Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans (ReLOaD 2), financed by the European union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is announcing:

PUBLIC CALL TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ADVISORY GROUP OF THE ReLOaD 2 PROJECT IN ALBANIA.

The objective of ReLOaD 2 programme is to strengthen participatory democracies and the EU integration process in the Western Balkans by empowering civil society and youth to actively take part in decision making. Specifically, the programme aims to strengthen partnerships between local governments (LGs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) by enhancing transparency in funding of CSOs from local government budgets and promoting youth and civic engagement in decision-making and community development.

As a regional initiative ReLOaD 2 following the first phase of the programme, will be implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo* and Serbia. It is envisaged that ReLOaD 2 during 48 months of project intervention, will engage in total 50 local governments in the Western Balkans. In Albania it is planned that 10 municipalities will participate in the Project together with several civil society organizations. Partner municipalities will include 4 former (ReLOaD 1) partner municipalities and 6 new municipalities that will be selected during ReLOaD 2.

Within the Project structure, it is envisaged that the Advisory Group will be established for supporting the Board of Partners ensuring regular feedback vis-à-vis implementation of the Action and its effects on civil society and local governments. The Advisory Group will also share information about other relevant developments in the field of civil society and/or local governance that might influence the project implementation in Albania as well as to provide other advisory services to the Board of Partners on an ad hoc basis. Information regarding responsibilities, functions and composition of the Advisory Group can be found in Advisory Group Rulebook published on www.al.undp.org under the section for ReLOaD 2 project. The maximum number of members for ReLOaD 2 Advisory group will be 15.

One representative of the Advisory Group will participate in the work of Board of Partners of the project in Albania. At the first meeting of Advisory Group, nominated members will elect their representative in the Board of Partners.

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1 ReLOaD 1 https://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/albania-local-democracy-programme/

* For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to position on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence. For UNDP all references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of the UN Resolution 1244/1999.
Criteria for participation in the Advisory Group

The project has envisaged the composition of the Advisory Group from representatives of civil society organization, academic institutions, individuals and local government partners of ReLOaD 1 whose previous experience and expertise shall contribute to the successful and development-oriented work of the group.

We kindly encourage smaller local organizations (grassroots organizations) to apply for membership of the Advisory Group, in order to contribute to the overall policy-making and development of participatory democracies at the local level. Fair territorial and sectoral CSO participation will be considered through selection process.

Participation and contributions of the members of the Advisory Group is strictly on a voluntary, non-remunerated basis.

I. Eligibility criteria

a) Criteria for CSOs applying for membership. CSOs may nominate a candidate for membership at the Advisory Group, if:

- they possess the certification of the registration prior as per national legislation to the publication of this public call;
- the founding act and/or the Statute of the organization states objectives in areas such as: social inclusion, gender equality, human rights, environmental protection, youth, or minority rights;
- successfully implemented, in the previous years at least one project or activity related to the objectives of the ReLOaD project;
- the proposed representative of the CSOs should be active in the community and/or be an active member of projects of the CSOs in the respective fields;

b) Criteria for academic institutions applying for membership. Academic institutions may nominate a candidate for membership of the Advisory Group, if:

- they possess the certification of the registration as per national legislation prior to the publication of this public call;
- they have been part as leader or partner in projects implemented in the area where the academic institution operates and/or in national/international projects.
- the proposed representative of the academic institutions should be experienced in at least one following the fields: social inclusion, gender equality, human rights, environmental protection, youth, or minority rights.

c) Criteria for individuals applying for membership
• a candidate who shall apply for membership to the Advisory Group shall be Albanian citizen and currently resident in Albania;
• a candidate shall possess extensive experience in working in one of the following areas: civil society, democratic processes, human rights, youth initiatives; and is willing to voluntarily contribute to a successful implementation of project objectives and to the work of the Advisory Group;

All CSOs and academic institutions may propose more than one candidate for membership to Advisory Group. However, only one representative can be elected from the respective CSO and/or academic institution.

The CSOs that will be selected as members of the Advisory Group of ReLOaD 2 cannot apply for the Public Calls that will be launched from partner municipalities of ReLOaD 2 during project implementation.

II. Required documents

a) CSOs should submit the following documents:

• photocopy of the certification of registration, the founding act and the statute;
• a list of the implemented projects in the last 3 years detailed with the focus area of the project and period of implementation,
• letter of support from CSOs for the nominated candidate, with a short biography that provides sufficient information on the experience and expertise of the candidate;
• contact information (phone and/or email address) of the organization that nominates the representative;
• contact information (phone and/or email address) of the nominated person.

b) Academic institutions should submit the following documents:

• photocopy of the certification of registration, the founding act and the statute;
• a list of the implemented projects in the last 3 years detailed with the focus area of the project and period of implementation,
• letter of support from academic institutions for the nominated member, with a short biography that provides sufficient information on the experience and expertise of the candidate;
• contact information (phone and/or email address) of the institution that proposes the representative;
• contact information (phone and/or email address) of the nominated person.

c) Individuals should submit the following documents:

• photocopy of the passport or ID card;
• CV that emphasizes details of previous experience in relation to the objectives of the ReLOaD2 project;
• a motivation letter

Deadline for application: Public call is open from 17 March -10 April 2021
III. How to submit application:

Submission of candidacy for Advisory Group membership, is by sending necessary documentation via email at: registry.al@undp.org, or personally to UNDP premises, or via post address:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Albania)
Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans 2 (ReLOaD 2)
Address: Rruga e Bogdanëve
Eurocol Building, 7th floor
Tirana, Albania

With note: “Candidacy for membership in the Advisory Group-ReLOaD 2 Project”.
UNDP Albania will inform selected candidates, within 10 days since deadline for submission of candidacy. Eventual questions regarding selection of candidates can be sent to: registry.al@undp.org