

## **Workshop VI: Strengthening Central-Regional relationships and processes**

**(Fomez – Training and Study Centre)**

As part of the democratization process, decentralization has been promoted to varying degrees and with varying outcomes in different countries. Conditions for its success include capable national governments to prompt, initiate, monitor, and guide the process of political and financial decentralization, as well as the creation of an adequate financial resource base for local governments to function properly. The success of decentralization reforms also depends on consistent and coherent national policies, good legislative and regulatory frameworks for decentralization, and effective review mechanisms to solve disputes between central and local government.

This workshop will discuss and compare de-concentration and devolution policies and legislation, as well as the relative time, costs, and effectiveness of decentralization. The various steps of decentralization processes will be analysed from a procedural and technical point of view. Thus, the participants will discuss, through practical cases, how authority and competencies are transferred from the central government to local governments, and will focus on the vertical relationship between the various levels of government, i.e. on co-ordination mechanisms between local and national levels of government. National experiences will be discussed to illustrate the existing vast array of strategies and modalities in formulating and implementing decentralization processes.