

BESNIK TAHIRI, MSc

Executive Director of the International Governance Consulting Group, www.igcg.net

Founder of Local Governance Institute, www.klgi-ks.com

e-mail: besniktahiri@gmail.com, cell: +37745540164

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO JORDAN

- Senior consultant for NDI in Jordan on Local Government and Decentralization laws reform
- Provided briefings for US Ambassador in Jordan, and USAID Mission Director and USAID's Democracy and Governance Team on local government reform
- Provide consultations to the Royal Court, Jordanian Government. Parliament, Senate and civil society on principles and international best practices on local government reform, decentralization and good governance
- Provided a series of consultations on the current municipalities and decentralization laws in Jordan as a result of which several recommendations were adopted into the newly adopted legislation, including criteria for establishing new municipalities and developing of the local councils and governorate councils organizational capacities
- Received formal appreciation notes from the Jordan's Ministry of Municipalities and Ministry of Interior on consultation and support on local government reform

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Served as Senior Officer and Political Advisor for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, on Governance and Democratization, 2000-2004
- Served as policy advisor to three Prime Ministers of Kosovo and liaison officer with international development organizations. During my tenure, I've developed Kosovo's Roadmap to Effective Local Government that is serving as key document in Kosovo's integration in EU, 2004-2008
- Served as senior consultant for decentralization reform processes for OSCE, SDC, IMF, and UNDP, 2007-2015
- Managed several large projects on local government and supervised international and host country national staff in Jordan, Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo, 2010-2015
- Founder of the South-Eastern Europe's best practice on establishing Local Governance Academy-a capacity building training program for local councils, municipalities and Mayors, 2008-present
- Served as keynote speaker on various international conferences and events on local government reform and good governance including at Council of Europe in Strasbourg, UCL University in London, UK; Pax Christie in Holland; LGI in Hungary, etc.

ACADEMIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENTS

- Master of Science on Decentralized Government and International Development, School of Governance, University of Birmingham, UK
- Graduated from The International Program for Development and Evaluation Training (IPDET), University of Carleton, Ottawa, Canada
- Graduated from the Academic Education Program on Democratization and Civil Society, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

ACADEMIC PAPERS

- University College of London, *"Decentralization - A tool for Social and Economic Development"*, London, 2006
- Policy Paper for the Norwegian Government and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung: *"The Mayor of Municipality, a representative or an dominant authority? A contribution to the strengthening of institutional accountability and transparency at the local level"*, Kosovo, September 2012
- Study Report: *"Decentralization and Local Government Reform: Clear on Paper Blurred in Practice"*, June 2010
- Policy Paper for Friedrich Ebert Foundation *"Framework and Provisions for the Minority Communities"*, Berlin, December 2008
- Presentation for Bureau for Development Policy Democratic Governance Group, Oslo Governance Centre, *"Decentralization: A tool for Conflict Transformation"*, Oslo, 2008

MEMBERSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Member of the Board of Joint Secretariat for EU Cross Border Cooperation: Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo
- Member of the UNDP World Wide Expert Roster on Local Governance and Local Development
- Member of International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS)
- Member of British Council Network Effect
- British Council Chevening Scholar Award, 2005
- Chevening Worldwide Success Story Award, 2009
- Kosovo Prime Minister's Performance Award, 2008
- Local Government Initiative (LGI), Budapest Fellowship Program on Citizen Participation Award, 2008-2009
- Swiss Development Cooperation Scholarship Award, 2010