

## STRENGTHENING THE OVERSIGHT FUNCTION AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE PARLIAMENT 2ND PHASE

### PROFILE

Donor: Swiss Cooperation Office and UNDP cost sharing

Budget: \$2,8 mil.

Main Partner: National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (NARS)

Duration: 2015 –2019

### GOAL

To bring Members of the Parliament (MPs) and local assembly representatives closer to their electorate, improve legislative drafting and share best practices in using oversight tools from the national to the local level. The Serbian National Assembly and the Office of the Prime Minister and bodies relevant for attainment of SDGs through engagement are supported towards accelerated involvement over Agenda 2030, mainstreaming support wider, at the national level, with the Executive, local level government and exploring potentials for further Serbia's regional cooperation on accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. Aim is to open avenues for strategic discussions on future visioning for sustainable development.

### CONTEXT

UNDP has been one of the first development partners of the NARS ever since 2004 introducing public hearings and mobile committee sessions in addition to a number of oversight tools. Building on these results, the Swiss Government started working with UNDP as a development partner to further the parliamentary reform and transfer practices from the NARS to local assemblies.

Serbian Parliament and the local assemblies are increasingly featured as an international example of good parliamentary practices, most recently in the 2nd Global Parliamentary Report and UN Secretary-General's Report on interaction between the UN, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

### FOCUS

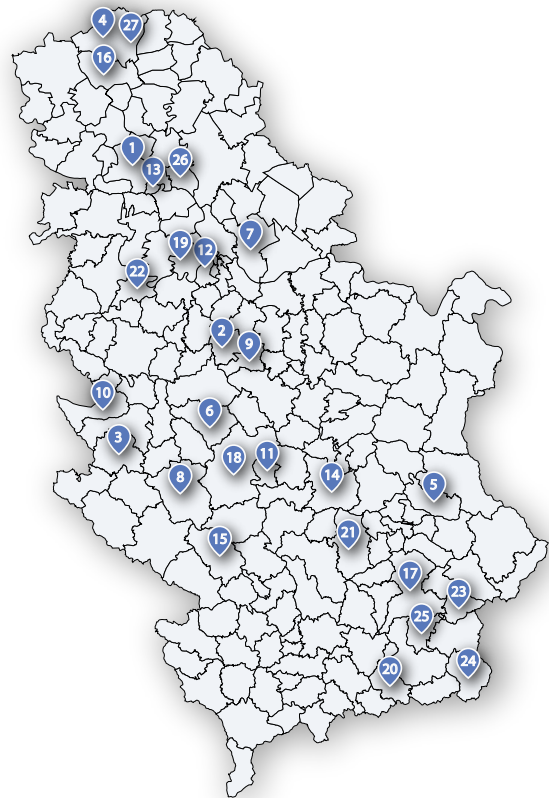
- To include citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the work of parliaments, at the national and local level, through public hearings, mobile committees and two-way communication applications on parliaments' web pages;
- Portal for Monitoring Public Spending at national and local levels;
- To customize e-parliament open platform software for local assemblies;
- Established legislative drafting curriculum at the Faculty of Law and proliferation of trainings at national and local level;
- To introduce amendments to the Law on Budget (introducing new budget lines for funding the Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs) and the Law on Local Self-Government (introducing public hearings, mobile committee sessions and e-parliaments);
- To introduce amendments to the Rules of Procedure of local assemblies, regarding e-parliaments, public hearings and mobile committee sessions;
- Policy advise for cross-party caucuses (Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption-GOPAC, SDGs Focus Group, Women's Parliamentary Network, Green Parliamentary Group);
- To provide contribution to global platforms, such as Open Government Partnership, International Parliamentary Union, Women's Parliamentary Networks, GOPAC.



## RESULTS TO DATE

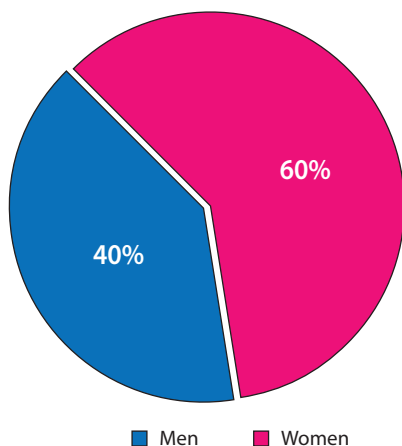
- ✓ **OGP obligation of the NARS** proposed as part of the 2018 - 2020 Action Plan for Serbia;
- ✓ **Legislative Drafting Course** organized and made **part of the regular curricula at the Faculty of Law**. Over 200 participants from the National Assembly, government ministries, local administrations, Independent Bodies and students trained;
- ✓ National Assembly **formed the SDGs cross-party caucus** called „Focus Group for Monitoring the Government’s implementation of SDGs”, focusing on localizing SDGs and on youth;
- ✓ **Portal for monitoring public budget spending introduced** at the national level and in ten local self-governments;
- ✓ **The Local Assemblies’ Accountability Index developed**, for the first time in Serbia and globally, as a diagnostic tool monitoring the functioning of local assemblies in Serbia;
- ✓ The proposed **amendment to the Law on Local Self-Government adopted**, introducing stronger oversight of local assemblies;
- ✓ **Developed an innovative tool for two-way communication with citizens: Ask Your Local Member of Parliament (LMP) service;**
- ✓ **Developed Budget Portals - the new local web site tools** to enable citizens participation in public budgeting, as well as the local MP’s oversight.

## Map of Mobile Committee Sessions



- |                 |                      |                  |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Novi Sad     | 10. Bajina Basta     | 19. Dobanovci    |
| 2. Arandjelovac | 11. Vrnjacka Banja   | 20. Bujanovac    |
| 3. Zlatibor     | 12. Beograd          | 21. Prokuplje    |
| 4. Subotica     | 13. Sremski Karlovci | 22. Vladimirci   |
| 5. Svrljig      | 14. Krusevac         | 23. Crna Trava   |
| 6. Cacak        | 15. Novi Pazar       | 24. Bosilegrad   |
| 7. Pancevo      | 16. Backa Topola     | 25. Vladicin Han |
| 8. Ivanjica     | 17. Leskovac         | 26. Titel        |
| 9. Topola       | 18. Kraljevo         | 27. Palic        |

Participants of the Legislative Drafting Course  
(by gender)



Contributing to Sustainable Development Goal:



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