

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL BETWEEN CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Context

Albania has made considerable progress in the decentralization agenda. Since 2014, the Government of Albania has undertaken the administrative and territorial reform, resulting in municipalities of a much bigger size. This reform, in line with the European Charter of Local Self-Government, aimed at reaching economies of scale and cost efficiency gains of Local Government Units (LGUs), with the ultimate goal of providing better services to citizens.

An important step forward has been the establishment of the Consultative Council between the central government and local self-government in 2017, which serves as an institutional platform for dialogue between central government and local and regional authorities, providing the latter with a forum for advocacy. As the European Commission's Country Report 2020 for Albania states, "while policy and legal discussions would benefit from an earlier involvement of the local level, local government units and their associations rarely manage to come to the table with consolidated positions." This project helped enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Consultative Council, by increasing municipalities's role in decision making processes.



### Project Objectives

This project's specific objectives were to:

- i) Support the actors of the Consultative Council to increase the Council's efficiency and effectiveness;
- ii) Enhance the Consultative Council's contribution to the advancement of the decentralization agenda in Albania.

### Deliverables

- The organization and functioning of the Consultative Council enhanced;
- Municipalities' role in the decision making processed on policies and legislation related to the decentralization process strengthened;
- Capacities of the Agency for Support to Local Government in the operation, management and communication of the Consultative Council developed;
- Staff capacities of municipalities, associations of municipalities and regions, the Agency for Support to Local Government, Ministry of Interior and line ministries on the local legislative and budget framework in compliance to EU Standards developed.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

##### DONORS:

European Union

##### PARTNERS:

- Urban Research Institute (URI)
- Agency for Support to Local Government
- Ministry of Interior
- Line ministries member of the Consultative Council
- Municipalities
- Associations of LGUs
- Albanian School of Public Administration

##### DURATION:

01/09/2020 - 31/12/2021

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### About URI

Since 1999, the Urban Research Institute (URI) has been delivering big results for development projects and programmers carried out throughout Albania. Our core business focuses on community development, local government strengthening, environmental protection, decentralization, and public services. We conduct studies, lobby the government, train local government units, increase public access to information, and connect development partners. URI has worked with donors such as USAID, Swiss Cooperation, the Netherlands Embassy, UNDP, World Bank, EU, SIDA, Open Society Foundation, etc.

