

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



GRANTS

Amplifying Local Voices
for Equitable Development





Grants Scheme

Call for Applications

1. Introduction

All communities in Kosovo are concerned about the same quality of life issues: employment opportunities for themselves and their family members, the availability of quality services, safety and security, and access to clean air, water, and a natural environment, to name a few. The Covid19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing socio-economic vulnerability in Kosovo and the region while simultaneously straining scarce public resources, thereby widening the gap between the needs of citizens and the capacities of authorities to fulfil those needs.

According to a survey commissioned by PIN in 2020 in five Kosovo municipalities,¹ slightly over half (53%) of respondents believe that municipal authorities make enough/some efforts to meet their needs as citizens. Nonetheless, one-third of respondents (33%) state that municipal authorities do not do enough, while 12 percent believe they do not do anything at all to meet their needs. Broken down by community, 39% of Kosovo Serbs believe that municipal authorities make enough/some efforts to meet their needs; that figure is 61% for respondents from the Kosovo Albanian community, and 71% for members of other communities.

Civil society has a vital role to play in acting as agents of change at the local level by raising awareness among both citizens and local authorities of the needs, rights, and service entitlements of all citizens and creating linkages between citizens and local authorities. Those civil society actors operating at the grassroots level have particular insight into the needs of residents at the local level, and to what extent local authorities successfully meet those needs.

With a view to bridging the demand for local services with their availability and delivery, **this grant scheme seeks to support local-level initiatives that engage with local residents, particularly those from the Kosovo Serb community, and/or advocate with or support municipal structures in Leposavić/Leposaviq, Pejë/Peć, or Štrpce/Shtërpçë to:**

- 1) enhance residents' access to municipal services, or**
- 2) improve the quality of municipal services.**

This grant scheme complements awareness raising activities targeting local residents as well as capacity building opportunities for grassroots civil society actors taking place in the target municipalities under the auspices of the project, "Amplifying Local Voices for Equitable Development" - a British government-funded project running from September 2020 through August 2022. By linking citizens' needs to municipal service planning and delivery through

¹ Gjilan/Gnjilane, Lipjan/Lipljane, Leposavić/Leposaviq, Pejë/Peć, and Štrpce/Shtërpçë.



targeted activities and grant funding, this project aims to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness in the delivery of municipal services, thereby improving the lives of all inhabitants of the target municipalities.

Established in 1992, People in Need (PIN) is a non-governmental, non-profit, international organization registered in the Czech Republic providing humanitarian assistance and implementing development projects focused on transition to democracy, support of civil society and good governance, and addressing poverty and social exclusion in more than 30 countries around the world.

This grant scheme is supported by the UK Government's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF).

2. Description of the grant scheme

a. Objective of the grant scheme

This grant scheme seeks to support local-level initiatives that engage with local residents, particularly those from the Kosovo Serb community, and/or advocate with or support municipal structures in Leposavić/Leposaviq, Pejë/Peć, or Štrpce/Shtërpçë to:

- 1) enhance residents' access to municipal services, or
- 2) improve the quality of municipal services.

b. Types of initiatives that we are seeking to support

Through the engagement of local residents, other civil society actors, and local authorities, proposed local-level initiatives should achieve the objective as described above, focusing on access to or quality of those municipal services which fall under the following selected municipal own and delegated competencies, as defined by the Law Nr. 03/L-040 on Local Self-Government: <https://mapl.rks-gov.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Law-On-Local-Self-Government.pdf>

Own competencies:²

- a) local economic development;
- e) local environmental protection;
- f) provision and maintenance of public services and utilities, including water supply, sewers and drains, sewage treatment, waste management, local roads, local transport, and local heating schemes;
- g) local emergency response;
- h) provision of public pre-primary, primary and secondary education, including registration and licensing of educational institutions, recruitment, payment of salaries and training of education instructors and administrators;

² Article 17, Own Competencies



- i) promotion and protection of human rights;
- j) provision of public primary health care;
- k) provision of family and other social welfare services, such as care for the vulnerable, foster care, child care, elderly care, including registration and licensing of these care centres, recruitment, payment of salaries and training of social welfare professionals;
- l) public housing;
- m) public health;
- n) licensing of local services and facilities, including those related to entertainment, cultural and leisure activities, food, lodging, markets, street vendors, local public transportation and taxis;
- p) provision and maintenance of public parks and spaces;
- q) tourism;
- r) cultural and leisure activities.

Delegated competencies:³

- b) civil registries;
- f) forestry protection on the municipal territory within the authority delegated by the central authority, including the granting of licenses for the felling of trees on the basis of rules adopted by the Government.

All project activities should target residents of or municipal services provided by one or more of the three target municipalities and activities should take place in one or more of these municipalities, unless travel to another municipality is necessary for a specific project activity.

Applications seeking support for small business development, direct aid to residents, or direct delivery of services by civil society or non-state actors will not be considered for funding.

c. Eligibility

This call for proposals is open to CSOs registered under the domestic legislation, applying singly or in partnership with other CSOs, informal groups, or citizens' initiatives.

Importantly:

- If the applicant is a single CSO (i.e., not applying in partnership with any other CSO, informal group, citizens' initiative, etc.), the applicant must be a registered CSO under the domestic legislation and based in Leposavić/Leposaviq, Pejë/Peć, or Štrpce/Shtërpçë.
- If the applicant is applying in partnership with other CSOs, informal groups, or citizens' initiatives, the lead applicant must be a registered CSO under the domestic legislation and at least one partner must be based in Leposavić/Leposaviq, Pejë/Peć, or Štrpce/Shtërpçë. (In such cases, the lead applicant or other partners may be based in other parts of Kosovo.)

³ Article 18, Delegated Competencies



The following types of CSOs, associations, informal groups, or citizens' initiatives are particularly encouraged to apply:

- run by or representing women;
- run by or representing the Kosovo Serb community;
- run by or representing persons with special needs/disabilities.

Applications submitted by public administration institutions, State institutions, State agencies, local authorities, regional authorities, political parties, or organizations affiliated with political parties are not eligible for this call.

d. Funding limitations

Funding for any individual grant shall not exceed **EUR 25,000**.

e. Eligible expenditures

Eligible costs are actual costs incurred by the selected grantee which meet the following criteria:

- They are incurred during the implementation period of the project;
- They are indicated in the estimated overall budget of the project;
- They are necessary for the implementation of the project;
- They are identifiable and verifiable (supported by all accounting and other support documents);
- They are reasonable, justified, and comply with the requirements of sound financial management.

f. Co-funding

The applicant is not requested to provide co-funding.

g. Non-eligible expenditures

Expenditures that cannot be covered under this grant scheme are as follows:

- Repayment of borrowings/debts;
- Repayment of future expenses – salaries/fees, rent;
- Retroactive activities (costs related to activities implemented prior to signing the grant agreement);
- Purchase of land or property;
- Financing of undertaken obligations (for example-activities funded by other sources);
- Margins on staff costs;
- Personal expenses;
- Purchase of IT equipment for the applicant;
- Donation of goods to beneficiaries;
- Infrastructure projects (constructing roads, bridges, buildings, etc.);
- Political or religious activities;



- Environmentally harmful projects;
- Unless directly attributable to the programme, advocacy and campaigning, marketing and communications, policy, retainer fees, capital expenditure, land, bank charges and insurance (unless, by exception, explicitly agreed in writing in advance);
- Activities which discriminate against any group on the basis of age, gender reassignment, disability, race, colour, ethnicity, sex and sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief.

h. Duration of grant

The project may last up to **6 months**.

3. Application process and timeline

Step	Date
On-line informative session in Albanian and Serbian in Zoom at this link: http://bit.ly/ALVEDGrantsInfo	1 June, 11:00
Submission of application packages to PIN to the following e-mail address: alved.grants@peopleinneed.cz	By 17 June
Pre-selected applicants contacted by PIN	By 16 July
Announcement of final list of recipients	By 20 August

Applications can be submitted in Serbian, Albanian, or English. Applicants should submit the completed application package (Annexes 1, 2, and 3, plus the other requested documentation listed in Annex 3).

Please follow People in Need Kosovo on Facebook for further announcements and updates!
<https://www.facebook.com/PINKosovo>

4. Evaluation criteria

All submitted applications will be evaluated by transparent and impartial evaluation committees made up of staff from PiN and its consortium partners.

The projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Basic criteria for pre-selection:



- If the applicant is a single CSO (i.e., not applying in partnership with any other CSO, informal group, citizens' initiative, etc.), the applicant must be a registered CSO under the domestic legislation and based in one of the three target municipalities.
- If the applicant is applying in partnership with other CSOs, informal groups, or citizens' initiatives, the lead applicant must be a registered CSO under the domestic legislation and at least one partner must be based in one of the three target municipalities. (In such cases, the lead applicant or other partners may be based in other parts of Kosovo.)
- Submission of the application package (Annexes 1, 2, and 3, plus the other requested documentation listed in Annex 3) by the deadline:
- Applications not exceeding the budget ceiling of EUR 25,000.

The specific criteria for selection are:

Evaluation Criteria	Points
1. Strategic relevance	15 points
2. Approach to implementation	10 points
3. Cost Effectiveness	5 points
Total	30 points

Geographic balance and diversity of thematic focus and applicants will also be taken into account when selecting the final pool of grant recipients.

Throughout the selection process, PiN reserves the right to ask applicants to modify their applications based on the recommendations of the selection committee. Applicants may also be asked to provide additional information to the application package.

Annexes

Annex 1: Grant Application Form

Annex 2: Budget Form

Annex 3: Application Checklist

Questions? Please submit any and all questions pertaining to this call for applications to alved.grants@peopleinneed.cz.



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for Equitable Development



All questions, suggestions, complaints
related to the PIN's activities and the staff behavior
can be submitted via our confidential channels

► **Let us know!**

SEND AN EMAIL:

feedback.balkans@peopleinneed.cz



Your identity and feedback will be
kept confidential