**BEST PRACTICES IN DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

**10 criteria for decentralisation and local governability**

The initiatives compiled in the database of best practices in decentralisation and local governance are based on the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>LEADERSHIP</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ The initiative is led by a local or regional government or by an association of municipalities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ The initiative is led by a central government in consultation with local or regional governments and their representative associations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>INNOVATION</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Legislative and administrative changes that promote the effective development of local self-government.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Establishment of new forms of inter-agency cooperation, coordination mechanisms that are both vertical as well as horizontal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ New channels of advocacy and awareness, both to advance decentralisation and to provide citizens with confirmation on the role of local government.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SUSTAINABILITY</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ The initiative includes items to ensure continuity of the project over time. Sustainability should take into account legislative, economic, technical, social, political, cultural and environmental aspects.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND TERRITORIAL COHESION</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ The initiative takes into account its possible impact on the whole territory and pursues or contributes to the creation of networks among a range of actors (government agencies, organised civil society, private sector, population).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ The initiative contributes to the reduction of inequalities and to social cohesion.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ The initiative includes measures to improve coexistence and develop a sense of belonging.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The initiative is based on:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Political autonomy: the ability to elect their own governing bodies and make decisions independently of any other sphere of government (not excluding coordination mechanisms).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Administrative autonomy: the ability to carry out internal self-organisation to respond more efficiently to new challenges.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Financial autonomy: the ability to access funds and take decisions with regard to these funds; powers to borrow and to decide how to distribute the tax burden to taxpayers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORIONALITY</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ The initiative is developed within the sphere of government that can implement this with the greatest efficiency and as close as possible to the public.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ The financial, administrative and human resources used for development of the initiative are as proportional as possible to the goal to be achieved.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UCLG Decentralisation and Local Self-Government Committee
E-mail: dal.cglu@diba.cat
### In institutionality and inter-agency coordination
- The initiative affects or is developed on the basis of a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the different spheres of government involved.
- There are coordination mechanisms that ensure the efficiency, sustainability and success of the initiative.
- The initiative encourages local governments to interrelate with strategic partners for collective decision-making according to a system of rules and procedures and helps to strengthen the network of institutions and actors of a territory.

### Responsibility and assessment
- The initiative is developed on the principle of accountability to the relevant bodies and, ultimately, to the public.
- Responsibility for the initiative is transparent and clear.
- The initiative envisages a monitoring and control system to check the activities carried out in accordance with the scheduled targets and, therefore, increase predictability.

### Involvement of citizens
- The initiative provides mechanisms to encourage the participation of citizens at the different stages (diagnosis, planning, implementation, assessment) to ensure that it meets the population's demands.
- The initiative provides tools to report publicly on its progress and results.

### Transferability
- The initiative must be able to be successfully exported to other local, regional or national governments through replication of its essential elements.
- Key factors for the transferability of the initiative are its simplicity, its efficient impact on use of resources as well as good planning.