

Local Governance in the South Caucasus

Strengthening local governments – Promoting transparency and citizen participation



Client: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
 Partners: Ministries, Parliament
 Duration: 01/2013 – 12/2016
 Budget: 9,0 Mio. Euro
 Countries: Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia

Multi-Level and Multi-Actor-Approach

South Caucasus	Network formation, regional exchange and mutual learning	Multi-Level-Governance
National level	Developing legal and institutional frameworks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation • Steering of reforms • National standards (trainings, methodology) 	
Regional level	Improved cooperation between the different levels of administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisms and processes of cooperation • Regional governance 	
Local level (Pilots)	Supporting good local governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and coaching • Process support • Developing and piloting of suitable approaches, instruments, and procedures 	

◀ Example – the way we achieve impacts:

Excessive red-tape, time-consuming administrative procedures and the widespread impression of bureaucratic arbitrariness explain why citizens in the countries of the South Caucasus traditionally have little confidence in local government. Since 2007, GIZ has supported the establishment of citizen offices, which operate as “one-stop shops” for public information and services. Modern administrative practice and qualified staff serve now as the basis of an efficient, transparent and citizen-centered service provision. The average processing time of requests could be reduced by 50 % as a result. In Georgia, already more than half of the 76 municipalities run a citizen office, and in Armenia their proliferation continues steadily. Inspired by regional exchange, three Public Service Halls have been introduced in Azerbaijan since 2013.

◀ Objectives

Strengthening local democracy and public service delivery based on higher levels of transparency, accountability and citizen participation.

◀ Challenges

Local Governance: In all three countries, local self-government is still weak and municipalities tend to fall short of meeting basic standards of good governance. Local authorities lack technical, financial and human capacity to provide public services efficiently and addressing the needs of citizens.

◀ Activities

We advise our partners on governance reforms and the development of suitable legal frameworks. We support municipalities on a pilot basis in the implementation of national reforms and strategies. The focus of our cooperation lies on territorial and administrative reforms, regional development policy as well as local financial management and development planning. Moreover, we are managing a fund for cross-border projects on behalf of the EU and thus prepare local structures for the effective use of EU financial instruments.

◀ Impacts

Legal and institutional frameworks for local and regional development improve. Coherence in national and local planning ensures that public spending responds effectively to local needs. Capable municipalities provide public services efficiently and are accountable to their citizens. Confidence in democratic institutions is growing.



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