



CFLI/FCIL

Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales

Project summary:

**Enhancing Women's Participation and
Gender-Sensitive Policies in Public
Procurement at the Local Level in
Bosnia and Herzegovina**





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Problem

Women's entrepreneurship plays a vital role in the functioning of the economy. However, when it comes to public procurement, women-owned businesses often face significant challenges and are underrepresented. Public procurement represents a major economic opportunity that could greatly empower female entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses if approached fairly. Experiences from many countries show that public procurement can help reduce the gender gap by providing women with more opportunities to engage in business with government representatives. However, women-owned companies make up only a small portion of the suppliers contracted by local governments.

Project Objective

The project aims to enhance women's entrepreneurship in Bosnia and Herzegovina by increasing the participation of female entrepreneurs in public procurement processes. In collaboration with women's business associations, Eda will organize training and mentorship programs to empower female entrepreneurs and provide them with equal access to business opportunities in the public sector. Additionally, guidelines for gender-responsive public procurement will be developed, and an advocacy campaign will be conducted to integrate these guidelines into local community policies.

The project represents an innovative approach to improving competition in public procurement by increasing the participation of female entrepreneurs. Through the implementation of gender-sensitive policies and greater inclusion of women in procurement, the project has the potential to reduce corruption in public procurement.

Key Activities:

- **Organizing training and mentorship** for at least 50 female entrepreneurs to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in public procurement processes.
- **Preparing and distributing guidelines** for gender-responsive public procurement, aimed at local authorities and decision-makers.
- **Conducting an advocacy campaign**, including the promotion of the guidelines and raising awareness about the importance of gender-responsive public procurement through media, social networks, and a roundtable discussion.
- **Publishing a study** on gender-responsive public procurement, which will be presented to key actors in the public procurement field.

Project Duration

The project will last six months, from September 2024 to February 2025.

Funding Source

The project is funded by the Embassy of Canada to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, and Slovenia, through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives - CFLI.