



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Transparency: because citizens matter

Conference: Transparency of the Budgeting Process of the Local
Government Units – Monitoring, Perceptions, Challenges and Lessons
Learnt

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Transparency & accountability

– the bread and butter of good governance

- Growing evidence and awareness about the impact of transparency and accountability for citizens to enjoy effective service delivery
- These linkages have been widely acknowledged by all stakeholders addressing the role of effective institutions in fostering economic growth and development effectiveness
- *Hence, transparency and accountability are critical principles of governance that improve institutional effectiveness and thereby development outcomes*



Transparency at local level – part and parcel of UNDP's support to the decentralization agenda

- Promoting transparency and accountability in the policy design process at local level
- Promoting transparency and accountability in delivery of public services
- Awareness raising and engagement of civil society and citizens at large in traditional ways and also through new technologies and innovation fostering transparency and accountability

Why transparency at local level?

- **Lack of transparency and accountability** may lead to:
 - misuse of public funds; weak enforcement and ineffectiveness of policies; misinformed citizens; poor services, underdevelopment; risks for corruption; lack of investments and economic growth
- The **benefits** of the decentralization process cannot be reaped unless the system of local government generally and local governance finance particularly is systematically tied to a sound system of citizen involvement in local planning and budgeting



Why transparency in the local budgeting process?

- The municipal budget translates local priorities into actions
- Addresses vulnerabilities
- Reflects the consensus-building processes needed to balance efficiency and effectiveness with the power-sharing aspects of the local reality
- The budgetary process is the way in which political representatives understand citizens' needs



How transparency: tradition or innovation?

- UNDP's approach to promoting transparency and accountability embeds community participation and voice of the citizens in its policy and downstream interventions in

traditional and innovative ways equally



Good old traditional ways

Illustration:

In the municipalities of Jegunovce, Cair, Konce and Krusevo:

- **Community based planning groups** together with municipal employees have worked on preparation of policy proposals for improvement of the local capital investments programming, planning and financing and identification of priority infrastructure interventions focusing on the vulnerable groups



Investing in innovative solutions

- Using IT technologies for enhanced transparency and promoting citizens' participation
- Using data, open data and social media to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability

Innovation efforts/tools

- www.dajpredlog.org - interactive web platform for citizens feedback on local services and issues
- <http://www.gevgelijazagragjanite.gov.mk> - The dashboard in the municipality of Gevgelija - innovative tool designed to open the window on municipal functions and communal services and facilitate greater public participation in local decision-making
- Integrity efforts and social accountability tools such as “Open Municipality”
- *These tools can all be used /modified/upgraded to serve the transparency of the budgeting processes*

Why not for budgeting transparency?

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website of the Municipality of Gevgelija, Republic of Macedonia. The page features a header with the municipality's logo and name, and a main heading: "СЕ ЗА ЖИВОТНАТА СРЕДИНА И КОМУНАЛНИТЕ ДЕЈНОСТИ НА ЕДНО МЕСТО ВКЛУЧИ СЕ!". Below this, there are two main sections: "ЖИВОТНА СРЕДИНА" (Environment) and "КОМУНАЛНИ УСЛУГИ" (Municipal Services). The "ЖИВОТНА СРЕДИНА" section includes: ЗАШТИТА ОД БУЧАВА (Noise Protection), КВАЛИТЕТ НА АМБИЕНТЕН ВОЗДУХ (Ambient Air Quality), КОНТРОЛА НА УПРАВУВАЊЕ СО ОТПАД (Waste Management Control), and ЕЛАБОРАТИ И Б-ИНТЕГРИРАНИ ЕКОЛОШКИ ДОЗВОЛИ (Elaborate and B-integrated Environmental Permits). The "КОМУНАЛНИ УСЛУГИ" section includes: СОБИРАЊЕ НА ОТПАД (Waste Collection), ЈАВНА ЧИСТОТА (Public Cleanliness), ВОДОВОДНА И КАНАЛИЗАЦИОНА МРЕЖА (Water and Sewerage Network), ПРОИЗВЕДЕНА И ПОТРОШЕНА ВОДА ЗА ПИЕЊЕ (Produced and Consumed Drinking Water), ЈАВНО ОСВЕТЛУВАЊЕ (Public Lighting), and ЛОКАЛНИ ПАТИШТА И УЛИЦИ (Local Paths and Streets). At the bottom, there is a "КОНТАКТ ФОРМА" (Contact Form) with a dropdown menu for "Категорија:" (Category) and a "ОДБЕРИ КАТЕГОРИЈА" (Select Category) button. The browser's taskbar shows various applications and the system tray displays the date and time as 2:41 PM on 8/25/2015.

РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА
ОПШТИНА ГЕВГЕЛИЈА

СЕ ЗА ЖИВОТНАТА СРЕДИНА И
КОМУНАЛНИТЕ ДЕЈНОСТИ НА ЕДНО МЕСТО
ВКЛУЧИ СЕ!

ЖИВОТНА СРЕДИНА


ЗАШТИТА ОД БУЧАВА	КВАЛИТЕТ НА АМБИЕНТЕН ВОЗДУХ
КОНТРОЛА НА УПРАВУВАЊЕ СО ОТПАД	ЕЛАБОРАТИ И Б-ИНТЕГРИРАНИ ЕКОЛОШКИ ДОЗВОЛИ

КОМУНАЛНИ УСЛУГИ

СОБИРАЊЕ НА ОТПАД	ЈАВНА ЧИСТОТА
ВОДОВОДНА И КАНАЛИЗАЦИОНА МРЕЖА	ПРОИЗВЕДЕНА И ПОТРОШЕНА ВОДА ЗА ПИЕЊЕ
ЈАВНО ОСВЕТЛУВАЊЕ	ЛОКАЛНИ ПАТИШТА И УЛИЦИ

КОНТАКТ ФОРМА

Категорија: ----- ОДБЕРИ КАТЕГОРИЈА -----



Benefits of innovative approaches to citizens' engagement and improved transparency

- Fast and efficient outreach to citizens
- More structured involvement of citizens and civil society organisations
- Electronic data collection and analysis that can feed into policy-planning processes



Ongoing and future plans

- A preparatory phase for a new SDC-funded project aimed to empower Municipal Councils to become more effective and autonomous, by properly fulfilling their constitutionally assigned roles of legislation, oversight and representation
- The entry point will be the budgeting process and public finance management issues
- **Promotion of transparency and accountability will be prevailing across all activities** in terms of:
 - Developing common understanding on accountability and transparency principles
 - Increasing transparency and accountability of Mayors towards the Councils, and the municipality towards the citizens
 - Better representation of citizens' interests by the municipal bodies and more vibrant relationships of Councils with the citizens
 - Improving the budgetary decisions and effective budgetary oversight at municipal level
 - Improving citizen satisfaction with municipal service delivery and local governance



THANK YOU!