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Republika e Kosovës

Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo

Qeveria - Vlada - Government

Ministria e Administrimit të Pushtetit Lokal

Ministarstvo Administracije Lokalne Samouprave

Ministry of Local Government Administration

 *June, 2020*

**Virtual meeting with Civil Society Organizations**

On 17.05.2020 it is held the first virtual meeting of the Consultative Forum of MLG with Civil Society Organizations. In the meeting were present:

* *Representatives from MLG*
* *Representatives from DEMOS*
* *GAP Institute*
* *KLGI*
* *Lëvizja FOL*
* *KDI*
* *Syri i Vizionit*
* *Democracy Plus*
* *D4D*
* *Ec Ma Ndryshe*
* *KCSF*
* *Polis*
* *INPO*
* *CIVIKOS*

**Agenda:**

*The virtual meeting of the Consultative Forum of MLG with Civil Society Organizations*.

**11:00**                                Connection of participants to the platform:

**11:00 – 11:05**                  Introductory speech

                                           Rozafa Ukimeraj General Secretary of MLG

**11:05 – 11:20**                  Discussion on the measures taken by MLG for municipalities related to

 COVID-19

**11:20 – 11:40**Discussion about the content of the document (Draft Regulation) of Municipal Performance

**11:30 – 11:50**                  NGOs plans for 2020

**11:50 -  12:00**                  Meeting conclusions

Mrs. Rozafa Ukimeraj, Secretary General, MLG, greeted the participants.

The meeting was chaired and moderated by Shkëlqim Jakupi, Head of the Department for European Integration and Policy Coordination.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mrs. Rozafa Ukimeraj, expressed her appreciation for the cooperation of the civil society organizations with the MLG, as well as informed the participants of the interest of other stakeholders for the work of the Forum. She emphasized that other stakeholders are also interested in the work of the Forum, such as MAFRD, which is interested in the Forum appointing participants in the commissions for the use of properties of the Kosovo Forest Agency, when necessary, or to discuss topics related to the policies of this Ministry.

**Subject 1: Measures taken by MLG for municipalities related to COVID 19**

Mr. Yll Valla, Head of the Public Communication Division, thanked the participants and made a brief presentation about the activities, respectively the measures taken by the MLG for municipalities regarding the global pandemic of COVID- 19. He focused on the role of the MLG in relation to municipalities, with regards to coordination and development of inter-institutional activities. Mr. Valla, emphasized that MLG has prepared an Action Plan for taking concrete measures related to the global pandemic Coronavirus COVID - 19.

All MLG officials have been informed about Government decisions and the necessary instructions for conducting activities from distance/home. Municipalities have been continuously informed about the pandemic situation in the country, a number of requests and notifications have been addressed to the municipalities by the Emergency Operations Center, the Operations Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration and the Center for Disease Prevention and Control. During this period, municipalities affected by the pandemic and other municipalities were visited to provide support and to be informed about their needs and requirements, as well as to address them to the relevant institutions, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Public Administration, in order to have a more efficient management of the COVID– 19 pandemic.

**Subject 2: Presentation of the Draft Regulation on municipal performance management**

Mr. Diellor Gashi, Head of the Department for Municipal Performance and Transparency presented the draft of the new Regulation on the Municipal Performance Management System and the Municipal Performance Grant Scheme. Mr. Gashi emphasized the need to draft a new regulation as the number of fields and indicators has increased, the need to remove fields from the old regulation so that their change does not have implications for the change of regulation. Additionally, a clear division and composition between the complaints commission in municipal compliance cases in their assessments in the annual performance report and the other special complaints commission which reviews municipal complaints in terms of their classification for grant.

This regulation after entry into force is expected to repeal the current regulation in the field of municipal performance management system. After inquiring about the deadlines for completion of the regulation, Mr. Gashi explained that the draft regulation has been sent to all municipalities for comments and has been uploaded for public consultation in the Government's public consultation platform according to the deadlines of May 27 to June 16, 2020. According to the MLG decision to establish a working group to draft this regulation, the deadline for completion of the process is June 30, 2020.

**Subject 3: Presentation on the Forum Framework Work Plan for 2020 and the Concept of feasibility of the Forum work**

Mr. Visar Rushiti engaged through the DEMOS project to provide support to the Local Government Consultative Forum has presented in brief the Framework Work Plan of the forum for 2020. The Framework Plan contains four topics for meetings and two conferences, one annual forum and the other a regional conference also requested by forum members. However, since we are still in a pandemic situation and the future situation regarding the pandemic cannot be predicted, there was almost an agreement that the regional conference would not be held this year. Regarding the annual forum conference, it remains to be discussed and depending on the situation with the pandemic, to be defined in the future during the forum meetings. Also, one of the points / topics that was asked to be one of the topics of the forum in this plan was regarding the challenges of municipalities in the post-COVID situation. During the meeting was also discussed the idea to have a deadline for comments from forum members on the framework work plan, but the idea of having fixed topics in the work plan was taken with hesitation by some representatives of some civil society organizations who many have preferred the fact of assigning topics according to need and developments in local government. Also at this point is briefly presented the Concept for the visibility of the forum work, such as the idea of having a forum link which would be placed within the MLG website. The idea was supported by several representatives of several civil society organizations and also by the MLG.

**Subject 4: Presentation of the work of NGOs for 2020**

Mr. Bekim Salihu informed all participants of the meeting that GAP Institute will publish within a few days an analysis of the impact of the pandemic caused by COVID-19 in municipalities, the impact on own source revenues, governance and other aspects which can be read in the paper. MLG and DEMOS representatives were interested in sharing the analysis with everyone in order to have the same level of information in this area.

Mr. Valon Xhabali from Ec Ma Ndryshe informed the participants in the meeting about the research on how the municipalities have responded and are how they are dealing with the situation created by the global pandemic COVID-19. This research was conducted as part of the program "*Active Citizenship and Responsible Municipalities in Kosovo*" which is being implemented by a group of organizations: Ec Ma Ndryshe, Syri i Vizionit, Communication for Social Development and Democracy Plus (D +). The aforementioned research was shared by email to forum members.

**Meeting conclusions**

* To continue the discussions of the forum especially regarding the situation and challenges of the municipalities after the situation created by COVID-19;
* Forum meetings will continue to be held in virtual form until an agreement of the forum members will be reached for meetings with physical presence which are conditioned by the further improvement of the situation with COVID-19 in Kosovo;
* The idea of having a forum link within the forum website can start to be used and then introduced and discussed with forum members;
* The date of the next meeting will be set in the future between the MLG and the next chair of the meeting;
* The next meeting will be chaired by Mrs. Debora Peci from the organization Democracy Plus (D+).