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**Open Government Partnership**

**LOCAL**

**Strategic vision of open government**

1. **Duration**
   1. Expiry of the mandate of the local authority (month/year)

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| 12/27 |

* 1. Expiration of LAP (month/year)

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| 12/25 |

1. **Introduction**

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| With the adoption of the first Open Government Partnership Local Action Plan (LAP), the Municipality of Bar and the Multisectoral Forum "Bar for Bar" (MSF) have as their strategic goal to contribute to the application of the principles of good governance at the local level. The implementation of the accompanying AP should contribute to a more open, transparent and accountable administration, service-oriented towards citizens, but at the same time to empower citizens and strengthen their capacities to participate in the performance of public affairs, first in the following five areas of public interest: anti-corruption, public policy making, environmental protection. |

1. **Challenges, opportunities and strategic vision of open government**

3.1. What is the long-term vision of open government in the given circumstances and within the competences that local government has?

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| The long-term vision of open government is open, efficient and accountable administration, and an inclusive process of public policy-making at the local level, as well as strengthening cooperation between local government and civil society organizations in various areas of public interest. |

3.2. What are the achievements so far in creating an open government?

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| From the achievements so far in terms of creating open government, we would like to single out the following:   * Introduction of the electronic service "porez.bar.me" which enables insight into tax rules on real estate in the territory of the Municipality of Bar and electronic payment of real estate tax and tourist tax, * Strengthened partnership with NGOs in Bar through the award of institutional grants, with a special focus on organizations representing vulnerable social groups. In the last three years 456.000,00 euros have been allocated from the municipal budget for NGO projects. * Partnership with local civil society organizations and foreign partner cities and institutions through the implementation of several EU cross-border cooperation projects:   <https://www.interreg-hr-ba-me2014-2020.eu/>  <https://ecovinegoals.adrioninterreg.eu/>  -Day care Center - Day care for the elderly  "CROSS BORDER OL" project within the trilateral Interreg CBC Italy-Albania  Montenegro  The project "Traditional olive growing as part of the cross-border tourist offer" is  implemented within the framework of the Croatia-Montenegro Cross-border Programme.   * Establishment of the local MSF "Bar for Bar" as a consultative mechanism between local government and civil society, formed for the purpose of establishing the OGP and co-creating the Local OGP Action Plan in Bar. The establishment of this body, as a permanent forum for dialogue, provides a structure for regular, two-way communication between local self-government, NGO representatives and citizens. Its work is designed to achieve real effects in transparency, accountability and participation. This is an advisory body, with a focus on consensus building, collective action, and co-creation. As a result, we can already see increased cross-sectoral cooperation and dialogue on issues of public interest in the areas discussed within the OGP initiative, concerning anti-corruption, environmental protection, public policymaking. |

* 1. What are the current challenges/areas for improvement of open government that local government is addressing?

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| Current challenges and areas for improvement of open government in these areas are recognized:  **Anti-corruption:**  Development of internal procedures for dealing with reports of endangerment of public interest that indicate the existence of corruption and requests for whistleblower protection.  Developing a model for quality reporting on the implementation of the Free Access to Information Law.  **Creating public policies:**  Low level of citizen participation in the policymaking process;  Existing models of citizen involvement in decision-making processes are underutilized and ineffective.  Lack of a strategic approach in public policy planning;  **Environmental protection:**  Lack of a planned approach to solving and preventing challenges in the field of environmental protection; |

* 1. What are the medium-term goals of open local government?

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| * Strengthening the efficiency of the system for meeting citizens' requests for information, * increasing the engagement of citizens in procedures of public interest to improve the life of the community and solve local issues, * introducing new practices and measures to promote and enforce the rule of law |

* 1. How does the Local Action Plan contribute to the realization of the strategic vision of open local government?

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| - **Commitment in the field of anti-corruption** contributes to the establishment of a strong and effective anti-corruption framework, promoting transparency and citizen engagement. The measure aims to create a more inclusive, accountable and corruption-resilient governance system. The Civic Space for Monitoring Anti-Corruption Policies empowers citizens to actively participate in the anti-corruption efforts of the local government.  - **Commitment in the field of public policymaking** contributes to empowering citizens to participate in public policy-making processes, so that policies are shaped according to their needs, with the application of participation models that are effective, free and adapted to different target groups, which affects the strengthening of civic activism and civic culture in general.  - **Commitment in the field of environmental protection** contributes to the strengthening of the strategic and inclusive approach for environmental protection. |

* 1. How does the strategic vision of open government contribute to the achievement of the general public-policy goals of the current local government?

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| The strategic vision of open government contributes to the achievement of the general public-policy goals of the current local government in Bar. The overall goal of the Strategic Development Plan of the Municipality of Bar 2020-2025, as an umbrella strategic document, is "a municipality of dynamic and sustainable economic growth and development, open to all citizens". The Strategic Development Plan of the Municipality of Bar creates a favorable environment for future investments, for further construction of infrastructure, strengthening of the economy - tourism, agriculture and other branches, while preserving the environment, as well as for the creation of a larger number of better jobs. Also, this document represents a framework for improving conditions in the fields of education, health, sports, culture, social policy and in general for showing adequate care for the needs of all citizens. The POU strategic vision is a complement, but not an overlap of obligations and measures, which contribute to the set overall goal.  Insistence on the application of the principles of good governance, framed by OGP standards and practice, through concrete measures and activities, is complementary to other public policy activities in the field of improvement and empowerment of the local community. In this sense, as a normative framework for the creation of OGP policies, we specifically mention the following acts:  - Law on Regional Development (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No. 020/11, 026/11, 020/15 and 047/19);  - Regional Development Strategy of Montenegro 2023-2027  - Strategic Development Plan of the Municipality of Bar 2020-2025  - Public Administration Reform Strategy 2022-2026  - Integrity Plan 2023-2025 and accompanying reports |

1. **Engagement and coordination of the Open Government Strategic Vision and LAP**
   1. Name the leading institutions responsible for the implementation of the LAP?

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| Office of the President of the Municipality |
| Secretariat for Local Economic Development |
| Secretariat for Local Self-Government |
| Secretariat for Finance |
| Secretariat for Urban Planning and Spatial Planning |
| Secretariat for Sport and Youth |
| Secretariat for Communal Affairs and Transport |
| Congregation Affairs Service |

* 1. What institutional arrangements are in place for coordination between local authorities and LAP implementation units?

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| The institutional engagement established for coordination between local government bodies and LAP implementation units is the local MFS called "Bar for Bar".  MSF was formed under an open Public Call due to the need to ensure the quality of the process of preparation for membership in the OGP Local initiative and provides a structure for regular, two-way communication between local government and non-governmental actors.  The role of the MSF is aligned with: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/multistakeholder-forums/> and recommendations from the Best Practice Brief: Mechanisms for Co-Creation and Monitoring of the Implementation of the OGP Local Action Plan.  The Bar for Bar Forum has 31 members, 21 of whom are NGO representatives. MSF leads the co-creation process and cooperates with the local monitoring body, which independently evaluates the success of the implementation of the OGP at the local level.  In partnership with the International Republican Institute (IRI), the Municipality of Bar is implementing the Project "Enhancing Capacities and Processes for Good Governance in Montenegro". IRI seeks to support the Montenegrin authorities to improve their good governance practices in a way that strengthens citizen participation. IRI's approach focuses on increasing the opportunities and capacity of local government to identify and address local priorities at the local level by establishing an Open Government Partnership process that requires consultation and cooperation between administration and civil society. In this regard, the project provides technical and professional support for the co-creation of the LAP and its implementation.  The NGO "Association for Responsible and Sustainable Development" acts as a local monitoring body that will be allocated funds for the implementation of the project with the aim of assessing the success of the process of co-creation and implementation of the LAP and promoting the OGP local initiative. |

* 1. What mechanisms have been used or created to enable cooperation between local government and civil society in the joint creation and implementation of this LAP?

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| * The mechanisms that have been created and used to enable cooperation between local government and civil society in the joint creation and implementation of this LAP are primarily reflected in the organization of the OGP bootcamp, in which local CSOs also participated. The purpose of the two-day bootcamp was to prepare public administration officials, together with representatives of civil society, to establish and manage OGP processes. The Bootcamp provided participants with interactive opportunities to share their experiences in strategic planning, discuss the 12 steps to an effective strategic document, draft a timeline, and simulate a public discussion of their LAP. Working in small groups, participants identified commitments (priorities for the AP). They also practiced conducting an actor analysis and a public consultation process. * MSF role: * Conducting preliminary consultations on the Local Action Plan * A review of the comments and suggestions received. * providing feedback to the participants of the consultation, * proposing measures and activities for LAP, * informing the public about the activities and results achieved in the work of the Forum, * Participate in a public debate on the draft LAP, * monitoring the implementation of the LAP, * cooperation with the local monitoring body that independently evaluates and evaluates the success of the implementation of the OGP at the local level, * Providing recommendations for more successful management of OGP at the local level. |

* 1. What measures have been taken to ensure the representation of different groups (including vulnerable or marginalized groups)?

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| In order to ensure the representation of various social groups, including vulnerable or marginalized social groups, we have taken measures that imply the active and continuous participation of organizations dealing with the protection and promotion of the rights of vulnerable groups. The Municipality of Bar mostly cooperates with organizations that represent the interests of vulnerable social groups, while some of them are members of the local MSF. The focus of these organizations is on the socialization and social integration of children and young people with autism and developmental disabilities, people with visual impairments. Through their contribution, they encourage the implementation of activities that highlight abilities and strengthen their participation in the community. |

* 1. *Who was involved in the process of co-creating the LAP?*

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| 8 groups participated in the process of co-creating the LAP, and a total of 20 meetings were held. Participants in the drafting of this document were:  - Citizens  - civil society organizations,  - A local government unit,  - state institutions (Ministry of Public Administration, Agency for the Prevention of Corruption)  - Independent agencies (Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information).  For the process of co-creating the Local OGP Action Plan, the IRI engaged experts who carried out a detailed analysis of the factual situation and prepared a proposal of measures in the following areas:  - Anti-corruption - Milena Mastalo,  - Gender Equality - Aleksandra Crvenica,  - Digitalization - Milica Janković,  - Environmental Protection - Lidija Brnović,  - Citizen Participation in Public Policy Making by Marija Janković.  Data collection was carried out using a combination of several methods (desk research, questionnaire, in-depth interviews, focus groups), whereby, in addition to the representatives of the Municipality, representatives of local CSOs, state institutions responsible for policies in these areas, and contact persons from the Parliament of Montenegro, i.e. representatives of the relevant committees. |

* 1. How many people were involved in this process?

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| 8 |

* 1. *How many meetings were held during the co-creation of the LAP?*

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| 20 |

* 1. How will the local government and non-governmental actors continue to work together during the implementation of the LAP?

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| Local government and non-governmental actors will continue to cooperate during the implementation of the LAP. The MSF provides space for cross-sectoral dialogue during the implementation of the LAP, in accordance with the defined role and work methodology, which includes meetings, thematic sessions, workshops and interviews.  MSF will remain open to all new members who can contribute to the process as beneficiaries or policy makers.  The Municipality of Bar regularly shares information about the OGP process on its website:  <https://bar.me/multisektorski-forum-bar-za-bar/novosti/>  <https://bar.me/multisektorski-forum-bar-za-bar/dokumenta/>  The Municipality of Bar will also work closely with the local monitoring body - NGO UZOR due to the need to exchange information, data and evidence of the activities carried out. |

1. **Monitoring** 
   1. Describe which monitoring is the independent body identified to monitor the implementation of the LAP.

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| MSF leads the co-creation process and will work with a local monitoring body that independently evaluates and evaluates the success of the OGP at the local level.  The Association for Responsible and Sustainable Development UZOR will externally monitor the process of co-creation, implementation of the AP and promote the OGP initiative in Bar. This NGO pays special attention to respecting the values on which the EU integration processes are based, which relate to gender equality and respect for minorities. In its work, UZOR pays special attention to the issues of protection of women, children and youth, minority national communities, persons with disabilities and persons of different sexual orientation. The vision of this organization is a just and solidarity-based society, based on the synthesis of the principles of sustainable development, innovative practices and the use of new technologies for the purpose of exercising civil rights and freedoms, achieving equal opportunities and continuous progress of citizens and the community in which we live. Its mission is to establish an innovative model of approach to sustainable development and to promote and implement activities and solutions whose benefits are reflected in the everyday life of citizens in Montenegro with an impact on the well-being of future generations. |

* 1. Provide the contact details of an independent monitoring body.

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| ***Name and surname*** | ***Position*** | ***Email*** |
| Marko Pejovic | Program Director | [marko.pejovic@uzor.me](mailto:marko.pejovic@uzor.me) |

* 1. What activities are envisaged to monitor progress in terms of the implementation of commitments?

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| • Conducting an initial assessment of the process of joint development of the OGP,  • Development of detailed and effective plans for the implementation of the obligations contained in the LAP,  • monitoring the implementation of these plans,  • Writing progress reports that monitor the implementation of the LAP,  • Conducting advocacy campaigns that raise public awareness of the obligations of the LAP and progress in implementation.  • Observation of the work and sessions of the MSF assessment of the implementation of the principles of good governance in the implementation of the OGP process and the approach to cross-sectoral cooperation at the local level  • Assessing the relevance of LAP obligations.  • Participation in dialogue on OGP at the local and national level, and participation in regional and international OGP events.  • Collection of evidence and evaluation of the process of achieved participation of non-governmental actors, i.e. joint development of LAP.  • Organizing an event (workshop) in which all holders of the LAP realization participate. This event reflects on the processes of creating and implementing LAP and identifies challenges and ways of solving them, as well as good practices that can be applied in the coming period. |

* 1. How will the progress of the LAP be monitored with the stakeholders?

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| The contact person will be in charge of coordinating activities related to the implementation of the LAP. This role is crucial and multidimensional, this person is most responsible for coordinating the implementation of all activities within the local self-government, but also towards the public and the OGP support unit.  Some of the key responsibilities and activities are:   * Coordination of the continuous participation of non-governmental organizations and non-governmental actors in the implementation of the LAP * Coordination of local self-government services and other competent institutions in all activities related to the implementation of the LAP * Regular communication and cooperation with the Support Unit of the OGP Local Program * Regular publication of information on the process of joint development, implementation of measures and achieved results from the Local Action Plan * Participation in learning activities and exchange of good practices with other OGP local members   The local monitoring body will additionally collect evidence from the activity holders and evaluate the results of the fulfilled LAP commitments. |

* 1. How will the public be informed about the results of the survey?

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| The results of the monitoring will be made publicly available through a variety of channels, including:  Web site: [www.bar.me](http://www.bar.me)  Website: <https://bar.me/multisektorski-forum-bar-za-bar/novosti/>  <https://bar.me/multisektorski-forum-bar-za-bar/dokumenta/>  Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OpstinaBar>  Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/opstina__bar/>  Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/BarOpstina/>  LMB website: [www.nvouzor.me](http://www.nvouzor.me)  Local media  <https://bar.me/novosti/>  <https://primorski.me/info/>  <https://jedro.bar/info/>  <https://barinfo.me/> |

1. **Support from non-governmental actors**

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| ***Name and surname*** | ***Position*** | ***Related subject (if any)*** |
| Veselin Joketić | President | Organization of the Blind for Bar and Ulcinj |
| Marija Božović | Assistant | Organization of the Blind for Bar and Ulcinj |
| Saša Jovanović | Manager | *BSC Bar* |
| *Emilija Jukić* | *Executive director* | *Lea Bar* |
| *Milica Rukavina* | *Assistant* | *Lea Bar* |
| *Sanja Dr. Smolović* | *Executive director* | *"Parent Power Bar"* |
| *Biljana Sinanović* | *Assistant* | *"Parent Power Bar"* |
| *Strahinja Đorđević* | *Project manager* | *Green Wave Environmental Movement* |
| *Momčilo Šćekić* | *Executive director* | *IPO Montenegro* |
| *Trivo Zolak* | *Executive director* | *"The Power of Knowledge"* |
| *Magdalena Jovetić* | *Civic activist* | *Professor of Italian Language and Literature* |
| *Perak Predrag* | *Executive director* | *NGO "Blue Planet"* |
| *Goran Pajović* | *Senior Curator, Manager* | *Archaeological Museum* |
| *Čedo Popovic* | *Executive director* | *"Association of Parents of Children with Special Needs"* |
| *Dejan Senić* | *Executive director* | *"Bubulj"* |
| Ana Vukazić | Executive director | "Musica instrumentalis" |
| Jelena Dobrković | Executive director | "Nota" |
| Marta Anđelić | Executive director | "Adria" |
| Dušan Varda | Executive director | MedCEM |
| Slavko Vučićević | Executive director | The Association of Paraplegics Bar |

1. **Open Government** [**Partnership Strategy**](https://www.opengovpartnership.org/strategy-2023-2028/)
2. **If an online consultation has been held, please provide a link to the website:**

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| <https://bar.me/multisektorski-forum-bar-za-bar/novosti/>  <https://bar.me/multisektorski-forum-bar-za-bar/dokumenta/>  <https://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/drustvo/661239/opstina-bar-i-msf-bar-za-bar-poziv-svim-gradjanima-da-ucestvuju-u-ko-kreiranju-lokalnog-akcionog-plana> |