



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Good Practice Example:
Network of Associations of Local Authorities of
South-East Europe - NALAS



Project overview/Pitch

- LGA or organisation: Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe - NALAS
- Project title: Enhancing local capacities to implement the 2030 Agenda and the "Leave No One Behind" Principle – SORi II (Social Rights for Vulnerable Groups)
- Name/s of the involved institution/s: GIZ, NALAS, Local Governments and Local Governments Associations from 5 economies of the Western Balkans.
- Three-line project description: To support local governments in the five economies of the Western Balkans to improve the economic, social and cultural human rights of their citizens in line with the overarching principle of the 2030 Agenda "Leave no one behind". It will be achieved through enhancing the capacities of local governments, their Associations and other relevant stakeholders to apply successful social approaches for strengthening the rights of disadvantaged groups and through strengthening the capacities of local governments to integrate the overarching principle "Leave no one behind" of the 2030 Agenda in evidence-based planning and decision-making processes.

1. Institutional setting



- The region of the Western Balkans faces vast socio-economic challenges.
- Lack of capacities at local and national level to adequately ensure respect for human rights, including the right to non-discrimination and social protection.
- Social protection is a local competence.
- EU negotiations for accession - fight against discrimination and the inclusion of vulnerable groups.
- NALAS Strategic Plan-Stable and resilient communities & Improved Services

Commissioned by Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by GIZ, NALAS is Lead Executing Agency
Duration: October 2019 to September 2022



2. Starting point/Project goal



Strengthening institutional capacities, expertise and experience of the local governments and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the social, economic and cultural human rights of their citizens, particularly of disadvantaged groups, in five target economies - Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, N.Macedonia, Kosovo* and Albania.

6 Local Government Associations – NALAS members are involved.

Target: local and national governmental and non-governmental actors.

Final beneficiaries: disadvantaged groups - the most frequently marginalised groups suffering multiple discrimination include ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, single mothers, returnees, members of the LGBTI community and, above all, youths, women and the elderly in rural areas.

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

3. Approach



Scaling up of best practices and Social Mapping

5 Social Approaches: Daycare Centers, Mobile Outreach Teams, Social Dialogue Forums, Awareness raising and Disaster Risk Management

Role of the Local Government Association

- **strengthening of the municipal capacities** on establishment and application of 5 social approaches and thus improvement of social, economic and cultural human rights of their citizens.
- **promoting social approaches** to the municipalities and advocating for their implementation. Supporting LGs in implementing the social approaches.
- setting up Learning Clusters – regional **peer exchange** among municipal administration and local practitioners on social protection from the CSOs.
- **documenting best practices**

3. Approach



Role of the Local Government Association

- promoting and testing the **social mapping methodology** and provide ongoing support to LGs to implement the social mapping methodology
- **support LGs in integrating locally collected data** on particularly disadvantaged groups in planning and decision-making processes. Provision of support in preparation of the municipal action plan on social protection.
- **digitalization** - development of a **municipal data base** for gathering data about vulnerable groups, their needs and the gaps between the needs and social services.

3. Approach



Role of NALAS

- **Build training capacities** of the member association and training portfolio on social protection, and application of SDGs at local level.
- **Disseminating successful stories** among LGAs in the region of SEE.
- Support LGAs in the **advocacy efforts** towards the national institutions in improvement of the institutional and legal framework on social protection, application of social mapping and decision-making processes on social integration and empowerment
- **Peer exchange** at regional level
- Provision of **online capacity development measures**: e-learning courses on social approaches through NALAS e-Academy and webinars

4. Outputs



Expected results

- At least 100 municipal civil servants and CSO activists able to apply different social approaches (daycare center, mobile outreach teams, awareness raising, social dialog forum and disaster risk management) and social mapping
- Complete training modules on 5 social approaches on disposal to the LGAs' training centers
- 5 e-learning courses aligned at the NALAS e-Academy
- 10 local governments are supported (technical assistance and funds) in application of the social approaches
- 5 municipalities identified vulnerable groups' needs and developed local action plans on social protection (technical assistance and funds ensured)
- Methodology for social mapping available to the local governments
- Best practices on social approaches disseminated across the region of SEE

5. Lessons learnt



- Lack of documented good practices on social approaches
- No sustainability of the project supported initiatives – lack of readiness of the local authorities to continue and support social protection services (initiated by projects) by using municipal resources
- Inadequate understanding and application of the „Leave no one behind“ principle at local level
- Benefits of application of e-platforms/tools for learning purposes

6. Follow up



Integration of the training modules within the LGAs' training portfolios on social protection

Further delivery of the e-learning courses as part of the NALAS e-Academy in the economies beyond WB, in the region of SEE

Advocacy actions of the LGAs towards:

- national institutions - integration of the social mapping methodology within the legal framework and
- local governments for regular application of SM as a basis for development of the local policies on social protection.

Contribution to the national implementation of Agenda 2030

