



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Building Institutions, Escaping Development Traps

ISS Examines Coordination at the Center of Government: Focus on the Baltics

ISS has published 80 case studies of institution building in 32 countries and released over 300 interviews with public sector reform leaders on its [website](#). Highlights from two of our new cases appear below.

[Moving Beyond Central Planning: Crafting a Modern Policy Management System, Latvia, 2000-2006](#)

Latvia's state chancellery introduced new procedures to improve the quality of decision making and enhance coordination across government. This case study chronicles the steps reformers took to design and implement these changes.

[Focusing on Priority Goals: Strategic Planning in Lithuania, 2000-2004](#)

Lithuania reformed its policy planning process to focus on strategic goals and to synchronize the budget and policy planning processes so that government spending flowed more reliably to where it was most needed. Successive governments led by other major political parties helped sustain and institutionalize the early gains.

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In their own words....two featured interviews with reform leaders...

[Bhojraj Pokharel](#) As Chief Elections Commissioner of Nepal, 2006-2008, he overcame security threats and geographic challenges to bring constituent assembly elections to a successful conclusion in 2008.

[Sergio Fajardo](#) As Mayor of Medellín, Colombia, 2004-2007, under the motto "Let's Work Together," he established partnerships that resulted in improved service delivery and security, including the reintegration of demobilized paramilitaries.

Countries Where ISS Has Worked

Africa: Botswana, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda

Asia & Pacific: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vietnam

Europe & Central Asia: Albania, Bosnia, Georgia, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Northern Ireland

Africa, I recognize all too well the allure and risks of adopting good practices from other countries. The case studies in the ISS offer a clear and fresh departure from these short-sighted frameworks. It elevates the discussion about what works - and what doesn't work - in development, taking into account capabilities of domestic actors, pace of economic development, absorption capacity and, of course, historical context. It's a pleasure - and great learning experience - to read these materials. It's also inspiring to see the breadth of public managers exercising leadership amidst adverse conditions. Thanks for sharing and excellent job!" ~ Development practitioner in Mozambique

Latin America & Caribbean:
Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador,
Guyana, Haiti

Middle East & North Africa:
Egypt and Jordan

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