

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR MUNICIPALITIES P2P INITIATIVE BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES

1. Background

In the framework of the project “*Strengthening Local Government Capacities and Improving Environmental Governance in Albania – Phase II*”, the Department of Economic and Environmental Issues (GEEID), supports the strengthening of local government capacities through the development of practical instruments, interinstitutional co-operation and exchange of experiences. The process of administrative and territorial decentralization in Albania has transferred important competencies to municipalities, including natural resource management, local planning, local development and environmental protection.

However, the level of implementation remains uneven across municipalities, due to:

- Different technical and institutional capacities;
- Lack of systematic exchange of good practices;
- Challenges in using data for planning and monitoring;
- The need for stronger co-ordination among local institutions.

In this context, the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) exchange approach aims to create a structured exchange platform between Albanian municipalities – **by selecting two pilot municipalities** – and a member municipality of the European network CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions), in line with the project commitments. The integration of the practice of a CEMR member municipality will:

- Strengthen the European dimension of the reform;
- Create a concrete model for replication at the local level;
- Support harmonization with EU standards;
- Increase institutional credibility and motivation for implementation.

The P2P approach will be based on the principle of horizontal learning, where municipalities learn from each other's practical experience, increasing ownership and sustainability of reforms.

2. Selection procedure

The process will be facilitated by the National Association of Albanian Municipalities and the Association of Local Elected Officials, which will launch the Call for Expressions of Interest.

The selection process of municipalities will be facilitated by the National Association of Albanian Municipalities and the Association Local Elected Officials, with technical support from the Agency for Support of Local Self-Government and the OSCE Presence in Albania.

The deadline for application: 31 March 2026

The selection of municipalities will be based on the following criteria:

- a. **Institutional will and commitment**, demonstrated through an official letter signed by the Mayor and the designation of a technical contact person;
- b. **Institutional performance of the municipality**, taking into account the results of the performance report and experience in implementing policies or projects in the field of environmental governance, sustainable development, waste management and innovation;
- c. **Coherence of the proposed topics** for co-operation, where municipalities should identify 2–3 priority areas for exchange of experiences.

3. Application procedure

Municipalities can apply by filling out the online form at the link:

<https://forms.gle/x6xHKDQTtqFq6KWE8>

The letter of expression of interest can be:

- Sent by email to the address: Luenal.konomi@osce.org or,
- Uploaded directly through the online application form.