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Open Government Partnership

Action plan 2022-2023.

**Novi Pazar,
June 2022.**

Introduction

Partnership for Open Government

Partnership for Open Government (OGP) is a multilateral initiative whose goal is to ensure concrete progress in the field of transparency and openness of public administration work, inclusion and empowerment of citizens and civil society, the fight against corruption, and the use of new technologies to improve the quality of services that public administration provides to citizens. . Also, the Open Government Partnership is an international forum for dialogue and experience sharing between the executive power, civil society organizations and the private sector.

The partnership was officially formed on September 20, 2011, when the Declaration on Open Government was adopted by eight governments. In order for a country to become a member of the Initiative, it must accept the Declaration, adopt the National Action Plan (with public consultations) and commit to independent reporting on the progress in implementing measures from the Action Plan. The Republic of Serbia has been an official member of the Partnership for Open Government since 2012 and since then has successfully developed two action plans. Currently, 75 countries participate in the POU.

Expanding the Open Government Partnership to the local level

As a pilot program, since 2016 the Open Government Partnership has been open to subnational participants (regional and local authorities). This decision is a consequence of the fact that the majority of government decisions are implemented at the local level, and that the local level of government is closest to the citizens. In 2022, 106 local authorities that have developed Action Plans, whose implementation will be implemented in the following period, participate in the POU at the local level in 2022. The city of Novi Pazar was accepted into this initiative in May 2022.

The benefits that local governments can have from the Open Government Partnership are multiple. The inclusion of local authorities in the POU improves the cooperation between authorities and civil society on the development and implementation of reforms, the ultimate goal of which is open government at the local level. The possibility of using institutional support from the POU, and the exchange of experiences through numerous international summits and conferences is an opportunity to improve existing services and services for citizens, as well as to introduce new ones that rationalize the work of local self-government, and at the same time increase efficiency. By studying in POU, local self-government becomes recognizable as an actor whose action is aimed at creating an open and transparent government ready to respond to the needs of citizens.

Local Action Plan for Open Government Partnerships

The local action plan is the most important instrument for the participation of the local self-government unit in the Partnership for Open Government. The action plan itself is the result of a process in which the local self-government unit, in cooperation with civil society and citizens, defines measures to encourage transparency, responsibility and public participation. Successful action plans are focused on the priorities

of the local community in relation to open government and contain concrete, time-defined measures and measurable indicators of fulfillment.

Objective: The Open Government Partnership aims to promote ambitious open government reforms that advance current practice, significantly improving the current state through increased transparency, accountability and public participation. Local self-government units can decide to launch new initiatives for open government in their action plans, or to improve existing, ongoing reforms that have already been overlooked by obligations in existing local plans.

Connection with other local strategic and action plans: The measures from the Local Action Plan for the Partnership for Open Government are actually concrete responses - activities whose implementation simultaneously fulfills the foreseen measures from other strategic plans (local development strategies and plans, fight against corruption, public reforms management, etc.) and improve POU principles.

Relevance: Each measure in the action plan clearly advances one or more of the following open government principles:

- **Transparency:** This includes publication of all information available to the local self-government unit (not only information on activities), proactive or reactive publication of information; mechanisms for strengthening the right to information and open access to information available to the administration.
- **Accountability:** There are rules, regulations and mechanisms on the basis of which the local self-government unit is required to justify or explain its actions, to act in relation to criticism or demands, as well as to accept responsibility for failure to perform in accordance with the law or accepted obligations. Obligations regarding accountability are recommended to include an element of "accountability to the public" that shows that they do not only concern the internal accountability system, but also include the public.
- **Participation:** Local self-government units seek to mobilize citizens to engage in dialogue regarding their policies or programs, to provide their input or feedback, in order to help achieve more responsible, innovative and efficient governance.
- **Technology and innovation:** Local self-government units accept the importance of ensuring open access of citizens to technology, the importance of the role of new technologies in the implementation of innovations, as well as the importance of improving the capacity of citizens when it comes to the use of technology. E-government initiatives are welcome, but to be linked to open government, action plans must explain how these initiatives improve government transparency and accountability and/or public participation

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Measure number 1. Realization of a series of workshops in local communities with the aim of raising the capacity of citizens in the use of mechanisms for open government partnership			
Responsible institution	e-mail	City administration for original and entrusted affairs	
	Phone number	grad@novipazar.org.rs 0205151000	
Other participants	Local self-government	Department of Information	Department of General Administration
	CSO	City Council	
Time period - the start and end date of the obligation	January 1 st 2023. October 1 st 2023.		
The current state or problem that the obligation addresses	<p>One of the strategic commitments of the City of Novi Pazar is to promote the inclusion of citizens in the decision-making process at the local level. In this regard, the City of Novi Pazar participated in several programs at the national level, which aim to increase the level of citizen participation in the decision-making process at the local level. This is the case within the program "General Economic Development in Eastern Serbia Phase 3 - Responsible Local Finances and Citizen Involvement" implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation SRB in partnership with the Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ministry of Finance, the Secretariat for Public Policies, the Office for Information Technologies and electronic administration, the Permanent Conference of Cities and Municipalities, the Swiss Office for Development and Cooperation, and 15 local governments, for the year 2023 the planned establishment of a separate budget line in relation to which citizens will directly decide what the funds within it will be used for. The city has an established practice of consulting citizens in the creation of local policies, and strives to</p>		

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	increase the number of citizens who take an active part in this process.
Main goal	Taking into account the efforts of the City of Novi Pazar to increase the participation of citizens in the decision-making process, there is a need to educate citizens about the mechanisms, procedures and possibilities of direct involvement in the decision-making process at the local level. In this regard, the main goal of this measure is to raise the capacity of citizens at the level of local communities in terms of possible ways of engaging in the process of creating decisions at the local level and providing them with the skills to participate in this process.
Short description of the obligation - measures (up to 140 characters)	The Department for Information and the Department for General Administration of the city of Novi Pazar, in cooperation with the City Council, will form a team for the realization of a series of workshops in local communities with the aim of raising the capacity of citizens in using mechanisms for open government partnership. The formed team will develop a program of a one-day workshop to increase the capacity of branches and citizens in the use of mechanisms for open government partnership. In the area of the City of Novi Pazar, at least ten one-day workshops will be organized at the level of local communities, lasting at least 3 and at most 5 hours of work. When selecting the local communities in which the workshops will be held, consideration will be given to equal representation according to the type of settlement (urban or rural area), national structure, geographical distribution, expressed readiness for cooperation (local community engagement), etc.
Relevance to the Open Government Partnership (OGP)	Educating citizens on how they can take part in the decision-making process at the local level is fully in line with the principles proclaimed by the Partnership for Open Government. Raising the capacity of citizens in terms of their active use of mechanisms for consultation in the decision-making process will lead to an increase in the number of citizens participating in these processes, as well as to an increase in the quality of the consultation process itself. The very fact that this measure will be implemented in such a way that the local self-government representatives who will be responsible for the implementation of this measure will leave the premises of the local self-government and meet citizens face to face in the premises of their local communities further contributes to the realization of the principle of Partnership for Open right.

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Steps - Anticipated activities with a verifiable result and date of realization.	Star date	Completion date
1. Formation of a team for the implementation of this measure. 2. Creation of a one-day workshop program 3. Realization of at least 5 workshops at the level of local communities	I quarter2023. I quarter 2023. II quarter2023	I quarter2023. II quarter2023. III quarter 2023.

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Measure number 2. Civic Academy		
Responsible institution	E mail adresa	City administration for original and entrusted affairs grad@novipazar.org.rs
	Phone number	020/5151020
Other participants	Local self-government	Secondary schools in Novi Pazar
	CSO	Media
Time period - the start and end date of the obligation	May 2023. Decembar 2023.	
The current state or problem that the obligation addresses	The citizens of Novi Pazar are not sufficiently familiar with the structure and competences of the local self-government, with the services it provides, as well as with the rights they can exercise. Insufficient information about the competences of local self-government affects the exercise of rights and the provision of services to citizens.	
Main goal	The civic academy should provide counter-intuitive, modern education about rights and obligations within the scope of local self-government. A modern approach, multimedia content, but direct contact with young people who are preparing for academic life, are a good basis for ongoing education.	

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<p>Short description of the obligation - measures (up to 140 characters)</p>	<p>The civic academy contains two units.</p> <p>The first part refers to the organization of the Open Day. High school graduates, together with their teachers, will spend one day in the City Administration building, where they will learn about the work of all city authorities. An interview with a representative of one of the city authorities will be organized at the end of the visit.</p> <p>Participants of the academy will have the opportunity to fill out a survey in which they can indicate what they would like to improve in the work of LGUs. Also, they will be given the opportunity to fill out surveys online and anonymously.</p> <p>The second part refers to the production of multimedia contents (video tutorials) that educate about the competences of local self-government, and are then distributed through various communication channels.</p>	
<p>Relevance to the Open Government Partnership (OGP)</p>	<p>The continuous involvement of citizens in the work of local self-government, the examination of satisfaction with the provision of services, as well as the education of young people directly correspond to the principles of the Partnership for Open Government and development, on the one hand, of citizens' trust, and on the other hand, the improvement of service provision.</p>	
<p>Steps - Anticipated activities with a verifiable result and date of realization.</p>	<p>Starts date</p>	<p>Completion date</p>
<p>1. Formation of a working group that would deal with the planning of the Open Day. Members of the working group are representatives of the City of Novi Pazar and secondary schools in Novi Pazar</p> <p>2. Organization of the Open Day</p> <p>3. Preparation of multimedia contents about the competences of the City of Novi Pazar</p> <p>4. Distribution of multimedia contents of the City of Novi Pazar</p>	<p>IV quarter 2023.</p> <p>III quarter 2023.</p> <p>IV quarter2023</p>	<p>IV quarter2023.</p> <p>III quarter 2023.</p> <p>IV quarter2023</p>

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