



Regional Seminar on Promoting Local Government Reform and Good Governance at Local Level

*Organised by
Council of Europe Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform
and
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities*

*7-8 December, 2011
Vozdvyzhensky Hotel, 60 a,b Vozdvyzhneska str, Kyiv, Ukraine*

AGENDA

DAY 1: **7 December 2011**

09:00 – 10:00 **Registration of participants**

10:00 – 10:30 **Welcoming Remarks**

Speakers:

- **Ms. Alina Tatarenko**, Programme Coordinator, Council of Europe Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform
- **Ambassador L'ubomir Kopaj**, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
- **Mr. Roel Janssens**, Economic Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, OSCE Secretariat

10:30 – 11:30 **Session I – Presentation of the Council of Europe Report on the Impact of the Financial Crisis on Local Governments**

Presenter:

- **Prof. Paul Bernd Spahn**, Council of Europe Expert

Discussion, Q&A

11:30 – 12:00 **Coffee break**

12:00 – 13:00 Session II – Country overviews

- Exchange of experience and short information on measures to improve local government in participating countries

Moderator: Prof. Paul Bernd Spahn, Council of Europe Expert

Presenters:

- **Mr. Radu Comsa**, Adviser to the Minister of Administration and Interior, Romania
- **Ms. Zoryna Peroschuk**, Head of Division of Interbudgetary Equalisation, Department of Local Budgets and Investments, Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, “Experience of Interbudgetary Equalisation and Policy for Strengthening Local Finances”
- **Mr. Artur Soghomonyan**, Head of the Department of Community Service Affairs, Ministry of Territorial Administration, Armenia
- **Mr. Igor Malai**, Head of Political and Regional Cooperation Division, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Moldova
- **Mr. Andrei Lobovich**, Chief of Local Budgets Division, Ministry of Finance, Belarus

Discussion, Q&A

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 15:30 Session III – Why it is important to strengthen local good governance: benefits and incentives, available tools and instruments

- European Charter of local self-government
- The importance of creating appropriate local government legislation
- Available tools and instruments aimed at increasing effectiveness of local government

Presenters:

- **Prof. Gerard Marcou**, Council of Europe Expert
- **Mr. Volodymyr Grojsman**, Mayor of Vinnytsya City, Ukraine
- **Mr. Sergii Sharshov**, Head of the Administrative and Territorial Reform Division, Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Municipal Economy of Ukraine

Discussion, Q&A

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00 Session IV: Fiscal Decentralisation as part of Local Self Government Reform

- The need to introduce sound financial management, adopt medium to long-term budget and/or expenditure frameworks as well as budget plans, including at the local level
- Presentation of Council of Europe Standards and Benchmarks on Local Finance
- Presentation of case studies and relevant examples

Presenters:

- **Prof. Paul Bernd Spahn**, Council of Europe Expert
- **Ms. Natalia Starostenko**, Project Manager “Strengthening the Capacities of Local Authorities of Ukraine”, “Council of Europe Approaches to the Local Finance Benchmarking”

Each country is invited to make a short presentation on their fiscal decentralization policies.

Discussion, Q&A

17:00 – 17:15 **Wrap up of Day I**

17:30 **Reception hosted by the Council of Europe**

DAY 2: **8 December 2011**

09.30 – 11.00 **Session V - Promoting an Open, Responsive and Accountable Government at all levels**

- Access to information and transparency of decision-making: the public, including at the local level, has the right to be well informed. Only then can fiscal, financial and budgeting policies and spending priorities be properly understood, monitored and evaluated.
- Ways and means to build Citizens’ trust in local government
- Presentation of case studies and relevant examples

Moderator: Ms. Alina Tatarenko, Programme Coordinator, Council of Europe Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform

Presenters:

- **Mrs. Iryna Scherbyna**, Director General, Institute of Budgetary and Socio Economic Research, Ukraine
- **Ms. Julia Mager**, Head of Governance Development and Support Section, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina on “Deepening Citizen’s Engagement with Municipalities as a Means of Ensuring an Equitable and Accountable Allocation of Public Goods and Services”
- **Mr. Robert Mangham**, Economic, Environmental and Regional Reform Officer, OSCE Presence in Albania on “Overcoming Challenges for Civil Society in Influencing Local Government Decision making in Albania”

Discussion, Q&A

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30 – 13:00 Session VI - Integrity Matters in Local Government

- Fostering integrity and preventing corruption in the public sector including at the local level
- How to establish a public service ethical code of conduct
- Presentation of relevant case studies and examples

Moderator: Mr. Roel Janssens, Economic Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, OSCE Secretariat

Presenters:

- **Mr. Volodymyr Udovychenko**, Mayor of Slavutych City, Ukraine on “Slavutych Code of Ethics”
- **Mr. Mato Meyer**, Economic Transparency Adviser, Rule of Law/Human Rights Department, OSCE Mission to Serbia on “Promoting Legislative Reform, Improving Public Accountability and Combating Corruption at the Local Level in Serbia”
- **Ms. Karin Wagner**, Governance Adviser, Democratisation Department, OSCE Mission to Serbia on “Code of Conduct for Local Self Governments in Serbia”
- **Mr. Yaroslav Yurtsaba**, National Project Manager, OSCE Project Co-ordinator’s Office in Ukraine on “E-governance at the local level in Ukraine”

Discussion, Q&A

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 16:00 Session VII – Cross-Border and Inter-Municipal Co-operation

- Presentation of the Council of Europe Local Self Governance Cross-Border Co-operation Toolkit
- Promoting Decentralization and Inter-Municipal Co-operation
- Presentation of relevant case studies

Presenter:

- **Prof. Daniele del Bianco**, Council of Europe Expert
- **Mr. Jaime Valles**, Head of Good Governance Department, OSCE Mission to Skopje
- **Ms. Olena Lytvynenko**, Programme Manager, Council of Europe Programme “Strengthening Local Democracy and Support to Local Government Reform in Ukraine”

Discussion, Q&A

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 17:00 Concluding debate and closing remarks

- **Ms. Alina Tatarenko**, Programme Coordinator, Council of Europe Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform
- **Mr. Roel Janssens**, Economic Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, OSCE Secretariat

17:00 End of Day II