



Local Government Technical Assistance Project

The Goal

The goal of the project was strengthening the link between citizens and local government by using different tools and techniques.

Component I

Assure citizen participation in designing policies on local taxes and tariffs.

Focus groups and interviews were conducted with citizens of 7 local units to evaluate the possibility of higher service tariffs, aiming at covering costs.

Activities

- Educating citizens regarding tariff and service problems.
- To link the improvement of municipal services with the citizens problems on public services.

Formulation of Law on Transfer of Public Properties to Local Government Units

The activity included production of methods for direct involvement of citizens in working with local governments to address and solve issues related to improvement of public service delivery. Training of local government elected officials and their administration was one of main project activities. The "Cost and Fees Setting" manual produced on this phase is available at URI or UI office.

Component II

Develop methodology and conduct pilot inventory and transfer of public properties to local government units.

URI has solely developed and implemented regulations, and has conducted inventory of public property in 7 local government units, involving municipalities and communes. Nation wide used instructions and forms for inventory and transfer of public properties were prepared, tested and approved by the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. A



manual to help state institutions to cope with legislation requirements concerning inventory and transfer of properties is produce, published and is currently in use from local and central institutions. URI has also drafted a guidance document for the definition of functions and responsibilities of Regional Councils in Albania. The document was delivered to the Ministry of Local Government as a tool for opening and conducting the discussions on the role regional council in Albania, involving donor organizations and other local stake holders.

Component III

Implementing Performance Management in 10 Cities, as Applied to Local Government Budget Process in Albania.

Activities

- Participating in and supporting workshops organized to provide the assistance to local officials in their efforts to implement performance management in their cities. These workshops provided management concepts and methods to be used for the budget preparation.
- Preparing a survey instrument that 3 cities and 1 commune used to determine how their citizens view the services provided by the local government where the greatest demand for new or improved services is.

- Implementing the survey
- Tabulating and analyzing the results of the survey in each city Present the results to the local government in each city
- Provide recommendations on Librazhdi water system in order to identify and analyze the various options that exist to divide or share as they prefer the ownership of the property of the existing water system.

MAIN FACTS

PARTNERS:

- ✓ USAID/The Urban Insitute (Washington D.C.)

DURATION:

November 2001 – March 2004

BENEFICIARIES:

- ✓ Local Units

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
Web: www.uri.org.

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, decentralization, 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.