



**GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND
FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME**
BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)



Federal state – partner country
Schleswig-Holstein – Western Balkans

Title

Strengthening minorities through practical implementation of municipal structures in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia)

In cooperation with the GIZ programme

Social Rights for Vulnerable Groups II (SoRi II)

Financing arrangements

BMZ contribution	€ 153,500
Schleswig-Holstein contribution	€ 100,000
Incl. € 5.000 in-kind contributions	

Duration

01.04.2022 – 31.03.2023

Responsible ministry

State Chancellery of Schleswig-Holstein

Official opening of the Minority Commissioner's Office in Bijeljina

Diversity Management for Local Administrative Structures in the Western Balkans

Local situation

The countries of the Western Balkans are currently in the process of creating a suitable long-term framework to ensure the social and economic inclusion of all social groups, and equal access to economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights in line with the overarching Leave No One Behind principle. Although appropriate legislation, strategies and action plans exist at the national level, implementation at the local level is a challenge. However, fulfilment of ESC rights is an important requirement for EU accession, which is the objective of all five countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia.

This project helps to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



“The project adds to NALAS’ role as a knowledge hub for local governments in the region to contribute to sensitising government structures at national and local level to create social justice and to eliminate discrimination against minorities.”

Joachim Roth,
EU Officer, NALAS



Study trip to Schleswig-Holstein for municipal NGO representatives from Bijeljina and Tetovo

Cooperation arrangements

As part of the German Government and Federal States Programme (German: Bund-Länder-Programm, BLP), international specialist institutions work with ministries from Schleswig-Holstein and the Western Balkans. In Schleswig-Holstein these include the State Chancellery and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Culture. The largest implementing partner in the Western Balkans is the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS). NALAS promotes decentralisation, democratisation, EU integration, municipal development and the modernisation of municipal services at the local level and facilitates direct exchanges between community associations in the region.

In addition, the project builds on results and partner structures from previous BLP projects.

What we are doing – and how

The aim of the project is to provide structures and awareness for minority issues in the municipalities using a diversity management approach, and thus to help reduce structural disadvantages in the administrative apparatus. There is a special focus on people from the LGBTI+ community, women, girls and Roma. Proven approaches for minority participation from Schleswig-Holstein are adapted for the use in the respective contexts of countries in the Western Balkans.

A range of capacity development measures are implemented within the scope of the BLP project. These include advisory activities on two minority models from Schleswig-Holstein

– DialogForumNorden (DFN) and Minority Commissioners –, and training on new approaches to diversity management. In addition, a regional event is held in North Macedonia to network relevant stakeholders from civil society and the regional administration and facilitate knowledge transfer. The project is rounded off by a delegation trip for representatives of local communities from the Western Balkans to Schleswig-Holstein. The focus is on approaches and learning experiences relating to diversity management. All relevant findings and lessons learned are subsequently processed.

Useful links

- Further information on the German Government and Federal States Programme:
<https://bund-laender-programm.de/en>
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/91262.html>
- Further information on the Diversity Management of Schleswig-Holstein (in German):
<https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/fachinhalte/D/diversity/praxisbeispiele.html>
- Further information on NALAS:
<http://www.nalas.eu/>
- Further information on the GIZ SoRi II programme:
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/80900.html>

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