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**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**  
**ELBASAN MUNICIPALITY**

Elbasan, September 30, 2020

OGP Steering Committee

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of Elbasan Municipality, local government unit in Albania, as the highest representative I am expressing the interest to be part of Open Governmental Partnership considering this participation an opportunity on improvement of open government and ensuring transparency, credibility and efficiency services to the citizens.

Elbasan is the fourth largest city in Albania with a population of 218,628 inhabitants, of which 130,444 inhabitants or about 55% live in 6 urban regions while 117,816 inhabitants or about 45% live in 12 administrative units which also represent the rural area. The city of Elbasan is in Central Albania. The municipality has in its territory a large part of the heavy industry of Albania, including the steel factory, that of cement, ferrochrome, etc., today are partially functional.

Considering that the cities around the world are undergoing important transformations, local government needs to develop the capabilities of collecting and analyzing vast quantities of data to automate processes, improve service quality, provide market signal feedback to users, and to make better decisions. Considering the challenging situation of urban transformation Elbasan Municipality is facing the need of data collection, analyzing and comparison through digital platforms for the improvement of service delivery to the citizens.

Through the participation in Open Governmental Data the Municipality of Elbasan would like to advance:

- Digital platform development which will help the municipality to improve public services, enhancing information through linked data in local level and will enable the interactive involvement of local actors in the entire management cycle: planning, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring of different processes.
- Exchange experiences with multiple countries/ local government / non-governmental stakeholders around the world and being part of new global open government norms and principles.

As Mayor of Elbasan Municipality mandated for the term 2019-2023 together with the community, we have set some priorities on the response of citizen's needs, which will be followed along with all the stakeholders. Our collaboration with non-governmental stakeholders has been very active during years, they have been part of important decision-making process.

We have a successful story of collaboration in last years with "Tjetër Vision" in education and social policies, creating new integrated models of care and education for children victims of trafficking and domestic violence and supporting the employment and empowerment of parents; in water and sanitation area monitoring the drinking water in rural areas; in youth policies enforcing the youth involvement to be actors of democracy, integrate into society and to play an active role in civil society and the labor market.

At the same time the collaboration with "Aleksandër Xhuvani" University is crucial and very successful in economic, social, and cultural development of Elbasan region, and beyond.

Albania has a strong political commitment to Open Government which is developed through central government, part of OGP in national level, currently implementing 4 commitments from the 2018-2020 action plan: fiscal transparency, public services, access to information, public administration, and anti-corruption.

In local level Elbasan Municipality has developed the sectorial strategies and action plans to support the citizens and improve the quality of life, corresponding with the defined areas of open government as follows:

## **FISCAL OPENNESS**

**Participatory Budgeting process** is implemented by the Municipality of Elbasan since 2007 has had an added value in the provision of community services. Through this project the degree of transparency has increased, the efficient and effective management of services, the connecting bridges of cooperation with all local actors in the identification, implementation and monitoring of the priorities arising from the joint decision-making have increased. It is one of the best forms of democracy as well as one of the best forms of being an interactive citizen in the budgets of the institution of local self-government.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Improvement of citizens' lives, preventing environmental pollution, providing a clean, healthy, relaxing, and entertaining environment for citizens by approaching EU standards developing **Local Environmental Plan 2020-2022**<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup><https://elbasani.gov.al/sq-al/Documents/pl.vendor%20mjedisit%202020%20-%202022%20%20%20perfundimtarpdf.pdf>

Environmental management of urban waste in Elbasan territory in order to protect the urban environment from waste pollution and keeping a healthy environment for residents developing **Regulation on Waste Management 2020 – 2025**<sup>2</sup>.

## **INTEGRITY**

Is developed the **Integrity Plan**<sup>3</sup>, which contains a package of regulatory, administrative and policy measures for the integrity, ethics, transparency and increase of public accountability of the municipality. Integrity is essential for fulfilling the mission of the municipality of Elbasan as a local institution in function of the community and efficient and quality public services. Strengthening and improving integrity is currently one of the most important strategic priorities for the local government of the city of Elbasan. Integrity is a vital dimension of good governance, the strengthening of which will increase public confidence and contribute to building a sustainable local democracy.

## **SOCIAL INCULSION**

We have developed and implementing **the Social Security Plan 2018 – 2022** based on three main pillars: mitigation and poverty alleviation, improving the quality of life of disabled persons, as well as the development of social care services for the inclusion of vulnerable groups in programs Social Protection, as well as encouraging the full and effective participation in society.

## **MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES**

**Local Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptian Minorities 2019 – 2022**, the main principles of this Plan at the local level are guided by: (i) promoting social inclusion (ii) responding to difficult socio-economic and emergency situations for Roma minorities and Egyptian, (iii) respecting the differences between Roma and Egyptian minorities, (iv) involving communities in identifying needs and designing measures (v) strengthening cooperation and coordination between actors: municipality and central institutions, civil society organizations, activists and community groups.

## **INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION**

**The Local Public Safety Council** a body set up in the Elbasan Municipality, establishing sustained cooperation between all local actors, including civil society, police, social services, and religious communities, marks an important step in improving the safety of citizens.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://elbasani.gov.al/sq-al/Documents/Rregullorja%20per%20Mbetjet%202020%20-%20%20%202025.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://elbasani.gov.al/sq-al/Documents/PLANI%20I%20INTEGRITETIT%20BASHKIA.pdf>

We hope to join the Open Governmental Partnership in order to cooperate at the local, regional, and global level and sharing the same norms and principles with different governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, sharing "best practices" and developing strategic policies and solutions related to better service management and increasing community transparency, avoiding bureaucracies and increasing the level of transparency that enables the increase of community trust in the provision of services regardless of gender, age or ethnicity.

Sincerely,

**MAYER OF ELBASAN MUNICIPALITY**

**Mr. Gledian LLATJA**

