



# The Gap Fund: Montenegro Municipalities Towards Climate Finance

**Date:** Tuesday, 31 October 2023

**Time:** 09:00- 10:30 (CEST)

**Language:** English and Montenegrin

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**Register Online:** [ZOOM LINK](#)

Join the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy on 31 October 2023 for a dedicated webinar session on the City Climate Finance Gap Fund. UoM and GCOM are committed to support cities in Montenegro in accessing the Gap Fund. The webinar will provide details on the Gap Fund's objectives, structure, application process and timeline. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how the Fund can accelerate climate progress in your city.

The City Climate Finance Gap Fund (the Gap Fund) supports cities in developing and emerging countries to realize their climate ambitions, providing early-stage technical assistance to turn low-carbon, climate-resilient ideas into strategies and finance-ready projects. The Fund aims to support the development of a high-quality urban investment pipeline for later-stage technical assistance, and to share knowledge on project preparation with developers and financiers.

By bridging the urban financing gap, the Gap Fund enables cities to access the necessary support and resources for their sustainable urban projects. This session will equip city and local government officials, urban development practitioners, and relevant stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to effectively engage with the Gap Fund.

## Targeted Audience

City or local government officials responsible for climate action planning and implementation, local resilience and disaster risk reduction and management, urban development and planning, and urban resilience and development practitioners. City officials interested in participating should register in advance at the registration [link](#). Please contact [info@gcomprojectsupport.org](mailto:info@gcomprojectsupport.org) if you have any questions about registering for the webinar.



## Proposed Agenda

**Duration:** 1h30 min

5"	<p><b>Welcome and introduction</b> - <i>Vanja Starovlah, Deputy Secretary General</i> <i>  Union of Municipalities of Montenegro</i></p> <p>Welcome. Present the goals of the session and agenda</p>
15'	<p><b>Climate change initiatives of the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro</b> - <i>Marija Kljajic, Secretary for the Urban Planning Committee   Union of Municipalities of Montenegro</i></p> <p>Attendees will understand the main initiatives led by the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, from planning towards climate financing in the country. The focus will be from traditional planning to sustainable urban mobility</p>
15'	<p><b>Introducing the City Climate Finance Gap Fund</b> - <i>Helena Monteiro, Global Focal Point, Global Covenant of Mayors-Gap Fund</i></p> <p>Attendees will be provided with a detailed introduction to the City Climate Finance Gap Fund, including what is the Gap Fund and what are its goals, as well as eligibility criteria for projects.</p>
10'	<p><b>Learnings from Podgorica, Montenegro</b> - <i>Branka Knežević, coordinator of Podgorica's City Gap Fund project, deputy secretary of the Secretariat for Urban Planning and Sustainable Development   City of Podgorica</i></p> <p>Attendees will learn a case study from a city representative, bringing the lessons learnt, the main achievements and the next steps of the Technical Assistance process received by the Gap Fund.</p>
15"	<p><b>How to create a successful Expression of Interest (Eoi)</b> - <i>Carolina Mesa, Technical Focal Point, Global Covenant of Mayors</i></p> <p>During this presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to know some Examples of different cities globally receiving assistance from the Gap Fund and to explore the requirements and steps for completing and submitting an Expression of Interest to the Gap Fund.</p>
25'	<p><b>Q&amp;A</b> - <i>Moderated by UoM Team</i></p> <p>The session will conclude with an interactive Q&amp;A discussion focused on climate financing access, where trainers will summarize key</p>



	<p>takeaways and encourage further conversation. The GCoM-Gap Fund team will also be available for one-on-one assistance through office hours to work directly with cities on strengthening their Gap Fund applications and addressing individual questions and concerns. This tailored support will facilitate the development of competitive applications to the Gap Fund that advance local climate priorities aligned with global climate goals.</p>
5'	<p><b>Closing and next steps</b></p> <p>Share contacts and links for further information.</p>

## Background information

### The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, built upon the commitment of over 11,500 cities and local governments. These cities hail from 6 continents and 142 countries. In total, they represent more than 1 billion people. GCoM enables cities, local governments, and the networks that support them to bridge the gap from climate ambition to action delivery. Uniquely positioned at the nexus of cities, city networks, national and supranational governments, and philanthropy, the GCoM alliance elevates city climate leadership and enables strategic and innovative partnerships that are at the crossroads of research, data, finance, and communications.

### The City Climate Finance Gap Fund (The Gap Fund)

Created in September 2020, the City Climate Finance Gap Fund (Gap Fund) helps bridge the urban financing gap, helping rapidly urbanizing cities in developing and emerging countries realize their climate ambitions, turning low-carbon, climate-resilient ideas into strategies and finance-ready projects. It is a multi-donor initiative, supported by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), as well as Luxembourg's Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development. Other partners include the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) and city networks including Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

The Gap Fund is implemented by the World Bank (WB) and European Investment Bank (EIB), in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The city of Podgorica, Montenegro is currently receiving Technical Assistance from the Gap Fund. This case study serves to encourage other cities in the country to advance towards climate financing. The Technical Assistance for the city will support the pre-feasibility study



for green roofs, facades and opening of impermeable surfaces in Podgorica, Montenegro, looking at their impact on heat island effects and flooding risks.

## **The Gap Fund - GCOM Partnership**

GCoM and Gap Fund partnered to promote and support this technical assistance with cities. The project aims to increase awareness and understanding of the Gap Fund and to build knowledge about low-carbon, climate-resilient development in cities. The project aims to raise awareness of cities and city networks about the Gap Fund and support to cities through outreach activities that include the assessment of cities' climate challenges and priorities, as well as facilitating knowledge-sharing activities, such as training and workshops, with the goal of ensuring that cities can access this technical assistance with successful Expressions of Interest.

## **Union of Municipalities of Montenegro**

The Union of Municipalities of Montenegro (UoM) is the representative organization for all 25 municipalities in the country, established to promote and protect local self-government interests. Founded in 1972, the Union today provides technical assistance to improve the capacity and efficiency of local governments, facilitates coordination between municipalities, represents their common interests to the national government, works to secure funding opportunities, and keeps members informed through regular updates, training, and events. With its comprehensive municipal membership and decades of experience working on local governance issues, the Union of Municipalities is a key institution promoting decentralised power and assisting Montenegrin municipalities to develop and thrive.