

Building Better Futures

by strengthening local government



VNG International are experts in strengthening local government in developing countries and countries in transition. Local governments play a key role in the provision of basic services including water, waste management, health care and housing. They have a profound impact on areas such as safety, food security, rule of law and women's rights. This is how our projects contribute in a sustainable way to better futures for people, communities and countries.

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is truly an honour for my colleagues and I to be able to support local governments worldwide. Stronger local government will deliver better services, facilitate inclusive decision making and enable social and economic development. It is both motivating and inspiring to contribute towards achieving better lives and better futures for the inhabitants of the areas where we work. In close cooperation with dedicated partners, we achieve a consistently high quality in our projects and programmes. What makes VNG International unique is our 25 years of experience in capacity development of local governments, combined with our active membership of the global network of local governments and their associations. If you are curious to know more about opportunities for cooperation, then please do not hesitate to contact us!

Peter Knip,
Director



Our fields of expertise



Building More Effective Public Administration by strengthening local government

Our extensive experience includes: developing inter-governmental interfaces / improving inter-governmental financial relations / improving local tax collection, civil registry and land registration / strengthening local government associations / training of councillors and local government staff / and more.



Involving Citizens in Decision Making by strengthening local government

Citizens' participation is essential for good local governance, a basis for increased welfare and stability. We support: mechanisms for citizen participation / improved social accountability / stronger ethics and integrity / the setting up of municipal information and resource centres / and more.



Developing Sustainable and Resilient Cities and Communities by strengthening local government

Due to rapid urbanization, city governments face unprecedented challenges in terms of quality of life, employment, safety and environmental issues. We have extensive experience in enhancing the performance of local government in these areas, including governance projects with an emphasis on community-building.



Improving Access to Basic Services by strengthening local government

The provision of basic services is one of the main responsibilities of local government. We support the development and implementation of waste, water and sanitation management / social housing policies / civil registries / local and regional economic development.



Dealing with Conflict, Fragility and Migration by strengthening local government

Conflict, fragility and migration have a profound impact worldwide. We strengthen the role of local government in: promoting dialogue and preventing conflicts at the local level / responding to the needs of large groups of refugees and host communities / restoring municipal services after armed conflict and natural disasters / and more.

Where we work

Projects

Since its establishment VNG International has designed and managed hundreds of projects in developing countries and countries in transition for donors such as the World Bank, the European Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. On our website you can find reports, videos and publications on all VNG International's current and recently concluded projects.

Local presence

VNG International wants to be close to its clients and beneficiaries. This is why we have established daughter companies in South Africa (CMRA), the Czech Republic (MEPCO) and Tunisia (CILG), in close cooperation with the national association of municipalities in order to create synergies with their work.

Furthermore, we operate field offices related to projects and programmes in other locations:

Benin / DR Congo / Egypt / Ethiopia / Ghana / Jordan / Lebanon / Myanmar / Palestinian Territories / Puntland / Somaliland / South Sudan / Turkey / Uganda.



Our products



Local Government Barometer - A powerful tool to improve the effects and reduce the costs of local governments' activities, and to encourage accountability. We facilitate guided, systemised learning cycles with groups of local governments, based on objective data collection, comparison and analysis, and leading to implementation of improvement measures.



Modernized Local Taxation - Our modular methodology helps improve the local taxation process, from defining the tax base, through to more effective tax revenue collection, strengthened civil engagement and local government accountability. This allows for improved basic services to citizens.



Crisis Response - Our products which help local governments in responding more effectively to crises include: scenario planning to increase resilience by improved spatial planning / a crisis leadership training based on dilemma games / and a simulation game to respond to large-scale natural disasters.



City Deals - With this tool we support the urban governance capacity to participate in multi-stakeholder partnerships, aimed at tackling new urban challenges such as: the energy transition / mitigating and adapting to climate change / healthy urban living.



Association Capacity Building - We have a wide range of modules which help improve the capacity of national local government associations. The focus varies from strengthening their advocacy role to improving their service provision to members, their internal organisation and their financial sustainability.

Why work with us?

Excellent Project Management

VNG International designs and manages large and complex projects for donors such as the World Bank, the European Commission and bilateral donors. We do not accept an assignment if we are not sure that we can deliver as agreed. We are proud of the high client satisfaction ratings achieved by our experienced and professional staff, supported by our ISO-9001 certified quality management system.

Rooted in Local Government

Being part of VNG, one of the oldest and strongest local government associations in the world, our roots in local government are deep. It is second nature for us to work at both the technical and political level of local government. As chair of the Capacity and Institution Building working group of UCLG, the world local government organisation, we can provide our beneficiaries with access to the global network of local governments.

Hands-on Relevant Experience

We draw on our broad experience to customise our services. We listen carefully to the needs of our clients and beneficiaries. Our expertise is hands-on. We offer a powerful mix of local and international expertise, bringing in additional knowledge with an eye for the specific context in which we work.

Alignment and Synergy

VNG International prefers to work in partnerships. This is why, when we are invited to work in a country, we align our plans with the efforts of other relevant actors in the country, such as ministries and development agencies. We want to give meaning to 'alignment' and 'synergy'.



About the organisation

VNG International was established in 1993 by the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG). The organisation is located in VNG's headquarters and has easy access to all VNG's know-how, experience and facilities. More than 50 highly motivated professionals work for VNG International in The Hague and a further 100 in project offices worldwide.

We mobilise local government expertise through our global network of professionals, including a core group of some 30 associated experts who work for us on a long-term or regular basis.



Czech Republic: MEPCO

*International Advisory
Centre of Municipalities, Ltd*
www.mepco.cz



South Africa: CMRA

*Centre for Municipal
Research and Advice*
www.cmra.org.za



Tunisia: CILG

*Int. Development Centre for
Innovative Local Governance*
www.cilg-international.org

VNG International

P.O. Box 30435
2500 GK The Hague
Tel +31 70 373 84 01

Fax +31 70 373 86 60
vng-international@vng.nl
www.vng-international.nl



VNG International's quality
management system is
ISO 9001 certified.

vng-international.nl