



Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 24-Oct-2022 | Report No: PIDC265093

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Project Name
P179084		Low	Kosovo Green Action
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Kosovo	24-Oct-2022	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	
Investment Project Financing	Balkan Green Foundation (BGF)	Lëvizja FOL (FOL Movement), Open Data Kosovo (ODK), Balkan Green Foundation (BGF)	

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PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	0.50
Total Financing	0.50
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	0.50
Global Partnership for Social Accountability	0.50

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

As one of the youngest and poorest countries in Europe, Kosovo faces many opportunities and challenges.

Kosovo's economy has performed relatively well in recent years (with 3.95 percent growth on average between 2014 and 2021), however 18 percent of the 1.8 million population still live below the national poverty line, predominately in rural areas.[1] This rate of poverty is related to several factors, including structural weaknesses, the country's continued fragility, an incomplete process of state-building, and many

young people who are socially and economically excluded. Kosovo anchors inclusive and resilient development in its National Development Strategy 2030 and its overarching political objective of joining the European Union (EU) and is taking steps to improve the economy by addressing the business climate. However, barriers to stronger economic growth remain, including a narrow production base, a persistent lack of improvement of private sector competitiveness and productivity, over-reliance on domestic consumption fed by remittances and donor investments, and low human capital. Addressing these barriers requires steadier and faster implementation of reforms.[2]

While Kosovo has made steady economic progress, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the upward economic trend, and impacts have been particularly severe for vulnerable groups. In the decade leading up to the pandemic (2010-2019), Kosovo grew by an average of 4.6 percent a year which translated into an almost 50 percent increase in per capita income and a 35 percent reduction in the poverty rate, even as several structural weaknesses continued to impede higher growth and faster poverty reduction. Kosovo registered its first case of COVID-19 in March 2020, and the government put in place measures to contain the spread of the disease. As of 2022, there have been 3,130 Covid-1 related deaths reported, with Kosovo having the lowest death count relative to surrounding Western Balkan countries.[3] Following the onset of the pandemic, in 2020, GDP contracted in real terms by 5.3 percent - the country's first recession since independence - driven by the collapse in diaspora-related exports of travel services and investment in spite of a sizeable fiscal response package, a surge in remittance inflows and higher base metal prices. Kosovo's health system was unprepared to handle the virus and was overwhelmed at the onset of the pandemic. This situation is expected to further lower human capital accumulation in Kosovo, which already showed a large deficit before the pandemic. After having increased from 21.1 percent in 2019 to 23.2 percent in 2020, the poverty rate is estimated to have fallen back to 19.4 percent in 2021.[4]

While economic recovery is currently underway, downside risks remain high and underscore the urgency of structural reforms. Growth is estimated to have rebounded to 9.1 percent in 2021 driven by the return of diaspora-related services and investment, remittances and a strong boost to exports, the Government's fiscal support measures, and a recovery in consumer and investor sentiment. Exports of merchandise, albeit from a low base, have increased at record rates since 2020, fueled by the global pickup in demand and nearshoring opportunities. However, pandemic associated risks to the outlook remain, and the outbreak of war between Russia and Ukraine will weigh on Kosovo's growth outlook and push inflation sharply higher. As a result, in 2022, the GDP growth is projected to slow to 3.9 percent, with risks weighed heavily to the downside. Continued upward pressure on import prices, particularly for energy and food, will almost certainly lead to further increases in inflation, affecting consumption (especially of the poor), fiscal balances and Kosovo's competitiveness.[5]

The Government set out a reform agenda aimed at igniting economic growth and ensuring a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021-2025 Government Program set out two priorities, within a broader focus on combatting crime and corruption and on the economic and social transformation of the country: (i) minimizing the consequences on public health of the Covid-19 pandemic; and (ii) alleviating the economic and social consequences of the pandemic.[6]

[1] <https://www.balkangreenfoundation.org/en-us/about/>

[2] World Bank. Country Partnership Framework 2017-2021, Kosovo.

[3] World Health Organization, 2022, Covid-19 Dashboard

[4] Concept Note Armenia- Strengthening Digital Governance for Service Delivery (P178162)

[5] Concept Note Armenia- Strengthening Digital Governance for Service Delivery (P178162)

[6] Government of Kosovo. 2016. Office of the Prime Minister. Kosovo National Development Strategy 2016-2021. p. 20.

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Sectoral and Institutional Context

Demographic pressure on the economy is likely to peak in the coming years, and impacts will be exacerbated by stresses created by the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic and a changing climate.

The average age of Kosovo's population is 26, with the highest concentration in the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups. Between 2017 and 2020, the largest demographic cohort (140,000 postwar baby boomers born between 1999 to 2002) entered the labor market.[1] This transition, combined with the return of 90,000 migrants who left Kosovo in 2014-15, and 120,000 currently active students, will increase pressure on the economy and an already stagnant labor market. Climate pressures are expected to exacerbate the stress on the economy, as increasing temperatures, a decrease in annual precipitation, and increased weather events aggravate Kosovo's already existing vulnerability to natural hazards, including landslides, earthquakes, and wildfires. This will greatly impact specific sectors of the economy, including agriculture, infrastructure, energy, and water resources.

Long term prosperity requires a strategy to increase environmental sustainability and to accelerate the country's climate change adaptation and green transition. Like most middle-income economies, Kosovo's natural resources are under increasing pressure from unplanned urbanization, low-productivity agriculture, and climate change. Moreover, Kosovo confronts environmental pressures from mining and coal-based energy production. At the same time, it has committed to implementing green transition policies,[2] which implies that it will have to accelerate progress in areas including energy, transport, waste management, and climate adaptation to meet international requirements and to access future resources, especially coming from the EU. Beyond increasing sustainability, a well-implemented green transition strategy can open new opportunities for the private sector and for workers, thus increasing economic inclusion.[3]

In October 2020, at the Berlin Process summit in Sofia, the government of Kosovo alongside other governments from the region, endorsed the "Green Agenda for the Western Balkans" as a concrete decision to advance the European Green Deal to Southeast Europe. The Green Agenda foresees joint

actions towards achieving sustainable socio-economic development and green recovery of the entire region in the post-pandemic period. The implementation plan for the Green Agenda is based on five pillars: (i) climate action, including decarbonization, energy and mobility; (ii) circular economy, addressing waste, recycling, sustainable production and efficient use of resources; (iii) biodiversity; (iv) fighting air, water and soil pollution; and (v) sustainable food systems and rural areas. Through the Sofia Declaration, the Government of Kosovo (GoK) also committed to monitor, promote and enforce compliance with environmental obligations and ensure effective mechanisms for public participation, access to information, access to justice in environmental matters and environmental reporting.

While Kosovo has made some progress in the energy sector, limited progress has been made in the broader Green Agenda. Progress has been made notably with the increased investments in renewables (achieving its target share of energy from renewable sources, which rose to 25.7 percent in gross final energy consumption in 2020), but limited progress has been made in the areas of transport, environment, and climate change. The unreliable and health-hazardous energy supply, which mainly relies on coal, remains a concern. The bulk of power supply (880 MW) is produced by two highly polluting and aging lignite power plants, which, in addition to causing serious health and adverse environmental impacts, hinder the country's ability to abide to the Green Agenda and achieve its international obligations as a member of the Energy Community Treaty. Moving toward a more efficient and cleaner supply of energy in conformity with EU environmental standards is key for Kosovo, as is modernization and compliance with international social and environmental standards since these are preconditions for the energy and mining sectors to be able to attract international financing or direct investments as one of the potential sources of growth.

The GoK has committed to decarbonization and alignment with the principles of energy transition. However, strategies, action plans, and policies in these sectors need to be more consistent among themselves and in line with the principles and objectives of the Green Agenda. Kosovo's government also lacks coordination among institutions, data-driven decision-making and data openness as well as the needed capacity to draft and implement policies in line with the Green Agenda. The focus for the GoK in the area of energy focuses on the 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 the limited capacities of public institutions to transpose and implement green packages.

Kosovo's 2008 Law on Local Self-Government established a structure for local governance; although citizens, and especially young citizens are not empowered or engaged. The 38 municipalities formed as part of the decentralization process are enshrined in Kosovo's independence along with local government strengthening, through the devolution of certain responsibilities. Citizen participation is clearly articulated in the legal framework for local government, but implementation is minimal.[4] The Strategy for Local Self Government 2016-2026 encourages supporting young people and women in business and obliges municipalities to draft policies for promoting the participation of women and vulnerable social categories. Citizens are largely disconnected from their municipalities, and there is little active empowered citizenry: community and civil society participation in local development planning is nascent, mechanisms to hold municipalities to account for local services are not yet developed, and the responsibilities of local councils

towards communities are unclear.[5] Minimum standards for public consultation do not establish an obligation to ensure that diverse women and men are consulted.[6] At the same time, while municipalities are responsible for most public services, discretionary budgets and technical capacities are limited, resulting in extremely inadequate local economic development activity. To improve the performance of municipalities, in 2009 the Ministry of Local Government introduced a system for the management of municipal performance namely the municipal Performance Management System (PMS).

Low levels of citizen trust are caused by perceptions of deficient services and widespread corruption in state institutions, with little preventive action over the course of successive governments, and few meaningful fora for participation. CIVICUS rated civic space as ‘narrow’ in 2021 meaning the state allows civil society organizations to exercise their freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression, but violations of these rights also take place. The rating was based on protests staged against gender-based violence, labor rights, and COVID-19 measures.[7] Despite these constraints, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) largely function freely. However, they experience pressure to curtail criticism of the government, though many continue to criticize the authorities and have largely been able to engage in advocacy work without interference.[8]

Project focus

The proposed project aims to support the mission of the European Green Deal by helping the GoK and other key stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the Green Agenda through activities that improve access to information, accountability, transparency, and good governance to accelerate climate action in Kosovo. More specifically, it aims to (i) increase public use of data sets and evidence-based assessments on climate issues (transparency), (ii) ensure that appropriate corrective actions are taken by relevant public institutions to address gaps in the implementation of the Green Agenda in Kosovo identified by the project (responsiveness/feedback), and (iii) foster increased engagement and collaboration between stakeholders and public institutions on climate priorities through project-created platforms and initiatives including an interactive and data-driven digital platform on climate/energy related issues (engagement).

The initial project design draws from the proposal submitted by Balkan Green Foundation (BGF) to the competitive GPSA's Fifth Global Call for proposals. This Call was launched in November 2021, evaluated technically by an independent roster of experts and selected by the GPSA Steering Committee in March 2022.

The project design is being enhanced by taking into consideration the recently updated GPSA Theory of Action, tailored to the Kosovo green transition context. By engaging multiple stakeholders to cooperate in order to better leverage the existing system (programs, policies, chains and decision-making arenas), the project aims to address lack of collaborative climate governance and the capacities needed for this. The project combines two aspects: (i) flexible funding for civil society-led coalitions to work with government to solve problems that local actors have prioritized, and (ii) sustained non-financial support to meaningful

engagements, including implementation support, capacity building, facilitation, and brokering. The project aims to contribute to improved transparency, accountability and responsiveness in climate governance using collaborative social accountability mechanisms that also tackle obstacles to improving service delivery. The project uses adaptive learning and management by clearly identifying and understanding the nature of the problem being addressed as well as its political economy factors, and taking small, incremental steps and adjustments toward a long-term goal. The project is designed agilely to be able to accommodate changes in the political landscape.

[1] Project Information Document/ Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet Report No: PIDISDSC25244

[2] Government of Kosovo, Law No. 03/L-040.

[3] Kosovo Systematic Country Diagnostic, p. 16

[4] European Commission.2020. Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. The law allows for public participation in municipal assemblies and a community committee structure and requires municipalities to hold public meetings semiannually. Stiftung, op. cit.

[5] GoK, 2019. Administrative Instruction on the Organization, Functioning and Cooperation of Municipalities with Villages, Settlements and Urban Quarters.

[6] Women's Network. 2018. Ibid. p. 11.

[7] <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/kosovo/>

[8] Freedom House. Freedom in the World 2022: Kosovo. Washington, DC. <https://freedomhouse.org/country/kosovo/freedom-world/2022>

Relationship to CPF

The proposed project is consistent with the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Kosovo for the period of 2017-2021 (next CPF is in draft stage). The CPF has a strategic objective to support Kosovo's move toward more sustainable, export-oriented, and inclusive growth. It contributes to the CPF Focus Area 3 – Promoting Reliable Energy and Stewardship of the Environment – which includes three objectives: (i) Creating the foundations for reliable, cleaner, and more efficient energy supply; (ii) Enhancing energy efficiency and renewable energy; and (iii) Improving management of natural resources and addressing environmental contamination.

The project design builds upon lessons from a previous World Bank RETF project in Kosovo – the Community Development Fund (CDF) 1 (P069812) & 2 (P079259) that had a CSO as an implementing

partner. The projects' objectives were to improve community infrastructure and services in poor and conflict-affected communities, and for the most vulnerable groups; and promote institutional capacity building at the community and municipal levels and enhance greater stakeholder participation. To support sustainability of investments, CDF II included a comprehensive capacity building and technical assistance program, which this project will build on.

The proposed project is also aligned with multiple national policies and strategies. These include:

- the Kosovo National Development Strategy (2016-21) - priority area b) on social cohesion and inclusion and Focus Area 2: Promoting Reliable Energy and Stewardship of the Environment to Create the foundations for reliable, cleaner, and more efficient energy supply, enhance energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as Improve management of natural resources and address environmental contamination.
- the Framework Strategy on Climate Change which was adopted in 2014 as a blueprint of actions/measures foreseen and required to create a country resilient to climate change. The strategy has recently been reviewed and a detailed action plan developed.
- the Energy Strategy of Kosovo 2022-2031.
- others, such as the Strategy for Local Economic Development (2019-2023) and the Strategy on Local Self Government (2016-26). It is also consistent with the Kosovo Strategy for Youth (2019-23), and the 2018-2020 Action Plan - Increasing Youth Employment.

In line with corporate mandates, the project prioritizes climate action and citizen engagement in design and implementation. The project is fundamentally about citizen engagement, and it contributes to global and regional commitments to support and scale up climate action and increase the climate-related share of development financing.

C. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The proposed development objective is to contribute to improving accountability of Kosovo public institutions in the implementation of the Green Agenda.

Key Results

Key results indicators for this project will be:

1. Public institutions in Kosovo increase public use of data sets and evidence-based assessments on climate issues. (transparency)
2. Corrective actions are taken by relevant public institutions to address gaps in the implementation of the Green Agenda in Kosovo identified by the project. (responsiveness/feedback)

3. Stakeholders engage with public institutions on climate priorities through project-created platforms and initiatives. (engagement)

D. Preliminary Description

Activities/Components

The project will consist of three components:

Component 1: Capacity building for collaborative social accountability. This component focuses on actions that will assess the current situation and set the stage for activities that will develop social accountability interventions throughout the project. First, the consortium will conduct research actions on thematic issues, perform stakeholder mapping and engage with the main identified stakeholders. Furthermore, this component will conduct a needs assessment as well as a baseline for further project interventions.

Activities will include:

-Activity 1: Sectoral Overview Analysis. The project will produce three analyses in total. The first analysis will focus on the new “Energy Strategy of Kosovo 2022-2030” 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 made with two other analyses of the project. The other two 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 accompanied with infographics and video animations that will distil 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 be based on an in-depth analysis of the issue and a stakeholder mapping and serve as the basis for cooperation during the project implementation phase, in the form of a Multi-stakeholder Partnership. Based on agreement during initial stakeholder meetings, the MoU will reflect project partners’ commitments to the project. The committed parties would jointly identify feasible measures by which government, as well as CSOs, can integrate key processes and practices from this project in their own systems or programs, and in their continuous learning. The signatories to the MoU will be public institutions such as line ministries including the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, and the relevant departments such as the 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, business associations, trade unions and renewable energy and academia, will be engaged. The 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 be included in the MoU.



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

Component 2: Implementing collaborative social accountability mechanisms. This component focuses on implementing 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. It is aimed at creating 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 MOU and the continuous collaboration and exchange of information will enable the mobilization of the identified strategic partners and stakeholders in project implementation.

Activities will include:

-Activity 1: Engaging targeted groups to learn and exchange information on climate change and identified issues through training series.

- **A1.1: Trainings.** Each year data training will be delivered to selected public officials, CSOs and media representatives. The series of training will be adapted to the identified needs of target groups by the project and its key partners. Media 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 to create data-driven journalistic pieces. Selected journalists will be engaged in producing content focused on climate and energy issues. This action will promote the platform and ensure the mobilization of a core group of journalists to sustain the project.
- **A1.2: Debates with youth.** A formal debate format will be used to increase local visibility of green topics, with the participation in national debate tournaments as the final activity. Participants will become a cadre to engage local policymakers, engaging in local consultations and participatory design to further the green agenda locally.

-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 will gather public officials, CSOs, businesses, trade unions and academia to share experiences, network, identify needs of the sector and discuss future actions on the implementation of the Green Agenda, informed by the data platform.
- **A2.2: Production and dissemination of visual materials.** The project will produce video animations and infographics which will present results of project activities and serve as an awareness raising tool. They will be disseminated through social network channels and other media platforms.
- **A2.3: Discussion Channels.** TV debates and Podcasts. TV debates will be held on different national TV channels, during the project implementation period covering climate and energy issues targeted by



this proposal. Podcasts will invite different personalities such as assembly members, public officials in targeted ministries, civil society activists and other stakeholders to discuss issues that are targeted 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.** The platform will serve as a one-stop-shop for information on the Green Agenda, interaction of citizens with the state and access to datasets on climate and energy. The platform will target CSOs, students and media representatives. It will include research papers, video animations simplifying data, articles and other journalistic pieces about the energy and climate agenda and applicable legislation regarding climate and energy.
- **A2.5: “Ask the state”.** This is an integrated feature within the platform that guides users to easily submit Freedom of Information (FoI) request for public documents. A similar platform has been developed in Germany (www.fragdenstaat.de) which will serve as an inspiration. Most citizens do not have the knowledge to file an official request or lack information about where to address those requests and how to cite legislation to ensure the request is answered. “Ask the state” is an easy option to ask specific questions via the platform directly to line ministries to gather information regarding energy and climate issues. An “ask the state” option will be incorporated into the digital platform. This will have an automated procedure for requesting official documents and information, while also tracking the responses of public institutions. Cooperation with line ministries on this will be included in the MoU signed in activity 3.1 below. Moreover, a video animation will be produced to provide an explanation of the platform usage for a broader audience, whilst also promoting the platform in general.

-Activity 3: 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.** These will target youth to use technological solutions and data to advance the Green Agenda in Kosovo. Project partners in cooperation with government institutions will identify themes and pressing data gaps to be addressed. A jury will select the most creative solution, which will be published on the platform. Furthermore, the winning team will receive a small grant for installing solar panels in their schools.
- **A3.2: Storytelling with data.** Training for journalists will result in articles and blogs written to convey central insights from the thematic priorities of the project, informed by the data platform and research.

Component 3: Improving knowledge and learning, and project management. The objectives of this component are a) to inform the public on the current status on legislation and mechanisms that can be utilized by the public for advancing the implementation of the green agenda. It will monitor different climate-related strategies, available data/resources and produce data, and provide analysis and recommendations to be used as the basis for podcasts, green talks and other communication actions. Objective b) is to establish an internal knowledge and learning process to regularly adjust project implementation based on experience and contextual circumstances, and to generate knowledge and learning for targeted external dissemination

amongst key stakeholders that may take up lessons from the project to apply, sustain or scale collaborative social accountability and/or inform substantive decisions.

Activities will include:

-Activity 1: Monitoring Actions. Throughout the project, the consortium will monitor, evaluate and assess implementation of regulations and action plans associated with the energy and climate sector. Throughout the project duration, available data from the climate and energy sector will be gathered and visualized, and when data gaps are identified, advocate and partner to create sustainable practices of data gathering and production of digestible data. These actions will provide the main inputs that will serve as the foundation for the other project activities. Information from this activity will serve in identifying podcast themes, defining themes for research, green forums and green talks.

-Activity 2: Setting up the project’s monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system

- **A2.1: Contracting an independent evaluator (individual or firm)** at the mid-point of the project. The independent evaluator will conduct the project’s evaluation excluding the baseline indicator collection which will be collected by the CSO consortium with support from GPSA to design the indicators. The independent evaluator will conduct the midterm and final evaluation, inform quality bi-annual technical reports as well as provide support to the project team to develop capacities to adaptively manage the project.
- **A2.2: Conducting regular internal project MEL sessions.** These will be focused on adjusting the project’s social accountability strategy and project implementation.
- **A2.3: Developing and implementing a plan for disseminating the project’s knowledge and learning products to key target audiences.** This plan will focus on the uptake of relevant aspects and elements of the collaborative social accountability process and mechanism (implemented by the project) that may be sustained or scaled up and/or inform substantive decisions.
- **A2.4: Preparing and disseminating learning products and contributing to the GPSA’s mandate to broker and promote knowledge and learning.** Contribute to the global knowledge on collaborative social accountability and inform practitioners of lessons learned from this project.
- **A2.5: Project Management.** Support to carry out day to day Project implementation and monitoring, through the provision of consultant services (including audit), Operating Costs, and Training.

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Environmental and Social Standards Relevance

E. Relevant Standards

ESS Standards		Relevance
ESS 1	Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant

ESS 10	Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
ESS 2	Labor and Working Conditions	Relevant
ESS 3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 4	Community Health and Safety	Relevant
ESS 5	Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 7	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 8	Cultural Heritage	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 9	Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant

Legal Operational Policies

Safeguard Policies	Triggered	Explanation (Optional)
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No	

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The project is expected to entail some minor social and environmental risks as covered by the ESSs. Social risks and impacts might mainly be associated with labor and working conditions and OHS, community health and safety related to installation of solar panels, and inadequate stakeholder engagement. Additionally, low, short-term, local, and reversible environmental impacts can incur as a result of the installation of the two solar panels, such as noise, dust, pollution, health and safety. Mitigation of the risks will be guided by a generic EMP checklist to be prepared prior to procurement of civil works and the contractor will be required to prepare the specific EMP checklist. Considering their minor significance, no further assessment of possible E&S risks resulting from the project are considered necessary. The project will monitor and mitigate the identified minor E&S risks based on commitments outlined in the Borrower ESCP and SEP. Special attention will be given to ensure the adequate screening and managing of adverse E&S impacts that might fall upon vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to identifying the barriers contributing to their exclusion from project activities and providing the tools to overcome them. A consortium of CSO appoints a focal person to oversee social and environmental issues and mitigate potential social and environmental risks in line with the ESF.. Additionally, WB Environmental and Social specialists will provide support to the consortium on managing and reporting social and environmental risks in line with the ESF.

CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Contact : Ann-Sofie Jespersen Title : Senior Social Development Spec
Telephone No : 473-0143 Email :

Contact : Ifeta Smajic Title : Social Development Specialist
Telephone No : 473-1235 Email :

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower : Balkan Green Foundation (BGF)
Contact : Rinora Gojani Title : Programmes and Operations Manager
Telephone No : 0038349728019 Email : rinora.gojani@balkangreenfoundation.org

Implementing Agencies

Implementing Agency : Lëvizja FOL (FOL Movement)
Contact : Erblin Hoxha Title : Project Manager
Telephone No : 0000 Email : erblin@levizjafol.org

Implementing Agency : Open Data Kosovo (ODK)
Contact : Delvina Haxhijaha Title : Project Coordinator
Telephone No : 0000 Email : delvina@opendatakosovo.org
Contact : Blerta Thaci Title : Executive Director
Telephone No : 0000 Email : blerta@opendatakosovo.org

Implementing Agency : Balkan Green Foundation (BGF)
Contact : Rinora Gojani Title : Programmes and Operations Manager
Telephone No : 0038349728019 Email : rinora.gojani@balkangreenfoundation.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>