



**#EY
ЗА ТЕБЕ**

Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans 2



ReLOaD2 in Serbia

Donor: European Union

Budget: \$2,058,532

Duration: 2021 – 2024

Partners: 7 local self-governments and local civil society organizations

CONTEXT

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are important for the development of local communities, but they still face challenges that limit their ability to positively impact the quality of life of citizens. Local governments (LGs) provide sizeable public funding to CSOs, but the disbursement is often not based on clear and transparent criteria, monitoring of awarded funds is not performed, and effects are not measured nor adequately communicated to the public. Also, as a consequence of incompatibility of the educational system with the labour market, the young have limited job opportunities. This has resulted in high levels of emigration.

The Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans 2 (ReLOaD2) builds on good practices of the Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans (ReLOaD, 2017-2020) and Local Democracy Strengthening Project (LOD, 2009-2016), funded by the European Union (EU).

GOAL

To strengthen democracies and the EU integration in the Western Balkans by empowering civil society and encouraging young people to actively take part in the decision-making process, and by improving a supportive legal and financial environment for civil society.

FOCUS

- Strengthening partnerships between LGs and civil society, by scaling a successful model of transparent project funding of CSOs (LOD Methodology) from LGs budgets, in order to improve the provision of services in local communities.
- Encouraging local authorities to use public funding of CSOs in a transparent and development-oriented manner, recognizing local needs and adopting a project-based approach.
- Promoting the engagement of youth and providing support to the implementation of youth initiatives, while also working to improve their economic prospects in partner LGs.
- Providing support in implementing youth initiatives, as well as improving economic perspective of the young people in partner local self-governments.

#ReLOaD



RESULTS

- ✓ 5 local self-governments (LSGs) participated in the first phase of the project: Dimitrovgrad, Kragujevac, Kuršumlija, Paraćin and Šabac, while 7 LSGs are participating in the second: Babušnica, Vladičin Han, Vrnjačka Banja, Kruševac, Novi Sad, Subotica and Topola;
- ✓ An analysis of mechanisms for funding civil society organisations (CSOs) was done in all 12 LSGs;
- ✓ Over 50 representatives from 12 LSGs completed 5 training modules on project management and application of the methodology for transparent funding of CSOs (LOD methodology);
- ✓ Representatives of 300 CSOs completed project management training;
- ✓ 74 civil society initiatives received financial support for implementation in practice, which will benefit 13,000 citizens;
- ✓ 23 young people completed training on the topics of human rights, Sustainable Development Goals, business and assertive communication, and were then engaged on volunteer contracts of the United Nations (UNV) in local institutions.



* For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to position on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence. For UNDP all references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of the UN Resolution 1244/1999.

This publication is produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of UNDP and may in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

Follow UNDP Serbia:

www.undp.org/serbia
www.facebook.com/UNDPSerbia
www.twitter.com/UNDPSerbia
www.instagram.com/undp_serbia

Contact:

communications.rs@undp.org
Bulevar Zorana Djindjica 64,
11000 Belgrade
Phone: +381 (0)11 4155 300

TARGET GROUPS



Local self-governments
Civil society organizations
Youth
Citizens

Contributing to Sustainable Development Goal:

