

## Organization of the public events to increase participation of civil society in support of Territorial Administrative Reform

### Context

URI through UNDP has organized and led 12 public consultations in four regions of the country - Korca, Elbasan, Tirana and Durres, to discuss the two options to configure the mapping of Albania (with 39 or 49 Functional Area) approved by the special committee parliament in the framework of territorial administrative reform, in view of the implications that this reform will have on the provided services, and the quality of life of citizens in these areas. Participation in these meetings of civil society and other interested groups was about 561 people, of which 128 or 23% were female and 49 or 9% were young university students of the country.

### The Goal

The territorial administrative reform is a key initiative that aims at improving public services and strengthening of local governance contribution to economic, social and cultural development of the country. This reform will strength local and regional governments by decentralizing more functions and powers and the distribution of more public funds to them. The largest Local government units will have more opportunities to participate in international cooperation projects; absorb more funds from the EU and other donors; and a larger space for inter-municipal cooperation.



### Objectives

- The broader participation of civil society and interest groups in consultative meetings for the reform.
- Reaching a consensus among them about the possible options discussed by the reform committee, until the final decision making process.
- Changing the understanding by policy makers considering the real situation for services, economic development, local finances and other important factors for the reform.

### MAIN FACTS

#### PARTNERS:

- ✓ UNDP

#### DURATION:

March 2014 – August 2014

#### BENEFICIARIES:

- ✓ District of Tirana
- ✓ District of Durresi
- ✓ District of Elbasani
- ✓ District of Korça

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### 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.