**Prishtine, 18 December 2020**

**Summary of discussions from the meeting of the Consultative Forum of MLG with Civil Society Organizations for 2020**

**Chairman: Mr. Sadri Rrmoku – Kosovo Local Government Institute**

**Participants:**

Ministry of Local Government - MLG

Kosovo Local Government Institute - KLGI,

DEMOS Project,

Syri i Vizionit - SIV,

FOL Movement,

GAP Institute,

Democracy for Development – D4D.

**Opening speech**

**Trim Berisha – Deputy General Secretary of MLG,** presented the projects for the next four (4) years, where it is included also the civil society, their cooperation and engagement. MLG is in the programing phase for IPA III, where there is a project for the Performance Grant, which is worth 15 million euros and which has passed to the first phase by the EU Office. We are already waiting for them to finalize it.

**Cross-border cooperation Program**

MLG is currently implementing the program IPA II, the procedural phase for which has been finalized and next year (2021) there are three (3) calls for non-governmental organizations in cooperation with the neighbor countries. There will be about nine (9) million euros available in cooperation with Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia for the non-governmental organizations that apply for their projects.

Next year (2022) it is the implementation of the World Bank Project, which is worth three (3) million dollars. The project will be implemented by a non-governmental organization, which will be contracted by MLG in cooperation with the World Bank, which will then give grants in amount of 1.5 million for the small non-governmental organizations dealing with youth.

**Presentation of the MLG’s work plan for 2021 and the findings of the Kosovo Progress Report related to local level**

**Ferdi Kamberi** – The Annual Work Plan of the Ministry of Local Government for 2021 – MLG as part of its legal responsibilities has also the objectives and the goals to prepare an annual plan and based on that plan to draft a more detailed plan. Within the nine months period of 2020, the internal plan of the MLG was realized around 78%, while in terms of activities, which are reflected in the MLG plan sent to the Government, the plan was realized 100%, despite the fact that part of the staff due to of the pandemic have worked remotely.

**Iliriana Bajrami** – Has presented the challenges and the achievements identified by the progress report related to the local government for 2019. The Progress Report has highly praised the achievements of MLG especially regarding municipal performance assessment.

**Meetings of the forum**

The participants in the meeting agreed that the meetings of the forum should be held regularly four (4) times within a year, respectively every three (3) months (March, June, September and December). If any of the members of the forum proposes a topic/subject of interest, then the forum could be gathered for other meetings as well. The Chairman of the forum has a three months mandate.

**Proposed topics for 2021**

1. Reforms in education (the case of Kamenica);
2. Addressing (budgeting) challenges arising from the Progress Report for Kosovo;
3. Association of Serb-majority Municipalities;
4. Discussion about Municipal Performance Report;
5. Discussion about policies that are in process of being amended or drafted;
6. Post-Covid municipalities;
7. Regional conference on local governance.

**Conclusion**

* **Naser Lajqi** (Syri i Vizionit) was elected Chairman for the next meeting of the Forum;
* The next meeting of the Forum will be held in March 2021, whereas the meeting topics will be decided by Mr. Lajqi and MLG.