



Aarhus Centres A Decade Of Partnership in Implementing The Aarhus Convention

Theme: Aarhus Centers' efforts in promoting good governance in management of natural resources

Vienna, 03-05 July 2013

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Aarhus Convention: Key milestones for Albania.

- On 27 June 2001 Albania ratified the Aarhus Convention;
- In July 2006 the OSCE Presence in Albania (PiA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MEFWA);
- In December 2006, an Aarhus Advisory Board (AAB) was established;
- In December 2006, an Aarhus Information Centre (AIC) was opened in the premises of the MEFWA in Tirana;
- In 2007 two AICs were opened in NGO premises in Shkodra and Vlora. The AICs are financially supported by the OSCE and are subsequently registered as Albanian NGOs with respective independent governing boards;
- On 16 June 2009 Albania accessed to the PRTR Protocol;

Aarhus Center balance!

a) A continues uphill struggle for AIC:

- High turn over of the public administration;
- Public participation unduly delays projects - concept resting with companies, officials etc;
- Lack of funds in the economic crisis makes AIC struggle uphill!

b) Success achieved:

- Private sector has been attending AC trainings;
- Government units have uses AIC to disseminate information such as draft laws, plans etc;
- Eco-club network established for awareness raising and clean up activities in Jose Valley;
- Cooperation between Aarhus and Corporate Social Responsibility (Statkraft company);
- Aarhus principles incorporated with Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Why is the Aarhus Center so valuable for promoting Good Governance principles?

- Creating good reputation in public eyes, AIC opened up doors for dialogue with local authorities on topics using the Environment as an entry point.
- In south Albania, we started with non-political topics such as:
 - waste management
 - environmental awareness
 - trainings for officials, CSOs, private sector.
- Then we included good governance as a broad topic on transparency issues & candidate debate for 2011 and 2013 election.
- Recently AIC has been working on transparency issues, & in management of natural resources (EITI).

Aarhus Center and natural resources -EITI

Awareness raising events in Vlora, Fier, Perrenjas, Kukes, Bulqiza, Burrel.

EITI includes three stakeholders:

- companies
- civil society
- and local officials.

Aarhus Convention:

- Private sector
- Civil society
- Public officials.

The common denominator:

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Inclusiveness.



Why is Aarhus Center important for management of natural resources



What possible Solutions can offer AICs either for investors, community or LGU?

- AICs, based on their neutral and impartial reputation can be the facilitator for the process of information & public consultations with officials, citizens, national and International investors to avoid clashes and differences;
- AICs can contribute for creating a climate of mutual trust between investors and the community;
- AICs can inform citizens at the right time for Strategic Investments and pollution caused by each investment as an obligation and a necessity for sustainable development;
- AICs can contribute in organizing a transparent consultation process and adopt new communication ways such as social media, written annual reports and data accessible for all interested public.

Future prospect of AIC in regards with EITI & PRTR

- Gaining neutral reputation, the AIC can serve as a model for organizing public consultation for strategic public investment like mining, oil industry etc;
- Work in cooperation with all interested parties in local communities affected by investments to have a transparent process of investment;
- Cooperate with local and national institutions to make sure that all data provided are updated for investors;
- Promote constructive dialogue between citizens and investors to resolve issues to the interest of community while respecting the rights and obligations of each party in a fair and transparent process;
- Being transparent and impartial in order to guarantee trust among parties and to avoid potential conflicts between communities and local government, or different investors.

Few activity photos



Aarhus Information Center – Vlora

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