

MISSION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ALBANIA

The purpose of local self-government in Albania is to guarantee effective and efficient governance at the level closest to the citizens through:

- 1 Recognition of the existence of different identities and values of the communities;
- 2 Respect and enforcement of the fundamental rights of citizens provided in the Constitution and other laws;
- 3 Selection of different kinds of local public facilities and services to the community's benefit;
- 4 Efficient and effective exercise of the functions, competencies and duties of bodies of local self-government;
- 5 Delivery of services in appropriate forms based on the needs of community members and in conformity with the standards established by national law or other normative acts;
- 6 Effective promotion of comprehensive participation of citizens in local governance, and qualitative services provided.

MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS BY SPHERES OF ACTIVITIES AND TYPES OF LOCAL SERVICES:



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THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AT EUROPEAN & ALBANIAN LEVEL

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THE FUTURE OF EUROPE RELIES ON ITS TERRITORIES.

Over 60%* of the decisions taken at the European level have a direct impact on local municipalities, provinces, and regions and approximately 75% of public investments in Europe are made by local and regional authorities. These two figures alone are proof of the ever-increasing importance of European local and regional government in both our world's economy and the life of our citizens.



60 YEARS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL EUROPE

In 1951, a group of mayors created what was then called the Council of European Municipalities (CEM). Today, these mayors could be called the forefathers of the European Union. Their aim in founding the Council of European Municipalities was to create a united, peaceful Europe, based on the principles of local and regional self-government and created from and with its citizens, cities, towns and villages.

THE BIRTH OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY

At the first General Assembly of the Council of European Municipalities in 1953, elected local representatives from a number of European countries adopted the 'European Charter of Local Liberties', a text which, spelt out the rights of Europe's villages, municipalities, towns and cities vis-à-vis national governments. Thirty years later, the Council of Europe adopted the European Charter for Local Self-Government, which was heavily inspired by CEM Charter of Local Liberties), and is currently ratified by 45 of the 47 Council of Europe Member States. Albania is a member of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

THE LATEST TERRITORIAL REFORM IN ALBANIA

Similar to many other European countries, after various legislation and regulations, Albania undertook and implemented in 2014, a territorial consolidation reform under which regions cover an average of five municipalities, and local government units changed from 308 communes and 65 municipalities to only 61 municipalities.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN DECISION MAKERS AT LOCAL LEVEL IN ALBANIA?

The city council (Këshilli Bashkiak) is the local authority's deliberative body. Its members are elected by direct universal suffrage for four years. The city council is responsible for local taxes and for adopting regulations. The mayor (Kryetari) is the executive body of the municipality and is elected by direct universal suffrage for a four-year mandate. He/she approves and implements city council decisions, guarantees that all of the local authority's obligations are met and represents the municipality vis-à-vis third parties.



* - Brochure "Local and Regional Governance in Europe. Structure and Competences", - produced by CEMR "Council of European Municipalities and Regions"