



Project funded by the European Union

Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans 2



WHY ReLOaD2?

The countries of the Western Balkans face similar challenges related to insufficiently developed cooperation between local self-governments (LSGs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), while the challenge of underdeveloped NGOs is also present. The lack of transparent and development-oriented financing of NGOs is especially noticeable, which is one of the most important obstacles to the development and functioning of civil society. Additionally, insufficient involvement of young people through activism and decision-making processes is widely present, especially at the local level.

Based on the comprehensive experience from the first phase of ReLOaD and previous project interventions, the Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans 2 (ReLOaD2) will address these issues and challenges in 6 countries and territories: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

ReLOaD in brief:

Overall objective is to strengthen participatory democracies and EU integration processes in the Western Balkans and by empowering the non-governmental sector and young people through active participation in decision-making and stimulating the legal and financial environment for NGOs.

ReLOaD will work in the next four years to strengthen partnerships between local governments and civil society in the Western Balkans by expanding a successful model for financing NGO projects from municipal budgets, in line with local needs. Also, through ReLOaD2, the practices of transparent financing of NGOs based on specific development projects that are focused on citizens and their needs will be improved. A special accent will be placed on the engagement of young people in the decision-making process, their professional training and support for their youth empowerment initiatives. This will

be achieved by applying a model of transparent project financing of non-governmental organizations from the budget of local self-governments, successfully tested in the previous phase of the ReLOaD.

The activities to be implemented in Montenegro relate to the capacity to strengthen the following five clusters of local governments - a total of 15 local self-governments:

1. Tara - Municipalities of Mojkovac, Kolašin and Pljevlja,
2. Coastal Mates – Municipalities of Budva, Herceg Novi, Kotor and Tivat,
3. Together for the north – Municipalities of Andrijevica and Berane,
4. Together Nikšić and Plužine - Municipalities of Nikšić and Plužine,
5. Central Region - Capital city Podgorica, Old Royal Capital of Cetinje, Municipality within the Capital city Podgorica - Golubovci and the Municipality of Danilovgrad.

- **Funded by the European Union (EU)**
- **Implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

• **Budget:** 12.6 million EUR (11.3 million EUR funded by the EU, while 1.3 million EUR is funded by local governments and the UNDP)

• **Budget for Montenegro** is around 1.8 million EUR, out of which 850.000 EUR allocated for NGO projects

• **Project start date:** 1st of January 2021

• **Duration:** 48 months

• **ReLOaD2 locations:** 6 Western Balkans countries and territories: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia

• **Target groups:** In all countries, a total of 54 partner local self-governments, of which 15 in Montenegro (organized in five clusters), as well as non-governmental organizations and young people in targeted local self-governments.

• **Partners:** Institutions in charge for the non-governmental organizations and the associations of cities and municipalities

The NGO will implement at least 300 projects for over 40,000 beneficiaries in six countries and territories of the Western Balkans.

* 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.

What are the expected key programme results in Montenegro?



ReLOaD2 will achieve the following key results in 15 local self-governments in Montenegro:

- Local governments have been strengthened to implement transparent and gender sensitive financing of NGOs (local assemblies adopt decisions governing this segment);
- Capacities of NGOs in local governments are strengthened and they implement quality and gender sensitive projects of interest to the local community;
- Activities are conducted on strengthening youth activism and involving young people, as well as support through internship for young people;
- Regional networking, dialogue, exchange practice and cooperation between local governments and NGOs across the Western Balkans are improved.

Contacts

ReLOaD project team at the UNDP in Montenegro

UN Eco House, Stanka Dragojevića bb,
81000 Podgorica

Dženana Šćekić,
project manager
Tel: +382 20 447 464
E-mail: dzenana.scekic@undp.org

Tamara Čirgić,
project associate
E-mail: tamara.cirgic@undp.org

Luka Kostić,
project assistant
E-mail: luka.kostic@undp.org



Web: www.me.undp.org
Twitter: @UNDP_Montenegro
Facebook: RELOADWesternBalkans