

Workshop Discussions | MINUTES

Analyses & Recommendations:

The impact of European Integration in Local Governance in Albania

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Organized by:	DLDP	Moderator:	Valbona KARAKAÇI
Meeting type:	Workshop with mayors of LGUs of 5 regions (shkoder, Lezhe, Kukes, Diber and Durres)	Minutes by:	Erida DOBRUSHI
Attendees: 18			

issues	recommendations
The impact of European Integration in local Governance in Albania	
Lack of mutual cooperation between local and central government has brought limiting access and benefit of local governments by EU funds. The experience and success stories that LGUs have in cooperation and with technical assistance of NGOs/donnors for programs focused in community development and local governance, shows that there is a will to cooperate, but lacks of tools to develop and concretize interaction with the central government.	Local governments must face "an attractive" mechanism to central government in order that the process of consultation between these two levels of government becomes functional. Also, local governments must find forms and imposing measures, aiming the influence of their interest in coherence with European agenda, which locally has actually failed.
The European Commission has set up several information centres to assist LGUs in understanding of this process, but these offices do not provide the necessary consultation and assistance to LGUs.	It is time that LGUs become more aware of their competences and activities in relation to EU approximated legislation. LGUs should be more proactive and aware for the importance and responsibilities that local government shall have on implementing of EU approximated legislation.
Home affairs related to several functions of	Administrative-territorial reform and

<p>management (territory) and the whole system harmonization in between LGUs is a prerequisite to bring them closer to the EU agenda.</p> <p>EU does not have rules on means and mechanisms that should be followed/addressed by countries aspiring to become EU members, but it offers the information of good practices in member countries.</p>	<p>decentralization strategy for local government should identify mechanisms to provide solutions for local and regional issues related to inter-local cooperation, which reveal local and regional development.</p> <p>In this context, there should be created information and coordination structures by central government, so that the understanding process of European policies by LGUs may follow contemporarily with the ability to adapt the local level with new conditions and timeframe opportunities offered by European agenda.</p>
<p>Associations of municipalities / communes should have more active representation, as it remains a problem the cooperation and common voice of the LGUs because of political interests.</p>	<p>LGUs should be aware of the importance of organization and representation through their associations. Municipalities and communes associations can and should play a more active role in informing the local government for their role in the European agenda.</p>
<p>Another problem is capacity building at the local level: local governments are facing the losing of actual professional staff.</p>	<p>Terms and conditions of labor relations that provides local governments today is in disadvantage of professional human resources retention.</p> <p>It is necessary to have continuous assistance and training, especially at the sectorial level of local administration and legal guarantees for the sustainability of the local administration. Also, local governments must have the space and cooperation to benefit from assistance / consultancy central in the development and implementation of strategic projects for local development.</p>
<p>Local governments problems are equal and their solution comes not from political support. This fact helps to unite LGUs rather than divide</p>	<p>Local governments should affect community awareness and lobbying for possibilities and opportunities that brings European agenda.</p>

Closing: 13: 30 PM