



Agenda for the Local Government Decentralisation Reform

Empowering the Group of Experts for Decentralisation (GED), a technical instrument of the Government of Albania hired to design and implement the decentralisation strategy.

Decentralization Starts

The decentralisation process in Albania started in the early 90ies, however the lack of a coherent strategy and participative implementation made progress difficult. Following the Decentralization Strategy and the Organic Law of Local Government enactment after 2000, the Urban Research Institute (URI) partnered with USAID and the Urban Institute in Washington D.C. to serve as supporter of a Group of Experts for Decentralisation. URI's tasks included support and coordination, organization of discussions and roundtables, identification of decentralisation issues, formulation of a decentralisation strategy and law drafting.



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Therefore one of the first steps was to reform existing legislation. Local government units can only take roles and responsibilities based on clear laws. Therefore one of the first steps was to reform existing legislation. URI provided inputs in the process of drafting new laws. The result was the drafting of three laws:

- On Organization and Functioning of Local Government
- On the inventory of State Immovable Public Property
- On Transfer of Public Properties to Local Government Units

These three laws were among the first to lay down the road towards decentralisation of local government in Albania.

Nationwide discussions

By involving multiple stakeholders and through nationwide discussions URI established a process for identifying issues. Decentralisation as a new concept was hindered by a number of challenges. The involvement of stakeholders and the dialogue that followed it revealed concerns and allowed agreement on solutions. URI helped introduce a participatory approach and draw the inputs of various stakeholders. URI consultants organised and conducted several regional roundtables with participation from locally-based central government institutions and local government officials.

Law Drafting

One of the pre-requisites of

Strategy Formulation

The participatory approach resulted in a successful strategy. Despite being ambitious, the strategy proved a milestone achievement.

MAIN FACTS

PARTNERS:

- ✓ USAID
- ✓ Urban Institute (Washington, DC)

DURATION:

June 1999 – December 2001

BENEFICIARIES:

- ✓ Local government units
- ✓ Central government

CONTACT:

Zana Vokopola
Executive Director

Urban Research Institute

Rr. Asim Vokshi, Nd.14
Hyrja 11, Ap. 56
Tirana, Albania
Tel: +355 4 2256840
E-mail: zvokopola@uri.org.al
Web: www.uri.org.al

About URI

Since 1999 the Urban Research Institute (URI) has been delivering big results for development projects and programmers carried out throughout Albania. Our core business focuses on community development, local government strengthening, environmental protection, decentralisation, and public services. We conduct studies, lobby the government, train local government units, increase public access to information, and connect development partners. URI has worked with donors such as USAID, Swiss Cooperation, the Netherlands Embassy, UNDP, World Bank, EU, SIDA, Open Society/Soros Foundation, etc.

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