



Local Government  
and Public Service  
Reform Initiative

*Housing Policy:  
An End or a  
New Beginning?*

*Edited by*

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# Foreword

This book was prepared under the “Local Government Policy Partnership” Program, the joint project of two donor organizations. The British Government’s Department for International Development (DFID) and the Open Society Institute, Budapest’s Local Government and Public Service Initiative (LGI) launched this regional program together. The “Local Government Policy Partnership” (LGPP) projects intend to contribute to policy development and innovation within these countries (<http://lgi.osi.hu/lgpp/>).

The LGPP hopes to develop expertise and support professional cooperation amongst local government specialists throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Parallel to this, the experiences gathered throughout the region should be made available in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in Central Asia. The core partner countries are the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. However, other countries have been invited to participate in these regional projects, in order to help facilitate direct information exchange and comparisons of policy efforts.

LGPP publications include policy studies and proposals that have been presented to government officials and experts in the countries involved. Targeted beneficiaries of LGPP projects are national government ministries, local government associations, research and training institutions, and individual local authorities throughout the CEE region. LGPP intends to publish three studies a year.

In the first year of operation, the LGPP selected the following three policy areas for analysis: (i) education financing and management; (ii) regulation and competition of local utility services, and (iii) public perception of local governments. The policy studies were widely disseminated in our region. They supported the policy dialogue (e.g. on education in Macedonia) and served as training materials (e.g. for regulatory experts).

Topics for the second year of LGPP (2001/2002) were rather different by nature:

- a) decentralization and regional development;
- b) the relationship between local government size, local democracy and local services delivery;
- c) local government and housing.

In this volume, the practices and lessons of local social housing policies are discussed. Studies from six countries describe the different patterns of privatization during the past decade and give an assessment of national housing policies. Using the standardized survey of this LGPP project, the country reports evaluate the effectiveness of local government housing policies. Both the country papers and the summary chapter formulate some policy recommendations for national and local governments.

*Ken Davey*  
November 2002

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