

## EC Partners

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung  
EV (KAS)

Association of Cities of  
Vietnam (ACVN)

## Facts and Figures

- EC contribution:  
499,650 € (64% of the  
total)
- Project duration:  
2009-2010
- 300 staff from 30  
member cities of ACVN  
trained
- The training unit at  
ACVN institutionalised



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# Civil Society

## Promoting people's participation and governance in Vietnamese cities

Strengthening the capacities of the Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN)

*Hanoi, September 2009. "Presentation of the assessment study and opinion poll results".*

A 2-day workshop was set to present the results of a 3000-citizens opinion poll and an assessment study on the quality of local governance and people's participation in local political affairs.



## Context

To address the rapid urbanisation of the 90s, Vietnam started an ongoing process of administrative decentralisation. The public administration reform aimed at improving effectiveness and accountability of Vietnamese public sector. The participation of people in local political affairs has been promoted through recent legislation on grassroots democracy. However, despite these tangible results in improving the relations between local authorities and the population, challenges related to urbanisation and urban development still affect many Vietnamese citizens.

## Objective

- To increase people's participation in local political affairs
- To improve governance and independence of local self-administration in Vietnam

## Impact

- More transparent and effective communication between citizens and city administration
- Improved implementation of the decree on grassroots democracy
- Increased people's involvement in development planning and land use planning
- Strengthened capacities of the Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN) in terms of training services and of financial sustainability

## Promoting people's participation and governance in Vietnamese cities

Strengthening the capacities of the Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN)

### In Practice

To enable ACVN to support its members in the effective implementation of the decentralisation reform, the project aims at strengthening the capacities of the Association with, amongst others, the following measures:

1. **Training of ACVN staff**
2. Installation and maintenance of an ACVN **interactive website** for dialogue and exchange among ACVN members and experts (technical information and publications, exchange platform, best practices review)
3. Establishment of a **permanent training unit** at ACVN, to enable continuous training of its members (local authorities of Vietnam).

The services offered by ACVN to its members, through on-site training and with the establishment of supportive working groups, focus on **4 thematic areas**:

1. Transparency, efficiency and effectiveness in administrative services and communication (including the effective use of the "one-stop-shops" and e-governance)
2. **Participatory development planning** at town, city and district level
3. Participatory land-use planning at city and district level
4. Effective implementation of the Ordinance on **Grassroots Democracy** at town, city and district level, with a special focus on women's participation.

In total, ACVN training activities involve 300 local civil servants from 30 municipalities.