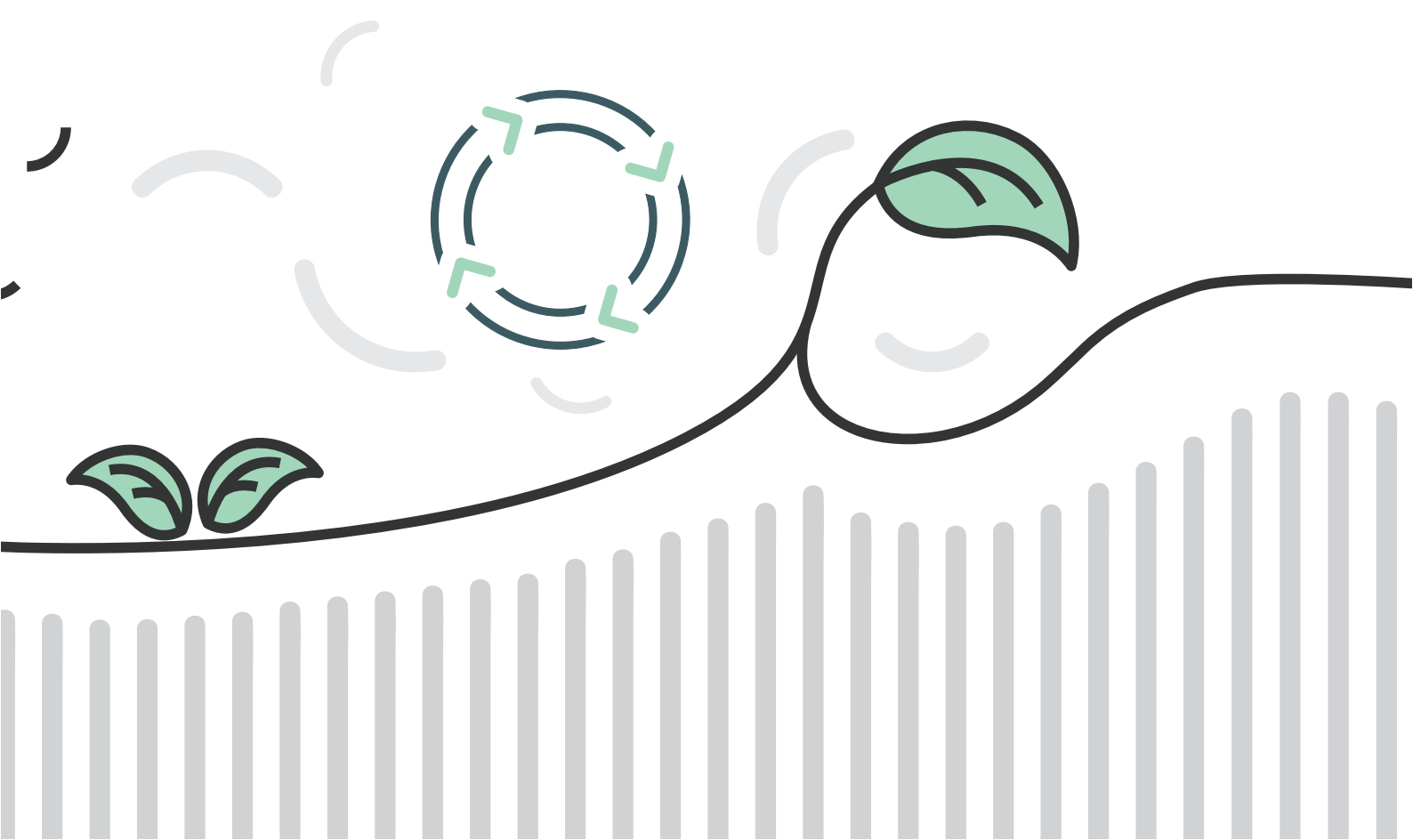




Empower Engage Build Ownership

Implemented by:



COMPLETION REPORT

Project profile:	Strengthening the Capacity of CSOs
Project duration:	36 months
Implemented by:	Balkan Green Foundation (BGF) and Institute for Development Policy - INDEP
Financed and managed by:	European Union Office in Kosovo
Target location:	All over Kosovo Region

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the Project	4
I. Phases of the project	5
II. Component one: Baseline Assessment Report	6
III. Component two: Sub-granting scheme	8
III.1. Info sessions on sub-granting scheme	10
III.2. Application and review procedure	11
III.3. Monitoring and Consulting	12
III.4. Communication Platform	13
III.5. Completion Report	13
III.6. Concrete Actions: Operational grants and programs for CSOs	14
IV. Component three: Capacity Building Trainings	18
V. Component four: Visibility Event	20
V.1. Awareness Raising	22
VI. Results of the Action	23
VII. Progress in the area of sustainable development in Kosovo	24
Annex A: List of beneficiary organizations of the 'Empower - Engage - Build Ownership' sub-granting scheme	25
Annex B: Trainings and info sessions	28
Annex C: Pictures with grant beneficiaries	31
Background Information on implementing partners	34
International donor support for EEBO Project	35

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Balkan Green Foundation and the Institute for Development Policies (INDEP) were beneficiaries of the EU Support to Civil Society and Media Initiatives Grant through which it implemented the project “Empower-Engage-Build Ownership”, promoting sustainable development in Kosovo by focusing on three thematic priorities: *Environment, Energy and Green Economic Growth*.

The overall objective of this action was to enable 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 the area of environment preservation, green energy and sustainable economic growth.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1:

Improve the skills and information-sharing capability of CSOs on policy monitoring, advocacy and campaigning on the targeted thematic priorities.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2:

Increase the incentive to improve participation of CSOs in policy making and policy implementation, advocacy and grassroots activities through funding organizations in the whole Kosovo.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3:

Increase citizens’ awareness on sustainable development in Kosovo through supporting activities that especially promote environment preservation, green energy and sustainable economic growth.

TARGET GROUPS:

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Provided funding opportunities, enhanced CSOs know-how and their professional capacities on three thematic priorities of the action

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Provided involvement and collaboration opportunities with CSOs on policy levels, whilst promoting the involvement of CSOs in public decision making

GENERAL POPULATION

Increased citizens’ awareness on sustainable development issues and Kosovo’s sustainable development options.

In a nutshell, the project aimed at emphasizing that a vibrant civil society must have an imperative role and support in order to be able to engage and improve the situation of the society - reached through proactive coordination, cooperation, networking with all the relevant stakeholders.

I. PHASES OF THE PROJECT

‘Empower-Engage-Build Ownership’ was designed with the concept of providing opportunities for green economic growth, environmental preservation, efficient energy use and better human health. Thus, the project was divided into four main components:

Evidence Based Report for all 7 centers of administrative districts in Kosovo, which identified the utmost needs in three thematic priorities of this action.

Sharing of know-how to other CSO activists through Capacity Building Trainings.

In parallel, a comprehensive **Sub-Granting Program was announced and awarded CSOs** to find and present solutions to priorities and needs of the local communities they work in. The sub-granting scheme also helped to push forward policies that contributed in improving transparency, accountability and efficiency in targeted sectors.

Additionally, partner organizations **organized Events gathering relevant stakeholders** of the sector to identify priorities and promote achievements from the activities.



II. COMPONENT ONE: BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Baseline Assessment Report was conducted by BGF and INDEP teams which gave an overview of the current state of affairs on sustainable development in Kosovo, focusing on three areas:

1. GENERAL CSO PRESENCE,
2. INSTITUTIONAL PRESENCE AND,
3. POTENTIAL AREAS FOR GROWTH

More precisely, the report was conducted with the following overall objectives:

1. Provide an overview of the state of affairs on the grassroots CSO situation in Kosovo, to be used as a reference against which to compare the results achieved through the interventions (training, grants and other actions) and the objective of evaluating its impact and contribution to the improvement of the initial situation.
2. Offer inputs and data. The baseline assessment identified areas of intervention in the field of sustainable development and the work plan needed to improve the situation.
3. Identify the major stakeholders working in the area of sustainable development in Kosovo and the thematic areas of work and projects with the potential for support through the sub-granting scheme.
4. Provide recommendations on stakeholder's actions further advances sustainable development in Kosovo.

This Evidence Based Report provided a clear picture of Kosovo's problems in three thematic priorities of this action and recommendations for these specific areas, but also served as a guide for Kosovo to improve its socio-economic development. The report used qualitative and quantitative data, applying an all-inclusive approach where all relevant stakeholders were interviewed in order to have well-structured and accurate recommendations. The methodology for this report was designed in a manner of collecting primarily first-hand information with stakeholders through conducting in-depth interviews and questionnaires, in combination with desk research.



Fig 1. Evidence Based Report

The report served as a guide for identification of specific priorities of each region in Kosovo, for the sustainable development sector based on the specific needs of the target groups and final beneficiaries. Moreover, it served as a primary source for compilation of guidelines for the Capacity Building Training program, as well as identifying eligible actions implemented through the sub-granting program. Considering that the Evidence Based Report served as the baseline for the project - as a preparatory phase that was important for future steps of the action.

The following recommendations derived directly from this research analysis and are broadly focused on potential CSO actions, the necessary interventions in the legislative framework and the harmonization of competencies. CSOs must implement well defined and concrete actions that are in alignment with their scope of the work. CSOs must follow a proactive approach in order to ensure smooth continuity and implementation of their activities based on a longer-term and well-defined organizational development strategy. While the availability of funds is detrimental in this regard, CSOs are encouraged to engage in mobilizing their communities for voluntary work and also consider the creation of thematic coalitions to jointly address community-based problems with other partners operating in the same area of interest.

Develop an organizational profile and recruit competent workforce

Many CSOs work on short term actions, which are also mainly a duplication of other similar activities implemented by other organizations. To avoid such troubles, it is important for CSOs to define the profile of the organization as well as focus on recruiting competent workforce, which will help with the advancement of the causes they stand for.

Define local and central level competencies

The ministerial and municipal level review current policies and their delegated competencies in order to avoid the overlap of responsibilities for the promotion of sustainable development in the country. This in turn would enhance the level of institutional accountability.

Introduce sustainable financing mechanisms to support SD related actions.

The Government should ultimately prioritize the introduction of the Green/Eco Fund. This fund, contrary to unsustainable short-term grants and highly burdensome financial loans, would boost investments in green actions from CSOs, businesses, or even households towards promoting sustainable development practices.

Introduce coordinated awareness raising campaigns

Despite the great number of individual awareness raising campaigns on sustainable development, the level of understanding on related topics and issues from average citizens and other groups as well is still low. As such, in this regard as well, there is a need for systematic and well-coordinated inter-institutional/organizational cooperation to boost the level of understanding of SD concepts for the public and all interest groups.

¹
https://www.balkangreenfoundation.org/uploads/files/2020/December/02/Final_Evidence_Based_Report_EEBO_eng1606913648.pdf

III. COMPONENT TWO: SUB-GRANTING SCHEME

The core of the EEBO project is its sub-granting scheme, through which a total of 59 project ideas implemented by local CSOs were financially supported, totaling approximately to EUR 355,000. The CSOs were awarded with financial supported after a careful grant giving process which included the announcement of the call for proposals, info sessions, the review procedure of applications by the expert committee, the signing of grant contracts, the distribution of grants, Capacity Building trainings, monitoring of implementation of the planned projects, consultancy support during the implementation phase, and the submission of the final completion report.

The sub-grant scheme provided financial support to NGOs with projects addressing the most urgent problems in the target sectors: environment, energy and green economic growth. As such, in the field of energy, CSOs implemented projects related to the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, energy innovation and integration. Regarding the environment, special attention was paid to innovative projects aimed at increasing environmental protection, with a special focus on soil quality, its rehabilitation and awareness projects. BGF and INDEP also supported projects aimed at introducing the county economy and promoting green economic growth, as well as helping CSOs specialize in promoting sustainable economic development in general.

The distribution of grants to different CSOs across Kosovo resulted in the inclusion of a wider and a more diverse audience throughout the project implementation period. In each call for proposal, project partners awarded three medium sized grants of up to EUR 15,000 and approximately 17 actions, small grants, ranging from EUR 3,500 to 5,900.

OPEN CALL (3 IN TOTAL)	NO OF SMALL SIZE GRANTS SUPPORTED (AMOUNTING FROM 5000-5900 EUR)	NO OF SMALL MEDIUM GRANTS SUPPORTED (AMOUNTING UP TO 15,000 EUR)
1st call	16	3
2nd call	17	3
3rd call	17	3
Total:	50	9

From 2018 to 2020, three Calls for Proposals were open to support small and medium-sized grants, inviting all interested CSOs to apply for funding in implementing projects organized in Kosovo relating to the thematic priorities of the action. The Call for proposals served as a means to receive applications/proposals from CSO's, hereby providing general clarifications and eligibility criteria for applications, minimum and maximum amount of funds foreseen with each grant opportunity, objectives of the call, themes and priorities for financing, application timeline, deadline for submission of requests for clarifications, and deadlines for provision of clarifications and deadline for submission of the proposal.



Fig 2: Call for Applications Announcement

The call for applications and the accompanying necessary documents for application were available in project partner's websites – www.balkangreenfoundation.org; www.indep.info, while the application documents were also distributed during the information sessions or alternatively, they could be picked up at BGF or INDEP's office. The calls were also launched and published on Kosovo Funding Portal, and also on project partners social media platforms.



III.1. INFO SESSIONS ON SUB-GRANTING SCHEME

After each of the open calls for proposals were published, BGF and INDEP held information sessions in 7 regions of Kosovo (Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Prishtina and Prizren). In these sessions, the call for proposals were elaborated and publicly discussed. During these events, representatives of project partners informed participants about application procedures, providing instructions for application and budget forms in terms of administrative and technical rules. Further, information was also shared regarding each criteria and the relevant conditions that need to be fulfilled, before and during the application process. Participants learned detailed procedures on the application form and overall technical and administrative procedures of the call and received general knowledge on terminology on concepts such as: Green Energy, Circular Economy, etc.



Fig. 3: Info session meetings

After each presentation, there was a questions and answers portion, where each participant had the opportunity to ask questions or request clarifications that were applicable to their organization or the project idea.

- a) Info sessions for the first call for applications took place between **5-14 June 2018** in 7 regions of Kosovo (Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Prishtina and Prizren).
- b) Info Sessions for the 2nd Call for Applications were held in a timeline between the dates **18-28 March, 2019**. With the request of the EU Office in Kosovo, and considering the interest this call received throughout the general audience, BGF and INDEP organized one more info-session in the North Mitrovica.
- c) Info Sessions for the third open call for applications were held in a timeline between the dates **2-11 October 2019** in 7 regions of Kosovo (Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Prishtina and Prizren).

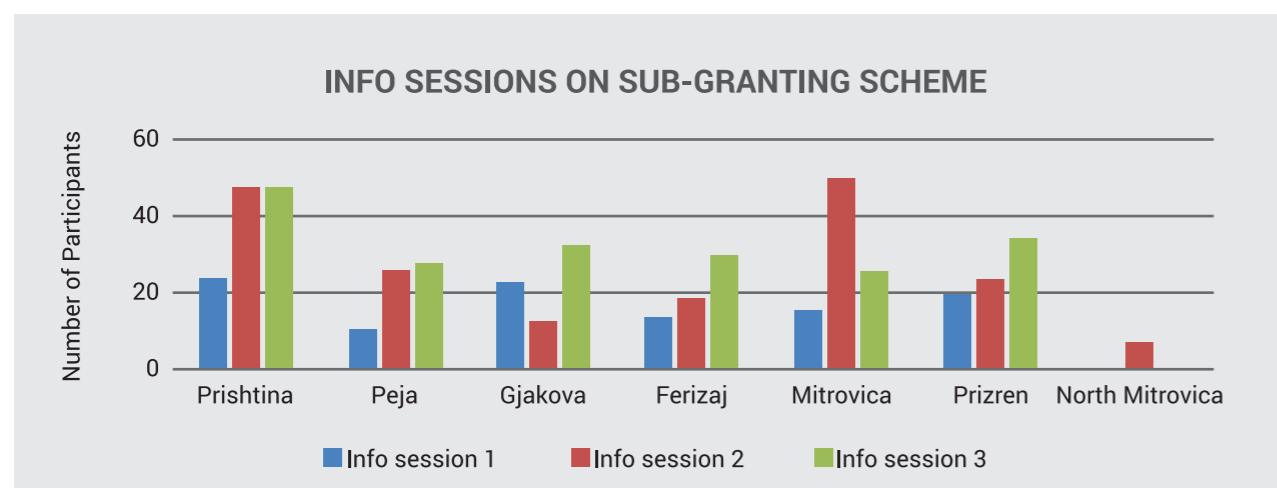


Table 1. Info sessions on Sub – Granting Scheme

III.2. APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURE

All of the calls for applications were open for approximately 15 days. During this period, project applications were received from different CSOs. The applications, submitted via email, were all collected by the Project Coordinator and prepared for review by the Evaluation Committee, in charge for the evaluation of the submitted applications. In the process of sifting/classifying applications that fulfilled the technical criteria, and the ones who failed to do so, BGF and INDEP qualified applications for the second phase of evaluation. After the first sifting phase, the valid applications were evaluated by the Evaluation Committee, who assessed the proposals received on the merit of the ideas, objectives and activities proposed.

The Evaluation Committee consisted of three to four members – representatives from Kosovo civil society organizations (at least one with experience in grant giving), and one member with proven experience in sustainable development issues who could be working in Kosovo, the region or internationally. Overseen by the Project Manager and the Grant Manager, the Evaluation Committee had three to four days available to review the applications, all of which underwent the same review process and were evaluated based on a standardized evaluation sheet.

The criteria for the selection of awarding project proposals were divided into four categories:

- Relevance of the action with priorities of the action
- Creative strength of the content and activities
- Communications strategy and impact
- Quality of the financial offer



III.3. MONITORING AND CONSULTING

Immediately after the signing of the contracts and the distribution of the grants, the CSOs started to implement their respective projects. For each of the calls, project partners were out in the field and visited all of the beneficiaries to monitor the project activities and see whether the CSOs were facing any major difficulties in this regard. The objective of this visit was to check the progress the organizations have made with regards to the implementation of their respective projects, check for potential challenges and also review financial management practices. Each visit was split in two sections: 1) *review of progress with regards to the work plan* and 2) *review of financial practices*.



These visits helped us monitor closer all of the projects, and enabled us the chance to once more interact closely with the CSOs who declared to be highly satisfied with the fact that they were given this opportunity.

It is worth noting that considering the pandemic COVID-19 and restrictions from the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, BGF and INDEP chose the Online Monitoring as the only option available to conduct monitoring of sub-grantees of the third call - this with the aim of assisting sub-grantees with their project implementation. An Online Monitoring Sheet was drafted by BGF and INDEP, which was forwarded to all the beneficiaries. The objective of this monitoring was to check the progress the organizations have made with regards to the implementation of their respective projects, check for potential challenges in implementation during COVID-19, review updated activity plans performed due to the pandemic, and also check financial management practices the organizations have been using so far.

BGF and INDEP teams have continuously provided mentorship and hand-on assistance to sub-grantees with visibility, management, networking, guidance and any other hands-on assistance that may be required throughout the implementation of each grant. During the implementation of their projects, all the sub-grantees, both medium grant and small grant winners, were in touch with the project partners, and at least one of their activities were physically monitored by the project team. Throughout the project implementation period, we also offered the opportunity to all the beneficiaries to consult us and visit our offices or call for assistance on whatever arising issues in order to ensure the smooth flow of the projects.

In summation, BGF and INDEP have done their best to assist all of the beneficiary organizations during their project implementation and provide assistance so that these organizations can grow and prosper.

III.4. COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

An important part of the project was the creation of a comprehensive communication platform, organized for communication and cooperation between grant-winning organizations from all over Kosovo. The platform contains information of all the beneficiary CSOs within the action, serving as a means of communication and cooperation between all sub-grantees even after the project completion. In addition, the platform will serve the implementing organizations BGF and INDEP as a database of the CSOs, for events and collaboration opportunities that may arise in the future. This platform and exchange of information is an assisting tool for CSOs to embrace collaboration and networks as key to achieving impact in the community at large.

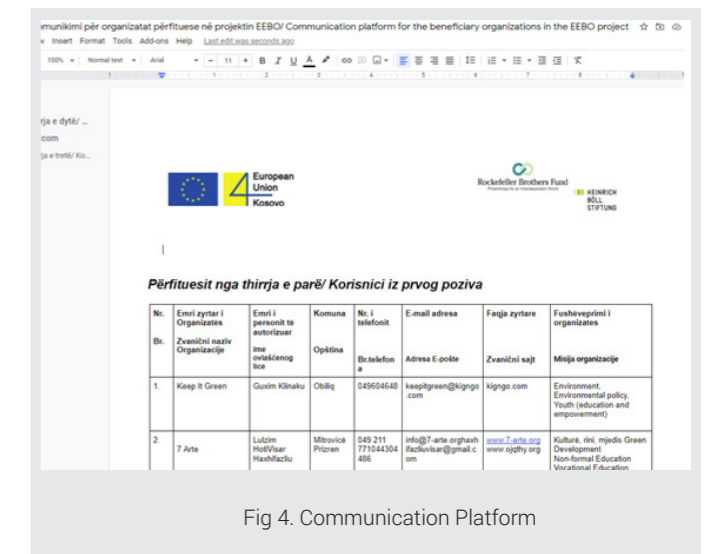


Fig 4. Communication Platform

III.5. COMPLETION REPORT

All the beneficiaries were responsible to submit the Final Report via email one month after their project conclusion. The report included a narrative report to be submitted together with the invoices as well as photographs of their project activities, in order to measure and provide evidence on the impact reached.



III.6. CONCRETE ACTIONS: OPERATIONAL GRANTS AND PROGRAMS FOR CSOS

Financial support is extremely important for all CSOs regardless of the geographical context they operate in. The awarded CSOs carried out their activities in various regions and communities around Kosovo. Additionally, the project took under consideration reaching out to small CSOs, and those led by minorities and/or women – considering that the obstacles for growth for such categories are particularly acute. By dedicating a program to support CSOs with small and medium size projects, we assisted more CSOs to become full participants in the issues relating to the betterment of the community. Hence, the longevity and depth of support for the goals, contributions and commitments of the CSOs supported within the project proved to be a necessity.

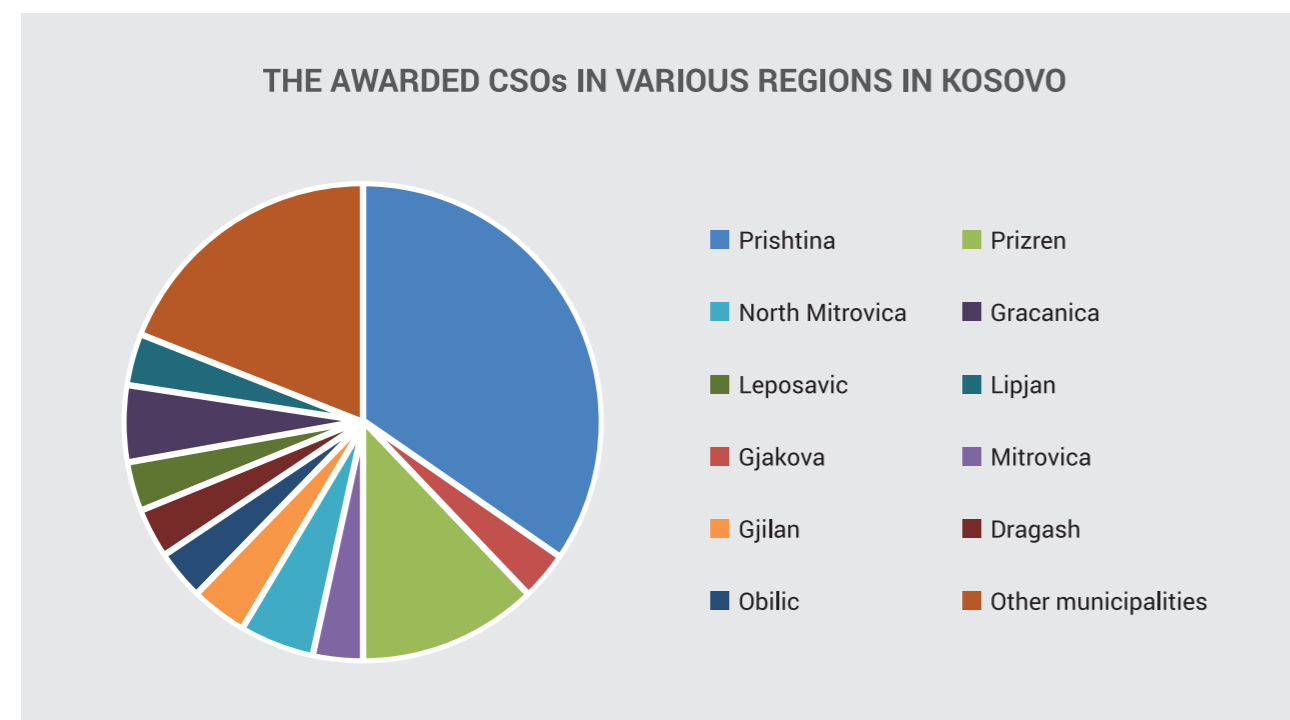


Table 2. List of grant beneficiaries in each municipality

Their awarded projects have included activities such as:

- Comprehensive trainings on priority topics
- Creative workshops with children, women and youth on circular economy
- Participation in public policy making
- Awareness raising campaigns
- Innovative technologies with a focus on solar energy
- Open debates and discussions with citizens and experts
- Greening and cleaning of spaces

EXAMPLES OF SOME OF THE SUCCESSFUL SUB-GRANTING PROJECTS WITH COMMUNITY IMPACT

1st call:

DOKUFEST (MEDIUM SIZE GRANT) – WITH SOLAR CINEMA

The first traveling solar cinema in Kosovo, a solar-powered mobile cinema, which strives to increase the access to cinema, raise awareness and stress the importance of switching to renewable energies. This has enabled the film screenings in the public spaces and public spaces as parks and playgrounds in neighborhoods, rural communities etc.



Fig. 5 Example of one of the successful sub-granting projects with community impact – Solar Cinema

JAKOVA INNOVATION CENTER (SMALL SIZE GRANT) - Smart Bin in the Municipality of Gjakova

The project 'Smart Bin', implemented in close support with the Municipality of Gjakova, aimed at stimulating citizens to throw garbage at the designated location in exchange for free WI-FI for 15 minutes.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guLUaZAgP3Q>



Fig 6. Example of one of the successful sub-granting projects with community impact – Smart Bin

2nd Call (started to be implemented from July 2019)

WOMEN'S BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (SHE-ERA) (MEDIUM SIZE GRANT) – with 'Production of organic fertilizer with the concept of circular economy as a sustainable safe resource in Kosovo'

The overall goal of the project is promoting and raising awareness of women farmers for exploiting a biodegradable waste in order to produce organic fertilizer. The specific objective is production of organic fertilizer with the concept of circular economy as a sustainable safe resource in Kosovo. The project will be implemented in numerous municipalities such as: Gjakova, Peja, Gjilan and Mitrovica North/South.



Fig 7. Example of one of the successful sub-granting projects with community impact – Organic Fertilizer

AYA PJETER BOGDANI (SMALL SIZE GRANT) – "BICYCLES, THE CITY AND I"

The project idea contributed in changing the behavior of citizens in relation to the environment, changing their transport / driving practices in favor of bicycles. By focusing on promoting good examples, the project aimed to provide cycling platforms to all interested people so that such activities are not only individual, but encourage a greater and critical mass of cycling in the country.



Fig 8. Example of one of the successful sub-granting projects with community impact 'Bicycles, the city and I'

3rd Call: (started to be implemented from February 2020)

FREE LIBRE OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE KOSOVA (FLOSSK) (MEDIUM SIZE GRANT) - Acquiring environmental data for climate and air quality awareness "Sensor Stations"

The "Sensor Stations" project taught students to build their own stations, create and analyze environmental data, and aimed to raise awareness of air quality and climate change, as well as increase civic science activity in Kosovo.



Fig 9. Example of one of the successful sub-granting projects with community impact 'Sensor Stations'

VARG E VI (SMALL GRANT) - 'Healthy Walk'

The aim of the project was raising citizen's awareness of sustainable development in Kosovo by supporting activities that particularly promote environmental protection. Project activities included: installation of ecological bookstores, promoting walking and research papers on the current state of environmental pollution in Gjilan region.



Fig 10. Example of one of the successful sub-granting projects with community impact 'Healthy Walk'

EEBO HAS ACHIEVED TO

- Gather over **5,000 Participants** in project activities
- Directly engage Over **300 organizations**
- Organize more than **80 Workshops and Trainings**
- Develop **100 Brochure and Pamphlet**
- Develop **5 Research Papers**

Fig 11. Examples of the sub-grantees work



IV. COMPONENT THREE: CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS

An essential central element of any advocacy strategy is the empowerment of CSOs, which includes building the capacity of CSOs and grassroots movements around three thematic priorities of this action and developing their skills so that they are able to implement proper projects, campaign and represent the interests of their communities more effectively. As a multi-year project, EEBO offered Capacity Building Trainings (CBT) for NGO's and project cycle management. It also offered awareness raising amongst various NGOs about the situation of the environment in Kosovo, the energy sector, renewable energy but also aspects of the circular economy and principles of sustainable development.

These training sessions were held at the 7 administrative centers of Kosovo (Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Prishtina and Prizren). The training sessions were held in two modules, where the first module consisted of capacity development, general information about the environment, energy sector and the circular economy. While the second module consisted of mainly information about project cycle management. After each training session, evaluations were handed out to all training participants.

Specifically, the topics of the training were:

1. Content: Environment, Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy) and Green Economic Growth/ Circular Economy.
2. **Support topics (Module 1 – Day 1):** interactive and participatory methods for implementing consultations and debates with citizens, conducting research, planning and implementing advocacy work, communication and work with public authorities, innovative outreach, work with media, small scale investment, etc.
3. **Organizational topics (Module 2 – Day 2):** internal governance and management, transparent functioning, strategic planning, dissemination and promotion, campaigning, communication, sustainable funding strategies, searching for funders, planning long-term projects, etc.



Fig 12. Capacity Building Training Sessions (2018)

The trainings aimed to inform representatives of participating organizations about issues related to sustainable development in Kosovo, their role in society in monitoring public institutions, to promote activities that contribute to improvement of the situation in the society as well as to promote the grant scheme that BGF and INDEP are offering as part of the project, through which different organizations can benefit by securing funding for their activities. In these trainings we used modern innovative techniques of lecturing and presenting that included proactive participation of beneficiaries including group and team work.

The table below explains the places, dates and the number of participants in each event:

MUNICIPALITY	DATE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
1. Ferizaj	25-26.04.2018	22
2. Prishtine	2-3.05.2018	26
3. Prizren	4-5.05.2018	24
4. Mitrovica	10-11.05.2018	23
5. Gjakove	15-16.05.2018	39
6. Peje	17-18.05.2018	21
7. Gjilan	22-23.05.2018	28
Total:		183

By the end of the implementation of this action, more than 180 CSO representatives were prepared and well informed about the sustainable development sector, advocacy tools and monitoring practices in improving the situation in their community/municipality/region or even nationally. The overall aim was to have proportional participation from each municipality of Kosovo, and a variety of CSOs, something that this project managed to achieve successfully.

Moreover, with the aim of contributing to the empowerment of CSOs and improvement of their know-how, BGF and INDEP organized CBTs for the awarded CSOs from the 2nd and 3rd call of applications pro-bono. In comparison to the 1st CBT organized during the first year of project implementation, the following CBTs differed in substance considering that from the monitoring visits conducted to the organizations awarded within the 1st call, BGF and INDEP noticed a lot of uncertainties and stumbles throughout their project implementation cycle. Hence, these trainings were utilized to address precisely what project implementation consists of, and answer any direct questions NGOs had in regards to their respective projects and their implementation.

During these trainings awarded CSOs within the sub-granting scheme had the opportunity to be introduced to all procedural matters related to grant implementation, i.e. narrative and financial reporting requirements, project management best practices etc. The training also informed representatives of participating organizations about issues related to sustainable development in Kosovo, their role in society in monitoring public institutions, putting an emphasis on the importance of promoting activities that contribute to improvement of the situation in the society.

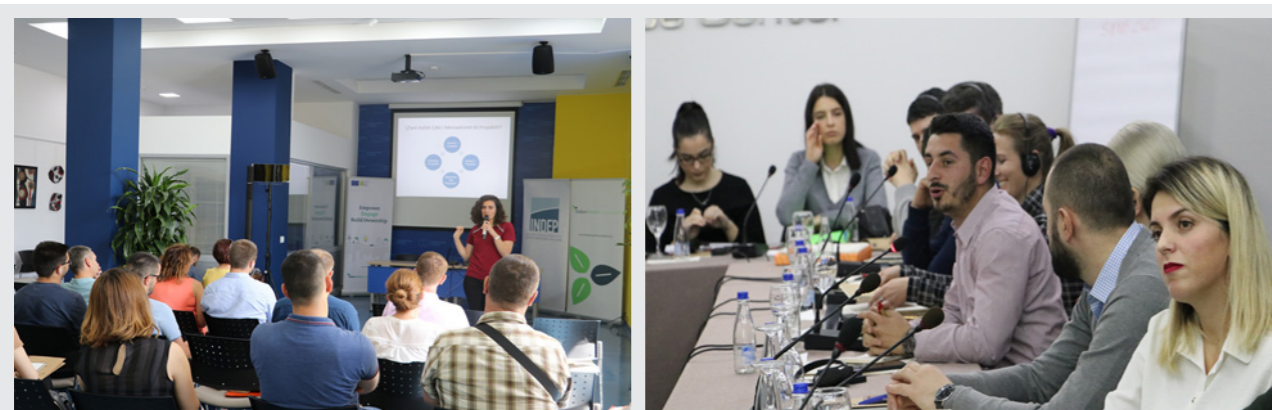


Fig 13. Capacity Building Training sessions (2019, 2020)

The trainings were divided in three parts of discussion, where during the first part participants had the opportunity to learn regarding the proper project cycle management. The following part included explanations in regards to financial guidelines for project implementation, and lastly guidance on narrative reporting and project implementation.

After each presentation, there was a questions and answers portion, where each participant had the opportunity to ask questions or request clarifications that were applicable to their organization or the project idea.

V. COMPONENT FOUR: VISIBILITY EVENT

With the aim of portraying the successes and community impact deriving from the EEBO project, BGF and INDEP organized a visibility event within the framework of Kosovo Sustainable Development Week (KSDW), a high level event where the project partners are among the core organizers². The objective of this event was to emphasize the importance of supporting concrete actions of local CSOs in the field of environment protection, green energy and circular economy – actions which directly focus on contributing to the betterment of the community. Moreover, it aimed to raise awareness and understanding from the wider population regarding the importance of adopting sustainable development practises in Kosovo through outreach and public awareness activities.



Fig 14. Visibility Event

Ricardo Serri, the Deputy Head of the EU Office in Kosovo/EUSR was part of the event, and stated that *“The EU Office in Kosovo has strengthened the support for local NGOs all over Kosovo through projects similar to EEBO; thus, a partnership and inclusion of partners from all levels is crucial.”* Mr. Serri added that cooperating with CSOs in Kosovo complies with the Union’s role in promoting best practices and advancing the sustainable development agenda.

The project partners reflected the progress that was made with the implementation of this project up to the point of the event, and emphasized how much the promotion of sustainable development and democratic European values have been strengthened as a result of the EEBO project. This event was a platform to present the impact deriving from the project, and the positive results it reached. The event promoted the message that sustainable development should be a guiding principle, and that there is an enormous potential for Kosovo’s economy to benefit a lot from such initiatives, simply by promoting it through the right means and supporting right projects.



² <https://www.balkangreenfoundation.org/en-us/press/126/empower-engage-build-ownership-supporting-csos-role-for-a-greener-kosovo/>

V.1. AWARENESS RAISING

A core objective of the EEBO project was to increase citizens awareness and understanding regarding the importance of adopting sustainable development practices in Kosovo. Among project activities within EEBO, but also among those of the beneficiaries, the component of awareness raising was highlighted and accentuated.

An assistive methodology which enabled a higher audience reach was being present in the media and showcasing project's successes. EEBO project received satisfactory media coverage, featuring the essence of the project but also showcasing project activities implemented by the beneficiaries of the sub-granting scheme. Project partners and sub-grantees were willing to be present in the media with the purpose of reaching a wider audience in order to incentivize discussions in the field of sustainable development. A number of main TV channels and radio stations have hosted the project team representatives who through various shows have shared information about the project in general. Moreover, project partners and sub-grantees utilized social media to spread awareness and display project activities, and in order to reach out to a focused target group, we have also engaged in 'post boosts' in Facebook in certain project activities.

Additionally, it is worth mentioning that as another component of awareness raising, beneficiaries implemented activities which involved a wide range of promotional materials, i.e. posters, presentations, stickers, brochures, etc., which were also distributed to the public in the streets. Additionally, project activities implemented by the sub-grantees included lectures in several elementary and high schools in order to inform the pupils (youth) on the matters of concern within EEBO.



Fig 15. Media appearance of project staff (KTV)



Fig 16. Beneficiary projects activity (Klan Kosova)

VI. RESULTS OF THE ACTION

Sustainable development, despite being quite of a modern concept in our country, has been highly elaborated by international institutions and also comprises a moderate part of government policies. While sustainable development implementation is far from a satisfactory level, the interest of parties has not been lacking. As elaborated above, there is a very well-established part of the CSO sector that promotes sustainable development and both organizations, BGF and INDEP are catalysts of it.

What we could establish from the project is that the general society, public institutions and civil society in Kosovo are interested in making the necessary reforms needed for EU integration, in particular those pertaining to participatory democracy and civic engagement, as well as implementing the need for sustainable growth and environmental preservation. As a result, this project was built on the fact that CSOs in Kosovo need further capacity building for civic engagement in three themes of this action through sharing experience, and are motivated to gain skills in drafting projects as well as developing and promoting them.

This project proved to be multidimensional: it contributed to growing capacities amongst CSOs in monitoring public institutions as well as promoted sustainable development in Kosovo by supporting project activities. With the implementation of the action there were a lot of actors involved from different spectrums and levels. Due to the empowerment and support provided to CSOs as a result of this action, it has contributed towards having more transparent, efficient and sustainable public institutions; and capable CSOs to draft, implement different projects and raise awareness on Kosovo's sustainable development potential. Moreover, this action supported projects which served as an inspiration to other groups too.

The implementation of each activity within this action has contributed to a stronger participatory democracy and civic engagement in Kosovo. Additionally, due to the fact that every year, about 18 organizations implemented projects that in their focus had sustainable development, this sector finally takes its necessary attention by all actors.

The Evidence Based report that was published identified problems and potential within three thematic areas and concrete recommendations for relevant institutions in order to improve the situation on the ground. Due to the capacity building element, more than 180 CSO representatives have gained skills in developing their planned actions in promoting sustainable development as a driver to boost green economic growth by using less electricity and preserving the environment. The network that was established among CSOs from different regions, national and local institutions is a positive sign of a multi-stakeholder cooperation. The sub-granting scheme and materials are expected to have a life beyond the project. But also, skills gained will benefit the long-term development of civic engagement.

BGF and INDEP monitored and advised organizations throughout the implementation of the project and offered their advocacy platforms and networking - not only with national organizations but regional and international ones too. These networks usually bring opportunities for joint project implementation. Participants of all activities were, and will continue to be, part of the Kosovo Sustainable Development Week, an event which BGF and INDEP are core partners - which gathers stakeholders, representatives of state institutions and organizations, but also and international institutions present in Kosovo, to discuss developments within the sustainable development domain.

VII. PROGRESS IN THE AREA OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN KOSOVO

Kosovo is still behind in the area of sustainable development. Reaching progress in this area requires action on all fronts – governments, businesses and civil society. Supporting small grantees and facilitating CSOs to become specialized in promoting sustainable economic development in general is a key factor in the road towards a sustainable socio-economic development. There is a lack of visionary development policies affecting key areas like energy, environment, economy, health and social aspects.

Kosovo has taken some important steps towards achieving sustainable development. Kosovo has voluntarily begun to adapt and integrate the Agenda 2030, an universal action plan aimed to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity everywhere. The first steps towards fulfilling this Agenda have been taken by establishing the Council for Sustainable Development. Kosovo institutions are also committed to building a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous society - as envisaged by the SDGs - acknowledging that the only way to achieve this is by working together with all stakeholders. In Kosovo, all levels of government, citizens, civil society and the private sector, play a role in advancing the SDGs and ensuring that no one is left behind. A sustainable development can only be achieved if everyone is a participant.

Since its initiation, the 'Empower-Engage-Build Ownership' action was in synergy with EU priorities for Kosovo to democratize the society, to provide support for building institutional capacities and for actions to help Kosovo face the challenges of European Integration. This project has shown to be a tool in emphasizing that sustainable development should be a guiding principle, considering the enormous potential for Kosovo's economy to benefit a lot from initiatives that empower civil society organizations simply by promoting the right means and supporting right projects. Civil society has been continuously strengthening its capacity to be a main stakeholder and as a great propulsion mechanism in raising awareness and serving as a bridge between people and institutions in addressing needs and advancing public dialogue. More importantly, the project has contributed to the awareness raising of the general population for the sustainable development domain hereby driving social change, strengthening communities, empowering students, and educating children.

ANNEX A: LIST OF BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE 'EMPOWER - ENGAGE - BUILD OWNERSHIP' SUB-GRANTING SCHEME

	BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
1.	Dokufest	Kino Solare	14,960.00 EUR
2.	Innovation Centre Kosovo - ICK	Cross-Sectorial Partnership for Renewable Energy Sources and EE.	15,000 EUR
3.	Ta Pastrojmë Kosovën Let's Do It)	Let's Green It	14,982.65 EUR
4.	CEDE-Center for Education and Development of Environment	"Promovimi i kompostimit në shkolla dhe ekonomi familjare"	4,996.00 EUR
5.	Keep it Green	"The Solar Cam"	4,996.00 EUR
6.	KosovaLive	Eko-Dizajnimi i së Ardhmës	4,930.00 EUR
7.	NVO Bolja Budućnost	Cleaner municipality Klokot-Vrbovac	4,935.00 EUR
8.	Youth Association for Human Rights	"We can do it for our living environment!"	4,920.00 EUR
9.	Youth Ecological and Security Zone - EcoZ	"Less is more"	4,870.00 EUR
10.	Poslovni Centar Zvečan	"Waste Recycle - New Models"	4,998.00 EUR
11.	Human Center Mitrovica	For the Clean Lake	4,995.00 EUR
12.	Instituti për Zhvillim dhe Integrim - IZHI	"Ruajtja e ambientit, ruajtje e shëndetit"	4,995.00 EUR
13.	Agricultural Recovery - REB	"Mbrojtja e ambientit nga ndotja me biombeturina- Kompostimi"	4,990.00 EUR
14.	OJQ 7Arte	"Green Fest 8"	5,000.00 EUR
15.	Zelena Basta (Green Garden Association)	"Raising awareness for a cleaner world"	4,430.00 EUR
16.	Jakova Innovative Center - JIC	"Smart Bin	5,000.00 EUR
17.	Qendra Rinore "Ardhmëria-Klinë"	Environmental Education	5,000.00 EUR

	BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
18.	Edukimi për energji dhe Ambient (3E)	Outdoor chess park for the community of Gjakova	4,700.00 EUR
19.	Vizionida	Hartimi dhe aprovimi i rregullores Komunale per menaxhimin e grumbullimit te mbeturinave	4,903.00 EUR
20.	Media Center	Cleanliness is health"	4,000.00 EUR
21.	Association of Architects	"Sustainable and innovative development of construction and real estate industry in KS"	14,970.00 EUR
22.	Endemika	Capacity building of CSOs for participation in the Strategic Environmental Assessment process	4,000.00 EUR
23.	NGO Media Pulse	Leposavic – Clean and green	3,998.00 EUR
24.	NGO Ozon	Pesticides, the common danger	3,945.00 EUR
25.	SBUNKER	BasketShishe	4,000.00 EUR
26.	GAIA	Building with nature in mind	3,994.00 EUR
27.	EKOVIZIONI	Live green, Save Green	4,000.00 EUR
28.	Young Active Gracanica	Gračanica Tourism Bike Rental	4,000.00 EUR
29.	AYA Pjeter Bogdani	Bicycles, the city and I	4,000.00 EUR
30.	NGO Center for Lifelong Learning Lighthouse	Save the Planet for Youth	3,915.00 EUR
31.	Fryma e re Europiane	EcoCharge	3,979.00 EUR
32.	Shoqata ekologjike „Ambienti,, (SHEA)	Ecological treatment of waste	4,000.00 EUR
33.	OJQ Environment & Community Development	The environment we live in is our home	4,000.00 EUR
34.	OJQ Shpresa e Jetes	Green Future Leaders	4,000.00 EUR
35.	Non-governmental Organization THY	"Re-Use" BETTER USE!	4,000.00 EUR
36.	NGO-SHQIPONJA	Environmental filtrator Pizren	3,980.00 EUR
37.	GLPS	Strengthening the participation of civil society in raising the awareness of institutions on the importance of acquis standards and their adoption in Kosovo legislation'	14,230.00 EUR
38.	Womens Bussines Association - SHE-ERA	"Production of organic fertilizer with the concept of circular economy as a sustainable safe resource in Kosovo"	14,860.00 EUR

	BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
39.	Green Project	Recycling - The ecological future	3,905.00 EUR
40.	Varg e Vi	Healthy Walk!	4,900.00 EUR
41.	NGO Roma Road	The Nature is our friend	4,900.00 EUR
42.	Youth Center Lipjan	The More Variety, The Better Society	4,900.00 EUR
43.	Center for Education and Development of Environment	Shoqëri aktive për mjedis të pastër	4,900.00 EUR
44.	Education Comes First	Krijimi i plehut organik	4,890.00 EUR
45.	Iniciativa per Zhvillim Lokal	Menaxhimi i mbeturinave dhe mbrojtja e mjedisit përmes të rinjëve në komunën e Obiliqit	4,890.00 EUR
46.	Bashkimi Rinor E Ardhmja E Ndritur – BRAN	Advocacy & Action Plan for a better and greener Shtime	4,880.00 EUR
47.	Keep it Green	Ricikleta	4,822.00 EUR
48.	Dedicated, Determined and Disciplined youth-D3 Youth	Lidhja e njeriut me natyrën	4,900.00 EUR
49.	Omladinski savet Gracanica (OSG)	Clean Air Gracanica	4,890.00 EUR
50.	Klubi Albin Prishtina	Ciklizmi i sigurt në Prishtinë	4,890.00 EUR
51.	Shoqata për ngritjen e vlerave shoqërore, edukative dhe morale, "Universi"	Ngritja e kapaciteteve të lidershit lokal drejtë planifikimit më të mirë ambiental në Dragash	4,745.00 EUR
52.	Vijece Kongresa bosnjackih intelektualaca	Spreçimo izgradnju mini hidroelektrana u Župi – Nacioanlni park Sar planina	4,860.00 EUR
53.	Agjencia per Zhvillim Rajonal – Lindje	Duane Liqenin Tuaj	4,880.00 EUR
54.	Eco Motiv	Creative ecology - change your habits, do not change nature	4,820.00 EUR
55.	Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture – ACDC	Save the future of our children	4,659.00 EUR
56.	NVO 4Life	Cuvajmo ono sto smo pozajmili od mladih	4,995.00 EUR
57.	Efiçencë & Auditim i Energjisë (EAE – Cooperation)	Solar Parking	15,020.00 EUR

BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
58. Democracy Plus	Angazhimi i të Rinjve për Mbrojtjen e Mjedisit nga Mbeturinat	14,970.00 EUR
59. Free Libre Open Source Software Kosova –FLOSSK	“Sensor Stations”	14,700.00 EUR

Table 3. List of beneficiary organizations of the ‘Empower - Engage - Build Ownership’ sub-granting scheme

ANNEX B: TRAININGS AND INFO SESSIONS

Capacity Building Trainings sessions were held at the 7 administrative centers of Kosovo (Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Prishtina and Prizren)

The table below explains the places, dates and the number of participants in training sessions.

MUNICIPALITY	DATE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS
1. Ferizaj	25.04.2018	10	7
2. Prishtine	02.05.2018	15	14
3. Prizren	04.05.2018	12	10
4. Mitrovice	10.05.2018	12	10
5. Gjakove	15.05.2018	20	17
6. Peje	17.05.2018	11	10
7. Gjilan	22.05. 2018	18	12
Total:		98	183

Module 2

MUNICIPALITY	DATE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS
1. Ferizaj	26.04.2018	12	7
2. Prishtine	03.05.2018	11	13
3. Prizren	05.05.2018	12	12
4. Mitrovice	11.05.2018	11	10
5. Gjakove	16.05.2018	19	16
6. Peje	18.05.2018	10	9
7. Gjilan	23.05. 2018	10	10
Total:		85	77

The table below explains the places, dates and the number of participants in info sessions for the first call for applications that took place between 5-14 June 2018.

MUNICIPALITY	DATE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Prizren	05.06.2018	20
Gjilan	06.06.2018	18
Peje	07.06.2018	11
Mitrovice	11.06.2018	16
Gjakove	12.06.2018	23
Prishtine	13.06.2018	24
Ferizaj	14.06.2018	14
Total:		126

The table below explains the places, dates and the number of participants in info sessions for the 2nd call for applications that were held between the dates 18-28 March, 2019.

MUNICIPALITY	DATE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Prizren	18.03.2019	24
Peja/Peč	19.03.2019	26
Gjakova/Đakovica	19.03.2019	13
Ferizaj/Uroševac	20.03.2019	19
Mitrovice/a	21.03.2019	50
Prishtine/a	22.03.2019	48
Gjilan/Gnjilane	25.03.2019	32
North Mitrovica	28.03.2019	7
Total:		219

The table below explains the places, dates and the number of participants in info sessions for the 3rd open call for applications that took place between the dates 2-11 October 2019.

MUNICIPALITY	DATE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Gjilan/ Gnjilane	2 October 2019	21
Ferizaj/Uroševac	3 October 2019	30
Gjakova/ Đakovica	4 October 2019	33
Mitrovicë/a	8 October 2019	26
Prizren	10 October 2019	35
Peja/Peč	11 October 2019	28
Prishtina/ Priština	11 October 2019	23
Total:		196

ANNEX C: PICTURES WITH GRANT BENEFICIARIES

Photos from some of the sub-granting project activities:





BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

ABOUT BGF

Balkan Green Foundation (BGF) is a regional organization that promotes inclusive and equitable progress within the Western Balkans on the sustainable development domain. Established in 2014, along with its partner organizations, BGF places a strong focus on advocating for solutions that promote development policies, which are in line with the world's latest developments, global challenges and national agendas for EU integration. Regional initiatives are undertaken on an ongoing basis to further convey BGF's commitment towards regional sustainability, ensuring the strengthening and advancement of vital policies affecting key sectors, such as energy, environment, and economy.

BGF has been successfully positioned as a key strategic partner for regional and global institutions, organizations, and communities in promoting sustainable development, transforming innovative concepts into powerful solutions, and strengthening regional and global partnerships.

About INDEP

The Institute for Development Policy (INDEP) is a think tank and an advocacy centre that provides independent research-based policy solutions. Established in 2011 as an association of policy analysts, researchers and civil society activists, INDEP looks at regional policies, aiming to guide countries of South-East Europe on their path to Euro-Atlantic integration.

In Kosovo, where it is based, the institute has a special focus on strengthening democratic governance and plays the role of public policy watchdog. INDEP's mission is to strengthen and guide sustainable socio-political and economic development based on the principles of democracy and democratic values. Its vision is the establishment of a democratic society, able and willing to run a functional state, integrated in the region and international community. The work of INDEP is guided by the fundamental principles of transparency and accountability. The institute promotes active citizenship and participation in governance, as well as checks and balances between democratically elected institutions.

INTERNATIONAL DONOR SUPPORT FOR EEBO PROJECT

The European Union Office in Kosovo was a main supporter of this project, supporting activities with great impact on promoting sustainable development in Kosovo. Moreover, throughout the project implementation, EEBO has received support of other international donors, such as the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung and ERSTE Foundation, all of which assessed the project positively considering its impact on the betterment of the community and the empowerment of the CSOs work on the sustainable development domain.



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