THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION NETWORK
(LOGIN)

Implementing Partner: International City/County Management Association (ICMA)

Country: Regional(Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine)

The World Bank, the Open Society Institute, and the Council of Europe and the U.S. Agency for International Development are coordinating their local government assistance programs to promote decentralization in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. These donors are partners in the Local Government Information Network (LOGIN) to improve the effectiveness of local governments across the region through education and the sharing of information and experiences among local government officials.

Representatives of the four donor organizations form the LOGIN steering committee, which sets policy and overall program direction. The steering committee is open to the subsequent participation of other members of the donor community. Both the British Know-How Fund and the Canadian International Development Agency have participated in committee meetings. Recently, UNDP expressed interest in participating as well.

Among the LOGIN services which will be available to local governments through internet connections are: a calendar of events; information on technical assistance programs; descriptions of innovative practices; a comparative legal database; current research in the field; a library; contact information for relevant international organizations; and a roster of consultants. LOGIN will be an interactive, demand-driven system tailored to meet the needs of the individual community. A Regional Coordinator hired by the steering committee is the network's chief operating officer and appropriate "anchor" institutions are being chosen to represent LOGIN in each participating country. The Regional Coordinator is based in the OSI offices in Budapest, Hungary. The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is providing technical assistance to design and develop the Internet component of LOGIN.

In addition to its primary function, LOGIN is an excellent vehicle to ensure coordination of other donor-sponsored

local government programs and events in the region. The system's sponsors organize numerous conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses on urban issues. The trust that has been engendered through the development of LOGIN has encouraged information sharing and cooperation among the donors in the design of other local government activities. Several of the smaller bilateral donors are also included in this process through their participation in the related Fiscal Decentralization Initiative led by the World Bank.

The LOGIN mechanism not only serves its intended local government clientele, but also facilitates donor collaboration and coordination in the ENI region.

Success stories/local government/lgn.doc