

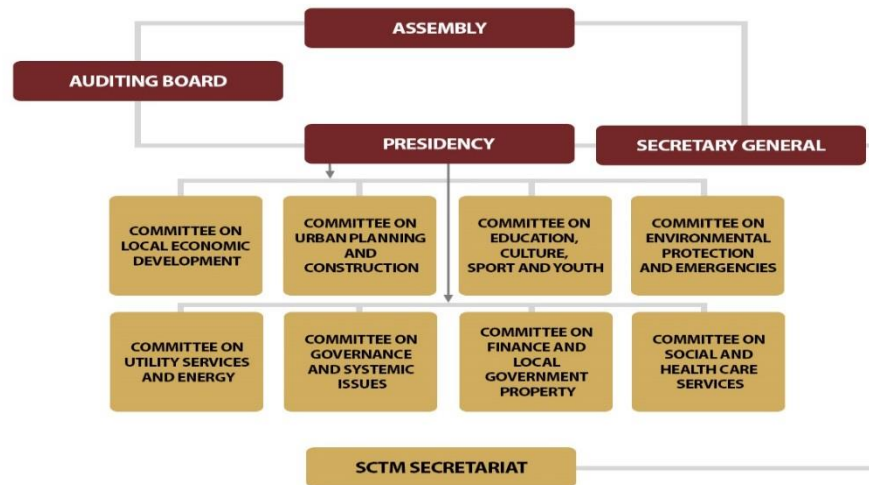
Project overview

- Establishment and functioning of SCTM Networks
- SCTM member towns and municipalities
- SCTM brings together local representatives around specific topics of LSG* interests. The new mechanism is created for both providing and collecting information regarding new legislation and policies to and from the local level

*LSG- local self-government



1. Institutional setting



In 2010, SCTM started with implementation of “Institutional Support to SCTM” Project, financed by the Swiss Government (SDC).

Besides the Presidency and Policy Committees, SCTM needed to create additional mechanism, to get in touch with practitioners at the local level, in order to perform its advocacy role, i.e. to have insight in the way LSGs cope with their legal obligations in various fields of their competences.

2. Starting point

- The first network established was the network of SCTM liaison officers (est. 2008), i.e. a focal point in each town and municipality – communication channel between concrete LSG and SCTM.
- Liason officers network started to meet periodically in order to strengthen the communication channels...
- One step forward (2010): creation of mini-networks of LSG representatives (support to SCTM Secretariat in preparation of legal initiatives, feedback on draft legislation).

3. Approach

- SCTM recognized the importance of thematic gathering of local representatives in terms of their expert potential and participatory significance.
- After the success of the 1st phase of the project, SCTM decided to modify the structure of networks and to extend their number and size.
- At the end of 1st Phase there were 5 networks; 19 new were established during 2nd Phase of the Project.

Network of SCTM Liaison Officers
Network of Heads of Local Administrations
Network on Local Finances
Network of Heads of Local Tax Administrations
Network of Heads of Urban Planning Departments
Network of SLAP Coordinators
Network of ECO Officers
Network on Energy Efficiency
Geographic Information System (GIS) Network
Network of Construction Inspectors
Network on Local Economic Development
Network on Rural Development
Network of Municipal PR Managers
Network for Social protection
Network on Gender Equality
Network on Health Care
Network on Sport Affairs
Network for Roma Inclusion
Network for Emergencies
Network for HR management
Network for Youth policy
Network for Public Property Management
Network for Public Procurement
Network for Local Safety

4. Outputs

Functions of the networks:

- platform for defining reform proposals in certain areas;
- mechanism of dialogue between central and local levels of government;
- tool for knowledge, information and practice exchange.



Currently, all 24 networks are functioning within SCTM, with over 2,000 local experts involved.

Network coordinators – SCTM staff

5. Lessons

- Involving LSG practitioners contributes to better relevance of SCTM positions advocated in front of central government authorities. It also contributes to SCTM increased recognition by and accountability to its members.
- Added value: regular gatherings of practitioners from LSGs resulted in their cooperation, exchange of information and knowledge - making this mechanism alive regardless of meetings organized by SCTM.
- Importance of Networks is recognised in the 2017 through amendment to SCTM Statute, which fully institutionalised Networks within the SCTM structure.

6. Follow up

Challenges of network maintainance:

- Frequent personnel changes in local administrations
- logistic related issues – organization of meetings with over 200 participants
- keeping the records of the networks members up-to-date,
- preserving expert character of networks and keeping them away from political influence
- E-networks – alternative channels of communication – professional-social network developed by SCTM

