



## **Association of Albanian Municipalities**

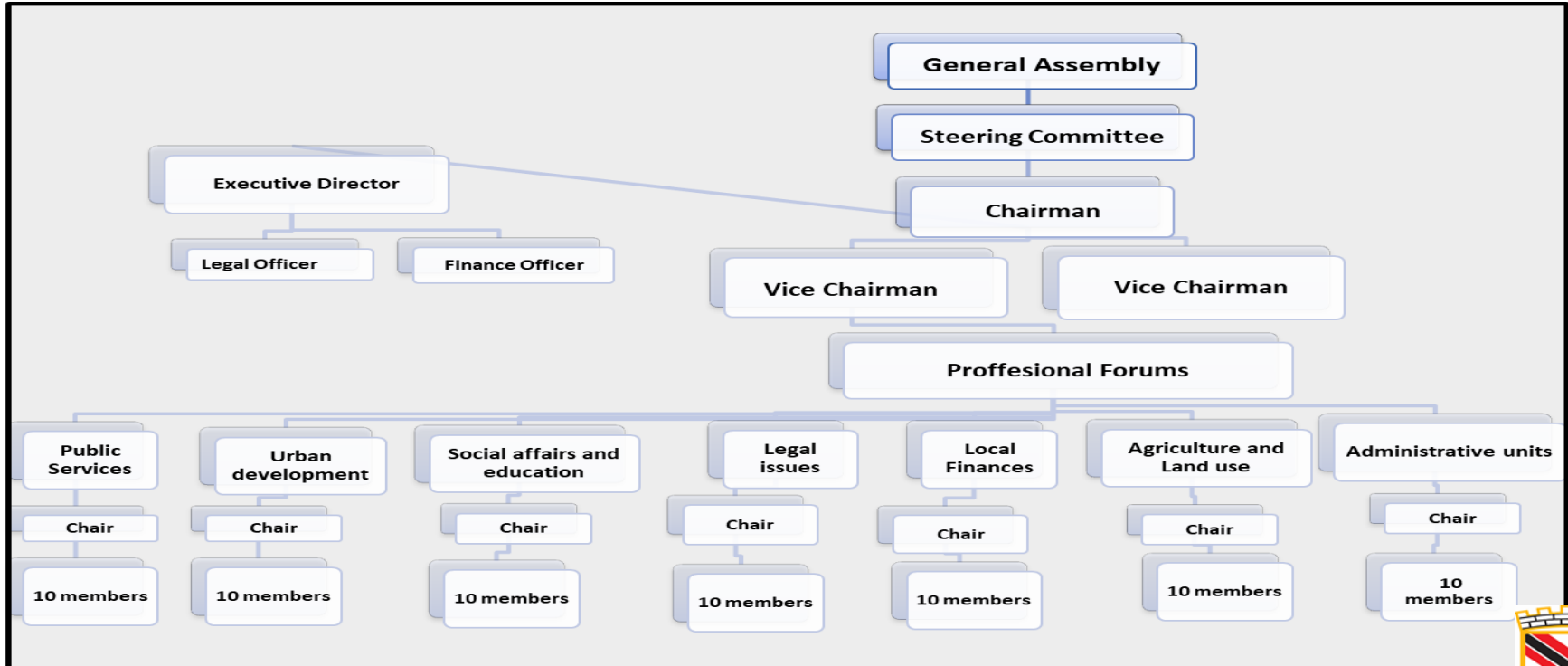
ECHOES – Network of Towns – Kick Off Meeting – 13/16 May 2019  
CEFALU (IT)

# Short presentation

- AAM is established in 1993 upon the initiative of 10 Mayors as the first LGA in Albania.
- Establishment of AAM is based on Law on Local Government and it is registered as an NGO with a private body status.
- AAM' operational structure is made of elected bodies and executive staff.
- Our aim is the consolidation of AAM as an independent organization in representing the interests of local government and the consolidation of new municipalities coming from the Territorial Reform (61 new municipalities).
- Our involvement in territorial reform and other decentralization reforms enabled AAM to acquaint a vast experience and knowledge in local government and to be recognized by LGUs as an important support actor in training provision, lobbying, communication platform and establishing partnerships.



# Overall Organizational Structure



# The main focus of work

- **Empowerment of AAM** as a stakeholder in decentralization. AAM is intended to serve as an educational and advocacy institution for Mayors and local elected officials, civil servants involved in the decentralization and EU-integration debate in Albania.
- **Knowledge enhancement** for Municipalities. The aim is to improve the delivery of newly-appointed tasks and responsibilities following major legal developments.
- **Transparency and accountability** enhancement addresses transparent and participatory municipal management as a tool to increase accountability of local politicians to their constituency.
- **Organizational development** to help improve municipal management, in addition to contributing to the discussion on the transfer of competencies to local government and the process of fiscal decentralization in Albania.



# Relations- Cooperation-Membership

In the international arena, AAM is member of:

- NALAS, CEMR, UCLG, ALDA and TDBB

In national level, AAM has continuous cooperation with:

- Consultative Council, Line Ministries, Parliamentary Commissions,
- Donors and NGOs, operating in the area of local government



## Current projects under implementation:

- **LOCAL4GREEN** - LOCAL Policies for GREEN Energy under INTERREG MED Programme. (2017 – 2019)
- **FLAT** - Flood and landslide assistance and training under IPA CROSS BORDER Italy – Albania – Montenegro. (2018 – 2019)
- **MD.net** - Mediterranean Diet - When Brand Meets Peoples under INTERREG MED Programme. (2018 – 2022)
- **4PLUS** - Public awareness, Preparedness, Participation and Coordination for Civil Protection for All under IPA CROSS BORDER Greece – Albania (2018 – 2020)
- **RCDN** - Regional Capacity Development Network with the support of SECO and GIZ
- **Peer to Peer Exchange** under Star2, implemented by UNDP Albania (2018 – 2019)
- **RECOV**, in partnership with ALDA, under the Europe for Citizens Programme (2018 – 2020)
- Local Government **Status Report** with the support of Hanns Seidel Foundation, Albania (2019)
- & several other small project..



# Some AAM Publications

- "Local Government in Albania", (Albanian & English)
- "Local taxes and tariffs Managing";
- "Urban planning of Municipalities";
- "Training National Strategy on Local Government" (Albanian & English);
- "Model of Regulation and Statute of the Municipality" for small and medium municipalities
- "Manual for Mayors" (Albanian & English);
- "Municipality Profile";
- "10 years programme of Municipalities on Housing;
- "Manual on prevention of conflict of interest in local government";
- "The best practices of Local Government ";
- "Aspects of Implementing Civil Servant Status of in Local Government
- iNewsletter of AAM"
- MFSA for 11 pilot municipalities.
- Municipalities Risk management Guideline
- Booklet for 61 best leadership practices
- ----more than 10 policy paper



# Challenges

- Internal challenges relate to limited human resources due to the own financial capacities coming from low membership fees. This is addressed with the establishment of Professional Forums.
- Establishment of “parallel” structure by central government that overlap with activity of AAM such as Agency for Support of Local Government.
- Poor coordination from donors with AAM in implementation of interventions affecting local government, with AAM having more of a symbolic role rather than an active player.
- Strengthening, Consolidation and unification of voice of local governments

