



CRNA GORA  
OPŠTINA PLAV

Kabinet Predsjednika

Broj: 031 - 1133

Datum: 08.12.2023. godine

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

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

As a local self-government that began its mandate in April 2023, we express our readiness to bring our administration closer to the citizens and to raise their participation in the decision-making process to a higher level through our participation in the OGP Local.

Citizens recognize the problem of the lack of targeted communication with stakeholder groups in society. From the perspective of local government, we are aware that the inclusiveness of decision-making often suffers under the pressure of time and deadlines established at the central level and the existing legal framework. On the other hand, the non-governmental sector recognizes the need for early consultation in decision-making, and we believe that OGP processes can help us find a common ground in these efforts.

We are currently in the period when most of our key action plans and strategies, which addressed the needs of certain sectors (youth, gender equality, etc), has expired. Membership in the OGP Local and the preparatory process we conducted so far should help us strategically plan all development policies and improve the conception of future sectoral plans and strategies, especially in the context of the current work on the Strategic Development Plan of the Municipality.

An indicator of the Municipality's commitment to joining the OGP local initiative is reflected in the already undertaken process of drafting an action plan, which is currently being developed through the public consultation phase. Our readiness is additionally expressed by the inclusiveness of the local MSF, established for the purpose of establishing OGP process in Plav. Its members are representatives of key local institutions and organizational units of the municipality, public companies on the territory of the municipality, non-governmental sector, and civic activists. The forum is conceived as a flexible body, always open for new members.

Recognizing the shortcomings in the functioning of the existing site and digital services, we have already taken steps to improve the current situation by creating a more accessible site. In the previous work on the OGP action plan, we have defined the future directions of work on the openness of the administration and related processes. We want to strengthen the potential of women's participation in the economy, especially bearing in mind that in our Municipality, women are the main support of rural households, agricultural farms and inherit old crafts. We have already planned larger budget funds for the development of female entrepreneurship, and we plan to reform municipal acts for incentives in this area.

One of the main prerequisites for progress in all sectors is the digitization of services, because we recognize the need to reduce paperwork. As a municipality with potential for the development of ecotourism, we want to integrate the aspect of environmental protection into the overall management and work on adapting urban planning to climate change. Our goal is to work both on a better application of the legal framework for citizens' participation in the creation of public policies at the local level as well as to improve the regulations along the way, based on insights from implementation.

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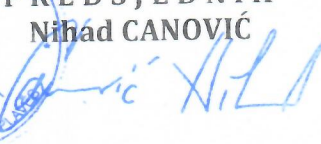
We demonstrated the capacities and resources for assuming OGP commitments most directly by including the highest level of management staff, including the Municipal Assembly, in the MSF. An elaborate network of partnerships, resulting from the fact that we are located on the triple border between Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro, is also an important resource that we will rely on, especially considering that all three countries participate in the OGP initiative. We are the only municipality in Montenegro that included citizen activists in the intersectoral team for the development of the OGP action plan, and the process of co-creating this document so far has raised the level of communication between the NGO sector and the local self-government. On all important issues, we show a willingness to put the community's interests first. The participation of the local parliament in the multi-sector forum will provide both their input into the content of the action plan as well as ensure effective supervision over the implementation of measures, along with the already determined role of an independent monitoring body.

Our local monitoring body will be the non-governmental organization UZOR, NGO that pays special attention to respecting the values on which the processes of EU integration are based, which relate to gender equality and respect for minorities. The vision of this organization is a just and solidary society, based on the synthesis of the principles of sustainable development, innovative practices, and the use of new technologies for the purpose of achieving civil rights and freedoms, achieving equal opportunities and the continuous progress of citizens and the community in which we live. The Point of Contact, Emro Feratović, will be in charge of coordinating activities related to the implementation of OGP Local AP. This role is crucial and multifaceted, since it bears most responsibility for coordinating the implementation of all activities within the local self-government, but also towards the public and the OGP units.

We believe that OGP Local, through exchange of knowledge, networking, and resources it offers, can make up for the lack of opportunities for additional training of our officials and the non-governmental sector, for which our municipality does not otherwise have sufficient financial resources. We need additional knowledge, especially to address the identified challenges in all five OGP areas we focus on, with an emphasis on the design and use of digital services. The sluggishness of the administration and barriers in exercising rights have contributed to the outflow of labor and population from our municipality, so we want to contribute to reversing that trend through the modernization of procedures and participation in such a global initiative. We see this initiative as one of the ways to respect our local specificities, that is, to better valorize and improve cooperation with our numerous diaspora. Although OGP does not offer monetary benefits, we believe that membership itself, knowledge and experience gained through the initiative can help us fundraise for reforms. Bearing in mind the insufficient awareness of our population about the importance of the green agenda, we highly appreciate the focus of OGP on environmental protection. Additionally, we believe that the network of non-governmental organizations and local governments, through OGP, will enable us to better understand certain processes, and in a practical sense, get support and help for the development of technical specifications for the procurement of necessary information technologies, programs, software, etc.

We hope you will consider our application and remain at your disposal for any questions.

Kind regards,

**PREDSJEDNIK**  
**Nihad CANOVIĆ**  


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Plav, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

OGP Support Unit

Mr. Rudi Borrmann, Deputy Director, OGP Local

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

We recognize a great space for improvement in all areas of Plav's attitude towards citizens and CSOs in terms of transparency and accountability. The mechanisms for funding CSOs at the local level are still underdeveloped and not suitable for our own local needs. Transparency of the local administration is on the rise, but it is starting from a very low basis. Diaspora is one the greatest resources of our municipality, but there are no structured mechanisms in place to formalize their cooperation and support outside of ad hoc initiatives.

However, we can register a new impetus among the current management of the municipality – an openness for criticism and constructive attitude towards proposals coming from civil society.

Plav is municipality where civic activists have been included in the OGP structure for preparing the action plan – it reflects our vibrant civic community where citizens interact with the administration and are active even outside of traditional associations and structures, but also testifies to the openness of the administration to these inputs.

The draft action plan that we prepared is good compilation of ideas we have on how to reform the local administration's work towards being more open and accessible to citizens. It is still in the process of public consultation, and we hope to make it even better. However, one of the key qualities is the participatory approach and the openness of the local administration during the process to all our ideas – we discussed them openly, debated their pros and cons and we never felt our proposals being disregarded or dismissed, but considered seriously.

Being a member of the OGP Local would be a great boost for our administration's efforts at bring the municipality closer to citizens and would provide us as the civil society with a framework to monitor the implementation of commitments, cooperate in their design and learn from experiences of other cities that shared a similar path.

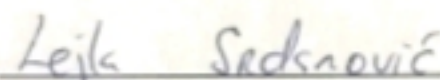
The opportunity to learn, collaborate and promote our work and the reform potential of our ideas and projects, as well as access to a huge database and examples of good practice, are an additional motivation for us to support the local administration to continue the started process and to contribute together to the identified goals of open administration in Plav.



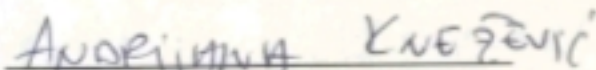
Alma Bitic Aksalic  
Founder  
NGO Fenix



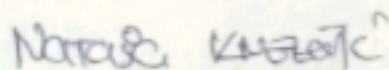
Nina Kolenovic  
Project assistant  
NGO SOS Plav



Lejla Srdanovic  
Head scout  
Independent scout association Prokletije



Andrijana Knezevic  
civic activist



Natasa Knezevic  
civic activist



**Marko Pejović**

**Executive Director**

**Association for Responsible and Sustainable Development (UZOR)**