

CoE/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF) 2015 – 2017

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR LOCAL GOVERNANCE *Comparative Study on Local Finance Benchmark*

Launching workshop agenda Vienna, 26-28 May, 2015

Objectives of the workshop

1. Introducing the programme on “Strengthening Institutional Frameworks for Local Governance”
2. Familiarizing the local experts with the Local Finance Benchmarking (LFB) project
3. Identifying the present status and the ongoing reforms of local finances, local financial management in the participating countries
4. Developing the structure of the country assessment study for developing the adjusted LFB toolkit at national and local level

Tuesday, 26 May

	Participants' arrival
19:00	Dinner (optional)

Wednesday, 27 May

9:00 -10:30	Session 1. Welcome and introduction Introduction of the participants Project objectives, management <i>Gennadiy Kosyak, Center of Expertise</i> Local Finance Benchmarking toolkit and past project experiences <i>Gábor Péteri, CoE Expert</i>
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	Session 2. Local government finances: country overview Local government structure, functions and revenues: system, issues, ongoing reforms <i>10 minute presentation by the country experts (brief PPTs)</i>
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	Session 3. Local government own and shared revenues LFB topics: local taxes, shared revenues, user charges <i>Gábor Péteri</i> Local tax policy design, revenue autonomy, tax administration <i>Country experts</i> Identification of critical LFB areas and possible information sources <i>Group discussion</i>
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-17:00	Session 4. Intergovernmental transfers, fiscal equalization

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	<p>LFB topics: (i) scope, forms and planning fiscal transfers; (ii) capital investment financing. <i>Gábor Péteri</i></p> <p>Intergovernmental transfers: forms, planning, allocation methods Equalization of expenditure needs and revenue capacities. Capital investment grants, local borrowing <i>Country experts</i></p> <p>Identification of critical LFB areas and possible information sources <i>Group discussion</i></p>
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Thursday, 28 May

9:00-10:30	<p><i>Session 5. Local financial management</i> LFB topics: (i) strategic planning, budgeting practices; (ii) local property management; (iii) monitoring, control, transparency and audit <i>Gábor Péteri</i></p> <p>Local budget preparation methods, timing, information sources Regulations on local assets, managing municipal companies Budget implementation, central control, monitoring and managing municipalities with fiscal difficulties <i>Country experts</i></p> <p>Identification of critical LFB areas <i>Group discussion</i></p>
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00-12.30	<p><i>Session 6. LFB project implementation</i> LFB survey and reports: adaptation, measurement techniques, partners and programme sustainability <i>Gábor Péteri</i></p> <p>Outline of the country reports <i>Gábor Péteri, group discussion</i></p> <p>Next steps, project administration <i>Council of Europe</i></p> <p>Conclusions and workshop closure <i>Gennadiy Kosyak, Center of Expertise</i></p>
12.30-	<i>Lunch</i>
Participants departure	