

Partnership for Good Governance



STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES: SHARING THE VISION

Thematic programme “**Strengthening institutional frameworks for local governance**” is being implemented by the Council of Europe Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, Directorate General of Democracy and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

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SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- to support the on-going process of reform of local government in participating countries;
- to promote ethical behaviour by locally elected representatives of the region;
- to support the improvement of financial and human resources management of local administrations based on European standards and benchmarking processes.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- to improve the consistency of the legislative framework, streamlining new by-laws in at least three beneficiary countries and to develop targeted recommendations;
- to foster a more efficient, transparent and ethical governance at the local level in at least three beneficiary countries;
- to develop and adapt the European standard local finance benchmarking tool to the specific countries so as to improve legislation and local regulations.

METHODOLOGY

- bilateral work as well as multilateral exchange of experience and cross-fertilisation;
- special emphasis on common issues and comprehensive approach;
- flexible forum for stakeholders to discuss European standards of local governance;
- shared use of key findings and applicable European standards;

- emphasis on expertise, adaptation of approaches to national situations, bilateral assistance;
- adaptation of tools and methods to each country.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- regional studies on the role and responsibilities of mayors and councillors, on inter-municipal cooperation and local finance benchmarking;
- conferences, workshops, bilateral round tables, as well as training sessions;

- peer-to-peer exchanges and study visits;
- awareness raising and visibility actions;
- country-specific studies and publications;
- development of recommendations for reform and legal expertise.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

Local and regional authorities and their respective associations, ministries responsible for local self-government, NGOs and citizens.

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