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Opportunity Balance & Overcoming

S I F D
Social Inclusion For Development

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RAPORTI MONITORIMIT BASHKIA LEZHË

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Budget Accountability and Transparency

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MONITORING REPORT MUNICIPALITY OF LEZHË

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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 Municipality of Lezha 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 Municipality of Lezha. 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? In the budget of the Directorate of Education, Youth and Sports for 2023, a fund of 983,000 lek has been allocated for youth.

The allocation of 983,000 lek for youth is an important piece of information that shows the total amount of funds allocated to this sector. However, to have a deeper understanding of the use of these funds, it is necessary to have more detailed details on the allocation of these funds into different categories such as education, employment, and cultural activities. A more detailed distribution would help in assessing the priorities and effectiveness of the use of the budget.

2. How much of these allocations are planned for specific youth services (e.g. education, employment, cultural activities)?The following activities are foreseen in the youth budget for 2023: Debate competition between students of public and private educational institutions, cultural visits between schools of administrative units, Youth Day activity, awarding the best graduates, environmental awareness/sensitization campaign, empowerment of young people of the Local Youth Council, and Art Fest Lissus.

The response provides a list of planned activities, including educational, cultural and youth assistance activities. This shows an attempt to cover the various needs of youth. However, no information is provided on the budget allocation for each activity mentioned.

3. Is there a separate section in the budget that outlines funds for youth development? One of the documents prepared during budget drafting are project sheets that provide a brief explanation of the activity.

The response suggests that there are documents that provide brief explanations of youth activities, but it is not specified whether there is a dedicated section in the budget for youth. A separate section in the budget would help provide a clear and structured overview of youth allocations and expenditures.

4. What are the financial sources for youth programs (e.g. local funds, grants, donations)?Youth programs at the Municipality of Lezha are financed by local funds.

The response indicates that funds for youth programs are entirely local sources, indicating that the funding is entirely part of the Lezha Municipality budget.

5. Are there any changes or deviations from the initial budget plans for youth programs? No, during 2023 there were no changes or deviations in the initial budget plans for youth programs, except for cases of activities developed without a budget.

The response shows stability in budget planning for youth programs, which is positive for financial management and forecasting.

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

Answer: The Directorate of Education, Youth and Sports has not encountered any challenges in the official documents for implementing the youth budget.

This suggests a clear and seamless picture of youth budget management. However, this may reflect a lack of complete reporting or a significant lack of information in official documents. If challenges are not identified, it may be necessary to check whether there have been other reports that have not been included or that the problems are being addressed in other informal ways. A broader inclusion of challenges in official documents would help improve transparency and resource management.

7. How were expenditures for youth programs monitored and reported during 2023?Based on the Ministry's instructions, expenditure reporting is done every 4 months until the annual reporting for each sector.

This indicates a regular reporting system for expenditure, which is useful for maintaining strict control over the use of funds. Reporting every 4 months provides the opportunity to address problems at an early stage and make necessary corrections. However, to ensure completeness and transparency, it would be useful to have information on how these reports are used to make decisions and to ensure that expenditure is in line with the plans and objectives set.

8. Which youth projects have received the most funding and why?The youth activities that have received the most funding for 2023 are: Debate Competition among students of public and private educational institutions, Award of the best graduates, and Art Fest Lissus. Funds have been allocated for these activities to promote youth involvement in public debates, to support and promote excellent young people, and to encourage the development of youth talents in arts and culture.

The larger allocation of funds to these projects suggests a focus on activities that have a high impact and broad benefit for youth. The debate competition and the high school graduation award aim to improve youth engagement and motivation, while the Art Fest Lissus aims to develop and promote artistic talents. This allocation of funds shows an attempt to cover different aspects of youth development, emphasizing the importance of engagement in cultural and educational activities.

9. Is there any information on the participation of young people in the decision-making process for the youth budget?During 2023, on the eve of planning the 2024 budget for youth, meetings were held with the Lezha Local Youth Council where suggestions and needs of young people in the city of Lezha were heard.

The response indicates an effort to involve young people in the budget decision-making process, which is a positive step towards improving transparency and representation of youth interests. The meetings with the Local Youth Council suggest an effort to listen to and address the needs and suggestions of youth, which is important for a more effective planning and implementation of the youth budget. However, more detailed information on how these suggestions are integrated into the final budget would help to better assess how effective this process is.

10. Have performance indicators ever been mentioned for measuring the success of youth programs?Performance indicators for measuring the success of youth programs were mentioned during budget drafting, such as the number of participating youth, the number of youth beneficiaries, and the number of activities.

The response shows that there are clear indicators for measuring the success of youth programs, which are useful for assessing the effectiveness of activities and making necessary improvements. The number of young people participating and benefiting helps in assessing reach and impact.

of activities, while the number of activities indicates the level of commitment and effort undertaken. However, to have a more complete picture of success, it would be useful to also have information on the quality of the activities and the feedback of the participants.

11. What are the main priorities for youth investments in official documents for 2023?
During 2023, there were no specific investments for youth in official documents.

The lack of priorities for youth investments in official documents indicates a gap in the planning and implementation of youth policies for this year.

12. What is the organizational structure of the Local Youth Council?The organizational structure of the Local Youth Council in 2023 consisted of the Chairman, a representative from the Municipality of Lezha, 2 representatives from youth organizations, and 2 young activists.

The structure of the Local Youth Council shows a mix of institutional and youth representatives, which helps to balance different perspectives and interests. This structure ensures a strong link between the local administration and the youth community, and can help to address the needs and concerns of youth more effectively. According to the established procedure available for the recruitment of the LRCC, it is clearly shown that an open and transparent recruitment procedure is followed with a representation according to the criteria set out in the Youth Law.

13. How are the members of the Local Youth Council elected?

The Local Youth Council was selected based on the criteria approved by decision of the Municipal Council, Decision No. 44, dated 27.04.2022. After the opening of applications by the Municipality of Lezhë, a 30-day deadline was set for the submission of documents by interested applicants. After the closing of applications, a working group is established by the Municipality of Lezhë which selects the applicants based on the criteria approved by the Municipality of Lezhë.

The selection process described is structured and transparent, ensuring that applicants are selected according to clear and agreed criteria. This helps to meet the legal and administrative requirements for the selection of Local Youth Council members.

14. What are the main functions and duties of the Local Youth Council?

The Local Youth Council is an advisory body that operates under the mayor and exercises the following powers: a) Advises local self-government units on the direction of local youth policies and plans; b) Assesses the situation of young people and the implementation of youth plans and policies at the local level; c) Proposes improvements to local youth policies, as well as initiatives that adapt to the needs of young people in the territory where they operate; d) Cooperates and exchanges information with the National Youth Council.

The functions and tasks defined for the Local Youth Council are oriented towards providing advice and improving youth policies at the local level. This advisory role is

important for ensuring that youth policies are appropriate and effective. Cooperation with the National Youth Council helps to harmonize youth policies at the national level. Information on how these functions are carried out and their effectiveness would help to assess the success of the council.

15. What were the main priorities of the Local Youth Council for 2023?The priorities of the Local Youth Council have been the inclusion of young people in policymaking at the local level and the promotion of youth potential in the Municipality of Lezha.

The priorities set show a clear focus on youth engagement in policymaking and developing youth potential. These priorities are important for increasing youth participation and strengthening youth capacities.

16. What were the activities and projects carried out by the Local Youth Council during 2023?The Local Youth Council has carried out several different and high-impact activities on the youth of the Municipality of Lezha for the year 2022-2023. For more details on the activities carried out, you can consult the detailed report at the link below:Lezha Regional Council Annual Report .

According to this report:

The Lezha Local Youth Council (LYC) has demonstrated high commitment to youth development during 2023 by participating in important events and trainings. LYC Lezha participated in the Winter School organized by AKR, where they trained on youth leadership, youth project design and management, and application procedures at AKR. The Youth Specialist at the Lezha Municipality, Anisa Mollaj, represented LYC Lezha and promoted youth activities, emphasizing the importance of developing youth leadership and strengthening local youth councils.

Completed Activities and Successful Projects

In 2023, KVR Lezhë organized a series of important activities for youth. Activities included training on CV and job application preparation, art exhibitions, meetings with journalists, youth projects, and training from organizations such as TEAM Center and the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation. These activities helped develop the skills of youth and improve their career opportunities and community engagement.

Promotion of Activities and Awareness

KVR Lezha has used social media to promote youth activities and encourage youth participation. Activities include awareness-raising campaigns, such as "Love in Social Media", and the creation of murals with messages against hate speech. These activities aim to raise awareness of social issues and promote solidarity among young people, including individuals with disabilities.

Lezha Community Connectivity Forumwas a key event for the Lezha Local Youth Council in 2023, organized to promote engagement and cooperation at the local level for young people. This forum was held with the participation of 190 young people, as well as over 30 representatives

from educational institutions, civil society, and local government. The activity provided a platform for discussing youth projects, the vision of KVR Lezha, and for promoting networking of local actors who contribute to youth development in the city.

Organization of Debate and Artistic Projects Competition

One of the main activities of the year was the organization of the debate competition “Liss Debate” between 9-year cycle schools, in which 18 schools and 90 students participated. This competition highlighted the commitment of KVR Lezha to the development of critical and argumentative skills of youth. Also, the project “Street Art Against Hate Speech Among Young People” included the creation of murals and the organization of youth activities that address hate speech and promote solidarity, creating new spaces for engagement and artistic expression for young people.

Overall, the work of the Lezha Local Youth Council for 2023 reflects a strong commitment to youth development through educational activities, promotion of social awareness, and cooperation with various local and international actors.

17. What were the main sources of funding for the activities of the Local Youth Council in 2023?The main sources of funding for the activities of the Local Youth Council in 2023 have included cooperation with the Directorate of Education, Youth and Sports, which has provided local funds, as well as financial support from youth organizations operating in Lezha.

The Local Youth Council has used funds from the Directorate of Education, Youth and Sports to support its youth activities, using local resources to cover the needs of the planned activities and projects. In addition, there has been support from youth organizations in Lezha, which have contributed funds and resources to help in the implementation of various youth activities. This combination of financial resources has enabled the KVR to carry out various activities and fulfill its youth goals.

18. How are young people informed about the opportunities and activities organized by the Local Youth Council?
Young people have been informed about the activities developed by the Local Youth Council through the social networks of the Municipality of Lezha and the social networks of the Youth Council.

Informing young people about the activities and opportunities organized by the Local Youth Council has been carried out mainly through social media platforms, where information and announcements on ongoing activities and projects have been distributed. Social media has served as an effective channel to reach young people and ensure that they are aware of the participation opportunities and various activities organized by the Local Youth Council.

19. What are the most successful activities and programs organized during 2023? The two most successful activities organized during 2023 were the "Debate Competition" and "Street Art Against Hate Speech".

The aforementioned activities have had a significant impact on young people in Lezha. The "Debate Competition" has provided an opportunity for young people to develop argumentation skills and engage in important discussions, while "Street Art Against Hate Speech" has contributed to helping raise awareness of hate speech and promoting solidarity through art.

20. How have activities and opportunities for young people been promoted during 2023?Activities during 2023 were promoted mainly on online platforms and at the Lezha Youth Center.

To ensure that the activities and opportunities reach a wider audience of young people, online platforms were used to disseminate information. The Lezha Youth Center also played an important role in promoting the activities, helping to organize them and informing young people through its communication channels.

3. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the responses to the request for information, the Municipality of Lezha has shown a clear commitment to transparency in the management of youth budgets. The information shared on funding sources and youth activities suggests a considerable level of openness and clarity, providing an overview of how funds are distributed and projects are implemented. Successful activities and programs are described in detail, and their promotion through social networks contributes to increasing transparency and access to information for young people and citizens.

However, while the information is useful, there is room for improvement in the level of detail of the youth budget reporting. To increase transparency and provide a clearer picture of the management of funds, it is recommended that the Municipality of Lezha provide more in-depth details on specific expenditures for each youth project. Information such as the allocation of funds for different activities, as well as analysis of the performance and impact of investments, would help in a clearer assessment of the efficiency of budget use.

In conclusion, to further strengthen transparency and public trust, the Municipality of Lezha should implement a more detailed and regular reporting system on the youth budget. This system should include regular and detailed reporting on the use of funds, as well as on the results and impact of youth activities. Such an approach would help provide a clearer picture of budget management and contribute to improving the engagement of citizens and young people in decision-making processes.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Detailed Reporting on Expenditures and Activities: To increase transparency and provide a clearer overview of the management of the youth budget, it is recommended that the Municipality of Lezha provide more detailed reports for each youth project. These reports should include the allocation of funds for different activities, specific expenditures and an analysis of the performance of the projects. Such information will help in a clearer assessment of the efficiency of budget use and in identifying opportunities for improvement.

Implementation of the Regular Reporting System: The Municipality of Lezha should implement a regular and detailed reporting system on the youth budget. This system should include regular and updated reports on the use of funds and the results of youth activities. Such reports can be published on the official website of the Municipality and other public platforms to ensure easy access for citizens and to increase their trust in budget management.

Incorporating a Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System: It is recommended that the Municipality of Lezha develop and implement a monitoring and performance evaluation system for youth activities. This system should include clear indicators for measuring the impact and effectiveness of projects, as well as mechanisms for collecting feedback from participants and beneficiaries of activities. Such an evaluation will help identify the weaknesses and strengths of youth programs, enabling sustainable and effective improvements in budget management.