



**ALDA**

European Association for Local Democracy

# Activity Report 2016



[www.alda-europe.eu](http://www.alda-europe.eu)

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All information included is updated to March 2017.

# ALDA at a glance

## COUNTRIES WITH ALDA ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERS / EU MEMBER STATES

### UPCOMING LDAs

- LDA TUNISIA (TN)
- LDA ODESSA (UA)

### LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES (LDAs)

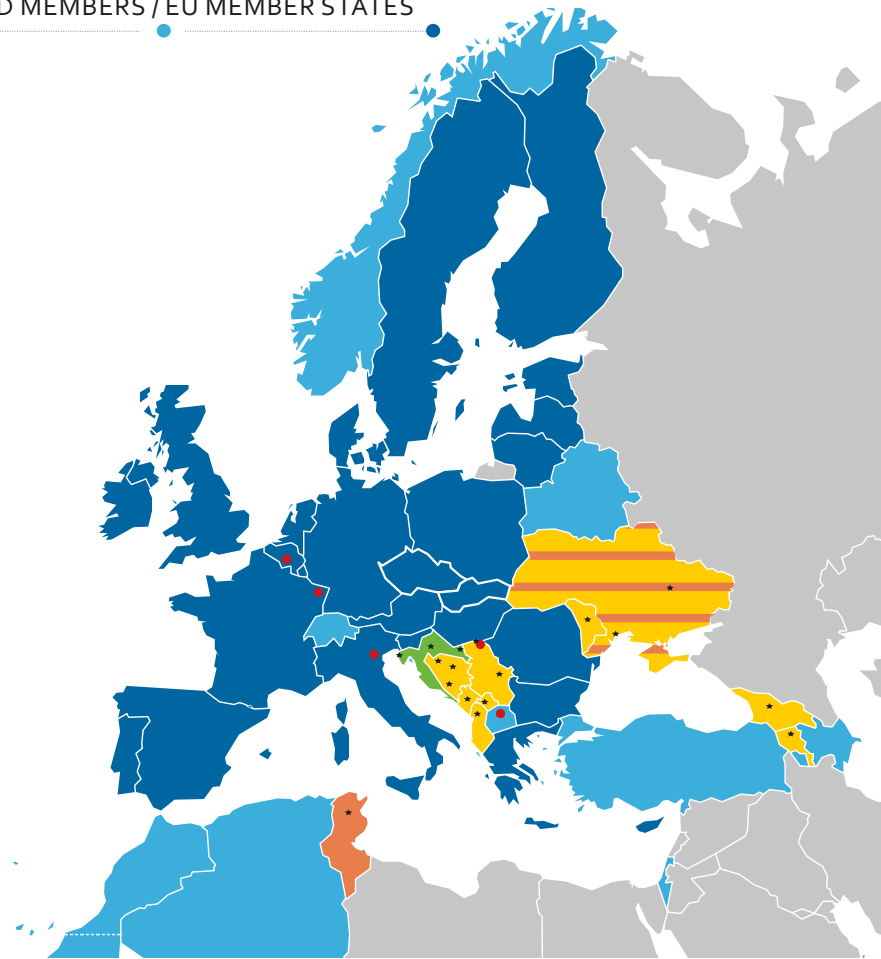
- LDA ALBANIA (AL)
- LDA ARMENIA (ARM)
- LDA GEORGIA (GEO)
- LDA KOSOVO (RKS)
- LDA MOLDOVA IN CIMIŞLIA (MD)
- LDA MONTENEGRO (MNE)
- LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA (RS)
- LDA SUBOTICA (RS)
- LDA MOSTAR (BIH)
- LDA PRIJEDOR (BIH)
- LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI (BIH)
- LDA OF DNIPROPETROVSK REGION (UA)

### OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

- SISAK (HR)
- OSIJEK (HR)
- VERTENEGLO/BRTONIGLA (HR)

### ALDA OFFICES

- BRUSSELS (BE)
- STRASBOURG (FR)
- SUBOTICA (RS)
- VICENZA (IT)
- SKOPJE (MK)



"Over the years ALDA has proved to be so effective in pursuing its objectives and in accomplishing its mission that it has been able progressively to enlarge its scope, now encompassing also some of the Council of Europe's neighbouring regions"

**Andreas Kiefer**

SECRETARY GENERAL, CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



"Continuous contacts between the citizens across borders are indispensable for a citizens' Europe. By establishing a network between Local Authorities and Civil Society Organisations all over Europe and by offering a forum for the exchange of best practices, ALDA contributes greatly towards citizens' involvement and good governance"

**Jo Leinen**

PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL



# About ALDA

ALDA – The European Association for Local Democracy, is dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. ALDA focuses on activities facilitating cooperation between local authorities and civil society.

ALDA was established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe to coordinate and support the network of Local Democracy Agencies, which are self-sustainable, locally registered CSOs (Civil Society Organisations) acting as promoters of good governance and local self-government. Today, ALDA is a key stakeholder in the field of local democracy, active citizenship, and cooperation between local authorities and civil society.

ALDA is a membership based organisation gathering more than 250 members (including local authorities, associations of local authorities, and civil society organisations) coming from more than 40 countries. ALDA is funded through membership fees, as well as project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and other public and private donors.

## Our unique features

Most of ALDA's work is based on the method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. This method involves a multi-stakeholder approach which focuses on strong partnerships between local authorities and non-governmental organisations. These partnerships create positive synergies and ensure that common goals are reached in a successful way.

## What we do

In the framework of the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level, ALDA focuses on various themes, such as European integration, decentralisation, civic initiatives and volunteering, human rights and sustainable economic development.

ALDA conducts its activities through different forms of action:

- Coordinating and supporting the 12 Local Democracy Agencies and 3 Operational Partners in their activities
- Conducting its own projects in the field of good governance and citizen participation at the local level
- Supporting other local stakeholders' initiatives by providing expertise gained through ALDA's knowledge and experience in the regions where ALDA and the Local Democracy Agencies are working

## Where we work

ALDA works in most of Europe and the European Neighbouring countries. Activities in the European Union focus in particular on the promotion of Active European Citizenship. Activities in the Western Balkans and European Neighbourhood focus on good governance, citizen participation, European integration and decentralisation.

Most of the Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) are located in the Western Balkans, which gives a natural focus on that area. But ALDA is also becoming more and more active in the European Neighbourhood. During the years, many LDAs have been established in various EaP countries, namely in 2006 in Kutaisi (Georgia), in 2011 in Gyumri (Armenia), in 2015 another LDA was opened in Dnipro (Ukraine), while in March 2017 the latest one was established in Cimişlia (Moldova). ALDA is also leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European Neighbouring countries, such as Belarus, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Turkey.



# Our network



40

COUNTRIES WHERE  
ALDA IS PRESENT



+250

OUR MEMBERS



17

YEARS OF ACTIVITY



+250

PROJECTS RUN



5

OFFICES



12

LOCAL DEMOCRACY  
AGENCIES - LDAs



2

UPCOMING LDAs



3

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS



25 MILLION

PEOPLE INDIRECTLY IMPACTED IN THE ENLARGED EUROPE

## Advocacy component

ALDA advocates for an enabling environment for citizens' participation in the decision making process through the following channels:

- Observer to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CoE)
- Partner of the European Commission within the structured dialogue of the Europe for Citizens Programme
- Observer ARLEM and CORLEAP, Committee of the Regions
- Coordinator of the Subgroup on Public Administration Reform of the Civil Society Forum of Eastern Partnership (CSF)
- Member of Hub 1, Hub 2 and Hub 3 of CONCORD
- Member of European Movement France
- Member of the Conference of INGOs of the CoE
- Member of the Community of Practice of EPD – European Partnership for Democracy (and our Secretary General Antonella Valmorbida in the Board of Directors)
- Member of the Central and Eastern European Citizens Network
- Initiator of Civil Society Europe
- Member of the civil society alliance SDG Watch Europe
- Member of CIVICUS
- Member of the Steering Committee of Anna Lindh Foundation réseau France
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with UNDP – ART Programme
- Cross-membership with Energy Cities
- Cross-membership with LIKE
- Supporter of Covenant of Mayors
- Member of ISBEM Community Foundation, dealing with health and environment
- Participation in the Italian Association of Civic Observers
- Member of the Italian Platform of CONCORD

# Letter from the President



**Oriano Otočan**  
President of ALDA

*Dear members, dear friends,*

*I am happy and proud to present you the Activity Report of ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy, for the year 2016.*

*Last year, 2016 was definitely not “business as usual”. We were forced to witness the dramatic increase in refugees fleeing their homes in search of a safe haven; Brexit referendum was also a cold shower for many of us. Not always has Europe proved to be effective in managing the situation, thus giving a voice to populist, xenophobic, and Euro-sceptical movements.*

*Nevertheless, ALDA and its network worked hard and achieved a number of important successes. Among those, we paved the way for the opening of three new Local Democracy Agencies in 2017; we tightened cooperation with further DGs of the European Commission, and established cross membership with key associations; a number of pioneering projects were presented and implemented – from sustainable energy to cultural heritage.*

*At the same time, the size, operational capacity, and global recognition of our Association have considerably expanded. Our new Governing Board, elected during the General Assembly 2016 is a true reflection of the soul of ALDA – a balanced mix of representatives of local authorities and civil society, from the EU, enlargement, and neighbouring countries, women and men, of all ages. Not only do the number and diversity of members and projects constantly increase, but we are also more and more often invited to present our experience and best practices at events all over the world, from France to Togo via Ukraine.*

*Aware of the historical challenges we are facing, we continue our activities promoting citizens' participation and good local governance in the enlarged Europe, crucial to remind us why the European Union was created, and what it means concretely to be European citizens. The Union is far from being perfect, but stands as the only option to secure peace and wellbeing; for this, we invested in a mass campaign to raise awareness of the programme Europe for Citizens, supporting the work of ALDA and of all associations who fight for a better, more inclusive Europe, day by day.*

*I thank you all for your long-lasting cooperation and trust. I also thank the Secretary General and the staff of ALDA for their excellent work. In today's Europe, I am truly convinced that the activity of ALDA is needed more than ever.*

**Oriano Otočan**  
President of ALDA

# Forward by the Secretary General



**Antonella Valmorbida**  
Secretary General  
of ALDA

*Dear members, dear friends,*

*I share our President's happiness on a particularly successful year for ALDA and our members. Our success is the result of the coordinated – and hard! – work of our staff, new Governing Board, Delegates, members, and partners over the whole year.*

*Our network is constantly enlarging, counting today over 250 members in the enlarged Europe. This increase is driven by our specificity – ALDA is a unique pan-European network, representing local authorities and civil society from all across the enlarged Europe, with a strong accent on projects and hands-on activities.*

*ALDA strengthened cooperation with many networks we were already part of, and we initiated new ones: cross memberships were established with Energy Cities and LIKE, respectively focused on energy and culture; and we joined the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy as a supporter.*

*The family of the Local Democracy Agencies is also expanding: today, it also embraces Moldova, once more proving the tremendous impact LDAs have in the community involved, by addressing the local needs and empowering all actors involved to become real agents of change.*

*The recognition of ALDA's expertise led to such a high number of training and technical assistance activities last year, that we decided to open ALDA+, a benefit corporation inaugurated in February 2017, and dedicated to the provision of ad hoc consultancy activities.*

*I thank all our members for the support and long-standing cooperation. Our network is an incredible added value for all of us, that's the element transforming our punctual activities in a wider framework of promotion of local democracy, development, human rights, and citizen participation.*

*Our objective for 2017 and the upcoming years is as simple as ambitious – we intend to consolidate ALDA's role as a key actor supporting the building of a bottom-up Europe. Now that the importance of local democracy for communities well-being is undeniable, it is our responsibility to make it happen!*

**Antonella Valmorbida**  
Secretary General of ALDA

# Our Staff

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# Governing Board Members

(mandate 2016-2020)



**Mr Oriano Otočan**

President, Bureau member  
Representing the Istria Region  
(Croatia)



**Mr Roger Lawrence**

Treasurer, Bureau member  
Individual member (United  
Kingdom)



**Mr Alexandru Osadci**

CALM – Congress of Local  
Authorities from Moldova  
(Moldova)



**Mr Alessandro Perelli**

Vice President, Bureau  
member

European integration, international  
relations and financial  
management service at Friuli-  
Venezia Giulia Region (Italy)



**Ms Francesca Campana**

Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat  
i Cooperació (Spain)



**Mr Mohammed Salhi**

Réseau Marocain de l'Economie  
Sociale et Solidaire – REMESS  
(Morocco)



**Ms Imislawa Gorska**

Vice President, Bureau  
member, Coordinator Eastern  
Partnership Working Group

Principal at the International  
School of Bydgoszcz (Poland)



**Mr Lutfi Haziri**

Gjilan Municipality (Kosovo)



**Ms Natalia Sovkopljas**

UTCS – Union of Towns and Cities  
of Slovakia (Slovakia)



**Ms Branka Mracevic**

Vice president, Bureau  
member

Herceg Novi Municipality  
(Montenegro)



**Mr Dobrica Milovanovic**

Individual member (Serbia)



**Mr Francesco Zarzana**

Cultural Association Progettarte  
(Italy)

## Statutory Members



**Ms Alina Tatarenko**

Deputy Head, Centre  
of Expertise for Local  
Government Reform  
Directorate General II  
– Democracy Council of  
Europe  
Appointed by the Secretary  
General of the Council of  
Europe



**Ms Gudrun  
Mosler-Törnström**

President of the Congress of  
Local and Regional Authorities  
of the Council of Europe, or  
her representative



**Mr Elbert Krasniqi**

Delegate of the Local  
Democracy Agency Kosovo

## Advisory Board

### Ms Antonella Cagnolati

President of the Advisory Board  
General Coordinator of the Lisbon Forum 2013 of the  
North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (Consultant),  
Italy

### Ms Nadia Skenderovic Cuk

Deputy Head of Office of the Council of Europe, Serbia

### Mr Noël Orsat

Head of Project for Touristic Development, France

### Ms Maria Perino

Researcher at the Department of Social Research of  
the University of Eastern Piedmont / Member of the  
Governing Board of the Embassy of the Local Democracy  
in LDA Zavidovići, Italy

### Mr Zoran Lukic

Assistant Professor at the Department of Management  
and Business Systems Organizations, University of Banja  
Luka, Bosnia Herzegovina

### Ms Ruzica Jankahidac

Senior Project Assistant and Project Manager, France  
and Serbia

### Ms Rada Orescanin

Financial and Administrative Manager of EU Projects and  
Projects for Cooperation and Development funds of the  
Region Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy

### Mr Hans Martin Tschudi

Member of the Social-Democratic Party / Teacher at the  
University St. Gallen, Switzerland

### Maria Antonietta Nuzzo

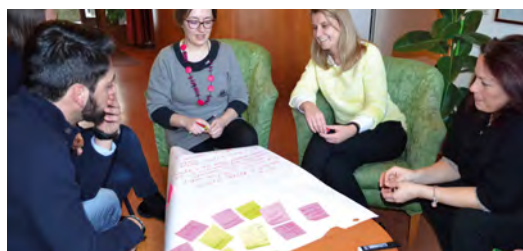
Member of "DNAdonna" Governing Board, in charge of  
"Toponomastica femminile" project, Italy

# Our objective:

## Act locally, think globally for good governance and participation

The whole work of ALDA, divided into three main areas (ALDA Europe, ALDA Cooperation and ALDA+) aims at supporting local governance and citizens' participation in the European Union, in the future enlargement countries of South Eastern Europe, and in the Neighbouring countries.

A set of horizontal features are developed within all the activities and projects designed and implemented by ALDA, including gender issues, minorities issues, youth employability, environment, education, and voluntarism.



New forms of populism, fuelled by the long-lasting economic crisis, reveal that today's societal changes in Europe demand stronger forms of participation that representative democracy on its own does no longer fully meet. A democratic system that involves citizens, civil society, local authorities and different stakeholders in a collective and thoughtful manner in the decision making process is the correct and appropriate response to the complex context of today's Europe.

ALDA promotes participatory citizenship at the local level as an instrument to create the necessary conditions for political and social development of the community and to improve equality, welfare, security and sustainability. Engaging citizens in all aspects of their community's life and making their voices heard through peaceful and legal forms of participation is also an antidote to populism and anti-democratic movements. ALDA confirms its vision that only a bottom-up Europe, with the full involvement of citizens, can develop a sense of shared ownership of the European project. By fostering participatory citizenship, ALDA's programmes have been contributing to meet the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Within the framework of supporting the European project through a bottom-up approach, ALDA Europe contributes to the following objectives:

- To promote citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity
- To foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level
- To raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values, and the Union's aim that is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples, by stimulating debate, reflection, and development of networks
- To encourage a democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level, by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy-making process, and promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement, and volunteering at Union level
- To make citizens participate in the construction of an ever closer Europe, by making people from different countries meet to debate on the future Europe
- To strengthen the sense of ownership of the European Union, by promoting local and international activities where the issue of citizens' participation is tackled at all levels
- To contribute to the intercultural dialogue and enhance mutual understanding.

ALDA Europe adopts a thematic approach to participatory democracy and citizen participation, with clear objectives to be pursued in each thematic category:

### **Active Citizenship**

- A. Empowering citizens to participate in the public life of their communities
- B. Removing the barriers to participation, especially with regard to people who are less involved in social life (youth, elderly, women, minorities)
- C. Mobilising citizens to respond locally to global issues

### **Culture and Sport**

- A. Promoting art and culture as forms of participation and active citizenship
- B. Stimulating creativity and innovation
- C. Promoting sport as a tool for social cohesion, tolerance, integration and inclusion

### **Education**

- A. Promoting non formal education approaches to lifelong learning
- B. Tackling early school leaving
- C. Encouraging youngsters and adults' mobility and exchange of experience
- D. Promoting integration and tolerance

### **Employment, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development**

- A. Stimulating spirit of innovation, creativity, mobility and business-entrepreneurial attitude of unemployed people
- B. Equipping unemployed people with information, resources, advice and networks to promote entrepreneurship and access to the job market
- C. Promoting fair and inclusive economic activities that reduce inequalities, such as social and solidarity economy

### **Good local governance**

- A. Promoting the exchange of good practices related to local governance
- B. Promoting the multi-stakeholder approach as evidence-based successful process for community development
- C. Creating and strengthen town networks, in order to develop cooperation between municipalities
- D. Developing local authorities and citizens' capacities

### **Health and Environment**

- A. Promoting the adoption and use of ecological and sustainable products and solutions
- B. Promoting circular economy models
- C. Supporting activities to protect the nature capital and local biodiversity
- D. Raising local authorities and citizens' awareness on the environmental impact of their actions

### **Migration**

- A. Promoting tolerance, integration and dialogue between migrants and host communities
- B. Providing migrants with opportunities, tools and useful competences to help them integrate in a new social and economic context
- C. Promoting migrants' participation in public life

### **Equal opportunities, minorities and vulnerable groups**

- A. Promoting social cohesion, equality and equal opportunities
- B. Tackling economic and social barriers to civic participation
- C. Fostering active participation in community life of the most disadvantaged groups and individuals (women, young, elderly, foreigners, minorities, etc.)

### **Social issues**

- A. Tackling inequality, poverty and social exclusion
- B. Building the capacities of excluded sectors of the community to make their voice heard and fully participate in the democratic life
- C. Tackling illegality and corruption in Europe

### **Youth**

- A. Providing adequate knowledge, competences and skills to young people to tackle youth unemployment
- B. Empowering youth to respond locally to global issues
- C. Stimulating youth participation and social engagement through the promotion of activism and volunteering

# ENLARGE - ENergies for Local Administrations to Renovate Governance in Europe



Funding Programme  
Horizon 2020



4 PARTNERS



2 YEARS  
TIMESPAN

OCTOBER 2016 - SEPTEMBER 2018



COUNTRIES INVOLVED

FRANCE  
ITALY  
ESTONIA



## OBJECTIVES:

- Exploring existing models of participatory governance in the field of sustainable energy and, in particular, their legitimacy, effectiveness, sustainability and success mechanisms, by drawing together theoretical knowledge and on-the-ground experiences
- Producing an interactive knowledge tool on participatory governance in sustainable energy to raise awareness among public administrators about participatory approaches, methodologies and tools, and the potential consequences of these alternative scenarios based on concrete experiences and pragmatic examples
- Deliberating on the main critical points (capacities, mechanisms, procedures and processes) for boosting participatory governance to achieve better outcomes in the field of sustainable energy, by fostering a constructive multi-actor dialogue on these issues
- Communicating and disseminating shared knowledge on participatory governance in sustainable energy, and in particular on its effectiveness, sustainability and legitimacy and on mechanisms for enhancing success, and take up of participatory governance in the daily practices of public administrations in Europe

ENLARGE foresees 3 main scientific phases, having impact both at the local and at the European level:

### 1. Explorative phase

- A. Reviewing participatory approaches and drafting the co-design and co-creation matrixes
- B. Engaging local administrations and stakeholders, and collecting exemplary practices
- C. Analysing study-cases
- D. Creating the “knowledge map” of models of participatory governance in sustainable energy

### 2. Deliberative phase

- A. Deliberative events with local administrations, stakeholders, practitioners and citizens’ groups to produce a shared and reasoned assessment of participatory processes at stake in sustainable energy

### 3. Production and interactive phase

- A. Creating the online book CYOA (Choose Your Own Adventure) on participatory governance in sustainable energy
- B. Assessing the usability and utility of the CYOA book for local administrations and stakeholders in the field of sustainable energy
- C. Collecting feedback on how to improve the book
- D. Updating and revising the book based on comments received



Kick-off Meeting of the project ENLARGE in Milan, Italy | October 2016

## KEY PROJECTS IN 2016



### RESEARCH

#### **RE.CRI.RE.** **Between the Representation of the Crisis and the Crisis of Representation**

Funding programme: **Horizon 2020**

Timespan: May 2015 – April 2018

ALDA coordinates a network of 15 Universities and Research Centres, covering 13 European countries, working together to investigate what kind of social identity change is occurring in Europe in time of crisis.

The three-year project aims at analysing cultures of European societies and the impacts of the socio-economic crisis on them, in order to frame better policies at local, national and European level. To this end, civil society, policy-makers and experts of social sciences cooperate via a multi-stakeholder approach in RE.CRI.RE. actions.



RE.CRI.RE General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium | February 2016



### ENVIRONMENT

#### **WE-NET - Working for Environmentally Educated Towns**

Funding programme: **Europe for Citizens**

Timespan: July 2015 – June 2017

The objective of the project WE-NET is to establish a thematic network of local authorities and civil society organisations from different regions across Europe to work together on the promotion of circular economy at the local level, by facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices.



International Activity WE-NET in Brussels, Belgium | November 2016



### GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE

#### **MEANING - Metropolitan Europeans in Active Network, Inducing Novelities in Governance**

Funding programme: **Europe for Citizens**

Timespan: October 2016 – September 2018



International activity of MEANING in Milan, Italy | February 2017

The project aims at building a thematic network of European Metropolitan Cities that exchange knowledge, experience and good practice on their management and role in the future of European governance, by focusing on the participation of citizens in these processes. The network gathers Metropolitan Cities with years of experiences with the Metropolis institutions and realities.



## YouthMetre

Funding programme: **Erasmus+ KA3 Forward Looking Cooperation Projects**

Timespan: January 2016 – June 2018

In line with the objectives of the Erasmus+ Programme, and in order to foster the achievement of Europe2020 goals, the YouthMetre project aims at supporting EU Member States, municipalities and regions in carrying out effective policy reforms in the field of Youth, in line with the indications provided by the EU Youth Strategy and according to the priorities perceived by its target population: young Europeans.



Coordination Meeting of YouthMetre in Brussels | December 2016



## URGENT - Urban Re-Generation: European Network of Towns

Funding programme: **Europe for Citizens**

Timespan: September 2016 – August 2018

Through a bottom-up approach to raise local awareness on the urgent need to establish new connections among inhabitants of marginalized neighbourhoods and those of central areas, URGENT aims at tackling the growing fear of immigration, which feeds Euroscepticism.



First international activity of URGENT in Strasbourg, France | November 2016



## BDBO – Break Down, Break Out

Funding programme: **Erasmus+ KA2**

Timespan: September 2014 – August 2016

The 'Break Down, Break Out' project aims to demonstrate and document how new learning strategies for long-term unemployed can empower them to take action. These low qualified Europeans are hit the hardest from economic pressures and this process provides simple and practice based guidance.



International activity BDBO in Strasbourg, France | May 2016



ALDA works in the Western Balkans and in the European Neighbourhood – Mediterranean area, Eastern Europe, and Southern Caucasus – to foster good governance, citizens' participation, decentralisation, and European integration.

It coordinates and supports the network of 12 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and 3 Operational Partners (OPs) in their partnerships and activities. Most of the LDAs are in the Western Balkans, where our joint work started, but we count today four Agencies in Eastern Partnership

countries. The most recent addition to the family is the LDA Moldova in Cimişlia, established in March 2017.

ALDA and its network are now working towards the creation of 2 new Local Democracy Agencies, namely in Kairouan (Tunisia), and in Odessa (Ukraine).

In cooperation with its members and partners, ALDA leads several projects in other European Neighbouring countries, including Morocco, Algeria, Belarus, Azerbaijan, and Turkey.

# LADDER: Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education and Raising awareness



-  Funding Programme
-  DEAR - Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development (NSA-LA)

 <b>27</b> CO-APPLICANTS	 <b>19</b> ASSOCIATES	 <b>3 YEARS</b> DURATION <b>2015 – 2017</b> <small>(JANUARY 2015 – DECEMBER 2017)</small>
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**COUNTRIES INVOLVED**

ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ARMENIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CROATIA, DENMARK, FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, FRANCE, GEORGIA, GREECE, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, KOSOVO, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, MALTA, MOLDOVA, MOROCCO, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SERBIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, THE NETHERLANDS, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE

## OBJECTIVES:

-  Informing, raising awareness and engaging citizens in global challenges
-  Strengthening the capacity of LAs and CSOs to act as drivers for sustainable development



Lifejackets mountain in Chios Island, Greece | March 2016

Coordinated by ALDA, the project's main aim is two-fold: to raise the awareness of citizens regarding sustainable development and to turn LAs and CSOs into local multipliers. In the aftermath of the 2nd year of activities, numerous actions were implemented with success: trainings and capacity building activities, advocacy actions, international conferences, grass root actions, a comprehensive research on policies related to global citizenship and many more! All of them aimed at reaching out citizens, creating links between LAs, CSOs & communities, and supporting them in becoming actors for change at the local level.

Counting on the consortium continuous engagement, the project pursued its hard work, being increasingly visible and highly promoted in the different countries it is active in. In parallel, the actions were implemented in line with the global vision approved at the beginning of the project, thus linking its numerous activities with ongoing policy processes, creating

valuable synergies and reducing the risk of duplication of efforts. One of them is obviously the Sustainable Development Goals (commonly called SDGs), a set of goals and targets common to all countries and applicable to all stakeholders and citizens, in which LADDER has been strongly involved and will continue to do so in 2017.



Steering Committee of LADDER at UNESCO in Paris, France | May 2016



MED Special initiative in Tunis, Tunisia | October 2016

## Focus on: South-East Europe

ALDA and LDAs' consistent involvement in Western Balkan countries, has made the LDAs a regional network of professional and accountable actors advancing the reform and the accession negotiation process with the EU, through strengthening the local ownership over the reform process by getting the citizens of local communities closer to European values and standards.

The establishment of ALDA Office in Subotica (SRB) in 2008 and registration of ALDA Office in Skopje (MK) in 2012, contributed to a strategic approach in providing technical and operational support to ALDA and LDAs with a view to IPA 2 Programming in particular.

Further attention will be given to organisational capacity building and LDAs' regional networking for successful project development and implementation. Success stories of jointly designed and implemented projects within at least six EU funding instruments (IPA CSF, IPA EU Info Programme, IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme, EIDHR, Youth in Action and EVS Programmes, and more recently EU Citizenship Programme) are more than evident results that contributed substantially to strengthened organisational capacities of the LDAs.



Group picture of the staff of ALDA Skopje office with Antonella Valmorbidia, SG of ALDA | December 2016

With this in view it is particularly relevant to note:

- ALDA and LDAs have actively participated in the consultation process for the establishment and the programming activity of the Regional Youth Co-operation Office, in the consultation process within IPA 2 Programming, in SALTO Euromed Youth Regional Tool Fair 2017 activity planning, in the consultation process within Open Government Partnership Programme in the Balkan countries, in the EU Policy Forum for Development in 2017.
- All LDAs in the Western Balkan countries are involved in the public policy making process within the SECO mechanism – Sector Organizations Consultative Mechanism to develop a structured dialogue within specific Chapter-based negotiation process and use its knowledge and exchange of information to strengthen the IPA 2 Programming and evaluation process.
- All LDAs in the Western Balkan countries were included in desk and field research work, drafting evidence-based Policy Recommendations to promote participation of young people in public life and in regional co-operation programmes.
- Following ALDA and Western Balkan LDAs shared vision, the Balkan Regional Network for Local Democracy was established with ALDA Skopje as its hub.
- Within the respective host cities, the LDAs created a community of good local practice in fostering social cohesion, by promoting policy measures in social entrepreneurship development, inter-generational solidarity, intercultural exchange, improved participation of women and youth.



## PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue

Funded by: **European Commission, Civil Society Facility - Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations**

Timespan: 2015-2017

The Operating Grant is intended to support the work of LDAs in the Western Balkan countries, in order to contribute more effectively in structuring the regional thematic cooperation platform and the coordination between CSOs and public authorities, while helping the improvement of the environment for youth activism and participation, and in particular for youngsters with fewer opportunities.

The main project activities include capacity building, research work, and policy recommendations widely communicated, though youth regional co-operation programme coordinated by all Western Balkan LDAs.



Regional Forum organised in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina | November 2016

## OTHER PROJECTS

### CARAVAN NEXT - Feed the Future: Art moving cities

Funded by: **Creative Europe - Culture sub-programme / European cooperation projects**

Timespan: 2015-2018

Caravan NEXT is a European project by the Social and Community Theatre (SCT) focused on bringing SCT's events to cities and towns in a way to rethink them as broad open-air venues, local art squares connected at a European level (GLOCAL level) where citizens, professionals and artists, can give life to their own community theatre event, to convey their messages about a core theme: feed the future - European



Theatre play of Caravan Next in a square of Subotica, Serbia | June 2016

challenges in the new millennium. Social community theatre actions promoting topics that are relevant for social cohesion in local multicultural communities were organised in Subotica in 2016 and will continue in Mostar and Skopje in the next two years.

### PAL: Fighting discrimination and anti-Gypsyism in education and employment in EU

Funded by: **Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union**

Timespan: January 2016 - January 2018

This two-year project aims at developing a comprehensive approach and endorses a number of goals in education and employment, in order to speed up Roma Integration, support the implementation of national Roma inclusion strategies and the Council Recommendation of Roma Integration. The project provides support to Roma youth participation on different levels, by gathering qualitative data about approaches and practices of Roma youth and supporting initiatives where Roma participation is key to long-term change. Activities aim to enhance multi-stakeholder cooperation, promoting common democratic values, strengthening fundamental rights and consolidating the rule of law: these are horizontal



Participation of PAL project in the Week of Cultures in Novo Mesto, Slovenia | June 2016

concerns for the participant countries, debating the way forward for the European network for Roma social Inclusion.

The PAL project partners are bringing together official and unofficial quantitative and qualitative data and information available on the situation of Roma in education and employment in Belgium, Italy, Spain, Greece, France, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania. The results of this work and other relevant data collection activities are feeding into the PAL Official Report about the Current Situation of Roma in the EU and the progress made regarding Roma integration.

## Program for decentralized cooperation between the Region Normandy and the Republic of Macedonia

Funded by: FOR Program for decentralized cooperation between the Region Normandy and Republic of Macedonia by the Regional Council of Normandy & the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France

Timespan: October 2013 – September 2016

In 2016, the cooperation between the region Normandy and Macedonia included several activities involving many stakeholders, such as workshops, exhibitions, study visits, etc.

This year, several exchanges of good practices and trainings were implemented for the institutional partners and several projects on the topic of youth, culture, cultural heritage, Human rights, tourism, remembrance, economy, etc., have been sub-granted and realised. The project aimed also



Youngsters from the High Schools of Bitola (Macedonia) and Vire (Normandy) doing some researches on the vestiges of the First World War in Macedonia | March 2016

at promoting Reconciliation of the First World War through remembrance, implementing actions in Macedonia and Normandy.

The Region of Normandy and Macedonia have been cooperating for 10 years in order to foster local democracy on several topics, such as Human rights, culture, youth, remembrance, while involving various actors: citizens, CSOs, local authorities, institutions, etc.

## France-Balkans multilateral decentralised cooperation programme on good governance in South-East Europe

Funded by: FOR France/Balkans multilateral decentralised cooperation programme on good governance in South-East Europe by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France

Timespan: January 2016 - December 2018

The project has the aim to create and develop a network of partners from France working on local governance on the Balkans: 13 partners for the last application to a 3-year-long programme. The main objective of this network is to mutualise the activities of partners. In 2016, ALDA implemented a series of activities in the framework of this programme, by co-organising the launch conference, as well as the Forum for Local Democracy of its



Forum for local democracy organized in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina | November 2016

“Balkan Region Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue”, which took place in Mostar in November 2016.

## WELCOMING – Wanting Europe as Leverage for Cooperation on the Migratory Insertion Governance

Funded by: CEI Cooperation Fund FOR WELCOMING - by CEI (Central European Initiative) & Region Normandy

Timespan: January – June 2016

This project, focusing on migration management, aimed at sharing best practices and exchanging know-how with multipliers in the area of migration management, with a special emphasis on towns and villages in the Western Balkans and in Central Europe. In June 2016 an International Seminar on “Cooperation on the governance of migration in Western Balkans and Central European countries” was organised, gathering participants from 11 countries. The result of the seminar was the creation of a regional Balkan network on the migration crisis, exchange of good practices at a local level on the Balkans and some EU-countries.



International seminar on “Cooperation on the governance of migration in Western Balkans and Central European countries” organised in Skopje, Macedonia | June 2016

## PALE.DE

Funded by: **Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region**

Timespan: Implementation started in 2016

PALE.DE is a project of technical assistance and international partnership focusing on the improvement of the institutional capabilities for having access to European Union Instrument Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) funds. The project aims to transform the Info Point in Kavadarci (Macedonia) into a real and vivid youth aggregation centre of active participation effectively integrated into the local reality. In 2016 the development of activities in the Youth Info Point in Kavadarci was supported through the exchange of good practices and delivering of trainings for two youth workers of the Info point. Through the participation in laboratories on



Study visit of 2 managers of the Kavadarci's Youth info point in Casarsa, Italy | June 2016

active citizenship, volunteering, cooperation, citizen's rights and duties, the project continues to promote democratic participation and inter-ethnic dialogue. The international networks of cooperation of Casarsa (Italy) are strengthened and the "Social Observatory" is reinforced.

## The role of youth in peacekeeping and conflict prevention

Funded by: **UK Embassy**

Timespan: October 2016 - March 2017

This project aims to contribute to conflict prevention through the organisation of public awareness activities with high schools around the geopolitical reasoning behind the First World War, the British contribution to the First World War battles in the Republic of Macedonia, and the lessons learnt from this conflict. In November 2016, the first workshop was organised. Through the sessions, the participants had the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge about World War I (the fronts, the situation in Bitola through a field trip), as well as to enhance the role of young people in their societies in relation of the process of reconciliation.



First workshop within the project organised in Bitola, Macedonia | November 2016

## FRANCOPHONIE AND YOUTH

In 2016, two projects implemented by ALDA Skopje were revolved around Francophonie and youth: the multilateral youth exchange "The sound that brings us together", and the EVS project "Volunteers for European Remembrance".

### • The sound that brings us together

Funded by: **Erasmus+ KA1**

Timespan: 8-15 July 2016

The youth exchange "The sound that brings us together", realised in July, included creative workshops dedicated to music creation, discovery and practice of traditional music of the countries involved, as well as the use of digital technologies in music. The youth exchange was delivered in French and all the participants were *Francophones*.



High school students from Serbia, Belgium, Macedonia and the Island of Reunion during the youth exchange in Struga, Macedonia | July 2016

## • Volunteers for European Remembrance

Funded by: Erasmus+

Timespan: February 2015 – July 2016

The project “Volunteers for European Remembrance” consisted of hosting 2 EVS volunteers from France for a period of 12 months in ALDA’s office in Skopje, Macedonia. The volunteers worked on activities focused on the promotion of peace and European citizenship, such as promoting EU citizenship and exchanges to youngsters, CSOs and local authorities in Macedonia and leading youth projects and workshops on the topic using new technologies and communication tools.



Raphael Galvez and Nathalie Bargues representing ALDA Skopje at the Fair of Franchophonie in Skopje, Macedonia | March 2016

The volunteers also organized activities for promoting the French language and culture to Macedonian youngsters.

## Focus on: Eastern Partnership

2016 has been a significant year for ALDA’s Eastern Partnership (EaP) dimension, both for the activities run to further develop and strengthen the action of the LDAs, and for the activities inscribed within projects dedicated to this geographical area.

With the financial support of the National Endowment for Democracy, in the frame of the project “To foster local reforms in Ukraine and Moldova” ALDA opened a new LDA in Moldova and has plans to launch the second LDA in Ukraine soon. The active work towards the opening of the new Local Democracy Agency Moldova in Cimişlia was successfully concluded in March 2017, with the inauguration of the office, the adoption of a new delegate, and 5 committed partners on board. The 12th LDA of the network will work on the issues of migration, capacity building of Local Authorities, regional development, support to EU integration, involvement of youth and women in the decision making process. As for the other LDAs in the EaP, the LDA of Dnipropetrovsk Region, after two years from its establishment, is implementing two projects actively contributing to the integration of IDPs in the social life of the country and supporting the process of

decentralisation. The LDA in Kutasi (Georgia) and Gyumri (Armenia) actively worked and developed a number of projects engaging both local authorities and their communities.

The support to communities’ initiatives, the cultural heritage, the public administration reform, the system of local self-government and civic participation: these are the topics addressed by ALDA in six countries of the Eastern Partnership. Furthermore, as the leader of the sub-group on public administration reform and local self-governance of the Civil Society Forum of EaP, together with partners from six countries, ALDA has published a document assessing the current situation on PAR and decentralisation in the region. The document carries the comparative element and proposes recommendations and solutions per country. The report was prepared in the frame of the project “Update on Public Administration and Local Governments Reform in EaP” funded under the sub granting scheme of CSF EaP. This paper will be used as a baseline to start a wider discussion on the subject in all six countries of the EaP in the next future.



Group picture at the opening of the LDA Moldova in Cimişlia | March 2017

## PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Mobilised Civil Society for Local Democracy

Funded by: Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility, DG DEVCO

Timespan: July 2014 – July 2016

In July 2016, the two-year EU funded project “Mobilised Civil Society for Local Democracy” was officially closed. Led by the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) and implemented together with the LDA Georgia, this project achieved the creation of a network including more than 1000 community leaders from all over the country. The interactive website, the conferences and regional meetings, the trainings and seminars are the main activities carried out. Besides, within the framework of this project, ALDA organised two



Final conference of the project in Tbilisi, Georgia | July 2016

trainings for LAs on the topic of decentralised cooperation, that represented a very first step towards the promotion of a wider concept of decentralised cooperation within the EaP dimension.

## OTHER PROJECTS

### SPREAD II – Sustainable Partnership for Reinforcement of Active Development

Funded by: EU's Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme

Timespan: July 2014 – June 2017

SPREAD II is the continuation of the previous SPREAD project, run with our long-standing Belarus-based partner: Lev Sapieha Foundation. The main objective of this project is to contribute to an inclusive and empowered civil society in Belarus, by strengthening their capacities to promote local self-governance and increase public accountability while facilitating the cooperation between local authorities and communities, and improving citizens' access to public services and better living conditions. The project reaches these objectives through several calls for applications under its re-granting scheme: in total, ALDA had supported 19 mini projects in the frame of the project SPREAD II. In April 2016, within the two-day event organised in Brussels in the premises of the European Parliament and EED, an important discussion was held on the state of the dialogue between citizens and institutions in Belarus. The discussion saw the participation of interested MEPs, EU Institutions representatives, NGOs, think-tanks, embassies, and the wider public.



Study visit to Lithuania | August 2016

### CHOICE - Cultural Heritage: Opportunity for Improving Civic Engagement

Funded by: Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument)

Timespan: July 2015 – June 2017

The project CHOICE took off in 2015 and aims at enhancing civil society's role and building its capacities to develop a heritage-friendly living environment in Belarus, Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine. ALDA believes that the cultural heritage is an opportunity for improving civic engagement: this motto drives the project CHOICE. For almost two years since the project's start, together with 5 partners in four countries and with financial support of the European Union, ALDA has supported more than 30 mini projects at community level, aimed at preserving cultural heritage with the active engagement of citizens. All projects have cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder character. So far, significant achievements have been collected: the mobilisation of a huge number of people who believe that cultural heritage should be protected; a wide variety of stakeholders benefitted of our mini projects and influenced local communities, giving a new life to traditional ornaments and cuisine; new opportunities were created, and awareness and knowledge of participants were raised. During the next year, ALDA will work on a comprehensive publication which will include the expertise and recommendations on cultural heritage per country and for the whole Eastern Partnership region; public meetings will be organized, and civic engagement will be improved by the end of the project, in June 2017.



Theatre play to collect citizens' memories to recreate Ashmyanian history in Belarus | October 2016

# Focus on: Euro-Mediterranean area

Many important activities have been implemented by ALDA in the Mediterranean area during 2016, with the support of our local partners and ALDA's Working Group on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. The Mediterranean is a sea that links countries together, making the Maghreb a European Neighbouring area sharing the same values of good governance, participation and commitment promoted by ALDA.

The cooperation with the Maghreb has been furthermore strengthened during the year: new members joined the network, and the new Governing Board elected in May 2016 includes a significant presence of members interested in intensifying and orienting the exchange and collaboration within the Mediterranean area.

The highlight of this year was the formalisation of the cooperation with the municipality of Kairouan (located 184 km from Tunis) within the framework of the opening of a Local Democracy Agency in Tunisia. As a matter of fact, on Friday 29th April 2016, Mr Alessandro Perelli, Vice President of ALDA, and Mr Lassad Ghdami, Mayor of Kairouan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the will of the municipality of Kairouan to become host city of the upcoming LDA in Tunisia. The LDA Kairouan will be the first LDA in the Mediterranean. It will be supported by international partners such as the city of Strasbourg (France), Fons Mallorquí (Spain), and Auxilia (Italy).

Besides, and thanks especially to the impetus of Mr Mohamed Salhi, new board member of ALDA, the process called Sunflower/Girasole/Tournesol, for an enhanced co-operation with countries from the Mediterranean area, was extended to Morocco. Indeed, ALDA launched in October, together with ARDES - the Moroccan Regional Association for Economic and Social Development, its first project in Morocco. At the same time, ALDA is currently studying the different options for the implementation of an LDA in Morocco.



The Mayor of Kairouan, the ALDA team and the representatives of CSOs in Kairouan after the signature of the MoU for the opening of the LDA in Kairouan, Tunisia | April 2016

## PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### AVEC - Villages Associations of Savings and Loans for the Economic and social empowerment of vulnerable women

Funded by: **Raja Foundation**

Timespan: October 2016 – October 2017

The main goal of AVEC project, funded by the Raja Foundation and implemented by ALDA and ARDES, is to promote the empowerment of vulnerable women and their socio-economic integration in the Moroccan region of Tiddas, thanks to the institutionalisation of a new form of mutual assistance based on solidarity and tailor-made actions for the poorest households.

In the framework of this project, a group of 100 women are benefiting from trainings on the functioning of a mutual assistance mechanism, aiming at strengthening their abilities to create and manage income generating activities. In addition, 5 Village Associations of Savings and Loans (AVEC, according to its acronym in French) are setting up to support the development of small profitable and enduring businesses, also acting as a springboard for the access to institutional forms of funding.

Since summer 2016, many preparatory meetings with local authorities and citizens involved took place, including two events of awareness raising for men who are supposed to facilitate the process.

Three AVEC groups have been already set up:

- One AVEC group in Tiddas, made up of 22 women
- One AVEC group in Tiflet, made up of 15 women
- One AVEC group in Maaziz, made up of 12 women

The three groups already attended some trainings on savings and credit schemes, with an in-depth analysis on leadership, elections, politics, elaboration of internal rules within an association, accountancy and management.



Mr Mohamed Salhi presenting the project to a group of women during the launching event in Khemisset, Morocco | November 2016

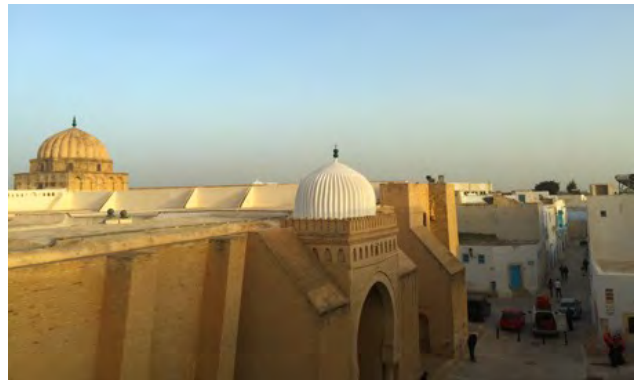
## OTHER PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

### For a sustainable and shared mobility in Kairouan

Funded by: **French-Tunisian Fund of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Timespan: October 2016 – October 2017

This project, co-implemented by the cities of Strasbourg and Kairouan, and launched in October 2016, proposes the setting up and the sharing of technical and methodological tools allowing the development of a global and coherent vision of mobility in the city. In fact, the citizens of Kairouan are key in the successful development and implementation of the project, which counts on the involvement and participation of the city's population. The municipalities of Strasbourg and Kairouan will rely on the competences of ALDA given its experience of several years in the country and more particularly in Kairouan, where the opening of the upcoming Local Democracy Agency is foreseen, and whose activities will be



Panorama on the Great Mosque of Kairouan, Tunisia

linked with the present project: dialogue between citizens, local associations and local authorities, in order to meet the needs of local communities. The project represents another example of the valuable cooperation between ALDA and the City of Strasbourg, which is also a partner of the LDA in Kairouan.

### ALDA & ARLEM joint conference on circular migration

In the framework of the Special Initiative of the LADDER Med Path, ALDA and ARLEM - the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (Committee of the Regions), organised a joint conference on "Local and Regional authorities exchanging experiences on circular migration". Mr Hani Abdelmasih Al Hayek, ARLEM co-chair, and Mr Alessandro Perelli, Vice President of ALDA, opened the conference with inspiring speeches. High-level speakers from various institutions and organisations (among them: the Delegation of the European Union to Tunisia, the International Organization for Migration, the Jordanian Ministry of Municipal Affairs, etc.) exchanged their expertise and highlighted their perspectives about circular migration.



Participants at the event in Tunis, Tunisia | October 2016

### Communication training for Tunisian municipalities

The head of ALDA's communication department participated as a trainer in a project by the American Association Financial Service Volunteer Corps (FSVC), in cooperation with the Federation of Tunisian Municipalities and of the Tunisian Association of Public Auditors.

The project aimed at improving communication skills of civil servants of Tunisian municipalities. Around 50 participants took part in the two-days trainings, held in Tunis and Kairouan. In particular, ALDA brought its experience on the relation between communication and citizens participation, highlighting opportunities for mobilising citizens in cooperation with civil society and media.



Training for Tunisian municipalities staff in Kairouan, Tunisia | February 2016

# – The Network of Local Democracy Agencies: *Our raison d'être*

## Supporting good governance and citizen participation on the field

ALDA coordinates and supports the network of 12 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and 3 Operational Partners (OPs) in their activities. Initiated by the Council of Europe in the '90s, the programme of LDAs represents a unique and successful experiment of democratic support, with full engagement of local governments and civil society organisations from Europe and from the cooperation countries. LDAs are locally based organisations funded and supported by partners (LAs and CSOs), with a long term joint programme to promote local democracy and citizens' participation at the local level.

The first Local Democracy Agencies were located in the Western Balkans, supporting the democratic transition of the countries after the war, but ALDA is more and more active in the European Neighbourhood, and from 2006 it enlarged its network to Southern Caucasus. The network is in constant expansion: on 3 March 2017, the Local Democracy Agency Moldova in Cimişlia was established; and the opening of two new LDAs is foreseen in Tunisia and Ukraine.



A crucial aspect of the LDAs is the process of partnership building, as the work of LDAs is based on the innovative method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. The co-operation and partnership between local and international partners, as well as between local authorities and civil society organizations, gives added value to the process of activities design and implementation. The process itself becomes a capacity-building exercise for all stakeholders involved, and is a practical example of how a democratic participatory planning process can create results.



The LDAs and Operational Partners are supported by more than 100 partners – both local and regional authorities, and civil society organisations – from all over Europe, providing financial and political support to fulfil their mandate and to accompany local democracy, civil society empowerment and participation in the decision-making process at local level.

The LDAs partnerships have been developed through two main lines of action:

- A. Territorial based approach, involving all the actors of the communities concerned on a geographical base
- B. Thematic networking focused on specific, commonly determined issues connecting different local communities

The overall budget of the LDAs keeps increasing year by year since 2009, thus ensuring a sufficient availability of resources for the implementation of the respective action plans. Furthermore, a particularly relevant indicator is the constant increase of funds resulting from the fundraising activity of the LDAs, while partners' fees and ALDA's support to LDAs considerably decreased in percentage.

The benefit-cost ratio of the LDAs is extremely high. The partners' fees are multiplied 20 times by the LDAs' virtuous capacities (human resources, expertise, and volunteering). The global budget of the network of LDAs in 2015 was 952.000 EUR. The investment of the partners' fees (about 50.000 EUR) was therefore multiplied 20 times.

The synergic and systemic approach of each LDA is multiplied by the umbrella organisation, ALDA – the European Association of Local Democracy. ALDA gives the frame for the LDAs existence, support and monitoring. It evaluates the programmes and creates opportunities of cooperation.

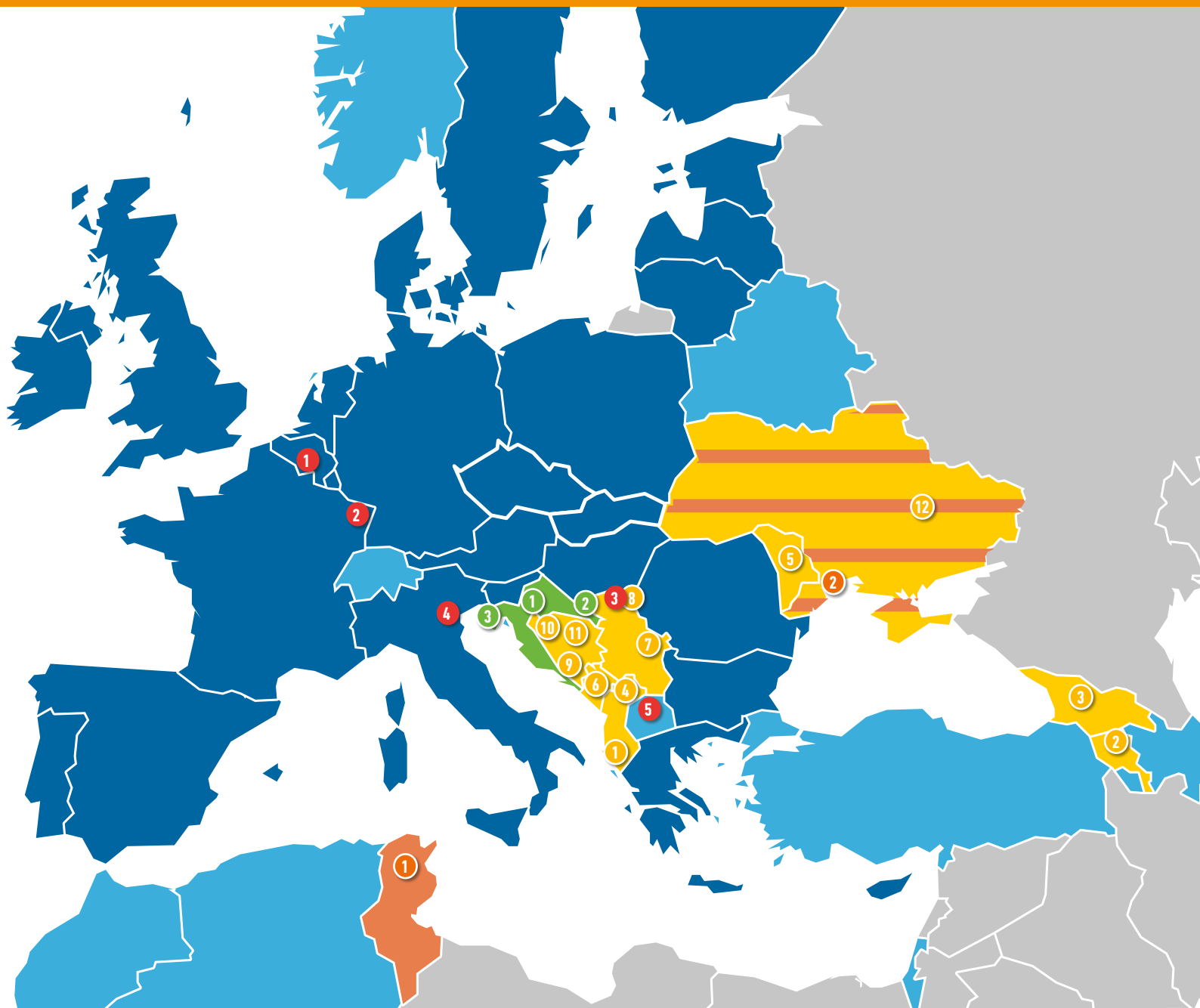






## OBJECTIVES:

- ✦ Promoting good local governance and improving citizen participation
- ✦ Building capacities through the exchange of know-how and training of local elected representatives and civil servants
- ✦ Creating a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to respect for human and minority rights
- ✦ Fostering the development of a really inclusive civil society
- ✦ Fostering intercultural dialogue and diversity management in multicultural local communities
- ✦ Promoting respect for human and minority rights in local communities



COUNTRIES WITH ALDA ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERS / EU MEMBER STATES



- ALDA OFFICES**
1. BRUSSELS
  2. STRASBOURG
  3. SUBOTICA
  4. VICENZA
  5. SKOPJE



- UPCOMING LDAs**
1. LDA TUNISIA
  2. LDA ODESSA



**OPERATIONAL PARTNERS**

1. SISAK
2. OSIJEK
3. VERTENEGLIO/BRTONIGLA



**LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES (LDAs)**

- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. LDA ALBANIA             | 7. LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA |
| 2. LDA ARMENIA             | 8. LDA SUBOTICA                    |
| 3. LDA GEORGIA             | 9. LDA MOSTAR                      |
| 4. LDA KOSOVO              | 10. LDA PRIJEDOR                   |
| 5. LDA MOLDOVA IN CIMIŞLIA | 11. LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI                 |
| 6. LDA MONTENEGRO          | 12. LDA OF DNIPROPETROVSK REGION   |

## LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES



### LDA ALBANIA, Vloora

Tel: 00355 33408708

Email: [ldaalbania@aldaintranet.org](mailto:ldaalbania@aldaintranet.org)

Lead partner: Metropolitan City of Bari, Italy

Delegate: **Ms Iris Bazaj**



The Local Democracy Agency Albania was established in 2008 in Shkodra, and its work ended in 2014. The LDA is now back in action after being relocated and re-established in Vloora, in the south of the country, in 2015. The LDA intends to be a cornerstone to strengthen the local democracy and to accelerate Albania's path towards the European Union.

#### The LDA's thematic priorities are:

- ✓ Strengthening cross-border and regional cooperation
- ✓ Supporting capacity building for local authorities and civil society associations
- ✓ Supporting citizens' participation
- ✓ Supporting European Union integration.

#### In 2016, the LDA implemented several actions:

- ✓ Establishment of Active Youth Network in Vloora, aimed at working on youth policy and dialogue, thus creating a sustainable network of cooperation between public authorities and young people at the local level
- ✓ Environmental community works, involving youth in the framework of the World Environment Day
- ✓ Thematic training on "Basis of Communication and Impact of Social Media", in cooperation with Regional Vloora Youth Centre
- ✓ Monitoring public services under the implementation of the workshop "Action Plan for Urban Development of informal areas"



### LDA ARMENIA, Gyumri

Tel: 00374 94 20 08 78

Email: [ldaarmenia@aldaintranet.org](mailto:ldaarmenia@aldaintranet.org)

Lead partner: Region Rhône-Alpes, France

Delegate: **Ms Lusine Aleksandryan**



The LDA Armenia was established in 2011. Its main priorities are supporting the capacity building of local authorities and civil society in citizens' participation, supporting the participative practices in the promotion of sustainable tourism, strengthening and developing regional cooperation and training activities for local staff.

Furthermore, the cooperation with the French Embassy, the Council of Europe, and the European stakeholders promoted the implementation of many initiatives in the field of local democracy.

#### In 2016 the LDA implemented several projects and activities:

- ✓ "Europe in Jazz" – a project initiated in cooperation with the French Embassy and Local Authorities in the frames of Europe Days in Armenia
- ✓ "Strategy for Proactive Participation and Empowerment of Civil Society" – international conference in Odessa as a part of follow-up activities of the 8th edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum, elaborated and submitted by civic engagement group. LDA Armenia participated in the group and project drafting, funded by the Romanian NGDO Platform-FOND
- ✓ "CSO-Government dialogue: Towards policy reforms on reducing the use of plastic bags" project – initiated with the local partner "Urban Foundation". The project will tackle the issue of uncontrolled and overwhelming usage of plastic (PE) shopping bags and pollution of the environment with plastic trash
- ✓ "Support to kindergartens" – initiated by the Armenian community in Washington for two kindergartens in Gyumri
- ✓ Participation in Black Sea NGO Forum annual workshop in Varna, Bulgaria
- ✓ Promotion of International cooperation – LDA Foundation took part in various international conferences and meetings initiated by ALDA, including partners' meeting of LDA Moldova towards its opening, ALDA Governing Board meetings, ALDA General Assembly, and meeting with stakeholders for LDA opening in Ukraine
- ✓ "Schoolchildren raising awareness in local democracy" – trainings for schools' pupils in two local schools



### LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA, Knjaževac

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Website: [www.lda-knjazevac.org](http://www.lda-knjazevac.org)

Delegate: **Mr Sasa Marinkov**



The LDA Central and Southern Serbia was established in 2001 in the City of Niš, Serbia. With the aim of spreading its program further onto the territories in need, in 2014 the LDA has moved its headquarters to Knjaževac, a city in South-Eastern Serbia. The LDA covers the wider region by working in Niš, Knjaževac, Kraljevo and Kragujevac.

The LDA aims to contribute to development of local democracy in the communities of Eastern, Southern and Central Serbia through capacity building programs based on the principles of active citizenship and establishment of concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation in development of their communities.

### The LDA Central and Southern Serbia (CSS) carried out a number of projects during 2016:

- ☑ "Balkan Regional platform for youth participation and dialogue", funded by the European Union through Civil Society Facility Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations – Support to Regional Thematic Associations
- ☑ "Establishing voluntary youth info service – Info point Knjazevac", funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Republic of Serbia
- ☑ "See you at the Centre!", funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Republic of Serbia
- ☑ "Our citizens for our municipality", funded by the European Union, Government of Switzerland, Government of Republic of Serbia through programme European Progress
- ☑ "NET or NEET – multi-stakeholder networks prevent early school leaving and reduce NEETs by promoting innovative integrated education techniques", funded by the European Union through Erasmus+ Programme
- ☑ "Youth EU info corner", funded by the European Integration Office of the Government of Republic of Serbia
- ☑ "Capacity building programme for young entrepreneurs", funded by Associazione Trentino con i Balcani and Autonomous Province of Trento
- ☑ "Youth with a plan", funded by the European Union through Erasmus+ Programme
- ☑ "WE-NET – Working Towards Environmentally Educated Towns", funded by the European Union through Europe for Citizens Programme
- ☑ "GREENist – The future and challenges of sustainable development of South Eastern Serbia", funded by Regional Environmental Centre Serbia and SIDA - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency



### LDA OF DNIPROPETROVSK REGION, Dnipro

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Website: [www.lda-dp.com](http://www.lda-dp.com)

Lead partner: Lower Silesia Region, Poland



Delegate: Ms Anzhelika Pylypenko

The Local Democracy Agency of Dnipropetrovsk Region was established in 2015. The LDA is intended as a platform of cooperation, dialogue and exchange of experience and best practices across several aspects of regional engagement (cultural, social and economic) between local authorities and civil society in the EU and in Ukraine. The LDA fosters citizens' participation at the local level, while it mobilises civil society organizations and local and regional authorities to develop joint initiatives.

### In 2016 the LDA implemented several projects and activities:

- ☑ Project "Participatory Democracy Development in Territorial Com-

munities", supported by NED; in this framework, trainings and workshops were conducted in two territorial communities of Dnipropetrovsk region – Slobozhanska and Podgorodnyanska

- ☑ Supported relations between ALDA and the City of Dnipro, now an active member of the association (this represents the first membership in an international organization for the City)
- ☑ Developed and submitted 12 project proposals
- ☑ Creation of the LDA dedicated website
- ☑ Increased visibility of the LDA on Facebook

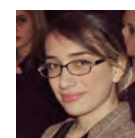


### LDA GEORGIA, Kutaisi

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Lead partner: City of Strasbourg, France



Delegate: Ms Nino Khukhua

The Local Democracy Agency Georgia was set up in 2007 in Kutaisi, as part of ALDA's strategy in the Southern Caucasus. The mission of the LDA Georgia is to strengthen local democracy and civil society, support democratic reforms in Georgia, and develop new and innovative approaches to local and national challenges by cooperating with local and international stakeholders.

### The LDA mandate is focused on:

- ✓ Capacity building programs for local authorities and non-governmental organizations
- ✓ Promoting active citizenship and good governance
- ✓ Promoting human and minority rights
- ✓ Supporting and initiating cross-border and regional cooperation
- ✓ Promoting EU integration and European values in Georgia

### A number of projects and activities were implemented in 2016, including:

- ☑ "Youth for Europe", funded by the Strasbourg, Kutaisi local governments and ALDA

- ☑ "Participate in Management -3m", funded by the USAID-EWMI-ACCESS Program
- ☑ "Know more about Election", funded by the Central Election Commission
- ☑ "Strengthen the Capacity of People with Disabilities in Elections and Politics" funded by the USAID/GYLA
- ☑ "Support the Georgian National Platform for a More Equitable, Open, and Democratic Society", funded by the Liberal Academy
- ☑ "Open and accountable local authorities", funded by the CTC – Empowering people for changes
- ☑ "Mobilized Civil Society for Local Democracy" Coalition project of NALAG, ALDA and LDA Georgia, funded by the European Commission
- ☑ "The way forward for reforms in the housing sector: empowering grass-root homeowners' associations in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine"
- ☑ "IMERY – Joint Initiative of Municipalities of Imereti Regions"
- ☑ Training for Kutaisi City Hall Advisory Board Members



## LDA KOSOVO, Peja

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Lead partner: Association Trentino con i Balcani, Italy

Delegate: **Mr Elbert Krasniqi**



The LDA Kosovo was officially opened in 2011 in Peja/Pec, Kosovo, to promote local democracy in the country. The LDA implements its mission through activities in the fields of democracy, justice, human rights, youth and equal opportunities, dialogue among minority communities in Kosovo, economic development, and social and cultural development.

LDA Kosovo implements capacity building programmes aimed at fostering active citizenship and at establishing concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation, thus empowering citizens to improve their communities, as well as their society.

### Activities and projects implemented by LDA Kosovo in 2016:

- Youth City – My City Activity
- Love! Don't Hate! Workshop in 9 schools of the Municipality of Peja
- Conference entitled: "The right to education and to the educational community"
- Workshop/training for the LDA Kosovo volunteers on Hate Speech
- In the framework of the project "Balkan Regional Platform of Youth Participation and Dialogue":

- a) Youth Taking Over Day in the "Bedri Pejani" gymnasium of Peja, on the topic: "Youth Rights on Healthcare – medical confidentiality and the general opportunities"
- b) Regional research on youth mobility
- c) Presentation of the project in several schools in the municipality of Peja
- Conference "Local and international voluntary work - Experiences and opportunities"
- Summer Camp "Balcanimazioni"
- Visit to the "Centre for an independent life"
- Study visit of ten Italian students in Kosovo and students of Haxhi Zeka University in Peja (including the LDA volunteers)
- Conference "Prevention of Violence and Extremism through Youth Participation", organised in cooperation with Local Youth in Action Council of Peja
- Social Media Administration Training
- Supported the cleaning campaign "To clean up Kosovo"
- Transitional Justice Workshop & the Regional Skype Panel of 8 LDAs in the Region, organised in cooperation with lead partner Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, and with the Humanitarian Law Centre of Kosovo.

LDA MOLDOVA  
IN CIMIŞLIA

## LDA MOLDOVA IN CIMIŞLIA

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Lead partner: Solidarité Eau Europe, France

Delegate: **Mr Nicolae Hristov**



The LDA Moldova in Cimişlia has been established on 3 March 2017, with the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding by the partnership, thus kicking off the operational activities of the LDA.

**During 2016, the activities focused on the development of its partnership and the identification of the main priorities of the LDA, according to the local and regional needs. The LDAs priorities include:**

- Increasing interest and awareness towards citizens' participation in the decision-making process
- Facilitating their effective direct involvement
- Increasing interest and sharing information between Moldova and other European Countries and stakeholders to enable closer cooperation and ongoing exchange of the practices
- Awareness raising on migration.



## LDA MONTENEGRO, Nikšić

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Lead partner: Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy

Delegate: **Mr Kerim Medjedović**



The LDA Montenegro was established in 2001. Its main priorities are local administration capacity development, Human rights and peace building, youth participation, local economic development and European Union integration processes.

### In 2016 the LDA implemented several projects:

- Centre for Social Economy Development – CRSE: Service for social enterprises support
- Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue – IPA OG
- WELCOMES – Welfare innovation at the local level in favour of cohesion
- "3D" – Local democracy Laboratories in Vojvodina and Montenegro

- Making Europe Work – European Academy Otzenhausen
- Youth with a plan – Erasmus + training
- Multi-stakeholders Networks prevent early school leaving and reduce NEETs promoting innovative integrated education techniques – NET-OR-NEET
- Beneficiary of the project "Smart Start" – Sustainable Impact of Civil Society through Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Beneficiary of the project "SOCIETES – Support of CSOs in Empowering Technical skills, inclusion of people with disabilities and EU standards in South East Europe"
- Internship program – professional orientation of university graduates, Montenegrin Government



## LDA MOSTAR, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Lead partner: Apulia Region, Italy

Delegate: Ms Dženana Dedić



The LDA Mostar was established in 2004. Its main priorities are: creating active citizenship by involving citizens in decision-making processes, building the capacities of local authorities for better local self-government, supporting youth activism and the position of women, and strengthening partnership networks to develop strong national and regional cooperation programmes.

### In 2016 the LDA Mostar implemented several projects and activities:

- Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue
- Erasmus +, Youth with the plane
- URGENT Urban RE-Generation: European network of Towns
- Fronterra program promoting social entrepreneurship in divided communities
- My City – Youth city project implemented within the Pro – Future Program of Trust, Understanding, Responsibility for the Future
- EYF European Youth Forum – Presentation of the project “Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue” at the event as a part of ALDA support fund for 2016
- Action: “Budget for citizens” in cooperation with Center for public interest advocacy

- Action: “Civil graduation” in cooperation with Center for public interest advocacy
- Action: “Leaving library” as a part of project “Do not judge a book by its cover” as local supporting partner of the program Dialogue for the future
- Participation in development of the Integral development strategy of the City of Mostar
- Participation in development of the strategy for internal and external communication of the City of Mostar
- Viaggi Solidali - LDA Mostar program for culture, minority and historic tourism
- Center for Architecture Dialogue and Art ADA Mostar:
  - a) “The missing Europe” – summer school for students from KTH University Stockholm and Oxford University London
  - b) “Building blocks” – workshop for children
  - c) “Space and me” – workshop for children
  - d) “The window of my life” – workshop and exhibition for the Mostar summer festival.



## LDA PRIJEDOR, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Lead partner: Association Project Prijedor, Italy

Delegate: Mr Dragan Došen



The LDA Prijedor was established in 2000. Its main priorities are supporting citizens' participation, supporting the democratic process at the local level, fostering the social network between citizens, organizations and institutions, supporting social inclusion and local economic development, and contributing to the work on remembrance.

### In 2016 the LDA implemented several projects and activities:

#### Youth:

- Within the project “Bridges of reciprocity”, realized two workshops, 3 days each, focused on web radio and theatre
- 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the manifestation “International youth fair SONVO 2016”, promoting youth work
- Project “Youth and the memories”, collecting photos and the other documents related to the gold past of Ljubija's mines of iron

#### School exchange:

- Participation of Prijedor's schools and youth organizations on the Youth Trento film festival
- Training on cooperation in schools for elementary and high school teachers from Prijedor
- Study visit in Trentino (Italy) for students from agricultural school on production of small fruits
- Classes exchange Liceo Galilei and Agricultural Institute of San Michele all'Adige with Economic School and the School of Agriculture from Prijedor

#### Culture and remembrance:

- 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the project “Prijedor, city of murals”, international prize “Paola de Manincor”
- Exchange between orchestras of guitars of music schools from Prijedor and Trento

#### Social field:

- Support to the social centre with the public kitchen in Ljubija
- Support to the daily centre for mentally disabled people
- Support to the daily centre for youth at risk managed by Youth Centre Ljubija
- Project “Distance adoption”, support to poor families in Prijedor by Italian families

#### Local development:

- Support to responsible tourism
- Support to youth entrepreneurship

Project “Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue”: in the framework of the project, a number of activities were implemented, from trainings to study visits and exchanges for youth.



### LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Lead partner: Association for Local Democracy Embassy in Zavidovići, Italy

Delegate: **Mr Stađan Ilić**



The Local Democracy Agency in Zavidovići was established in April 1997, following many years of cooperation between Italian associations and local authorities with the host city of Zavidovići. It is located in the Zenica-Doboj Kanton, Bosnia Herzegovina. Its main priorities are citizens' participation, youth policies, social welfare and sustainable economic development.

#### The LDA Zavidovići implemented a number of projects and activities in 2016:

- Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue
- Sigurno mjesto: services and activities for women
- BEST – Building rESilienT communities in BiH

- Strani Vari – Summer centres for children
- Ludobus – Animation for children in rural areas
- Join Our Journey – EVS in Turkey
- Twinning Zavidovići (BiH) – Roncadelle (Italy) – Sport exchanges
- Vivicità – sport events, athletic race and tournaments
- Orti famigliari – Family gardens, agriculture support for women
- #No hate – Coalition "Kultura mira" in Zavidovići
- Support to local community Kovači
- Youth initiative: "I want to learn outside of the school"



### LDA SUBOTICA, Serbia

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Email: [ldasubotica@aldaintranet.org](mailto:ldasubotica@aldaintranet.org)

Lead partner: Wolverhampton City Council, United Kingdom

Delegate: **Ms Silvija Patarčić**



The LDA Subotica was established over 20 years ago, in 1993. Its main priorities are fostering democratic governance and citizen participation at local level, strengthening socio-economic development, promoting youth volunteering and supporting the European Union integration.

#### The LDA Subotica implemented several projects and activities in 2016:

- Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue, funded by the European Union through Civil Society Facility Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations – Support to Regional Thematic Associations

- Youth EU information point – Introducing young people in local communities with IPA cross-border projects, funded by the EU integration Office – Government of Serbia
- Youth Resource centre for Northern and Eastern Vojvodina Region, funded by the Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sport
- Vojvodina Initiative for EU – funded by the Open Society Fund
- Open Government Partnership OGP – participation in the Inter-Ministerial Committee
- Celebrating the Day of Europe in Subotica

## OPERATIONAL PARTNERS



### OP OSIJEK, Croatia

Tel: 00385 31 494 256

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Lead partner: City of Lausanne, Switzerland

Delegate: **Mr Miljenko Turniski**



The Operational Partner Osijek was established as an LDA in 1993 over 20 years ago. Its mission is to encourage citizens to build an open, sustainable and inclusive society through networking, sharing of information and lifelong learning. The OP's vision

is that through active participation in democratic life of the local communities, citizens contribute to the creation of society based on knowledge and values of equal opportunities, democracy, tolerance, social sensitivity, intercultural values, as well as ecological and consumer's awareness.

**In 2016, the OP Osijek submitted 19 project proposals, and managed several projects:**

- ☑ Through the Past We Learn About the Future
- ☑ Being Woman – Becoming Woman – Female Identities in Europe Today
- ☑ Welcome to the Bottom of Pannonian Sea
- ☑ Creative Intercultural Club
- ☑ Youth Information Centre INFO FOR A
- ☑ SPREAD II – Sustainable Partnership for Reinforcement of Active Development

**In cooperation with other associations, the following activities were implemented:**

- ✓ New Markers of Human Rights and Active Citizenship
- ✓ Peacebuilding School Award
- ✓ For Croatia free from Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)
- ✓ Sustainability Index of Civil Society in Croatia



### **OP SISAK, Croatia**

**Tel: 00385 44 521 227**

**Email: [ldasisak@aldaintranet.org](mailto:ldasisak@aldaintranet.org)**

**Lead partner: ALDA**



**Delegate: Ms Paula Raužan**

The Operational Partner Sisak was established as LDA in 1996. Its main priorities are fostering voluntarism and active citizenship, contributing to the local economic development, fostering local democracy and twinning, and raising awareness about Human rights and gender issues.

**In 2016 the OP Sisak held several projects, including:**

- ☑ SPREAD II: Sustainable Partnership for REinforcement of Active Development, supported by European Commission, ENPI Program.
- ☑ Volunteer Centre Sisak, supported by the Town of Sisak and the Sisak-Moslavina County
- ☑ Sisak Volunteer' Network, supported by Croatian Ministry of demography, family, youth and social policy and co-funded by the Town of Sisak
- ☑ CSOs thematic platform "Forum for Equality" composed of 14 members in Croatia, an innovative method of financing thematic activities by the Croatian National Foundation for Civil Society Development
- ☑ Volunteering Saves Lives, supported by the EU, Erasmus + Program
- ☑ Youth Work and Volunteering Against Radicalisation, supported by the EU, Erasmus + Program

- ☑ Milestones of Learning Development: Strategic improvement and development of lifelong learning programs within Danube region, Funded by the EU Strategy for The Danube Region, START – Danube Region Fund
- ☑ For Community without Domestic Violence, voluntary work
- ☑ Active youth for local development, supported by the Croatian Ministry of demography, family, youth and social policy
- ☑ RAISE – Raising the Advantages of Youth through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, supported by the EU, Erasmus + Program
- ☑ A Moment With Me – I am in because I am informed, supported by the Croatian Ministry for demography, family, youth and social policy and Centre for Civic Initiatives
- ☑ Citizens' Initiative in Upper and Lower Posavina, supported by the Croatian Ministry for demography, family, youth and social policy
- ☑ EduGaming, supported by the EU, Erasmus+ Program
- ☑ Institutional support, National Foundation for Civil Society Development of Republic of Croatia



### **OP VERTENEGLIO/BRTONIGLA, Croatia**

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**Website: [www.lda-verteneglio.hr](http://www.lda-verteneglio.hr)**

**Lead partner: Municipality of Bellinzona, Switzerland**



**Delegate: Mr Umberto Ademollo**

The Operational Partner Verteneglio/Brtonigla was established as LDA in 1996. Its main priorities are supporting the development of local democracy, fostering cross-border cooperation, strengthening cooperation with youth organizations and CSOs, and empowering youth and less advantaged groups.

**In 2016, the OP Brtonigla/Verteneglio implemented the following projects:**

- ☑ S.M.I.L.E. – "Social, Multicultural and Inclusive Life in Europe"
- ☑ "ACT.I.ON! – Acquisition of Competences to Improve Opportunities Now!"
- ☑ Info Days: biological production and the HACCP.

# ALDA Worldwide

While our geographic focus is the enlarged Europe, ALDA is today a leading stakeholder in the field of local democracy, therefore more and more often our experts are invited for knowledge transfer and capacity building events all over the world.

ALDA is a member of CIVICUS, the World Alliance for Citizen Participation. Furthermore, the Association is a member of the Community of Practice of the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), advocating for a stronger presence of democracy support on the European Union's agenda and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices. Our Secretary General, Antonella Valmorbida, sits in the Board of Directors. EPD coordinates the implementation of a joint strategy devised together by its members, "A European Response to Electoral Cycles Support", which was presented at the European Development Days 2016 during a high-level panel chaired by HRVP Federica Mogherini.

Mrs Valmorbida also supported the work towards decentralisation of the Union of Municipalities of Togo. She participated as a keynote speaker during two events, on invitation of the European Delegation in Togo, and of the Minister of territorial reform, of decentralisation and of local power.

Staff members of ALDA also represented the Association in worldwide events: Katica Janeva participated in the 16th Francophonie Summit in Madagascar, and Ivana Velkova attended as a youth representative the HWPL 2nd Annual Commemoration of the WARP Summit in Seoul, South Korea. Also, a delegation composed by ALDA Secretary General, Antonella Valmorbida, our European Citizenship programme Coordinator, Aldo Xhani, and Eastern Partnership



Deliberative Democracy Exchange at Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio | July 2016

Coordinator, Nino Tvaltvadze, attended the Deliberative Democracy Exchange at Kettering Foundation, in Dayton, Ohio.



16th Francophonie Summit in Antananarivo, Madagascar | November 2016





The recognition of ALDA's expertise led to such a high number of trainings and technical assistance activities in 2016, that we decided to open ALDA+, a benefit corporation owned by ALDA inaugurated in February 2017, and dedicated to the provision of *ad hoc* consultancy activities.

ALDA+ supports various stakeholders – local and regional authorities, civil society organizations, educational institutions, small and medium enterprises, etc. – by providing a wide range of services, such as training and capacity

building activities, technical assistance, on-line help-desk service, and *ad hoc* consultancy on different topics, including: project development and implementation, project financial management and audit, EU institutions, EU funds and programs (both direct and indirect/structural funds), citizens participation (methods and techniques), non formal youth education, etc. These services are provided with a tailor-made approach, thus targeting the specific needs of the partners involved.

## Trainings delivered

- Training courses on project cycle management and on EU funding programs, with "CIS Foundation", a territorial cultural foundation (Verona, Italy) – 2 courses (for beginners and advanced), **60 participants**
- Training course on project cycle management to "Consorzio Il Solco", a consortium of social cooperatives (Verona, Italy), **20 participants**
- Training course on project cycle management and on EU funding programs, promoted directly by ALDA (Vicenza, Italy), **30 participants**
- Trainings on European citizenship and active citizenship to primary and secondary schools in EU Member States, **about 300 participants**
- Training on EU – funded projects' financial management and reporting, as well as preparation to EC audits (Vicenza, Italy), **20 participants**
- Training about EVS insights and management to Primavera 85 (target: volunteers, tutors and mentors) in Sovizzo (Italy), **30 participants**



# +15

NUMBER OF TRAININGS



# +450

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS



# +10

COUNTRIES INVOLVED



## Assistance on projects and funding opportunities

- Consultancy on project development to the Municipality of Thiene, Italy
- Technical assistance to the Municipality of Thiene in the implementation of the project WE-NET – Working for Environmentally Educated Towns, co-funded by the programme Europe for Citizens, Italy
- Support and assistance on monitoring funding opportunities for Pasubio Tecnologia (a public company working in the ICT field, Thiene, Italy), Eusebio Energia (a company working on sustainable energy, Milan, Italy), Betania ONLUS (an association working on social issues, Verona, Italy)
- Consultancy on project development and implementation to Margherita Social Cooperative, Sandrigo, Italy
- Technical assistance on project development and management in the field of the European Voluntary Service to Primavera 85 Social Cooperative, Sovizzo, Italy



- Technical assistance about the accreditation in the frame of the European Voluntary Service to Consorzio Il Solco, a consortium of social cooperatives, Verona, Italy
- Technical assistance for the management of a decentralised cooperation action between Palma de Mallorca (Spain) and Chios (Greece) in the field of migration
- Technical assistance on project development and management to Villa Valmarana Srl, a company owning an important historical Palladian Villa in Vicenza, Italy
- Technical assistance on project development to Villaggio SOS Bambini Vicenza, Italy
- Technical assistance on project development to several members and partners, both *vis-à-vis* and online, belonging to different categories, such as local and regional authorities, civil society organizations, universities, small and medium enterprises, etc. Among these, we list the main ones activated/implemented during the year: Municipality of Santorso (Vicenza, Italy); Leonardo, a consortium of social cooperatives (Pordenone, Italy); Fondazione AIDA, a cultural foundation (Verona, Italy); The Regional Association for Economic and Social Development - ARDES (Salé, Morocco); Vivirecoaro, a territorial association focused on territorial local development (Vicenza, Italy); Local Democracy Agencies (different countries); Fondazione CIS, cultural foundation (Verona, Italy), Association “A mente libera” (Verona, Italy); Algerian Forum for Citizenship and Modernity - FACM (Alger, Algeria); Association BETANIA onlus (Verona, Italy); Istituto Scientifico Biomedico Euro Mediterraneo - ISBEM (Mesagne, Italy); Milan Metropolitan City (Milan, Italy); SALeF Transformation Makers (Padua, Italy); Cooperative Con te (Quinto Vicentino, Italy); Megahub, a coworking space in Schio (Schio, Italy); Fargfabriken cultural association (Stockholm, Sweden); Lev Sapielha NGO (Minsk, Belarus), *and many more...*

## Collaborations with universities and educational institutions

- Antonella Valmorbida participated as a trainer in the master course on international decentralised cooperation of the University of Catania, CEDOC Centre (Catania, Italy)
- Marco Boaria and Anna Ditta delivered a training on EU institutions and policies and EU funding programmes at University Ca' Foscari, addressing the students of the master in EU project management (Venice, Italy)
- Antonella Valmorbida, Anna Ditta and Marco Boaria delivered a training on EU funding programmes and EU project cycle management at Fondazione CUOA,

International Business School (Vicenza, Italy)

- Marco Boaria and Anna Ditta delivered a training on European citizenship in secondary schools, respectively in Istituto Comprensivo Vicenza 7 (Vicenza, Italy) and Istituto d'istruzione Superiore Umberto Masotto (Noventa Vicentina, Italy)
- Irene Zanetti and Elena Debonis moderated a participative dialogue session on knowledge of EU citizenship, topics and rights at Istituto Tecnico Commerciale “A. Fusinieri” (Vicenza, Italy)

## Training opportunities

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ALDA, through its company ALDA+ Benefit Corporation, offers a variety of training opportunities. Thanks to our multi-lingual staff (English, French, Italian, Macedonian, Serbian, Russian, Spanish, Greek, Albanian, Georgian, Belarusian), *ad hoc* trainings can be organized. In particular, ALDA+ offers:

### Informative course on EU funding programmes 2014 – 2020

► Objective: to give basic and essential tools about the EU and its universe of funding programmes.

⊕ Programme: introduction to EU institutions and policies; overview of the direct and indirect funding programmes 2014–2020, with focus on the main ones in cultural, social, economic, international relations domains.

👥 Target group: participants willing to know more about the funding opportunities available.

🕒 Duration: available in standard format (21 hours in 7 lessons) or weekend formula (16 hours).

### Practical workshop on EU project development & management

► Objective: to train how to develop a good project proposal and optimally manage an EU funded project, in response to specific EU calls for proposals.

⊕ Programme: theoretical and practical lessons about all the phases of the project cycle: identification of the idea, validation, development of the application form, submission, management of activities and budget, monitoring & evaluation, reporting.

👥 Target group: participants willing to learn how to develop a project and to manage a EU funded project.

🕒 Duration: available in standard format (40 hours in 10 lessons) or intensive formula (5 full days).



### Tailor made course for ALDA members and partners

► Objective: provide tailor-made trainings to members and partners, on topics related to the EU programmes and EU project cycle, decentralized cooperation, citizens' mobilization, youth trainings, etc., according to the needs of the members and partners.

⊕ Programme: to be agreed with the client

### Training course in financial matters and preparation to audit

► Objective: to improve participants' competencies and skills to: elaborate and manage projects' budgets, provide qualitative drafting of the final reports of the activities, successfully overcome an audit of the European Commission

⊕ Programme: EC financial regulations, budgeting, financial management (reallocation, spending), financial reporting, audit.

👥 Target group: participants interested in improving their competences regarding EC financial management and audit.

🕒 Duration: available in standard format (21 hours in 7 lessons) or intensive formula (3 full days).

### Thematic seminars

► Objective: to help identifying the good EU funding programmes for specific needs, learn about specific EU programmes and know where to get the necessary information to prepare a project proposal.

⊕ Programme: thematic seminars are available for the following EU programmes: Erasmus +, Europe for Citizens, Creative Europe, EASI, HORIZON2020, COSME and other programmes for SMEs, Cooperation with third countries (IPA; ENI), Territorial cooperation programmes, European Funds for Regional Development (EFRD), etc.

👥 Target group: participants interested in finding the right funding tool for supporting their ideas and/or interested to know more about specific EU funding programmes.

🕒 Duration: 2 hours per each Thematic Seminar.

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For any questions on our training opportunities, to require a tailor-made training programme or a consultancy, please contact Marco Boaria, leading ALDA+ Benefit corporation activities: [marco.boaria@aldaplus.it](mailto:marco.boaria@aldaplus.it)

# Join our network!

## The network of ALDA: Fostering cooperation between local authorities and civil society organisations

ALDA remains one of the few examples of mixed membership organisations at the European level. The association believes that the cooperation between local authorities and civil society organisations is key to achieve its objectives and to implement its mission. That's why ALDA's members are both local authorities (LAs) and civil society organisations (CSOs), from all over Europe and the European Neighbourhood.

In particular, thanks to ALDA's commitment in decentralised cooperation and in the implementation of several projects in the framework of European programmes, ALDA enhances joint work and synergies between LAs and CSOs, in order to promote and improve the exchange of best practices in the field of local governance and citizens' active participation.

The network of ALDA grows year by year, thus reflecting the added value of the membership (the online and offline activities of the working groups open to all members are one of the most visible outputs), as well as the fruitful cooperation among members representing local and regional authorities, and civil society in the EU and its Neighbourhood. Up to today, ALDA counts more than 250 members.



A member glancing through ALDA's publication at ALDA General Assembly in Paris, France | May 2016

## Services for the members of ALDA

As a member you will access the following services:

*Projects development and funding opportunities research – 17 years' experience in developing and implementing projects*

- Priority on opportunities offered to be partner of projects, or to join consortia built to apply for tenders in various fields
- Support of ALDA multilingual staff in the project proposal development phase (EN, FR, IT, SR, MK, RU, ES)
- Identification of relevant international partners for specific areas, both geographical and thematic
- Support to the partnership building process and dissemination of members' calls for partners
- Identification of potential donors



*Being part of a consolidated European network – Strategic partner of the Council of Europe and of the European Commission*

Support in the relations with:

- EU, CoE, UN, Agencies, and other public and private International institutions
- Local and regional authorities, as well as National Governments in the enlarged Europe, European Officials, MEPs and other relevant international and European authorities
- Visibility through a European network counting over 250 members (local authorities, CSOs, associations of local authorities)
- Promotion of members' activities, initiatives and events at the European level through ALDA's communication channels (newsletter sent to over 10.000 contacts, website with over 200.000 visitors and 1.300.000 visits per year, social networks, media activities)
- Online presence for our Members on ALDA website, and presentation to the network of contacts via the newsletter
- Access to EU experts, professional networks, academic organizations

*Information and structures – Wide dissemination of our activities and our members' ones*

- Timely updates via ALDA communication channels, particularly the monthly newsletter (in EN, FR, RU, SR, IT and ARA), ALDA's and EU publications, information materials
- Access to the information points on EU and active citizenship (info-points based in Brussels and Vicenza)
- Free use of ALDA equipped offices and meeting rooms in Brussels (Belgium), Vicenza (Italy), and upon approval of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg (France)



*Capacity building – Further your skills and horizons through a variety of opportunities*

- Information on funding programmes and opportunities
- Participation in international events (conferences, seminars, etc.) promoted by ALDA
- Priority in partnership for specialized trainings (e.g. Master classes on EU programmes, trainings, etc.)
- Participation in ALDA working groups (on Citizens Participation and Local Governance, Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Mediterranean Area)
- Priority in offers of internship and job-shadowing
- Priority in participation into international events within the programme 'Volunteers for Democracy', allowing members to select volunteers to participate into international events



# ALDA members

## MUNICIPALITIES

Voskehask Community – Armenia  
City of Ieper – Belgium  
Mostar Municipality – Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Našice Municipality – Croatia  
Osijek Municipality – Croatia  
Sisak Municipality – Croatia  
Verteneglio-Brtonigla Municipality – Croatia  
Vodnjan Municipality – Croatia  
Vejele Municipality – Denmark  
Strasbourg Municipality – France  
Kutaisi Municipality – Georgia  
Chios Municipality – Greece  
Patras Municipality – Greece  
Samos Island Municipality – Greece  
Bari Municipality – Italy  
Bassano del Grappa Municipality – Italy  
Cervino Municipality – Italy  
Cremona Municipality – Italy  
Erchie Municipality – Italy  
Formigine Municipality – Italy  
Gazzo Municipality – Italy  
Lavis Municipality – Italy  
Lecce Municipality – Italy  
Lendinara Municipality – Italy  
Mesagne Municipality – Italy  
Monfalcone Municipality – Italy  
Montecchio Maggiore Municipality – Italy  
Reggio Emilia Municipality – Italy  
Santorso Municipality – Italy  
Thiene Municipality – Italy  
Ferizaj Municipality – Kosovo  
Gjilan Municipality – Kosovo  
Mitrovica South Municipality – Kosovo  
Peja Municipality – Kosovo  
Ranillug Municipality – Kosovo  
Viti Municipality – Kosovo  
Centar Municipality – Macedonia  
Dojran Municipality – Macedonia  
Novaci Municipality – Macedonia  
Tetovo Municipality – Macedonia  
Birgu Local Council – Malta  
Bijelo Polje Municipality – Montenegro  
Herceg Novi Municipality – Montenegro  
Nikšić Municipality – Montenegro  
Rožaje Municipality – Montenegro  
Bydgoszcz Municipality – Poland  
Gdansk Municipality – Poland  
Valongo Municipality – Portugal  
Arad Municipality – Romania  
Mioveni Municipality – Romania  
Ploiesti Municipality – Romania  
Knjaževac Municipality – Serbia  
Kragujevac Municipality – Serbia

Subotica Municipality – Serbia  
Grosuplje Municipality – Slovenia  
Ivančna Gorica Municipality – Slovenia  
Kočevje Municipality – Slovenia  
Novo Mesto Municipality – Slovenia  
Villanueva de la Cañada Municipality – Spain  
Bellinzona Municipality – Switzerland  
Delémont Municipality – Switzerland  
Lausanne Municipality – Switzerland  
Karsiyaka Municipality – Turkey  
Dnipropetrovsk City Council – Ukraine  
Wolverhampton Municipality – United Kingdom

## PROVINCES OR COUNTIES

Trento Autonomous Province – Italy  
Prahova County Council – Romania

## REGIONS

Istria Region – Croatia  
Normandy Region – France  
Apulia Region – IPRES – Italy  
Autonomous Region of Sardinia – Italy  
Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region – Italy  
Kuyavian-Pomeranian Region – Poland  
Lower Silesian Region – Poland  
Autonomous Community of Extremadura – Spain

## ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

AAM – Albanian Association of Municipalities – Albania  
Albanian Association of Regional Councils – Albania  
NAMRB – National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria – Bulgaria  
Regional Association of Municipalities “Central Stara Planina” – Bulgaria  
UBBSLA – Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities – Bulgaria  
Croatian County Association – Croatia  
AER – Assembly of European Regions – France  
AFFCRE – Association Française du Conseil des Communes et Régions d’Europe – France  
Energy Cities, the European association of local authorities in energy transition – France  
ENTO – European Network of Training Organisations for Local and Regional Authorities – France  
Pays Vichy-Auvergne – France  
NALAG – National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia – Georgia  
CONSVIPO – Consorzio per lo Sviluppo del Polesine – Italy

COPPEM – Permanent Committee for Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities – Italy  
 TECLA – Association of Italian Provinces – Italy  
 Union of Municipalities Montiferru Sinis – Italy  
 AMK – Association of Municipalities of Kosovo – Kosovo  
 LALRG – Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments – Latvia  
 NALAS – Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South-East Europe – Macedonia  
 ZELS – Association of the units of local self-government of the Republic of Macedonia – Macedonia  
 Local Government Association – Malta  
 CALM – Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova – Moldova  
 Union of Rural Communes of Poland (ZGW RP) – Poland  
 AMR – Association of Romanian Municipalities – Romania  
 Iezer Muscel Mountain Community Association – Romania  
 Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities – Serbia  
 UTCS – The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia UTCS – Slovakia  
 Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació – Spain  
 Fons Menorquí de Cooperació – Spain  
 Fons Pitius de Cooperació – Spain  
 Causes Communes Ticino – Switzerland  
 SODEM – Association of Social Democratic Municipalities – Turkey

## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

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Association of Local Autonomy of Albania – Albania  
 CRCDD – Center for Research Cooperation and Development – Albania  
 Institute for Public Policies and Good Governance (IPPM) – Albania  
 Urban Research Institute – Albania  
 Foster Europe, Foundation for strong European Regions – Austria  
 “Intelligent Citizen” Enlightenment Center (ICEC) – Azerbaijan  
 Center “Women and Modern World” – Azerbaijan  
 NGO BINA (Alliance for Municipality Development) – Azerbaijan  
 Lev Sapieha Foundation – Belarus  
 ECIT – The Foundation on European Citizens’ Rights, Involvement and Trust – Belgium  
 European Projects Association ASBL – Belgium  
 Inter-Environnement Wallonie ASBL – Belgium  
 Presidents Club Bulgaria – Bulgaria  
 The Management Centre – Cyprus  
 ADK – Czech Debate Association – Czech Republic  
 AGORA CE – Czech Republic  
 Center for Civil Initiatives Support in Estonia (MKT) – Estonia  
 Mittetulundusühing Kodanikualgatuse Toetuskeskus – Estonia  
 Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation – Estonia  
 Valgevene Uus Tee, MTU – Estonia

ALFA Formation – France  
 CIDEFE – France  
 2IDHP – Institut International des droits de l’homme et de la paix – France  
 LIKE – European Cities and Regions for Culture – France  
 Maison de l’Europe – France  
 CIVILSCAPE – Germany  
 Europäische Akademie Otzenhausen gGmbH – Germany  
 SJR Betriebs GmbH – Germany  
 SYMBIOSIS – Greece  
 EGTC Amphictyony – Greece  
 Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation (HEPF) – Hungary  
 The Multi-Disciplinary Center (MDCM) – Israel  
 Altiero Spinelli Institute – Italy  
 Amici di Sardegna Onlus – Italy  
 ANPAS – Associazione Nazionale Pubbliche Assistenze – Italy  
 ARCI Servizio Civile Vicenza – Italy  
 Arcigay – Italy  
 Associazione AMEntelibera – Italy  
 Associazione Culturale Socrate – Scuola Europea – Italy  
 Associazione Italia-Serbia – Italy  
 Associazione Le Fate ONLUS – Italy  
 Associazione per l’Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale a Zavidovici – Italy  
 Associazione Progetto Prijedor – Italy  
 Auxilia ONLUS – Italy  
 CISP – Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli – Italy  
 Consorzio Operativo Salute Mentale Società Coop. Sociale C.O.S.M. – Italy  
 Consorzio Sol.Co Verona s.c.s.c – Italy  
 Coppula Tisa ONLUS – Italy  
 European Academy of Bozen-Bolzano (Eurac Research) – Italy  
 Fondazione AIDA – Italy  
 Fondazione CUOA – Italy  
 Fondazione Opera Campana dei Caduti – Italy  
 Federazione Trentina della Cooperazione – Italy  
 Futuro Anteriore – Italy  
 HUMANITAS – Italy  
 IL MOSAICO Association – Italy  
 IRS – Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale – Italy  
 ISBEM – Italy  
 Istituto Euromediterraneo – Italy  
 Jonathan Social Cooperative – Italy  
 Kallipolis – Italy  
 La Piccionaia scs – Italy  
 LC Associazione Learning Cities – Italy  
 Le Guide – Associazione Sportiva Dilettantistica – Italy  
 Leonardo Consorzio di Cooperative Sociali – Italy  
 Margherita cooperative – Italy  
 National Agency for Microcredit – Italy  
 Progettarte – Italy  
 Putignanonelmondo – Italy  
 Samarcanda Social Cooperative ONLUS – Italy  
 Shoqata Kulturora Bashkimi Kombetar – Italy

SPES – Associazione Promozione e Solidarietà Centro di Servizio per il Volontariato del Lazio – Italy  
 Studio Progetto Società Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS – Italy Trentino con i Balcani – Italy  
 Unione degli Assessorati alle politiche Socio-Sanitarie e del Lavoro – Italy  
 UNISCO – Network per lo sviluppo locale – Italy  
 Volunteer Centre of Vicenza province – Italy  
 EuroBelarus – Lithuania  
 Community Development Institute – Macedonia  
 CSCD – Center Sustainable Community Development – Macedonia  
 Foundation for local development and democracy (FOKUS) – Macedonia  
 SEGA – Macedonia  
 Solidaritate Europeană pentru Apă în Moldova (SEAM) – Moldova  
 Italian community of Montenegro – Montenegro  
 ARDES – The Regional Association for Economic and Social Development – Morocco  
 EMESSE – Espace Marocain de l'Économie Sociale, Solidaire et Environnementale – Morocco  
 REMESS – Réseau Marocain d'Économie Sociale et Solidaire – Morocco  
 Stichting Fairtrade Gemeente Nederland – Netherlands  
 Stichting Vrienden van Felix Meritis – Netherlands  
 ECWM – European Centre of Youth Cooperation – Poland  
 International School of Bydgoszcz – Poland  
 Clube Intercultural Europeu – Portugal  
 The National Federation of Young Farmers of Portugal – CNJ – Portugal  
 Association for Sustainable Rural Development and Preservation of Traditions – Romania  
 Rural Women National Association (Asociația Națională a Femeilor din Mediul Rural) – Romania  
 Danube 1245 – Serbia  
 Regional Development Agency Eastern Serbia – RARIS – Serbia  
 CEE Citizens Network (CEEEN) – Slovakia  
 Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto – Slovenia  
 Association of non-governmental organisations Youth Center Postojna – Slovenia  
 Development Centre Novo Mesto, Consultation and Development Ltd. – Slovenia  
 ZRC SAZU – Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts – Slovenia  
 Associació Districte 11 – City to City – Spain  
 Fundación Indera – Spain  
 Ser Joven Association – Spain  
 Baltic Fem – Sweden  
 Association for Local Participation – Turkey  
 Association for Community Self-Organization Assistance – Ukraine  
 Centre for Cultural Management – Ukraine

Assist Social Capital Community Interest Company (ASC) – United Kingdom

## UNIVERSITIES

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Tbilisi teaching University – Georgia  
 Center of Documentation and Studies on complex organizations and local systems (CEDOC) – Italy  
 Cultural Institute of social sciences “Nicolò Rezzara” – Italy  
 Iuav University of Venice – Italy  
 Faculté des Sciences de l'Éducation – Université Mohammed V de Rabat – Morocco

## SINGLE MEMBERS

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Van Damme Lukas – Belgium  
 Flemming Meyer – Denmark  
 Affholder Sylvie – France  
 Bohner Ulrich – France  
 Vulcano Luigi – France  
 Schley Michael Sebastian – Germany  
 Bottacin Diego – Italy  
 Gorska Imislawa – Poland  
 Milovanović Dobrica – Serbia  
 Fischer Dorothee – Spain  
 Tschudi Hans Martin – Switzerland  
 Boorer Malcolm – United Kingdom  
 Lawrence Roger – United Kingdom  
 Mayer David – United Kingdom

## LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

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LDA Albania – Albania  
 LDA Armenia – Armenia  
 LDA Mostar – Bosnia and Herzegovina  
 LDA Prijedor – Bosnia and Herzegovina  
 LDA Zavidovici – Bosnia and Herzegovina  
 LDA Georgia – Georgia  
 LDA Kosovo – Kosovo  
 LDA Moldova in Cimișlia – Moldova  
 LDA Montenegro – Montenegro  
 LDA Centre South Serbia – Serbia  
 LDA Subotica – Serbia  
 LDA of Dnipropetrovsk Region – Ukraine

## OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

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LDA Osijek – Croatia  
 LDA Sisak – Croatia  
 LDA Brtonigla-Verteneglio – Croatia

The list of ALDA members is updated to March 2017



# OUR WORLD

www.alda-europe.eu



**ALDA**

European Association  
for Local Democracy

## PEOPLE

INDIRECTLY  
IMPACTED  
IN THE  
ENLARGED  
EUROPE

25  
million



17

YEARS  
OF ACTIVITY



250



PROJECTS  
RUN

COUNTRIES  
WHERE WE  
ARE PRESENT

40



LOCAL  
DEMOCRACY  
AGENCIES

12



250



MEMBERS

3



OPERATIONAL  
PARTNERS

5



OFFICES

## PROGETTARTE



"Progettarte has been part of ALDA's network for 15 years, feeling part of a big family.

During these years of cooperation, we became more aware about the importance of being involved, working side by side with qualified people who always supported us. But most important, we had the possibility to work within an international network, feeling European citizens and contributing in shaping the growth of individuals and society"

**Francesco Zarzana**  
President of Progettarte, Cultural Association,  
ITALY

## NALAG



"Being an Association of Local Authorities in a developing country means to strive not only for local autonomy, but also for active citizenship as only empowered natives make democracy work for development and prosperity. We found ALDA extremely instrumental for community mobilization and capacity building at grassroots, and therefore we keep ourselves committed to its membership – this is an important aspect of our organizational strategy"

**David Melua**  
Executive Director of NALAG,  
Association of Local Authorities, GEORGIA

## VEJLE MUNICIPALITY



"Globalization poses new opportunities and challenges for public authorities, and Vejle believes it is important to work with international institutions and organisations to share its experiences, and learn from colleagues abroad. International cooperation enhances employee skills, provides them with new knowledge and experiences, which in turn will strengthen the municipality's professional development at the political and administrative levels. It also strengthens intercultural understanding in the municipality, both among citizens and employees. As such, the Municipality of Vejle is honoured and happy to be a partner of ALDA, which over the years, has provided us access to its large network of local democracy institutions and cooperated in many of its projects."

**Arne Sigtenbjerggaard**  
Mayor of Vejle Municipality, DENMARK

# Get involved!

## Become a friend of ALDA

ALDA opens its doors to all those who want to support our work, regardless of their profession or status: with a small donation starting from 20 €/year, everyone can become a Friend of ALDA, and be always up-to-date on our sectors of action, receive our monthly and thematic newsletter, know about meetings and initiatives, and receive the E-card 'FRIENDS of ALDA' as symbol of the relationship and the collaboration with our Association, as well as of mutual trust, allowing you to benefit from a discount on training opportunities and other activities on payment organised by ALDA.

For further information please contact  
[irene.zanetti@aldaintranet.org](mailto:irene.zanetti@aldaintranet.org)



## Volunteers 4 Democracy

With the relaunch of its programme 'Volunteers 4 Democracy', ALDA opens its doors to all EU and ENP citizens who believe in the association's mission and want to contribute to its activities. All those who want to promote local democracy, citizens' participation, and human rights, can support the work of ALDA with their skills through an *ad-hoc* volunteering agreement.

Volunteering with ALDA means contributing to local democracy in Europe and its Neighbourhood, as well as developing new skills, practicing languages, and being part of the editorial team of ALDA citizen journalists. Long-term, particularly motivated volunteers will have the opportunity to attend international events for the association.

To join the programme, send an email to [volunteering@aldaintranet.org](mailto:volunteering@aldaintranet.org), attaching your CV, motivation letter for participating, and how you would like to contribute to ALDA's activities.



## Traineeships opportunities

ALDA has several agreements with Universities and institutions to host trainees in all its offices. Our idea of traineeship is offering young people the opportunity to grow professionally in the field they would like to build a career in.

We all remember how tough it was to access the working environment, and we have a vivid memory of our first experiences and mentors. That's why we offer traineeships within our organisation, and make sure they represent a cornerstone in trainees' development. We are not looking for people to make coffee – we do manage this crucial task pretty well. We need people with fresh ideas and creativity, enthusiasm, and willingness to be part of the team of ALDA.

Tutors and staff make sure that the traineeship develops personal and professional skills of the youngsters, and a variety of support initiatives are in place to support our former interns: tools to get in touch with potential employers, incubator opportunities, ALDA's ambassadors and antennas for democracy initiatives.

If you are interested in establishing an agreement with a University, School, or other institution, please contact [internships-alda@aldaintranet.org](mailto:internships-alda@aldaintranet.org)







# ALDA

European Association  
for Local Democracy

*Stay connected!*

f ALDA.Europe

t ALDAeurope

y ALdaEu

in ALDA European Association  
for Local Democracy



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#### Office in Brussels

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[aldasubotica@aldaintranet.org](mailto:aldasubotica@aldaintranet.org)

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