

# CALL FOR PARTNERS FOR THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES IN UKRAINE

September 2022



*Become a partner of the Local Democracy Agencies in Ukraine, support democracy and community engagement now and in the months and years to come!*

Since 2014 ALDA is present in Ukraine, with its members, partners and programmes. We are supporting Ukraine and its heroic response to the Russian aggression. We know the importance of local governance and citizens engagement for the present and future of the country and we had been working with local authorities and civil society committed to improve people's lives for many years. ALDA's main tool of operation are the **Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs)**, which are a permanent platform of cooperation between communities. Since February the 24<sup>th</sup>, they are even more important for bringing help now and for security peace, development and democracy in the past.



Meeting with Mariupol Mayor and Chair of the city council. November 2019



Mariupol after Russia's invasion. February 2022



ALDA and the LDAs have an intense background supporting communities during after the war, which started in the Balkans in the 90est. The LDAs proved to be an instrument of integration and peace building, with engagement of European local communities.

ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy opened two Local Democracy Agencies in Ukraine, **LDA Dnipro (supported by Lower Silesia Poland)** in 2014 and **LDA in Mariupol (supported by Gdansk Poland)** in 2017. Both are still operational, Dnipro implement its activities in town, while LDA Mariupol is implementing its activities from Kyiv but support the communities form Mariupol.

Since June 2022, at the [Donors conference in Brussels](#), ALDA has launched a programme for supporting the existing Local Democracy Agencies and for proposing more of them to support democracy, peace and community engagement in Dnipro.

We are currently working for the establishment of the **LDA Odessa** and **LDA Vinnytsia**.







Donors conference, Brussels, 22 June 2022

## WHAT ARE THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES?

Local Democracy Agencies are programmes of decentralized cooperation where communities, local authorities, and civil society, are working together to support peace, democracy and development. They represent a long-standing partnership and decentralized cooperation. LDAs are embedded in ALDA's structure, and they receive guidance and support.

We are looking for local and regional authorities and civil society groups interested in:

Support LDA Mariupol	Support LDA Dnipro	Create with us LDA Odessa	Create with us LDA Vinnytsia
Become a partner of the LDA	Become a partner of the LDA	Become a partner of the LDA	Become a <u>partner of the LDA</u> 
Support the project “ <u>I am Mariupol</u> ”	Support the project “ <u>Phoenix</u> ”	Support the project “ <u>Modular houses for IDPs</u> ” 	
Support the <u>project for University</u> 			

→ Please, find [HERE](#) information related to the support and establishment of Local Democracy Agencies in Ukraine.

## RELEVANT INFORMATION



### History of ALDA in Ukraine and our commitment in the recent war

The links uniting ALDA and Ukraine are many, strong and long-lasting: several ALDA members and partners are Ukrainians, along with a part of our staff working in the Local Democracy Agencies in Mariupol and Dnipro. Our office in Chisinau (Moldova) is also entirely impacted by the situation.

In this framework, ALDA Secretary General, Antonella Valmorbidia, and the whole Association’s staff is in constant contact with our Ukrainian network – through a dedicated unit created to manage the emergency.

ALDA is also answering to the growing number of requests of members and citizens willing to contribute to the cause and support the victims of the conflicts.

*So, what can a citizen/institution/organisation do to help and support Ukraine?*

Go to the [ALDA website](#) to find all our suggestions and proposals, from publicly take a stand, approach national institutions, donate and more. Because everything helps.

## → Activities of the Local Democracy Agencies existing in Ukraine

The first LDA to be founded in Ukraine was the [Local Democracy Agency Dnipro](#), back in **2015**. It stands as a **platform of cooperation, dialogue and exchange of experiences and best practices on regional development**, focusing on the cultural, social and economic aspects, acting as mediator between local authorities and civil society of EU and Ukraine. This LDA is extremely active to foster citizen participation at the local level, and mobilize civil society organizations, local and regional authorities to develop joint initiatives. Among its partners there are the regions of Lower Silesia (Poland), Alsace (France), and the region of Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine), as well as several civil society organisations, including “Merkury Foundation” and “East-West Mutual Understanding”, from Poland and the “Agency for Regional Development of the Dnipropetrovsk Region”, “Tamarisk”, and the “NGO Public Initiative of the Lugansk Region”, from Ukraine.



Opening ceremony of LDA Dnipro, 18 May 2015

Two years later, in December **2017**, the **Local Democracy Agency Mariupol** opened its premises. The LDA Mariupol was established with the aim of **implementing democracy best-practices** in Mariupol in order to develop a **productive dialogue between the community and the local government** as well as to support participatory democracy tools for a fair and sustainable development.

The LDA Mariupol is the result of a fruitful cooperation among several international partners from local authorities and civil society. In particular, a key role for its opening has been played by the **City of Gdansk**, sister city of Mariupol as well as by the aid of Local Development Fund.

Through its action, the LDA Mariupol has always pursued the following objectives:

- Facilitate the participation of civil society in the decision-making process at the local level;
- Increase the interest, awareness and capacities of citizens to take part in the decision-making process at the local level;
- Increase the awareness and skills of the local communities and local authorities to address the needs of citizens.
- Support sharing of information between Ukraine and other European countries and stakeholders to enable closer cooperation and an ongoing exchange of best practices.
- Raise the awareness of the importance of migration with regards of local development

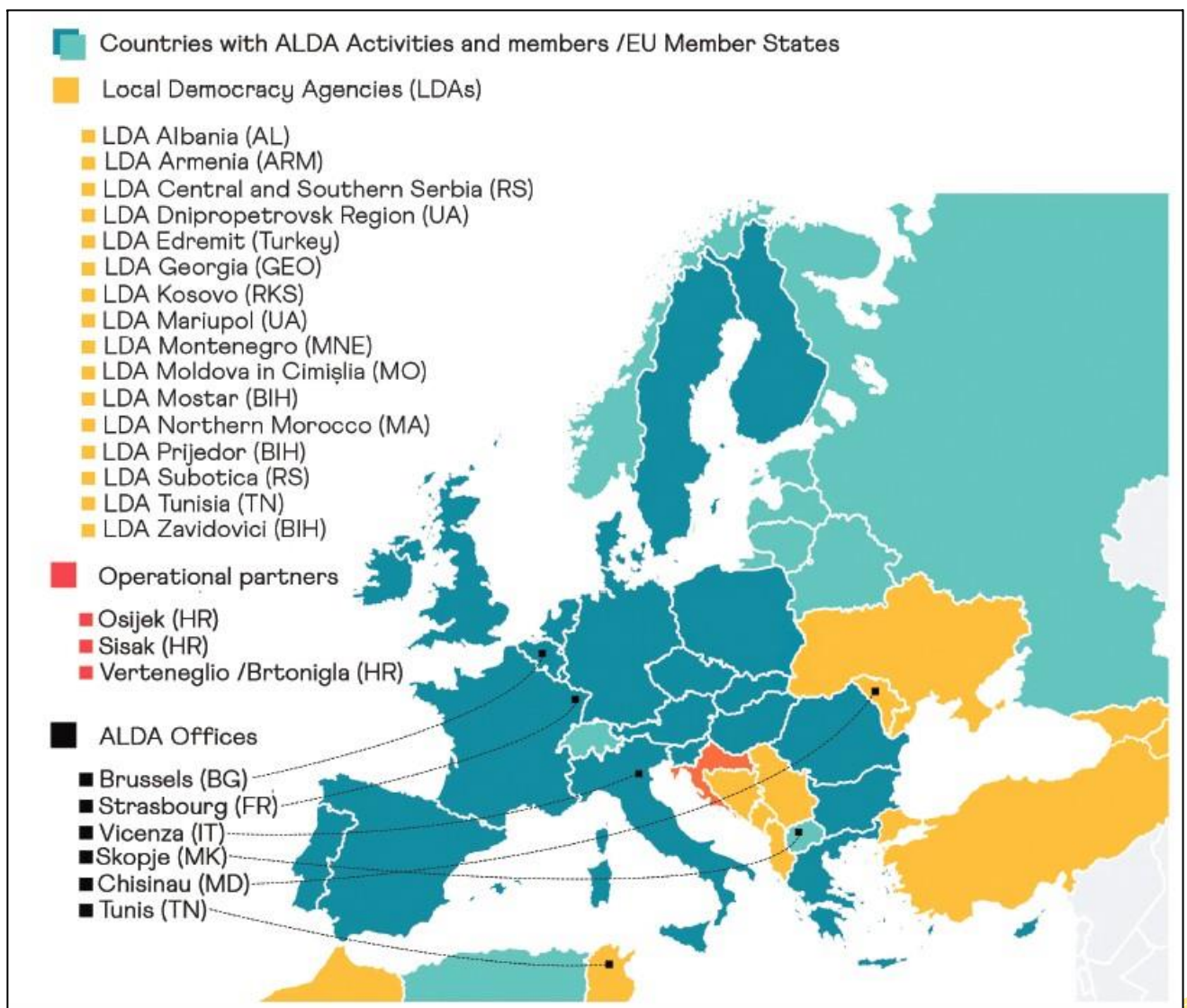




## History of the Local Democracy Agencies

ALDA coordinates and supports the **network of 16 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs)** in their activities. Initiated by the Council of Europe in the early '90s, the LDAs represent a unique and successful experiment of democratic support, with full engagement of local governments and civil society organisations from Europe and the neighboring countries.

The LDAs are locally-based organisations, funded and supported by both local partners and international associates with a long-term joint programme providing financial and political support to fulfil their mandate and to accompany local democracy and civil society empowerment. Indeed, partnership-building is a crucial aspect for each LDA, as their work is based on the innovative method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. The LDAs are also operational in the field of city diplomacy.



With the accession of Croatia to the European Union in July 2013, the 3 former Local Democracy Agencies in the country became **Operational Partners (OPs)** of ALDA.

In 2019, the LDAs of the Balkans together with ALDA have created the [Balkan Network for Local Democracy](#) operating at the regional level for European integration, decentralisation and good local governance.

## → How does the LDA work?

A Local Democracy Agency (LDA) is a **permanent platform of coordinated cooperation among European, Local and International Partners** that, signing a Memorandum of Understanding decide to pull together their effort at the local level for implementing projects and actions that will give the raise to a participative processes and good local governance for solving problems.

LDAs are locally registered but refer to ALDA in their statute and in their governance.

LDA governance is structured as follows: (approved by the ALDA label every year)

- A **Delegate** (director) appointed by the partners – head of the office (name is validated by ALDA)
- The local partners and the **host city** (never a capital city) – offering the offices and local support
- The **international partners** – local authorities/regional authorities or NGOs – providing support and activities, led by a **Lead partner**

The partners meet at least on yearly basis and the LDA is in permanent touch with ALDA team.

A study carried out by ALDA in 2013 shows that the overall budget of the LDAs per year constantly increased, guaranteeing a sufficient availability of resources for the implementation of the respective action plans. Following the implementation of projects and activities, financial reports are drawn up to ensure transparency and appropriate use of the funds.

There are three different types of funding sources:

-  Partners support
-  LDAs self-fundraising
-  ALDA support



**alda** \*



European Association  
for Local Democracy

## NEXT STEPS

For those who will indicate their interest in knowing more or support a Local Democracy Agency in Ukraine, more information will be provided and a partner meeting for each LDA (existing and future) will be organized online for presenting the opportunities of cooperation.

The meeting will indicate how to act concretely with exchanges with local authorities and civil society groups.

**If you want to support or get more information**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

**We will get back to you**

For any information or further question, please write to: [alda4ukraine@alda-europe.eu](mailto:alda4ukraine@alda-europe.eu)



Citizens, Equality, Rights  
and Values programme

