



The role of bilateral cooperation between EaP and EU countries' municipalities in facilitating sustainable municipal development in EaP

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The bilateral cooperation:

- between municipalities from EaP and EU countries is form of partnership, which is based on practical examples and increasing mutual trust
- includes direct municipality to municipality contacts, as well as co-operation between local governments' associations



Sustainable municipal development:

- Democratic sustainability
- Fiscal sustainability
- Administrative sustainability
- Economical sustainability
- Ecological sustainability



Democratic sustainability

- Constitutional and legislative guaranties of local democracy;
- Legislative guaranties for local property and freedom to act with it;
- Traditions and skills of participatory democracy.

Fiscal sustainability:

- Existence of local taxes and fees;
- Substantial share of own revenues – from municipal taxes and general grants from national budget, - which ensures substantial level of freedom for spending;
- Level of total revenues, which is proportional to local competences, compared to central government competences;
- Opportunity to choose proportions of local priorities (nationally accepted normative can be established only for delegated central government functions);
- Correspondence between municipal development planning and local resources.



Administrative sustainability:

- Responsibility of local executive authorities to elected local decision makers;
- Autonomy to choose forms and management of executive institutions and municipal companies;
- Autonomy of local personal policy.



Economical sustainability

- Existence of skilled work force;
- Existence of opportunities for leisure time, cultural and sport events;
- Capability to attract and save creative private entrepreneurs.



Opportunities of benchmarking:

- Best practical implementation of those conditions we can find in different EU member states
- Particular local authorities could be chosen for benchmarking
- Dissemination of better practice among EU countries and to Eastern Partnership countries



Readiness from central governments of Eastern Partnership is different

- In all cases introduction of municipal sustainability conditions has to be step by step process



Main arguments against:

- lack of trust to capacity and honesty of local politicians, local administrators and local residents.
- That lack is based on myths about preferences of centralized hierarchical bureaucracy.
- That lack is the psychological phenomenon of belief on conservative values.



Forms of bilateral cooperation:

- Twinning – the most traditional form, very important for establishing people to people, municipality to municipality, entrepreneur to entrepreneur mutual trust.
- Partnership – the most popular form in the context of UN Sustainable Development Goals. It helps to implement common bilateral and multilateral projects.



- Trans-boundary cooperation. Several EU countries – Latvia, Lithuania and Poland - have boundary with Belarus, Poland with Ukraine, Romania with Moldova. It gives opportunity to use trans-boundary cooperation instruments.
- Cooperation between local government associations as facilitator and co-ordinator of direct contacts of municipalities.



Draft themes for Azerbaijan:

- Strengthening of local citizens' participation in order to prepare wider basis for representative democracy in future;
- Dissemination of knowledge about local budgeting and local development planning, in order to prepare conditions of future fiscal decentralization;
- Dissemination of practice of diversification of local entrepreneurship.



Draft themes for Georgia:

- Methods of regional development planning and implementation;
- Methods of facilitating local entrepreneurship;
- Dissemination of practice of effective auditing local governments



Draft themes for Armenia:

- Practice of distribution powers between local governments and the State;
- Practice of inter municipal cooperation in order to improve services;
- Practice of strengthening the role of elected council



Draft themes for Moldova:

- Practice of relations between elected mayor and elected council;
- Practice of budget planning decreasing centralized normatives;
- Practice of providing public utilities by private and public sector enterprises



Draft themes for Ukraine:

- Practice of decentralized budgeting on the basis of local taxes and general grants from national budget (equalization system);
- Practice of local executives' subordination to local representatives;
- Participatory democracy in order to increase trust to municipalities



Draft themes for Belarus:

- Practice of local executives subordination to local representatives
- Practice of budget planning without centralized normatives
- Methods of local participatory democracy



Thank you for attention!