



Rezarta Krasniqi, D+

RECYCLING MATTERS

Recycling Matters is a three-year initiative to improve the prosperity and social cohesion of Kosovo Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian informal waste collectors, while fostering sustainable community recycling systems. This locally-led initiative consists of two awards focusing on: 1) Gračanica/Graçanicë and 2) Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje. By facilitating sustainable recycling models, these two awards will increase the amount of recyclable waste that enters the circular economy while increasing the socio-economic cohesion among community members. This initiative contributes to USAID's overall goal of increasing opportunities for inclusive democratic and economic participation.

ACTIVITIES

- Augment livelihood opportunities among Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian informal waste collectors by increasing the volume of recyclable materials they can access and sell for profit.
- Vertically integrate the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian informal waste collectors within the public and private sector waste management systems through established cross-sectoral partnerships.
- Develop sustainable recycling models by encouraging separation-at-source practices across all community levels, increasing awareness of recycling and environmental protection, and establishing a waste separation center.

- Increase social cohesion among majority and non-majority communities through the collaboration of informal waste collectors, local leadership, and municipal officials.
- Improve the work conditions and safety of informal waste collectors.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased job opportunities and wages for Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian informal waste collectors engaged in the recycling sector.
- Establishment of a Resource Center to support Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian informal waste collectors.
- Establishment of a Waste Separation Center.
- Enhanced skills of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian informal waste collectors through training in novel recycling approaches.
- Improved work conditions and enhanced safety standards for participating Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian informal waste collectors.
- Increased recyclable waste separated at source and processed at the Waste Separation Center.
- Increased amount of municipal solid waste diverted from landfills.
- Sustainable recycling processes established in participating municipalities that can be replicated in other localities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROJECT FUNDING

U.S. Agency for International Development
(USAID/Kosovo)

PROJECT DURATION

August 2022 – August 2025

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- Democracy Plus (Gračanica)
- European Center for Minority Issues (Fushe Kosove)

TOTAL FUNDING

\$4,000,000 (\$2,000,000 per award)

KEY COUNTERPARTS

Municipalities of Gračanica/Graçanicë and Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje, Informal Waste Collectors, Communications for Social Development, Roma Versitas Kosovo

CONTACTS

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WHERE WE WORK

- Gračanica/Graçanicë
- Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje