



INSTITUTI PËR STUDIME POLITIKE DHE NDËRKOMBËTARE
ИНСТИТУТ ЗА МЕЃУНАРОДНИ И ПОЛИТИЧКИ СТУДИИ
INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

International Conference

**DECENTRALIZATION PROCESS IN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
MAIN ISSUES, TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FUTURE**

January, 25th 2013 South East European University –Tetovo

January, 26th 2013 Institute of Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of the Albanians – Skopje,
Macedonia

ORGANIZED BY

INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES – SKOPJE

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International Scientific Conference

**“DECENTRALIZATION PROCESS IN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
MAIN ISSUES, TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FUTURE”**

PROGRAM AND ABSTRACT BOOK

JANUARY, 25th 2013 South East European University –Tetovo, Macedonia

JANUARY, 26th 2013 Institute of Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of the Albanians –
Skopje, Macedonia

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INSTITUTI PËR STUDIME POLITIKE DHE NDËRKOMBËTARE
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INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental and non-profit, think-tank organization. It has been created by a group of intellectuals and analysts with extensive experience in foreign policy and policy-making issues who are interested in ideas of democracy, solidarity, globalization, European integration, political and international studies and regional cooperation. The long term objectives of the institute are to work on balanced socio-economic development, capacity building and training, active citizen engagement and participative political environments. In these directions we focus our activities on rule of law, evidence based policy research, good governance and multi-ethnic and multicultural co-existence. Our Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) works primarily on stoichiometric research and project-based activities. We believe that human capital is a key precondition for positive social change. Hence, we eagerly undertake capacity building projects based on said skills and knowledge transfer. IPIS's growth is directly linked to an availability of resources for self-reflection. In this sense, we advocate policy recommendations and strive to enrich public discourse through promotion of evidence based policy, publishing, public events, diligent team work and individual productivity and working closely with other national and international research institutions.

IPIS's envisioned future is to become the most influential Balkan think-tank offering sound analysis as well as advice and influencing policy agendas of Macedonia and the Southeast European region in various formats. Also, we envision offering an abundance of research resources (data bases; books; articles; papers; internet based resources and other logistical support) to individual researchers, professionals, journalist, students, civil society organizations and interested parties. No important national or regional policy issues will be discussed without IPIS experts taking part in the debate offering analysis on said issues.

IPIS will be sought out, as a provider of policy advice, by governments, civil society organizations and private companies. We believe that IPIS's research work, carried out with patience and persistence, will bring new life to public policy; good governance will be advanced, knowledge increased, and human existence improved. We will be respected and admired by our peers and academics. Our analyses and policy solutions will be actively sought by governments and companies. The best up-and-coming people in the academic world will seek to cooperate with our think-tank. We feel that IPIS will contribute to society in a positive way.

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Motivation

Most of western Balkan countries have use decentralization reforms as a tool for finding solutions for national issues related to interethnic conflicts and as a need for reducing the centralized competences inherited from socialist regimes. In other side decentralization it can be a controversial process. During implementation, governments hesitate to transfer the power to local governments, because they are afraid that they won't be able to fulfill their duties, but in other side municipalities are asking for more responsibilities in order to fulfill the needs of the local population. Decentralization facts in Macedonia shows that this public reform has long term scope and it cannot be implemented fully in specific timeframe from decision makers or international factor. Until now, decentralization had positive effects, however, the success of decentralization depends on two main factors: support from the central government and proper response of local governments and citizens. Also the international organizations who have contribute in developing this process, still have to contribute in this process especially with resources and interventions.

However, there is another side of the decentralization which is more practical than political. Aims of decentralization go beyond the priorities for self-government and political representations of local communities. Also they have aim to offer services to citizens, while ensuring that they will be served with higher quality and responsibility. And those are the challenges of decentralization in Macedonia; political aims of decentralization cannot be fulfilled without effective offer of public services. Also aware from the benefits of regional development politics of European Union, our challenge is cross border cooperation with our neighbors Albania, Kosovo, Bulgaria and Greece and use of opportunities and funds offered by IPA and South East European Transnational program.

Anyway the decentralization process is still stumped from several limitations. Raising the trust in local government and facts that some municipalities have achieved high results in offering services and urban development, however the implementation of reforms for decentralization successfully the fiscal and administrative decisions haven't been in satisfied level. They still have institutional weakness and low implementation capacity, which limit the participation of citizens as well as transparence and responsibility of local government. Political resistance and bureaucracy block and continue to slow down the decentralization.

Prof.Dr.Ylber Sela
Director

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, January 25 2013
08.00-09.00: REGISTRATION
CONFERENCE OPENING SPEECH

Prof.Dr. Zamir DIKA, Rector of the South East European University;

Ejup ALIMI, State Secretary of the Secretariat for the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, Macedonia;

Nevzat BEJTA, Minister of Local Government in Macedonia;

Prof.Dr. Ylber SELA, Director of the Institute for Political and International Studies, Skopje, Macedonia;

Prof.Dr, Arta MUSARAJ, Founder and Editor in Chief of Academicus International Scientific Journal, Albania;

SESSION 1

Moderator: Cristina MATIUTA

1. **Adam NEMETH / Bence SPICZMULLER**
Local Government Budgeting in Hungary
Assessing of local business tax forecasting errors of cities with county status
2. **Diana SHEHU / Nehat ÇOLLAKU / Salih OZCAN / Albana SHEHU**
Decentralization of local government in Albania and its problems
3. **Bekim BALIQI**
Decentralization of local government in Kosovo- success story or failure?
4. **Bojana JOVANOVSKA**
Decentralization Reforms and the Social Services Delivery in the Republic of Macedonia
5. **Nora MALIQI / Nazmije MERKO**
Implementation of the process of Decentralization in Macedonia

SESSION 2

Moderator: Vjollca HASANI

6. Lirika KUTROLLI

The management of immovable property, resources by the Local Government in Republic of Albania

7. Zlatka DIMITROVA

Fiscal decentralization as an essential factor for successful accomplishment of local self – governance

8. Enisa BAJRAMI

Decentralization Process: Public-Private Partnership

9. Arsiola DYRMISHI

Management issues to local taxes and fees

10. Arben SHEHU

Economic Crime

SESSION 3

Moderator: Albert HANI

11. Reis MULITA

Enhancing citizen's participation and decision making in support of power devolution along Albanian areas in Republic of Macedonia

12. Aleksandra Srbinovska-DONCHEVSKI / Tatijana ASHTALKOSKA

Citizen Participation as a part from the decentralization process in realization of the Concept of Self-Government in the Republic of Macedonia

13. Lura POLLOZHANI

Decentralization in Macedonia: Advancing the Concept of Citizenship

14. Ivana Shumanovska-SPASOVSKA

Decentralization of the public administration and the empowerment mechanism for support and participation of the citizens on local level

15. Jonuz ABDULLAI / Pishtar LUTFIU

Decentralization process and the participation of the citizens on local government politics

SESSION 4

Moderator: Korab SEJDIU / Taulant HODAJ

16. Gábor BERENCSI

Decentralization, minority rights and the autonomy through Hungarian eyes

17. Valentina MEMINI / Irena LAVDARI

Local government in the implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms

18. Anna SITEK

NGOs and bottom-up actions on Polish rural areas – mechanism of civil society building

19. Edmond AHMETI / Elona BANO

Decentralization as support process of extinguishing the ethnic issues -legal analysis of the importance of ensuring the use of the Albanian language in Macedonia as an official language

20. Besa BYTYQI

The Influence of Citizens' Associations on Decision-Making – an Important Factor in the Decentralization Process in the Republic of Macedonia

21. Xhevdet SHALA / Sulejman AHMEDI

Decentralization process of the Municipal Solid Waste Collection

SATURDAY, January 26 2013
08.00-09.00: REGISTRATION
OPENING SPEECH

Mr. Izet MEXHITI, Mayor of the Municipality of Cair, Skopje, Macedonia;

Prof.Dr. Shefqet ZEKOLLI, Director of the Institute for Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of the Albanians – Skopje, Macedonia;

Prof.Dr. Ylber SELA, Director of the Institute for Political and International Studies, Skopje, Macedonia;

SESSION 1

Moderator: Rizvan SULEJMANI

1. **Besnik TAHIRI**

The Mayor of Municipality, representative or dominant? A contribution to the strengthening of institutional accountability and transparency at the local level – Key Study: Kosovo

2. **Mirela P. BOGDANI / Bojana HAJDINI**

The relationship between representative of Council of Ministers in regional divisions, the Prefect with local government bodies; to what extent could be exercised the control of Prefect over local government institutions?

3. **Hristina CIPUSHEVA/ Memet MEMETI/ Shenaj HADZIMUSTAJA/ Veli KRECI**

Public process on a local level – Evidence from Republic of Macedonia

4. **Darjel SINA / Pranvera XHAFAJ**

Making use of IPA and International Fund

5. **Florian BJANKU**

Decentralization and European integration process for the Western Balkan Countries

6. **Ylber SELA / Rami QERIMI**

The Impact of the European Union on Decentralization process in the Republic of Macedonia

SESSION 2

Moderator: Arta MUSARAJ

7. Agon DEMJAHA/ Teuta Agai DEMJAHA

The involvement of women in local government in the Republic of Macedonia

8. Juljana ALUSHI / Alketa BAJRAMI

Women's challenges as a leader in Albania post-communist. Her role in political decision

9. Martins O. ODURU

Economic empowerment: A panacea for active participation of Nigerian women in politics

10. Xhavit SHALA

Political parties and (non) empowerment of women in the leadership of local government - the case of Kosovo

ABSTRACT BOOK

DAY 1 – 25th January
SESSION 1
Moderator: Cristina Matiuta

**“Local Government Budgeting in Hungary
Assessing of local business tax forecasting errors of cities with county status”**

Adam Nemeth

Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Bence Spicz Müller

Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem, Budapest, Hungary

Abstract

Local governments in Hungary are experiencing financial distresses rooted in the imbalances of tasks and financial resources. Therefore, reliable revenue forecasting is key to balanced local government budgets. However, current Hungarian local budget forecasting techniques face numerous incremental obstacles to sound local financial management. This paper displays the legal and economic context Hungarian local budget forecasting operates; and analyzes forecasting errors of local business tax, the major own revenue of cities with county status. Local revenue forecasting literature argues that errors of own revenue estimates could be a deliberate local decision in order to create a “buffer” with the local budget against unfavourable measures and to maximize government transfers. Hungarian local business tax forecasting errors of cities with county status underpin this assumption; as such “buffer” is significantly present.

Key words: Local budgeting, Municipal finance, Public finance, Tax revenue forecasting.

“Decentralization of local government in Albania and its problems”

Diana Shehu

Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania

Nehat Çollaku

Ministry of Environment, Albania

Salih Ozcan

Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania

Albana Shehu

Epoka University, Tirana, Albania

Abstract

Development of a country is realized through interaction and understanding of the central and local governments. The process may seem easy at first sight, but in reality there are many problems, especially if there is politicization between the two governments. The study will examine the role and duties of local government as well as the problems that exist in Albania. There was a Local Government Ministry, but after 2005 it is included into the Ministry of Interior Affairs. Recent years the government has provided less funding from the state budget, justifying this with increasing the independence of local government, and sometimes it has not provided adequate funds to municipalities and communes that did not vote for the government. There has been a tendency to decentralize local government, which is seen first of all in authority you are given to communes for the management of natural resources, for example forests, water etc. The government has issued a project law that expected to be approved soon in parliament by which the taxes of communes and municipalities will collect through government tax authorities profiting 3% of the amount. One problem is the criteria of selection of chiefs of municipalities and communes, which is based mainly on partisan interests and sometimes no proper education and vision to develop municipalities and communes. A good experience will be analyzed, that is project of PNUD where 3 main cities of Tirana, Elbasan and Kamza have created communication on line, where citizens can express their opinions for municipal development plans in the future as well as their concerns and problems. After analyzing the problems will be drawn conclusions and recommendations how to increase more the interaction of the two governments.

Keywords: decentralization, local government and central, interaction, budget.

Decentralization of local government in Kosovo- success story or failure?

Bekim Baliqi

University of Prishtina, Kosovo

Abstract

Municipal or local government is an essential part of representative democracy at the local level, political decisions and administrative measures are mostly saying conditionally affected by citizens. The local level is often responsible for the implementation of the policy, as it is considered to be the closest to citizens. With the establishment of the UNMIK administration in Kosovo, a few months later, precisely in 2000, was adopted two main acts for the establishment and operation of the new system of local self-government in Kosovo. In 2003, UNMIK and the Kosovo government began the first efforts for local government reform and decentralization process. Through the decentralization of power in Kosovo aimed to improve inter-ethnic relations and the consolidation of the state. Since offered broader political and administrative powers and greater financial autonomy to municipalities and communities. According to the Kosovo Constitution, Article X, which establishes the basic principles of self-government and territorial organization, the local level is a good basis for the creation of a democratic and decentralized system of local government.

To realize this need further reform of local government as a very complex process that requires the adoption of new laws, the revision of existing ones, the establishment of new municipalities, local financial system reform and building local capacity for effective self-government. After the final status negotiations mediated by President Ahtisaari proposed further decentralization of local government in Kosovo, including the establishment of 6 (5 +1) new municipalities where Serb community would be the majority. However, the main challenge is presented and continues them appear local government reform process in the country namely decentralization ethnic and political influence in the process. How would achieve decentralization to be successful will depend on many factors and actors that will be discussed further in the paper provided.

Keywords: decentralization, UNMIK, local government, democracy.

“Decentralization Reforms and the Social Services Delivery in the Republic of Macedonia”

Bojana Jovanovska

University of St. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Macedonia

Abstract

The decentralization reforms aim to enable the citizens to be more engaged in the decision-making processes in a wider range of areas, such as: education, urban and rural planning, health, culture, local economic development, etc. The basis of the decentralization process stands in the transfer of the competencies from the higher to the lower level in the society. It represents a certain level of modernization the state has reached through its development, especially referring to the empowerment of the political and financial autonomy of the local authorities, empowerment of the citizen's participation in the social and political processes, ensuring higher level of services for the population, and establishing collaboration between the local and the central authorities, as well as between the local authorities and the civic organizations.

This paper analyses the implementation of the decentralization as one of the four key principles within the reform process of the social protection system in the Republic of Macedonia. The competencies concerning the social needs involve the development of the local democracy, the local social development and the social services. The decentralization process in the social services delivery has redirected the development towards a European social model in managing social needs. The local self-government has the responsibility to organize and ensure the conditions for effective implementation of the social protection by creating special development programs based on the specific needs of the concerned citizens living on that territory. The main goal of these programs is to determine the level of exposure to social risks of the population, the related rights and services, as well as the institutions responsible in that field. The programs also establish the role of the municipalities in undertaking concrete measures in the situation of social need.

“Implementation of the process of decentralization in Republic of Macedonia”

Nora Maliqi

International University of Struga, Macedonia

Nazmije M. Zabzun

International University of Struga, Macedonia

Abstract

This paper is in function to improve the fluency of the financial income in our country, where it is offered to implement fiscal decentralization as a part of local government, which would raise the awareness of the citizens of our country from the reforms imposed by the state. The main purpose of this project is due to the policies of the Republic of Macedonia, which focuses on legislative system of fiscal equality, hoping in equitable distribution of resources, specification of capital ownership, direct access to state resources, as the fundamental basis for fiscal decentralization and as the consequences of social and economic context, basically implying equality. The legislation gives to municipalities the right to spread the jurisdiction to neighboring units. At the same time, we will explore how has the local governments been managed during these seven years (adopted in 2005) with fiscal and financial reforms. But we see reasonable to investigate even issues as: Are there in the favorable stage of the development the municipalities that try to implement fiscal decentralization process; The necessity of the comparative analytics between municipalities, about the difficulties encountered by them in the application of this (fiscal) system; We are aware that decentralization (as a process) is not in a proper level in many European countries, which states referred to as the best model in the case of the need for strategies and models of the development and progress, but this fact leads us inevitably towards the view that 'maybe' our state is an object of the test and experiment; etc. In the framework of this project we will identify a large number of concerns related to the process of decentralization. That (decentralization) is necessary for the citizens and the democratization of the society, which in an active way should be involved in the act of making decisions, which receive better and improved services which will decide on the requirements, their local needs and priorities, i.e. it is necessary for the good of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, to improve the quality of life, the democratization of the society, democratic jurisdiction and the maintenance of stable ethnic relations.

Key words: Fiscal decentralization, R. of Macedonia, the Ohrid Agreement, the Local Self-Government Legislation

SESSION 2
Moderator: Vjollca Hasani

“The management of immovable property, resources by the Local Government in Republic Albania”

Lirika Kutrolli

European University, Tirana, Albania

Abstract

The focus of this presentation will be the important role that local government has in the management of immovable property. The approval of the legal framework by the central government in the last five years in Albania has been carried out taking into consideration the following objectives:

1- The transference and enhancement of the powers pertaining to central government units with the aim of managing immovable property resources by means of leasing, in which third parties are involved. These items of immovable property include forests, meadows, barren land, abandoned plots of land, etc, which have been transferred to the local government units either in use, or as property of these local government units.

2- The transference of those powers concerning the management of all legal procedures related to the settlement of the legal titles. This has been one of the pressing issues after the year 1991 in the course of the implementation of the land reform. The uncertainty over the legal titles prevents a great amount of the available land from being part of the land market. The pressure – coming from the citizens as well as from various international organizations – to reach a solution is very high.

3- Local government powers, aiming at implementing and carrying out the subsidy plan which aims to support the farmers in planting fruit trees and nut trees, in accordance with the international policies concerning the fuller management and exploitation of the arable land.

The issue i focus on in this presentation is: Are there any obstacles to the implementation of these services? Is the legal framework appropriate for their implementation? In this article i have pinpointed current problems, which require that the legislation be reviewed and modified, so as to make possible the use of those powers pertaining to the local government and the fulfillment of the tasks that the local government units need to carry out, in the framework of the decentralization process. Finding the solution to these problems would lead to a sustainable development, which is indispensable considering the globalization issues and EU integration. The decentralization process, aiming at improving the services which have a bearing on the life of the community, demands a higher level of attention.

Key words: decentralization, leasing, property titles, legislation.

“Fiscal decentralization as an essential factor for successful accomplishment of local self – governance”

Zlatka Dimitrova

Sofia University Sv. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria

Abstract

There are numerous factors which influence the development of the relations between central and local level of governance. Among them, those that are of a greatest value and interest for this particular research are undoubtedly those coming from the democratic way of existence of a country. Such are: separation of powers, guaranties of equal participation of citizens in the political process, respect for the law, the constitution and the will of people considering their legitimately elected representatives. There is one principle, however, which is vital for the absolute defense of citizens' political and social rights – decentralization.

It is therefore, a matter of greatest importance, to begin with an introduction of the process of decentralization – and more specifically – the financial decentralization as one of the most essential factors for successful fulfillment of the purposes of local self-governance. Financial decentralization has different meaning for local authorities and central government. The level of financial decentralization is different in all the countries and even sometimes is only declarative. Most of developed countries in Europe have lawfully organized these particular relations between central government and local authorities by giving a lot of powers to the municipalities and by using a considerable variety of financial mechanisms to provide local communities with more recourses on their own revenue and by using less transfers from the national budget to support them financially. The amount of own revenues for the local communities and the amount of recourses coming from the central budget differ depending on the variety of fiscal mechanisms that governments use. In most of the countries from Central and Eastern Europe, however, there has been an interesting paradox considering financial independence and decentralization of local authorities – the last are given numerous and variable powers to fulfill their duties as body of local – self-governance.

Key words: central and local level, financial decentralization, local self governance, local authorities.

“Decentralization Process: Public-Private Partnership”

Enisa Bajrami

Liberal Alternative Institute, Skopje, Macedonia

Abstract

Changes at the present time are characterized by dynamism, speed and complexity, and therefore the public sector, as well as the local government should be fit to act, even in a proactive way in the context of these rapid changes within the context of socio-economic development. Given this into consideration, it naturally raises a couple of questions:

What is the role of local and central government authorities?

Are there any administrative barriers against the free market and open competition?

What is the public interest at the present time?

Does today exist simply the power or is focused entirely to the satisfaction of the "clients"?

What is fair and legal?

“Management issues to local taxes and fees”

Arsiola Dyrmishi

European University of Tirana, Albania

Abstract

Decentralization, based on the principle of autonomy is sanctioned on constitutional level. The Constitutional Court of Albania in its decision Number 29/2006 states that Local Government enjoy the exclusivity of competence and complementarities, which means autonomy and interaction with central government. Also predictions constitutional level (Article 112) states that there can be no exercise of the functions or powers without financial and fiscal autonomy. In this regard the passage of some national taxes under local administration in 2007 marked a major step in the reform fiscal of the decentralization, giving to the local government's revenue, collection and management, which would be their competence and responsibility.

This paper will be focused on some aspects:

What's the rapport between the tax incomes and unconditional or conditional transfers?
Is local revenue sufficient to fulfill the growing complexity of the services?

The transfer of small business taxes to the tax directorate is the recent debate in Albania between the consultative group of the business and Finance Ministry.

Do we need any legal changes in our local tax system?

The paper will be focused on theoretical aspects, but also including practical aspects of tax procedures during work of collecting taxes from local government unit. In the end we will focus on the ways or legal provisions that will bring more revenue for local government units.

“Economic Crime”

Arben Shehu

University of Tirana, Albania

Abstract

In modern societies, in which economic reports are getting more and larger importance, is necessary a systematic organization of the criminal law in relation to economic crime. Thus alternating scientific cooperation between criminological and socio-legal research in this area will inevitably will be achieved a satisfactory result.

It must be underlined that economic crime is distinguished from organized crime, although the last one often gets into legal economic activities with the purpose of laundering the money from criminal activities. However, organized crime has some special features that lack of economic crime.

One of the most dramatic consequences of economic crime is obviously the decline of trust in social values and the reduce of the sense of solidarity from the community.

With globalization and the frequent economic relations between subjects of different nationalities is necessary harmonization and approximation of legislation at regional and international level.

Key words: legislation, crime, economic, criminal, tax, evasion.

SESSION 3
Moderator: Albert Hani

“Enhancing citizen’s participation and decision making in support of power devolution along Albanian areas in Republic of Macedonia”

Reis Mulita

University Marin Barleti, Tirana, Albania

Abstract

There are some arguments that strongly appeal a new area of deepening and strengthening of legislative and governmental decentralized practices along Albanian human and territorial area in FYROM. I can mostly highlight:

The experience under centralized power of ex Yugoslavian Republic;

The unfulfilled Ohrid Agreement issues;

The Skopje centralized institutions and decision makings;

Through my study I will stimulate and argue models of political and governmental decentralization practices, putting citizens as active players in decision making, by Albanian ethnically territory in FYROM.

EU and European Council policies will be introduced to support the process, by confronting realities in Albanian communities of FYROM, where much work must be done to implement the Ohrid agreement, in order to foster the political, governmental or ethnical decentralization processes.

Through proposed study the “new media” and ICT, will foster innovative communication to collect the voice of Albanians in a single powerful democratic chore, confronting the centralized decision makings of Skopje institutions.

The study will conclude on the assumption that citizens mobilization, and the joint Albanian voice in front of the central government of Skopje will foster the devolution of central governmental power to the Albanian communities, in accordance with advanced policies and practices of EU countries. It will also enhance the democratization processes of FYROM institutions, while boasting society cohesion along the country beyond the ethnicity.

Literature review, web applications, direct communication with public opinion, and international institutions in Skopje, analyses, comparisons, qualitative and quantitative methods, will be some of the most methodologies used in the study.

Key words: Decentralization, policy, governance, communication technologies, citizens participation, decision making.

“Citizen Participation as a part from the decentralization process in realization of the Concept of Self-Government in the Republic of Macedonia”

Aleksandra Srbinovska-Donchevski
FON University, Republic of Macedonia

Tatijana Ashtalkoska
FON University, Republic of Macedonia

Abstract

Self-government represents a form of government in the local communities where the citizens reach decisions about the interests and the issues of local importance in specific areas of the social life within the local community, directly or through representative bodies and other local entities.

The member countries of the Council of Europe have agreed that local government is the solid foundation of every democratic system, and the right of every citizen to participate in the leading of the public affairs represents an important democratic principle that is applied in each member country of the Council of Europe, taking in consideration that its implementation is solely possible on local level.

The citizen participation in the creation of the local politics is the most important element in the process of decentralization and the assuming of the new functions of the local government. The citizens have the right to speak their mind in the process in which the most important decisions are reached, i.e. decisions that have a long-term effect and apply to the majority of citizens, as well as the right to a total and transparent insight of the work and the activities of the self-governing unit. All of the above-mentioned represents the first instance in the process of the inclusion of the citizens in the public policy. The citizens hold the right to clear and detailed information about different issues that apply to local communities.

The self-government focuses on reaching democratic solutions, reinforcing the local autonomy and enhancing the feeling of belonging of each individual to the community.

Keywords: citizen participation, decentralization, self-government, local government and local democracy.

“Decentralization in Macedonia: Advancing the Concept of Citizenship”

Lura Pollozhani

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Abstract

The decentralization process in Macedonia is one of the pillars of the Ohrid Framework Agreement which was instilled as a tool to bring stability in a multi-ethnic state as a result of the conflict of 2001. However, the decentralization process in Macedonia has not been implemented in its entirety and is still meeting with objection and opposing views. This paper will argue that the decentralization process has stagnated due to the fact that the Ohrid Framework Agreement has failed to introduce a paradigm shift and a change of perspective regarding the Agreement. As the decentralization process is an integrated part of the Agreement its implementation has not reached its expected success as the agreement itself is not perceived the same way by both ethnic communities of Macedonia that are directly involved with its implementation. The aim of this paper is to show that the decentralization process meets obstacles in its implementation as a consequence of the presence of strong ethnic identities instead of a common civic identity with which all citizens of Macedonia can identify with. For the central government to delegate powers to the local government there must first be a wholesome definition of citizenship which includes all ethnic groups without prejudice. This paper will look into the rhetoric and discourse regarding the Ohrid Framework Agreement and will establish links between the obstacles to implement decentralization and the differing views that the involved parties have of the process and the Agreement.

Keywords: decentralization, Ohrid Framework Agreement, ethnic identity, civic identity, citizenship, Macedonia.

“Decentralization of the public administration and the empowerment mechanism for support and participation of the citizens on local level”

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Abstract

In the Republic of Macedonia on July 1, 2012 were finished ten years since the implementation of the decentralization of the public administration. This is a complex process whose implementation required a number of reforms that caused certain advantages, as well as some disadvantages. But certainly some of the main goals of the decentralization process are complied, namely, the adoption of appropriate legislation as basis of the implementation of this process, the start of the fiscal decentralization, transfer of responsibilities from central to local level and getting government that is closer to citizens.

The aim of the research of this paper is exactly this segment of the decentralization process, in particular determining the role and importance of decentralization regarding the citizens. With this aim, the paper answers several questions pertaining to the determination of the concept of decentralization, the positive and negative effects of decentralization and specifically whether during a decade-long implementation of the decentralization process in Macedonia really got authority near to citizens, authority that is able and has the capacity to hear and understand the opinion of citizens and to give them the opportunity and they can directly participate in the implementation of policy and decision-making?

In this paper we will try to confirm the thesis that the active involvement of citizens in decision-making at the local level directly reflects the quality of life at the local level and the degree of development of local democracy. In addition, the active involvement of citizens does not imply a declarative enumeration of rights and mechanisms for their participation in the laws and regulations. Rather, it involves local authorities to ensure it really be achieved through the support and development of mechanisms for citizen participation. For this purpose raising the municipal capacities is needed, promoting technological development and human resources development in the local government units, as well as increased informing of the citizens. Certainly there would have stated the need for permanent control and monitoring of the realization of the socially acceptable and schedule. In the end however could ask citizens to see their satisfaction and their interest.

This active involvement provides an opportunity to hear another opinion, or the opinion of citizens and local stakeholders directly when deciding on an issue or problem that directly affects their interests. In addition, forms of direct citizen participation are not enough, but there is a need to promote other mechanisms.

Therefore, we conclude that it is not enough that we have direct local government or citizens only to be given the opportunity to decide during the local elections, but that they should constantly be included in decision-making.

“Decentralization process and the participation of the citizens on local government politics”

Jonuz Abdullai

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Abstract

The process of Decentralization, in recent years, is located in the center of political and administrative life in Macedonia. This process began in July 2005, after the adoption of constitutional amendments and laws on decentralization. Earlier, after attending the state independence in 1991, the authorities have adopted a strategy for the centralization of power in order to strengthen their control over the territory. This strategy has been changed after the conflict in 2001 and the Ohrid Agreement. To ensure the best local separation between the different communities living in Macedonia, Ohrid Agreement required a reform of decentralization of power. This reform, supported by the European Union and the leading international actors in Macedonia, have implemented major legislative changes in 2004.

In the transition process towards democracy, governments do not have automatic authority and permanent, but they must constantly reconfirm and restore their authority through responsible governance. And for this reason the final political authority belongs to the people, which must be active and engaged with participants in public discussion in the most effective governance and a sense of responsibility towards the public. The practical implementation of the decentralization process is still in progress. Transfer of competencies has faced with many problems due to the complex process but also the situation of political and economic transition that happens in Macedonia.

Within the concept of participatory democracy have also watched political participation, which is a very controversial topic and arouses more and more the interest of researchers in different fields.

Keywords: local government, budget, participation, democracy.

SESSION 4
Moderator: Korab Sejdiu / Taulant Hodaj

“Decentralization, minority rights and the autonomy through Hungarian”

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Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest, Hungary

Abstract

The topic of decentralization and autonomy is debated not only in Macedonia, but also in Serbia. When talking about minority issues in Serbia, the first thought that comes to one's mind is certainly Kosovo and the Albanians. Still, the author of this paper – being a Hungarian researcher – examines the situation and perspectives of another significant ethnic minority living in Serbia: the nearly 290.000 Hungarians living mainly in Vojvodina. Although they have a special kind of autonomy, there are a couple of significant political disagreements with Belgrade, for instance due to the controversial decision of the Constitutional Court on the status of Vojvodina, the representation of the province in Brussels, not to mention the question of financial transmissions from the central budget. The aim of this paper is to provide an analysis of the Vojvodina autonomy issue in Serbia, keeping in mind that central and local authorities in Macedonia may also draw relevant conclusions and implement some ideas in their own minority policy. The tragic 20th century history of the Balkan states gives the question utmost importance. The various armed conflicts have only exaggerated the already existing tensions, making peaceful and prosperous coexistence extremely difficult in certain parts of the region. At the end of the 20th century, the silhouette of a better future started to emerge. It seemed that all Balkan states stepped on the path heading for democracy, human rights and economic prosperity. Minority issues have not disappeared but the emphasis was laid on problem solving: nowadays ethnic groups have a certain representation in the decision-making procedure and may decide a couple of questions on their own.

However, the overall picture of the situation is not as positive as it seems at first glance. The whole system is to be extended and perfected; the already mentioned representation should be more effective, minority leaders should have substantial political influence on the issues directly affecting them. For example cultural and educational rights are of vital importance, nevertheless, they cannot be properly exercised without adequate financial support.

“Local government in the implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms”

Valentina Memini

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Irena Lavdari

European University of Tirana, Albania

Abstract

Local government remains the main defender of the interests of citizens, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the fact of facing the problems plaguing the individual with this power. Provision of services closer to the citizen, relief operations procedures by local authorities or the transparency of the activities of local government bodies, are part of the mandatory, to better meet the needs of subjects who require this service, as well as subjects Others expect a stewardship of life in communities. Problems that are observed today in local government operations may be different type due to the fact that the man himself as a human being has different needs to achieve a life as normal as possible, starting from the taking a certificate at a registry office, or in the extraction of an administrative act for obtaining a building permit, the execution of a judicial decision, and many other services. What remain most evident are the issues that are directly related to issues of maladministration by local public bodies which do not comply with the rules or constitutional principles laws or laws, binding and enforceable by them. A more efficient cooperation between local authorities and central government, as required by the Charter of Local Autonomy or the Albanian Constitution which has given local government organization in addition to other provisions (for example: Article 59 in connection with the social objectives of the state) Six part thereof, shall constitute the conclusion of a more comprehensive framework in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the individual.

“NGOs and bottom-up actions on Polish rural areas – mechanism of civil society building”

Anna Sitek

Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland

Abstract

The term “civil society” today it is one of the most popular ideas of social theory (...) [Herbst 2005: 9-11]. Civil society is also an interesting category; and of course, to fully understand the meaning of civil society it is necessary to be familiar with the number of related contexts of given country.

Furthermore civil society theory, for the most part, has been developed in Europe and the USA (...) and then has spread across the world to become a powerful leitmotif in politics and practice (...) [Edwards 2009:16-34].

The base of Polish origins of civil society is second half of the gold century (the sixteenth). However, only the next era and their turbulence (Swedish invasion, insurrection, partitions, loss of independence, Solidarity) influenced the current shape of the Polish society, which was an alternative to the state, and was mostly created to fight the regime [Osiatyńska 1996]. But the most dynamic moment of the development of civil society in Poland falls on the year 2000 (all presented data will be based on research conducted by Nicolaus Copernicus University and Polish Rural Forum as well as on other reports).

In the case of Poland, reborn idea of the civil society allowed for more efficient building integrated and informed communities primarily at local level and increase the involvement the residents of a village in making pro-development initiatives in the sphere of environment as well as civic activities. This case study (example of Poland) can be used as a pattern for building a new and democratic system in other countries, including in Macedonia.

**“Decentralization as support process of extinguishing the ethnic issues -
legal analysis of the importance of ensuring the use of the Albanian
language in Macedonia as an official language”**

Edmond Ahmeti

European University of Tirana, Albania

Elona Bano

Marin Barleti University, Tirana, Albania

Abstract

Decentralization is defined as a process where the central government allocates a portion of its powers and functions in favor of the local government by ensuring at the same time a local government autonomy from central government, in order to limit the distance that exists between citizens and public administration itself.

Many theorists and practitioners argue that decentralization can be used to ease tensions in post-conflict societies. By devolving authority and responsibility to local governments, the central government may seem less threatening, and all communities can run their own affairs and settle their grievances.

The European Charter of Local Autonomy as international legal act in which have acceded to almost all European countries, including Macedonia, has played an essential role in establishing and ensuring the decentralization process.

This paper aims to shed more light on the linguistic problem that exists in Macedonia, focusing on how is legally guaranteed the use of the Albanian language in the area of education, freedom of expression and freedom of the media. Also is important to have a look on procedural guarantees in respect of the fundamental rights of the individuals. The paper aims to highlight the situations *de jure* and *de facto* regarding the guarantee of the use of the Albanian language for the Albanian constituent community in Macedonia.

“The Influence of Citizens’ Associations on Decision-Making – an Important Factor in the Decentralization Process in the Republic of Macedonia”

Besa Bytyqi

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Abstract

The main purpose of this research is to present a study analysis of the notion of interest groups, especially citizens' associations in the Republic of Macedonia and their participation in public policy development. Interest groups can be defined as formal organizations that strive to reach their goals through influencing public policy. These groups can be considered as non political, but they rather deal with the "politics of politics". This research paper actually analyzes the impact of citizens' associations on local government during the decentralization process in the Republic of Macedonia and to what extent the citizens take part in compilation of public policy. For this research a questionnaire has been prepared and 200 citizens of Skopje have been contacted by phone and the achieved results and statistical data show that still the participation of citizens in public policy is not at the proper level. The level of cooperation between citizens and local government, ie municipalities is still at a low level. There is an institutional weakness and low implementation capacity, which limits the voice and participation of citizens in local affairs. There is a need to raise citizens' awareness and convince them that the voice of citizens in municipalities should be heard, ie they should speak loudly. And finally it is concluded that during the decentralization process in Macedonia non governmental and international organizations have given great contribution with their activities.

Keywords: Association, influence, decision-making, policy, decentralization.

“Decentralization process of the Municipal Solid Waste Collection”

Xhevdet Shala

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Sulejman Ahmedi

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Abstract

Municipal Solid Waste collection produces public value. Its mission, governance, accountability, management finance sustainability must be built around this principle. The high rate of society to radically evolve and adapt to the new ways in which knowledge is created, transferred and implemented. Necessary changes to the mission require profound changes to the overall collection and transport of the municipal solid waste management.

In developed countries, the adoption of the new public management has given rise to a new role of the State, focusing on the re-dimension of direct control – on the basis of principles of vertical and horizontal subsidiary – towards the use of financing and assessment as levers of public control.

The ‘control at a distance’ model highlights the role of the system of waste collection institutional autonomy and the importance of accountability systems in giving responsibility on Municipal company’s strategic decisions. Autonomous company on municipal level can provide more entrepreneurial actions, timely responsiveness to the needs, equity, finance sustainability and operating efficiency.

Governance and finance sustainability constitute two central perspectives of analysis that must bond together in order to sustain waste companies and their services in creating public value. The sieved clean environmental environment, transfer of the last decades in East European Countries has introduced freedom and autonomy for public activity. However, such changes in the administrative procedures of a large and diversified system are neither quickly nor easily achieved. The autonomy is accompanied by the introduction of accountability by setting standards and the evaluation of waste collection system fulfilling their needs to put all citizens in a position to achieve better live.

Government intent for better use of the existing capacities on Waste Collection Services from the municipal level, it's focus point of the issue.

Day 2 – 26th of January
SESSION 1
Moderator: Rizvan Sulejmani

**The Mayor of Municipality, representative or dominant?
A contribution to the strengthening of institutional accountability and
transparency at the local level – Key Study: Kosovo**

Besnik Tahiri

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Abstract

In its essence, this publication aims to elaborate the position of the ‘Mayor’ as a dominant institution in the triangle: the Mayor (executive) - Municipal Assembly (legislative) – Citizens (general public, civil society). The cornerstone argument of this publication is that the role of the institution of the Mayor within the system of local governance in the Republic of Kosovo requires better checks-and-balances instruments, moreover, it seeks more internal institutional and external with public accountability. The publication argues that because of the strong and dominant position of the institution of the Mayor, combined with the passive role of the Chairpersons’ of the Municipal Assemblies and civic apathy, results with the democratic deficit which is a concerning issue for local government developments, now and in the future. As such this publication represents a contribution to strengthen direct democracy via strengthening institutional accountability and transparency.

This paper argues that a pattern of governance is emerging at the municipal level that undermines Kosovo’s intended democratic trajectory. Specifically, it outlines how the institutional design of local government has enabled Mayors to assume a position of dominance that was not expected by the spirit of the Law, and by other legislative provisions. Continued Mayoral dominance of political structures sows the seeds for a future scenario in which checks and balances of power are further disrupted, that as a consequence leads to the mishandling of power, mismanagement of resources and governance that does not serve the needs and expectations of its citizens.

The development of checks at the public level is not helped by Mayors holding the purse strings for civil society funding. Last but not least, this publication explains the Mayoral dominance as a result of a culture of passivity that permeates the majority of Assemblies. The absence of horizontal accountability is again a question of institutional design, most notably that Assembly members have no efficient control over budget lines, and in some cases even lacking the basic facilities, including offices and email addresses, to carry out their responsibilities. The passivity is exacerbated by a system of party politics that places party loyalty above responsiveness to citizens’ needs.

The relationship between representative of Council of Ministers in regional divisions, the Prefect with local government bodies; to what extent could be exercised the control of Prefect over local government institutions?

Mirela P. Bogdani

University of Tirana, Albania.

Bojana Hajdini

Prime Minister's Cabinet of Albania

Abstract

Purpose of this academic paper is to present and analyze the relationship between powers of Prefect which is the representative institution of Council of Ministers in the regional divisions. In a more detailed prospect, the paper will present issues regarding to what extent could be exercised the control of Prefect over local government activity. Initially the paper will present an overview of the role and functions of Prefect (*after the establishment of democracy in Albania*) based on previous legal regulations as well as the changes and amendments that have been made in this respect by the adoption of the new law.

Main analysis of the paper will be focused in details on the role and powers of the Prefect in the process of control the legality of acts approved by the local government institutions as well as the criteria, principles and procedures that should be taken into account in exercise of these control powers. The paper will describe also issues related to the control of delegated responsibilities from the central government by the Prefect.

Throughout the paper, will also be presented good or problematic practices observed in the field as well as comparative analysis, especially regarding the issues of controlling the legality of administrative acts of local government by the Prefect.

Concluding the paper, we intent to present conclusions and recommendations for continuous improvements in terms of legal and administrative issues as well as regarding law enforcement.

Methodology – this paper will be focused primarily on detailed legal analysis of national and national legal acts that deals with powers and authority of Prefect over local government bodies in material and procedural point of view. Findings of the paper will be compared and equated with legal procedures provided for by legislation of Kosovo as well will be illustrated by practical cases.

Key words: Decentralization, Prefect, control for legality issues over local government administrative acts, local government unit/body, control over delegated responsibilities.

“Public process on a local level – Evidence from Republic of Macedonia”

Hristina Cipuncheva

South East European University – Tetovo, Macedonia

Memet Memeti

South East European University – Tetovo, Macedonia

Shenaj Hadzimustafa

South East European University – Tetovo, Macedonia

Veli Kreci

South East European University – Tetovo, Macedonia

Abstract

The active participation of citizens in the design, the implementation and the monitoring of development is an essential element in providing quality services at the local level. Their role is important in the process of effective governance, strengthening the civil society access to important public information, and providing opportunities for disadvantaged groups to contribute to policy making and to providing social services to people's needs. It is particularly important that the civil society can play the role of the controller in monitoring and evaluating the local policies and programs, signifying their politicians and service providers responsible for the delivery of the essential local services with good quality and fair manner.

This study focuses on the analysis of the citizens' satisfaction with the quality of delivery of decentralized services and the appropriate sources of funding available to implement them in four municipalities in Republic of Macedonia. The main goal is to analyze the management of grants from the central government (block grants, earmarked grants and capital transfers) and the compliance with the principles of good governance in the Municipality of Chair, Krushevo, Jegunovce, and Konche.

The assessment covers the *de jure* and *de facto* forms of good governance in the municipalities. The methodology seeks to verify the existence of policies and their implementation in practice.

Key words: decentralization, citizens' satisfaction, good governance

“Making use of IPA and International Funds”

Darjel Sina

European University of Tirana

Pranvera Xhafaj

European University of Tirana

Abstract

In this International Conference the subject that will be discussed and written is the IPA funds and the allocated international funds for the Republic of Macedonia. It is very important to understand the role of these instruments and what has been done until yet. In the second part of this article will be analyzed the international funds that this state is receiving. Concerning IPA this is an instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) which was established with the Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006, in order to improve the efficiency of the Community's External Aid. The present instrument is provided on the basis of the European Partnerships of the potential candidates and the Accession Partnerships of the candidate countries, which means the Western Balkan countries, Turkey and Iceland. Two components that concern all beneficiary countries are: 1) the “support for transition and institution-building” component, aimed at financing capacity-building and institution-building and 2) the “cross-border cooperation” component, aimed at supporting the beneficiary countries in the area of cross-border cooperation between themselves, with the EU Member States or within the framework of cross-border or inter-regional actions. Concerning Macedonia in the transport sector the program’s assistance focuses on the continuation of the development of the South East Europe Core Regional Transport Network (corridors VIII and X). In case of the environmental sector, investments focus on waste water treatment and solid waste management where the impact to the population and natural environment is the highest. She has made also considerable progress towards the professionalization of its public administration where over of 3,000 staff were trained through workshops and study visits. IPA-funded activities helped the country to implement a National System for Training Coordination and increased the practical know-how of officials in priority areas such as procurement, financial management and irregularities. Progress has been made in aligning domestic legislation with the EU acquires in the fields of customs, environment and criminal procedure. The focus on institutional reforms, improved public finance management, public sector capacity building and sustainability of the administrative capacity needed for EU integration will also contribute in the future to the competitiveness of Macedonia and will support economic recovery.

Key Words: IPA funds, Instrument, Pre-Accession, Assistance, European Partnerships, Western Balkan

“Decentralization and European integration process for the Western Balkan countries”

Florian Bjanku
University of Shkodra, Albania

Abstract

Decentralization is expressed by the independent local units taking initiatives for the benefit of the community. This means their ability to act with full responsibility in the exercise of its functions and powers provided by law. Being one of the key policies of the European Union, based on the principle of subsidiarity, local autonomy constitutes one of the fundamental guarantees for the normal development of the activity of local government bodies, for the fulfillment of democratic standards in the exercise of functions by them. In the whole process of decentralization and strengthening of local government, the level of autonomy remains essential indicator to distinguish it from the centralized system of governance.

When discussing Western Balkan countries likely candidates to be potential members of the European Union, the responsibility of the local self-government units, it is important to know what Community obligations are incumbent upon these authorities. In this context, it's a obligation of local and regional authorities to implement European Union directives. EU does not push up to satisfy the unanimous European regional model, which basically is non-existent each country can formulate regional management according the states demands and may freely to choose what instruments to use for achievement of the best democratic regional management results.

“The Impact of the European Union on Decentralization process in the Republic of Macedonia”

Ylber Sela

Institute for Political and International Studies – Skopje, Macedonia

Rami Qerimi

Municipality of Çair, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

Abstract

There is no doubt that as one of the drivers of decentralization in the Republic of Macedonia is the aspiration of the country to join the big European family. On the one hand, the EU has made it clear that the decentralization of power represents the necessary precondition for any country that wants to become a full member. On the other hand, the Ohrid Framework Agreement has placed the issue of decentralization at the top of priorities on the agenda of Macedonia. In this regard, as a guarantor of the Framework Agreement, the European Union explicitly stated that without decentralization it is not possible the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. Therefore, without the Ohrid Framework Agreement it is impossible for the country to get closer to the EU. Furthermore, the Thessaloniki Summit in 2003 reinforced the importance of decentralization by providing an additional momentum for decentralization supporters in the country. Put it differently, it was cleared to Macedonia, at the Summit that decentralization for EU has a special value and Macedonia as an aspirant should have put it as one of the main priorities on the agenda for EU integration.

SESSION 2
Moderator: Arta Musaraj

“The involvement of women in local government in the Republic of Macedonia”

Agon Demjaha

State University of Tetovo, Macedonia

Teuta Agai Demjaha

Municipality of Çair, Skopje, Macedonia

Abstract

The main purpose of this paper is to analyse the involvement of women in local government in the Republic of Macedonia since its independence in 1991 up until today. It analyses all cycles of local elections in Macedonia starting from the first in 1996 up to the last elections held in 2009. Although Macedonia inherited a relatively decentralized system of local government from former-Yugoslavia which among others included a satisfactory representation of women in this field, one gets the impression that after the independence, there were signs and tendencies of centralization of the government and a bypassing of the political involvement of women. Furthermore, it is alarming that currently out of 85 mayors in Macedonia, none of them are women. Such a fact actually presents a step backwards in the representation of women in local government in Macedonia because during the elections in 2000 and 2005, three women were elected as mayors. Though with representation of 27% the situation is obviously better regarding municipal councils, it should be mentioned that this is more a result of electoral provisions which state that every third candidate on the electoral lists must be female rather than a result of genuine political willingness from the political parties in Macedonia regarding the participation of women in local government. With this percentage of women representation, Macedonia is far from the European standards of the involvement of women in local government. As an illustration, in 2007, the average percentage of women mayors in the 27 EU countries was 16%, whereas in Sweden and Latvia it reached 30% respectively 39%. Consequently, there have been many reactions from different representatives of OSCE and EU regarding this situation.

Key words: women, local government, involvement, representation.

“Women's challenges as a leader in Albania post-communist. Her role in political decision”

Juljana Alushi

University of Tirana, Albania

Alketa Bajrami

University of Tirana, Albania

Abstract

Albania – the former communist country with a centralized socialist system, where the local government has no independence for the individual physical activities such as economic, social and cultural activities, it continues at this modality at some certain extent. The liberalization and the new democratic developments bring forth the necessity for a local power division and self-local management that would bring a far greater social and inclusive benefit of social groups. However, changing the government system associated with an uncontrolled migration wave would indisputably increase the workload and responsibilities of leaders of social, economic and cultural institutions. Thereby, Albania requires a special investment on the implementation of tangible and more comprehensive reforms since the expansion of per urban areas raises social groups of an immediate demand for some social integration reform and not just simply cooperative theory papers and unfeasible projects. Given their patriarchal regional-bearing culture and traditions, the first and very important step is a proper response and support from a local government reform. Leadership participation of women in important social groups as leaders of kindergartens, schools, health centers, etc. has been one of the positive and highly effective elements in Albania. It also worthy of note that, by means of communicative, understanding and human characteristics, there has been a wider involvement of children in compulsory education, family social urbanization of employed mothers (never ever being employed), urban transport as an alleviating economic cost of service... Despite the so far, slow-pace performing efforts in Albania, social integration requires much more. There is an urgent claim for a notable participation of women not only in education, but also be a part of social assistance reforms of local governments and central government as well, of non-governmental organizations in the country and abroad, too. Observing the official statistics and on the field results, it is noticed that politics has an impact on recruiting leading women by excluding women of highly communicative and managing quality and capacity of a worthy effective service to citizens.

“Economic empowerment: A panacea for active participation of Nigerian women in politics”

Martins O. Oduru
University of Abuja, Nigeria

Abstract

In 1993, the Beijing Platform for Action committed Governments and International agencies to ensure the advancement of women in 12 critical areas, one of which was political participation. The platform for Action reflects a review of progress since 1985 International Conference of women held in Nairobi, Kenya, which adopted the “Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000. The platform seeks to hasten the removal of some obstacles to women’s participation in all spheres of life, to protect women’s rights and to integrate women’s concern into aspects of sustainable development.

Key words: International agencies, political participation, Advancement of Women, women’s rights.

“Political parties and (non) empowerment of women in the leadership of local government - the case of Kosovo”

Xhavit Shala

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Abstract

In this paper will be treated the participation and position of women in Kosovo politics, especially in local government. Legislation of elections has guarantee a quote (percentage) that provides at least level 30% of seats in representative institutions for women. However, the gender ratio in Kosovo, according to the civil registration, conducted in April 2011, presents statistics which are merely equal between females / males recorded (gender ratio: Male-875.900, female-863.925 difference 101.4). Naturally, half of the population consists of women, participation in institutions and leadership positions should be similar or the same quota. But in reality, Kosovo general statistics show that institutions are dominated and directed (all mayors) by men. Empowerment and involvement of women in decision making positions can not be done only through legal mechanism like it is gender quota, but political will of the political parties is required as well. The influence of political parties to increase participation of women in the local leadership and representation of women in management is one of the most important determinants for success and will strengthen women role in decision-making in local government. Equal treatment is essential element and barometer of democracy, pluralism, fundamental constitutional value and the foundation of building a democratic society.

Key words: political parties, decision-making, empowerment, equality, constitutional values, democracy and representation.

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