

**GRANT APPLICATION FORM
5TH GLOBAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2021**

SECTION 1. PROPOSAL BASIC INFORMATION.
Country: Kosovo
Proposal title: KOS-Green Action
Applicant organization name [<i>Name of lead applicant responsible for signing grant agreement</i>]: Balkan Green Foundation (BGF)
Proposal duration [<i>Around three years, estimated start date - end date</i>]: 3 years, September 2022 - August 2025
Legal status [<i>Describe type of legal status as a not-for-profit civil society organization in the country where the proposal will be implemented. For more information, see the FAQs</i>]: Non-Governmental Organization
Grant amount requested: 500,000.00 US Dollars
Organization's average total budget in the last three years in US Dollars: 468,000.00 US Dollars
Indicate share of funding amount requested as a % of the organizations' average total budget in the last three years [Not to exceed 50%] About 35% (per year)
Please confirm the grant amount requested as a share of your organization's total average budget in the last three years has been calculated using the national organization's annual audited financial statements only (and not to those of the organization's affiliates or partners around the world) BGF confirms that the grant amount requested as a share for our organization's total average budget in the last three years has been calculated using the national organization's annual audited financial statements. Please see the link: https://www.balkangreenfoundation.org/en-us/about/#audit-reports , for BGF's audit reports for previous years (2018, 2019, 2020).
Proven track record: please describe the organization's experience (at least 3 years) in the social accountability field, including past and ongoing projects, funding sources and website links if available. Please add any relevant information on your track record within the relevant thematic field. Marking eight years since its conception, Balkan Green Foundation (BGF), works to advocate

and promote sustainable development in Kosovo - and the Western Balkans - pushing forward initiatives that support social accountability efforts as well as develop policies and solutions, which are in line with the world's latest developments, global challenges and national agenda for EU integration on sustainable economic development, environmental protection, energy development, and climate change.

Through implementation of different projects, BGF enables an environment for professional cooperation among the different stakeholders and civic engagement through thematic dialogue events, networking activities, advocacy actions, and joint initiatives; engages in strengthening the role and capacities of public officials, civil society and other civic actors to address their needs and to contribute to environmental related planning and development processes through direct technical support, organizing webinars/workshops/trainings/study visits; building evidence, learning and publishing information through researched papers/roadmaps and infographics as well as leading thematic awareness raising campaigns.

Few of the activities in the last three years, are:

- In Dec. 2020, Balkan Green Foundation (BGF) accomplished implementation of a three-year project '*Empower – Engage – Build Ownership*' supported by the EU Office in Kosovo. The project enabled Kosovo's civil society sector to fulfill its role in the democratic environment by acting as independent interlocutors, monitoring public institutions, increasing accountability and transparency in policy development and decision-making processes regarding concerns of communities and civil society groups in environment preservation, green energy and sustainable economic growth.

The project improved skills and information-sharing capabilities of CSOs on policy monitoring, advocacy and campaigning on the targeted thematic priorities through trainings, mentoring actions; increased the incentive to improve participation of CSOs in policy making and policy implementation, advocacy and grassroots activities through funding organizations in the whole Kosovo; and increased citizens' awareness on sustainable development in Kosovo through supporting activities that especially promote environment preservation, green energy and sustainable economic growth.

- '*Multi-Actor Partnership (MAP)*' project was concluded last year too, was a project financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. MAP project tackled the transition of Kosovo's energy system and in particular, its electricity system, towards a more sustainable state, increasing the share of renewable energy, and improving local energy efficiency. The project effectively fostered a local multi-actor partnership as an ideal means to create resonance and support from key local actors, to develop their vision of a sustainable energy transition as a shared societal project. The project transferred knowledge amid key local actors and other experienced knowledge carriers from around Europe to enable Kosovo to leapfrog on lessons learned in implementing sustainable energy transitions and integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning. The core group of the project, which consisted of public officials, businesses, NGO representatives and the ones from academia, produced a Recommendations Paper which can be accessed from the following link:
https://www.balkangreenfoundation.org/uploads/files/2020/December/22/MAP_Rec_Eng_Final_Dec20201608628775.pdf.

- “Promoting and supporting the inclusion of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy sources in Kosovo’s energy mix” project was financed by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit).

A project focused to contribute to a better understanding among the general public and public officials of the benefits brought by investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in Kosovo; to advance the public dialogue, raise awareness on the importance of energy efficiency and seek effective ways to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources while at the same time advocating for green growth; as well as to advocate for green economy principles, energy savings and the speeding up of the adoption of policy measures in governmental strategies, administrative measures and academic papers through online campaigns and face-to-face advocacy actions.

Whereas some of the current long-term projects are:

- ‘Green Rural Deal’ is a project initiated between Balkan Green Foundation, Wuppertal Institute, Germanwatch, Regional Association of Local Government of Western Macedonia and RES Foundation, with support from European Climate Initiative (EUKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). The project aims to develop local capacities for a transition to a zero-carbon economy in three target regions: Western Macedonia (Greece), Kamenica (Kosovo), and Priboj (Serbia). The project centers on supporting and empowering municipalities in rural regions in the said countries in cooperation with German municipalities through local capacity building, peer-to-peer learning and co-creation of concrete projects. ‘Green Rural Deal’ will produce recommendations for each target region and work with core stakeholders in each region to co-create sustainable project strategies.

- ‘Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation for Transformative Environmental Action’, is a project supported by Heinrich Böll Foundation. Balkan Green Foundation is working with energy and environment relevant stakeholders (including Members of Parliament) to promote the Green Deal and advocate for cleaner and sustainable policies in the country. Accounting for the holistic and all-round approach of the project, actions are geared towards inspiring the need for change and steering the public towards green practices by stimulating discussion on environmental issues, but also involving new evidence-based educational component which aims to improve the awareness and knowledge of MP’s about the importance of the Green Deal, Energy, Environment and Climate issues and drawing up of comprehensive political representation on issues of sustainability, explore opportunities for the advancement of green policies in the country, whilst emphasizing the importance of environmental protection and improvement of public health.

- ‘Balkan Energy Prospect’ (<https://wb6energyprospect.com>) is among the tools created by Balkan Green Foundation, with the idea to represent an open, powerful, and informative platform for discovering and analyzing the key insights accentuating the capacities of each Western Balkans country in terms of their respective energy sectors. Ultimately, this platform was drafted with the idea to offer a brief yet comprehensive reflection of the developments in the energy sector in each of the 6 countries of the Western Balkans as part of the Energy Community Treaty.

References: please provide three contact persons that can provide references about your organization’s experience.

Reference 1

Name: Mia Vukojevic
Position: Director, Western Balkans Program
Organization: Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Email: mvukojevic@rbf.org

Reference 2

Name: Katja Witte
Position: Vice-Director and Co-Head of Research Unit Structural Change and Innovation
Organization: Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy
Email: katja.witte@wupperinst.org

Reference 3

Name: Dirk Buschle
Position: Deputy Director
Organization: Energy Community Secretariat
Email: Dirk.Buschle@energy-community.org

Proposal's partners. Include partner CSOs' names and any other types of Partners

Partner 1: Lëvizja FOL (FOL Movement)

Partner 2: Open Data Kosovo (ODK)

Estimated grant amount to be shared with proposal's partner CSOs if applicable

[indicate % or number]

The consortium is applying for a grant amount of \$ 500,000.00. The leading organization will transfer around 30% of the total budget to Open Data Kosovo (ODK) and around 30% of the total budget to FOL Movement, whereas around 40% of the total budget will be administered by the lead organization Balkan Green Foundation (BGF).

Indicate if the application is for a new or ongoing project.

If ongoing, please include project name, current budget, funding source(s), and weblink if available. If new, please briefly describe your existing funding sources, and how GPSA support will complement this funding.

This application is a new initiative/new project.

Applicant contact information.

Contact Name: Rinora Gojani
Position: Programmes and Operations Manager
Email: rinora.gojani@balkangreenfoundation.org
Phone Number (with country code): +383 49 728 019

SECTION 2. APPLICATION CONTENT.

1. **What is the proposal's objective?** The objective must describe the intended benefits to a specific community/group of people or organizations/institutional changes that are to be realized through one or more development interventions. Please apply SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time-bound) criteria. *[For more information, see the FAQs]*

The overall objective of this project is: To accelerate implementation of the Green Agenda through actions that support social accountability efforts and Civic Tech.

Specific objectives:

Specific Objective 1: To raise awareness through capacity building actions which will serve to increase the capacity of decision-makers, civil society organizations, media, and youngsters in Kosovo, to contribute to data driven decision-making, in line with EU Green Agenda.

Specific Objective 2: To foster the inclusion, networking and dialogue between public institutions, CSO's, media and citizens which will place the Green Agenda at the forefront of public interest.

Specific Objective 3: To engage stakeholders through an interactive digital platform on climate/energy related issues and to provide open data which allows the public to demand accountability and transparency of public institutions.

The development intervention of this proposal covers the following components: 1) informational and capacity-building activities; 2) monitoring of public institutions in their capacities to implement green agenda; 3) data-driven decision making; 4) providing digital solutions that include the public in the process; 5) entice individual behavioral change about climate issues.

The action will be:

Specific: This action will directly contribute to increased capacities of public officials, media, CSO and youth in general about climate issues. Furthermore, this action will set a standard of data-driven decision making by producing several reports/analysis/visualizations and open and machine-readable format datasets that will serve as a reference point in the efforts for transformation. Moreover, the action will support small scale renewables projects which will decrease the energy fossil fuel consumption which also leads to behavioral change.

Measurable: This action's intervention will be measured through number of legal initiatives in line with green agenda; number of public officials, CSOs participation in capacity-building activities, number of datasets produced, number of public officials engaged in public discussions; number of citizens, media and CSO who are engaged in policymaking; number of youths participated in youth debates.

Attainable: The project will set a new communication and data driven policy making standard, which will be inclusive not only to direct beneficiaries of the action but the community at large. The proposed action is attainable as it builds on the strengths of the consortium partners' specific capacities and strengths that can be further improved during the implementation phase of the action.

Realistic: The Action's overall objective is realistic as it is in line with the country context and the situational analysis on the ground, leaving space for initiatives contributing towards overall country development. Additionally, the Action will make use of the available datasets/resources

within public institutions, analyses from CSOs/media, to better portray, visualize and display the current situation of climate/energy issues in the country. What's more, the action's project activities are planned within a realistic and relevant timeline, allowing for a successful coordination and completion of each activity's intended aim. Behind the Action will be a group of experienced and knowledgeable individuals who have the skills and capabilities to lead and develop the Aciton's activities and steer the project towards overall success.

Time-bound: The action's activities are foreseen to be implemented in a period of three years in total, focusing on three main components: information, harmonization of national policies in alignment with EU Green Agenda, and data-driven decision making. While specific activities will be shorter in timespan, the overall project interventions guarantee that the impact is evaluated within the project duration. Considering the expertise of partner organizations involved, each activity has been designed bearing in mind the previous experience of each organization in delivering similar interventions.

2. **Outcome indicators.** Please define three key project-level results indicators that will measure the achievement of the proposal's development objective, as defined above. This type of indicators is intended to measure the uptake, adoption and use of outputs by the target group within the project period. You will be asked to develop a detailed results framework if the proposal is selected.

1. Increased number of citizens and public officials' knowledge about climate issues - One of the main components of this proposal is to inform citizens as well as public officials about climate issues, which in return leads to decision-making done by considering the impact on climate and environment in general. Furthermore, by increasing knowledge about climate issues and emphasizing the importance of climate issues, we empower citizens and journalists to become more demanding of accountability, transparency towards public institutions.

2. Identification and addressing of legal changes needed to harmonize national legislation with The Green Agenda - This proposal's overall aim is to create a better environment for the implementation of the Green Agenda. The only way to measure real success is the adaptation of proper legislation and legal incentives for institutions and people to "go green". Project partners will implement monitoring actions throughout the project and ensure that proper steps are taken by institutions to comply with targets and obligations within the Energy Community (EC) and identify bottlenecks in the processes. Harmonization of national legislation with The Green Agenda as per our project definition will monitor the number of laws changed/adopted/implemented in line with Energy Law Packages and meeting of targets as set by Energy Community Secretariat.

3. More available, user-friendly and standardized data about climate/energy issues for Kosovo - One of the most important aspects of this proposal is the treatment of the already-available data. Data that are currently readily available to the public are scattered, and as such, they will be gathered, treated, interpreted and presented in a user-friendly (interactive) way. This approach will provide a great opportunity to not only present the status quo, but also assist citizens, media, CSO's as well as public officials in making data-driven decisions.

3. **Briefly describe the country context and the institutional and sector contexts relevant to the proposal's objectives.** Why is this proposal important in the country? What is the government doing to address the above-mentioned challenges? Which

public sector institutions will use the project's feedback? If you have already engaged with these public sector institutions, please explain. How are you planning to engage with public sector institutions during the project?

In developing countries such as Kosovo, ameliorating and empowering citizens, civil society organizations and youth (in specific), remains an inevitable priority towards a full democratization of the country. Furthermore, the fact that Kosovo institutions are in an initiation action phase for climate and environmental protection, the need for an increased awareness about environmental and social implications amongst all stakeholders is a must.

Kosovo is highly dependent on fossil fuels for its energy needs, where about 85% of its energy derives from fossil fuel that are creating an unsustainable economic and environmental situation in the ground - delaying the process of abiding by the Green Agenda and hindering the country's commitments in achieving its international obligations as a member of the Energy Community Treaty. As such Kosovo needs to reduce its CO2 emissions, decarbonize the energy sector, and accelerate the energy transition process, as well as substantially increase its ambition to properly implement EU standards on different sectors. Administrative capacities need to be reinforced in all sectors. Strategies, action plans and legislation in these sectors need to be more consistent among themselves and with the principles and objectives of the Green Agenda.

The Government of Kosovo (GoK) has committed to decarbonization and alignment with the principles of energy transition. However, Kosovo's government lacks coordination among institutions, data-driven decision-making and data openness, as well the capacity to draft and implement policies in line with the Green Agenda.

GoK is working to address the identified challenges. The focus for this GoK around energy seems to be: security of supply, diversification of the energy mix and affordable and reliable energy. All these undertakings pose a real challenge and require additional assistance from all stakeholders due to limited capacities of public institutions to transpose and implement green packages.

The proposal is important for the country as it will accelerate the implementation of the Green Agenda, improve accountability, transparency, and good governance, empower youth, produce machine readable data and boost climate actions. Furthermore, this action will simultaneously increase civil society's contribution in offering positive pressure towards the public sector to reach Kosovo's international commitments. Due to multiple focuses by GoK, it is imperative that civil society and media conduct monitoring activities in not only ensuring transparency and accountability in the process, but also assisting public institutions in making data-driven decisions.

The main public institutions in the country to make use of the project's data and feedback in their work are the Ministry of Economy (ME) and the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MMPHI). Particularly, their use will be regarding the drafting and implementing of different strategies, regulations, and action plans by the institutions, with the aim of mitigating the environmental and climate impact.

All three organizations have a long experience in collaborating and assisting public institutions in several areas, such as: participating in different working groups, monitoring policy implementation and publishing results, capacity building and drafting policy guidelines, creating multi actor partnership platforms as well as engaging in public discussions.

For this project, the consortium will: 1. Conduct consultation meetings with public officials and public institutions in unfolding the project and request their active participation in the identified activities; 2. Maintain continuous contact with targeted beneficiaries; 3. Ensure constructive engagement of public officials and institutions in project implementation.

Such an approach is proposed due to the current GoK needs and constraints around green agenda. This topic is a top priority for Kosovo in the next 10 years, and is directly related to environment, energy security and development. Providing a digital platform that is interactive, offers a wide range of resources which assists GoK officials and institutions to increase multi-stakeholder engagement. This platform facilitates for GoK officials, institutions, civil society, media and citizens in general, to easier access information, better understand the status quo, get updated data on climate issues, and at the same time, monitor the actions being taken by GoK in thematic areas of the project.

The Action foresees the public institutions engagement through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This partnership will cover agreement on the main aspects that require public institution's cooperation in alignment with proposed interventions. This approach harvests best and successful practices used by the three partners in delivering and reaching the overall objectives specifically targeting climate issues as per the aims of the call.

The overall approach of the project is based on stakeholder engagement on all activities, and our data produced will be addressed in cooperation with public officials through green forums, conferences, stakeholder meetings, as well as visibility actions such as TV debate and podcasts. Furthermore, our data will be sent to different sectors including Parliamentary Commission meetings (based on the agenda of parliamentary commission meetings, project partners will produce white-papers and data derived from the project, and sent to all commission members), Energy Community Secretariat (Analysis reports sent to ECS), local consultation meetings (in targeted municipalities), and participate in the drafting of the Action Plan within the Energy Strategy of Kosovo 2022-2031.

4. **Beneficiaries.** Describe the proposal's primary and secondary beneficiaries. How will the proposal benefit poor and vulnerable groups (children, women, marginalized groups, disabled people, people living with HIV, etc.)? Will you carry out any specific activities to better understand and address these groups' needs and gaps? Please explain how).

The action's primary beneficiaries are public officials, CSO's, media and youth.

Public Officials: through capacity-building and different research initiatives, public officials can make data-based decisions and more appropriate policy-making. For the purpose of the project, targeted public officials consist of ministers of the respective ministries, technical officials, general secretaries within ministries, office of the Prime Minister, specifically with the Office of Good Governance, office of the President, local public officials including mayors and department heads, members of Parliament, and independent agency representatives.

CSO's and Media – this project targets CSOs as well as media organizations by providing accurate and timely analysis about the government's performance in energy transition (green

agenda as well as engagement of citizens on public dialogue on the importance of green agenda and energy transition.

Youth – This proposal puts an emphasis in working with youth through various forms of information activities, capacity-building, civic engagement and advocacy. In particular, this proposal targets youth from rural areas and across Kosovo.

The action's secondary beneficiaries are the general public, minorities, women and low-income families

General public: through increased access to information and processes, citizens become agents of change by requiring more transparency, accountability, and stakeholder mobilization. Particularly in rural areas that are strongly affected by climate change, especially those that rely on agriculture, as they are affected by floods, droughts, wildfires and erosion.

Marginalized and vulnerable groups - through our project outputs, a specific focus will be given to the needs of: minorities, women, rural and poor communities, children, and health-sensitive individuals.

5. **What is the proposal's geographic scope?** If it is both national and sub-national, please explain and provide information that will help us to understand the proposal's geographic scope in relation to the country's total population and administrative/political organization.

This proposal's geographical scope is at the national level, covering the seven administrative regions of Kosovo.

The consortium will implement two sets of activities in terms of its geographic scope:

1. Policy-oriented activities

In terms of the proposal's overall focus, national policy-making and systemic changes are targeted. This includes policy papers produced, analysis and other research activities, data gathered and the establishment of an online platform - all contribute to the overall national policy-making.

2. Engagement-oriented activities

The second approach targets information activities, partnerships in data-gathering and awareness-raising activities, as well as youth engagement through debate programs all target 7 administrative regions of Kosovo and inclusion of people from rural areas. An emphasis is given to youth inclusion due to the fact that around 65% of the population of Kosovo (approximately 2 million), consist of youth under the age of 30.

6. **Proposal's description.** Please describe the proposed collaborative social accountability approach [See FAQs for additional guiding questions about collaborative social accountability] Be as clear as possible about how the GPSA's support will add value or make a difference to the support you're already receiving from other donors.

This action's collaborative social accountability uses a one-stop shop approach to engage all stakeholders within a digital platform. This approach ensures that all information regarding climate issues will be easily accessible, progress/regress will be easily measured, while

addressing specific issues by citizens towards public institutions can be easily achieved through projects' different open discussions platforms (forums, conferences and green talks).

Moreover, the action will provide numerous activities for co-creation between public institutions, CSO's, businesses/associations, trade unions, media and academia. These activities consist of: multi-stakeholder MoU, data training, podcasts, storytelling with data.

The proposed partnership is based on skills and expertise of Kosovo's leading organizations for thematic (energy, environment and climate) issues, monitoring organizations and civic tech organizations.

The main added value of this action and the element that differentiates it from previous efforts, is that the consortium uses a symbiotic approach of using the members of the consortium strong points and comparative advantages in their respective fields of work, mobilizes the public sector and society as a whole, build capacities under the guidance of professionals (national and international experts), to tackle environmental and climate issues by using a data driven approach, to provide data driven policy making, etc.

To be able to strengthen the impact of the action, each of the main activities is specifically designed to interlink and complement each other within the implementation phase. For instance, public officials, CSO's and media representatives will be jointly trained and assisted to deliver and monitor policies and actions which ensure social accountability towards a greener Kosovo.

This project implements a collaborative social accountability mechanism to ensure an inclusive participatory approach and combined efforts to work towards a greener Kosovo.

Project activities are designed in a way that take into account multi-stakeholders' perspectives in targeting local issues regarding the green agenda. Through monitoring activities, discussion forums, capacity building activities, and shifting of the public discourse towards solution-oriented approach, the project directly contributes to the creation of cooperation/collaboration mindset among different target groups. The duration of the project also emphasizes the need for all stakeholders to better understand and act in advancing the green agenda, and aligning their interventions towards the same goal.

The projects' mechanism takes into account the following logic:

The more informed public officials, the better public policies in line with the Green Agenda are in place. The more informed and empowered media and civil society, the more transparent and accountable public institutions are in their actions. The more data gathered and used in policy-making, the more relevant (and responsive) policies and actions take place. The more informed youth and citizens in general, the more pro-green actions are taken by individual citizens.

- 7. Components & Activities.** Please define the proposal's main components and under each component the main planned activities. Briefly explain the logic behind the proposed implementation design and sequence. Please note that all GPSA-supported projects include one Knowledge & Learning component

The designing of this proposal has been based on cooperation and learning from stakeholders involved. Our approach ensures that inputs gathered from research activities are then discussed on a broader spectrum of stakeholders, while specific components such as capacity building, and advocacy solely focus on drawing from other people's experiences/knowledge.

The whole project is foreseen to contribute to the social accountability of Kosovo's Green Agenda. Activities will secure transparency, participation and monitoring of relevant institutions on their progress towards reaching targets and objectives.

The proposal's components and activities are elaborated below:

First Component

The first component of the project will focus on actions that will assess the situation and set ground for activities that will develop the social accountability interventions throughout the project.

Firstly, the consortium will conduct research actions on thematic issues, perform stakeholder mapping and engage with each as well as conduct one-on-one meetings with the main identified stakeholders. Furthermore, this component will serve as a needs assessment as well as a baseline for further project interventions which will assist in providing clear perspective on the aimed changes to be achieved as a result of project activities.

Activities:

Activity 1: Sectoral Overview Analysis - The project will produce three (3) analyses in total. The first analysis will focus on the new "Energy Strategy of Kosovo 2022-2030"¹ and the "Climate Change Strategy of Kosovo 2019-2028" and its alignment with the EU's Green Agenda which will set the baseline for assessing the progress done with two other analyses of the project. The other two (2) analyses will be published in each consecutive year, analyzing the developments in the sector and focusing on specific key issues and their developments as identified by the project. The analyses will be published in the 'Green Forum' activity which will gather main stakeholders. All research work will be followed with infographics and video animations that will depict main points that need to be understood by the general public.

Activity 2: MoU - A memorandum of understanding (MoU) with public institutions and all key stakeholders involved in the project will be officially signed. The MoU will serve as the basis for cooperation during the project implementation phase, in the form of a Multi-Actor Partnership. The MoU will be a single document that will be jointly signed, after the initial research and analysis and a stakeholder mapping will be done. The MoU will ensure commitment of project partners based on first stakeholder meetings and activities and will define key commitments to the project. The signatories of the MoU will be public institutions such as line ministries such as the Ministry of Environment Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, with the relevant departments such as: Department of Environmental Protection and Water will be engaged. For more relevant state agencies, independent national institutions such as ERO (Energy Regulatory Office), CSOs relevant to the sector, Experts, association of business, trade-unions and renewable energy and academia, will be engaged. Hydrometeorological Institute, Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency, Transmission and Distribution Operators such as KOSTT and KEDS, as well as Energy Efficiency Fund, are some of the other stakeholders identified to

¹ The "Energy Strategy of Kosovo 2017-2026" is being changed with the new "Energy Strategy of Kosovo 2022-2030" which is currently being drafted, and it will be finished by the time the project will commence.

be included in the MoU.

Activity 3: Launching conference - The aim of this event is to present the aims and objectives of the project. A memorandum of understanding with public institutions will be officially signed at this event and the digital platform concept will be presented too.

Second Component

The second component of the project will focus on actions that make use and implement on a larger scale social accountability mechanisms designed and piloted within the scope of the first component of this project, and enhance interventions that mobilize most important stakeholders in delivering coordinated and data-driven decisions.

This component aims to create platforms for engagement between all identified stakeholders, such as: government agencies and officials, media, civil society organizations, local level representatives, activists, youth and citizens in general. The continuous collaboration and exchange of information will enable the mobilization of the identified strategic partners and stakeholders in supporting the project's success.

Activities:

Activity 1: Engaging targeted groups to learn and exchange on the green agenda and identified issues through training series

A1.1: Trainings - Each year data training will be delivered to selected public officials, CSOs and media representatives. Data is a key asset of the digital economy, therefore providing training and information will allow them to fully exploit its innovative potential and provide all participants with the proficient skills to work with data. The series of training will adapt its content continuously to the identified needs by the project and its key partners.

Whilst, media focused training will focus on improving their knowledge on climate related issues and how to make climate issues more relevant in the public discourse, and how to use the platform in creating data-driven journalistic pieces. Selected journalists will then be engaged in producing several different content materials - named: storytelling with data - targeting climate issues, energy and cover main components deriving from our project activities. This action will support the promotion of the platform to be created and ensure the mobilization of a core group of journalists to sustain the project actions beyond its duration.

A1.2: Debates with youth - Will use formal debate format to debate "green-themed" topics and will also challenge policy-makers, weekend academies where youth from different regions of Kosovo will come together to produce youth resolutions on selected "green-themed" committee topics, and the participation in national debate tournaments as the final activity. Furthermore, the winning team will receive a small grant for installing solar panels in their schools.

Activity 2: Media promoting dialogue and space for monitoring and improving the implementation of the Green Agenda

A2.1: Green Talks and Forums - Each year, Green Talks and Green Forums gather public officials, CSO's, businesses, trade unions and academia in a setting where they can share

experiences, network, identify needs of the sector and discuss future actions which improve the situation on the ground.

A2.2: Production and dissemination of visual materials - The project foresees producing video animations and infographics which will visually present results of project activities and also serve as an awareness raising tool. These actions will utilize social network channels and other media platforms for wider reach.

A2.3: Discussion Channels - TV debates and Podcasts. TV debates will be held in different national tv stations, during the project implementation period covering climate and energy issues targeted by this proposal. Whilst, podcasts will invite different personalities such as assembly members, public officials in targeted ministries, civil society activists and other stakeholders to discuss issues that we target through our research activities. Each series will be recorded and posted on the platform and all social media platforms of project partners.

A2.4: Online Digital Platform - Will be the main source of information that will include all outputs of this proposal. This platform will serve as a one-stop-shop for information, legal framework, interaction of citizens with the state, access to raw datasets about climate and energy as well as an interactive approach to understanding data. Utilization of this platform will be harvested by the general public, public officials, CSOs, students as well as media representatives by finding research papers, video-animations simplifying data, articles and other journalistic pieces about the energy and climate, applicable legislation regarding climate and energy, as well as monitoring reports extracted by research activities of this proposal.

A2.5: “Ask the state” - is an integrated feature within the platform that guides users to submit Freedom of Information (Fol) and/or public documents through an easy and interactive way. Random citizens do not have the knowledge to compile an official request or lack information where to address those requests. “Ask the state” is an easy option to ask specific questions via the platform directly to line Ministries in order to gather information and ask directly questions in regard to energy, climate and environmental issues. This will be done through the “Ask the state” option, incorporated within the digital platform, which will be an automation/digitalization of the procedure for requesting official documents and information, while also tracking the responses of public institutions. Cooperation with line ministries will be stated in the MoU signed on activity 3.1. Moreover, a video animation will be produced in order to provide explanation on the platform usage for the broader audience, whilst also promoting the platform in general. A similar platform has been developed (www.fragdenstaat.de) which will serve as an inspiration.

Activity 3: Designing advocacy and co-development of solutions to address the identified issues linked to the implementation of the green agenda through solutions-oriented multi-stakeholder dialogue.

A3.1: Datathons - Will gather youngsters to learn on the usage of technological solutions and the usage of data in advancing the Green Agenda in Kosovo. Project partners in cooperation with government institutions will identify themes and pressing data gaps to be addressed. Teams of datathons will be guided from the facilitators and given assistance in certain time periods. A selected jury will award the most creative solution, which will be published on the platform and will be used as a point of reference for the recommendations to follow. Furthermore, the winning team will receive a small grant for installing solar panels in their

schools.

A3.2: Table-top exercise - will be conducted with local council members, local government officials, local civil society organizations and media, to produce a guideline aiming at providing a legal approach and practical approach on how to protect their local ecosystem. Through case studies, participants will lay out steps citizens, media, CSO representatives and local officials can take in order to mobilize and protect specific areas (such as rivers, parks, arable land, etc.). The guideline will be published on the platform and distributed to all local and national institutions/officials.

A3.3: Storytelling with data - Over the course of training written pieces (articles, blogs) will be written that will convey central insights from the thematic priorities of the project, employing cutting-edge approaches. The articles will be produced in partnership with investigative journalists coming from media outlets that boast the highest quality of investigative journalism in Kosovo. The activity will enable transfer of knowledge and skills that will further improve the quality of reporting and its impact, and will be a pioneering contribution to the development of impactful data journalism in Kosovo.

A3.4: Marking world international days - Three (3) world international days in total are foreseen to be marked during the project implementation. These will include a one-day campaign, fair, event, street action and media appearances.

Third Component

The third component of the project will focus on monitoring, evaluation and learning systems needed for the external audience as well as internal management of the project.

This component will monitor different green-related strategies, available data/resources and produce data, analysis and recommendations to be used as the basis for podcasts, green talks and other communication actions. The aim of this component is informing the public on the current status quo regarding the legislation in place, gaps and loopholes, and existing mechanisms that can be utilized by the public for advancing the green agenda. Furthermore, this component will also help the managing staff in adapting interventions and approach based on the findings of this component.

Activities:

Activity 1: Monitoring Actions - Throughout the project, the consortium will constantly monitor, evaluate and assess implementation of regulations and action plans associated with the energy and climate sector. Throughout the project duration, all available data from the climate and energy sector will be gathered and visualized, while in cases where data is missing, this proposal seeks to advocate for creation of new sustainable practices of data gathering and easily readable data published. These actions will feed the consortium with the main inputs that will serve in advocacy actions. Information from this activity will serve in identifying 'podcast' themes, focusing the 'research' work and 'green forums', as well as treat them from different stakeholder perspectives with 'green talks'.

8. Sustainability. In which ways will the proposed implementation approach be

sustained overtime, after the project's closing? Please also explain how the approach will be expanded or scaled up.

This proposal has been designed with sustainability in mind. This approach offers a multi-stakeholder engagement in different activities that ultimately lead to long-lasting partnerships, applying digital solutions to information and awareness raising that is accessible from everyone, while also pushing for data-based decision making by providing research activities as well as advocating for more accessible datasets. At the same time, this proposal directly increases capacities of public officials, institutions, media, CSO representatives and youth with a new mindset, leading to behavioral changes of the general population.

Even after the project's closing, the actions and deliverables from the project would have contributed to the transfer of new knowledge, enabling crucial evidence-based practices around digital participation, transparency and accountability. This project foresees that the established online platform will continue to be hosted by the partner organization and will be administered by each partner organization on a continuous basis for a timeline of two years. The project will be a stepping stone towards increasing trust between the public sector, CSOs and the general public, closing the gap between institutional politics and grassroots democracy. The project will have contributed in enhancing cooperation among relevant stakeholders, extending the green public sphere for participation, and in turn reshaping the power relations in environmental politics. The project will strengthen the government's social accountability and transparency to accelerate the process of green transition in Kosovo and accelerate the implementation of the Green Agenda.

Many developed countries and mainly major world economies are heading towards the future of digital technology, which simultaneously contributes in setting inter sectoral partnerships, in improving openness and transparency, and also engaging citizens in the process of social accountability. EU Member States, Norway and Iceland have signed a A Green and Digital Transformation declaration to deploy and invest in more *green digital technologies* to accelerate the green and digital transitions for the benefit of the environment.² This is a testament of the commitment of the countries across the EU to fulfill key commitments from the Green Agenda, where the smart use of digital technologies presents to be paramount in optimizing resources, shaping inter-sectoral cooperation, and promoting active citizenship. In this wave of change, Kosovo cannot be a spectator.

This proposal also aligns with the Kosovo government initiative to join Open Government Partnership (OGP) considering that two out of the four pillars that the Government of Kosovo foresees to tackle in the National Action Plan will be digital governance and open data. As such considering that the action will tackle all these important factors, among others, its sustainability will be guaranteed. The development of the digital solution within the project will be a sustainable tool for the future of Kosovo, having a database which inevitably will strengthen the government's capacity in making data-based decisions in environmental changes, and open the door to new modes of environmental management. Also, it will be a sustainable tool which will make environmental data accessible to the public and facilitate civic engagement in the long run, will allow for the development of studies/researches etc., and coordination of multiparty collaborations, adequately presenting the current environmental situation.

Moreover, considering that the project will work closely with the youth all around Kosovo, the

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/eu-countries-commit-leading-green-digital-transformation>

benefits of educating new generations to think 'green' and make the best use of technological tools, are significant and vital for a developing country like Kosovo. The project will serve to empower future sustainability leaders through education, using the advantages of technology for good, and hereby contribute to shaping the mindsets of youth on the importance of a sustainable future for their respective communities. Through project activities, and most importantly also when the project is due, the project partners envision to set the pathway for the youth to grasp the importance of digitalization in advocating towards climate resilience – whilst catalyzing change and propelling communities, governmental institutions, CSOs, media etc, towards progressive sustainability goals.

Establishing the principles of civic oversight in the environmental sphere will set the pathway for the country in approximating itself to European Union countries, and will set forward the transformative potential of intersectoral cooperation and civic tech to enable new forms of civic engagement. The sustainability of the action will be ensured considering that the activities as a whole are built on educating the community, building support and transparency among key stakeholders of the project and others, challenging social norms, and bolstering citizens' voices to advocate for community and institutional accountability in the future. The project, after it is overdue, will set the principle of putting civic engagement first, putting people at the center of environmental work in the country, so that they have roles as proactive change agents.

The platform will remain in project partners' possession, as the platform will continue to contribute to the three organizations' missions to bring better access to information. Each organization will administer the platform in a continuous cycle for a timeframe of two years (respectively).

Project partners have developed several platforms (eg. prokurimihapur.org, wb6energyprospect.com and <https://thefutureworkplace.org/en/home>) but there is no similar platform in Kosovo as the one proposed. The new platform will serve as a hub of information which will also contribute to a change of approach of citizens, who will be more demanding towards public institutions. By doing so, it is aimed to complement and improve similar state-run platforms existent to date. As such, it is envisioned to promote the proposed platform and entice citizen engagement; include multiple stakeholders; monitor and evaluate feedback from the citizens received; and operate with a citizen-centric approach (i. e. user-friendly design, etc.).

9. **Risks.** Please identify and briefly describe the main risks to achieving the proposal's objectives. Risk types include but are not limited to: political/governance, macroeconomic, sector strategies and policies, technical design of project, institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability, fiduciary, environment and social, and stakeholders. Please describe all that apply. For each type of risk, please include 1-2 sentences with the measures proposed for mitigating it.

Political Instability in Kosovo:

The lack of stability regarding the central governance in the country (snap-elections) affects the workflow of the respective institutions responsible for the implementation of the national actions regarding the Green Agenda. Political Instability might impact the commitments of the institutions regarding the Green Agenda. As such this might potentially affect the project activities as included in the objective of this project proposal.

Mitigation measures: this proposal mainly covers civil servants/technical staff and their mandate, and it is not dependent on political stability overall.

COVID-19 pandemic:

The pandemic as such can affect the implementation of the activities planned to occur in person, i.e., the capacity building activities, Datathons, and other activities which require in-field visits.

Mitigation measures: In case that physical restrictions may be imposed due to COVID, then online adaptation to such activities will take place.

Lack of Commitment/Cooperation from the Stakeholders:

The goal of the proposed project brings together the shared interest of different stakeholders from the country engaged in implementing the Green Agenda. Withdrawal of interest, lack of commitment, and support from the identified stakeholders of this project, affects the quality of results.

Mitigation measures: The consortium of partner organizations responsible for implementing the proposed project will utilize its positive partnerships with the identified stakeholders of this project, to maintain a positive and sustainable partnership with them.

Change of the Project Staff:

Considering that the initial project staff might not remain the same throughout the implementation period of the project, and new staff is required to be engaged, this transition could cause a low risk regarding the deliverables in the expected timeline.

Mitigation Measure: Change of staff is inevitable, so immediate replacement by the internal staff is planned to take place in a similar scenario.

10. Institutional and implementation arrangements. Please explain the proposal's implementation scheme, including each implementation partners' main roles and responsibilities. Provide 1-2 sentences about the partner(s) organization's experience. Please indicate how are you planning to engage with public sector institutions during project implementation, including collaboration/cooperation arrangements. Please also describe Sequencing of activities as planned.

This proposal has been designed based on the expertise of three coalition partner organizations with complimentary aspects.

Balkan Green Foundation (BGF) is one of the leading organizations in Kosovo who has a specific focus on green issues and has a team that produces highest quality research and through their expertise in green issues and advocacy actions, have managed to put green issues at the forefront of public's interest as well as policymakers.

In this aspect, BGF will be the leading organization in this proposal. Through research activities, analysis and other content produced by BGF through advocacy actions will be used in all other activities then implemented by partner organizations. BGF's role will be content quality assurance across all activities, and stakeholder engagement for the targeted priority thematic areas of the project.

Levizja FOL (FOL) is one of the oldest organizations in Kosovo that specializes in institutional transparency, monitoring and working with public institutions in becoming more transparent, and accountable. In this project, FOL's experience in monitoring the work of public institutions and seeking transparent institutions over the years will be valuable in pushing forward policies, recommendations driving from the work of BGF. Furthermore, capacity-building with public officials' activities as well as cooperation with public institutions will be FOL's role in this project.

Open Data Kosovo (ODK) is one of the few organizations in Kosovo whose primary focus is using civic-tech and digital humanitarianism to open government. Accessibility to government data, ICT-educated youth, and active citizenship lie at the heart of ODK's mission. The role of ODK will be to provide their expertise in data-driven activities, more specifically Datathons with youngsters, capacity building activities as well as the development of the user-friendly platform where all the products of the proposal will be published.

This proposal includes cooperation with public institutions and inclusion of public officials in project activities. To set the scene for cooperation, we will initially sign MoUs laying out the main activities that require institutional cooperation and involvement of public officials. This proposal's main components that require input from public institutions include research and analysis activities, capacity building for public officials, participation of public officials in different forums, discussions, roundtables, conferences, as well as different promotion and outreach activities. On the receiving end, public institutions and public officials will be the main target of this proposal's advocacy activities.

Furthermore, this project foresees establishing a steering committee (with three representatives) consisting of a government representative, a GPSA representative, and Kosovo donor community.

11. **Budget.** Describe the proposal's main types of expenses, including estimated breakdown for each component by category and a brief explanation. If the proposal is pre-selected, you will be asked to prepare a detailed budget.

For each component, please break down the expenses in the following categories:

a. Project management & personnel

The staff included in this project will consist of seven (7) people who will be involved throughout the implementation phase of the project. Three of the engaged persons will be from the lead organization thus consisting of one (1) Project Manager, one (1) Project Coordinator and one (1) Finance Manager, while the rest of the four (4) remaining persons will be engaged by two partner organizations which consist of two (2) Project Coordinators and two (2) Finance Assistant per each partner organizations respectively. Project Coordinators will deliver their duties in the period of full time while the rest of the staff's engagement is going to be for a part-time period. The total amount of the Personnel budget line will not exceed 35% of the total budget.

b. Training/capacity development

Capacity building for public officials, CSO representatives, Media and youth - which include data training and green agenda forums, datathons, debate programs and their prizes - takes about 15% of the total project budget.

c. Consultancies (individual and firms/organizations)

Experts hired for delivering services within specific actions encompass about 30% of the total budget of this action. Expenses involve project branding, visibility actions, communications, research work, trainers, database developers, etc.

d. Goods & services

Goods and services (office rent, equipment use, office supplies, space rental for activities, transportation, communication costs, audit cost, etc.) for the project are estimated to be about 20% of the total budget of the project.

e. Amount transferred to partner CSO(s)

The leading organization will transfer around 30% of the total budget to Open Data Kosovo (ODK), as well as around 30% of the total budget to FOL Movement, whereas around 40% of the total budget will be administered by the lead organization Balkan Green Foundation (BGF).

12. Project team. Please provide a brief description of the team behind this proposal, including if you already have identified the future project director or manager, and other key positions, time dedication and main responsibilities. If there are positions yet to be recruited, please indicate so. Also explain your expectations in terms of distribution of labor and coordination with any partner CSO(s).

The team behind the drafting of this proposal included the management staff from each partner organization, with differing expertise and perspectives which hence enabled the exchange of knowledge and leveraging individual strengths in delivering a complete proposal. The key management staff from the lead partner organization, Balkan Green Foundation, was part of the writing team, sharing their expertise in climate/energy issues, and on the overall proposal writing process. While FOL's projects manager provided insights and expertise in transparency and accountability of public institution. Moreover, from the following partner organization, Open Data Kosovo, part of the team behind the proposal were the management of the organization, providing insights on the importance of intertwining the data-driven solutions and civic tech component within the proposal - hence, strengthening the concept of the Action as a whole. Throughout the project writing phase, all the involved staff members continuously held online and in-person meetings to discuss the project concept, discussed potential challenges, with the aim of delivering a complete project application.

The Project Manager will work towards the successful implementation of the project activities by fulfilling all the objectives and the results of the project. They will be the main point of contact for communicating various aspects of the project to partner organizations and the donor. The Project Manager will ensure that issues related to the scope, budget, resource allocation, etc., are resolved effectively to keep the project on track.

Project Coordinators will contribute to project activities and assist the project manager with the coordination of resources, meetings, and information. They will maintain and monitor the project plan, schedule, and budget, organize, organize project activities, stakeholder meetings, prepare necessary presentation materials, and ensure project deadlines are met. In addition, the Project Coordinators will ensure all project documentation is maintained appropriately.

The Finance Manager will manage and oversee the overall financial aspect of the project. S/he will prepare and supervise the project's financial plan, provide financial analysis, and assist the team in completing the project on budget. The Finance Manager will also oversee the Finance Assistants by delegating certain tasks and providing any help and guidance when needed.

The Finance Assistants will assist the Finance Manager in ensuring the project follows budget lines. Additionally, they will also collect and record financial information, prepare invoices and

receipts, run financial reports, provide cost-benefit analysis, etc.