INTRODUCTION
Some facts

The Netherlands
• 352 municipalities (average 50,000 inhabitants. Amsterdam 1 million)

VNG
• VNG was established in 1912 by 28 municipalities
• From 1950: all municipalities voluntary member of the association
• Functions:
  o Advocacy & Lobby: at national, European and international level
  o Service provision: individual and collective
  o Platform: exchange of best practices, experience and knowledge

VNG International
• Founded in 1993 by VNG
• Support to Dutch municipalities in international cooperation
• International capacity building projects and advice (some 30 countries annually)
Organisation

- Headquarters in The Hague
- Project offices in target countries
- Local project staff
- Daughter organisation in:
  - Tunisia (CILG)
- Founder and chair of:
  - The Hague Academy for Local Governance
Areas of competence

Building more effective public administration
Intergovernmental relations / land registration / revenue mobilization / local government associations / councillors & civil servants

Involving citizens in decision-making
Citizen participation / social accountability / ethics & integrity / information services

Developing sustainable cities and communities
Urban management & planning / climate change & environment / security / mobility

Improving access to basic services
Waste & WASH / social housing / civil registries / local & regional economic development

Dealing with conflict, fragility and migration
Dialogue & conflict prevention / refugees, IDPs & host communities / disaster prevention & response / post-conflict reconstruction
Target groups

With a “governance approach”, focus on:

• Local government staff and politicians
• Local government associations (leadership and staff)
• Local government training institutions
• Ministries of Local Government, line ministries
• Decentralisation directorates / task forces in central government institutions
• Social partners (e.g. civil society, private sector)
From city to city cooperation to project-based cooperation

- Requests for support from municipalities that were part of the Acquis Agenda or had a decentralisation agenda
- Municipal twinning between sixties – early 2000 ( "sister cities" )
- Project-based cooperation
  - Time
  - Target group
  - Results
Examples of cooperation with municipalities & regions

• Dutch cooperation:
  o LoGoRep programme in Jordan around the Zaatari camp of Syrian refugees → technical staff of the city of Amsterdam regarding water and waste management
  o IDEAL programme in Uganda and Rwanda → politicians and technical staff from the cities of Rheden and Valkenswaard regarding urban planning and covid-response

• Mediterranean cooperation:
  o MASAR programme in Iraq and Lebanon Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD), Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM), and KL Denmark (KL).