

PROJECT INFO

United Nations Development Programme



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CHALLENGE

The decentralization process was launched a decade ago as an ambitious reform project. The decentralization reforms have been motivated by the twin desires to use democratization to ease ethnic tensions and promote political stability, while also bringing public services closer to citizens.

However, the lack of established municipal administrative procedures and the weak capacities of the public administration, increased the risk of embedding corruptive practices. According to the numerous public opinion polls, corruption has been identified as one of the major concerns of the general public. People perceive corruption as a significant obstacle for good governance, quality services and foreign investment in the country.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the project was to promote transparency and accountability, as indispensable pillars of local democratic governance. The project aimed to address the root causes and potential consequences of non-transparent practices, enhance civic control in the fight against corruption and reinforce corruption control at local level.

RESULTS

A methodology for Measuring the Index of Responsibility, Transparency and Accountability at local level was developed – enabling the assessment of local government's vulnerability to corruption.

In partnership with the Association of Local Self Government Units, UNDP supported the creation of a Code of Ethics for Local Officials – to ensure that local authorities are more responsible towards the citizens. The Code of Ethics has already been adopted by all 84 municipalities.

Several other key knowledge documents were produced, such as manuals and guides for administrative procedures in urban planning, communal activities, financial management and free access to information.

Over 250 civil servants received specialized trainings in the areas of administrative procedures, urban planning, communal activities and financial management.

UNDP supported the first ever ISO certification in four municipalities – Veles, Tetovo, Gevgelija and Bitola. They are now providing better and more transparent services for all citizens.

The capacities of civil society organizations to detect and fight corruption were further enhanced thanks to a small grant scheme.

A total of 30 journalists from national and local media received a thorough training in investigative journalism, delivered by Reuters, to further strengthen the important role of the media in fighting corruption.

UNDP also supported the development of the State Programme for Prevention and Repression of Corruption 2011-2015 and the sectoral Action Plans. Thanks to this, sectoral integrity systems were successfully put in place and cross-sectoral partnerships and coalitions were promoted.

PROJECT TITLE:

Fighting Corruption to Improve Governance

PARTNERS:

State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, Association of Local Self Government Units, Ministry of Local Self Government, Agency of Civil Servants, Municipalities of Tetovo, Veles, Gevgelija and Bitola

FINANCED BY:

Government of the Kingdom of Norway and UNDP

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IMPLEMENTING PERIOD:

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