

Stocktaking on Mechanisms of Social Accountability in Central Asia



March 28, 2007

Sarajevo, BiH



Information about the project

- Main implementer – Public Association “Counterpart-Sheriktesh”(Kyrgyz Republic)
- Partners: “Razvitie” PA (Tajikistan)и Association of legal entities “Zhalgas-Counterpart” (Kazakhstan)
- Implementation dates: March – June, 2006



Stocktaking objectives

- Provide experiences in the area of Social Accountability methodologies from Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan) by creating a repository of key methodologies and tools in for this region.
- To summarize the stocktaking findings and results based on study and analysis of initiatives on social accountability in the region among NGOs, state bodies and international agencies.



Methodology and geographical scope of the stocktaking

First stage – Development of the initial list of 52 initiatives and filling out templates on SA initiatives. The following objects were determined for complex analysis on SA and on different tools/mechanisms:

1. Key state structures and local governments
2. NGOs and CBOs at the national/municipal and district levels
3. International organizations/programs at the national level

Second stage – interviews with all respondents included in the initial list of initiatives. Based on interviews and detailed study of secondary data 43 templates on SA initiatives were developed.



Methodology and geographical scope of the stocktaking

- Third stage – analysis of practical achievement with the use of four SA methodologies (PB, IBA, PBET, PPM) and development of general background including tools/mechanisms and outcomes of the stocktaking.

Outputs of the Stocktaking:



- Creation of a repository of key methodologies and tools of SA in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan consisting of 42 initiatives (16 – Kyrgyzstan, 17 – Kazakhstan, 9 – Tajikistan).
- Development of the summary paper on the basis of the information obtained and reflected in the form of matrix of initiatives and SA mechanisms for convenience of the repository reading.



SA initiatives: main approaches

- The 1st approach - SA mechanisms are introduced through the implementation of international programs and projects that use various approaches and have different relations with the state and the civil society. For instance, TACIS, UNDP, UNIFEM, World Bank, DFID work directly with beneficiaries on the basis of pilot projects/programs.
- The 2-nd approach is implemented through involvement of NGOs into grant programs of various donor organizations, such as Soros Foundation, National Democratic Institute (USA), Urban Institute, Eurasia Foundation and others.
- The 3-rd approach is nation-level approach implemented through various ministries and agencies. For instance, Ministry of Finance of the KR jointly with Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan implements partnership project, "Budget Dialogue"; Ministry of Health Care of the KR under financial support of different donors has started program "Sector-Wide Approach of Budget Funding of Health Care Sector".



Driving forces and political culture of initiatives

- Fair management
- Empowerment
- Decentralization



Main trends in the region:

- Majority of events in the field of SA was initiated and is being promoted by donor organizations using different approaches and tools.
- The level of introduction and dissemination of SA mechanisms is still at the beginning stage of its development.
- The SA initiatives within the stocktaking do not reflect one specific methodology in pure form. Initiatives with Independent Budget Analysis are among the most prevailing initiatives since neither the government nor civil society are not ready to participatory and open discussions regarding budget processes.



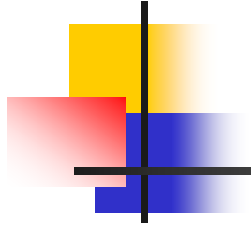
Key challenges:

- Civil society organizations are getting involved into the budget process at the stage of its discussion and introduction of their recommendations, however the government does not always consider their comments.
- Since all stakeholders are not involved into the budget process, SA initiatives are rather focused on specific programs or simple increase of the budget at the local level, despite the fact that the major focus should be concentrated on solution of priority issues and improvement of expenditures efficiency.
- Civil society organizations lack knowledge and skills in the field of budgetary processes.
- Low level of interaction between the state authorities and civil society organizations on budget issues, even confrontation of state officials on free access to information regarding such “closed” topics as income from extracting industries, land distribution, etc.

Recommendations for further steps



- Further promotion the role of donor and partner international organizations in provision of technical support, approbated methods, technology and best practices are required for involvement and scaling up the existing initiatives so that they could play an active role in solving budget issues.
- Establishment of coalitions and associations of civil society organizations working on the budget issues to unite their resources and improve their capacity on the promotion of social accountability and transparency in the region.
- Building interaction between the government and civil society groups



Thank you for your attention!