



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

**Report on the implementation of the Strategy for
Local Self-Government**
(January - December, 2022)

Prishtine, 2023

Introduction

The Strategy for Local Self-Government is the main document produced by the Ministry of Local Government Administration - MLGA which focuses on local self-government in Kosovo. This document was approved by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo with Decision 04/63 dated 10.12.2016 together with the Action Plan which covers the period 2016 - 2026. The Strategy for Local Self-Government is a document which defines a framework of priority policies of government, with the aim of advancing Local Self-Government in Kosovo for a ten-year period (2016-2026) and is an inter-sectoral document.

In accordance with the Strategy for Local Self-Government 2016-2026 and with the aim of regularly monitoring the implementation of this strategy, the Ministry of Local Government as the responsible (coordinating) institution for the implementation of this strategy has carried out concrete activities from the Action Plan of the Strategy for this period. The purpose of this report is to monitor the implementation process of the activities that emerge from this strategy and to define the steps for the realization of the obligations pledged by the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo for the advancement of local self-government in the country.

MLGA in accordance with its responsibilities has monitored the implementation of this strategy on six months basis. This report reflects the implementation of the activities of the Strategy for Local Self-Government 2016 - 2026 for the period January - December, 2022. The report serves the institutions that have responsibility in the implementation of this strategy, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, the general public and others. The Strategy for Local Self-Government 2016-2026 has a total of 5 objectives:

- I. **Strategic objective 1** – Increasing local economic, social and structural sustainability to ensure that local policy parameters and financial modalities bring innovation to the development of Municipalities;*
- II. **Strategic objective 2** – Creation of a framework for good governance and effective regulation to ensure democratic representation of citizens and efficient and professional administration in Municipalities;*
- III. **Strategic objective 3** – Strengthening the institutional capacities of local self-government to meet the demands of citizens and to achieve sustainable improvement in municipal services for citizens;*
- IV. **Strategic objective 4** – Strengthening partnerships between local government, civil society and businesses to create active, inclusive and cohesive citizens;*
- V. **Strategic objective 5** - The promotion of cultural and natural heritage as well as the affirmation of cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity in municipalities, to have an impact on social, economic and cultural development.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strategic objective - I

Within the CIF 2 program, there are 7 beneficiary municipalities for 7 projects in the amount of €1,080,768.38. For infrastructure projects for communities, 28 projects were selected in 20 municipalities, in the amount of €1,000,000.00. For CIF projects, agreements have been signed for 12 projects. From the municipal performance grant, there are 14 beneficiary municipalities with 60 projects. Within the M4Y project, a call for proposals is made for sub-grants for teenagers (15-18), and for adults (18-24) for the first cycle of grants, and it is presented the list of sub-grant winners for the first cycle of grants. The M4Y website has been designed and launched. This year, the advancement of cross-border cooperation has continued as part of three programs: Kosovo - Albania, Kosovo - Macedonia and Kosovo - Montenegro. During this period, 10 initiatives for inter-municipal cooperation, and 7 initiatives for international municipal cooperation were realized, while 2 agreements for inter-municipal cooperation and 2 agreements for international municipal cooperation were signed. Additionally, an initiative for twinning of the Municipality of Peja with the Municipality of Kirklareli - Republic of Turkey was evaluated. This year, MLGA has drafted the Concept-document for inter-municipal cooperation.

Strategic objective - 2

Special focus has also been given to the finalization of by-laws and documents foreseen in the legislative program for 2022, as follows: (1 Ex post evaluation; 2 Concept documents; 3 by-laws). MLGA has completed the Feasibility Study for Local Government. Also in this period the report and program of the medium and long-term orientations of the local government system were drafted, which were forwarded to the government for approval. As for the preliminary consultation of the acts of the sectoral ministries and their compatibility with the legislation on local self-government, a total of 50 acts were received. Thus 38 municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo were monitored and are operational, holding regular meetings. During this period, a total of 2280 acts were received, of which 107 were regulations and 2173 decisions. Out of a total of 2280 acts, MLGA reviewed 1160 acts, while the other 1120 acts have been sent to the line Ministries. MLGA has continued to support municipalities in the implementation of policies in the field of human rights. In this period, the annual report on human rights for 2022 was drafted. As for the identification of the services of the one stop shop, according to the data from the report on the fulfillment of the obligations of the municipalities arising from the European agenda, in the period January - December 2022, in 31 municipalities these centers are operational, while in 7 municipalities they are expected to be operational (Malisheva, Mamusha, Zubin Potok, Kllokot, Zvecan, Prishtina, Junik).

Strategic objective - 3

In cooperation with KIPA and various donors, trainings are held on the topics: "Changes in local self-government legislation in Kosovo; Municipal Performance Measurement; The preparatory process of performance reporting for 2021; Municipal transparency, accountability, pre-university education, primary health and gender equality; Drafting and monitoring the implementation of the plan for integrity in municipalities; Good practices in the field of inter-municipal cooperation; Gender equality at the local level; Management of contracts, the use of the electronic platform in procurement; Management of municipal property; Communication with media and public relations, as well as the use of social networks. The Training Needs Assessment Report was prepared based on the answers received from the questionnaire sent to all municipalities.

Strategic objective - 4

The Ministry of Local Government Administration has continued with the involvement of civil society in the drafting of policies and legislation for local self-government and in the implementation of the strategy for local self-government 2016-2026. During this period, MLGA has held 5 meetings with the Consultative Forum for Local Government with civil society organizations in order to discuss areas affecting local self-government in Kosovo. MLGA has included civil society within the working groups for the drafting of legal and sub-legal acts. MLGA has finalized the monitoring plan for transparency in the municipalities, and all transparency indicators that emerge from primary and secondary legislation have been identified. During this period, the monitoring of the websites of the municipalities continued, in order to see the level of fulfillment of the obligations for informing the public according to the required legal criteria. As for the implementation of the project (online platform), MLGA, as part of changes and development policies, aims to improve internal controls and increase transparency. In order to intensify the cooperation with inter-ministerial institutions and the civil society sector, MLGA has participated in various meetings with the aim of promoting social entrepreneurship in Kosovo, with a special focus on the local level. As part of open governance as one of the basic principles of the work of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, at the initiative of the MLGA, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo has decided to start drafting the National Action Plan 2023-2025, which is drafted and approved by the Government. MLGA has started the process of digitizing municipal services through the development of the E-MUNICIPALITY platform, within the E-KOSOVA state portal. The E-Municipalities platform was launched on September 2, 2022.

Strategic objective - 5

The Ministry of Local Government Administration and the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation have recently signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for financial support for students from the Ashkali, Egyptian and Roma communities who study in public universities in Kosovo. The report from the European agenda for the period January-December 2021, specifies that in the field of cultural heritage, the challenge of the municipalities still remains the drafting of municipal plans for the protection of cultural heritage, as according to the data only 7 municipalities (Vushtrri, Rahovec, Peja, Junik, Skenderaj, Decan, and Prizren) have drafted the cultural heritage plans. For the functioning of the Village Council for Hoca e Madhe, the municipality of Rahovec has provided an office in the municipality for holding meetings and other activities, also for this period a budget in the amount of 25,028.00 euros has been allocated. For the implementation of the Law on the Historic Center of Prizren, during the period January-December 2022, the Council was operational and there was no illegal construction within the Special Protected Areas in the Municipality of Prizren. The process of legalization of buildings built without permission has started and municipal inspectors have been appointed to inspect the constructions without permission in the Protected Zone of the city. Also, the municipality of Prizren, in order to rehabilitate the Lumebardhi river bed, has undertaken activities such as: protection of the river bed, rehabilitation of city bridges, protection from sewage, cleaning of the river, etc. As for the activities undertaken by the municipalities to raise awareness and promote the protection of cultural heritage, the following activities have been undertaken in 27 municipalities: awareness campaigns, distribution of various leaflets on cultural heritage, organization of visits to museums for high school and university students, promotional shows in local media, organization of cultural heritage promotion roundtables, subsidy of projects for the promotion of cultural heritage by NGOs and individuals, organization of collective art exhibitions, cooperation with supporting donors for the restoration of objects of cultural heritage, marking of Cultural Heritage assets, guides, maps of monuments, renovation of cultural heritage objects, digital maps, all tourist information panels were redesigned, books were published by experts of this field.

IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGY (LGS) ACTIVITIES, JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022

Strategic objective 1 – Increasing local economic, social and structural sustainability to ensure that local policy parameters and financial modalities bring innovation to the development of Municipalities;

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LGS FOR THE OBJECTIVE 1

- MLGA on an annual basis monitors and reports on the implementation of the action plan of the Strategy for Local Economic Development 2019-2023. For this purpose, a letter has been sent to the municipalities and line ministries specifying where they are responsible for reporting for the activities within the action plan of the strategy, regarding the realization of the activities arising from the SLED action plan.
- Programs for financing capital projects of municipalities are one of the main instruments of direct support of municipalities in the field of economic development. The fund were allotted from the CIF 2 and CIF program, thus 5 information sessions were held in 5 regions. Within the CIF 2 program, there are 7 beneficiary municipalities for 7 projects in the amount of €1,080,768.38. About infrastructure projects for communities, 28 projects were selected in 20 municipalities, in the amount of €1,000,000.00. For CIF projects, agreements have been signed for 12 projects. The total amount of the municipal performance grant is €8,000,000.00, of which €3,000,000.00 from the budget of the MLGA and €5,000,000.00 from the donor budget, thus there are 14 beneficiary municipalities with 60 projects, whereas from the MLGA budget there are 8 beneficiary municipalities with 25 projects, and from the budget of DEMOS there are 6 beneficiary municipalities with 35 projects.
- MLGA in cooperation with SDC-DEMOS, SIDA and the Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo, have completed the selection process of the municipalities benefiting from the grant for municipal performance for the municipalities which during 2019 have shown higher performance in provision of services. From the co-financing program with donors based on the grant scheme for the performance of municipalities in cooperation with the DEMOS project and other donors there have been financed 21 beneficiary municipalities with 57 projects in the amount of €3,615,474.00. Whereas, the evaluation of the municipalities for the performance of 2021 has begun, the data from the municipalities have been received, the data processing has been done. Regarding the evaluation of the performance of the municipalities for the performance grant for the year of allocation 2023, according to the results of the performance of 2021, an analysis has been drafted for the minimum conditions of the MPG. The government has tried initiatives to negotiate the international agreement on MPG, the negotiating group has been established, the draft agreement is prepared, and after finalization it will be sent to the assembly for approval.
- Within the M4Y project, digital and media outreach has been done by creating 13 digital posters with young people and focusing on women, in order to encourage them and apply for training and grants, and 50 target communities have been selected which have started the activities of mobilization and spreading in all municipalities. Youth groups have been formed for the first cycle of grants, and youth leaders have been identified. Subprojects have been reviewed for eligibility for the first cycle of grants. The sub-grant evaluation committees were established, the call for proposals for sub-grants for teenagers (15-18) and adults (18-24) for the first grant cycle was made, and the list of sub-grant winners was presented for the first grant cycle. The M4Y website has been designed and will be launched in October this year. The First Call for Proposals was opened in ten partner municipalities in May 2022. There were 185 applications received.
- In this year, the advancement of cross-border cooperation has continued within the framework of three programs: Kosovo - Albania, Kosovo - Macedonia and Kosovo - Montenegro. During this period, 10 initiatives for inter-municipal cooperation, and 7 initiatives for international municipal

cooperation were realized, while 2 agreements for inter-municipal cooperation and 2 agreements for international municipal cooperation were signed. Additionally, an initiative for twinning of the Municipality of Peja with the Municipality of Kirklareli - Republic of Turkey was evaluated. This year, MLGA has drafted the Concept-document for inter-municipal cooperation.

Strategic objective 2 – Creation of a framework for good governance and effective regulation to ensure democratic representation of citizens and efficient and professional administration in Municipalities.

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LGS FOR THE OBJECTIVE 2

MLGA, in accordance with the objectives of the strategy for local self-government, namely the strengthening of the institutional capacities of the municipalities, has undertaken actions to implement the activities foreseen in this field. In this regard, meetings have been organized with KIPA and donors to coordinate activities regarding the organization of training for municipalities in accordance with the training plan and to provide support in the implementation of the training plan and assess the training needs.

In cooperation with KLG, a 2-day training was held on the topic "Changes in local self-government legislation in Kosovo" and "Municipal Performance Measurement". Meanwhile, in cooperation with KIPA and DEMOS, a 4-day training was carried out with training sessions for the preparatory process of performance reporting for 2021. The training was held in the following areas: Transparency, municipal, accountability, pre-university education, primary health and gender equality. There were 151 municipal officials participated, that participated in all these trainings. There were 6 trainings that were organized according to the program and the planned time frame. In cooperation with KIPA and with the support of OSCE, 1-day trainings were organized in the 5 regions of Kosovo, related to the drafting and monitoring of the implementation of the plan for integrity in the municipalities. In cooperation with OSCE and KIPA, 5 training sessions were held in the field of inter-municipal cooperation – thus 50 municipal officials participated. In cooperation with UNDP, a two-day training was held in the field of human rights with the topic "Gender Equality". The participants were 26 municipal officials. A total of 289 municipal officials were trained in 5 training sessions for the period January - October. In cooperation with the Public Procurement Regulatory Commission, a one-day training was held for MLGA officials, "Contract managers, the use of the electronic platform for the Contract Management module", thus 20 MLGA officials participated. In cooperation with KIPA, a training was held on the topic "Management of municipal property", thus there were 20 MLGA officials that participated. In cooperation with the OSCE, the training was held on the topic "Communication with the media and relations with the public, as well as the use of social networks" thus there were 69 municipal officials that participated. The Training Needs Assessment Report was prepared based on the answers received from the questionnaire sent to all municipalities.

During the period January - December 2022, MLGA has marked progress in the development of policies and legislation for local self-government, while concluding the main activities in this field. Special focus has also been given to the finalization of by-laws and documents foreseen in the legislative program for 2022, as follows:

- Ex post evaluation of Law No. 06/L-092 for the Allocation for Use and Exchange of Immovable Municipal Property (the final report related to the ex post evaluation was prepared and approved by the Legal Office of the Office of the Prime Minister);
- Concept document for Law No. 03/L-072 for Local Elections in the Republic of Kosovo (has been finalized and sent to the Government for approval);
- Concept-document for the allocation for use of the municipal property (the working group has been established, and the draft concept has been prepared, it is now in the public and preliminary consultation procedure, it will be sent to the Government for approval during the first three months of 2023;

- Amendment/supplement of the Regulation No. 04/2019 for the Internal Organization and Systematization of Workplaces of the Ministry of Local Government Administration (it is in the process of being finalized);
- The draft Administrative Instruction for Defining the procedures for the application of languages in municipalities (has been approved and has entered into force);
- The draft Administrative Instruction (GRK) for the Establishment and Operation of the Team for Children's Rights (it was approved by the Government and entered into force);
- MLGA has concluded the Feasibility Study for Local Government, also in this period the report and program of medium and long-term orientations of the local government system were drafted, which were forwarded to the government for approval. The government has reviewed the aforementioned documents and they have been published. The manual for public consultations in municipalities, the model plan for integrity for municipalities and the manual for implementing the plan for integrity in municipalities have been drafted.
- Regarding the preliminary consultation of the acts of the sectoral ministries and their compatibility with the local self-government legislation, a total of 50 legal and sub-legal acts have been accepted, from them: 15 draft Laws, 2 draft Regulations, 28 draft Administrative Instructions and 5 Concept Documents. Whereas, regarding the notification letters addressed to the municipalities, during this period 250 requests and 35 complaints from natural and legal persons were received and reviewed.
- In the period January - December 2022, 38 municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo were operating, holding regular meetings. Municipal assemblies held 513 meetings. The meetings of the municipal assemblies were monitored through the telepresence system, as well as by physical presence of officials, in the municipalities: North Mitrovica, Zubin Potok, Zvecan and Leposaviq. During this period, a total of 2280 acts were accepted, of which 107 regulations and 2173 decisions. Out of a total of 2280 acts, MLGA has assessed 1160 acts, while another 1120 acts have been sent to the line Ministries.
- MLGA has paid great importance to the issue of human rights, in particular the area of children's rights. In this regard, MLGA has continued to support municipalities in the implementation of policies in the field of human rights. During this period, the annual Report on Human Rights for 2022 was drafted.
- Regarding the identification of one stop shop services, according to the data from the report on the fulfillment of the obligations of the municipalities arising from the European agenda, in the period January - December, 2022, there are 31 municipalities where these centers are operating, while in 7 municipalities (Malisheva, Mamusha, Zubin Potok, Kllokot, Zvecan, Prishtina, Junik) they remain to start operating.

Strategic objective 3 – Strengthening the institutional capacities of local self-government to meet the demands of citizens and to achieve sustainable improvement in municipal services for citizens.

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LGS FOR THE OBJECTIVE 3

Regarding capacity building, MLGA has held a two-day training with officials for gender equality in municipalities, supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

In this regard, meetings have been organized with KIPA and donors to coordinate activities regarding the organization of trainings for municipalities in accordance with the training plan and to provide support in the implementation of the training plan and the assessment of training needs. In cooperation with KLG, a 2-day training was held on the topic "Changes in local self-government legislation in Kosovo" and "Municipal Performance Measurement".

Whereas, in cooperation with KIPA and DEMOS, a 4-day training was carried out with training sessions for the preparatory process of performance reporting for 2021. The training was held in the following areas:

Municipal transparency, accountability, pre-university education, primary health and gender equality. In all these trainings, 151 municipal officials participated. There were 6 trainings organized according to the program and the planned time frame. In cooperation with KIPA and with the support of OSCE, 1-day trainings were organized in 5 regions of Kosovo, related to the drafting and monitoring of the implementation of the plan for integrity in municipalities. In cooperation with OSCE and KIPA in the field of inter-municipal cooperation, 5 training sessions were held - 50 municipal officials participated.

In cooperation with UNDP, a two-day training in the field of human rights with the theme "Gender Equality" was carried out. There were 26 municipal officials that participated. A total of 289 municipal officials were trained in 5 training sessions for the period January - October. In cooperation with the Public Procurement Regulatory Commission, a one-day training was held for MLGA officials, "Contract managers, the use of the electronic platform, the Contract Management module", 20 MLGA officials participated. In cooperation with KIPA, the training was carried out on the topic "Management of municipal property", 20 MLGA officials participated.

In cooperation with the OSCE, the training was carried out on the topic "Communication with the media and relations with the public, as well as the use of social networks", there were in total 69 municipal officials participants. It is prepared the Training Needs Assessment Report based on the responses received from the questionnaire which was sent to all the municipalities. In cooperation with the Public Procurement Regulatory Commission, a one-day training was held for MLGA officials, "Contract managers, the use of the electronic platform, the Contract Management module".

Strategic objective 4 – Strengthening partnerships between local government, civil society and businesses to create active, inclusive and cohesive citizens.

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LGS FOR THE OBJECTIVE 4

Environment topics are incorporated as part of the curriculum and the teachers teach these topics as part of the subjects "Civic Education", "Human and Nature", etc. Also, as part of the events in honor of environmental holidays, such as "Earth Day, "Environment Day", etc., schools have carried out numerous activities for cleaning school buildings and the environment.

- The Ministry of Local Government Administration has continued with the involvement of civil society in the drafting of policies and legislation for local self-government, in the monitoring of recruitment processes, as well as the implementation of the strategy for local self-government 2016-2026. During this period, MLGA has held 5 meetings with the Consultative Forum for Local Government and with civil society organizations in order to discuss areas affecting local self-government in Kosovo. As a result of meetings with civil society organizations, a document of civil society positions for the new municipal bodies that will emerge after the local elections of 2022 has been published, which will serve local stakeholders. Whereas, in order to promote activities with civil society organizations, within the link of the Consultative Forum for Local Government on the official website of the MLGA, the data have been updated and new data related to joint activities have been added.
- MLGA has included civil society within the working groups for the development of legal acts, then within the working groups for the implementation of the Strategy for Local Self-Government 2016-2026, within the feasibility study of local self-government in Kosovo, as well as in within other groups for the further advancement of the LSG system.
- MLGA has finalized the monitoring plan for transparency in the municipalities and all indicators of transparency emerging from primary and secondary legislation have been identified. The plan identifies the main MLGA units responsible for collecting and reporting transparency data.
- During this period, the monitoring of the websites of the municipalities continued to see the level of fulfillment of the obligations for informing the public according to the required legal criteria.

The January-December 2022 monitoring report of the municipalities' websites has been drafted and the same has been published on the official website of MLGA.

- Regarding the implementation of the project (online platform), MLGA as part of the changes and development policies, aims to improve the internal controls and increase transparency. The project (online platform) for increasing institutional accountability and budget transparency is co-financed by the British Embassy and MLGA, where the total value of the project amounts to 60 thousand euros, (*40 thousand euros from the British Embassy and 20 thousand euros from MLGA*), while the implementer of the project is UNDP. The platform for "Increasing the internal control and budget transparency of the expenditure of public funds of MLGA" has been operationalized and trainings have been held for MLGA officials for: the MTEF module, the budget module, the module "my requests" – official visits, transparency and accountability module, vehicle module, petty cash module, capital projects module, procurement module and expenditure module. Online reporting in the integrated monitoring and reporting system has continued, although there have been ongoing complaints from staff about the malfunctioning of this platform. At the same time, the proceedings of the acts which are subject to the legality evaluation process continued.
- In order to intensify the cooperation with inter-ministerial institutions and the civil society sector, MLGA has participated in various meetings with the aim of promoting social entrepreneurship in Kosovo, with a special focus on the local level.
- As part of the open government as one of the basic principles of the work of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, at the initiative of the MLGA, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo has decided to start drafting the National Action Plan 2023-2025 for open government within the Open Government Partnership - OGP. Thus MLGA as the leader of this process has created and functionalized the National Coordinating Committee, which is a comprehensive committee composed of relevant public institutions, civil society organizations as co-leaders, the business sector, other relevant local and international organizations and institutions.
- After the process of constitution of the National Coordinating Committee for OGP, the Committee led by MLGA has held 10 committee meetings, held a series of public consultations in 7 regions of Kosovo for drafting the National Action Plan (NAP) 2023-2025, as well as 4 thematic workshops of the National Coordinating Committee. As part of these consultations there were involved more than 250 to 300 entities (organizations, institutions, business representatives, etc.). Also, two basic documents have been prepared for application, that of the assessment of the minimum criteria and the letter of interest. The National Action Plan 2023-2025 has been drafted, has gone through the two processes of preliminary consultation and public consultation until September 30, 2022 and has been approved by the Government.
- MLGA has started the process of digitizing municipal services through the development of the E-MUNICIPALITY platform. This platform will be at the service of citizens to increase their participation in decision-making at the local level and will be at the service of municipalities themselves for the digitalization of municipal services by increasing the efficiency of these services for citizens. Thus MLGA, as the leader of this process, has created and operationalized the Coordinating Council, which is a comprehensive council composed of relevant public institutions, civil society organizations, the business sector, other relevant local and international organizations and institutions. In cooperation with DEMOS, the process of the feasibility study for the E-MUNICIPAL platform has begun, as well as a cooperation agreement has been signed with the Academy for E-Government of Estonia for the development of the E-MUNICIPALITY platform. The E-MUNICIPALITY platform is included in the government document in the Program for Reducing the Administrative Burden and is in the process of being integrated into the National Strategy for Digitization. On September 2, 2022, the E-MUNICIPALITY platform was launched within the E-KOSOVA state portal. On September 30, 2022, the bidding file was published on the E-Procurement platform for the development of the second phase of the E-MUNICIPALITY platform. The E-MUNICIPALITY platform was launched on September 2, 2022.

Strategic objective 5 - The promotion of cultural and natural heritage as well as the affirmation of cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity in municipalities, to have an impact on social, economic and cultural development.

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LGS FOR THE OBJECTIVE 5

The Ministry of Local Government Administration and the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation have recently signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for financial support for students from the Ashkali, Egyptian and Roma communities who study in public universities in Kosovo.

The report from the European agenda for the period January-December 2021, specifies that in the field of cultural heritage, the challenge of the municipalities still remains the drafting of municipal plans for the protection of cultural heritage, as according to the data only 7 municipalities (Vushtrri, Rahovec, Peja, Junik, Skenderaj, Decan and Prizren) have drafted the cultural heritage plans. For the functioning of the Village Council for Hoca e Madhe, the municipality of Rahovec has provided an office in the municipality for holding meetings and other activities, also for this period a budget in the amount of 25,000.00 euros has been allocated. For the implementation of the Law on the Historic Center of Prizren, during the period January-December 2022, the municipality has not allocated a budget. There has been no illegal construction within the Special Protected Areas in the Municipality of Prizren. The process of legalization of buildings built without permission has started and municipal inspectors have been appointed to inspect the constructions without permission in the Protected Zone of the city. Also, the municipality of Prizren, in order to rehabilitate the Lumebardhi river bed, has undertaken activities such as: protection of the river bed, rehabilitation of city bridges, protection from sewage, cleaning of the river, etc.

As for the activities undertaken by the municipalities to raise awareness and promote the protection of cultural heritage, the following activities have been undertaken in 27 municipalities: awareness campaigns, distribution of various leaflets on cultural heritage, organization of visits to museums for high school and university students, promotional shows in local media, organization of cultural heritage promotion roundtables, subsidy of projects for the promotion of cultural heritage by NGOs and individuals, organization of collective art exhibitions, cooperation with supporting donors for the restoration of objects of cultural heritage, marking of Cultural Heritage assets, guides, maps of monuments, renovation of cultural heritage objects, digital maps, all tourist information panels were redesigned, books were published by experts of this field.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OBJECTIVE

Based on the data reflected in this report, MLGA has made progress in the implementation of strategic objectives (*even though some actions within these objectives are not within the domain of MLGA, however, it has managed to implement all objectives*).

Objective	Planned activities	Completed activities	Unfinished activities	Activities carried over to 2021	Percentage
Objective 1	2	1	1	0	50%
Objective 2	6	6	0	0	100%
Objective 3	5	5	0	0	100%
Objective 4	3	1	2	0	34%
Objective 5	3	3	0	0	100%
Total	19	16	3	0	84%

Table 1: *planned and implemented activities for 2021.*

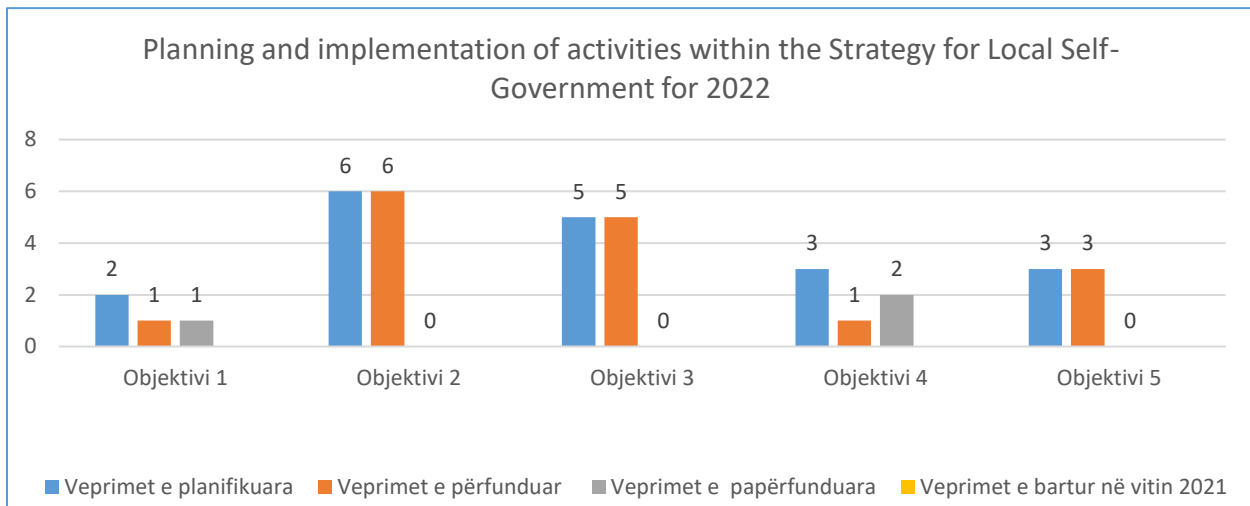


Diagram 2: *Planning and implementation of activities within the Strategy for Local Self-Government.*

RISKS AND STEPS TO ADDRESS THEM

While, as challenge remain: a) Functionalization of 5 working subgroups for the implementation of the Strategy for Local Self-Government 2016 - 2026, b) Appointment of a coordinator for the coordination of working subgroups, c) Amendment of the action plan of the Strategy for Local Self-Government 2016 - 2026, as well as d) Reporting by the relevant institutions.

In order to address these challenges, the following steps should be taken, such as: a) Functionalization of the Group and Functionalization of 5 working subgroups for the implementation of the Strategy for Local Self-Government 2016 - 2026, b) Appointment of a coordinator to coordinate the work of the group and working subgroups, c) Review of the action plan of the Strategy for Local Self-Government 2016 - 2026, as well as d) Reporting by the relevant institutions.

Appendix 1: Monitoring Plan of the Strategy for Local Self-Government

Strategic objective 1: Increasing local economic, social and structural sustainability to ensure that local policy parameters and financial modalities bring innovation to the development of Municipalities

No	Area of activity	Activity	Responsible	Indicator / result
1.1	1. Empowering young people as a workforce	1. Drafting of program schemes in the agricultural sector	MLGA, MEST, MF, MARD, Municipalities	1. A program scheme for employment in the agricultural sector has been drafted;

Strategic objective 2 – Creation of a framework for good governance and effective regulation to ensure democratic representation of citizens and efficient and professional administration in Municipalities;

No	Area of activity	Activity	Responsible	Indicator / result
2.1	1. Review and creation of the legal basis	1. Harmonization of secondary legislation with internal legislation and asquis communautaire	MLGA, Municipalities, Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM), line Ministries, OPM, MF	1. New laws have been drafted that complete the legal framework of LSG, according to priorities;
		1. Establishment of complete legal and administrative mechanisms for effective supervision in the protection of legality during the work of municipalities;		1. The internal legislation for LSG has been harmonized and is being implemented;
				In each year, the implementation of the legal framework, programs and projects is supervised by MLGA in the municipalities
2.2	1. Increasing efficiency in local administration	1. Building professional capacities in municipalities;	MLGA, MPA-KIPA AKM; Donors	1. An office for legal advice for citizens has been established
		1. Advancing the representative role of the municipal bodies		2. At least 20 days of training per year are organized for each organizational field in the municipalities;
		2. Building physical and technical capacities in municipalities		3. Two training days per year are organized on the role of the community for good governance
		4. Identification of services that can be provided online		4. Standards for basic municipal services have been developed;

2.3	1. Effective citizen participation in governance	1. Drafting of policies to encourage citizens' participation in decision-making;	MLGA, Municipalities, AKM, Donors	1. In each municipality, citizens participate in joint work with municipal bodies;
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Strengthening the institutional capacities of local self-government to meet the demands of citizens and to achieve sustainable improvement in municipal services for citizens;

Nr	Area of activity	Activity	Responsible	Indicator / result
3.1	1. Development of professional capacities	1. Building the professional capacities of local bodies	MLGA; MPA-KIPA MF; Municipality	1. Trainings have been organized for municipal officials according to professional competence standards;
3.2	1. Building the managing capacities of the administration	1. Drafting of integrated training programs in the field of public administration and good governance to develop the professional capacities of municipal staff	MLGA; MPA-KIPA MF; Municipality	1. For all areas of work in the municipality, it is reported on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis;
		2. The professional evaluation of work achievements has been done		1. The evaluation of professional competence for municipal officials was done and certificates were issued, based on the level of training and the professional achievement
	1. Involvement of the civil society and private sector in providing services	1. Drafting of joint public-private projects	MLGA; Municipalities; AKM; NGOs; Community	1. The community actively participates in joint activities/work with the municipality for the regulation of community life
3.3	1. Supervision and control	1. Capacity building to supervise and control the implementation of projects and services provided	MLGA; Municipalities	1. The relevant supervision and control structures report regularly every three months on the progress of work

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: Strengthening partnerships between local government, civil society and businesses to create active, inclusive and cohesive citizens;

Nr	Area of activity	Activity	Responsible	Indicator / result
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4.1	1. Cultivating citizens' sense of volunteerism	1. Drafting of informative and training programs for cultivating the feeling of volunteering;	Municipality; Schools; Youth Centers; Community	1. Pupils and students actively participate in voluntary work in cleaning educational facilities and the environment;
				2. Youth and sports groups participate in the implementation of joint projects in the community;
4.2	2. Establishment of centers for voluntary work	1. Drafting of plans for the involvement of citizens in voluntary work within urban and rural neighborhoods	Municipality; The Cabinet of the Mayor; Center for citizen involvement and volunteering; Community	1. Citizens have understood their role in the process of planning and participate in local governance
	3. Empowerment of civil society and new businesses	1. Engaging the business community with experience in mentoring programs for young entrepreneurs.	Municipality; NGOs; Businesses	1. Municipalities in partnership with businesses share scholarships for students, for areas of need for the economic development of the community.
				2. New entrepreneurs are regularly trained by the business community in starting and managing new enterprises.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: The promotion of cultural and natural heritage as well as the affirmation of cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity in municipalities, to have an impact on social, economic and cultural development.

Nr	Area of activity	Activity	Responsible	Indicator / result
5.1	1. Promotion of cultural and natural heritage	1. Demonstration of effective planning and management of local resources through active community participation in the processes of municipal and regional development plans;	MLGA, Municipalities, MCYS, MTT, MESPI NGOs, Community	1. It is created an inventory and map of the cultural and natural heritage in each municipality;

		2. Strengthening the operational capacity of intergovernmental mechanisms and civil society for effective communication between the central and local levels;		1. Joint projects have been developed for the development of cultural and natural tourism in the municipality;
5.2	1. Promotion of ethnic and linguistic diversity	1. Promotion of the values of ethnic diversity and the equality in the use of languages;	MLGA; Municipalities; MCYS; NGOs; Community	<p>1. Art exhibitions, sports games and multi-ethnic voluntary actions have been organized for the preservation and development of cultural and linguistic heritage;</p> <p>2. Tourist visits have been organized to settlements where different languages of the community are used;</p> <p>3. Visits of professionals, scientists, world universities, etc., have been organized for study purposes etc., in public and cultural institutions where multilingualism is used;</p>