











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:

 <p>LEADERSHIP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The initiative is led by a local or regional government or by an association of municipalities. <input type="checkbox"/> The initiative is led by a central government in consultation with local or regional governments and their representative associations.
 <p>INNOVATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative and administrative changes that promote the effective development of local self-government. <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment of new forms of inter-agency cooperation, coordination mechanisms that are both vertical as well as horizontal. <input type="checkbox"/> New channels of advocacy and awareness, both to advance decentralisation and to provide citizens with confirmation on the role of local government.
 <p>SUSTAINABILITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 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.
 <p>SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND TERRITORIAL COHESION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 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). <input type="checkbox"/> The initiative contributes to the reduction of inequalities and to social cohesion. <input type="checkbox"/> The initiative includes measures to improve coexistence and develop a sense of belonging.
 <p>LOCAL SELF- GOVERNMENT</p>	<p>The initiative is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political autonomy: the ability to elect their own governing bodies and make decisions independently of any other sphere of government (not excluding coordination mechanisms). <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative autonomy: the ability to carry out internal self-organisation to respond more efficiently to new challenges. <input type="checkbox"/> 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.
 <p>SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> The financial, administrative and human resources used for development of the initiative are as proportional as possible to the goal to be achieved.

 INSTITUTIONALITY AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> 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.<input type="checkbox"/> There are coordination mechanisms that ensure the efficiency, sustainability and success of the initiative.<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> The initiative is developed on the principle of accountability to the relevant bodies and, ultimately, to the public.<input type="checkbox"/> Responsibility for the initiative is transparent and clear.<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> 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.<input type="checkbox"/> The initiative provides tools to report publicly on its progress and results.
 TRANSFERABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> The initiative must be able to be successfully exported to other local, regional or national governments through replication of its essential elements.<input type="checkbox"/> Key factors for the transferability of the initiative are its simplicity, its efficient impact on use of resources as well as good planning.