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Opportunity Balance & Overcoming

S I F D
Social Inclusion For Development

GRATË NË SHËRBIM PUBLIK
WPS ALBANIA

RAPORTI MONITORIMIT BASHKIA KURBIN

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Budget Accountability and Transparency

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MONITORING REPORT KURBIN MUNICIPALITY

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INFORMATION REQUEST REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

As part of the youth budget monitoring process for 2023, an initiative has been undertaken to assess how funds for youth programs have been allocated and implemented in the Municipalities of Lezhë, Mirditë and Kurbin. This monitoring aims to ensure transparency in the allocation of financial resources and identify ways in which these resources have contributed to improving services for youth. The process also aims to determine whether the allocated funds have been used in accordance with the established priorities and whether they have succeeded in meeting the needs of the youth community.

Methodology and Importance of the Request for Information

The methodology used for budget monitoring includes the analysis of budget documentation, interviews with local representatives and the development of surveys with young people to assess their perceptions of the services provided. The request for information addressed to the Kurbin Municipality is a key step to collect specific data on how funds have been allocated and how youth projects have been implemented during 2023. This request is essential to assess the effectiveness of youth policies and to ensure that investments are made in line with the needs and priorities of young people.

Expectations and Use of Monitoring Results

The results collected from this request for information will be used to help create a detailed report on how the youth budget has been used in the Kurbin Municipality. This report will help identify challenges and opportunities for improvement, providing local institutions with concrete recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of youth programs. At the same time, this process will raise awareness among the public and young people about the importance of transparency in the use of public funds and their involvement in decision-making processes.

2. QUESTION/ANSWER ANALYSIS

1. What are the financial allocations approved for youth programs in the 2023 budget?
"The financial allocations planned for youth in the 2023 budget are grouped according to structures in the Directorate of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports."
The response is very general and does not provide any concrete information on the amounts allocated to youth programs. The lack of concrete figures or details on how these funds have been distributed leaves much to be desired in terms of transparency. For an accurate assessment and effective monitoring, it is important to include specific financial data showing how much money has been dedicated to youth.

2. How much of these allocations are planned for specific youth services (e.g. education, employment, cultural activities)?"Some of the financial allocations are planned for specific youth services such as education, employment and cultural activities, such as the international activity 'Play and

"We dance' (May 2023), the activity for the holidays of March 7-8, the activity for the holidays of November 28-29, and the national activity for the development of the sport of billiards, etc."

This response mentions some specific activities, but does not include any detailed information regarding the exact amounts allocated to each of them. Although it provides a summary of the planned activities, the lack of figures and percentages makes it unclear how much of the total budget dedicated to youth was used for each specific service.

3. Is there a separate section in the budget that outlines funds for youth development?"Yes."

While the answer is clear, it does not contain any additional details to explain the content of this particular section. It is not known whether this section includes a detailed summary of funds or whether it is simply a general category. A more detailed answer would help to better understand the structure and content of this section in the budget.

4. What are the financial sources for youth programs (e.g. local funds, grants, donations)?"Grants."
The answer is very short and does not provide sufficient information on the specific sources of funding. It is not clear whether these are grants from the central government, international institutions, NGOs, or some other source. The lack of specifications on the sources of funding creates a gap in understanding the sustainability and security of funds for youth programs.

5. Are there any changes or deviations from the initial budget plans for youth programs? "No."

The response suggests that the budget for youth programs was implemented exactly according to the initial plans. However, the lack of details on the monitoring process and on the mechanisms that ensured this compliance makes this response somewhat limited. For a more complete assessment, it would be useful to include information on how it was ensured that the initial plans were followed and whether there were any necessary revisions during the year.

6. What are the main challenges identified in official documents for implementing the youth budget?

- Promoting and encouraging active participation of young people in activities.
- Discovery and development of new talents in various fields such as art, sports, culture.
- Improving the infrastructure of facilities where youth activities take place.

The response describes some of the key challenges facing youth programmes. They include important issues such as active participation of young people, development of new talent and improvement of infrastructure. These challenges are critical to the success of youth programmes, but the lack of details about the specific measures taken to address these challenges and their potential impact on budget implementation leaves much room for interpretation.

7. How were expenditures for youth programs monitored and reported during 2023?According to the planned development of activities and reported on the basis of budget implementation every 4 months."

The response indicates that expenditure monitoring and reporting is done at regular intervals every 4 months. This indicates an organized practice for tracking expenditure, but the lack of concrete details about the issues encountered during monitoring or about the methodology used to ensure that expenditure is in line with initial plans makes this response limited.

8. Which youth projects have received the most funding and why?
"International activity 'Let's play and dance' May 2023, Activity for the holidays of March 7-8, 'Flag Week' activity for the holidays of November 28-29, National activity for the development of the sport of billiards, etc."

The response mentions some specific projects that received more funding, but does not provide sufficient explanation as to why these projects were selected for higher funding. The lack of a clear analysis of the criteria that were used to decide on the allocation of funds creates a gap in understanding the logic behind these budget decisions.

9. Is there any information on the participation of young people in the decision-making process for the youth budget?"Young people are participants and represented by the Local Youth Council in meetings held by the municipality for consultation with the community for the approval of the draft budget, as well as participants in the council meeting for the approval of the budget and other meetings or gatherings of this type."

The response suggests a direct involvement of young people through the Local Youth Council in the decision-making process for the youth budget. This is a positive practice that increases transparency and helps address the needs of the youth community.

10. Have performance indicators ever been mentioned for measuring the success of youth programs?"Yes."

This response indicates that performance indicators were mentioned, which is an important step in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of youth programs. However, the lack of concrete details on which indicators were used and how they were measured leaves room for improvement in reporting and transparency. More detailed information on specific indicators would help in understanding the methodology and approach that Kurbin Municipality uses to evaluate the success of youth programs.

11. What are the main priorities for youth investments in official documents for 2023?

- Creation of supporting infrastructure with facilities and material base for the development of training processes in the fields of sports, education, art and culture.
- Financial support for many competitions and activities for international, national or local representation of young people.

The response provides a clear picture of the key priorities for youth investments in 2023, including improving infrastructure and supporting youth advocacy activities. These priorities are important for the development of the youth community, but the lack of financial details and other specifications about these projects may affect the accurate assessment of the effectiveness of these investments. More detailed information would help to better understand the impact and benefits of these priorities.

12. What is the organizational structure of the Local Youth Council?
The Local Youth Council consists of the Mayor, Representatives from the Municipal Council, Representatives from youth organizations, and Representatives from active youth of the Administrative Units (Laç, Mamurras, Milot, Fushkuqe).

The response indicates a clear and organized structure of the Local Youth Council, which includes representatives from all key segments of the youth community and local authorities. This structure suggests a broad and inclusive approach to decision-making, which is a positive aspect for promoting the interests of young people at the local level.

13. How are the members of the Local Youth Council elected?The members of the Local Youth Council are elected in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country, including the law on local self-government and the law on youth. The selection is based on a call for expressions of interest and the fulfillment of the established criteria, and are then approved by the Municipal Council.

The response indicates a formal and regulated process for selecting members of the Local Youth Council, which guarantees transparency and compliance with the law. This process includes public calls and selection based on contributions and defined criteria, ensuring that members are worthy representatives of youth.

14. What are the main functions and duties of the Local Youth Council?The main functions include strengthening youth organizations within the municipality, promoting and coordinating good practices with other youth organizations, and cooperating with public and private institutions on youth-related issues. Tasks include promoting youth projects, participating in trainings, assessing the youth situation, facilitating meetings with young people, and cooperating with youth organizations.

The Local Youth Council appears to have a broad and important role in promoting and supporting youth in Kurbin Municipality. The functions and tasks described indicate a proactive and collaborative approach to youth issues.

15. What were the main priorities of the Local Youth Council for 2023?Key priorities include conveying the voice of young people to the Mayor, promoting and coordinating good experiences with other youth organizations, and strengthening youth organizations within the municipality.

The priorities of the Local Youth Council indicate a strong focus on representing the interests of young people and building a strong network of youth organizations. This approach is important to ensure that young people have a voice in local decision-making and are assisted in their development. However, a deeper analysis would include assessing the success of these priorities and their real impact on the youth community.

16. What activities and projects has the Local Youth Council carried out during 2023? The Local Youth Council has carried out various trainings, youth activities for Youth Day, participation in the sports team Olympics organized by the NAC, and has been active in various activities such as the Holidays of March 7-8 and November 28-29, as well as in the international activity "Let's Play and Dance".

The response shows a wide range of activities and projects carried out by the Local Youth Council, including training, participation in national and international events, and organization of cultural activities. This shows a strong commitment of the Council to promoting youth activities and supporting their development.

17. What were the main sources of funding for the activities of the Local Youth Council in 2023?The main sources for financing activities have been local and central.

This response indicates that the Local Youth Council has had financial support from various sources, which is important for the implementation of their activities and projects. However, the lack of specifications on the amount of funds or on the way these funds were used leaves room for improvement in terms of financial transparency. Detailed information on the financial sources and the way in which the funds were allocated would help in a more accurate assessment of the effectiveness of financial management.

18. How are young people informed about the opportunities and activities organized by the Local Youth Council?Young people are informed through the group created by the Technical Secretary, social networks, and meetings.

The Local Youth Council uses a combination of methods to inform young people, including social media and direct communication through meetings and dedicated groups. This multi-channel approach is useful for reaching a wide youth audience and ensuring their involvement in various activities and opportunities.

19. What are the most successful activities and programs organized during 2023? All activities have been successful, but the international activity "Let's Play and Dance" and participation in advisory meetings for the draft budget stand out.

The statement that all activities were successful shows optimism and confidence in the work done by the Local Youth Council. The emphasis on the international activity “Let’s Play and Dance” and the participation in the project budget meetings show a strong commitment to activities of high importance. However, the lack of clear criteria for measuring success and evaluating these activities may limit the opportunity to learn lessons and further improve activities in the future.

20. How have activities and opportunities for young people been promoted during 2023?Through social networks and youth participation.

Social networks are an effective tool to promote youth activities and reach a wide audience, especially among young people. The use of this channel demonstrates a modern and appropriate approach to communicating with young people.

3. CONCLUSIONS

Transparency in the management of youth budgets by the Kurbin Municipality is limited and leaves much to be desired. Although there are some mechanisms for involving young people and the Local Youth Council in discussions on the draft budget, detailed information on allocation and specific expenditures is insufficient. The answers given to the questions on the budget show a lack of financial specifics, not including concrete figures or detailed details that would help in a more accurate analysis of the effectiveness of youth programs. This lack of information makes it difficult for the community and especially for young people to understand how and where the funds are allocated.

The reporting of activities and expenditures is also general and lacks the detail that would allow for a clear assessment of the success of the projects. For example, various activities are mentioned, but no information is provided on their cost, concrete impact, or performance indicators that would help measure achievements. This makes it impossible to accurately assess the use of funds and the real value of investments in young people.

Overall, the lack of transparency and detailed information reflects a serious problem in the way youth budgets are managed and communicated in Kurbin Municipality. Without clear and accessible data, it is difficult for the community and especially for young people to have confidence in the decision-making process and in the way funds intended for

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the way Kurbin Municipality responded to the request for information on the youth budget, the recommendations to improve the transparency and management of youth budgets are as follows:

Specification of Budget Figures and Details: In the responses provided, there is a lack of detailed specifications on financial allocations for youth programs, as well as on specific expenditures for youth activities. It is recommended that the Municipality of Kurbin provide more precise and clear details on the amounts allocated for each youth activity and project. Publishing a detailed report containing concrete figures and a breakdown of expenditures would help increase transparency and enable a better assessment of the use of funds.

Improving Reporting and Monitoring: Although it is reported that expenditures are monitored every 4 months, insufficient information has been provided on the content of these reports and the manner of their publication. It is recommended to create a clearer and more accessible system for reporting and publishing youth expenditures. These reports should be detailed and easy to understand by the public, including an analysis of performance indicators and the achievements of each project.

Increasing Public Participation and Consultation: In the responses provided, the participation of young people in budget decision-making was emphasized, but insufficient details were provided on the manner and frequency of these consultations. It is recommended that the Municipality establish

Regular and structured mechanisms for public consultation with young people and youth organizations. This will ensure that the demands and needs of young people are clearly and documentedly taken into account in the budgeting and planning process of youth activities.

These steps would contribute to increasing transparency and accountability, thus improving public trust and the effectiveness of investments in youth programs.