



Bar, 1-12-2023

OGP Support Unit
Mr. Rudi Borrmann, Deputy Director, OGP Local

Local Government Letter of Support: Call for new members to OGP Local 2023

The municipality of Bar, as an inclusive local community, is submitting its application for OGP Local with great optimism. As a president of the Municipality of Bar, in my leadership capacity I strongly support this application process, along with my team.

The specifics of our municipality are multiple. With its natural potential and access to the coast of the Adriatic Sea and the shore of Lake Skadar and its surrounding mountainous areas, Bar is widely recognized for favorable conditions for the development of viticulture and olive growing. For centuries, the Municipality of Bar has inherited and preserved the intercultural harmony and unity of all confessions and ethnicities, which adds to its uniqueness.

Bar is a port city, with significant economic, tourist and investment potentials, which require effective local management system and services, capable of addressing the needs of the growing economic sector and the general population, in accordance with good government principles and best European practices. In recent years, the municipality of Bar has recorded a constant increase in the number of inhabitants. The municipality particularly demonstrated its solidarity and openness by facilitating reception and protection of displaced persons from war-affected areas in Ukraine which currently count about 10% of the total population in Bar.

Our local self-government is implementing necessary public administration reforms and is taking significant steps to improve the administrative response to the direct needs of citizens. We see OGP Local as an additional impetus for further reforms and a model that could provide multiple positive effects at the local level. Given the aspiration of Montenegro to join the community of EU members states, this kind of support will increase our capacity to implement the European standards and regulations and better prepare for the full-fledged membership in the EU.

On February 3, 2012, Montenegro became a member of the OGP initiative and adopted the Declaration on Open Government. By accepting this Declaration, we demonstrate our

commitment to apply a pragmatic and visionary approach to sustainable development and further encourage the cooperation between local governmental and non-governmental actors.

Our goal is to strengthen citizens' trust in local institutions. In this sense, we strive to improve transparency and create an efficient system for the rights of citizens to be effectively exercised. We strive to introduce new practices and measures to improve the fight against corruption and the rule of law and increase civil society engagement in monitoring and evaluation of local policies.

Open data and digitization of administrative services are another important priority in the coming period. Based on good practices and OGP principles, we strive to implement digital technologies that will change conventional and bureaucratized work models.

Municipality of Bar possess adequate resources for implementing these commitments. The local administration consists of around 270 employees and 15 organizational units, including a dedicated Office for project management and international cooperation. The municipality is financial stable and allocates significant funds to support the activities of the civil sector, local entrepreneurship, especially women in business, farmers, sports organizations and health and education sectors. We are also recognized for having developed socially responsible and comprehensive lines of support to social and pronatalist policy, and for our cooperation with local organizations which are dealing with vulnerable groups.

In our efforts to develop a modern local administration, we face a number of challenges:

- missing digital tools and platforms for improving transparency and increasing data availability, especially in open data format;
- insufficient interest of civil society organizations and citizens for the processes of creation of local public policies and decision-making;
- a small number of active organizations that can contribute to the implementation of the OGP thematic priorities;
- the lack of a strategic approach to the prevention of challenges and risks in the field of environmental protection.

Last year, the Municipality of Bar signed an MOU with IRI within the framework of the project *Strengthening capacities and processes of good governance in Montenegro*. By implementing the this pilot project, we support the OGP process through the joint formulation and implementation of OGP commitments, embodied in the OGP Local Action Plan. A local MSF called "Bar za Bar", was formed (<https://bar.me/multisektorski-forum-bar-za-bar/novosti/>), consisting of 14 members, 8 are representatives of local self-government and 6 NGO representatives. Deputy President of the MoD Bar Tanja Spičanović as PoC coordinates the work of the Local MSF. The local administration will also provide the necessary human, financial and technical resources for the implementation of the OGP process in Bar. The Association for Responsible and

Sustainable Development (UZOR) will externally monitor the co-creation and implementation of the Action Plan and promote OGP Local in Bar.

By embarking on a prominent OGP local framework and joining the broad community of open government practitioners, we look forward to expanding our network of partners, which will lead us to new positive changes of the way we operate. For us, OGP provides a valuable learning mechanism and a path to international recognition, while assisting us to increase transparency and empower citizens engagement. Moreover, our potential membership in the OGP Local would inspire neighboring municipalities to adopt and apply OGP principles in various areas of public interest.

Sincerely,



Dusan Raicevic

President

Municipality of Bar

Montenegro



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Bar, 2nd December 2023

OGP Support Unit

Mr. Rudi Borrman, Deputy Director, OGP Local

Non-governmental Letter of Support: Call for new members to OGP Local 2023

The municipality of Bar, as an inclusive local community, is submitting its application for OGP Local with great optimism. As a president of the Municipality of Bar, in my leadership capacity I strongly support this application process, along with my team.

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Our local self-government is implementing necessary public administration reforms and is taking significant steps to improve the administrative response to the direct needs of citizens. We see OGP Local as an additional impetus for further reforms and a model that could provide multiple positive effects at the local level. Given the aspiration of Montenegro to join the community of EU members states, this kind of support will increase our capacity to implement the European standards and regulations and better prepare for the full-fledged membership in the EU.

On February 3, 2012, Montenegro became a member of the OGP initiative and adopted the Declaration on Open Government. By accepting this Declaration, we demonstrate our commitment to apply that a pragmatic and visionary approach to sustainable development and further encourage the cooperation between local governmental and non-governmental actors.

Our ultimate goal is to strengthen citizens' trust in local institutions. In this sense, we strive to improve transparency and create an efficient system for the rights of citizens to be



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effectively exercised. We strive to introduce new practices and measures to improve the fight against corruption and the rule of law and increase civil society engagement in monitoring and evaluation of local policies.

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Veselin Joketic

Veselin Joketic, President
The Organization of Blind for Bar and Ulcinj



Sasa Jovanovic

Sasa Jovanovic, Business incubator manager
BSC BAR - Business Start-up Centre Bar



Marko Pejovic

Marko Pejovic, executive director
Association for Responsible and Sustainable Development UZOR

