



Local Public Sector Alliance **Impact Report 2025**

DECENTRALIZATION.NET

The Local Public Sector Alliance: Who are we?

The Local Public Sector Alliance is a global network of professionals dedicated to advancing effective, inclusive, and sustainable decentralization and local governance.

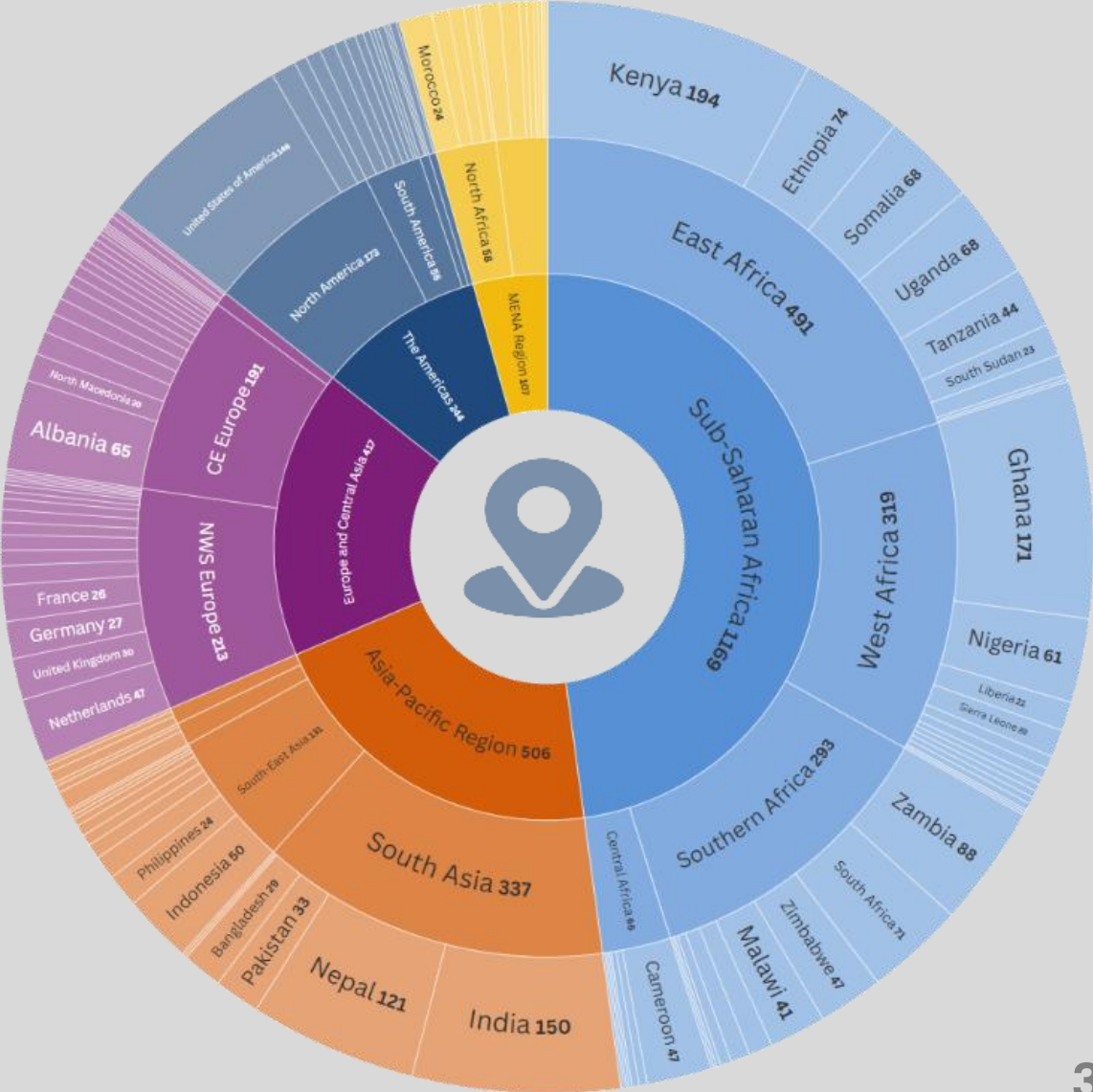
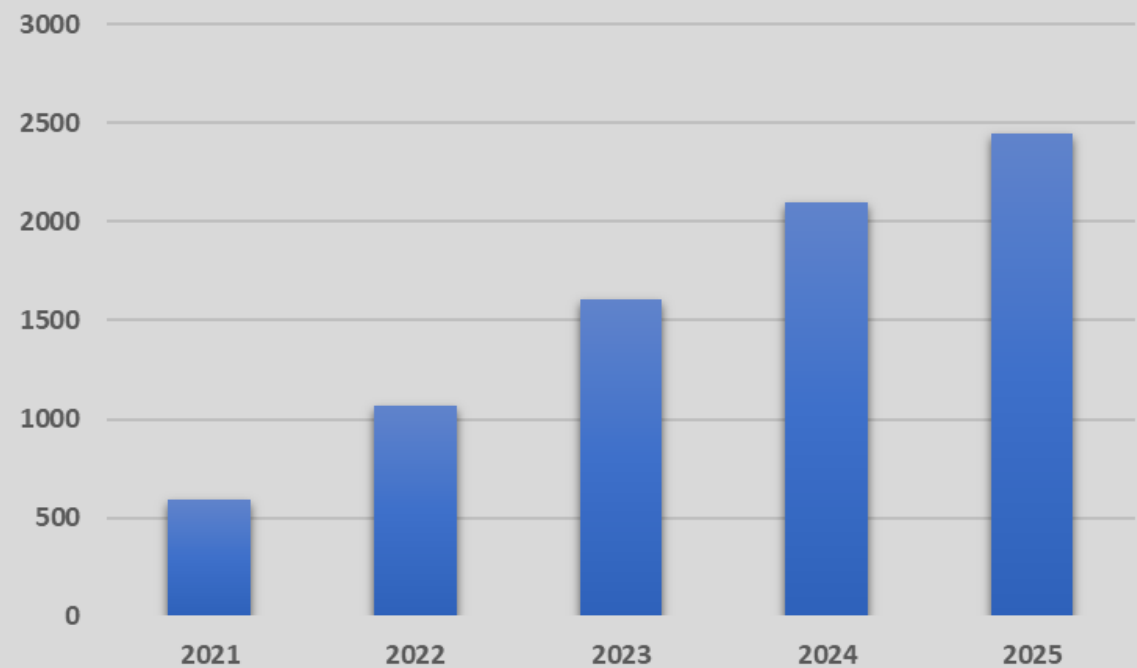
We bring together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to strengthen the evidence base for decentralization and multilevel governance, and to translate that knowledge into better real-world outcomes. By connecting comparative data, country diagnostics, training, and peer exchange, LPSA helps governments and development partners design local governance systems that actually deliver—responsive services, stronger accountability, and meaningful citizen engagement.

In short, we are building the global community of practice to advance multilevel governance systems change that the world has always needed, but never had.

A rapidly growing global Community of Practice

December 2025: 2,443 members

Membership fee: \$0





We understand the obstacles to public sector effectiveness and sustainable development

The absence of effective multilevel governance systems is often an important obstacle to inclusive, equitable and sustainable development

Yet, policy advocates may not even realize that their lack of success is caused by weak multilevel governance systems

Development partners

Central government

Local governments

Service providers

People

Around the world, governments are grappling with grand challenges such as rising territorial inequality, complex service delivery systems, climate change, and growing pressure for accountability and transparency. The biggest constraint in achieving the world's ambitions—including global security and stability; economic prosperity; effective public services; and inclusive and responsive governance—isn't a shortage of money, or lack of talent or plans — it is that public sectors don't effectively transform public sector resources into development outcomes.

Political or institutional capture, misaligned incentives, and ineffective accountability mechanisms cause resources and decision-making power to get stuck at the central government level; thwart an equitable and efficient horizontal distribution of public sector resources across the national territory; and prevent resource inputs being efficiently transformed into outputs and outcomes once they reach the local level.

Multilevel governance reforms pursue ways to improve capacity, coordination, and incentives among public stakeholders at different levels of government to increase the efficiency, equity and sustainability of public spending. Although multilevel governance reforms are technically and institutionally challenging, overcoming this challenge first and foremost requires national leaders to choose long-term development success and public sector effectiveness over short-term political and financial gain.

2025: Decentralization and multilevel governance at a crossroads?



Populism and threat of authoritarianism is reducing space for responsive multilevel governance around the world



Global funding in support of inclusive governance and sustainable development is sharply reduced



The need for countries to overcome their MLG obstacles to sustainable development continues unmitigated



LPSA as a systems-change catalyst

LPSA's impact lies in strengthening the conditions under which durable, locally led governance reforms become possible. Rather than measuring success by the number of laws passed or country reforms adopted, LPSA focuses on shifting the systems, capabilities, and coalitions that shape how decentralization and multilevel governance decisions are made over time. This reflects the reality that governance reform is inherently political, nonlinear, and contingent on moments of opportunity.

LPSA acts as a systems-change catalyst in a field that has long suffered from fragmentation, underinvestment, and weak coordination. By advancing credible evidence, strengthening the capabilities of key actors, and building a more coherent global and regional Community of Practice, LPSA helps ensure that when political windows open, reformers are better prepared to act—and to act in ways that improve equity, accountability, and service delivery.

Pathways toward impact





Impact of LPSA knowledge development

Shaping how decisions are framed and debated

16th December 2024

The Imperial, New Delhi



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1. Impact of LPISA knowledge development: Shaping how decisions are framed and debated

Most governments and development partners operate with incomplete or outdated mental models of how decentralization actually works in practice.

LPISA accelerates progress by clarifying institutional arrangements, mapping intergovernmental systems, and generating comparative evidence that reframes what is possible. By providing authoritative, accessible knowledge, LPISA shapes diagnosis, agenda-setting, and the design of reforms before they enter political negotiation.

Our impact mechanism: Better problem definition → better policy options → more credible reform processes.



LPSA knowledge development

*Shaping how decisions
are framed
and debated*

1.1

General Knowledge Development

1.2

Specific Knowledge Development

Knowledge Development

Primers, Assessment Frameworks, and other Knowledge Products



- Primers on Decentralization and Fiscal Decentralization
- Decentralization and Multilevel Governance Glossary
- Local Governance Institutions Comparative Assessment (LoGICA) Framework
- Intergovernmental Fiscal and Expenditure Review (InFER) Framework
- Multilevel Governance as an Opportunity or Obstacle to Development (MOOD) Assessment
- Promoting Results-Oriented Management For Local Transformation And Efficiency (PROMOTE)
- LoGICA's Intergovernmental Profiles
- Decentralization and Multilevel Governance Databook

LPSA knowledge products were downloaded

1,885

times in the past twelve months



Impact of LPSA knowledge sharing

Strengthening the capabilities of reform actors



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2. Impact of LPSA knowledge sharing: Strengthening the capabilities of reform actors

LPSA's impact is also expressed through the strengthened capabilities of policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and development partners engaged in multilevel governance reform. By facilitating peer learning, shared frameworks, and cross-regional exchange, LPSA helps actors develop the technical literacy and coordination skills required to navigate complex, multi-actor reform processes.

This capability strengthening is particularly important in contexts where decentralization reforms stall not only because of political constraints, but because institutions lack the tools, data, and shared language needed to design feasible reforms. LPSA's role is to reduce these friction points, enabling more informed, coordinated, and adaptive reform efforts.

Our impact mechanism: Stronger institutional capacity → higher-quality design and implementation → incremental but lasting improvements in service delivery



LPSA knowledge sharing

**Strengthening the
capabilities of
reform actors**

2.1

**Decentralization.
Net**

2.3

**Meetings and
Webinars**

2.2

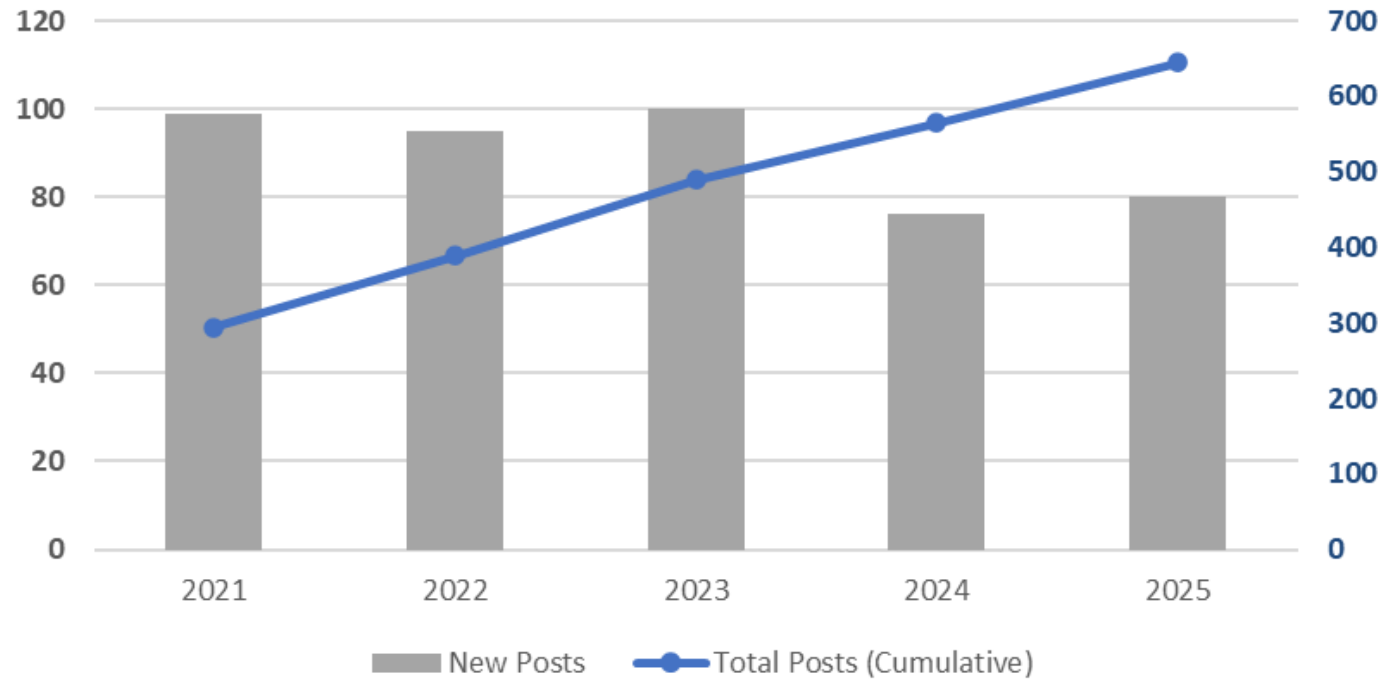
**Members and
Newsletter**

2.4

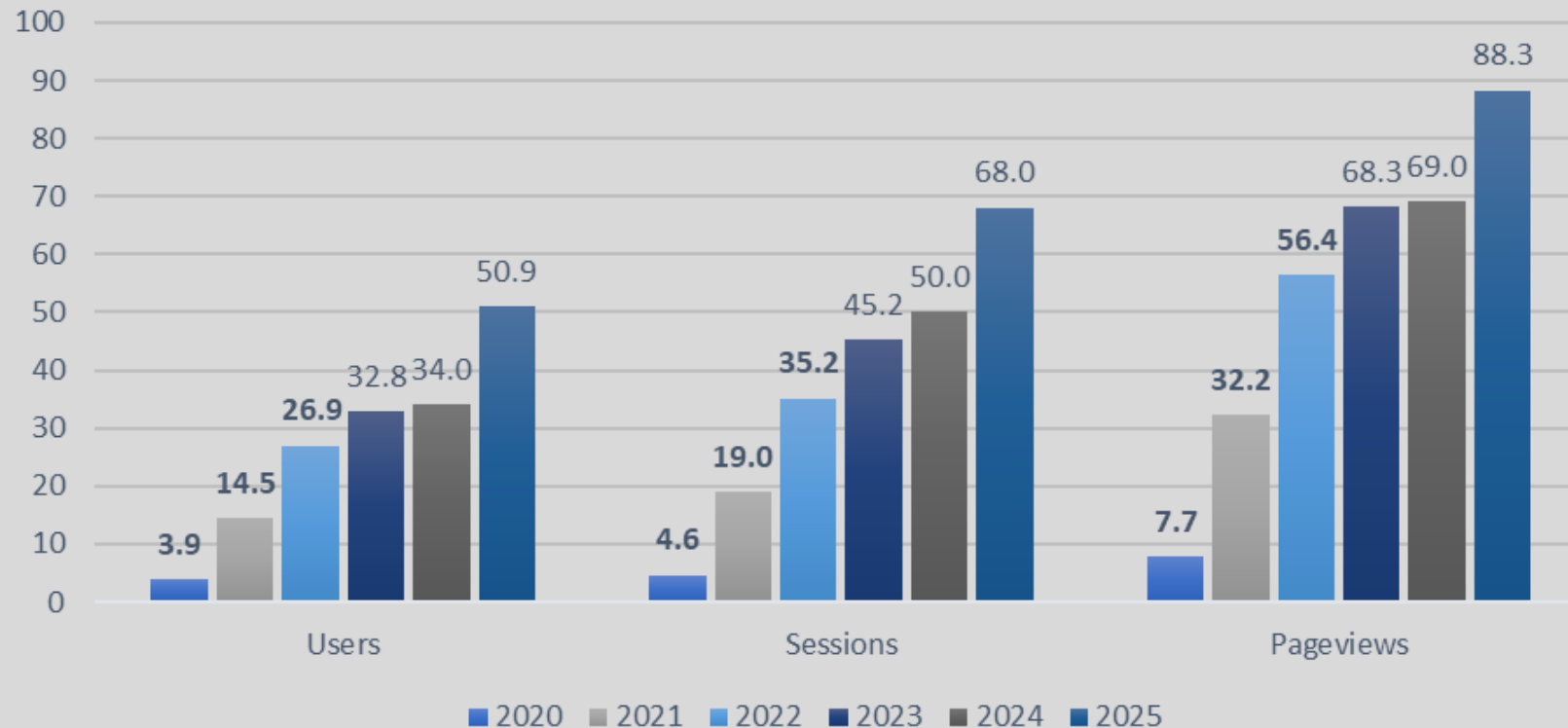
Online Learning

Decentralization.Net

Knowledge sharing: blog postings / year



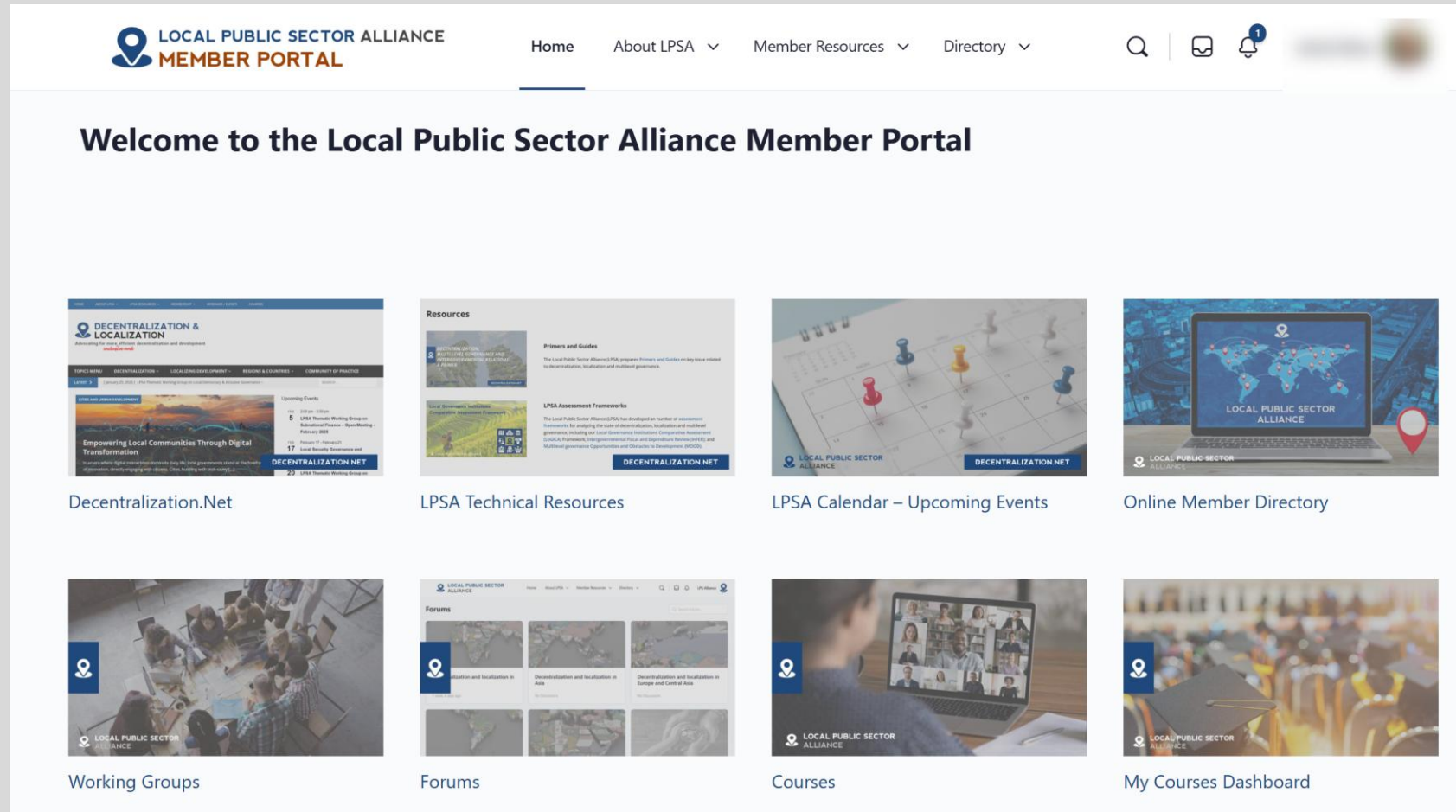
LPSA Knowledge Sharing: Decentralization.Net (2025)



50,923
Users

68,041
Sessions

88,318
Page views



The LPSA Member Portal (localpublicsector.org) is a digital hub—established by LPSA for the Community of Practice in 2025—that connects practitioners, researchers, and policymakers working on decentralization and local governance.

Free of charge, it provides access to a global member directory, thematic and regional working groups, discussion forums, and training resources—enabling deeper collaboration, learning, and collective problem-solving across the global Community of Practice.

LPSA webinars and meetings were attended by over

3,210

researchers, practitioners, and policymakers since 2021



Impact of LPSA convening and fieldbuilding

Building coalitions and a stronger field

3. Impact of LPSA convening and field-building: Building coalitions and a stronger field

Sustainable systems change requires a constituency that understands, values, and advocates for effective local governance. LPSA's convening and field-building role contributes to impact by strengthening the coherence and influence of the global decentralization and multilevel governance community.

Through global, regional, and thematic platforms, LPSA connects actors who would otherwise operate in isolation—across countries, sectors, and levels of government. This connectivity enables shared agendas, joint initiatives, and mutual reinforcement among reformers, researchers, and partners. A more aligned field is better positioned to shape national policy debates, inform donor priorities, and sustain momentum for reform over time.

Our impact mechanism: More actors pushing in the same direction → stronger policy coalitions → higher political salience of multilevel governance



LPSA
**Convening,
outreach and
field-building**

**Building
coalitions and
a stronger field**

3.1

**Global
outreach**

3.2

**Research and
academic outreach**

2.3

**Regional &
Thematic
Working Groups**

2.4

**Localizing Women's
Empowerment**

539

*members of the community of practice attended LPSA
working group meetings in 2025*

9

*Regional Working
Group Meetings*

6

*Thematic Working
Group Meetings*



“LPSA Impact Report 2025”

Version: February 9, 2026

The Local Public Sector Alliance (LPSA) is a global professional network of advocates for inclusive and efficient decentralization, localization, and multilevel governance.



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More information:
www.decentralization.net