



Bulletin

ASSOCIATION OF KOSOVO MUNICIPALITIES

advocacy

services

lobbying

practices

promotion

for the interests of municipalities



USAID and the Association of Kosovo Municipalities have strengthened cooperation and coordination in the interest of local government in Kosovo

MAYORS debated on the Law on Health Insurance, Electronic Procurement, Payment of Mandatory Offenses and Waste Penalties



AKM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the conference on City Diplomacy

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Association of Kosovo Municipalities in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a continuation of last year's Conference of Ambassadors, have organized the Thematic Conference on "City Diplomacy: Governance, Local Development and international relations".

The purpose of this conference was that along with the Mayors of Kosovo Municipalities, Kosovo and foreign diplomats and experts to discuss and analyze activities in order to take advantage of all the dimensions of City Diplomacy and cooperation with Kosovo Diplomatic Missions for advancement in governance, local development and above all to improve the lives of citizens.

In this meeting with a speech were presented the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Enver Hoxhaj and President of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities Mr. Naim Ismajli. Hence, the "Cross-border cooperation of cities in attracting donations" was presented as well.



MAYORS debated on the Law on Health Insurance, Electronic Procurement, Payment of Mandatory Offenses and Waste Penalties



The Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) has organized the meeting of the Council of Mayors with the participation of the Minister of Health Mr. Imet Rrahman, Mr. Safet Hoxha – Chairperson of the Public Procurement Regulatory Commission, representatives of the Kosovo Police, Mr. Çlirim Hajdini – Chief of the Public Procurement Sector, Mr. Haxhi Krasniqi – Chief of the Sector on Drafting and Harmonization of Normative Acts and representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.

The meeting was opened by the AKM President Mr. Naim Ismajli, who in front of the Mayors said that we have invited representatives of central institutions to debate on three issues that are very important for the moment. The Minister of Health Mr. Imet Rrahmani, declared that the preparations are being carried out since July, according to the decision of the Government, starting with the collection of premiums for health insurance. Hence, he mentioned also the legislative amendments that are in the process, meanwhile he has counted also first benefits that citizens are expected to enjoy after beginning to collect premiums. Minister Rrahmani said that

the drug list outside of the hospital is in the finalization process so that the citizens who pay health premium will receive free drugs in the pharmacies and which will be reimbursed by the Ministry, meanwhile the third benefit is expected to be regular and full supply of MCFC and general hospitals with medicines and expendable material. Mayors raised some issues to discuss with the Ministry Rrahmani such as 'who is authorized to draft the list of the poor to be exempted from these payments, which is counter value in medical services, the risk of misuse of services from this fund, etc., which were answered by the Minister of Health. Then, Chairperson of the Public

Procurement Regulatory Commission, Mr. Safet Hoxha did an elaboration of the functioning of the public procurement system, as one of the segments installed for more transparency in using of public money. After the discussion with the Mayors and their concerns on the problems of its functioning in this phase, with the insistence of the Mayors, PPRC pledged that this week will be decided whether to eliminate medium purchases through the system (only purchases over half a million of euro will remain) or it will continue for some time as it has been due to the length of proceedings and inability of implementation at this phase. Mayors in the other part of this meeting discussed with representatives of Kosovo Police on the road traffic fines - payment of mandatory offenses and as well as with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning on waste penalties and mandatory fines on waste.

USAID and the Association of Kosovo Municipalities have strengthen co-operation and coordination in the interest of local government in Kosovo

Today the Association of Kosovo Municipalities was visited by Mr. Stephen Carpenter – Chief of USAID project on Transparent, Effective and Accountable Municipalities (TEAM) and the aim of the meeting was to get closer and to coordinate the activities of AKM in the next five (5) years.

At this meeting, AKM Executive Director Mr. Sazan Ibrahimji informed Mr. Carpenter on the organization, work and activities of AKM that are performed



aiming to advance the local government in Kosovo. Mr. Carpenter on behalf of the USAID supported project has clarified the importance of this project and pledged for a close cooperation with AKM on matters pertaining to municipalities, namely by providing direct cooperation with some relevant Collegia of AKM, in particular by providing support to the newly established AKM Collegium of Municipal Procurement Manager.

These kinds of meetings will be ongoing and cooperation will be strengthened in order to coordinate activities for local government.



AKM coordinates its annual activities with DEMOS

The Association of Kosovo held its coordination activity with the personnel of DEMOS/ Helvetas (the Decentralisation and Municipal Support) project which is supported by SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation). AKM Executive Director Mr. Sazan Ibrahimji and Director of the Program DEMOS/Helvetas Mr. Norbert Pijls emphasized that similar coordinating activities are very important as for the organizations themselves as well as for the local government in Kosovo.



At this is annual meeting, the annual plans for 2017 of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities and of DEMOS/ Helvetas were presented.

Following the presentation of annual plans, the activities and projects dealing with local governance in Kosovo of both organiza-

tions were identified, in order to coordinate their actions so that the product for municipalities to be more meaningful and comprehensive. Hence, positions on some important issues related to local governance in Kosovo were consolidated at this meeting.

AKM Delegation participated at the Congress of Local Authorities of the Council of Europe

Local Authorities of Kosovo through a delegation of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (Mr. Naim Ismajli – President, Mr. Agim Veliu – Deputy President, Mr. Gradimir Mikiq – member of the Board and Mr. Sazan Ibrahim – AKM Executive Director) represented at the Congress of Local Authorities of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, in the framework of the spring session.

During this session, the delegation of Kosovo Municipalities met with many representatives of local authorities from Europe.

The meetings were focused on the issues dealing with the functioning of local government, capacity building and exchange of experiences and implementation of the European Charter on Local Governance. It is worth mentioning that the Association of Kosovo Municipalities has the Guest Observer status at the Congress of Local Authorities of the Council of Europe and it represents Kosovo Municipalities.



Two Administrative Instructions are debated in a joint meeting between two AKM Collegia



Within the coordination of activities in the interest of Municipalities, Collegium for Spatial Planning and Collegium for Inspection held a joint meeting with the purpose of discussing and harmonizing the positions in the new draft-administrative instructions:

1) Draft Administrative Instruction on Determining Procedures for Submission and Review of Applications for Terms of Construction and Construction

Permit for the Category I and II of constructions

2) "Draft Administrative Instruction on supervision and inspection procedure for issuing occupancy certificates".

These two sub-legal acts have a direct impact on the work of the municipalities regarding the inspection and issuance of construction permits.

The purpose of these administrative instructions is to set procedures for preparing and reviewing

the requirements for Construction Conditions, Construction Permits and Destruction Permits due to general reforms in facilitating the environment in doing business, including the issuance of construction permits.

Moreover, the World Bank in its report in "Doing Business" has reported changes to several indicators; one of them addresses the construction field in general and identifies the need to improve the process of issuing construction permits. Municipal representatives have requested that certain parts of these Administrative Instructions shall be clarified aiming to further simplify legal requirements, deadlines and cost minimization, where the obtaining of a construction permit will be much easier and faster with the implementation of new concepts.



“Analysis of gaps in the waste sector in Kosovo”

Within the cooperation in the interest of our local authorities, the Association of Kosovo Municipalities and the DEMOS Project have presented the study “Analysis of gaps in the waste sector in Kosovo”. At this presentation which is very important for

the Municipalities of Kosovo, emphasizing the field of public services, have been presented the results and actions that municipalities must undertake to improve the quality of waste service. This analysis will facilitate the work of municipalities in the field of public services related to waste so that this important area in local governance shall overcome obstacles towards more efficient and quality services.

During this session it was also presented the “Tentative Roadmap for Bidding of Waste Management” prepared by Mr. Felix Schmidt, DEMOS project expert.



The Administrative Instruction for Institutions of Primary Health Care

Collegium for Health and Social Welfare held its regular meeting in continuation of commitment in discussion and harmonization of positions on the new draft administrative instructions. As a result of cooperation between the Collegium and readiness of the Ministry of Health Mr. Rahmani, there were discussions on the administrative instruction on organization, setting of services and scope of activities of the Institutions of Primary Health Care (PHC). All the suggestions were focused on respecting

municipal competencies and capacity building as responsible for primary public health care and for assessing the health status of citizens in their territory. Hence, in partnership with the Organization for Children without Parental Care (OCPC), it was agreed to establish a working group aiming to discuss and finding alternatives in establishing a model regulation with special attention to reimbursement of medicines for children without parental care and who are staying in family housing.

Quarterly report of the Collegium of Legal Officers

At the last meeting, the Collegium of Legal Officers did the quarterly work balance of this year and debated on the necessity of drafting some new municipal model regulations.

Up to now, the Collegium has drafted some municipal-mode regulations, which are very essential and complement municipal legal infrastructure. In this year, priority was given to the field of public services; therefore the Collegium proposes three model-regulations: a) model-regulation for parking; b) model-regulation



on market; and c) a model regulation on managing of cemetery, the latter one will be drafted first as it is a requirement and the acute need of the municipalities. While in the part of the quarterly

balance of the Collegium of Legal Officers for 2017, the acts that are most important for the functioning of municipalities are discussed and recommended.

Discussion on the Draft-document on Local Finances

Association of Kosovo Municipalities organized debates with relevant Collegia, such as the Collegium for Budget and Finance, Collegium for Education and Collegium for Health and Social Welfare to discuss the draft-concept document on the finances of local government, as a very important document, so that municipalities can exercise their competences and implement their activities efficiently and effectively. Based on discussions with municipal representatives and their requirements regarding the function in practice of municipal functions, it becomes necessary to intervene in legislation of finances of local government to solve in a sustainable way the functions and activities that enable a high efficiency in the area of local finances.

Given the importance of this document regarding fiscal decentralization and future impact on municipal budget planning, the comments and recommendations identified by the municipal representatives in this consultative process were particularly focused on these amendments: better regulation and representation of the interests of municipalities in the Grants Commission (amendments in the composition and responsibilities of the Commission); creating a specific social grant; creating of a joint fund for the support of capital investment projects for municipalities and as well as reviewing the criteria for general grant, educational grant and health grant.

Collegium of Managers of Personnel

Within its activities, the Association of Kosovo Municipalities organized the meeting of the Collegium of Managers of Personnel in order to discuss and harmonize the positions on the draft-new administrative regulations: 1) draft-regulation on recruitment procedures in the civil service, 2) draft-regulation on disciplinary procedures in the civil service, 3) draft-regulation on procedures for resolving disputes and complaints. The purpose of these draft regulations is to define unique recruitment rules and procedures; setting and classifying violations of duties, disciplinary procedures and measures to be imposed; as well as putting measures in resolving disputes and complaints in civil servants' employment relationships. Managers of Personnel in municipalities during the discussion of these documents through comments and suggestions have requested detailed clarification of procedures, not allowing dualisms and their misinterpretation as a necessary measure in determining an efficient system of administrative management for the purpose of organizing a sustainable, efficient and professional civil service.

Briefly

- AKM, respectively the Collegium for European Integration has reviewed the draft-regulation no. xx/2017 on amending and supplementing the regulation (MEI) no. 01/2016 on subsidizing projects and activities promoting the European Integration process in the republic of Kosovo” and the recommendations are sent to the Ministry of European Integration.
- AKM held a meeting with the Kosovo Police, aiming coordination of joint activities in implementation of the Law on Violation – in focus was the issue on collection of means from traffic mandatory fines in the territory of Kosovo Municipalities and in the following days other meetings will be held with AKM structures on amending this issue.
- AKM is supporting DEMOS Project, in organization of the workshop within the activities on empowerment of women in politics. The workshops are aimed supporting women before and during the election campaign for local elections of this year. Participants at this workshop will be women from different political parties and as well as women from civil society that are interested in running for local elections. Workshops have started on 27-28 March 2017 in Prizren and during April will be held in other municipalities, as well.
- Collegium of Spatial Planning has reviewed and gave comments on “Draft Administrative Instruction on Determining Procedures for Submission and Review of Applications for Terms of Construction and Construction Permit for the Category I and II of constructions; “Draft Administrative Instruction on supervision and inspection procedure for issuing occupancy certificates”.
- AKM participated at the public hearing of the Parliamentary Commission for Economic Development, Trade and Industry of the Kosovo Assembly for the Draft-Law on Trade Associations.
- AKM participated at the meeting organized by OSCE (7 April) with municipalities regarding the social housing issue in Kosovo, where a recommendation turned out that in the future the budgetary sub-code for housing and as well as the position for the Housing Officer should be required to be added.
- AKM representative participated in the meeting (13 April) of the Parliamentary Commission on Legislation, Mandate, Immunity for the public debate on the Draft-law on Inheritance, where several new amendments were proposed, as a result of the parliamentary commission itself and other organizations.
- AKM participated in the first working meeting (20 April) in the framework of the regional project “establishment of the network to strengthen the urban renewable capacities from disasters in Southeast Europe”.
- Collegium of Personnel Managers has reviewed three draft-regulations of the Ministry of Public Administration on the field of personnel management and gave comments which will be incorporated due to specifications that the civil service has in local level. The draft regulations are: draft-regulation (MPA) no. 01/2017 on procedures for recruitment in the civil service; draft-regulation (MPA) no. 02/2017 on disciplinary procedures in the civil service; draft-regulation (MPA) no 03/2017 on procedures for resolving disputes and complaints.
- The Collegium for Transparency held its two-day meeting to prepare and approve the Annual Work Plan and define the criteria and framework for issuing the Analysis of Transparency in the Municipalities of Kosovo.
- AKM is member of the coordination council for the “22 April - the Earth Day” and is participating at the working meetings for coordination of activities between central and local level.

Chairpersons of Municipal Assemblies identify needs for future municipal councilors



Association of Kosovo Municipalities organized a two-day meeting for the Collegium of Chairpersons of Municipal Assemblies. The purpose of this meeting was to identify the needs for organizing the training of new members of the Municipal Assemblies who will emerge from this year's local

elections. This needs assessment was made taking into account the experience so far and the challenges faced by the Municipal Assemblies. The Chairpersons of the Municipal Assemblies of Kosovo and the AKM staff participated at this two-day meeting.

Work Plan for Strengthening Transparency within Kosovo Municipalities



Under the organization of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities and with the support of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a two-day meeting of the Collegium for Transparency was organized. At this meeting, representatives of the municipalities in this Collegium have drafted

and approved the Annual Work Plan.

This plan foresees some measures and activities, through lobbying, to enhance and strengthen transparency in Kosovo Municipalities as one of the pillars of good governance. Moreover, the Collegium for Transparency has also debated on legal obligations of municipalities, incorporating all municipal sectors, in advancing the full respect of legal acts related to the transparency towards the public.

Collegium for Transparency in cooperation with the representatives of the Decentralisation and Municipal Support (DEMOS) have debated and defined the criteria and the framework for issuing a document in the form of analysis regarding the basic principles and recommendations for Transparency in Kosovo Municipalities.

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AKM has the status of an observer in Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe. It is a permanent member of NALAS (Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South-East Europe), member of LOGON network, member of LOGIN network. Member is an Invited Association (similar to the status of an observer) in Committee of Europe for Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and member in ALDA (Association of Local Democracy Agencies).

