



## Assessing the Implementation of the Decentralization Process in Albania

### The Goal

This project sought to increase the Elbasan's local government's capacity in accessing information for:

- The actual state of the services that the municipality offer.
- The public perception regarding these services.

This information provided local government leaders with a better understanding of the current situation in Elbasan. The results of this study were valuable to be included in the local strategic plan.

### Questions addressed by the study

- ✓ Assure citizen participation in designing How do local governments in Albania understand their new role in a decentralized structure?
- ✓ What capacity exists at the local government levels to enable them to assume the new responsibilities? What are the gaps?
- ✓ How do citizens perceive the quality and quantity of public services provided by local governments?
- ✓ What are training needs that local governments have? Are these needs the same in each local government or are they different?

### Research methodology

This study utilized both quantitative and qualitative research methods.



The target population was 400 households in the City of Elbasan and the employee of the Municipality of Elbasan. A randomly selected sample of 400 households participated in the survey which was administered by 31 students from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Elbasan. In addition to household surveys, there were also conducted interviews with municipal employees.

The data from the household survey was analyzed by SPSS. The Florida A&M University team member developed the coding scheme and the data entry template which was sent to the University of Elbasan faculty to use in entering the data. The data template was then sent to Florida A&M University for analysis. The qualitative data from the face-to-face interviews was categorized and analyzed based on Miles and Huberman's (1999)

criteria of analyzing qualitative data.

The findings of this study were shared with Elbasan's municipal officials, including the Mayor and City Council members through a one-day workshop conducted at City Hall in Elbasan.

### MAIN FACTS

#### PARTNERS:

- ✓ National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) in USA

#### DURATION:

December 2003 – June 2004

#### BENEFICIARIES:

- ✓ Municipality of Elbasan

#### CONTACT:

Zana Vokopola  
Director

Urban Research Institute

Rr. Asim Vokshi, Nd.14  
Hyrja 11, Ap. 56  
Tirana, Albania  
Tel: +355 4 2256840  
E-mail: [uri@uri.org.al](mailto:uri@uri.org.al)  
Web: [www.uri.org](http://www.uri.org)

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