Inaugural MENA Regional Working Group Meeting

LPSA Middle East & North Africa Regional Working Group

Monday, October 19, 2026 – 9 AM NYC, 1 PM MARRAKECH, 4 PM AMMAN, 5 PM DUBAI

Jamie Boex
Executive Director, LPSA

Eng. Balqis Al-Shahwan
MENA Working Group Coordinator, LPSA

Agenda

- Welcome Remarks (Jamie)
- Introduction to LPSA (Jamie)
- Overview of Decentralization in the MENA Region (Balqis)
- Open Discussion (Balqis)

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Local Public Sector Alliance

Who are we?

MENA Regional Working Group Launch
October 19, 2026

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“The global challenges that countries face in the 21st century cannot be dealt with by any single government level alone”

GLOBAL SECURITY AND STABILITY – INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY – DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE – EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SERVICES – CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS – PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES & PANDEMIC RESPONSE – GENDER EQUITY – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Inclusive and effective multilevel governance systems are needed to ensure that stakeholders at all levels of society (national; regional; local; community) are empowered to work together effectively to address major global challenges.
- The absence of effective and responsive decentralization and intergovernmental (or multilevel governance) systems is often an important obstacle to inclusive, equitable and sustainable development

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Local Public Sector Alliance

"A global professional network of advocates for inclusive and efficient decentralization and localization"

Mission:

"The Local Public Sector Alliance seeks to promote inclusive, equitable societies and sustainable global development by enhancing the understanding of decentralization and localization as complex, cross-cutting and multi-stakeholder reforms."

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LPSA's (short) history

In 2021, the Local Public Sector Alliance was established on the foundation of the Local Public Sector Initiative (launced Dec. 2010 at the Urban Institute)

In January 2022, the Local Public Sector Alliance was incorporated as a non-stock corporation in Virginia (USA) and recognized by the U.S. federal government as a not-for-profit organization

In 2023, in order to accommodate our rapid growth in membership, the Alliance re-structured ('decentralized' itself) as a truly global and inclusive professional network by establishing Regional and Thematic Working Groups

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Local Public Sector Alliance

*The Local Public Sector Alliance aims to **elevate the debate** on decentralization and localization and **catalyze action** by informing, connecting and expanding the global Community of Practice on Decentralization, Localization, and Multilevel Governance, and by shifting the focus of the Community of Practice from the global level to the country level.*

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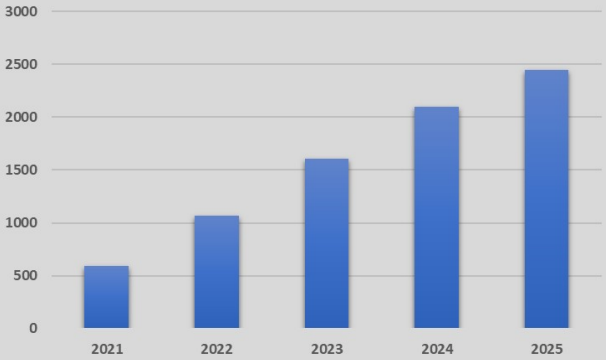
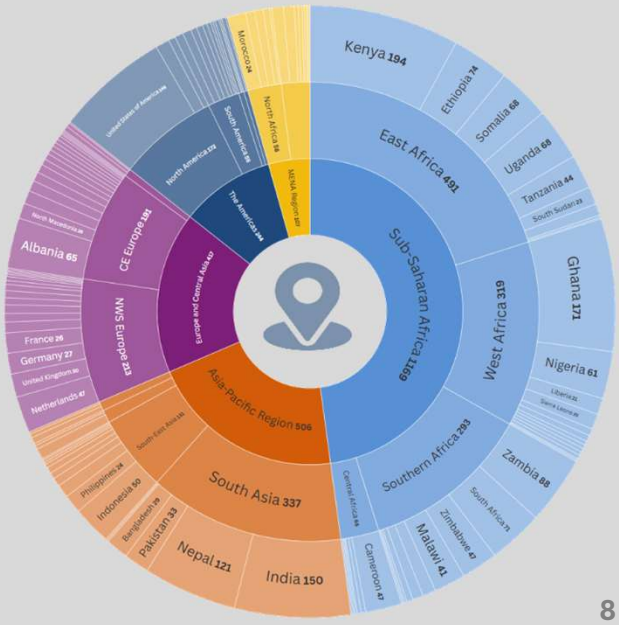
A rapidly growing global Community of Practice

December 2025: 2,443 members
Membership fee: $0





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Program Areas

LOCAL PUBLIC SECTOR ALLIANCE

Program 1. Knowledge development

- P11 - General Knowledge Products
- P12 - Specific Knowledge Development

Program 2. Knowledge sharing

- P21 – Decentralization.Net
- P22 – Membership and Newsletter
- P23 – Meetings and Webinars
- P24 - Online courses

Program 3. Convening, outreach and field-building

- P31 - Global / general outreach
- P32 - Research and academic outreach
- P33 – Regional and Thematic Working Groups
- P34 – Localizing Women's Economic Empowerment

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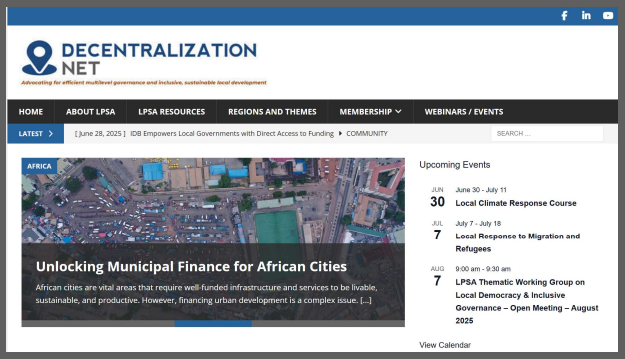
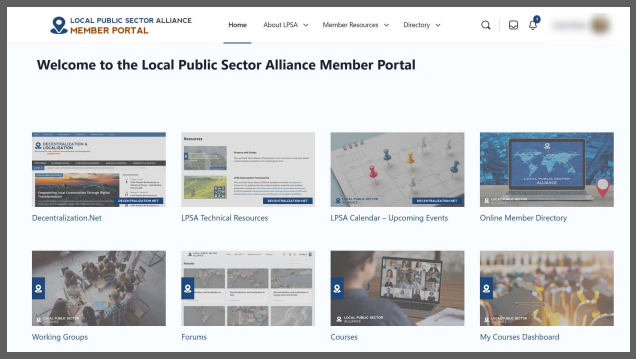
One Alliance, Two Websites

English
Arabic
French
Portuguese
Russian
Spanish

FULLY PUBLIC (FREE)

MEMBERS ONLY (FREE REGISTRATION)
BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, CONNECT, ONLINE LEARNING MATERIALS, ETC.





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LOCALPUBLICSECTOR.ORG

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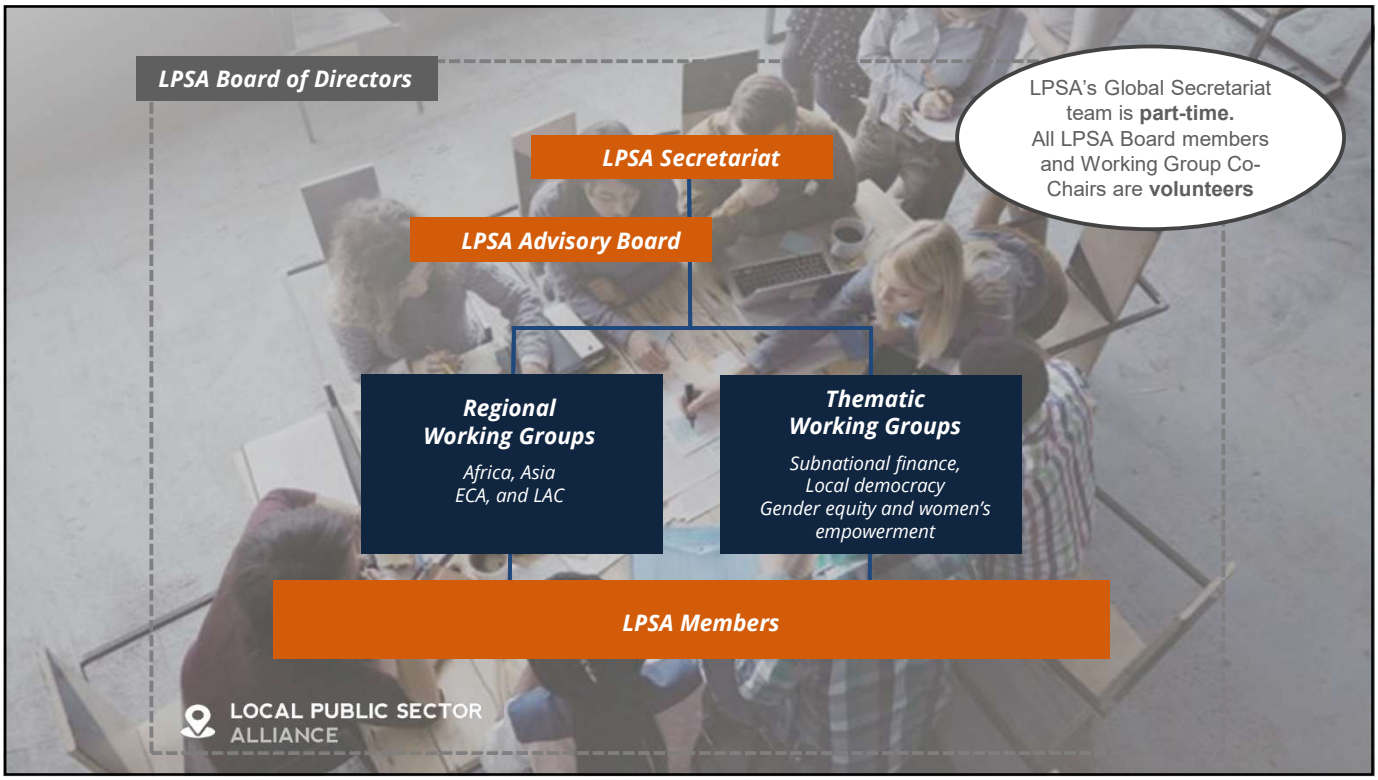

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LPSA Working Groups: Composition

- **Co-Chairs (volunteers):** Two or more co-chairs are designated for each working group on recommendation of the LPSA Advisory Board Chair to lead the working group's activities (and prepare the WG's annual work plan)
- **Working Group Coordinator** (part-time): Supports the co-chairs to coordinate, manage and implement the activities of the working group
- **Core Working Group Members:** The co-chairs may designate specific Core Working Group Members, who take an active role in advancing the objectives and activities of the working group
- **Working Group Members:** All LPSA members who opt into the working group

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LPSA Working Groups: Main Responsibilities

- Meet on a regular (e.g., semi-annual or quarterly) basis.
- Propose 4-6 blogs per year on country-level policy reforms, trends, institutional updates, or research relevant to their topic or focus, for sharing to the broader Community of Practice through Decentralization.Net.
- Host at least 1-2 webinars / working group meetings per year on issues relevant to their topic.
- As relevant, prepare, co-produce or share knowledge products that reflect the current state of knowledge in their respective area of focus.
- For instance, regional Regional Working Groups may support the preparation of LoGICA / InFER Assessments within the region, support the preparation of report on the State of Local Governance in the region, and/or the collection of other country level data in the region.

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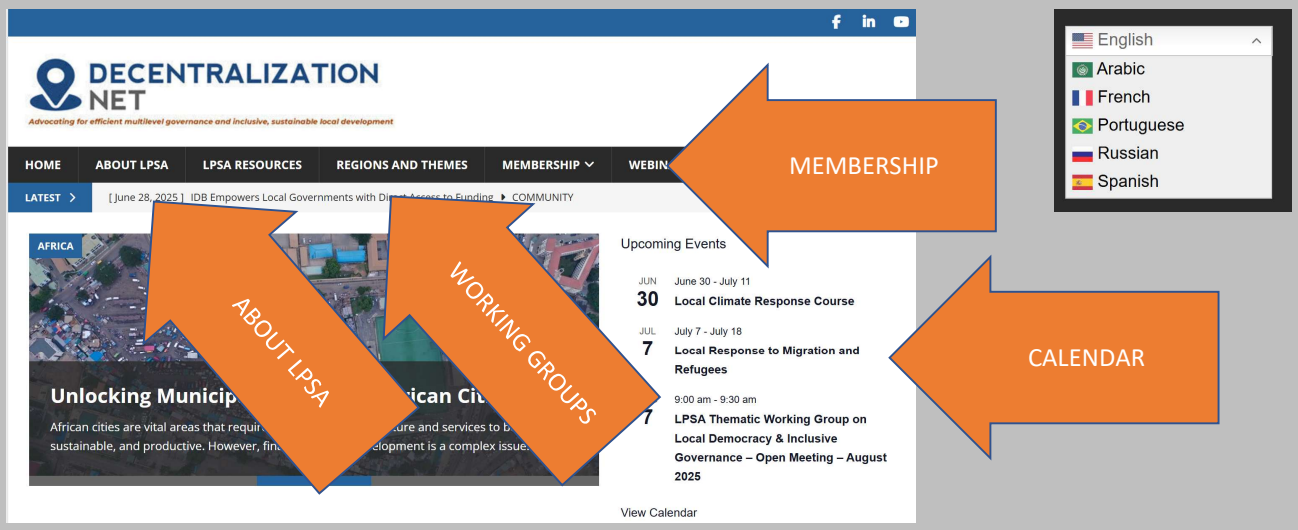
LEARN MORE ? DECENTRALIZATION.NET



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- **Eng. Balqis Al-Shahwan**
- MENA Working Group Coordinator
- Executive Director of Umm Al-Basateen Municipality, Jordan

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