

*The State of
Local Democracy
in Central Europe*

Edited by

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and Public Service
Reform Initiative

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Local Government
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The Fiscal Decentralization Initiative

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Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative

Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (LGI), as one of the programs of the Open Society Institute (OSI), is an international development and grant-giving organization dedicated to the support of good governance in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States (NIS). LGI seeks to fulfill its mission through the initiation of research and support of development and operational activities in the fields of decentralization, public policy formation and the reform of public administration.

With projects running in countries covering the region between the Czech Republic and Mongolia, LGI seeks to achieve its objectives through:

- development of sustainable regional networks of institutions and professionals engaged in policy analysis, reform-oriented training and advocacy;
- support and dissemination of in-depth comparative and regionally applicable policy studies tackling local government issues;
- support of country-specific projects and delivery of technical assistance to the implementation agencies;
- assistance to Soros foundations with the development of local government, public administration and/or public policy programs in their countries of the region;
- publication of books, studies and discussion papers dealing with the issues of decentralization, public administration, good governance, public policy and lessons learned from the process of transition in these areas;
- development of curricula and organization of training programs dealing with specific local government issues;
- support of policy centers and think tanks in the region.

Apart from its own projects, LGI works closely with a number of other international organizations (Council of Europe, Department for International Development, USAID, UNDP and the World Bank) and co-funds larger regional initiatives aimed at the support of reforms on the subnational level. Local Government Information Network (LOGIN) and Fiscal Decentralization Initiative (FDI) are two main examples of this cooperation.

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Local Democracy in Post-Communist Europe pp 263-271 | Cite as. The values of local democracy as seen by mayors in East-Central Europe. Authors. Why does it persist even into the post-modern world? Why was it that structures of local democracy were among the first reforms to be introduced in the post-communist era? Across two different basic concepts of local governments (natural " arguing that the existence of local government is "natural" for communities ", and functional " arguing that local government is useful because it helps the state to function better), scholars often point to three basic values that the structures of local government may fulfil (see for ex. Sharpe 1993, Stewart and Greenwood 1995) Democracy is fragile in the post-communist countries of Central Eastern Europe, where the specter of authoritarianism and corruption is rising. Find out how some CEE countries are enjoying the fruits of democracy while others are struggling "when you subscribe to World Politics Review. Even under the best of conditions, democracy-building is difficult and uncertain. Historical experience shows that failure is more common than success, even in periods when liberal democracy has few rivals. But the post-1989 transformations of Central and Eastern European countries (CEE countries) from communism