacities and resources are in place for their implementation, EAs (ESMP or ESMP Checklist) will be an integral part of bidding and contracting documentation. The ESMF eliminates category A, ineligible and high-risk projects as well as works in

protected areas and those impacts cultural heritage.

The matching grants scheme under the subcomponent 1B will support only B category activities such as administrative costs of start-ups, equipment and launching microenterprises. No hazardous materials, dangerous equipment and no civil works will be procured from these funds. Micro grant proposals with possible community and worker health and safety concerns (e.g. welding) will need to include relevant mitigation measures (e.g. use of protective gear) to be eligible for funding. Review of possible health and safety considerations will be conducted by Implementing Partners as part of the selection procedure described in the Microgrants Manual.

The project has identified particularly disadvantaged youth groups in the Kosovo context (e.g. RAE, returnee or internally displaced, disabled) and will provide tailored services to ensure that they can access project benefits. Outreach to these groups will be facilitated by local NGOs and relevant state agencies (e.g. Centers for Social Welfare). Based on individual assessments of their constraints to start a micro-enterprise, transport, childcare, access to social workers and psychosocial support will be provided as needed.

Under Component 1, about 7,500 youth will receive business development training, and approximately 3,750 of them will benefit from microgrants. There is a risk that those who have received training and are not selected to receive grants may feel unfairly treated. This risk will be mitigated by inviting them to develop their ideas further and, potentially, join other teams. Selection of microgrant beneficiaries will be conducted on a transparent and merit basis, strictly following objective selection criteria, a public ideas fair and clear communications about the selection procedure. Additionally, a grievance redress mechanism will also be established to receive and respond to youth inquires and complaints.

#### 7.2 OP/BP 4.04 (Natural Habitats) - not triggered

This policy strictly limits the circumstances under which any Bank-supported project can affect or alter natural habitats (land and water areas where most of the native plant and animal species are still present) as well as parks, natural areas, or other declared protected areas. Projects must avoid, minimize, restore, or offset any activities that cause degradation of natural habitat. Projects that would cause significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitat (legally protected areas, or those with high conservation value) are not eligible for funding. As the policy is not triggered, activities taking place in the protected and sensitive areas will not be funded.

Small scale will take place due to the sub-project activities, rehabilitation will take place in existing building, to sport halls or places for youth activities may take place in existing public buildings or urban green spaces (e.g. city parks) and will not include protected areas. Planned works will be of small scale and will use only existing facilities with no harmful activity.

#### 7.3 OP/BP 4.36 (Forests) - not triggered.

This policy facilitates projects that include forest management including logging, planting, reforestation and similar. Activities under this project do not pertain activities that could impact forests. No scenario that could affect forests will be allowed as a rule, but, if removal of individual trees will be unavoidable, a permit from the competent authority (Kosovo Forest Agency) would be sought.

#### 7.4 OP/ BP 4.09 (Pest Management) – not triggered

Pest Management policy is not triggered. There are no activities planned that include or require pest control or changes in the pest control, nor would they be supported.

#### 7.5 OP/BP 4.11 (Physical Cultural Resources) - not triggered

There is no activity of this nature to take place under the project. As the policy is not triggered, ESMF does not allow activities that can impact protected buildings, archeological sites, religious objects and other cultural resources.

As chance findings are unlikely, but possible, an adequate clause will be included to environmental assessment documentation providing management procedures (ESMP Checklists and site specific ESMPs). Procedures in the case of chance findings will follow the national procedures and decisions/opinions of the national competent body (Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport).

#### 7.6 OP/BP 4.10 (Indigenous Peoples) – NA

NA, there are no indigenous peoples in the project area.

#### 7.7 OP/BP 4.12 (Involuntary Resettlement) – not triggered

Subcomponent 2B will finance small livelihoods facilities and infrastructure investments on public land that is verified as free of any private use. Majority of civil works is anticipated to take place within existing public buildings and right of way of public infrastructure through rehabilitation and modernization. In case of construction of new facilities (small community workshops, kitchens), vacant public land will be used. The location of livelihoods facilities is flexible and it is certain that involuntary land take can be avoided. OP 4.12 is not triggered as permanent impacts on private land or public land used by private persons is not expected. Short-term temporary access to privately-owned land or property for the duration of civil works will only be permitted through voluntary lease contracts. Subprojects that may trigger the World Bank Policy OP 4.12 will be excluded by means of a screening process defined in this ESMF.

#### 7.8 OP/BP 4.37 (Safety of Dams) - not triggered.

The project/subprojects does not include activities related to dams.

#### 7.9 OP/BP 7.50 (Projects on International Waterways) - not triggered.

Project does not support activities that could impact water bodies.

#### 7.10 OP/BP 7.60 (Projects in Disputed Areas) - not triggered.

The location of project/subprojects activities includes Northern Kosovo, which does not recognize the National Government of Kosovo and where there may be limited accessibility for the PMU, MLGA as well as the WB team. However, based on several agreements and accords signed in 2012 and 2013, this policy would not apply. Nevertheless, risks associated with problem of limited access to the North of Kosovo needs to be recognized.

## 8 National Legislation Overview & Environmental Social Management Framework

This document serves as a framework for the social and environmental management of activities under the Connecting Youth Project financed by the World Bank. At the same time, national and local legislation need to be fully adhered to. If the World Bank policies and Kosovo national and local regulation differs, the stricter one prevails as a rule.

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) with its Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA) drafts, enforce, and oversee implementation of environmental legislature and regulations in Kosovo. Due to the civil works planned under subcomponent 2B, this project may be a subject to the

following Kosovo laws and regulations:

- Law No. 03/L-025 on Environmental Protection;
- The Law NO.03/L-214 On Environmental Impact Assessment
- The Law on the Inspectorate of Environment, Waters, Nature, Spatial Planning And Construction (04/L-175);
- Law on Nature Protection (2010/03-L-233);
- The Law on Construction No. 2004/2015;
- The Law on Waste (2012);
- Law on Noise Protection No. 02/L-102;
- Law no. 04/L-147 on Waters of Kosovo;
- Administrative Instruction MESP/01/2017 on release of the Municipal Environmental Permit.
- Administrative Instruction MESP 22/2015 form managing the waste containing asbestos

**The Law on Environmental Protection 2002/8** is an umbrella act of Kosovo's legal and regulatory environmental framework. The fundamental purpose of the present law is to establish a basic legal framework that will promote an increasingly healthy environment for the people of Kosovo through the gradual introduction of the Environmental Standards of the European Union<sup>22</sup>. The law addresses the prevention and reduction of pollution, environmental monitoring and highlights, among others, the principles of rational use of natural resources. Environmental pollution is subject to penalty by this law.

This Law regulates, amongst other things, requirements and procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). **None of project envisaged activities possess such potential for adverse environmental impacts, nor they are listed in the Annexes I and II of the Law for which EIA would be mandatory or optionally required.**

**The Law No.03/L-214 On Environmental Impact Assessment** regulates procedures for identification, assessment, reporting and administration of the environmental impacts of a proposed project, in order that during decision making process by the MESP for issuing the Environmental Consent, to provide all relevant information regarding the environment.

**For the type of activities planned under this Project it is unlikely that an EIA is required under the national legislation, but the environmental review described in chapter 12 will determine this** (List of projects calling for EIA are available at the following link: <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2708>).

**Law on Nature Protection (2010/03-L-233)** regulates establishment and management of protected areas. Directorates for management of national parks, natural parks, and natural monuments of special importance are established by the MESP, while other categories of protected areas are run by municipality founded authorities.

**No activities funded under this project can be carried out in the protected areas which are listed at the following site:** <http://www.kuvendikosoves.org/common/docs/ligjet/2010-233-eng.pdf>

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<sup>22</sup> [http://www.gazetazyrtare.com/e-gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=109&Itemid=28&lang=en](http://www.gazetazyrtare.com/e-gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=109&Itemid=28&lang=en)

**The Law on the Inspectorate of Environment, Waters, Nature, Spatial Planning and Construction (04/L-175)** regulates the principles, organization and inspection supervision, coordination of surveillance inspection, rights, duties, powers of inspectors, rights, obligations and supervision entities, the procedure for performing inspection and other important issues dealing with inspection supervision. The scope of this Law deals with the duties and powers of inspectors under the supervision of environmental fields, water, nature, urban planning and construction within the bodies of local and central level including Municipal Inspectorate for Construction and Municipal Inspectorate for Environmental Protection. Under this law the State Inspectorate of Nature Protection carries out inspection supervision and control through inspection in the nature by implementing legal and sub-legal acts related to the protection of nature. Inspectorate for nature protection also carries out its duties and responsibilities in protecting nature, by harmonizing its activity with the requirements of the European Union for “NATURE – 2000” network.

**The Law on Construction No. 2004/2015** determines the main requirements for design, construction, and use of construction materials, professional supervision, as well as procedures for construction permits, use permits and building inspection. The provisions of this Law regulate the design and building conditions regarding the public safety and protection of environment in Kosovo, and they are also applicable to other building objects, unless provided otherwise by this Law or by administrative instruction<sup>23</sup>.

**Occupational Safety, Health and Working Environment Law (2003)** pursues as its main objective prevention of occupational injuries and diseases at the workplace and to protect the working environment<sup>24</sup>. It regulates working conditions at a workplace, rights of employees and employer obligations, in general. Nor does it specify those issues, except for general emergency situations like fire at a workplace, electrical hazards, and so on. It does not cover any specific issues related to infrastructure deployment. **This Law will be fully applied in the subprojects implementation.**

**The Law on Waste (2012), a National Strategy on Waste Management and a Five-Year Plan on Waste Management (2013-2017)** with actions based on the Strategy form the core of the solid waste management (SWM) legislature. Per this legislature, Kosovo has established a regionalized waste collection and disposal system. Most recently, it has initiated changes to the system of billing and collection that are intended to improve the financial performance of the sector<sup>25</sup>.

MESP issues waste management permits, permits for export, import, and transit of waste, and manages hazardous waste. As far as licenses for waste landfill management are concerned, one or more municipalities, by agreement, may determine and use the location on their territory for the construction of waste management facilities and equipment. If municipalities cannot reach agreement for setting a common site for waste management, the decision will be taken by the MESP on the basis that conditions have been fulfilled, according to this Law.

Minister of MESP may undertake additional measures for the management of certain types of waste, if waste and operations with waste endanger the environment and human health, and there are additional requirements for the implementation of provisions of the international agreements, to which the Republic of Kosovo is obliged.

Local government (municipalities) are responsible for issuance of local plans on waste management, determination of location for the municipal waste management needs etc., according to the spatial plan, and determination of fees for collection and disposal of municipal waste. By the Law, they are

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<sup>23</sup> [http://www.unmikonline.org/regulations/unmikgazette/02english/E2004regs/RE2004\\_37\\_ALE2004\\_15.pdf](http://www.unmikonline.org/regulations/unmikgazette/02english/E2004regs/RE2004_37_ALE2004_15.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> [http://www.gazetazyrtare.com/e-gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=83&Itemid=28&lang=en](http://www.gazetazyrtare.com/e-gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=83&Itemid=28&lang=en)

<sup>25</sup> <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/282091494340650708/pdf/Kosovo-SCD-FINAL-May-5-C-05052017.pdf>

also responsible for selecting licensed persons (through the application of procurement procedures) for collection, gathering, storage and transportation of solid waste, municipal, voluminous wastes, from construction and demolition within their territory.

Kosovo Landfill Management Company (KLMC) manages sanitary landfills of municipal waste.

Hazardous waste is managed according to the provisions of the Law on Waste, i.e. MESP is mandated to manage the hazardous waste, in cooperation with respective Ministry. Measures to be taken on hazardous waste are elaborated by a 5-year National Strategy on Waste Management.

The purpose of the **Law on Noise Protection No. 02/L-102** is to avoid, prevent or reduce on prioritized bases, the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to noise, in the environment. This piece of legislature provides a basis for developing measures to reduce noise emitted by the major sources, in particular road and rail traffic aircraft, outdoor and industrial equipment, mobile machinery and for other sources of environmental noise pollution and annoyance<sup>26</sup>.

Kosovo has an elaborated regulation of protection of cultural heritage: The Constitution, together with the **Law on Cultural Heritage**, the Law on Special Protective Zones (including the Law on the Historic Centre of Prizren and the Law on Hoça e Madhe/Velika Hoča), the Law on the Village Zym i Hasit, the Law on Freedom of Religion, the Law on Expropriation, the Law on Construction, the Law on Institutions of Culture, and the Law on Local Self-Government; and other laws such as the Law on Spatial Planning and the Law on Archives, sub-legal acts such as on the Implementation and Monitoring Council (IMC), set up in accordance with the Law on Special Protective Zones and other administrative acts ensure the special protection of cultural and religious heritage of Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo, as well as provisions of European cooperation, and international cultural heritage standards and best practices, including the ones promoting cultural and religious diversity and dialogue<sup>27</sup>. Besides, Kosovo has a National Strategy for Cultural Heritage (2017-2027)<sup>28</sup>, the first goal of which is to advance the legal and institutional framework in this field. None of the monuments listed in the national list of protected cultural heritage can be included or impacted by the project. In the case of chance findings, the project will rely on the national regulation and follow set procedures defined in the legislation.

Based on the legal framework on the regard to Administrative Instruction MESP/01/2017 on release of the Municipal Environmental Permit, Annex/**List of activities that liable subjugates to the municipal environmental permit, activities under the project “Supporting Youth Inclusive Local Development in Kosovo” will not fall under the mentioned AI/MESP/01/2017.**

And the Administrative Instruction MESP 22/2015, define that all the waste containing asbestos should be removed in compliance with this AI.

## 9 Potential Environmental Impacts

The environmental impacts assessed for this project are minor and site-specific, unlikely to be irreversible, and easily mitigated. The Project is classified as category B due to the small-scale civil works envisioned under subcomponent 2B. The community and livelihoods subprojects to be financed under the subcomponent 2B are likely to range from small-scale local neighborhood or community-level investments (such as digital cafes, workshops, kitchens, child care facilities, elderly centers, after school centers) to investments in municipal facilities (such as multi-functional maker-spaces, incubation centers, IT centers to access digital opportunities and support services, rehabilitation of

<sup>26</sup> [http://www.gazetazyrtare.com/e-gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=268&Itemid=28&lang=en](http://www.gazetazyrtare.com/e-gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=268&Itemid=28&lang=en)

<sup>27</sup> [http://mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/eng\\_strategy\\_for\\_heritage.pdf](http://mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/eng_strategy_for_heritage.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> [http://mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/eng\\_strategy\\_for\\_heritage.pdf](http://mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/eng_strategy_for_heritage.pdf)

agricultural or ecotourism facilities and infrastructure, or recycling facilities). Most facilities will be hosted in existing municipal buildings and will only require small-scale civil works (e.g. modernization of daycares, youth spaces). Construction of small livelihoods facilities or selected productive/economic infrastructure is also feasible under subcomponent 2B. Other subcomponents and project activities (consisting mostly of capacity building, technical support and similar) have negligible environmental impacts. Other subcomponents and project activities (consisting mostly of capacity building, technical support and similar) have negligible environmental impacts.

In consultation and research analyses in institutional level related to impact of the project to environment – Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) and referring to the multitask impact to abovementioned law bases, the conclusion was made that the possibility of this project to have negative impact or to affect environment is low. However, if not mitigated, adverse impacts, mostly typical for light civil works, may take place. In addition, the list of potential sub-projects is not fully defined, and other types of impacts are possible.

Environmental Impacts of the subproject will be typical for small scale civil works:

- Dust emissions from transport carrying workers and materials;
- Dust from earthworks, uploading and unloading materials, removal of walls, plasters, insulation, and other construction elements;
- OHS risks from working in heights, heavy machinery and driving, risks of accidents tripping and falling, neglecting safety equipment and clothes, procedures or warning signs;
- Noise emissions from transport and heavy machinery;
- Waste generation – small amount of construction waste will be generated mostly during the rehabilitation of the sport hall or any small correction/construction works (if any) It might be the case of some amounts of small amount of the asbestos and cements waste, or other building materials, ceramics, or other, but in any case will be obeyed the WB Policies and national laws about the treatment of the waste disposal regarding during the small scale construction works.
- Impact to soil will be very limited, however, some spills and leakages of fuel, oils, paint etc. are possible;
- Impact to water – no impact to water is envisaged, some small scale is possible from limited spills of hazardous liquids;
- Impact to nature is not envisaged since no works will take place in protected areas and works are limited to small civil works. In the case of works in open spaces, approval of competent authorities for removal of greenery and individual trees will be obtained. In re-greening, only native plant species will be used.

## 10 Mitigation Measures

Potentially adverse effects expected from the project activities will be minimized by strict application of national and local environmental legislation, ESMF procedures and guidelines and EA defined measures and monitoring. ESMP Checklist will be prepared by the Applicant for the typical light civil works, while ESMP will define measures, distribute responsibilities, envisage budget and prepare monitoring plan for all other activities with potential to adversely impact the environment or human health, if any.

Impacts identified in the previous chapter are localized to a small area, of reduced severity, easy to mitigate with measures typical for reduction of impacts in civil works:

- Dust emissions will be curbed by using construction chutes, regular cleaning of working area, roads, vehicles and machinery as well as keeping the site wet or/and protected from wind (e.g. with wind screens). The dusting transported load will be covered as well as stockpiles.
- Workers will wear protective clothes (hardhats, gloves, etc.) and equipment at all times.
- Open fires will be strictly prohibited and so will any type of animal disturbance (poaching, capture for trade and other), collection of herbs, forest food, timber and other forest products.
- All legally required permits have been acquired for rehabilitation, other types of civil works and other activities.
- All work will be carried out in a safe and disciplined manner designed to minimize impacts on neighboring residents and environment.
- Construction routes are clearly defined.
- Working site should occupy only the surfaces necessary for works to be carried out.
- During the construction, workers must be limited to areas under construction and the access to surrounding open area must be strictly regulated.
- Work during the night will be avoided if possible, especially in the vicinity of settlements. In the case there will be night works appropriate permissions should be obtained.
- The terrain at the working site has to return to its pre-works condition, if not possible than it will be adequately rehabilitated.
- Waste collection, separation, transport and further processing is carried out in accordance with national waste legislation.
- Hazardous waste generated will be handled, transported and stored according to the waste law and respective administrative instructions.

Full list of measures for light civil works is defined in the ESMP Checklist.

## 11 Environmental Assessment

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a process aiming at recognizing aspects of a particular activity that can produce risks for the environment and human health, predicting, evaluating and mitigating its potential impacts making sure they are minimized, if elimination is not feasible. The purpose of EA is to improve quality of decision-making by recognizing environmental impacts/consequences early in the sub-project preparation process, so that they can be incorporated into the sub-project design as well as timely prevented or mitigated in the implementation and operation phases.

The scope of EA depends on the environmental category attached to each sub-project, the scope of the sub- project activities as well as features of the sub-project location, though the purpose of any type of assessment is to identify ways of environmentally improving the proposed activities by minimizing, mitigating, or compensating for their adverse impacts. EA, for the purposes of this and other projects supported by the WB, include Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) risks as well as risks related to preservation of cultural physical heritage (chance findings in this case). EA results are presented in the environmental assessment report, reflected in identified environmental risks (related to specific types of sub-project activities) and coupled with adequate measures. The measures present methods, techniques, procedures and other ways of improving sub-projects environmentally by minimizing, mitigating or compensating for adverse impacts. An EA also describes the steps that were taken for public consultation.

EAs envisaged for activities under this project are ESMP Checklist and ESMP. Draft ESMP Checklist template for light civil works that are expected to be the most common infrastructure related activity is prepared as an integral part of ESMF and available in the Annex 3. ESMP Checklist template (containing mitigation measures and monitoring plan) will be adjusted to each individual B- civil works



sub-project envisaged in the Checklist. In addition, it will define supervision and reporting responsibilities and the timeline. ESMP will be produced for all other subprojects and activities that have not been envisaged by the ESMP Checklist but may produce potential negative impacts to the environment or human health.

## 12 Environmental Review

All subprojects under the subgrant scheme as well as all activities that include physical investments or may have negative environmental impacts will undertake the environmental review process presented below:

STEP 1: The Subgrant Applicants (Municipality/beneficiary youth<sup>29</sup>) prepare and submits an initial subproject design under the call for proposal together with the Environmental Risk Assessment Questionnaire (available in Annex 2). Municipality is responsible for the quality and validity of information presented in the Environmental Risk Assessment Questionnaire and follow-up EAs, and ensures that the disclosure and consultation requirements are conducted as per the guidelines provided in this ESMF. MLGA PMU screens the livelihoods subprojects in line with the ESMF (and based on design, Environmental Risk Assessment Questionnaire and other information) screens out subprojects that are A category, high risk, on exclusion lists, ineligible or triggering WB policies other than OP/BP 4.01 and forms a list of successful Applicants that is then sent for evaluation. Safeguards Consultant prepares Screening Reports and informs the Applicants (Municipality/beneficiary groups) of follow-up requirements and EA required for sub-grant processing (a site-specific ESMP or ESMP Checklist, templates available in the ESMF; justification why EA is not needed for C category sub-projects is presented in the Screening Report). Aggregate Screening results are communicated to the WB. At this time, it is the responsibility of the Municipality to initiate discussions with the PMU and/or other competent authority in order to fulfill any local and national environmental and other requirements (such as, for example, an opinion on the environmental permit or EIA (if any needed), construction permit and/or other official approval/permits).

STEP 2: The Applicants (Municipality/beneficiary youth) prepare EA (ESMP or ESMP Checklist) for B category subproject and submits to PMU for review and approval. PMU (Safeguards Consultant) provides comments. The Municipality also fulfills national and local regulation requirements, if applicable.

STEP 3: If requested, the Applicants (Municipality/beneficiary youth) revise the ESMP/ESMP Checklist in line with PMU comments/requirements (and consults with PMU when necessary) and resubmits. PMU approves EA when satisfied with the quality and compliance with ESMF and national regulation. ESMP Checklists and all site-specific ESMPs are a subject to WB approval.

STEP 4: All EAs will be consulted in accordance with national and WB policies (as defined in the chapter Disclosure and Consultations).

STEP 5: The Applicants (Municipality/beneficiary youth) incorporate the relevant consultation comments into the EA upon which the document is final. The recommendations provided in

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<sup>29</sup> Selected youth from the Local Youth Groups will collaborate with the municipalities to complete the steps described in the environmental review process. This process will be facilitated by the Implementing Partners, who will need to have supporting staff/experts on environmental issues. The PMU Safeguards Consultant and Implementing Partner Environmental Specialists will train participating youth and municipality staff on environmental screening, EA development and environmental monitoring.

the assessment are further reflected in the subproject design and implementation plan, including associated estimated costs. A detailed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Municipality cannot be signed prior to finalization of the EAs (ESMP and ESMP Checklist). EA (ESMP Checklist or ESMP) becomes a part of bidding and contracting documentation (this is the responsibility of municipality - the institution procuring the works).

STEP 6: The Contractor implements EA. The institution procuring the works (municipality), monitors the implementation of the EA mitigation and monitoring plan and regularly reports to the PMU Safeguards Consultant. PMU supervises the EA implementation (including making site visits) and reports to WB in EA implementation and project progress reports (and ESMP implementation reports for specific projects if previously agreed with the WB Safeguards Specialist), in accordance to the reporting schedule.

### 13 Grievance Redress Mechanism

The Connecting Youth Project will establish a project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) within 6 months of Project effectiveness to address any concern related the project that anyone can bring. The GRM will be managed by MLGA directly, as a part of the beneficiary feedback system for the project. The project will establish a project website where all relevant project information will be available such as progress reports, safeguards reports, events, activities, etc. The project website will have contact information of the PMU and ministry staff to whom grievance can be submitted as well as description and GRM procedures.

The complaints mechanisms will be described in all project orientation meetings, advertised locally and on the project website. The possibility to submit a grievance through the website will be also communicated through the social media channel (a Facebook page), and indicated in the publicity materials (e.g. press releases, blogs) and the printed materials produced under the Project. Additionally, the information about GRM will be available at the local government sites.

Responsible staff member PMU/Ministry will be assigned to receive and respond to the grievance. The MLGA will ensure responses are provided within ten working days. If the grievance could be addressed by the PMU, then the PMU director will follow up with the actions to be taken to address the grievance. In the case the complaint is anonymous, the feedback will be provided on the Project web-site.

Annually, the PMU shall be tasked to disclose the number and nature of grievances received over the course of the year and report on which measures have been taken or plan to be taken in response to this critical feedback.

### 14 Monitoring of ESMF Compliance and Reporting

The ESMP Checklist and site specific ESMPs, upon consultations and finalization, will be included to bidding and contracting documentation. This is the obligation of the Municipality as the subject procuring the works, however, the ultimate responsibility is with MLGA/PMU to verify that this has been done.

For execution of small civil works construction and rehabilitation or any activities that can produce adverse environmental impacts it is a duty of the works Contractor to implement the mitigation and monitoring measures defined in the EA (ESMP Checklist or ESMP) and to report the progress and status to Municipality, who in turn informs the beneficiary youth and PMU quarterly or in the timeline agreed in the EA document.

Safeguards Consultant will perform regular supervision of the ESMP Checklist/ESMP implementation

through spot/check visits to the livelihoods subprojects and regularly report to PMU on environmental (ESMP, ESMP Checklist) compliance. Youth monitors (trained under subcomponent 2A) will also conduct regular field monitoring of environmental management activities. While reporting is periodical, the significant incompliances will be reported by the Municipality to PMU immediately. The mitigation measures proposed by the PMU will be implemented in a defined timeframe. In the case the subproject Municipality fails to implement corrective measures through the Contractor, further steps will be taken until the measures are in place (or in the well assessed cases subprojects may be suspended). These steps can include ceasing the payments until the compliance is achieved. PMU reports environmental compliance to the WB in the regular project implementation reports, unless agreed differently (e.g. subprojects that require ESMP).

## 15 Disclosure and Consultations

On March 31, 2020, the ESMF was disclosed on the MLGA website with a public announcement in English, Albanian and Serbian language. Due to ongoing coronavirus safety concerns, consultation modalities were adapted as noted below. In addition to disclosure on MLGA website, the ESMF was sent electronically to relevant stakeholders to seek advice directly. At the same time a call for comments was issued through MLGA Facebook page and consultations were organized via Your Priorities online platform (link below). A video and power point presentation were made available on the virtual consultation platform in addition to the complete ESMF. A postal and email address for sending comments and suggestions was also provided in the call for comments. During the virtual consultation period (March 31-April 9, 2020) a total of 41 questions/comments were received and addressed via the online platform or via email. The complete list of comments and questions received and answers provided is available in Annex 5 of this ESMF. The final ESMF has also been disclosed and is available on the World Bank website.

ESMP and ESMP Checklists will be prepared and disclosed in English and Albanian (as well as Serbian language in municipalities with Serbian minority). They will be disclosed on the MLGA website/virtual consultation platform and/or website of the municipality where the activity is exercising the impact for 14 days (hard copy available at the respectful Municipality). Call for comments will be issued in parallel. Relevant comments will be reflected in the final version of ESMP Checklist. Stand-alone ESMP will follow the ESMF disclosure and consultations procedures (including the public consultations meeting).

During the consultation period, suggestions and comments on the ESMF could be addressed to:  
<https://connecting-youth-p166093.yrpri.org>

Att: Edina Ibishi/ Ministry of Local Government Administration  
Ex Rilindja building  
Floor 13  
Pristina

Email: [Edina.ibishi@rks-gov.net](mailto:Edina.ibishi@rks-gov.net)

Tel no: +383 38 200 35 522

## ANNEXES

## ANNEX 1 - RESPONSIBILITIES AND KEY PARTICIPANTS

Participant	Activity	Supporting Documentation
MLGA (PMU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare ESMF for CYP</li> <li>• Supervise the subproject implementation;</li> <li>• Monitor the (ESMF and/or ESMP Checklist) implementation (including site-visits) and provide corrective measures (as needed);</li> <li>• Conduct environmental screening;</li> <li>• Report to WB on ESMF (ESMP, ESMP Checklist) implementation;</li> <li>• Include EA/safeguards procedures to all project/subprojects documents, including subgrants manual;</li> <li>• Ensure coordination &amp; implementation of the overall project;</li> <li>• Finalize the environmental screening form;</li> <li>• Prepare and publicly consult the ESMF;</li> <li>• Monitoring/supervise &amp; evaluate compliance with ESMF mitigation plans/measures;</li> <li>• Coordination with stakeholders: institutions, municipalities, civil society, NGO on safeguards issues</li> <li>• Coordination with other donors during the implementation of the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESMF;</li> <li>• ESMP/ESMP Checklists with monitoring plan with supporting annexes;</li> <li>• Periodic reports and subproject completion report;</li> <li>• Environmental reporting within regular progress reports;</li> <li>• Periodic monitoring reports.</li> </ul>
Applicants (Municipality /beneficiary youth groups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare Environmental Questionnaire (EQ);</li> <li>• Prepare EA, including the monitoring plan;</li> <li>• Ensure EA is implemented;</li> <li>• Report EA implementation to the PMU;</li> <li>• Keep environmental documents and records (e.g. Municipal decision of waste disposal site, waste manifests, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EQ</li> <li>• EA</li> <li>• Monitoring reports</li> </ul>
WB (IBRD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out a training for PMU/MLGA staff regarding ESMF/environmental review procedures,</li> <li>• Carry out prior and post reviews</li> <li>• Supervises overall Project environmental compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document status of project</li> <li>• implementation in Implementation Status and Results reports and the mission Aide-Memoires</li> </ul>

**ANNEX 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE for INFRASTRUCTURE  
(even slight infrastructure)**

**Name of the subproject:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

No	Environmental Risk Questions	Yes/No	Not Known	Details/Notes
1	What type of works will be contracted for subproject activities?			
2	Will there be only repair slight work/rehabilitation of buildings other small-scale civil works or other type of activities?			
3	Will the installation of equipment or other small correction going to take place under the subproject and what nature?			
4	I. If planning to use existing premises, please provide detailed description of current ownership and use. II. Does the building have the relevant use permit? III. Will a new use permit be needed for new/changed use?			
5	IV. Will all civil works take place on public land? V. Will the subproject require use of land that is currently occupied or regularly used for productive purposes (e.g. gardening, farming, pasture, fishing locations, forests)? VI. Will the subproject require use of public land that is currently used informally for living or commercial purposes (e.g., informal occupants or businesses)?			
6	Is there a right of way issue or need for permanent land acquisition of private land?			
7	Will the project require temporary use of private land (e.g. for storing machinery or material during construction)?			
8	If the subproject is a part of planned new infrastructure, please provide description which and how.			
9	Is the section (subproject) located in the protected area?			
10	Are any protected species using the area anytime of the year (whether a PA or not)?			
11	What type of protected area (PA)? (level, and reason for protection)			
12	Is the subproject located in or potentially affects archeological or cultural heritage site?			
13	Is the nature of the site: - Coastal/Riparian, - Urban, - Agricultural, - Industrial, - Other specific – please specify in the 'Notes' column?			
14	Does the subproject require environmental permits, EIA or other type of EA under the national legislation?			

15	Does the subproject require specific public consultations under the national legislation?			
16	Is generation of larger quantities of hazardous waste (asbestos, compact fluorescent lamps, lead paint debris, oil/fuel-contaminated equipment such as old boilers or diesel tanks, etc.) or special types of waste (radioactive lighting rods) expected as a result of the subproject?			
17	Will there be a procurement of chemicals?			
18	Other remarks/issues			

## ANNEX 3 – ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN CHECKLIST TEMPLATE

### 1. Introduction

The project aims to improve the socio-economic inclusion of marginalized young women and men by connecting youth to livelihood opportunities, community action, and local governance and investment.

The project will achieve this socio-economic development objective through four components:

1. Connecting Youth to Livelihoods
2. Connecting Youth to Communities and Municipalities
3. Capacity building, project management and M&E

Project's soft activities such as business development training, coaching and mentoring for marginalized youth groups, activities to support youth voice and agency in communities, youth engagement in local governance, and capacity building for stakeholders are not expected to have any negative environmental impacts. Activities under the **Subcomponent 2B: Subgrants for Livelihood Facilities envisages** small scale civil works such as renovations, refurbishment and construction. This ESMP Checklist is providing environmental measures and monitoring plan for these works addressing typical and localized impacts.

### 2. Potential environmental impacts

The overall environmental impacts of the Project are expected to be of manageable, temporary and of local impact as they are related to small scale civil or earthworks mainly in urban areas. These impacts most commonly include but are not limited to: a) Dust and noise due to excavation, transport, demolition and rehabilitation works; b) Management of construction wastes c) noise emissions d) risks related to occupational health and safety.

### 3. Sub-project activities and environmental impacts

#### 4. Checklist ESMP

Checklist ESMP is applied for minor rehabilitation or small-scale building construction. It provides "pragmatic good practice" and it is designed to be user friendly and compatible with WB safeguard requirements. The checklist-type format attempts to cover typical mitigation approaches to common civil works contracts with localized impacts.

The checklist has one introduction section and three main parts:

- Introduction or foreword part in which the project is introduced, environmental category defined, and checklist ESMP concept explained.
- **Part 1** constitutes a descriptive part ("*site passport*") that describes the project specifics in terms of physical location, the institutional and legislative aspects, the project description, inclusive of the need for a capacity building program and description of the public consultation process.
- **Part 2** includes the environmental and social screening in a simple Yes/No format followed by mitigation measures for any given activity.
- **Part 3** is a monitoring plan for activities during project construction and implementation. It retains the same format required for standard World Bank ESMPs. It is the intention of this checklist that Part 2 and Part 3 be included as bidding documents for contractors.

ESMP Checklist (Parts 1-3) will be updated and supplemented for each sub-project as needed to comply with the ESMF.

### **5. Application of the EMP-Checklist**

The design process for the envisaged civil works under the Project will be conducted in three phases:

- 1) *General identification and scoping phase*, in which locations or the objects (e.g. youth incubation centers, maker-spaces and workshops.) for rehabilitation are selected and an approximate program for the potential work typologies elaborated. At this stage, Part 1, 2 and 3 of the Checklist ESMP are filled. Part 2 of the Checklist ESMP can be used to select typical activities from a "menu" and relate them to the typical environmental issues and mitigation measures.
- 2) *Detailed design and tendering phase*, including specifications and conditions. ESMP Checklist is revised according to the known design details at this stage. As such, the Checklist is presented to the public, prior to the tendering procedure. This phase also includes the tender and award of the works contracts. The whole filled in tabular ESMP (Part 1, 2 and 3) should be additionally attached as integral part to the works contract as well as supervision contract, analogous to all technical and commercial terms, has to be signed by the contract parties.
- 3) *During the works implementation phase*, environmental compliance is checked on the respective site by the site certified inspector(s) / supervisor(s), which include the site supervisory engineer and/or Environmental Consultant in the PMU and relevant inspection services from Ministry of Environment. The mitigation measures in Part 2 and monitoring plan in Part 3 are the basis to verify the Contractor's compliance with the required environmental provisions.

## 6. Monitoring and Reporting

For the monitoring of the Contractor’s safeguards due diligence, the site supervising engineer works with Part 3 of the ESMP Checklist, i.e. with the monitoring plan. Part 3 is developed site specifically by the user of funds and in necessary detail, defining clear mitigation measures and monitoring which can be included in the works contracts, which reflect the status of environmental practice on the construction site and which can be observed/measured/ quantified/verified by the inspector during the construction works.

Part 3 would thus be updated and revised during the design process to practically reflect key monitoring criteria which can be checked during and after works for compliance assurance and ultimately the Contractor’s remuneration.

<b>PART 1: INSTITUTIONAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	
Country	
Project title	
Scope of project and activity	
Institutional arrangements	<b>Project management</b>
(Name and contacts)	
Implementation arrangements	<b>Supervision</b>
(Name and contacts)	
<b>SITE DESCRIPTION</b>	
Name of site	
Describe site location	Annex 1: Site information (figures from the site) [ ] Y [ ] N
Who owns the land?	
Geographic description	
<b>LEGISLATION</b>	
Identify national & local legislation & permits that apply to project activity	



<b>PUBLIC CONSULTATION</b>	
Identify when / where the public consultation process took place	
<b>INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING</b>	
Will there be any capacity building?	<input type="checkbox"/> N or <input type="checkbox"/> Y if Yes, Annex 2 includes the capacity building information

<b>PART 2: ENVIRONMENTAL /SOCIAL SCREENING</b>			
Will the site activity include/involve any of the following:	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Additional references</b>
	A. General requirements for all works	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	See Section <b>A</b> below
	B. Rehabilitation of buildings/infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	See Section <b>A, B, C</b> below
	C. Construction of new buildings/infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	See Section <b>A, B, C</b> below
	D. Purchase of chemicals	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	See Section <b>A, D</b> below

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST</b>
<b>A. General Conditions</b>	Notification and Worker Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Providing information to local population about the scope and time of commencement and time of duration of construction activities by preparing Notification which will be placed on the municipality notice board and on the municipal web page and through other means, if needed, to ensure the local population is well informed;</li> <li>b) Local construction and environmental/nature protection inspectorates are informed of works before the start;</li> <li>c) All needed permits/opinions/permissions are obtained before the commencement of works (including construction and other);</li> </ul>

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) All work will be carried out in safe and disciplined manner;</li> <li>e) Workers personal protective clothes and equipment are available in sufficient quantities and are worn/used at all times;</li> <li>f) Workers must be adequately trained, certified and experienced for the work they are performing (e.g. for works in heights);</li> <li>g) Open pits are covered and clearly marked when not worked on;</li> <li>h) Ensure the appropriate marking and informational board of the reconstruction site</li> <li>i) Marking out the site for temporal storage of the reconstruction material near the site</li> <li>j) Providing warning tapes, fences and appropriate signage informing danger, key rules and procedures to follow.</li> <li>k) Forbidden entrance of unemployed persons within the warning tapes and fences when/where deem needed.</li> <li>l) The surrounding area near the sports hall should be kept clean</li> <li>m) Machines should be handled only by experienced and appropriately trained personnel, thus reducing the risk of accidents;</li> <li>n) All workers must be familiar with the fire hazards and fire protection measures and must be trained to handle fire extinguishers, hydrants and other devices used for extinguishing fires</li> <li>o) Devices, equipment and fire extinguishers should be always functional, so in case of need they could be used rapidly and efficiently. First aid kits should be available on the site and personnel trained to use it.</li> <li>p) Procedures for cases of emergency (including spills, accidents, etc.) are available at the site.</li> <li>q) Sanitary facilities (toilets) must be provided for workers.</li> </ul>

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
		<p>r) Purchased equipment will be installed and used respecting all safety measures prescribed by the producer of equipment and best practices.</p>
	Air Quality	<p>a) Construction site, transportation routes and materials handling sites should be water sprayed on dry and windy days.</p> <p>b) Construction materials should be stored in appropriate places covered to minimize dust</p> <p>c) Vehicle loads likely to emit dust must be covered.</p> <p>d) Restriction of the vehicle speed to the reconstruction location.</p> <p>e) Roads are regularly swept and cleaned at critical points.</p> <p>f) Keep the topsoil and stockpiles separate. Protect with sheets/fences in the case of windy weather.</p> <p>g) Locate stockpiles away from drainage lines, natural waterways and places susceptible to land erosion.</p> <p>h) All loads of soil are covered when being taken off the site for disposal.</p> <p>i) Ensure all transportation vehicles and machinery have been equipped with appropriate emission control equipment, regularly maintained and attested.</p> <p>j) Ensure all vehicles and machinery use petrol from official sources (licensed gas stations) and on fuel determined by the machinery and vehicles producer.</p> <p>k) There will be no excessive idling of construction vehicles at sites.</p>
	Transport and materials management	<p>a) Coarse aggregate in concrete and filling of trenches applied and used in rehabilitation need to conform to durability and gradation requirements. The aggregate must be virgin (not used previously) and preferably locally produced.</p> <p>b) Mineral resources (aggregate, sand, gravel, etc.) are procured only from licensed companies with valid concessions for extraction/exploitation. The companies can</p>

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
		<p>prove H&amp;S measures and environmental management is in place.</p>
	Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) As it is a urban residential area (<u>driving through the town to the site</u>) the level of noise should not exceed 55dB during the day and evening and 45dB during the night</li> <li>b) The construction work will not be permitted during the nights, the operations on site shall be restricted from 7.00h to 19.00h (agreed in the permit).</li> <li>c) During the operations the engine covers of generators, air compressors and other powered mechanical equipment should be closed, and equipment placed as far away from residential areas as possible.</li> <li>d) Pumps and other mechanical equipment should be effectively maintained.</li> </ul>
	Water and Soil Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Prevent hazardous spillage coming from waste (temporary waste storage should be leakage protected and those for hazardous or toxic waste equipped with secondary containment system, e.g. double walled or banded containers).</li> <li>b) If hazardous spillage occurs, curb and remove it, clean the site and follow procedures and measures for hazardous waste management.</li> <li>c) In the case of any run-off coming from works area possibly contaminated by hazardous substances shall be collected on site to a temporary retention basin and transported to an adequate licensed waste water treatment plant.</li> <li>d) Install/provide and maintain of proper sanitary facilities for workers. The wastewater from these sources should be transported to proper waste water treatment facilities.</li> <li>e) Prevent hazardous spillage coming from tanks (mandatory secondary containment system, e.g. double walled or bonded containers), construction equipment and vehicles (regular maintenance and checkups of oil and gas tanks, machinery</li> </ul>

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
		<p>and vehicles can be parked (manipulated) only on asphalted or concrete surfaces with surface runoff water collecting system.</p> <p>f) Working site run-offs with possible charge with suspended matter should be filtered before spillage to natural flows.</p> <p>g) Water, and other components, in concrete mixture shall be clean and free of harmful chemicals.</p>
	Waste management	<p>The good waste management practice will be applied including:</p> <p>a) Identification of the different waste types that could be generated at the reconstruction site and its classification according to Law No.04/L-060 (The Law on Waste)</p> <p>b) Containers for each identified waste category are provided in sufficient quantities and positioned conveniently.</p> <p>c) Waste collection and disposal pathways and licensed landfills/processing plants will be identified for all major waste types expected from demolition and construction activities. For management of hazardous wastes, instructions/guidelines from Ministry of Environmental Protection and Spatial Planning will be sought and followed.</p> <p>d) Mineral (natural) construction and demolition wastes will be separated from general refuse, organic, liquid and chemical wastes by on-site sorting and temporarily stored in appropriate containers. Depending of its origin and content, mineral waste will be reapplied to its original location or reused.</p> <p>e) All construction waste will be collected and disposed properly by licensed collectors and to the licensed landfills (or licensing processing plant).</p> <p>f) The records of waste disposal will be regularly updated and kept as proof for proper management, as designed.</p>

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g) Whenever feasible the contractor will reuse and recycle appropriate and viable materials. Discarding any kind of waste (including organic waste) or waste water to the surrounding nature or water-bodies is strictly forbidden.</li> <li>h) Collect, transport and final disposal/processing of the communal waste by a licensed company;</li> <li>i) The construction waste should be promptly removed from the site and re-used if possible;</li> <li>j) The incineration of all waste at site or unlicensed plants and locations is prohibited.</li> <li>k) Waste disposal site will be defined by the written approval from the Municipality or other competent authority (e.g. MESP).</li> <li>l) Existing air-conditioning units are not to be refilled or emptied. If discarded, must be handled by specialized licensed companies.</li> </ul>
	Safety of traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Traffic regulation plan is prepared and implemented in coordination with Municipality and competent authority (traffic police);</li> <li>b) Traffic will be regulated in the safe manner. Safety of pedestrians will be ensured by use of safe-passages.</li> <li>c) Safety and regulation notification, signage and signage will be used appropriately.</li> </ul>
	Soil erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) In the case of spills, the polluted water must be contained to prevent further contamination and transported to a waste water treatment plant.</li> <li>b) Vehicles and machinery can be parked, washed and maintained only at designated areas with impermeable surface with a collection and treatment system (oil and grease separator),</li> <li>c) Protection of sediments spread by fences and barriers.</li> </ul>

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
	<p>Chance findings of archaeological any cultural and historical artefacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Working area, site camp, etc. should be located away from the heritage and archeological sites.</li> <li>b) Adequate care and awareness rising shall be taken to enlighten construction workers on the possible unearthing of archeological relics;</li> <li>c) Works will be stopped, responsible authorities notified in line with the national regulation and their instructions followed. Works will start again only once relevant authorities have provided their guidance and clearance.</li> </ul>
	<p>Improper toxic material storage (including hazardous wastes) and use may cause pollution of air, soil or water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Store all materials in original containers in adequate locations, which allow for leak-proof storage and in leak-proof containers.</li> <li>b) There will be no storing of a large amount of fuel at the site.</li> <li>c) Ensure workers are familiar with safety regulations and storage requirements for each product.</li> <li>d) Provide absorbents for spills at site. In the case of an accident curb the spill and remediate the site. Waste is to be treated as hazardous.</li> <li>e) Follow MESP instructions when handling chemicals;</li> <li>f) Chemicals and hazardous wastes are placed in safe and secured place safe from spilling.</li> </ul>

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
	Emergency preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Emergency Preparedness Plan is prepared and communicate it to the employees.</li> <li>b) Ensure familiarity with networks in the proximity of the site.</li> <li>c) In case of accidental disruption, immediately stop all works, notify proper authorities in the region and emergency remediation of damaged network in line with the requirements of the national legislation and Emergency Preparedness Plan.</li> <li>d) Provide firefighting equipment and training for employees</li> </ul>
<b>B &amp; C.</b> Rehabilitation/construction of buildings/infrastructure	Community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensure safety of building users e.g. provide safe passages and protection from falling objects.</li> <li>b) Timely inform users of premises and neighboring communities of upcoming works.</li> <li>c) In the case the traffic will be interrupted, organize alternative ruts in cooperation with the Municipality.</li> </ul>
	Nature protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Pouching, disturbance of animals, collection of herbs and forest food is strictly prohibited.</li> <li>b) Open fires are strictly forbidden.</li> <li>c) There will be no littering.</li> <li>d) Before works, the area must be checked for dens and nests.</li> <li>e) Minimize the working area and use only what is necessary.</li> <li>f) No logging is allowed. If it is unavoidable, a permit from the competent authority must be obtained.</li> <li>g) Only native plants can be used in replanting.</li> <li>h) All waste and other materials as well as equipment must be removed by the end of works.</li> <li>i) Avoid works during nesting season.</li> </ul>



ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
	Affects forests and/or protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) All recognized natural habitats and protected areas in the immediate vicinity of the activity will not be damaged or exploited, all staff will be strictly prohibited from hunting, foraging, logging or other damaging activities.</li> <li>b) For large trees in the vicinity of the activity, mark and cordon off with a fence large trees and protect root system and avoid any damage to the trees</li> <li>c) Adjacent wetlands and streams will be protected, from construction site runoff, with appropriate erosion and sediment control feature to include by not limited to hay bales, silt fences</li> <li>d) There will be no unlicensed borrow pits, quarries or waste dumps in adjacent areas, especially not in protected areas.</li> </ul>
	Acquisition and temporary occupancy of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) No land will be involuntarily acquired</li> <li>b) Land can be purchased, or leased, on a willing buyer-willing seller basis only</li> <li>c) Works will utilize vacant government land, occur within existing footprint, or follow right-of-way or easements</li> <li>d) Lease contracts must be obtained prior to accessing private land/property</li> <li>e) Owners will be offered market price of lease for duration of the lease. The land/property must be returned to original condition</li> <li>f) Compensation offered for any damages to the leased land/property</li> </ul>
<b>D. Purchase of chemicals</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Chemicals are purchased from the licensed distributor only.</li> <li>b) Pesticide are not purchased.</li> </ul>

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
		<p>c) Chemicals are placed in safe and secured place safe from spilling.</p> <p>d) Chemicals are managed and used in accordance with the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and handled only by appropriately trained and experienced personnel.</p>

<b>PART 3 : MONITORING PLAN</b>							
<b>Phase</b>	<b>What</b> (Parameter will be monitored?)	<b>Where</b> (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	<b>How</b> (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	<b>When</b> (Define the frequency / or continuity?)	<b>Why</b> (Is the parameter being monitored?)	<b>Cost</b> (If not included in project budget)	<b>Who</b> (Is responsible for monitoring?)
Preparation	All required permits are obtained before works start.	At the city administration	Inspection of all required documents	Before works start	To ensure the legal aspects of the rehabilitation activities	/	Supervisor of works (e.g. supervising engineer or another authorised/appointed person), PMU
	Public and relevant institutions are notified	Contractor's premises	Inspection of all necessary documents	Before works start	To ensure public awareness	/	Supervisor of works (e.g. supervising engineer or another authorised/appointed person), PMU
	Safety measures for workers, employees and visitors	On site	Visual checks and reporting	Before works start	To prevent health and safety risks – mechanical injures and to provide safe access and mobility	/	Supervisor of works (e.g. supervising engineer or another authorised/appointed person), PMU
Implementation	Safe traffic flow and pedestrian safety	On site	Visual checks and Reporting	Random checks	To ensure coordinated traffic flow	/	Supervisor
	Work safety	On site	Visual checks and reporting Unannounced inspections during work	Random checks	To prevent health and safety risks – mechanical injures and to provide safe access and mobility	/	Supervisor

<b>PART 3 : MONITORING PLAN</b>							
<b>Phase</b>	<b>What</b> (Parameter will be monitored?)	<b>Where</b> (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	<b>How</b> (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	<b>When</b> (Define the frequency / or continuity?)	<b>Why</b> (Is the parameter being monitored?)	<b>Cost</b> (If not included in project budget)	<b>Who</b> (Is responsible for monitoring?)
	Site is well organized: fences, warnings, sign postage in place.	On site	Inspection	Random checks	To prevent accidents /	/	Supervisor
	Collection, transport and hazardous waste (if any)	At the safe temporary location on construction site in separate waste containers	Inspection of the transport lists and the conditions of the containers and storage space	Random checks	To improve the waste management at local and national level/ Hazardous waste do not be dispose to any landfill	/	Supervisor
	Collection, transport and final disposal of the solid waste	At and around the site	Visual monitoring and inspection of the transport lists of the contractor	Random checks	Do not leave the solid waste on the construction site and to avoid negative impact to the local environment and the local inhabitants health	/	Supervisor
	Air pollution parameters of dust, particulate matter	At and around the site	Visual inspection for dust	Random checks, Upon complaint or negative inspection finding	To ensure no excessive emission during works	/	Supervisor
	Level of noise	At and around the site	Monitoring on the level of noise dB (with suitable equipment)	Upon complaint or inspection finding	To determine whether the level of noise is above or below the permissible level of noise	/	Supervisor

<b>PART 3 : MONITORING PLAN</b>							
<b>Phase</b>	<b>What</b> (Parameter will be monitored?)	<b>Where</b> (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	<b>How</b> (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	<b>When</b> (Define the frequency / or continuity?)	<b>Why</b> (Is the parameter being monitored?)	<b>Cost</b> (If not included in project budget)	<b>Who</b> (Is responsible for monitoring?)
	Temporary occupancy of private land	At and around the site	Visual, document checks	Random checks, upon complain	To determine that all temporary occupancy of private land is agreed with owner	/	Supervisor
Operation	Waste management	At and around the site	Visual, document checks	Regularly	Sufficient number of containers is at the site, waste is being disposed to the Municipality defined location, waste records are kept	Applicant	PMU

## ANNEX 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN TEMPLATE

A project's environmental and social management plan (ESMP) consists of the set of mitigation, monitoring, and institutional measures to be taken during implementation and operation to eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts, offset them, or reduce them to acceptable levels. The plan also includes the actions needed to implement these measures.

Management plans are essential elements of EA reports for Category A projects; for many Category B projects the EA may result in a management plan only. To prepare a management plan, the recipient and its EA design team (a) identify the set of responses to potentially adverse impacts; (b) determine requirements for ensuring that those responses are made effectively and in a timely manner; and (c) describe the means for meeting those requirements.

More specifically, the ESMP includes the following components:

### **a. Mitigation**

The ESMP identifies feasible and cost-effective measures that may reduce potentially significant adverse environmental impacts to acceptable levels. The plan includes compensatory measures if mitigation measures are not feasible, cost-effective, or sufficient. Specifically, the ESMP;

- (a) Identifies and summarizes all anticipated significant adverse environmental impacts (including those involving indigenous people or involuntary resettlement);
- (b) Describes with technical details each mitigation measure, including the type of impact to which it relates and the conditions under which it is required (e.g., continuously or in the event of contingencies), together with designs, equipment descriptions, and operating procedures, as appropriate;
- (c) Estimates any potential environmental impacts of these measures; and
- (d) Provides linkage with any other mitigation plans (e.g., for involuntary resettlement, or cultural property) required for the project.

### **b. Monitoring**

Environmental monitoring during project implementation provides information about key environmental aspects of the project, particularly the environmental impacts of the project and the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Such information enables the recipient and the Bank to evaluate the success of mitigation as part of project supervision, and allows corrective action to be taken when needed. Therefore, the ESMP identifies monitoring objectives and specifies the type of monitoring, with linkages to the impacts assessed in the EA report and the mitigation measures described in the ESMP. Specifically, the monitoring section of the ESMP provides (a) a specific description, and technical details, of monitoring measures, including the parameters to be measured, methods to be used, sampling locations, frequency of measurements, detection limits (where appropriate), and definition of thresholds that will signal the need for corrective actions; and (b) monitoring and reporting procedures to (i) ensure early detection of conditions that necessitate particular mitigation measures, and (ii) furnish information on the progress and results of mitigation.

**c. Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates**

For all three aspects (mitigation, monitoring, and capacity development), the ESMP provides (a) an implementation schedule for measures that must be carried out as part of the project, showing phasing and coordination with overall project implementation plans; and (b) the capital and recurrent cost estimates and sources of funds for implementing the ESMP. These figures are also integrated into the total project cost tables.

**d. Mitigation Plan**

Construction Phase					
Activity	Expected Environmental Impact	Proposed Measure for Mitigation	Responsibility for Implementing Mitigation Measure	Period of Implementing Mitigation Measure	Cost associated with implementation of mitigation measure
1.					
2.					
...					
Operation Phase					
1.					
2.					
...					

**e. Monitoring Plan**

Construction Phase					
<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>How much</b>
<i>Parameter is to be monitored?</i>	<i>Is the parameter to be monitored?</i>	<i>Is the parameter to be monitored (what should be measured and how)?</i>	<i>Is the parameter to be monitored (timing and frequency)?</i>	<i>Is the parameter to be monitored– (responsibility)?</i>	<i>is the cost associated with implementation of monitoring</i>
1.					
2.					
...					
Operation Phase					
1.					
2.					

**ANNEX 5 – REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS**

Due to ongoing COVID-19 safety concerns, consultation modalities have been adapted as noted below.

On March 31, 2020, the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Kosovo Connecting Youth Project (CYP) was disclosed in Albanian, Serbian and English on the Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA) website (image 1) and on the Your Priorities online platform (image 2). The ESMF with an invitation to provide comments was also sent directly to relevant stakeholders by email (see table 1 for complete list).

A public announcement was made on the MLGA Facebook page (image 3) and relevant stakeholders were tagged (municipalities, ministries, NGO) automatically informing their followers of the notification. The public announcement was made in Albanian, Serbian and English with a language-specific link to the Your Priorities virtual consultation platform. The ESMF document, a power point (image 4) and video presentation (image 5) were made available on the project-tailored platform. Each of these tools provided a summary of the CYP project (objectives, target beneficiaries, activities), description of anticipated social and environmental impacts, and the environmental and social review process during project implementation. Comments could be provided in Albanian, Serbian and English with real-time translation available.



The virtual consultations took place between March 31-April 9, 2020. In addition to the online platform, there was a dedicated email, physical address and phone line for collecting responses. During this period, a total of 41 questions/comments were received via the online platforms while 1 comment and 2 questions were submitted via email. Majority of the questions/comments received were requests for clarifications about the project targeting, activities and timing, which have been answered as indicated above. There were no question/comments about environmental and social impacts and review process that would require a change to the ESMF. A complete list of comments is provided in the questions and answers section of this annex.

Image 1: ESMF disclosure and public announcement on MLGA website

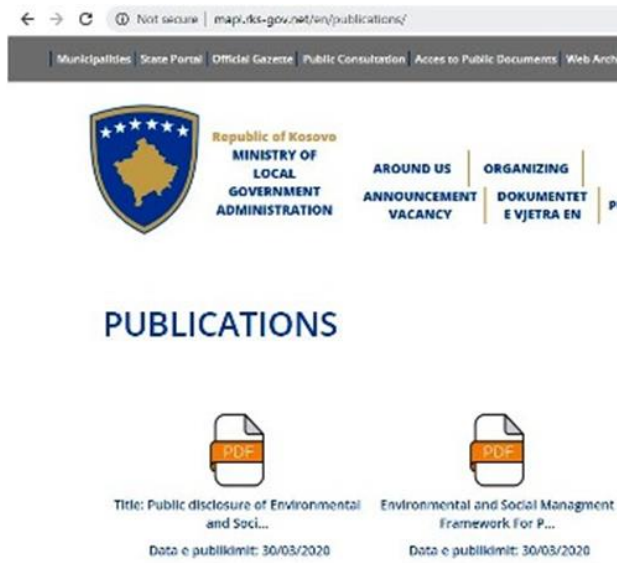


Image 2: Your Priorities virtual consultation platform for CYP ESMF



Image 3: Invitation to virtual consultations made via MLGA facebook page



<https://www.facebook.com/271521783259793/posts/851064258638873/>

Image 4: ESMF presentation	Image 5: video presentation

Table 1: Overview of stakeholders that received the ESMF and invitation to consultations by email

<b>Ministries</b>	
Name	Name
Ministry of Finance	Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport	Ministry of Economic Development
<b>Municipalities/other public entities</b>	
Deçan	Skënderaj
Gjakovë	Shtime
Glllogoc	Shtërpce
Gjilan	Suharekë

<i>Dragash</i>	<i>Ferizaj</i>
<i>Istog</i>	<i>Viti</i>
<i>Kaçanik</i>	<i>Vushtrri</i>
<i>Klinë</i>	<i>Zubin Potok</i>
<i>Fushë Kosovë</i>	<i>Zveçan</i>
<i>Kamenicë</i>	<i>Malishevë</i>
<i>Leposaviq</i>	<i>Novo Bërdë</i>
<i>Lipjan</i>	<i>North Mitrovica</i>
<i>Obiliq</i>	<i>South Mitrovica</i>
<i>Rahovec</i>	<i>Junik</i>
<i>Pejë</i>	<i>Hani i Elezit</i>
<i>Podujevë</i>	<i>Mamushë</i>
<i>Prishtinë</i>	<i>Graçanicë</i>
<i>Prizren</i>	<i>Ranillugë</i>
<i>Partesh</i>	<i>Klllokot</i>
<b>NGOs/CSO</b>	
UNICEF	
Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo (YIHR KS)	
NGO TOKA	
Kosovar Youth Council	
KCSF	
ICK	
NGO Advancing Together	
Prosperity Initiative in Kosovo (PIKS)	
PEN - Peer Educators Network	
NGO Young Active Gračanica	
SHL Kosova	
Community Building Mitrovica	
OEK Sinergija	
GAIA Kosovo	
The Balkan Forum	
Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Kosovo	
Center for Peace and Tolerance Gračanica	
YMCA in Kosovo	
Kosovo 2.0	
Centre for Equality and Liberty (CEL)	
Transnational Queer Underground -TQU	
Syri Vision	
Community Development Fund	

### **Questions and answers per topic received via the Your Priorities platform**

#### **Component 1: Connecting Youth to Entrepreneurship Opportunities**

**Question:** How can I be part of this project, and where should my ideas be described or sent? Is there any direct contact?

**Answer:** Project support is eligible to youth with specific characteristics as described in ESMF pg. 3. At the start of each incubation support cycle, the implementing partners will make an open call for applications, conduct outreach through local organizations and organize face-to-face information sessions in target communities. There will also be clinics to apply to the initial training and coaching services. MLGA will also keep the public informed about project activities through social media.

**Question:** Will the implementing partners be selected competitively?

**Answer:** Yes, the Ministry of Local Government Administration will conduct a competitive procurement process for about three implementing partners (IPs). It is anticipated that IPs will be either international or national NGOs, with a track record of similar implementation, or consortiums of NGOs/firms.

**Question:** Very good to see that young person's outside Pristina will be able to get this support. How will the municipalities be chosen?

**Answer:** The project will target all 38 municipalities, but the support will be phased. The phasing of the municipalities will be based on the performance scores (and eligibility) achieved in the Performance Management System. Within municipalities, underserved and disadvantaged communities will be selected to target support geographically as well as on target groups.

**Question:** When will they fill out face-to-face information-sessions for the project reflecting the situation with Covid-19?

**Answer:** When feasible, stakeholders and potential beneficiaries will be informed about the schedule of information sessions.

**Question:** Providing subgrants for start-ups requires a great deal of support or the business efforts fail. What kind of support is planned?

**Answer:** We agree. To succeed, young microentrepreneurs will be provided technical, soft (e.g. communication), and business and financial management skills for their selected enterprise, and support to develop clear and simple business plans based on careful assessments of the market and value chains. In addition to training, young entrepreneurs will be assigned professional coaches to (i) guide youth in the process of microenterprise incubation; and (ii) provide support on any issue that could become an obstacle to the success of their microenterprise. Youth who receive microgrants will be assigned mentors to help solve day-to-day business problems and advise them on actions and management for sustainable microenterprise management. Business mentors will be skilled business persons (in the same sector) paid as consultants to mentor microentrepreneurs for up to 12 months.

**Comment:** Sustainability of projects. Maintenance and sustainability of small enterprises should be taken into consideration, because short-term ideas are always being attempted to be created which, once the project is completed, disappear. Therefore, attention should be paid to sustainability & maintenance (enterprises should be funded for a longer period if needed).

**Answer:** The survival of project supported microenterprises has been an important consideration in its design. Young entrepreneurs will be provided hands-on, consistent, and intensive mentoring and coaching support for up to 12 months after startup, and will be supported to build professional networks and mentoring relationships. Where appropriate, the mentoring program will facilitate young entrepreneurs' graduation to other microenterprise/SME support and access to finance programs in Kosovo. In addition to microgrants, the project provides subgrants for facilities and services, such as childcare, elderly care,

and places to work (incubation centers, workshops) that will give young entrepreneurs the best possible chance at business survival.

**Question:** Do people have to pay grants?

**Answer:** Aspiring micro-entrepreneurs will be required to provide a matching grant of at least 5 percent of the grant value in a cash contribution; those with existing businesses will likely be required to contribute 15 percent. Subgrantees from disadvantaged groups will receive a waiver from the contribution requirement.

**Question:** Hello, Can I participate in this project, where should I apply?

**Answer:** Project support is eligible to youth with specific characteristics as described in ESMF pg. 3. At the start of each incubation support cycle, the implementing partners will make an open call for applications, conduct outreach through local organizations and organize face-to-face information sessions in target communities. There will also be clinics to apply to the initial training and coaching services. MLGA will also keep the public informed about project activities through social media.

**Question:** How can I become part of the project? Otherwise I am a graduate in Management. I have completed Management. Do you have contacts? How can i contact you?

**Answer:** Thanks for your interest. Project support is eligible to youth with specific characteristics as described in ESMF pg. 4. At the start of each incubation support cycle, the implementing partners will make an open call for applications, conduct outreach through local organizations and organize face-to-face information sessions in target communities. There will also be clinics to apply to the initial training and coaching services. MLGA will also keep the public informed about project activities through social media.

**Question:** How can I be part of the project?

**Answer:** Thanks for your interest. Project support is eligible to youth with specific characteristics as described in ESMF pg. 4. At the start of each incubation support cycle, the implementing partners will make an open call for applications, conduct outreach through local organizations and organize face-to-face information sessions in target communities. There will also be clinics to apply to the initial training and coaching services. MLGA will also keep the public informed about project activities through social media.

**Question:** Ensuring sustainability and pairing with access to finance chain, all possible grantees I would strongly recommend being tied up with Kosovo Credit Guarantee Fund, that will ensure an additional smooth loan to micro or startup businesses to mitigate their operational costs.

Given the target group age that is from 19 - 24 yrs, this is very critical age, that requires a very echo-system entrepreneurship package, that ensures balanced impact and make sure that there is no artificial external influence just because of the grant or project opportunity. Our strong recommendation is to create an assessment of profiling the future beneficiaries on common characteristics of entrepreneurial spirit.

**Answer:** Project beneficiaries will be supported to graduate into other forms of entrepreneurship assistance and grant programs. Beneficiary assessments will be conducted to tailor training, coaching, and mentoring activities for the specific group of young people selected, and to identify complementary services.

**Question:** Entrepreneurship plays a critical role in boosting economic growth and development, so the entrepreneurship education is very critical for this project. We do strongly recommend that Training

Center for Entrepreneurship must be cross integration of Municipality, NGO's and Mentorship volunteering. In general, the entrepreneurship is combination of technical skills combined with required education of entrepreneurship, that must be developed at certain initial youth age. Hence, I would strongly recommend engaging and encourage schools, including vocational training centers, and Municipal employment services to promote and provide continued guidance on entrepreneurship and self-employment for young people.

**Answer:** Because several specialized institutions are needed to provide youth with the skills required to start a business, youth will be connected with different types of service providers relevant to their business area.

**Comment:** Due to pandemic development of COVID 19, the outbreak of COVID-19 will certainly affect the Entrepreneur and Startup Ecosystem, as a result of some of the preventive measures taken by governments worldwide to control the pandemic, small businesses, startups, and entrepreneurs have come out to be one the most vulnerable groups that have been directly affected by these measures. Therefore, I think that is very necessary to keep on hold the specific design of the component elements including sectors and type of businesses because the economic situation is very unpredictable, moreover, the forthcoming project must be synchronized with other aid projects on the economy of Kosovo in order to be able to create a sustainable force of the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Some other questions:

When it is expected the final solicitation for NGO's to apply for the implementation of this project?

Are you planning to conduct any public consultation with local NGO's in terms of requirements of NGO's and capacities?

**Answer:** The project will include a Contingent Emergency Response Component to support the post-COVID response, coordinated with other COVID interventions in the country.

The exact timing of the procurement of implementing partners is not known at this point. As it is a competitive process, it will be widely advertised. Prior to this, a mapping of potential implementing partners will be conducted to check absorption capacity, experience and potential geographic coverage.

## **Component 2: Connecting Youth to Communities and Municipalities**

**Comment:** The shared facilities are a very good idea, as often in Donor project, the grants given are not enough to pay for all the equipment needed for a business. Also if the business does not survive, the facilities are there for others to continue to use. Very good change to the approach to grants in Kosovo.

**Answer:** Thank you.

**Question:** How will you make sure that the municipalities don't misuse the funds? I see that the young entrepreneurs will play a role in the selection but municipalities may not follow this?

**Answer:** Three methods will be used to ensure that funds are being spent as planned.

1) There will be several requirements for subgrant transfers to municipalities for livelihood facilities, such as evidence of: (i) link to microenterprises supported by the project; (ii) facility selection being based on participatory needs assessment and planning (confirmed in a community check meeting), (iii) the economic benefit and services for marginalized youth, etc.

2) Social accountability actions will be conducted to ensure that all local actors are accountable to the beneficiary youth and communities in the use of project funds and the delivery of project objectives. Specifically, community checks (following a social audit methodology) will be conducted twice a year. Municipalities and implementing partners will present a transparent and accessible report to target communities on participation, progress and finances. Semiannual community scorecards will be facilitated by the implementing partners with support from a cadre of youth selected for monitoring and oversight roles.

3) Additionally, the MLGA's annual financial audit will be extended to municipalities to review the subgrants procedures and end-use reviews.

**Comment:** I hope everything will be fine.

**Answer:** Yes thank you.

### **Component 3: Capacity Building and Project Management**

**Question:** Will the project support the skills development of youth officers in the municipalities?

**Answer:** Yes, the project will finance capacity building and peer-to-peer learning of municipalities, showcasing of good practices from municipalities around youth programming, cross-learning events, etc. The project will also support the MLGA and MCYS to better understand and support municipalities in engaging youth in local governance, and in developing local approaches to local fragility issues and the mainstreaming of climate considerations in municipal investments.

**Comment:** The reality is that in many municipalities, although there are dedicated youth staff in the DKRS, they do not have an active youth action plan (there are no cases at all), as well as many municipalities do not have youth activities during the year and / or do not share any annual youth budget. I think this would be a challenge for youth mobilization in this project or even a response from the youth in the application.

**Answer:** The project will support MLGA to develop a sustainability strategy and action plan with municipalities to enhance socio-economic youth programming and budgeting to address the gaps that you mention. The aim of the strategy and action plan will be to promote the sustainability of youth inclusion in entrepreneurship and citizen engagement in municipalities through provision of guidelines for post-project implementation, incentivized through the municipal performance grant system

**Comment:** The project does not include the involvement of Youth NGOs in any component. Youth NGOs also in the UN for SDG implementation are seen as key actors for youth engagement at the local level. Especially considering that they can easily mobilize marginalized youth. In sub-component 3A I would suggest mapping local NGOs in municipalities that work with and for youth as a primary focus. I see that the involvement of the third sector would be a good opportunity for the project to succeed locally.

**Answer:** The implementing partners will be either international or national NGOs or consortiums of NGOs/firms with experience working with youth. The implementing partners will work with existing, local youth groups, including the Local Youth Action Councils, youth centers, youth NGO representatives, to organize local youth groups to work with communities and municipalities for the activities defined under Component 1 and Subcomponent 2A

**Comment:** I saw that NGOs are the implementing partners for all of component 1, and that there is a mapping already happening. Perhaps this needs more clarity in the documents.

**Answer:** A mapping of potential implementing partners will be conducted to check absorption capacity, experience and potential geographic coverage. The mapping will identify potential implementing partners, which will be selected through a competitive procurement process.

**Comment:** The best projects were in agriculture, livestock, orchards and other products that can be realized for short, medium and long term periods. Given the situation that is hitting us in finance, food and business, I think we need to focus as much as possible on production, to be in step with the times and after this pandemic not to feel the damage caused during this time period. Allocate funds for those who have work projects (to be observed) and not for abusers.

**Answer:** All project activities will be tailored to local markets and the specific needs of beneficiaries. A consultant or firm specializing in private sector development will be engaged to identify the types of goods and services that are in demand in each selected municipality and associated value chains. To avoid misuse of funds, microgrant payments will be transferred to beneficiaries in tranches upon receipt of agreed evidence.

**Question:** If during the training period, what are the modules of training development and what capacities can this commitment and the acquired knowledge have?

**Answer:** At each stage of the business support cycle, aspiring micro entrepreneurs will gain access to necessary soft skills, entrepreneurship learning and relevant ICT skills to be able to establish and manage a micro business. There are no prior knowledge prerequisites to participate.

### **Environmental and social impacts**

**Question:** Can micro-businesses be funded in nature protected areas by the project (eg small kiosks in natural tourist sites).

**Answer:** Activities in Kosovo's protected areas and sensitive or critical natural habitats are not eligible for financing under this project.

**Question:** How will the project ensure that more disadvantaged people are supported?

**Answer:** 30 percent of project beneficiaries will be disadvantaged (definition provided on pg. 4 of ESMF). The project will provide tailored services to ensure that disadvantaged youth can access project benefits. Outreach to these groups will be facilitated by local NGOs (supporting internally displaced persons, returnees, RAE, and disabled) and relevant state agencies (e.g. Centers for Social Welfare). The project will particularly encourage applications from youth with multiple factors that make them disadvantaged (such as RAE women, or disabled rural youth, etc.) and they will be supported to make applications. Based on individual assessments of their constraints to start a micro-enterprise, transport, childcare, access to social workers and psychosocial support will be provided as needed. In addition, microgrants will be provided in high potential sectors to make the project activities more attractive for disadvantaged youth. It is likely that the project would support enterprises related to agriculture, for example, as well as tourism and food production, which have potential within rural communities.

**Comment:** The environmental impacts of the project could be positive if the recipients of the subgrants set up small businesses that help solve local environmental problems.

**Answer:** The project will support young women and men who are interested in supporting their communities through environmental products and services (e.g. recycling, air quality monitoring, solar energy products, climate-smart agriculture). Climate change considerations will be embedded in the



technical entrepreneurship trainings and ideas meetings to encourage beneficiaries to consider potential mitigation and adaptation measures as business opportunities, including ways to capitalize on climate conscious behavior of young consumers (e.g. an app facilitating a plant-based diet, tourism using emissions-free transportation).\_\_Specialized technical assistance will be provided to assist any microentrepreneur interested in establishing microbusinesses that promote climate co-benefits and/or stimulate behavior-change.

**Question:** Will the project pay for agricultural costs such as fruit trees?

**Answer:** The project is likely to support microenterprises related to agriculture, including food production. The specific needs of microbusinesss will be stated in the individual business plans developed collaboratively by participating youth and their coaches.

**Comment:** The municipality of Ranilug has no form of fire protection in the 21st century. We are witnessing increasing temperature amplitudes, summers are getting warmer, so the frequency of fires is increasing. This directly causes negative consequences for the environment, as well as for the safety, life and health of people.

**Answer:** Livelihood facilities under subcomponent 2B will be constructed/rehabilitated according to national building standards, including standards for prevention of fire hazard.

**Comment:** Knowing that for a long time the regulation of river beds has started, would it be possible to invest in their enrichment with different types of fish and monitor the purity of the water, perhaps the degraded rivers would sometimes be restored ... ! Important. even the awareness of the people for their preservation and importance!

**Answer:** Project component 2 will engage youth in local environmental governance and appoint climate change ambassadors for local action. This will allow youth to engage around local environmental priorities, as the example provided here.

### **Environmental and social review process**

**Question:** Is Environmental Impact Assessment required for each livelihoods sub-project?

**Answer:** For the type of activities planned under this Project it is unlikely that an EIA is required under the national legislation (The Law No.03/L-214 On Environmental Impact Assessment), but the environmental review process described in ESMF chapter 12 will determine this.

**Comment:** Kosovo has laws on environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment (EIA and SEA) that belong mainly to institutions (government / ministries / municipalities) but what is missing is the evaluation of an activity (project or business) in carbon footprint. . it would have been better to predict the CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> emissions of each initiative. Then the project is correlated with the SDG components. How much does the environmental vigilance component (conditional for each project) include.

**Answer:** Mentors with knowledge and experience on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and the green economy will be engaged to support young entrepreneurs to develop niche products with climate co-benefits across sectors. Climate considerations will be mainstreamed into livelihoods investments. The project has set targets on number of enterprises (30) and livelihood facilities (150) that will be expected to support climate change adaptation or mitigation.

**Comment:** TMM Best Possible Technique KTNSRR Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Wild Flora CSO Civil Society Organization EBRD European Bank for Reconstruction and Development TP Compliance Override EC European Commission KEE European Economic Community EU European Union PVMS Environmental and Social Action Plan KSHE Energy Service Company DQM Department of Environment and Sustainability KDMS.

**Answer:** Thank you.

**Other comments/questions**

**Question:** How will the project allow us to comment when it has already started? Is this the only public consultation?

**Answer:** During implementation, we will continue to organize consultations on project progress and results on this online platform. Across all components, young men and women will be engaged in youth-led monitoring through a process of community scorecards and community check meetings. Specifically, community checks (following a social audit methodology) will be conducted twice a year. Municipalities and implementing partners will present a transparent and accessible report to target communities on participation, progress and finances. We welcome you to stay engaged and to continue providing feedback through this platform.

**Question:** Am I interested in knowing how long the project will take?

**Answer:** The planned project period is 2021-2026.

**Question:** I begged you if we have a chance, since we are also older, I have a lot of ideas and I paint a lot for the protection of the environment, so maybe with a group of young people I would have the opportunity to realize a lot of ideas.

**Answer:** Based on an assessment of socio-economic exclusion of youth in Kosovo, the project targets marginalized youth that otherwise have very few economic opportunities ages 19-24 (for young women the age criteria is extended to 29 years). Other eligibility criteria are available on pg. 4 of the ESMF.

**Question:** Will we be able to support small businesses in Kosovo municipalities and what are those businesses that will be supported

**Answer:** The project will provide microgrants for ICT-related microenterprises, support sectors with high-earning potential and microenterprises that have a focus on social and environmental services.

**Question:** Will there be a demand in factories that pollute the environment to have air pollution prevention through air filters to prevent them

**Answer:** This activity is outside of the scope of the project.

**Question:** River cleaning and disinfection, planting of special types of wood, afforestation, Wastewater treatment. Cleaning of meadows, pastures and other areas. How can we participate to win the project?

**Answer:** The project will support collaboration between selected young citizens and municipal leaders in developing environmental governance plans and introducing climate co-benefits oversight mechanisms

to mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure all municipal investments are climate friendly and resilient. Calls for participation in these activities will be issued at the local level.

**Comment:** The first step is to request the various factories that do the big air pollution. Prevent my request for filters. The countries that are most polluted should be cleaned. Citizens who do their throwing should be photographed and notified to the law enforcement agencies for a Kosovar.

**Answer:** Comment is not project related.

### **Questions and answers per topic received via e-mail**

**Question: Citizen (31.03.2020):** I have only one question regarding the public presentation, will it be done after April 7 and with which address exactly.

**Answer:** As a result of the restrictions due to COVID 19, public consultations are being conducted with a video-presentation published on an online platform at <https://connecting-youth-p166093.yrpri.org/community/1255>, where you can ask questions or provide comments about the project.

I would like to inform you that the deadline for questions / comments is until April 7, 2020.

### **Comment received by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) on 06.04.2020:**

MCYS provided basic information about youth demographics in Kosovo from 2018 (source Kosovo Agency of Statistics), a summary of the legal framework related to youth and key objectives of the latest Youth Strategy 2019-2023.

**Answer:** Thank you for the information provided. The legal framework is considered in the preparation of the project (including through references to relevant legislation in the project appraisal document) and that the project is in line with the objectives of the Youth Strategy 2019-2023 to improve youth participation at the local level and provide relevant market skills for young people.

**Question: Citizen (09.04.2020):** Hello, I would like to ask you how it is necessary to apply for a grant for starting a small business (enterprise) within the Project, the commitment of Kosovar youth and entrepreneurship, and when is the deadline for application for this project.

**Answer:** At the start of each incubation support cycle, the implementing partners will make an open call for applications, conduct outreach through local organizations and organize face-to-face information sessions in target communities. There will also be clinics to apply to the initial training and coaching services. MLGA will also keep the public informed about project activities through social media.