



Municipality of Prishtina

I am writing to express my support and commitment on behalf of Prishtina's application for the Open Government Partnership. We are thrilled to be involved, as this is very important for us. We are motivated by global principles such as accountability, gender parity, transparency, and preventing climate change. These are not just catchphrases for our administration, they represent our vision for the coming decades as we strive to establish a welcoming atmosphere for our people.

Women's involvement in directorates and local enterprises serves not only as markers but also as a blueprint for how we want to collaborate to improve the presence of women in local government. Although we have made progress in this area, we believe that we need to attain complete gender parity and provide more opportunities for women to share their perspectives on how to enhance management, initiatives, and services in our community.

We continue to face challenges in improving the environment, as we aim to reduce local traffic in the city center and create new green spaces and squares. The shift from traditional in-person services to online services can be more difficult than anticipated at times. However, we are confident that doing so would shorten wait times, ensure better services, and improve transparency for the residents who use services regularly. We are moving toward becoming a smart city in terms of governance and services, thanks to online waste receipts, online building approval, and online data distribution for numerous other services.

As a member of a family like the Open Government Partnership, we will be able to manage new alliances, share best practices, and take advantage of the excellent experiences that we and others are already putting into practice. In addition to our sincere desire to join the platform, we have specific plans to enhance participation, the environment, and services, all of which we believe are essential to our mission and our vision for Prishtina over the next ten years.

Sincerely,



PËRPARIM R

Mayor of Prishtina

Support and Recommendations for Pristina's OGP Local Programme

Dear Mayor of the Municipality of Pristina,

We extend our heartfelt commendations to the Municipality of Pristina for its decision to participate in the Open Government Partnership Local program in 2024. This commitment underscores a steadfast dedication to fundamental democratic values and the promotion of civic engagement within our community.

As stakeholders deeply invested in the advancement of Pristina, we wish to underscore the transformative potential inherent in the OGP Local Programme. Beyond addressing transparency and accountability concerns, this initiative holds the key to fostering a more inclusive and participatory governance model. To bolster this effort, we propose the establishment of a permanent multi-stakeholder forum dedicated specifically to OGP initiatives. This forum, recognizing the paramount importance of diverse perspectives, will act as a catalyst for effective OGP participation, ensuring that the voices of our community members are not only heard but also valued.

In addition, we advocate for a comprehensive and dynamic engagement strategy that goes beyond traditional consultation processes. To maximize the impact of the OGP Local Programme, we encourage the exploration of innovative avenues for public participation, including town hall meetings, focus group discussions, and interactive digital platforms. Such an approach empowers citizens to actively contribute to decision-making processes and reinforces the collaborative spirit that underlies the OGP framework.

Understanding the complexities of this endeavor, we express our willingness to actively engage with the Municipality. We offer our expertise and assistance to collaboratively shape and implement effective strategies. Through this partnership, we can unlock the full potential of the OGP Local Programme, creating enduring positive change in Pristina.

We also want to acknowledge the exemplary support and collaboration we have experienced from the Municipality of Pristina. The proactive engagement and collaborative spirit exhibited by the municipality with local NGOs have been instrumental in laying the groundwork for effective civic initiatives. The willingness to embrace diverse perspectives and work collectively toward common goals has significantly contributed to the success of ongoing endeavors. We commend the Municipality for fostering an environment where local NGOs, including our organization, feel valued and integral to the collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing the well-being of our community.

We appreciate your attention to these recommendations and remain steadfast in our commitment to building a more transparent, inclusive, and prosperous community through the OGP Local Programme.



Fehmi Agani Nr. 50 A/4
Prishtina, 10000 Kosovo

Sincerely,

Burim Ejupi, Executive Director, Institute for Development Policy (INDEP)



January 10, 2024

Letter of Support

Dear Mayor of the Municipality of Prishtina,

I am writing you on behalf of Lëvizja FOL, a dedicated non-governmental organization committed to promoting transparency, accountability, and civil participation within our community. We are pleased to express our wholehearted support for the Municipality of Prishtina's application to the Open Government Partnership Local Programme 2024.

We acknowledge the Municipality of Prishtina's dedication to enhancing public participation and believe that participation is a cornerstone of a thriving democracy. The OGP Local Programme provides a valuable platform to reinforce these principles and further engage citizens in decision-making processes. FOL is eager to support you and give our expertise and support in shaping and implementing effective strategies that align with the principles of OGP considering our efforts and advocate ¹ we have undertaken for years in support of Kosovo's application for this global initiative.

Our organization is committed to working closely with the Municipality of Prishtina to develop and execute initiatives that maximize the impact of the OGP Local Programme. We understand the importance of building strategies that not only address existing challenges but also proactively identify opportunities for improvement. We recognize the paramount importance of inclusive participation of citizens in planning and implementing public development, this will contribute to the effectiveness of the OGP Local Programme and contribute to transparency of local institutions and improving public service.

We believe that a robust partnership between civil society and the Municipality of Prishtina will contribute significantly to the success of the OGP Local Programme, fostering a governance model that is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the needs of the community.

We affirm our dedication to fostering a community that is more transparent, inclusive, and prosperous through the OGP Local Programme and we look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of open and participatory governance in our community.

Sincerely,

Mexhide Demolli Nimani
Executive Director



¹ <https://levizjafol.org/en/konferenca-rajonale-anetaresimi-i-kosoves-ne-open-government-partnership-dhe-pervoijat-rajonale-2/>



16 January 2024

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 Kosovo's Capital City Pristina 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 Transparency¹ and the endorsement of the Declaration for Parliamentary Openness.² Similar practices are being implemented at the local level with the support of NDI, encouraging the establishment of multi-stakeholders local Forums in line with OGP guidelines and practices to ensure space for co-creation at the local level. As a partner, NDI is committed to providing our support in the municipality's process of adherence to the principles of OGP Local, especially in co-creation processes, 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 Pristina, as the capital city of Kosovo, with a diverse population, and the most frequented destination in Kosovo on a daily basis, will benefit greatly by becoming a part of the OGP, especially in terms of democracy, citizen participation and Open Government. NDI, as partner, will provide its support and expertise to Pristina in further enhancing transparency, openness and accountability through the development of Open Government Action Plans in line with OGP principles and standards.

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

² https://www.kuvendikosoves.org/Uploads/Data/Files/14/DPO-eng_etMzL.BzcCp.pdf



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 black ink that reads "Nancy Soderberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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