

KOSOVO\*

# Strengthening multilevel governance and participatory democracy



PROJECT LEAFLET

January – December 2025

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities  
of the Council of Europe

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The project **Strengthening multilevel governance and participatory democracy** (January – December 2025) aims to strengthen the co-operation between central and local authorities in Kosovo\* in local self-government reform and in the advancement of participatory and deliberative democracy.

The increased sought-after synergies between central and local authorities and the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) will lead to stronger multilevel governance and central–local consultation on legislative initiatives and reforms.

## OUTCOMES

- Central and local authorities and the AKM engage in inclusive discussions to advance legislative initiatives and reforms.
- Municipalities pilot novel citizen participation initiatives and contribute to the implementation of the Kosovo\* Action Plan of the Open Government Partnership 2023–2025 in co-ordination with the Ministry of Local Government Administration.

## METHODOLOGY

The project has a two-fold approach:

- **Supporting reforms:** the project will serve to update the [2021 Study on Local Self-Government in Kosovo\\*](#) to outline the legislative and policy changes in the past years and assist central and local authorities in addressing recurrent and new issues in line with the [European Charter of Local Self-Government](#) and other European standards. An action plan will be designed for the implementation of recommendations.
- **Capacity building and peer learning:** the project will facilitate peer exchanges and equip local authorities with the necessary tools and knowledge to lead change on open government and participatory and deliberative democracy.

\*All reference to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- **Conference of central and local authorities:** a conference will be held with all relevant stakeholders to discuss and agree on policies and priorities for local self-government reform, based on the updated study's findings and recommendations.
- **Engagement with Central Authorities:** to enhance local self-government in priority areas, central authorities will undertake a [Peer Review Process](#) to exchange and learn from other European governments who have conducted similar reforms and legislative changes.
- **Capacity Development:** the capacities of local elected representatives and municipal officials in transparency, accountability and participatory democracy will be enhanced.
- **Peer Learning:** selected municipalities will participate in a Forum of Exchange to share knowledge and good practices for the strategic localisation of open government and democratic innovations.
- **Local Initiatives:** a small number of local projects designed by municipalities to promote open government and public participation in local decision making will be supported.

## PARTNERS

The project is implemented in close co-operation with the Ministry of Local Government Administration and the AKM.

In addition, the project works with a selected group of municipalities based on their experience and interest on the topics covered by the project, and their configuration. Key municipalities identified for the implementation of the project are (in alphabetical order):

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Ferizaj/Uroševac       | 7. Lipjan/Lipljan            |
| 2. Gjakovë/Đakovica       | 8. Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South |
| 3. Gračanica/Gračanicë    | 9. Pejë/Peć                  |
| 4. Hani i Elezit/Elez Han | 10. Prishtinë/Priština       |
| 5. Kamenicë/Kamenica      | 11. Prizren                  |
| 6. Klinë/Klina            |                              |

The Council of Europe has met the determination of Kosovo\* to improve local self-government and the quality of local democracy since 1999 through the implementation of several projects. The [Overview of Co-operation activities in Kosovo\\*](#) document provides a framework to support the authorities in bringing legislation, institutions and practice further in line with Council of Europe standards in the areas of human rights, rule of law and democracy.

Within this framework, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is responsible for the project "Strengthening multilevel governance and participatory democracy". It builds upon previous Congress co-operation activities and it is based on regular dialogue and analysis of needs and recommendations voiced by relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Congress co-operation projects in Kosovo\*:

[www.coe.int/web/congress/kosovo](http://www.coe.int/web/congress/kosovo)

Council of Europe Office in Pristina:

[www.coe.int/pristina](http://www.coe.int/pristina)

### CONTACTS

Albert FLORES HERRERA

Project Co-ordinator

Secretariat of the Congress

[albert.flores-herrera@coe.int](mailto:albert.flores-herrera@coe.int)

Sakibe JASHARI

Senior Project Officer

Council of Europe Office in Pristina

[sakibe.jashari@coe.int](mailto:sakibe.jashari@coe.int)

ENG

[www.coe.int/congress](http://www.coe.int/congress)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 46 member states. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 612 elected officials representing more than 130 000 local and regional authorities.

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