

“Innovating democratic participation at local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina”

Launching event

23 February 2022, 11:00h – 13:30h

Format: Online on ZOOM ([weblink](#))

Meeting ID: 827 3725 0890

Passcode: 277105

Context

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is launching a new project within the Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2022-2025. The project is grounded on the results of the project “[Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar](#)” and responds to the needs voiced by relevant stakeholders and local communities across the country.

This launching event is an opportunity to exchange and discuss key principles of open, inclusive and transparent local government. The focus will also be on concrete models to boost democratic innovation through deliberative processes and on enhancing the quality of local governance by strengthening capacities of local authorities in partnership with the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Association of Municipalities in Cities of Republika Srpska.

The project “Innovating democratic participation at local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina” is implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities within the [Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2022-2025](#). The project aims to enhance the quality of local democracy and create opportunities for citizens to engage in innovative participatory processes in Mostar and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It will promote new democratic approaches, open government, public ethics, transparent and inclusive local policy making in the country.

Contact

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PROGRAMME

23 February 2022

11:00 – 11:20 *Introduction and moderation by Bojana URUMOVA, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo*

Opening remarks

Andreas KIEFER, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Vesna TRAVLJANIN, Executive Director of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Aco PANTIĆ, Secretary General of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republika Srpska

11:20 – 12:20 **Deliberative democracy: a tool to foster new alliances between local authorities and citizens**

Introduction and moderation by Damir KAPIDŽIĆ, Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo

Stewart DICKSON, Congress Thematic Spokesperson on the observation of local and regional elections, United Kingdom

Radmila KOMADINA, Advisor to the City of Mostar

This session aims to discuss principles of deliberative democracy, as a complementary tool to representative democracy and to explore the benefits for multicultural societies.

Open discussion

12:20 – 13:15 **Open local governments for democratic renewal**

Introduction and moderation by Goran KUČERA, expert in open governance

Rudi BORRMANN, Deputy Director, OGP Local

Genci KOJDHELI, Director General of Strategic Projects and Economic Development, City of Tirana

This session will focus on methods and tools through which local authorities can foster open government and promote transparent, participatory, inclusive and accountable governance, and thereby also contribute to state-wide commitments. The session will also present the practical framework of co-operation embedded in the Open Government Partnership.

Open discussion

13:15 – 13:25 **Presentation of the Handbook on Open Local Government and Public Ethics in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Goran KUČERA, Expert in open governance

13:25 – 13:30 **Concluding remarks**

Marité MORAS, Head of Unit, Co-operation and External Relations Division, Secretariat of the Congress