



PROJECT FACTSHEET

Embassy of Switzerland in Albania

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

STRONGER MUNICIPAL STRUCTURES AND INCREASED COOPERATION



Local government representatives in the northern Albanian region of Kukës participate in a training session ©FDFA

Since 2010, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), together with the Council of Europe supports a project for strengthening local governments in Albania. The "Strengthening Local Government Structures" project aims to increase cooperation between municipalities, improve human resources management and include to a greater extent local governments in national decision-making processes.

Albania has been progressing towards a democratic and decentralised state since the 1990s. The country became a member of the Council of Europe in 1995 and by signing the European Charter of Local Self-Government it has adopted the principle of local self-government. The Charter provides the fundamental responsibilities of municipalities to be defined in the constitution or in legislation. Based on this sound legal basis the local governments in Albania are moving towards offering better services to citizens with an administration appointed on meritocratic principles.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT LOCAL LEVEL: A KEY OBJECTIVE

SDC is supporting Albania in its transition to a democratic state. In this line, establishing a meritocratic and professional administration remains high in this development and European integration agenda. The following project objectives have to be met by mid of 2017.

- Personnel management in local administrations is structured more efficiently and transparently. Human resources managers receive training from qualified specialists in implementing the new law on public administration ("Civil Servant Law"). Municipal services are consequently better oriented to citizens' needs.
- Establish a consultation procedure and promote exchanges between local governments and central authorities. In this way local concerns should be taken more into consideration in decision-making at the national level.
- Enhance the management qualities of young politicians, civil servants and citizens while ensuring adherence to the principles of good governance.

STRONG EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING COMPONENTS

As part of the project, the SDC provides financial support to the Albanian Academy of Political Studies where 120 young leaders in politics and public administration are currently trained. The subject matter includes EU law, political communication, strategies for resolving conflicts and the integration of minorities in the political process.

Albanian Academy of Political Studies has been supported in training of the first time voters jointly with the Central Election Commission and Ministry of Education in informing them on voting procedures and participation in political decision making.

FIRST RESULTS

Offers of further training and online helpdesks have raised awareness in Albanian municipalities of the importance of modern human resources management. In 2014, all local governments were informed about the existence of a helpdesk. Furthermore, 19 local government representatives and 82 municipal employees received training in the implementation of the new Civil Servant Law. A consultation procedure on local government's participation in national decision-making will be introduced in 2016.

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

NAME

Strengthening local government structures and cooperation between elected representatives in Albania

THEME

Local governance / democratisation

COUNTRY

Albania

PARTNERS

Council of Europe
Minister of State for Local Affairs
Minister of State for Innovation and Public Administration
Local government associations
Albanian Academy of Political Studies
Municipalities

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To build stronger local government structures and improve their cooperation

TARGET GROUPS

Municipalities and local elected officials
Young politicians
Public administration employees (local level)

PHASE DURATION

August 2012 – June 2017

PHASE BUDGET

CHF 2,740,000

FUNDING

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

CONTACT

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