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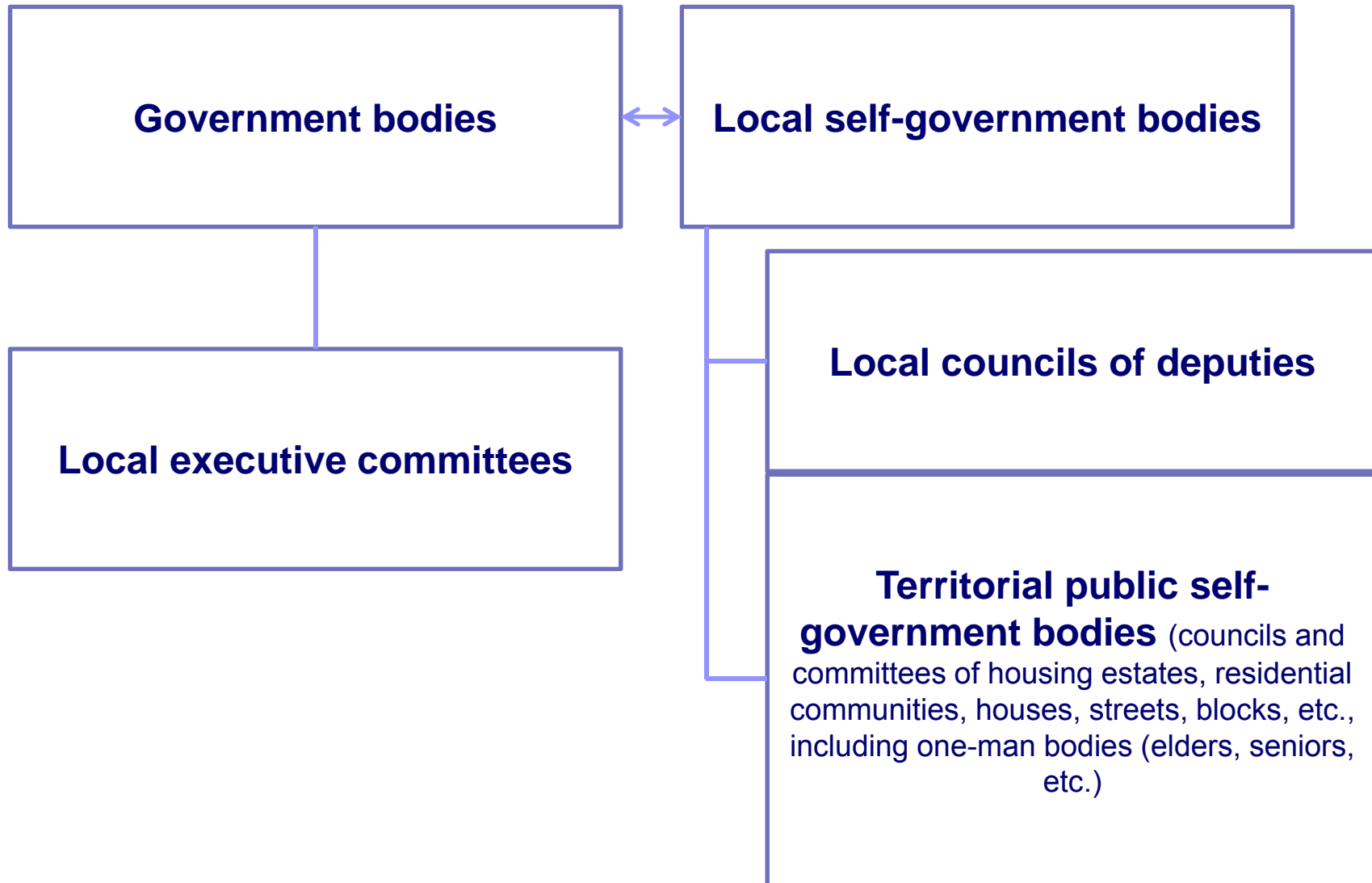
## Organization of network interaction at the local level in the Republic of Belarus

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Academy of Public Administration  
under the aegis of the President of  
the Republic of Belarus

# System of local government and self-government in the Republic of Belarus



# Local government and self-government levels



	Local government bodies	Local self-government bodies
<b>Primary</b>	Rural, settlement, and municipal (towns subordinated to districts) executive committees	Municipal (towns subordinated to districts), settlement, and rural councils
<b>Basic</b>	Municipal (towns subordinated to regions) and district executive committees	Municipal (towns subordinated to regions) and district councils
<b>Regional</b>	Regional executive committees and Minsk City Executive Committee	Regional councils and Minsk City Council



## **Peculiarities of the system of local government and self-government in the Republic of Belarus**

The hierarchical structure of the executive authorities, which is designed to implement the nation-level state policy with due account for interests of population residing in respective administrative and territorial units.

Possibility for horizontal engagement between local councils via the establishment of associations such as Associations of Councils with a view to effectively performing their functions, protecting common interests, and providing mutual assistance in addressing local issues and fulfilling local self-government functions.



## Research projects to study engagement mechanisms at the local level

- ❑ Development of a network model for the operation of a local government body
- ❑ Development of a model to evaluate the participation of citizens in the evaluation of the effectiveness of local executive and regulatory bodies of the Republic of Belarus in conditions of modernization of public administration

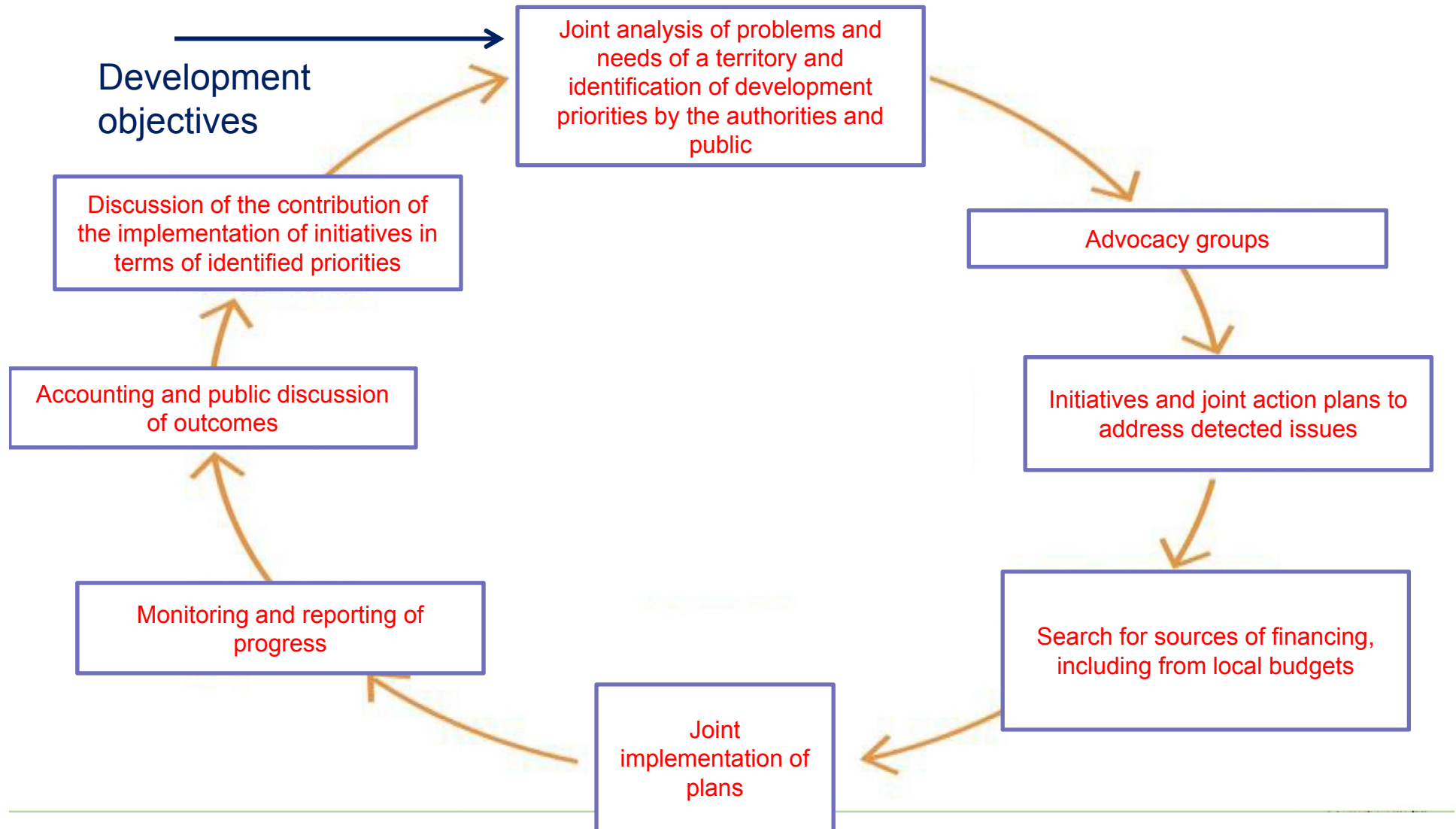
The projects are implemented by the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus as part of the state research program “Economy and humanitarian development of Belarusian society.”



## **Social network concept in the system of local government and self-government**

*A social network* is cooperation, interaction, and coordination of local government and self-government bodies, citizens and public associations of citizens, and business entities within the framework of a complex and dynamic system of public relations.

# Mechanism of social interaction at the local level





## Participants in network interaction at the local level



- State officials;
- Employees of local government bodies of the regional, basic, and primary levels;
- Deputies of Councils of the regional, basic, and primary levels;
- Representatives of territorial public self-government bodies;
- Employees of public utility companies of local government bodies.

- Entrepreneurs and their representatives;
- Representatives of public associations (trade unions, political parties, NGOs, advocacy groups);
- Experts (as a rule, they represent education institutions and research organizations);
- Media representatives.



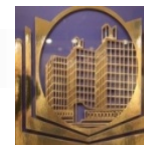


## **Examples of the implementation of network projects at the local level**



Development of Sustainable Development Strategies for the Regions of the Republic of Belarus for 2016–2025 as part of the international technical assistance project “Support to regional and local development in Belarus” in 2014–2015 involving specialists of regional executive committees, representatives of business, public organizations, and the academic community.

Strategies are available on the website of the project  
<http://regdev.by/>



## **Factors reducing the effectiveness of network interaction at the local level**

- Lack of experience in social and public–private dialogue;
- Low activity and involvement of the population in self-government and development planning processes at the local level, prevalence of vertical interaction;
- Insufficient capacity of local communities (deficit of knowledge, expert analysis, experience, and information on self-government, development of territories, fragmentation and weak horizontal interaction of public initiatives);
- Scarce initiatives designed by local communities for the development of respective territories and resolution of local issues with due account for their interests;
- Limited local budgets and underdeveloped fund-raising mechanisms.



Thank you for your attention.