

## Assistance to the PAPES poverty relief programme, El Salvador

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<b>Assignment</b>	Strengthening the institutional capacities of 30 municipalities in the field of transparency and communication and dialogue with its citizens. At the same time new participation mechanisms will be developed and tested
<b>Client</b>	Government of El Salvador
<b>Financing Agency</b>	European Union (EU)
<b>Partners</b>	Adepro (El Salvador)
<b>Composition of Team</b>	<i>BMB Mott MacDonald:</i> (through Eurolatina): Experts in Local Development and in Legal and Social Organization <i>Partner(s):</i> Team Leader, Expert in Fiscalization and Local Budgeting
<b>Period of Assignment</b>	From September 2007 to September 2009 Staff months: BMB Mott MacDonald: 1.0; Partner(s): 82
<b>Contract value</b>	BMB Mott MacDonald: € 40,900 Partner(s): € 287,800
<b>Background</b>	<p>The programme 'Technical assistance for the PAPES programme', which is focused at poverty alleviation and introduces concepts of Good Local Governance in El Salvador, is an EU-financed programme composed of 5 different lots. The present project – lot 3 – focuses particularly on introducing principles and best practices of transparency and popular – local – participation in the management of local authorities.</p> <p>As there is a big discrepancy between the level of local development and education in the country, it is envisaged that during the lifetime of the project 30 municipalities – equally distributed over the country, involving both well-developed and poorer areas – will be supported to strengthen their administrative capacities, but also to introduce principles of local participation. For the latter, collaboration with interest groups, and the local community in general, will be essential.</p>
<b>Description of project</b>	The project aims at developing and strengthening the institutional capacities of 30 municipalities in El Salvador in order to introduce the 'Municipal Transparency System' and the best practices of 'Good Local Governance'. The project consists of two phases. In phase 1, 12 selected municipalities will be addressed in which administrative staff will be trained and guided through the principles of this Transparency System. After a series of pilot courses, training modules will need to be developed and negotiated with the counterpart COMURES (Association of Municipalities of El Salvador), which will then be implemented and applied in phase 2 of the project, involving another 18 municipalities.
<b>Services provided</b>	The main activities in the project will be training and capacity building, but also development and publication of training modules for use in the whole territory of El Salvador.

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However, the initial, and probably most complicated, task will be to select the 12 municipalities of the first phase and get their commitment to participate in the project. This will involve a commitment on the part of the local authorities, who would need to agree on having local civil society groups and other relevant stakeholders participating in the local decision-making process, something thus far not very common in the country. Hence, communication mechanisms as well as a structured local dialogue need to be set up and adhered to, by all parties.

A web page needs to be developed and the usage of very basic principles of e-governance will be introduced.

Dissemination of project results will take place through four regional seminars and one national seminar, with the intention that after 22 months of the project, the mechanisms developed can be rolled out over the country by COMURES themselves.