



**Subject: Request for support for creation of Municipal Development Index**

Министерство за  
локална самоуправа

„Св. Кирил и Методиј„

бр.54.1000 Скопје,

Република Македонија

Тел: (02) 3253-921

Факс: (02) 3253-920

Е-пошта:

Сајт: [www.mls.gov.mk](http://www.mls.gov.mk)

Dear Ms Narine Sahakyan

The Ministry of Local Self-Government wishes to take this opportunity to acknowledge the long-standing cooperation with UNDP on the decentralization agenda, which has yielded numerous results over the years. Thanks to the support of UNDP, the Ministry of Local Self-Government has not only designed a number of policy interventions, but has also managed to bring the decentralized services closer to the citizens.

While taking pride in all achievements so far, the Ministry recognizes that the lack of data on socio-economic disparities among municipalities has been a serious impediment to proper planning of local development.

In that regard, the Ministry of Local Self-Government would like to address this data gap by creating a methodology for measuring the development of the municipalities. Such methodology would provide a ranking system for the 80 municipalities by introducing standardized measures for regional performance based on a range of simple, objective and easily available indicators, thus allowing comparison of the municipalities by the level of their development. The idea is for this methodology to also be used to provide a helpful orientation for the Ministry, other governmental institutions and municipal authorities in monitoring municipal performance, identifying most urgent development priorities and allocating funds for local development projects to most in need municipalities, thus introducing a systematic approach for addressing the disparities in quality of life across the country.

Having said that, and in consideration of the experience, strong capacities and relevant mandate of UNDP, the Ministry would like to request continued support from the UNDP Country Office in Skopje in this endeavor.

Based on our initial discussions, UNDP and the Ministry could draw on the experiences of the Regional Development Index introduced in 2008, and create a clear and simple Index of Municipal Development of the Local Self Government Units. Once the index is designed and tested, the Ministry will commit itself to institutionalizing the methodology and sustaining the effort.



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In view of our excellent cooperation so far, we are confident that this effort for creation of Index of Municipal Development of the Local Self Government Units in the country will be to the long-benefit of the country and its citizens.

Yours sincerely,

Suhej Fazli

