With support from the USAID Transparent, Effective and Accountable Municipalities activity, the Municipality of Gjakova became the first municipality in Kosovo to publish contracts in their entirety. Previously, only limited information and various notices were made public. Within a course of one week, subsequent to Gjakova’s decision, with strong encouragement from USAID program, Gjilan, Peja, Vushtrri, Prishtina, and Ferizaj published all their contracts.

Kosovo municipalities are becoming the driving force for procurement transparency. Supported by the USAID Transparent, Effective and Accountable Municipalities, six Kosovo municipalities for the first time ever published all procurement contracts. This is particularly important for Kosovo, a new country, plagued by corruption where 40% - 60% of its budget is spent in procurement through contracts with businesses. Here we are talking about contracts that uses taxpayers’ money for constructing schools, improving health that citizens.

“Open contracting delivers better deals for governments, provides a level playing field for the private sector, and high-quality goods and services for citizens that help to eliminate fraud and corruption,” states the Open Contract Partnerships.

USAID is transforming the public procurement in Kosovo. In 2017, USAID established the Transparent, Effective and Accountable Municipalities, a five-year activity, which works to improve the transparency and accountability of the municipal procurement processes across all Kosovo municipalities. It also provides direct support to procurement officers of five municipalities including Gjakova, Gjilan, Peja, Pristina, and Vushtrri. Five out of five USAID supported focus municipalities has become model in setting transparency standards for Kosovo, by being the first ones to open procurement contracts.

The USAID Transparent, Effective and Accountable Municipalities activity in Kosovo is also supporting the civil society organizations.
The latest developments were also triggered from monitoring activities of the USAID Transparent, Effective and Accountable Municipalities activity grantees who monitor municipal procurement and advocate for transparency and accountability.

Following many years of advocacy by civil society organizations, with the technical support of Transparent, Effective and Accountable Municipalities, opening of contracts can be considered a breakthrough to increase transparency and reduce corruption in public procurement in Kosovo.

#withOpenCards
#meLetraQelë

“For the first time, the contracts of our municipality will be fully open. This is a result of cooperation and support of USAID Transparent, Effective and Accountable Municipalities, with the aim of increasing transparency and opportunities for citizens of our municipality to be informed regarding municipal expenditures,”

- states the Municipality of Peja in their official Facebook post while announcing the opening of contracts.