

Changing the world by strengthening local democracy

At the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) we believe that change happens at the local level. Local governments are at the core of democratic development around the world, and it is the everyday work carried out by villages, towns, cities, municipalities and regions that creates the change that is fundamental for equitable, inclusive and sustainable global development. When it comes to local democracy, local self-governance and decentralisation, ICLD serves as an initiator of new research and knowledge generation as well as a link to existing knowledge and expertise.

We strengthen local governments' capacity to analyse, prioritize and implement Agenda 2030 in accordance with their own resources and needs.

Using democracy to fight poverty

Our aim is to strengthen local democracy and reduce poverty. We do so by:

- Establishing and facilitating collaboration between local governments
- Providing advanced international training programmes
- Funding research and sharing knowledge about enhancing local democracy



How to get involved

Here are three ways to get involved:



Learn from peers globally through Municipal Partnerships

The aim of a municipal partnership is to increase citizen influence by strengthening local governments within equity, transparency, accountability and citizen participation. Through result-oriented projects and face-to-face meetings, the partners exchange experiences and find solutions to mutual challenges. Our support to the partnerships involves assisting in developing project ideas, funding project activities and arranging trainings and networking events. Municipalities, county councils and regions across Africa, Asia and Europe can apply for a municipal partnership together with a Swedish partner.

Strengthen your capacity through International Training Programmes

We develop and coordinate 18-month training programmes for politicians and civil servants in Africa, Asia and Europe. The training programmes include two intensive weeks in Sweden where participants engage in lectures, study visits, workshops and project work. Programmes also include regional and national workshops, where participants meet in one of the participating countries.

Support evidence-based decision making through our Knowledge Centre

The unique combination of practice and theory is a major asset of ICLD. Researchers and practitioners such as politicians and officials at the local government level are given an opportunity to inspire each other, to improve the formulation and implementation of policies through ICLD's Knowledge Centre. The Knowledge Centre brings together people, issues, regions, researchers and themes in an effort to improve local government policies on a global level.

The Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) supports politicians and government officials by facilitating global cooperation and by developing expertise through capacity building programmes. In all of our work, we aim to link theory to practice with the purpose of supporting local governments.

More information

Learn more about us, our work and how you can get involved at icld.se. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.