

BEST PRACTICES IN DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

→ Best practices sheet

<p>Please send the duly completed form to the Secretariat of the DAL Committee, which remains at your disposal for any questions or comments. E-mail: dal.cglu@diba.cat</p>			
<p>Best practices in Decentralisation and Local Governance sheet</p>			
<p>Title: Central American and Caribbean Conference on State Decentralisation and Local Development. CONFEDELCA</p>			
<p>Promoting organisation: The Government of the Province of Barcelona</p>			
<p>Territorial sphere: Central America</p>			
<p>Subject area:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/ Law <input type="checkbox"/> Economics/ Taxation <input type="checkbox"/> Basic services </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity building / administrative structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multilevel dialogues </td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> Politics/ Law <input type="checkbox"/> Economics/ Taxation <input type="checkbox"/> Basic services	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment and sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity building / administrative structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multilevel dialogues
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<p>Start date: 2001</p>	<p>End date: ongoing</p>		
<p>Summary of the initiative:</p> <p>The Conference on State Decentralisation and Local Development (CONFEDELCA) is proposed as a high-level event bringing together political and intellectual stakeholders and figures of the municipal, regional and international spheres to exchange experiences, reflect, debate and craft proposals on state decentralisation and local development in Central America.</p> <p>CONFEDELCA was held for the first time in 2001. Since then, it has taken place on an annual basis (El Salvador, 2001; Guatemala, 2002; Nicaragua, 2003; Honduras, 2004; Panama, 2005; Costa Rica, 2006; El Salvador, 2007; Guatemala, 2009; and Costa Rica, 2010, Republican Dominican 2011; Honduras 2012).</p> <p>CONFEDELCA takes the form of a regional table (created in 2008), formed by representatives of each of the national tables of the participating countries. The conference's most notable added value is in its composition, which includes representatives from local and national governments, as well as civil society. In order to ensure expected results, it creates the <i>Technical Secretariat</i>, independent body that supports, facilitates and monitors the agreements reached at the Conference, <i>Regional Table</i> supports and the organizing committee, and helps to create spaces and links between <i>Nationals Tables</i> and between national and locals actors involved.</p>			
<p>Relevance of the initiative with regard to the local and national context (economic, political, social, administrative, organisational context):</p> <p>The initiative is marked by strategic importance because it creates a space for reflection, meeting, exchange, discussion and formulating proposals on decentralisation in Central America that enjoys the participation of local and national governments and civil society organisations (with the later inclusion of parliaments and, in some cases, the private sector).</p>			
<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The central aim is to create a space in Central America for generating proposals and creating national and local agendas to promote debate and reflection on the topics of decentralisation and local development in each and every one of the countries of the region.</p>			
<p>Parties involved, distribution of responsibilities and coordination mechanisms:</p>			

FUNDE held the technical secretariat of CONFEDELCA until 2010. Barcelona Provincial Council has been the main funder of the initiative since its inception. The local authority associations and central government representatives of the Central American countries and different civil society organisations that participate are key stakeholders in the process to construct this space.

Impacts (on public policy, on political culture or on social cohesion):

In CONFEDELCA's first final declaration, it was agreed to turn the conference into a permanent place for meeting, exchange, debate and formulating proposals, as well as for promoting debate and reflection on the topics of decentralisation and local development in every Central American country. In order to include a local perspective in the regional agenda, each annual conference has ended in a final declaration on the central topic of the meeting. These have included the process of Central American integration, fiscal decentralisation, spatial planning, the global financial crisis and local autonomy.

Transferability: Yes, this practice can be replicated in a different context

Assessment (comments and lessons learned):

CONFEDELCA's success and results have helped to consolidate the continuity of the work carried out between conferences by increasing exchanges between the national tables and other regional initiatives, by creating a new image and providing content for the website and by preparing an approach and developing proposals that foster changes in the regional context toward state decentralisation and local development.

Additional documentation (a place to attach documents and web links that complement the sheet description):

Basic information on the promoting organisation (local or regional government, association of municipalities or the ministry that has led the process)

Name of sponsoring institution: The Government of the Province of Barcelona

Municipality/ Province: Barcelona

Country: Spain

More information: dal.cglu@diba.cat