



19 December 2023

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

Dear Mr. Borrmann:

The National Democratic Institute (NDI)'s Kosovo Office is pleased to endorse the application of Gjakova Municipality to join OGP Local. They are close partners and I have every confidence they endorse fully the [Open Government Declaration](#) and the principles within it.

NDI is an international non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization whose mission is to help promote and strengthen democratic institutions around the world. Through our international cooperation approach, we offer training and technical assistance to leaders of political parties, governments, and civil society who promote democratic values, practices, and institutions.

Transparency is among the main principles of good governance, which contributes to the increase of accountability towards citizens and their trust to public institutions. It is worth mentioning that the Assembly of Kosovo has achieved great success in transparency and openness since the establishment of the Forum for Parliamentary Transparency<sup>1</sup> and the endorsement of the Declaration for Parliamentary Openness.<sup>2</sup> Similar practices are being implemented at the local level with the support of NDI, including the municipality of Gjakova which has established a multi-stakeholders local Forum, following OGP guidelines and practices to ensure space for co-creation at the local level. As its partner, NDI is committed to providing our support in the municipality's process of adherence to the principles of OGP Local, especially in the co-creation, methodological design and implementation of its Open Government Action Plan which will actively involve the citizens and civil society organizations.

As NDI, we are convinced that the Municipality of Gjakova, as a multiethnic and multireligious municipality, will benefit greatly by becoming a part of the OGP, especially in terms of democracy, citizen participation and Open Government. In addition, this step will advance access to information, co-creation and inclusiveness, participatory budgeting, gender and inclusion, among others. These efforts will allow the Municipality of Gjakova to position itself as a benchmark for the other local governments in Kosovo.

Ngadhnjim Halilaj, Program Officer at NDI Kosovo, will be responsible for liaising with OGP and the Support Unit. In addition, we commit to making available the necessary human, financial and technical resources to participate in the co-creation, implementation and learning

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kuvendikosoves.org/eng/for-the-public/forum-for-parliamentary-transparency/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.kuvendikosoves.org/Uploads/Data/Files/14/DPO-eng\\_etMzLBzcCp.pdf](https://www.kuvendikosoves.org/Uploads/Data/Files/14/DPO-eng_etMzLBzcCp.pdf)



of ambitious commitments within the Action Plan. He can be reached at [nhalilaj@ndi.org](mailto:nhalilaj@ndi.org) and/or +38344609209.

Thanking you in advance for the attention given; please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Soderberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "N" and "S".

Ambassador Nancy Soderberg  
Senior Resident Country Director  
National Democratic Institute, Kosovo



REPUBLIKA E KOSOVËS  
REPUBLIKA KOSOVA/ REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO  
KOMUNA E GJAKOVËS  
OPŠTINA DJAKOVICA/MUNICIPALITY OF GJAKOVA



Ardian Gjini  
Mayor of Gjakova  
Municipality of Gjakova  
Add.: Str. "UÇK" No.53,  
Republic of Kosovo, 50000  
[ardian.gjini@rks-gov.net](mailto:ardian.gjini@rks-gov.net)

10/01/2024

Open Government Partnership  
1100 13th Street, NW,  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20005  
USA

Dear Open Government Partnership Co-Chairs,

I am writing to you as the Mayor of the Municipality of Gjakova, Kosovo, to express our interest in joining the Open Government Partnership (OGP) as a member.

As the Mayor of Gjakova, topics such as inclusiveness, transparency, accountability and environment are high on my agenda, and that I am proud to say that our municipality is the first in the country to publicly disclose all procurement contracts. This commitment to transparency is a testament to our dedication to open governance and public accountability. In addition to our achievements in contract transparency, we have also made significant strides in the areas of Environment and Climate, Public Participation, Access to Information, Fiscal Openness, and Media Freedom. We have implemented policies and initiatives that promote environmental sustainability, encourage citizen participation in decision-making processes, ensure access to public information, maintain fiscal transparency, and uphold media freedom.

We have established strong relationships with local, national and international NGOs, Embassies, other international organizations operating in Kosovo, and with international cities (we are a sister city with five cities around the world). We have a strong partnership with USAID with whom we work closely to further enforce and improve sectors such as Procurement, Budgeting and Financing, Contract Management and Internal Audit. We have implemented and have ongoing Cross-Border Projects with Albania and Montenegro on the field of environmental protection and cultural heritage financed by European Union that have resulted on concrete projects on both sides of the border. We have continuous cooperation with UNDP on the matters and projects on gender equality and domestic violence, and indeed, these partnerships have enriched our city's culture and have provided us with valuable insights and experiences.

Internationally, one of our most fruitful relationships is with our sister city, Fort Dodge, Iowa in USA with whom we have developed various programs and activities together. This relationship has greatly contributed to our city's development and international relations, especially the pillar of youth-exchange through which on yearly bases we have managed to exchange youth whom upon completion of their trip has been considered as a life changing experience for them.

We are thrilled to learn that Kosovo has joined the OGP 2023, and we believe that Municipality of Gjakova becoming a member will further strengthen our nation's commitment to transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. By joining the OGP, Municipality of Gjakova will have the opportunity to learn from and contribute to a global network of governments and civil society organizations working towards open governance.

We are excited about the opportunity to become a member of the OGP Local and are ready to share our experiences and learn from other cities and countries. We believe that joining the OGP will provide us with an excellent platform to learn from other governments, share our experiences, and work together to promote open governance globally.

Thank you for considering our application. We look forward to the possibility of joining this important partnership and contributing to a more open government in our city and around the world.

Sincerely Yours,

**Ardian Gjini**



**Mayor of Gjakova  
Republic of Kosovo**



# Activism Roots

FROM:

Ideal Zhaveli  
Executive Director  
NGO Activism Roots  
St. Ilir Soba, nr.29.  
Gjakova, Republic of Kosova  
idealzh@activismroots.org

10/01/2024

TO:

Open Government Partnership  
1100 13th Street, NW,  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20005  
USA

Dear Open Government Partnership Co-chairs,

I am writing on behalf of NGO Activism Roots, a dedicated non-governmental organization committed to promote transparency, accountability, and civic engagement within our community.

As advocates for open governance and inclusive decision-making, we are pleased to express our full support for the Municipality of Gjakova's application for membership in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local. The Open Government Partnership is a global initiative that aligns with our organization's values, emphasizing transparency, citizen participation, and collaboration between government and civil society.

As representatives of civil society, we see the opportunity to enhance the capacity of institutions for improved transparency in the Municipality of Gjakova. Our projects have enabled us to evaluate the current situation and explore ways to involve citizens in decision-making, a crucial step in boosting transparency and accountability within these institutions.

By becoming a part of OGP Local, the Municipality of Gjakova will not only showcase its commitment to transparency but also benefit from valuable peer learning opportunities and global resources to advance its open government agenda. This will create possibilities also for NGOs to be more engaged and to monitoring municipality for transparency and accountability to citizens. This possibility will raise collaboration between Municipality of Gjakova, civil society and with international partners to increase the level of transparency in local level and to be good example also for other municipalities.

We extend our sincere support for Gjakova's pursuit of OGP Local membership and look forward to have the positive impact through collaboration with the municipality, civil society and its citizens.

# Activism Roots

Should you require any additional information or assistance during the application process, please feel free to reach out to us. We are ready and willing to contribute to the success of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Ideal Zhaveli



---

Executive Director,  
Activism Roots

