



BASHKIA
TIRANË

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MUNICIPALITY OF TIRANA
MAYOR

To: Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Subject: Application to Join the OGP Local: Call for Expressions of Interest

Dear Co-Chairs,

On behalf of the Municipality of Tirana and particularly the residents of our capital city, I take pride and commitment into presenting the application of our Municipality to participate in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local program.

Tirana's application to participate in this initiative comes at a moment of paramount importance for our city. The 2015 administrative reform in Albania enlarged the boundaries and surface coverage of our municipality by 25 times, while transferring to the local government a myriad of services and competences previously held by central government institutions. Meanwhile, in the last 29 years, the population of our capital city has quadrupled, and Tirana continues to grow demographically at a constant rate every year. One third of our country's population resides in our city and almost 40% of Albania's GDP is generated in Tirana.

Considering the above, it has been and continues to be a particular challenge for us to increase the spectrum of activities and approaches that would increase citizen engagement in our daily decision-making and performance and to work together with our citizens towards solving complex social problems through participatory prototyping and co-design. We have created and upgraded several mechanisms which ensure the participation of citizens in the Municipality's day-to-day work, ranging from physical counters, toll-free phone numbers, webpage and e-mail addresses, website virtual assistant, open data platform, public hearings, community periodical meetings, interaction with special interest groups, to mention but a few, other e-gov mechanisms implemented by us with great citizen engagement has been as below:

- The OpenData.Tirana.al portal,
- "One-Stop-Shop" (OSS).

moreover, we have well developed smartphone apps as:

- "Tirana Ime",
- "Welcome Tirana",
- "Tirana Outdoor" and,
- "Tirana XXL".

All the above, are a great example of how local plans can co-operate with programs that directly give solution to the needs of our community, promoting so transparency, accountability and citizen engagement. Furthermore, we are working on co-designing participatory tools for a sustainable inclusive democracy.



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Needless to say, our aspiration to increase the level of transparency and citizen inclusion in our work is much higher, and we are deeply committed and open to new ideas and best practices, which I am certain we shall find through the cooperation with the Open Government Partnership. I assure you that Tirana's involvement in your program shall receive commitment, dedication, necessary resources and a wide inclusion of representatives from citizens, interest groups and civil society. I truly believe that Tirana will represent a success story within your program, while obtaining excellent practices and expertise in the process.

Hence, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude in considering our application to be part of the Open Government Partnership Local Program. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our application, please feel free to contact our General Director of Strategic Projects and Economic Development, Mr. Genci Kojdheli, through his official email address genci.kojdheli@tirana.al.

Finally, if you would like to know more about our municipality, please visit our official website at: <https://www.tirana.al>.

We thank you in advance for your collaboration and support.

Yours truly,

MAYOR

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