



**Badji Mokhtar-Annaba University**

**Law & Political Sciences Faculty**

**Public Law Department**

**Level:** Third year

**Major:** Public Law

**Module:** English

**Responsible of the module:** Pr. Benlabidi Moufida

### **Third lecture: Decentralization & Local Collectivities**

#### **1/Decentralization**

Decentralization is defined as the “transfer of authority and responsibility for public functions from the central government to subordinate or quasi-independent government organizations or the private sector.” As might be anticipated, the rationale for such a process varies both in time and space. Decentralization is regarded as an essential component of democratization.

#### **2/Local government/ Administration**

Local governments typically constitute a subdivision of a higher-level political or administrative unit, such as a nation or state. Local governments generally act within the powers and functions assigned to them by law or directives of a higher level of government. In federal states, local government generally comprises a third or fourth level of government, whereas in unitary states, local government usually occupies the second or third level of government.



The institutions of local government vary greatly between countries, and even where similar arrangements exist, country-specific terminology often varies. Common designated names for different types of local government entities include counties, districts, cities, townships, towns, boroughs, parishes, municipalities, municipal corporations, shires, villages, and local government areas. The same term may be used in different countries to refer to local governance institutions with vastly different institutional features, powers, or functions.