

SUPPORT TO CONSOLIDATING LOCAL DEMOCRACY **IN ARMENIA**

CONTEXT

The Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia aims to support Armenia in its continued efforts to meet its statutory and specific obligations as a member state. The Action Plan lays the foundation for co-operation on the development of local democracy in Armenia by ensuring simultaneous implementation of legal assistance and capacity-building of local authorities, elected representatives and local administrations.

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the project “Support to consolidating local democracy in Armenia” is to improve the quality of local self-government through further decentralisation, and increased capacity of Armenian Communities, in line with the principles enshrined in the European Charter of Local Self-Government and taking inspiration from the best European practice.

The project is conceived as a consolidated intervention with three lines of action and impact-oriented programmes:

Line of action I – Support to local government reform:

- To provide Council of Europe legal expertise, policy advice and assistance to the preparation and revision of legislation and policy governing the field of local self-government as well as to the envisaged territorial administrative reform.

Line of action II – Capacity building for local authorities:

- To improve the efficiency, capacities and service delivery of local authorities;
- To support the creation of new standards and efficient methods of Human Resource Management (HRM), transposed into legislation and practice;
- To help local authorities to improve public ethics standards and compliance with them;
- To identify, celebrate and disseminate best practices undertaken by local authorities in selected areas.

Line of action III – Strengthening local elected representatives’ leadership:

- To strengthen leadership capacities of mayors, and to develop their ability to design and deliver good community projects based on clearly identified values;
- To empower and engage local elected representatives in a constructive dialogue amongst themselves and with central authorities;
- To assist in the development of successful participatory projects by implementing citizens’ fora initiatives in pilot communities;
- To increase knowledge of good practices in local democracy and European standards of local-self-governance;
- To increase trust and confidence in local authority representatives and improve local political governance in Armenia.

OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

Line of Action I

Provision of Council of Europe legal expertise and advice, support to drafting new legislation. Peer reviews, seminars, training activities and study visits will be organized – aimed at achieving the following results:

- A sound institutional and legislative framework for local democracy is established;
- Legislation and policy governing the field of local self-government are drafted, revised and improved in accordance with European standards;
- The territorial administrative reform is initiated and implemented in accordance with European norms on territorial restructuring.

Line of Action II

The administrative capacities of Armenian local authorities are enhanced through tools developed by the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform of the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe standards in the sphere of local self-government stipulate that local authorities should be empowered to properly implement their competences and make efficient use of their resources so as to deliver quality services to citizens.

- HRM practices and standards are enhanced while methods for selecting, recruiting,

training and promoting staff in pilot local authorities are improved;

- Pilot local authorities are equipped with knowledge and practical tools to devise and implement measures for establishing, respecting and promoting public ethics standards in their activities;
- Best practice initiatives, which have had a measurable impact on citizens' life and perception of local self-government are identified, awarded, shared and disseminated on national level.

Line of Action III

Leadership capacities of local elected representatives are improved. The legislative and decentralisation processes are reinforced through an increased dialogue between local and central authorities.

- Local elected representatives are aware of good practices in local democracy and European Standards of local-self-governance; they increase their knowledge of legislation;
- A spirit of co-operation is created through peer-to-peer exchanges and dialogue;
- Local elected representatives are empowered and improve their management and communication skills, including towards the citizens, and they start co-producing local policies.

COUNTRY: ARMENIA

Timeframe

01.10.2013 – 30.09.2016

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

contribution:

1.660.000 Euro

Council of Europe contribution

370.000 Euro

Implementing institution

Council of Europe

Main partners

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Government of Armenia

Local government units and their

Associations

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