

Let`s Make the First Step – drafting the local regulation on public involvement of the local decision-making in the Shtime Municipality

Implemented by NGO Vision Towards Future

Implementation period: Dec 2005-Oct 2006

Project background

The project aims at involving civil society of Shtime in the plans, programs and policies related to the environment and increase public participation during compiling the municipal local regulations on the environment. The compilation of a local regulation will be based on the Aarhus Convention article 7 as well as on local regulations. The Municipal local regulation is drafted with the participation of various interest groups, such as local NGO-s and organizations and is based on the requirements of the Convention.

Activities implemented



- Municipality officials have been widely informed about the project, forthcoming activities as well as the role of the Local Government during the project implementation. After discussions, comments and reviews, officials promised a full cooperation and commitment with their professional staff.
- Good working contacts was established with local NGOs and organizations in Shtime Community.
- A workshop was held in February, with the participation of 20 members of various local NGOs and organizations, four experts and also REC staff from Prishtina. There were lots of discussions, questions among lecturers and participants, and as a result of that participants gained a better understanding of the local regulations of Shtime Community and the obligations/possibilities the Aarhus Convention gives to the different sectors.
- During the workshop, a Working Group was formed with two officials from local government with legal background, one expert, and two members from the civil society in order to develop the local regulation of public participation in the local decision-making.
- The Working Group had three meetings which resulted in having the first full version of the regulation based on recent Administrative Order 2006/03 and also other local regulations. The regulation has 6 articles, and 42 paragraphs.
- The draft regulation has been intensively discussed and commented by the REC HQ experts.
- Working Group meetings were hold to finalize the local regulation on public participation in developing policies and programs concerning environment before forwarding it to the Municipal Assembly.

- First version of the regulation was published, presented to the Municipal Assembly, local NGOs, and associations dealing with environment, political parties and local media. The draft regulation was also made available in the office of the project implementer.
- The draft regulation has been presented in the Radio LIRIA, notifications and two direct programs dedicated to the project activities were held during June, posters have been placed in Shtime.
- On 11th of September the Public Debate in cooperation with Local Government took place. Beside of the draft regulation also the Aarhus Convention and its requirements were introduced. Outcome of discussion and debates were collected and presented in written form to the Working Group for final review.
- The reviewed and corrected draft regulation was presented by the Working Group to the meeting of the Municipal Assembly on 26th of September. **The regulation was accepted and fully voted by all members of the delegates of the Municipal Assembly.**
- On 9th of October one day training for 5 local municipal officials and 5 members from local NGOs and Youth Centre were held in order to support the implementation of the approved local regulation on public participation in developing policies and programs concerning environment.

Final results and outcomes

The project succeeded to increase the awareness about the Aarhus Convention and local legal tools and possibilities to take part of the local decision-making and influence the outcome. **It established a better cooperation with the local authorities of Shtime, draft the regulation about the local decision-making, aiming to change the nature of the local decision-making more transparent and participatory. The Working Group is willing to monitor the implementation of the local regulation.**

The project was well covered by local media. Due to the weak civil society in Shtime the project faced some difficulties to awaken the interest of local NGOs and organization towards the subject.