

Grant Application
Small Grants Program
Country Office of World Bank in Tirana

Executive Summary

The proposed project is the first tentative of environmental civil society sector to put into municipality agenda the environmental problems caused by the lack of monitoring and the existence of corruption in different levels within the local government.

Every one of us has the right to control and monitor the services we pay for.

With this project we intend to focus on the waste collection services provided by three private companies on behalf of Municipality. For the first time a thorough and neutral monitoring will be done to the three private companies who deal with the waste collection in the city of Tirana. A group of 14 young people will hardly work to do the monitoring of the waste collections in three pilot areas in the late ours of the night. One zone with at least 10 collection points each will be chosen for each company

The monitoring process will be divided in two phases. The first phase of monitoring will be done immediately after the proposal approval in a discrete meaner, while the second phase will be done after the official launching of the project.

The differences in the monitoring repots will help us and other interested parties within the municipality to:

- ✚ Make evident the catastrophic waste cleaning situation in the city, especially in summer time;
- ✚ Identify/ make evident the existence of corruption among the "clean and green directorate";
- ✚ Set the basis of a standardized and continuous monitoring by the municipality itself;
- ✚ Take concrete steps t alleviate the corruption cases and its impact to the public services;
- ✚ Involve general public in the identifications of the problems and through the Citizen Commission of Environment (CCoE) propose concrete steps to improve the situation.

The goal of the project presented to you is to evidence the existence of corruption and contribute to the alleviation of this corruption in Tirana City hall, so that the services provided to the community become more efficient.

In order to successfully achieve our goal we will work to fulfill the below stated objectives:

- ✚ Monitor the waste collection service provided by private companies on behalf of Tirana Municipality in three pilot areas;
- ✚ Investigate and make evident (if occurred) the existence of corruption in this sector;
- ✚ Give recommendation to the Clean and Green directorate for the improvements on the waste collection services

The whole project activities will contribute to raise the voice of civil society in the anticorruption measurements within local government and of course to a cleaner and healthier environment for the citizens of Tirana.

1. Date: **28 February 2006**
2. Name of organization: **Environmental Centre for Development, and Networking (EDEN)**
3. Contact person and title: **Merita Mansaku – Meksi, Manager**
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7. Mission statement of the applicant organization:

Its Mission is the development of a sustainable and healthy environment through building capacities; promoting participatory approach; offering expertise and services to civil society and governmental structures; and lobbying in the national level.

8. Purpose of funding request and how this activity relates to civic engagement:

The whole project stands on the monitoring of the waste collection services of Tirana municipality provided by three contracted private companies. There will be organized two rounds of monitoring. The first one when the project is not officially launched and no one besides EDEN staff and youth group knows about it. The second one will be organized after one month of official launching the project. Then a comparison of the findings of both monitoring will be done. If the situation in the second monitoring is better than in the first one, it shows clearly that the corruption exists even in the “palace of avant-guard”

The idea behind this project is that EDEN sets the basis of a standardized and neutral monitoring for public services as well as through this initiative we make evident the presence of negligence, incompetence and corruption among city hall staff.

Putting the monitoring report in the agenda of one of the meetings of Citizen Commission of Environment will help us to make the phenomenon public, push the municipality for tackling concrete steps to alleviate these phenomenon's and of course the end result of all this initiative will be a cleaner and healthier environment for the citizens of the capital.

The City hall/ the leadership of the municipality who are interested to have this kind of monitoring in place are the direct beneficiaries of this project as well as the general public which by the end of this project will have better and controlled services offered by their municipality.

9. Target population and number benefiting from the proposed activities:

- General public in the capital who in the end of the project will have a better and cleaner environment
- City hall – shows another time that it knows how to accept its weak points and make concrete steps to improve them by positioning itself towards the public as an avant-guard and anticorruption institution.
- The staff of clean and green directorate (6 staff) will know the methodology how to develop monitoring on their own.
- The Citizen Committee of Environment (18 civil society representative) who will have the monitoring reports on which to base the concrete steps for improvements to the municipality.

10. Expected outcomes of the activity:

By the end of this project it is intended to have in place the following outcomes:

- Two monitoring processes undertaken for each of the three pilot areas;
- A detailed report prepared on the situation of the services offered by each company;
- At least 50 people from Municipality, EDEN and CCoE involved in the process of evidencing the corruption;
- Clear and qualified recommendation drawn for the municipality;
- Concrete actions by the municipality for the improvement of the situation.

11. Plans for learning and knowledge sharing:

The EDEN Centre in collaboration with the Tirana Municipality has undertaken this initiative aiming to pave the way of monitoring processes conducted by civil society actors as well as fulfilling one of the NGOs role in the society – that of the oponence. We have avail our self to do this kind of monitoring once every two years on behalf of CCoE, so the capacities raised in the staff and youth group involved in the project implementation will be used and expanded in the future.

12. Period this funding request will cover: **June 2006 - February 2007**

13. Amount of request (Details under Activity Income): **4150 USD**

14. If your organization has received previous support from the World Bank, please list the year, amount, and describe for what purpose:

NA

15. Authorizing signature of the applicant organization's executive director or board chair:

Signature:

Name (print): **Merita Mansaku - Meksi**

Title: **Manager**

The aim of the grant

16. Describe shortly the issue/problem, which will be attended through your project. Describe the community who will serve (number of the participants), how will be involved and how will benefit them?

If every one would take a quick tour in every streets of our city – Tirana, the wastes are the first thing that attract their attention. Everywhere, especially in the suburbs and in the most populated areas, you can easily distinguish rotten containers, overloaded with wastes, some street dogs grubbing in the containers or the wastes spread all over around. Very often, some gipsy people dig in the wastes to find out materials that can be recycled or reused.

This is the picture of our capital seen by an environmentalist point of view.

Very natural, everyone coming from another society can say that here the level of awareness and education among people is extremely low. And as it happens randomly, ever actor in this process tries to blame the others.

If you do a WHY question in the Clean and Green directorate within Tirana Municipality, the routine response is: "this is the level of our people and we can not change it within a day". When you go and do some quick surveys in different communities the refrain is: "the municipality does not provide a contemporary service, most of the infrastructure is very old and not appropriate and in addition to that, the collection machine comes once every two or three days"

Our dilemma, while considering this project was, where the ball stands?

It was not so complicated to find it. Of course, it is not a clear distinction, but what we founded out during the implementation of a campaign for the prompt disposal of waste in 18 pilot streets in Tirana was that the ball stands more on the lack of services.

The companies that provide the waste collection services on behalf of Municipality, lack the basic standards to properly do that. The collecting machines are very old and they contribute too much by damaging the waste containers. On the other hand, the number of the containers that the companies have to provide for each site or the number of collecting times per week is far from the contractual duties.

There are only two inspectors in the municipality who deal with the supervision of the three private companies that do the waste collection service and up to now, there have been no serious cases of controls or penalties.

Within this project EDEN Center would like to make evident the real problem of waste invasion in Tirana.

By offering a neutral monitoring in three pilot areas/one per each company, and by doing a comparison between the services provided and how they should be according to the contracts, we will make evident the possible cases of corruption and neglecting within the municipality staff. Discussion of the monitoring results in a meeting with the CCoE and municipality leadership will not only contribute to inform them for the violations of the service contracts and cases of corruption, but will in the end contribute to solve our hidden aim – a cleaner and healthier environment for everyone.

17. How will affect the proposed project/activity in the improvement of the social amenability and in the strengthening of the citizen commitment?

The exigency for protecting the environment around, also the consciousness and the responsibility we have towards the ecosystem where we live, is a necessity of the latter-day. Important moments of this aspect as: the management of the urban wastes and the plans for their administration are mentioned very clearly and with phases analyzed fairly well in the "Local Strategy for a Healthy Environment in the City of Tirana 2005 – 2008", publication of the Tirana Municipality in cooperation with EDEN Centre.

Making evident the problematic issues of services offered on behalf on Tirana Municipality and offering those problems and the recommendation for improvements to CCoE will help to promote a new culture and a new proceeding about the environment. This new citizen culture will be transmitted to the general public through different articles and it will continue to be envisaged by EDEN as a very crucial component of our work which leads to the improvement of Municipality services.

18. Rank the aims of the project/activity and the indicators which will measure their execution:

- To monitor the waste collection service provided by private companies on behalf of Tirana Municipality in three pilot areas;
- To investigate and make evident (if occurred) the existence of corruption in this sector;
- To give recommendation to the Clean and Green directorate for the improvements on the waste collection services.

19. The project/activity is new or extension one of the applicant organization? If the project/activity is in progress, how will support your organization this project/activity in the future?

Establishment of a standardized monitoring methodology which can be the basis of other monitoring processes undertaken by the municipality is considered the long term impact of this project.

The Citizen Commission of Environment acting within Tirana Municipality has been established in September 2004 as a result of the initiative of city hall leadership and EDEN recommendation to bring the environmental issues in the agenda of the Municipality. Since then the CCoE has been a strong voice of the public in the municipality decision making. It will be exactly this commission (where EDEN is part) that will firstly take care that the recommendations drawn by this project will be implemented, and secondly ask the municipality to regularly do the monitoring of the services that the private companies deliver on its behalf (at least every two year).

The group of young people from our center, who will work for conducting the upper mentioned monitoring, will avail themselves to voluntarily do this service to the community they belong once every two years. The results from these monitoring will serve to the CCoE to do the comparison with the results of the monitoring done by the municipality.

Establishment of this mechanism by our side will pave the way of monitoring of local governance work from civil society. As a result of different evidences, it will contribute to the reduction of corruption.

The whole period of the implementation will be a learning period not only for young people acting as monitors in the three pilot areas, but also for the staff of EDEN Center. The experiences and lessons learned during this project will teach us how to be real "watch dogs" toward environmental non friendly behaviors from local and central government and for the identifications of the corruption in both systems.

20. Compile a short plan for implementing this project/activity:

Activity	Person responsible	Time line									
<p>First monitoring As soon as we do have the green light for the project, the group of young people involved will undertake the monitoring of the three pilot zones. This monitoring will be done in a discrete way, so that no one in the municipality or from the cleaning companies hears something about that.</p>	Project director & project coordinator	■	■								
<p>Working group In the third month of the project, after the first monitoring, a working group will be created with representatives from municipality and EDEN. Monthly meetings will be organized in order to discuss project technicalities, working methods, monitoring methodology etc.</p>	Project coordinator			Working group meetings							
<p>Kick off meeting A kick off meeting will be organized in the premises of the municipality where all the interested stakeholders will be invited. Members from CCoE, donors of the project, representative from inspectorate of environment, Municipality staff and EDEN staff will be the key players of this meeting.</p>	Project coordinator & Municipality' project coordination unit representative			■							
<p>Studying of three contracts All the three contracts will be carefully studied and crucial elements such as companies obligations in terms of, no. of collective machines, no of containers to be provided, no and time of collection/point, no of workers/collectors etc</p>	Project coordinator & Head of clean and green directorate			■							
<p>Second round of monitoring For three consecutive months 12 monitors/ 4 for each zone will do the monitoring of the pilot zones¹. The</p>	Project coordinator & Municipality' project coordination				■	■	■				

¹ Each pilot zone will have at least 10 collection points

waste collection time (almost in the midnight) is a factor of constrains for the group of young people so there will be teams of two or fours in cases of suburbs areas. On the other hand, this timetable has been in favor of the private companies, cause no one from municipality is willing to do inspection in that time.	unit representative									
Reports on the field monitoring In the end of both round of monitoring a detailed reporting will be done for each of the zones, explaining in detail the whole monitoring process, methodology, the teams findings, photos from the different sites etc. copy of the reports will be prepared in advance for the CCoE in order to let them know well in advance for the problem they are going to discuss in the meeting.	Project director & project coordinator									
Draw of recommendations An integral part of the monitoring reports will be also the recommendation for improvements. It is considered as a separate activity, because we might need the involvement of experts or other peoples out of the working group in order to be specific and professional in the recommendations that we will draw.	Project director & project coordinator & Head of clean and green directorate									
CCoE meeting All the members of CCoE(18) representing different institutions will be gathered together with the leadership of the municipality in order to discuss the facts of incompetence, corruption, abusing with public taxes, and undertake concrete steps to improve the situation.	Project coordinator & Municipality' project coordination unit representative									
Reporting to the donors Reporting will be done according to the donors requirements. All the indicators stated in the table of monitoring and evaluation will be carefully evaluated in order to determine the project performance.	Project coordinator & financial officer									

21. Which organizations, if there are, will take part in the project? Describe their role:

EDEN Centre – implementer of the project, responsible for the monitoring process and organization of the CCoE meeting.
Municipality of Tirana – as a direct beneficiary as well as an active part of the working group.

22. Rank the names and qualifications of the important staff/volunteers responsible for implementing the project:

Merita Mansaku – Meksi – Manager of the EDEN Centre.

Eva Cali – Chief of the sector in the Cleaning Directory at the Tirana Municipality.

Gelina Ramolli – Specialist in the Project Design and Coordination Unit at the Tirana Municipality.

Rigers Greku – Project Coordinator at the Environmental Centre for Development, Education and Networking (EDEN).

Altin Sula – IT Specialist at the EDEN Centre.

Bujana Xhindoli – Coordinator of the volunteers group at the EDEN Centre.

Valmira Kallushi – Financier of the EDEN Centre.

Evaluation

23. Please, rank the specific results of your activity. What methods/strategies will be used to identify and measure the results? (E.g. interviews, surveys, focused groups, community feedback, etc.):

	Activity	Input	Output	Indicators	Means of verification	Responsible
<i>Evidence the existence of corruption and contribute to the alleviation of this corruption in Tirana City hall, so that the services provided to the community become more efficient.</i>	First monitoring	12 young persons involved, digital camera and financial means	Clear overview on the work performed by waste collection companies.	No. of bins/site No. of collections/site Time of collection/site No. of machines/zone	Photos Sites questionnaires	Project director & Working group members
	Working group	Team of 4 (EDEN & Municipality) Meeting space Contracts documents	Methodology and a working plan. Participatory approach management throughout the project period	No. of WG members No. e meeting of WG	Photos from the meetings Minutes of meeting	
	Kick off meeting	Key players invited Municipality premises Computer, EDEN Volunteers & financial means,	Project launched	No. of persons invited No. of media present	Photos Different articles	
	Studying of three contracts	Contracts Human resources	Companies obligations extracted from the contracts	Lists of services the companies should deliver	Contract documents Documents with	

						the obligations of each company prepared
Second round of monitoring	12 young persons involved, digital camera and financial means	Overview of the companies performance	No. of bins/site No. of collections/site Time of collection/site No. of machines/zone	Photos Sites questionnaires		
Reports on the field monitoring & Draw of recommendations	Human, material and financial resources	Three reports prepared/ one for each pilot zone		Reports for each zone		
CCoE meeting	18 members of CCoE invited, Municipality and EDEN Staff, Reports delivered & financial means	Reports and recommendation discussed with the municipality leadership, Concrete steps undertaken	No. of persons present No. of media No. of articles Conclusions given	Photos, articles, minutes of meeting,		
Reporting to the donors	Human, and financial resources	Narrative and financial reports prepared		Reports delivered		

24. Describe shortly what changes will bring out the grant after its implementation:

- o Firstly, the involvement of the World Bank supporting this project, will enhance the number of the actors interested in the improvement of the environment quality in Albania;
- o At least 50 people from Municipality, EDEN and CCoE aware on the quality of services offered by the private companies;
- o Concrete actions by the municipality for the improvement of the situation.
- o Clear steps implied to the cleaning company to improve the service quality.

25. How will be used and/or diffused the results of this activity?

The results of both phases of monitoring will be delivered to the Citizen commission of Environment (CCoE) which based on that and on the conclusions drawn in the reports will propose to the municipality leaderships concrete speps for service improvement.

Every qualitative and quantitative result of the project in function to the execution of the duties that the Tirana Municipality and EDEN Centre have undertaken in the framework of the "Local Strategy for a Healthy Environment in the City of Tirana 2005 - 2008" – public awareness sector. So, we are not only interested to receive maximal results, but also that these results will be evident and with a positive impact in the community. For every realized activity, the coordinator of the volunteers group and the project coordinator will prepare informative articles which will be set up on our internet webpage "www.eden-alb.org", in the electronic portal of the environmental NGOs "www.qke-al.org", as well as in the fortnightly-journal "Eco-movement".

Project incomes

26. Total contributes of the applicant:

- a. In kind (volunteer work): **1,800 \$ USD**
- b. In Cash: **3,215 \$ USD**
- Total: 5015\$ USD**

27. Founds of the other donors (foundations, embassies, public sector, private sector, individuals, etc.). (Rank all the resources and the estimated values):

- | <u>Resource</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| a. Partners Albania | 10,551 \$ USD |
| b. Tirana Municipality | 200 \$ USD |
| Total: | 10,751 \$USD |

28. Requested total from the World Bank: **4150 \$USD**

29. The total income of the project/activity from all the resources: **19916 \$USD**

Budget for the Proposed Activity

Please (1) provide the necessary information for each budget item, and (2) indicate the funding source(s) that will cover the expense. Use as much space as necessary. All items must be related to the activity:

Summary chart (please find attached the detailed budget):

Item	Contribution from Applicant	Contribution from Partners Albania	Contribution from Tirana Municip.	Contribution from the World Bank	Total
Professional Fees (list consultants and fees)	930 USD	1590 USD		1650 USD	4170 USD
Travel (specify)	135 USD	135 USD			270 USD
Equipment (specify)	350 USD	216 USD			566 USD
Supplies, Printing, Copying, Telephone, Fax, Postage, and Delivery (specify)	3600 USD	8020 USD	200 USD	2400 USD	14220 USD
Unforeseen expenses		590			590 USD
Evaluation (specify)				100 USD	100 USD
Total expenses:	5015 USD	10551 USD	200 USD	4150 USD	19916 USD

Attachments

Please attach the following documents to your proposal, if available:

- ✓ Complete list of the applicant organization's senior staff and board of directors;
- ✓ Most recent annual financial statement listing income sources (audited if available);
- ✓ Organization's projected income and expense budget for current fiscal year, listing income sources;
- ✓ Copy of the applicant organization's registration status;
- ✓ Receipt of the organization's bank account;
- ✓ Latest annual report.

Nr.	Zeri	Shuma
1	Drejtori i projektit	\$ 300
2	Koordinatori 6 muaj x \$ 200	\$ 1.200
3	Financieri	\$ 150
4	Rent	\$ 450
5	Communication	\$ 150
6	Field Monitoring 6 muaj x 3 zona x 4 person/zone	\$ 1.800
7	Vleresim	\$ 100
	Total	\$ 4.150