



Annual Conference on Decentralization and Local Governance “Citizens First: Shaping Future for Improved Local Services”

06 - 07 December 2023
Hotel Aleksandar Palace, Skopje

A G E N D A

Wednesday, 06 December 2023

- 10:00 – 10:30** ***Arrival & Registration of Participants***
- 10:30 – 11:00** ***Opening remarks***
Risto Penov, Minister of Local Self-Government
Fatmir Besimi, Minister of Finance
Orce Gjorgjievski, President of ZELS and Mayor of Kisela Voda
Véronique Hulmann, Ambassador of Switzerland to North Macedonia
Ami Larsson Jain, Ambassador of Sweden to North Macedonia
Armen Grigoryan, UNDP Resident Representative
- 11:00 – 11:30** ***Citizens’ voice in local policy making: Survey on Citizen Satisfaction with Local Services 2023 – Presentation with Q&A***
Presenter: Blazhen Maleski, UNDP Research Associate
- 11:30 – 12:20** ***Session 1: Local Leaders in Motion: Dynamic Local Governance on the Journey to EU Accession***
- **Danela Arsovska**, Mayor of Skopje
 - **Karl Giacinti**, Programme Manager at the Delegation of the European Union
 - **Ane Lashkoska**, President of the Parliamentary Commission for Local Government
 - **Marko Kolev**, Mayor of Veles
 - **Pero Kostadinov**, Vice-president of ZELS & Mayor of Valandovo
- Moderator: Biljana Cvetanovska Gugoska**, UNDP Head of DG Unit
- 12:20 – 12:40** ***Coffee-break***



12:40 – 13:30

Session 2: Digital Blueprint: Navigating Municipal Transformation in the TechEra

- **Azir Aliu**, Minister of Information Society and Administration
- **Stefan Badza**, Government of the Republic of Serbia (online)
- **Sasho Moshev**, Director of the Vardar Planning Region
- **Sasho Jakovchevski**, State Audit Office
- **Valbon Limani**, President of the Council of Gostivar Municipality
- **Julijana Pavkovska Bocevska**, Secretary of the Municipality of Aerodrom
- **Gabriel van Oppen Ardanaz**, Programme Analyst, UNDP JFT (Chief Digital Office)

Moderator: **Lazar Pop Ivanov**, UNDP Head of Experimentation

13:30 – 14:30

Session 3: Inclusive Local Communities through Partnership with CSOs & Youth Engagement

- **Sashko Mitovski**, Mayor of Kriva Palanka
- **Slobodan Delić**, President of the Municipality of Pluzhine, Montenegro
- **Goce Kocevski**, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA)
- **Snezana Jankovikj**, Scout Association
- **Lulzim Haziri**, Association for Democratic Initiatives, Gostivar
- **Zlatko Talevski**, Youth Cultural Center, Bitola

Moderator: **Biljana Georgievska**, UNDP Project Manager

14:30 – 14:40

First Day Wrap up

14:40 – 15:40

Lunch

Thursday, 07 December 2023

09:30 – 10:00

Arrival & Registration of the Participants

10:00 – 10:10

Opening of the second day of the Conference

Sanja Bojanic, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

Ramiz Rexhepi, Director of the Bureau for Regional Development

10:10 – 11:10

Session 1: Program for Sustainable Local Development and Decentralization – What remains to be done?

- **Kiril Partalov**, State Secretary, Ministry of Local Self-Government
- **Memet Memeti**, Expert in Public Policies and Local Self-Governance
- **Toni Popovski**, Expert in Local Self-Governance
- **Blerim Sejdiu**, Mayor of Zhelino
- **Mario Rajn**, Mayor of Grad Križevci, Croatia

Moderator: **Ilmiasan Dauti**, UNDP Programme Analyst



11:10 – 12:10

Session 2: Balancing the Books: Fiscal Decentralization for Community Growth

- **Jaksha Puljiz**, International expert in Capital Transfers and Municipal Development Index
- **Trajko Slaveski**, President of the Council of City of Skopje
- **Aleksandra Maksimovska**, Expert in Finance
- **Borche Trenovski**, Expert in Finance
- **Aco Ristov**, Mayor of Radovish and President of the Financing Commission in ZELS

Moderator: Fisnik Shabani, UNDP Project Specialist

12:10 – 12:30

Coffee-break

12:30 – 13:30

Session 3: Voices of Change: Advancing Gender Equality in the Local Communities

- **Slagjana Nachevski**, Programme Coordinator in NGO Zenska Akcija, Radovish
- **Lidija Ilijevska**, President of the Humanitarian Association *Majka*, Kumanovo
- **Marija Drobnjak**, President at Association for social services *Socio*, Gostivar
- **Ivona Paunovich Bishevac**, Programme Analyst at UN Women office in Skopje
- **Snezana Saneva**, Coordinator for equal opportunities at Municipality of Stip

Moderator: Kristina Plecic, UNDP Gender Specialist

13:30 – 13:40

Conference wrap-up

13:40 – 14:40

Lunch

**Discussions are strongly encouraged at all sessions during the two-day conference*