

Activity Report

# **Association of the Local Democracy Agencies**

2006

**Association of Local Democracy Agencies**

c/o Council of Europe, Office 1027  
Avenue de l'Europe  
67075 Strasbourg  
France

Tel.: 0033 3 90 21 45 93

Fax: 0033 3 88 41 27 51

[antonella.valmorbida@aldaintranet.org](mailto:antonella.valmorbida@aldaintranet.org)

## Index

**4 Foreword** Gianfranco Martini

**6 Foreword** Per Vinther

### **7 Introduction on ALDA**

7 > Introduction to the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies

9 > Administrative and management tasks of ALDA

10 > Resources

11 > ALDA Governing Board and Bureau

### **15 Projects in the field**

15 > Actions on Capacity-Building of Local Authorities and Civil Society in Southern and Eastern Europe

15 > Promoting Local Economic Development in the Western Balkans: Youth Groups Capacity Building

16 > Microcredit scheme for the Balkans

17 > Local Economic Development in the Balkans (part II)

17 > MAHLDE.NET Programme

18 > CARDS Project "Together: The Balkans in Europe, Europe in the Balkans"

18 > Youth: the right direction!

19 > IB Programme "The Italian Cities for the Cities of the Balkans"

19 > Development and strengthening of the capacities of local authorities in South Eastern Europe

20 > Opening of a new LDA in Georgia

21 > Preparation of a cooperation project between "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and the Region Lower Normandy

21 > Promoting partnerships for the LDAs

### **22 Projects on active European citizenship**

22 > Cities for Peace and Democracy in Europe

28 > The impact of the European Union in the local government policies dealing with civil society participation

29 > EURaction – Citizens acting for Europe

### **30 Other activities**

30 > Pilot activities in Belarus

30 > Support to the implementation of the law on general principles of organisation of local self-government in Russian Federation

31 > Euromed

### **32 Public Relations**

- 32 > Information Day on Georgia
- 32 > "Focus on Eastern Europe"
- 33 > Participation in Fairs
- 33 > New membership

### **33 Awards**

- 33 > Coppet Prize 2006

### **34 Membership form**

### **35 List of ALDA members**

## **Second part on the LDAs**

### **38 The main thematic priorities of the Local Democracy Agencies**

#### **39 The work of each LDA**

- 41 > LDA Osijek, Croatia
- 44 > LDA Sisak, Croatia
- 49 > LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla, Croatia
- 53 > LDA Subotica, Serbia and Montenegro
- 57 > LDA Central and Southern Serbia, Serbia and Montenegro
- 63 > LDA Kosovo/UNMIK
- 67 > LDA Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro
- 73 > LDA Ohrid, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
- 77 > LDA Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 85 > LDA Zavidovici, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 90 > LDA Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 95 > LDA Georgia

96 Impressum

## **Foreword Gianfranco Martini, President ALDA**

I am very pleased to present you as President of ALDA its Activity Report 2006 and I would like to thank wholeheartedly all those working in Strasbourg, Vicenza and in the different Local Democracy Agencies in South East Europe and the Southern Caucasus who have contributed to it. The work has been arduous due to the progressive enlargement of activities of our Association and its new geographic framework, not to forget the growing complexity of the geo-political contexts in which the Local Democracy Agencies are operating.

I will restrict myself to mention in this annual report only the new aspects of our work and to highlight the most remarkable activities and tendencies of the year 2006. It goes without saying that in addition to the initiatives pointed out in this presentation, the reader can equally get familiar with the quantity and quality of many other activities depicted in this report.

In 2006, a new Local Democracy Agency was opened in Georgia, in the Southern Caucasus, a region troubled by political and social difficulties. ALDA will undoubtedly use its extensive experiences from other contexts, in particular those gained in the Western Balkans, where the challenges to foster democracy, human and minority rights as well as peace are certainly not missing.

The endeavours to open a new LDA in Albania were also continued throughout 2006.

As regards our geo-political position in general, one should refer with preoccupation to the current crisis of the European Union after the "no" - votes in France and the Netherlands concerning the ratification of the Constitutional Treaty. It risks having a negative impact on the future of the Western Balkans, too. To what extent? These countries are indulging in hope to accelerate their complete accession to the European Union, but certainly additional difficulties are created by this long "phase of reflection" which the European Union is currently undergoing and by which it is paralysed. The "status quo" of the Western Balkans remains in fact a dangerous source of risks, notably in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In any case, ALDA continues its work in the area of "capacity building", convinced that its activities contribute at the same time to the European integration of the region. One should underline that the Association and the Local Democracy Agencies of Central and Southern Serbia and Kosovo were for the first time in 2006 involved in a Cards project aiming at the improvement of journalism in South East Europe.

Another important domain of ALDA in 2006 was the exchange and debates with its members and partners in the area of active European citizenship, supported by three EU programmes: "Cities for Peace and Democracy in Europe", "The impact of the European Union in the local government policies dealing with civil society participation" and "EURaction - Citizens Acting for Europe".

Through all these activities, ALDA wishes to gradually become a strategic partner on active European citizenship of the European Commission in 2007. We have foreseen to open a new office in Brussels in April 2007 to be more present among the EU institutions, while at the same time maintaining the traditional links of

ALDA with the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

As a result of all these many-fold initiatives, ALDA's network of members has constantly grown and comprises at present 145 local and regional authorities, NGOs and individuals from across Europe.

Several projects which were approved in 2006 are currently being implemented, among them a project on micro-credits in South East Europe (financed by Norway), another one on local economic development (financed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and a major project on youth exchanges (supported by the European Commission).

The annual budget of ALDA raised in 2006 from 1,200,000 Euro in 2005 to 1,412,647 Euro.

Thus, there are many reasons to be satisfied with the work achieved, even if a long way is awaiting the Local Democracy Agencies and their Association.

Gianfranco Martini  
President



## **Foreword Per Vinther, Executive President ALDA**

MULTILATERALISM – yes, that’s a big word, and it describes a key element of the activities of our association; it is an element that makes our association stronger and makes us different from most other civil society organisations.

Reading through the pages of this annual report you will – I hope - note the active involvement of the many different ALDA members, partners of individual Local Democracy Agencies, or just plain partners in one of the many projects, in which ALDA is engaged.

It is this multilateralism, which has made us successful in applying for EU funding for projects on active European citizenship.

It is this multilateralism, which has made it possible for ALDA to contribute positively to democratisation projects in Belarus and the Russian Federation.

And it is this multilateralism, which has made it possible for ALDA to make the “quantum leap” of preparing to copy in the South Caucasus, what the LDAs have achieved with success over the last 14 years in South East Europe.

Maintaining this multilateralism of our association is a daily concern of the Bureau and ALDA staff because it is such an important element of our work.

Circumstances are constantly changing, our members’ and partners’ priorities and funding are shifting to other international issues, and key individuals are moving or being moved on to other tasks. We therefore make the extra effort to meet with potential new members and partners whenever and wherever possible. So if you wonder about the level of ALDA participation in conferences and fairs across Europe then one of the benefits of this is that we are able to make ALDA better known and attract new members and partners.

Another way could be to try to involve your twin, brother, sister, or friendship towns or cities in ALDA or ALDA projects, because it is up to all of us to help maintain the multi- as part of our -lateralism.

Per Vinther  
Executive President

## INTRODUCTION TO THE ASSOCIATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

During the past 14 years, the Local Democracy Agencies (LDA) and their Association (ALDA) have grown to be one of the most important networks in Europe to foster democracy, human rights and sustainable development at the local level. ALDA's work can be divided into two pillars:

- 1) field work in South East Europe and the Southern Caucasus through the 12 Local Democracy Agencies
- 2) best practice exchanges and awareness raising throughout Europe with its partners and members

### The Local Democracy Agencies

The first LDA was founded at the initiative of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Subotica, Serbia, in 1993. At the beginning, the work focused more on crisis management and humanitarian aid, but has gradually shifted to democratic reform and capacity building to guarantee a smooth and stable transition to democracy and to assist the two regions in applying European standards in all areas of life.

Current projects range from trans-border co-operation seminars, capacity-building for local authorities and civil society, youth and women empowerment activities, to micro-credit schemes and trainings courses on European issues or local economic development.

In September 2006, the Local Democracy Agency in Kutaisi, Georgia, was opened which is the first one in the South Caucasus so far.

Map of 12 LDAs



ALDA mainly uses the methodology of multilateral decentralised co-operation, namely partnerships with local and regional authorities as well as NGOs from all over Europe. The Agencies function in a similar way to the town twinning system, bringing together national and international with local partners in all their projects. They exchange best practices and experts, so that both sides can profit from the partnership.

### **Active European citizenship: best practice exchanges among members and partners**

At present, ALDA comprises a network of 148 LDA partners from 24 European countries working with the LDAs of which 56% are local authorities, 28% NGOs, 6,7% regional authorities, 4% associations of local authorities and 5,3% others. In addition, ALDA counts 146 members from 23 countries - local authorities (34,5%), regional authorities (9%), NGOs (15,2%), associations of local authorities (10,3%), statutory members (8,3%), individuals (15,9%) and others (6,9%) which make up the broad network of members. 50% of them are also partners of the LDAs.

The diverse members and partners undoubtedly enrich the network and ALDA has therefore developed projects to bring them together for best practice exchanges and capacity building at a European level, in particular in the area of active European citizenship. Today, ALDA is among the main European stakeholders active in this field. In 2006, two projects dealt with the issue, namely the one-year campaign "Cities for Peace and Democracy in Europe" and a series of conferences and seminars in the project "The impact of the European Union on the local governments' policies dealing with civil society participation". In February 2007, a new pilot project "EURaction – Citizens acting for Europe" was launched with the aim to test the new methodology of citizens' panels to enhance the communication between the European institutions and the citizens of Europe.

### **Map of ALDA partners and members**





## Administrative and management tasks of ALDA

### The main tasks of the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies are:

- >> to coordinate the overall LDA activities
- >> to manage and implement ALDA projects
- >> to maintain contact with its network of members and partners
- >> to contribute to the fundraising
- >> to provide the LDAs and their Delegates with technical and administrative support
- >> to receive voluntary contributions, from national, local and regional authorities, foundations, and other bodies for the purpose of developing general or specific LDA projects
- >> to be in contact with institutions and sponsors on behalf of the LDAs and to monitor an appropriate use of funds
- >> to network with local authorities, international organisations and NGOs from all over Europe
- >> to develop and implement training courses for Delegates, local assistants and other LDA contact groups
- >> to develop common projects
- >> to provide a platform of exchange and debate for its members
- >> to set up and run thematic working groups on local governance and human rights issues
- >> to promote the LDA activities and the international role of European local authorities in promoting local democracy, human rights and minority rights.
- >> to develop promotional material including brochures, factsheets and a newsletter
- >> to manage the ALDA website ([www.ldaonline.org](http://www.ldaonline.org)). A relaunch is in preparation for summer 2007.
- >> accounting and reporting for funds. ALDA is under the control of an independent accounting service and an external audit to guarantee the best use of the membership fees and public funds.

In addition to this, ALDA is responsible for the organisation of institutional meetings (General Assembly in Budapest, June 2006) and Governing Board/Bureau meetings (Vicenza, January 2006; Budapest, June 2006; Brussels, November 2006).

ALDA's Headquarters are based in Strasbourg (France) with a branch office operating in Vicenza (Italy). The staff could be consolidated in 2006:

### Main ALDA staff

- >> **Ms. Antonella Valmorbida**, Director ALDA
- >> **Mr. Martial Paris**, Regional Coordinator and Project Manager
- >> **Ms. Stefania Toriello**, Project Manager
- >> **Ms. Dorothee Fischer**, Press Officer and Project Manager
- >> **Ms. Barbara Elia**, Financial Officer
- >> **Ms. Elisa Sperotto**, Assistant Financial Officer (since January 2007)
- >> **Mr. Marco Boaria**, Fundraising Officer and Project Manager

### Supported by

- >> Interns in Vicenza (Sara Simonato, Pierre Graic, Sabrina Landrin, Alexander Klopsch, Ivonne Crisci)
- >> Interns in Strasbourg (Florent Barel, Teona Lebanidze, Laure Bastien, Paulina Pedzik and Camille Gangloff)

Furthermore, the ALDA office in Vicenza initiated a new cooperation with ANCI Lombardia to host two young civil servants for 12 months. The first two volunteers Andrea Bigarella and Federico Milani started in September 2006.

### Council of Europe support:

- >> Mr. Lukas van Damme
- >> Ms. Elisabeth Laforge (part-time until October 2006)
- >> Ms. Michele Cardot (since November 2006)
- >> Ms. Laurence Davies (part-time March – December 2006)

### Resources

The annual budget 2006 is about 1,412,647.88 Euro. Most of the contributions are spread over several years. In this statistic, only the use for the year 2006 are taken into consideration. The budget has increased about 17% compared to the year 2005. The official accounts will be approved during the General Assembly in May 2007 and will be made available for download on the ALDA website [www.ldaaonline.org](http://www.ldaaonline.org).

Norway	11.16 %
Membership fees	3 %
MAE Italy/ANCI	50.33 %
Ireland	1 %
Interreg/Puglia	6.6 %
Switzerland	1.6 %
Congress	8.5 %
Sviluppo Globale	0.04 %
German Ministry of the Interior	0.35 %
Friuli Venezia Giulia	0.8 %
Italy/Congress	1.29 %
Nante	0.03 %
FEDRE/Genève	0.59 %
ANCI Veneto/Region Veneto	1.1 %
Euromed	0.4 %
Strasbourg/Conseil Régional and General	0.4 %
European Commission	7.8 %
Partners LDAs	3.8 %
Coppet Price	0.07 %
Lecce	0.65 %
Luxembourg	0.49 %
	100 %

The figures here stated are the sums officially registered in the year 2006.

The figures above only include the resources provided to the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies, without including any in-kind support (which is very important, too, in particular the staff provided by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the premises offered by the Council of Europe and the internship programme).

**The accounts of ALDA are checked by different levels of control:**

1. The LDAs (if programmes are managed by LDAs)
2. ALDA accountancy system
3. The donors
4. The official account (KPMG France)
5. An official audit (requested by the French law for organization using public funding)

Furthermore, the coherence between the declaration of non-profit activity, the equity between the members as well as the respect of the law for NGOs are checked by the Official Audit.

## **Governing Board and Bureau**

The current subdivision of tasks is based on decisions made during the General Assemblies in Barcelona (2004) and Budapest (2006). The position of the First Vice-President – now titled Executive President – was strengthened to take some of the administrative burden from the President.

## **The ALDA Bureau**

### **President**

**Mr. Gianfranco Martini (Italy)**

Gianfranco.martini@aldaintranet.org

### **Executive-President**

**Mr. Per Vinther (Denmark)**

per.vinther@aldaintranet.org

Assigned mandate:

- >> External relations of ALDA excluding the Council of Europe (in particular with the European Commission, other European institutions, intergovernmental programmes)
- >> support to fundraising in particular with the European Institutions
- >> day-to-day guidance and supervision of the work of the Director
- >> signature and responsibility of the contracts with the European Commission and other donors (others than Council of Europe) and with the LDAs
- >> substituting the President when he is unable to attend an official meeting; signature for the bank account (as the Treasurer and the President)

**Second Vice-President**

**Mr. Dobrica Milovanovic (Serbia)**

city\_kg@verat.net

Assigned mandate:

- >> External relations in South East Europe (contacts with governments and local institutions) in the region
- >> analysis on the current socio-political situation in South East Europe

**Treasurer**

**Mr. Jean Louis Testud (France)**

international@ville-suresnes.fr

Assigned mandate:

- >> Financial management and monitoring of ALDA

**Secretary,**

**Mr. Keith Jones (UK)**

keith.jones@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Assigned mandate:

- >> Support to contact with members; strategies for enlarging the membership and partners of ALDA
- >> proper administration of ALDA meetings
- >> advice on ALDA and LDAs' self-assessments

**Appointed member of the Congress**

**Mr. Imre Kern (Serbia)**

**Member appointed by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers**

**Mr. Neris Germanas**

Ambassador of Lithuania to the Council of Europe (since January 2007)

**The Director**

**Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida,**

was confirmed in her function by the new Governing Board, in the meeting of January 2006.

**Other members of the Governing Board**

**Representative of the President**

**of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

Mr. Miljenko Doric (Croatia)

**Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

Ms Jutta Gützkow



**President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**

Mr. Halvdan Skard (Norway)

**Member appointed by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**

Mr. Pascal Mangin (Strasbourg, France)

**Substitute member appointed by the Congress**

Ms. Violeta Alarova ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia")

**Substitute member appointed by the Congress**

Ms Line Vennesland (Norway)

**Substitute member appointed by the Congress**

Ms. Jana Fischerova (Czech Republic)

**Elected members**

**Mr. Dario Ghisletta**

Deputy Mayor of Bellinzona, Switzerland

**Mr. Marko Pavic**

Mayor of Prijedor  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Mr. Elvis Agnolini**

Mayor of Mogliano Veneto, Italy

**Mr. Franco Iacop**

Regional Minister for Autonomous Local Bodies, European Affairs  
and International Relations  
Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy

**Ms. Rosita Viola**

Director, Italian Consortium of Solidarity

**Mr. Kerim Medjedovic**

Delegate, LDA Montenegro  
Representative of the Delegates' Committee

**Special Guest**

Mr. Rinaldo Locatelli

**Observers**

**Local Government International Bureau (LGI)**

Mr. James Beadle

**Cités Unies France**

Ms. Helene Migot

**Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities KS**

Mr. Oystein Haugen

**Communities Association of Armenia**

Mr. Ermin Yeristyan

**Association of the cities of the Province of Treviso**

Mr. Angelo Pavan

**CEMR**

Mr. Jeremy Smith, Ms. Sandra Ceciarini

**Association of European Regions**

Ms. Joana Benfield

**Causes Communes Ticino**

Mr. Dario Ghisletta

**Local Government Denmark**

Mr. Uwe Lorenzen

**Special expert of initiatives on the Mediterranean area**

Mayor Adriana Poli Bortone, Lecce, Italy

## PROJECTS IN THE FIELD IMPLEMENTED BY THE LDAs

**ANCI/ALDA project “Actions on Capacity-Building of Local Authorities and Civil Society in Southern and Eastern Europe”**  
*Supported by Cooperazione Italiana/the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI)*



The three-year project which was officially closed on 4 May 2007 supported the democratisation process in Southern and Eastern Europe. The main objectives were to build up capacities and to strengthen institutions as well as organisations through training of trainers for local authorities and NGOs. Furthermore, the programme aimed at addressing young people and to raise their participation in the decision-making process at the local level. Conflict prevention and solution as well as supporting measures for a peaceful reconciliation were also topics being dealt with during the project.

The programme was coordinated by ALDA and implemented by the 11 Local Democracy Agencies in Croatia, Serbia including Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. It focused on decentralised areas where the democratic process needs to be built from the local level together with local authorities and civil society organisations, which are the target groups of this project.

### **Activities in 2006:**

- >> Third Steering Committee (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, February 2006)
- >> Training of Trainers on “Participatory Planning Processes, Part II” (Ohrid, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, July 2006)
- >> Training of Trainers on “European Affairs, Part II” (Mostar, September 2006)
- >> Follow-up seminars on Participatory Planning and European Affairs in the 11 Local Democracy Agencies in South East Europe
- >> Info points for young people in the 11 LDAs
- >> Final summary report to be published in 2007

### **Promoting Local Economic Development in the Western Balkans: Youth Groups Capacity Building**

*Sponsored by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in partnership with the Norwegian Association of Local and regional Authorities*

The programme fostered local economic development and youth entrepreneurship, topics which are among the priorities of all the Local Democracy Agencies. With the various seminars and awareness raising activities, the participants could build up new capacities in the area of local economic development and entrepreneurship which some of them will be able to put into practice in a follow-up micro-credit project.

### **The main objectives of the programme were:**

- >> to increase youth advocacy
- >> to increase the capacity of young people to become actors in local economic development in the 11 pilot regions of the project.
- >> to identify potential trans-border cooperation activities in the field of economic development
- >> to set up and implement pilot projects of local economic development
- >> to strengthen the network of the LDAs and their partners.



#### **Activities in 2006:**

- >> Internal training for LDA Delegates (Vicenza, Italy, February 2006)
- >> 3 Conference on micro-credits, (Sisak, Croatia / Nis, Serbia / Subotica, Serbia / March and February 2006)
- >> Evaluation Steering Committee Meeting (Oslo, Norway, June 2006)
- >> Bilingual handbook

#### **Microcredit Scheme for the Balkans**

*Supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in cooperation with Banca Intesa/San Paolo (Italy)*

ALDA and Banca Intesa/San Paolo have developed an innovative microcredit scheme for the Balkans through a public-private-sector cooperation.

#### **The project aims at supporting self-employment in the region and is composed of two pillars:**

- >> Non-financial services provided by the Local Democracy Agencies: thanks to their profound knowledge of the territory, the Local Democracy Agencies will inform the potential borrowers, train them in business plan drafting and support them throughout the project.
- >> Financial services provided by Banca Intesa/San Paolo subsidies: evaluation of the loan applications and disbursing the loans.

The project uses an integrated approach to microcredit in order to promote sustainable start-up businesses.

#### **The preparatory phase ended in March 2007 with the following activities:**

- >> Trainings on microcredit for LDA project managers:
  - >> 21-27 January 2007 in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina
  - >> 25 February - 3 March 2007 in Subotica, Serbia
- >> Steering Committee: 21st February 2007 in Oslo, Norway
- >> LDAs assessment:
  - >> 16-19 January 2007: LDA Kosovo



- >> 30 January - 3 February 2007: LDA Central and Southern Serbia
- >> 6-10 February 2007: LDA Sisak, LDA Prijedor
- >> 13-16 February 2007: LDA Verteneglio
- >> 6-10 March 2007: LDA Zavidovici, LDA Mostar
- >> 13-17 March 2007: LDA Subotica, LDA Osijek
- >> 21-23 March 2007: LDA Montenegro
- >> Meetings with the affiliates of Banca Intesa/San Paolo:
- >> 6 March 2007 in Zagreb (Croatia) and Prijedor (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- >> 7 March 2007 in Novi-Sad (Serbia)

The implementation phase will start after the ALDA General Assembly in May 2007.

### **Local Economic Development in the Balkans (part II)**

*Supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in partnership with the host cities of the LDAs, the city of Suresnes, Cités Unies France and the Association Betton-Montenegro*

The project is the second part of a project on local economic development which took place between December 2003 and January 2005. During the first phase, four trainings on local economic development were organised for the LDA staff and 11 development projects were identified that received the support of the host local authorities of the LDAs.

#### **The aims of the project are:**

- >> To support local economic development through 11 micro-projects
- >> Training animators on local economic development
- >> Identification of economic partners from France

The project started in January 2007 and will last for 18 months. The LDAs will support concrete and sustainable economic initiatives for the local development of their territories.

### **Mahlde.net Programme Mare Hadriaticum Local Democracy Cross-Border Network**

*Supported by the Interreg Programme  
Transadriatic of the European Commission  
and Region Friuli Venezia*



The main focus of the project is to develop new social, cultural and economic links between various Italian regions and those in the countries of the former Yugoslavia which are based on the other side of the Mediterranean Sea. Region Friuli Venezia Giulia was the main project coordinator. Other partners involved included Region Puglia, Region Emilia Romagna, the Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and various local and regional authorities, universities and NGOs. Thus, the project also supported the functioning of the LDA Mostar, in particular activities on interethnic dialogue.

### Activities in 2006:

- >> Steering Committee (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, February 2006)
- >> study visit for Bosnian entrepreneurs to Italy (April 2006)
- >> course on participatory planning (Lecce, Italy, July 2006)
- >> training for Bosnian and Italian secondary school teachers "Improving education in divided communities" study visit teachers (Lecce, Italy, November 2006)
- >> closing conference (Bari, Italy, March 2007)
- >> production of a film and DVD
- >> final publication

### Cards Project "Together: The Balkans in Europe, Europe in the Balkans"

*Supported by the European Commission's Cards programme/ DG Enlargement and in partnership with the Local Democracy Agencies Central and Southern Serbia and Kosovo and the French-German TV station ARTE*

arte



The project aims to improve the quality of TV journalism in Kosovo, Serbia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and to foster co-productions between these countries/regions. Through a mentorship programme with renowned journalists from the French-German TV station ARTE, four young journalists from the Balkans will produce 20-minute documentaries on social, cultural and environmental issues. They will use the "cross-cultural view", that is to say they will not produce the documentary in their country of origin to have a "fresh look" on the issues concerned. The project was officially launched with a study visit and news conference in Strasbourg on 1 December 2006. Throughout 2007, the four documentaries will be produced and shown at various visibility events.

### Youth: the right direction!

*Supported by the Youth Programme of the European Commission, DG Education and Culture*



The project started its preparation phase in December 2006 and will last for three years (until November 2009).

The proposal aims at enhancing the promotion and visibility of the Youth programme in South East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Montenegro and Serbia) and the Southern Caucasus (Georgia).

The overall objective is to allow young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies, focusing on the training of multipliers and on the development of networks and partnerships.

The proposal combines co-operation, training and information aspects, through the implementation of different actions: information seminars, the setting-up of specialized info-points, web-site and newsletters, youth ambassador groups, trainings of peer educators (multipliers), job shadowing, trainings on the European Volunteer Service, itinerant crossing youth fair and the setting-up of 4 different networks of stakeholders (networks of info-points, of youth ambassadors, of EVS organizations and network of peer educators-multipliers) working in the field of youth in SEE and in Georgia.



**The main direct target groups are:**

- >> Young people, aged 15-25 (involving also people up to 30, according to the new guidelines of the forthcoming "Youth in Action")
- >> Youth leaders and youth workers
- >> Youth organisations, NGOs
- >> Local and Regional Authorities

The proposal can count on 20 partners, representing ten different countries in Western Europe, South-East Europe and the Southern Caucasus.

**IB Programme "The Italian cities for the cities of the Balkans"**

*Supported by Cooperazione Italiana/the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ANCI, the Italian Association of Municipalities*

The programme identified cooperation possibilities in the area of public utilities and action planning between Italian towns and other local authorities from the Balkans with the objective to improve and modernise public services in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.

ALDA as partner was in charge of supporting the organisation of all the project activities through offering contacts local authorities from Italy and stakeholders in the field in South East Europe.

The project was officially closed with an international conference in Rome on 3 and 4 May 2006.

**Development and strengthening of the capacities of local authorities in South Eastern Europe**

*Supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Region Veneto, thanks to the support of ANCI Veneto*

The project promotes capacity-building activities between local authorities in South East Europe and Italy. One of the activities included in the project were the 10th anniversary celebrations of the LDA Sisak combined with a conference on trainings



methodologies in Kutina (Croatia) on 19 and 20 October 2006. It involved the participation of local authorities from Croatia in the ANCI Veneto Fair in Rovigo and the attendance of a conference on local economic development on 7 October 2006. The initiatives also promoted a networking meeting with the LDAs and local authorities in Italy in Trieste in January 2007. The best practices exchanges included such renowned Italian NGOs as UCODEP, ANCI, Cespi and Osservatorio per i Balcani.

### **Support for the Opening of LDA Georgia**

*Supported by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

The 12th Local Democracy Agency located in Kutaisi, Georgia, was opened on 8 September 2006. The partners of this first Agency in the Southern Caucasus include Newport as lead partners (Wales, UK), Monfalcone (Italy), Nantes and Strasbourg (France), the Lithuanian Institute for Social Ethics, the Newport-Kutaisi Association, the Kutaisi-Newport Association, the Georgian Association of Local Authorities (NALAG), the Georgian Young Lawyer's Association, as well as the cities Tbilisi and Kutaisi (Georgia).

The first projects of the LDA will concentrate on capacity building for local authorities and civil society and empowerment of young people and women.



#### **Activities 2006:**

- >> meeting of potential partners (Strasbourg, February 2006)
- >> partner meeting (Kutaisi, September 2006)
- >> the project "Students for women's rights" in cooperation with the Young Lawyers' Association consisting of an advertisement campaign, a training and a mock court trial (October 2006 – January 2007)

#### **Preparation of a cooperation project between "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and the Region Lower Normandy**

*Supported by the Region Lower Normandy*

In 2006, ALDA and the Local Democracy Agency Kosovo assisted the French NGO Courier des Balkans in the preparation of a pilot cooperation project between "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and the Region Lower Normandy in the North of France. For the first time, a region in France wishes to establish a cooperation with a country in South East Europe. The future project to be financed partly by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs will cover several areas:

- >> youth exchanges
- >> sustainable tourism
- >> local democracy/local governance
- >> culture
- >> media

Several preparation meetings took place between October 2006 and January 2007 and feasibility studies were drafted with numerous Macedonian and French partner organisations. The future project will start in September 2008.

#### **Promoting partnerships for the LDAs**

*Supported by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities*

All LDAs received support to enhance their partner network through the organisation of partner meetings and other means.



## PROJECTS ON ACTIVE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP



Beginning in 2004 with the project "The participation of civil society in the decision-making process at the local level. A common added value for local authorities in Europe", ALDA has gradually increased its activities on active European citizenship, in particular in common projects and exchanges with its members and partners. In 2006, a peak was reached with three on-going projects of which one will be mainly implemented in 2007. With the expertise gained on supporting local democracy and human rights, fostering active European citizenship becomes a natural consequence of these efforts. It is therefore one of the main objectives for the Association to continuously broaden its expertise in this area and to strengthen its partnership with the European institutions.

Europe is currently experiencing an unprecedented period of stability and peace. More than 60 years after the end of the Second World War, 25 European countries are constructing their common future based on the values of peace, democracy and human rights. However, democracy is a fragile construct which needs to be strengthened continuously. Local authorities are closest to the citizens and have a particular role to play in this process. In addition, it is important to include young people in the debates since they have never experienced any war directly.



### **Cities for Peace and Democracy in Europe** *Supported by the European Commission's DG Education and Culture*



The project "Cities acting for Peace and Democracy in Europe" therefore intended to organise a Europe-wide campaign to bring local authorities and young people together to evaluate and debate their role in the construction of a peaceful and democratic Europe.

#### **Objectives of the project:**

- >> to improve and understand the role of local authorities as actors for peace and democracy in Europe
- >> to involve citizens, in particular young people in the debate
- >> To participate in the European Union building process with an additional added value brought by the active role of the local governments and the participation of their own community

#### **Main partners of the project:**

- >> Association of the Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA): leader
- >> Cités Unies France
- >> Warmian and Mazurian Association of Communities (Poland)
- >> Association of Italian Local Governments (ANCI)
- >> Coordinamento Enti Locali per la Pace "Local Authorities for Peace" (Italy)
- >> Local Association of Municipalities and Communes of the Karditsa Prefecture (Greece)



#### **Activities implemented by the core partners:**

- >> **Steering Committee**, Strasbourg, France organised by ALDA. 30 May 2006.
- >> Opening conference on **"Europe at the crossroad: Minority conflicts as a menace to peace or as an opportunity"** in Budapest, Hungary with more than 100 participants (from local and regional authorities, NGOs, international organisations, national parliaments). 8 – 9 June 2006
- >> Workshop on **"Democracy and Peace at the local level: communication and media"** organised by ALDA and its Greek partners AN.KA and the Local Association of Municipalities and Communes of the Karditsa Prefecture. 13 – 14 September 2006
- >> Workshop **"Tools and methodology for local authorities for participation of civil society in order to improve democracy and peace at the local level"** in the framework of the "International meeting of local authorities for peace and human rights", Perugia, Italy. Organised by ALDA in cooperation with Enti Locale per la Pace. 5 – 7 October 2006.
- >> **Peace School for young people**, Berlin, Germany organised by ALDA. 15 – 18 January 2006.
- >> **Workshop on youth participation** Nevers, France, organised by ALDA. 27 January 2006.
- >> Second Steering Committee, Nevers, France, 28 January 2006.

In addition to these main activities which were organised in cooperation with the main partners of the project, ALDA worked with more than 50 other partner organisations across Europe (local and regional authorities, NGOs, cultural associations)

#### **Other activities supporting the campaign:**

- >> Conference on **"Strategic planning for local development. Promotion of participation at the local level"** in Lecce, Italy with 50 participants from local and regional authorities and NGOs. Organised by ALDA and ALDA's partners Regione Puglia and the city of Lecce. 18 – 19 July 2006
- >> **Information campaign on peace and democracy issues in Congo** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Beati i Costruttori di Pace, Padova, Italy. July – August 2006.
- >> Seminar on the role of **cities in a peaceful and democratic development in Serbia**/partner meeting of the Local Democracy Agency Central and Southern Serbia. Organised by ALDA and ALDA's partner, the city of Suresnes, France. 19 September 2006



- >> Seminar cycle "**Cantieri di pace**" organised by ALDA's partner Comune di Putignano, Italy. September and October 2006.
- >> **15 conferences about refugees** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Karibu Afrika, Brescia, Italy. September – December 2006.
- >> Seminar on "**the development and strengthening of the capacities of local authorities in South East Europe – best practice exchange on local good governance**" in Mogliano Veneto, Italy. Organised by ALDA and ALDA's partners the city of Mogliano Veneto, LDA Sisak, ANCI Veneto, Veneto Region and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 6 October 2006.
- >> Conference on "**the commitment of the municipalities for the local development**" in Rovigo, Italy. 100 people participated in the event which was organised by ALDA and ALDA's partners Mogliano Veneto, LDA Sisak, ANCI Veneto, Veneto Region and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 7 October 2006
- >> ALDA stand at the NGO Fair in Strasbourg "**Europe in the cities**" with more than 1000 people present. 7 and 8 October 2006
- >> Conference on "**Peace processes and reconciliation: reality and confrontation**" in Venice, Italy with more than 300 participants. Organised by ALDA's partners Province of Venice, Municipality of Venice, Veneto Region and Fondazione Venezia per la ricerca sulla pace. 7 and 8 October 2006
- >> Awareness raising activities in the project "**No justice without peace**" organised by ALDA's partner organisation Centro di Carità il Buon Samaritano, Italy. October – end of December 2006.
- >> Awareness activities with young people "**Be a protagonist in your city**" organised by ALDA's partner organisation Going to Europe, Modena, Italy. October – December 2006.
- >> Debates and a theatre play "**Cantieri di Pace**" organised by ALDA's partner organisation the Municipality of Putignano, Italy. October – January 2006.
- >> Europe-wide action week against racism organised by ALDA's partner organisation National Forum API, Bulgaria. Between October – December 2006.
- >> A competition "**Un logo per pavia città di Pace**" organised by ALDA's partner organisation the Municipality of Pavia, Italy. October – December 2006.
- >> Inquiry **how young people perceive peace and democracy issues** organised by ALDA's partner organisation the Municipality of Siena, Italy. Between October and December 2006.
- >> **Workshop and film festival on the death penalty** organised by ALDA's partner organisation the city of Reggio Emilia, Italy. From 10 October – 30 November 2006.





- >> A multireligious calendar **"Educare alla differenza per valorizzare le comunità"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation the Municipality of Ancona, Italy. October 2006 – January 2007.
- >> Workshop **"We are shaping the peaceful future of Europe without division"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Warmia and Mazurian Communities Association, Poland. 23 and 24 October 2006.
- >> Information Day. **"Libano 2006: Percorsi di pace e democratizzazione da basso a confronto"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation SCI, Italy. 24 October 2006.
- >> A Peace Day and several meetings with experts on questions of peace and democracy in the city of Castegnaro, Italy organised by ALDA's partner organisation Istituto Comprensivo Statale "B.Bizio". 4 November 2006 - 27 January 2007.
- >> Conference **"Città per la pace. Una strada possibile"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Progettarte – Modena, Italy. 5 – 6 November 2006.
- >> ALDA stand at Compa Fair in Bologna, Italy on the topic **"European cities and regions: which communication with the citizens?"** with 1000 participants. 7 – 9 November 2006.
- >> Workshops in highschoools **"Youth International Mobility: an instrument to promote an active European citizenship"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Andromeda Onlus, Italy. November 2006.
- >> Workshops **"Sviluppo e Migrazioni forzate"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Libearcio, Brescia, Italy. November 2006.
- >> Information campaign **"Diritto d'asilo e rifugiati in Italia. Attività di informazione sul territorio di Cremona"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation ARCI nuova associazione, Cremona, Italy. November, December 2006.
- >> Information campaign **"Pronti Parteza Accoglienza"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Ai. Bi. Associazione amici dei bambini, Naples, Italy. October, November 2006.
- >> Workshops and cultural events **"Peace in Europe"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation the Municipality Center of Culture in Gietrzwald, Poland. 15 and 16 December 2006, 9 and 16 January 2007 (Gietrzwald); 11 January 2007 (Biesal); 20 December 2006, 12 and 19 January 2007 (Szabruk).
- >> Workshop **"A journey to Europe"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Social Cooperative **"Cantieri Giovani"** Onlus, Naples, Italy. December 2006.
- >> **Production of maps on human rights violations** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Pax Christi, Bari, Italy. December 2006.



- >> Seminar for young people **"Giovani cittadini e cittadine per la pace e la democrazia in Europa"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation School of Peace of Monte Sole, Bologna, Italy. December 2006.
- >> Debates **"Women Leaders for Peace and Democracy in Europe"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Partner Poland Foundation, Warsaw, Poland. December 2006 – January 2007.
- >> Networking among local stakeholders **"Social Master Plan Hafencity/ Wilhelmsburg"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Institut Was, Hamburg, Germany, 1 December 2006 – 31 January 2007.
- >> **Inquiry about young people and their participation in local life** organised by ALDA's member organisation Institute of Entrepreneurship Development, Larissa, Greece. December 2006 – January 2007.
- >> Four trainings **"Promoting the participation of young graduates in democratic processes through the use of new technologies"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation AURN Association of the north region Universities, Porto, Portugal. December 2006 – January 2007.
- >> Seminar **"Convegno annuale Osservatorio sui Balcani"** organised by ALDA's member organisation Osservatorio sui Balcani, Rovereto, Italy, 15 December 2006.
- >> Conference **"ADEBAN" on the rights of immigrants** organised by ALDA's member ASAEL, Zaragoza, Spain. 16 December 2006.
- >> Seminar **"Squilli di Pace"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Associazione Culturale "Nova Artistudium" Bari, Italy. January 2007.
- >> Workshops and information campaign **"Gender equality creates democracy"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Social innovation fund Kaunas, Lithuania. January 2007.
- >> Three concerts on **the immigrants' right to vote** organised by ALDA's member organisation Cojep International, Strasbourg, France. 5 January 2007 (Strasbourg), 6 January 2007 (Lyon), 7 January 2007 (Paris).
- >> Workshop **"Youth against corruption to improve local governance"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Transparency International Slovakia. 12 and 13 January 2007.
- >> Youth Exchange **"Italia – Austria / Europa – Conflitto / Pace e Partecipazione"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation the Municipality of Vicenza, Italy. 2 – 6 January 2007.
- >> Conference **"Hope in the Dark"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation AFRI Action from Ireland, Dublin, Ireland. January 2007.

- >> Workshops **"euroLABio"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Europe Direct, Trieste, Italy. January 2007.
- >> Conference on **Islamophobia** organised by ALDA's member organisation Cojep International, Strasbourg, France. 18 January 2007.
- >> Art festival **"Caravan no. 4"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation OKUP, Strasbourg, France. 19 January 2007.
- >> Workshop **"La Pace tra memoria e futuro"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation ARCI Lazio, Rome, Italy. 17 – 27 January 2007.
- >> Theatre play **"Dans l'Ombre"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Theatre de l'Opprimé, Paris, France. 22 January 2007.
- >> Networking meeting **"Networking meeting of the ALDA network and their commitment for peace and democracy in Europe"** organised by ALDA and its member the city of Trieste, Italy, 24 January 2007.
- >> Seminar, workshop, theatre play **"Il Diritto di essere Uomo"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Associazione sportiva Dilettantistica SPHERA, Padova, Italy. 25 January 2007.
- >> Debate **"Cities for development, democracy and peace in Europe"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation the City of Plock, Poland. 25 January 2007.
- >> Youth workshop **"La pace e la democrazia d'Europa nel Polesine dei giovani"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation CONSVIPO Consorzio per lo sviluppo del Polesine, Rovigo, Italy. 27 January 2007.
- >> Seminar on the World Social Forum **"Bari, Africa: Weave the Peace"** organised by ALDA's partner organisation Centro Interculturale – Città di Bari, Italy. 27 January 2007.
- >> Conference **"10th anniversary of LDA SISAK, a commitment for peace in the Adriatic Sea"** organised by ALDA's member the city of Mogliano Veneto, Italy, 27 and 28 January 2007.
- >> Seminar **"Shaping a peaceful and democratic Europe: the active participation of citizens in the local life"** organised by ALDA's member ASAEL, Zaragoza, Spain. 31 January 2007.



### Promotional material and media strategy

The campaign "Cities for Peace and Democracy in Europe" was supported by a strong media strategy. Several thousand brochures in English, French, Greek, Italian and Polish were produced and distributed across Europe. The promotional material was completed by leaflets, flyers and posters produced by ALDA's partner organisations participating in the project.

To reach as many people as possible, ALDA produced a 2-minute short film/spot on the contribution of young people to a peaceful Europe in cooperation with the Local Democracy Agency Kosovo. The spot exists in English, French, Italian, Polish, German and Greek and was spread via the homepages of the partner organisations and the ALDA network as well as media partnerships with local TV stations.

At the end of the project, a handbook was published with a collection of good practice and sunshine stories on all the activities shaping the campaign.



### **The impact of the European Union on the local governments' policies dealing with civil society participation**

*Supported by the European Commission, DG Education and Culture*

The project aimed at strengthening the dialogue between the European Union and its citizens with respect to encouraging the emergence of an active and participatory European citizenship. It also supported the promotion and dissemination of the values and objectives of the European Union.

The programme involved citizens in all its steps, raising awareness on EU values and also strengthening transnational partnerships.

It was jointly developed by the eight partners, which were coordinated by ALDA and supported by "Cittadinanza Attiva" as a "scientific coordinator".

#### **The following partners were involved:**

- >> Italy: City of Lecce, City of Ravenna, City of Mogliano Veneto, Reggio nel Mondo and Province of Trento
- >> France: City of Suresnes
- >> Lithuania: City of Kaunas and Municipal Training Centre (SMC)

#### **Activities:**

The project was officially launched in Ravenna, Italy with a Steering Committee Meeting on 13 September 2006.

#### **The programme included 7 local workshops:**

- >> "Participation of young people", Suresnes, France, August 2006
- >> "Young students experiencing Europe: perceptions and proposals", Mogliano Veneto, Italy, 11 January 2007
- >> "Europe: dialogue with citizens and local authorities", Ravenna, Italy, 18 January 2007
- >> "Europe needs us: how can we participate?", Reggio Emilia, Italy, 20 January 2007
- >> "Active citizenship: building policies with citizens", Trento, Italy, 20 January 2007
- >> "Local authorities and citizenship: European policies and perspectives", Lecce, Italy, 23 January 2007
- >> "Equal opportunities and citizenship: a new challenge", Kaunas, Lithuania, February 2007

### 3 national workshops:

- >> "Gender Equality and Citizenship", Kaunas, 9 March 2007
- >> "Europe, local government and citizenship: developing participation at the local level", Lecce, 20 March 2007
- >> "Active Citizenship", Strasbourg, 22 March 2007

The national workshop in Strasbourg on 22 March 2007 officially closed the project. The results will be published in a handbook



**EURaction –Citizens acting for Europe**  
*Supported by the European Commission,  
DG Education and Culture*



After the rejection of the Constitutional Treaty in France and the Netherlands in 2005, the questions posed by the enlargement and the decision-making process and the low participation rate in the Parliamentary elections, the European Union fell into an unprecedented crisis. It was felt that the European institutions had lost contact with their citizens and something needed to be done to overcome this communication gap. As a consequence, the European Commission launched the Plan D on democracy, dialogue and debate and opened numerous calls for proposals to foster active European Citizenship Programme. New programmes in this area have been launched for the period 2007 - 2013. The project "EURaction" is set in this context, supporting the active participation of citizens in European issues through their involvement in "citizens' panels". "EURaction" is considered as a pilot project that will help the European Commission to develop its future programmes concerning active citizenship. It was started in December 2006 with a Steering Committee in Vicenza (Italy) and will finish off in August 2007.

#### **Objectives:**

The main aim of the project is to include "ordinary people" in the debates and to give them a voice in European politics. The results of the citizens' panels meetings will be reported back to the European institutions and other European stakeholders.

#### **Specific objectives:**

To promote the participation of citizens on an extensive basis, involving directly citizens who would not have spontaneously participated in projects of a European nature

- >> To encourage a bottom-up approach to allow citizens to express their views on the EU
- >> To promote trans-national mobility opportunities among the citizens of the countries involved

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### **Pilot activities in Belarus**

*Supported by the European Commission and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; in cooperation with the Municipal Training Centre, Kaunas (Lithuania) and the Sapieha Foundation (Belarus)*

The project "Acting Social Rights in Belarus" is the follow-up of a first pilot project in Belarus "Strengthening of community activism in Belarus through the development of communal property management skills" which was implemented in 2005. The main objective of this new project is to strengthen the dialogue among civil society groups and local governments in Belarus through the improvement of their capacities and training on communication tools.

#### **The project focuses on the following priorities:**

- >> Developing social dialogue between local government and civil society organizations
- >> Capacity building among local NGOs and local governments
- >> Strengthening civil society organisations and democratic development with a special emphasis on raising awareness on social and cultural rights as well as the empowerment of people. Particular target groups are young NGO leaders and minorities/disadvantaged people.

#### **Activities in 2006:**

- >> A first mission to Minsk was organised on 5 and 6 December 2006. The meeting was dedicated to assessing the current situation in Belarus, in particular with respect to the respect of social and cultural rights (document available on the ALDA website). In addition, it was discussed to which extent ordinary citizens and local authorities are informed of them as well as how local governments cooperate and communicate with civil society organisations. The mission was also useful to prepare the first Steering Committee, which was held in Minsk on 22 and 23 February 2007. At the latter meeting, almost all project partners were present: ALDA, as lead partners; Aid Programs Advisory Centre (Poland), Municipal Training Centre (Lithuania), and Lev Sapieha Foundation (Belarus). Two representatives from the Grodno Region (Belarus) also attended the event. During the meeting, an action plan for the project was drafted, and the role of each partner was defined. A strategy to involve local governments and other stakeholders was also agreed upon. The first training will take place in May 2007 based on a training needs assessment conducted in the first part of 2007.

### **Support to the implementation of the law on general principles of organisation of local self-government in Russian Federation**

*Funded by the Tacis Programme, EuropeAid. A consortium led by Gruppo Soges S.p.A. with with Progeco S.r.l., the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies and the Agency for Municipal and Regional Development*

The project aims at contributing to the process of organising local self-government in Russia by assembling a team of EU and Russian legal, economic and human rights experts. The will play an advisory role in the implementation of the new law on local self-government in the Russian Federation. The team of experts will share European Union best practices with representatives of Russian local authorities.



#### **Activities:**

- >>Steering Committee in Moscow on 11 January 2007
- >> From 22 – 28 January 2007, a study-tour to Italy of a Russian delegation was jointly organized by ALDA, Soges and Progeco. The topic was "Local governments in Europe: responsibilities, competencies, management". 12 high functionaries from Moscow visited 4 Italian regions: Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trentino Alto Adige and Emilia Romagna. The purpose was to strengthen the knowledge and understanding of best practice among the key persons responsible for the monitoring and development of local governments' strategies in the Russian Federal Government. Specific focus was given to: the definition of competences and responsibilities of local governments; transparency; decision-making in financial issues; social issues; management techniques; civil society and integration/participation with local governments; accounting systems.

#### **Euromed**

With this project, the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies has entered the "Euromed World"!

ALDA, in cooperation with the Italian Youth National Agency and SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Resource Centre (training Agency of the European Commission) was involved in the organization and in the management of the training course "Education and Civilization" which was held in Venice from the 24 May - 1 June 2006.

The training addressed experienced youth workers coming from member states and Mediterranean countries: 25 participants from 17 different countries (Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Portugal, Spain, France, Norway, Italy, Cyprus, Malta, Sweden, UK).

This course aimed at reflecting on Euro-Mediterranean civilisations and the mutual influences they had upon each other and at realising and concretising the links between education and civilisation to check whether they are a driving force or a brake to the qualitative development of a Euro-Mediterranean voluntary service. Thanks to the involvement in the training, ALDA had the opportunity to present its activities and projects and to establish fruitful contacts with 16 NGOs, mainly dealing with youth and participation issues.

Thanks to the success of the initiative, the cooperation between ALDA and SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Resource Centre will continue in 2007 with a cooperation in the



framework of a long-term training course entitled "Democracy within the Euromed context: illusion or reality?".

For more information, please check:

<http://www.salto-youth.net/educationcivilisation>

The publication on the course is also available online:

<http://www.salto-youth.net/reportscollection>

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS AND NETWORKING**

### **Information Day on Georgia**

*Supported by the City of Strasbourg, Region Alsace, the Conseil Général of Strasbourg, the ENA/CESS and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities*

On the occasion of the opening of a Local Democracy Agency in Kutaisi, Georgia, ALDA organised an information day on Georgia at the Ecole National d'Administration/Centre des Etudes Européennes in Strasbourg on 31 May 2005. International experts took stock of the recent developments in the country since the Rose Revolution in autumn 2003.

### **"Focus on Eastern Europe"**

ALDA participated in the annual conference "Focus on Eastern Europe" in Lausanne organised by the Swiss Development Agency on 3 November 2006. Ms. Antonella Valmorbidia, Director ALDA, presented the work of ALDA and the Local Democracy Agencies in the area of youth and the ALDA staff were present with an information stand.



## Participation in Fairs

In 2006, ALDA participated in the following fairs:

- >> Peace Fair in Paris in cooperation with LDA Kosovo (June 2006)
- >> The World Forum on Human Rights in Nantes, France (July 2006)
- >> NGO Fair in Strasbourg, France (October 2006)
- >> Open Days in Brussels, Belgium (October 2006)
- >> Compa in Bologna, Italy (November 2006)

## New membership

ALDA joined the following organisations/networks in 2006:

- >> the Assembly of European Regions as international association
- >> the LIEDRA Network against gender violence launched in Zaragoza, Spain, in October 2006

## Production of a pedagogical DVD/tool kit on youth participation

During a meeting of European youth councils organised by the LDA Kosovo, ALDA produced three short features on the participation of young people in youth councils which were gathered on a DVD and distributed among young people across Europe.

## ALDA's Press Office:

### Dorothee Fischer, ALDA Press Officer

c/o Council of Europe, Office 1027  
Avenue de l'Europe  
67075 Strasbourg  
France

Tel.: 0033 3 90 21 45 93  
Mobile: 0033 6 33 55 47 10  
Fax: 0033 3 88 41 37 47  
dorothee.fischer@aldaintranet.org

## AWARDS

### Coppet Prize 2006

ALDA received the "European Prize Coppet 2006" which is every two years awarded by the Swiss European Forum of Coppet. With the 12.000? worth prize, persons or institutions are honoured that are in line with the ideals and visions of supporting a European identity. ALDA received the prize for its long-term involvement in South East Europe and other European regions to support local democracy, human rights and sustainable development. The prize was handed over during a ceremony at Coppet Castle in June 2006.

## Membership Form



with the support of



### Membership request to the Association of Local Democracy Agencies

Town     County     Region     NGO     Mr or Ms

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact person \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal code \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

interested in becoming a member of the Association of the LDAs and will pay his/her contribution to the appropriate Association of the LDAs' bank account, and according to the criteria below:

Bank details of the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies	Numbers of inhabitants	Total of Contribution (Euro)
Bank _____ Crédit Mutuel	10-10000 _____	300
Address _____ 2, Rue des Hallebardes, 67000 Strasbourg, France	10000-50000 _____	600
Bank code _____ 10278	50000-200000 _____	1200
Agency code _____ 01084	200000-1000000 _____	2400
Individual number _____ 00020176501	+ 1 million _____	4800
Key _____ 53	NGOs _____	300
IBAN _____ FR76 10278010840002017650153	Actual persons _____	60
BIC _____ CMCIFR2A		

### Partnership request for a specific Local Democracy Agency Programme

Croatia  *Osijek*  
 *Sisak*  
 *Brtonigla-Verteneglio*

Serbia (incl. Kosovo)  *Subotica*  
 *Central and Southern Serbia*  
 *Kosovo*

Montenegro  *Montenegro (Niksic)*  
 Bosnia and Herzegovina  *Prijedor*  
 *Zavidovici*  
 *Mostar*

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"  *Ohrid*  
 Southern Caucasus  *LDA Georgia*

Thank you for your support and for your interest in the Programme of the Local Democracy Agencies!

Form to be returned to:  
**Secretariat of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies**  
 C/o Council of Europe, Office B532  
 F – 67075 Strasbourg

Tél ++33 (0)3 90 21 45 22-  
 Fax: + 33 (0)3 88 41 27 51 / 37 47  
 michele.cardot@coe.int

Head Office: La Maison des Associations de Strasbourg (France)

## LIST OF ALDA MEMBERS

### Local authorities

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Prijedor Municipality
2. Zavidovici Municipality

#### Croatia

3. Brtonigla- Verteneglio Municipality
4. Istria Region
5. Osijek Municipality

#### Denmark

6. City of Odense

#### France

7. Nantes Municipality
8. Sainte Foy-lès-Lyon
9. Strasbourg Municipality
10. Suresnes Municipality

#### Greece

11. Karditsa Municipality

#### "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

12. Ohrid Municipality

#### Italy

13. Ancona Municipality
14. Arese Municipality
15. Bari Municipality
16. Benevento Province
17. Borgo Valsugana Municipality
18. Como Municipality
19. Fara in Sabina municipality
20. Friuli Venezia Giulia Region
21. Lainate Municipality
22. Lavis Municipality
23. Lecce Municipality
24. Marcon Municipality
25. Milano Province
26. Mogliano Veneto Municipality
27. Monfalcone Municipality
28. Porto Cesareo Municipality
29. Portogruaro Municipality
30. Preganziol Municipality
31. Puglia Region
32. Ravenna Municipality
33. Roncade Municipality

34. Russi Municipality
35. Sicily Region
36. Trento Autonomous Province
37. Trento Municipality
38. Trieste Municipality
39. Veneto Region
40. Venice Province
41. Vicenza Municipality

#### Lithuania

42. Kaunas Municipality

#### Norway

43. Buskerud County
44. Fauske Municipality
45. Hemnes Municipality
46. Levanger Municipality
47. Narvik Municipality
48. Nordland County
49. Saltdal Municipality
50. Sund Municipality
51. Vefsen Municipality

#### Spain

52. Barcelona City

#### Serbia

53. Nis Municipality
54. Subotica Municipality
55. Kragujevac Municipality

#### Switzerland

56. Bellinzona Municipality
57. Lausanne Municipality
58. Lugano Municipality
59. Neuchâtel Municipality

#### UK

60. Arun Municipality
61. Chelmsford Municipality
62. East Staffordshire Borough Council
63. Kent County Council
64. Wolverhampton City Council

### International Association of Local Authorities

65. Assembly of European Regions (Belgium)
66. CCRE (Belgium)



### **National Associations of Local Authorities**

#### **Denmark**

67. Local Government Denmark

#### **France**

68. AFCCRE

69. Cités Unies France

#### **Italy**

70. Association of the cities of the Province of Treviso – Italy

71. Consorzio dei Comuni Trentini

72. Consorzio di comuni per lo sviluppo del Polesine CONSVIPO

#### **Moldova**

73. Association of the mayors of the district of Chisinau

#### **Norway**

74. Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities

#### **Spain**

75. ASAEL (Association of Local authorities, Zaragoza, Spain)

#### **Switzerland**

76. Causes communes Ticino

#### **United Kingdom**

77. Local Government Association

### **Non Governmental organisations**

#### **Albania**

78. Help of Children " Focus Center

79. Children in need

#### **Bulgaria**

80. Balkan Assist Association

#### **France**

81. ALFA Formation

82. Cojep

83. Youth Planet

#### **Greece**

84. ANKA Karditsa

#### **Hungary**

85. International centre of European Training – NETE

#### **Italy**

86. AICCRRE

87. Association for the Zavidovici LDA

88. Association Project for Prijedor

89. Fondazione Opera Campana dei caduti- Progetto Osservatorio sui Balcani

90. Insieme per Sarajevo

91. Italian Consortium of Solidarity ICS

92. Istituto Euromediterraneo – Trieste

93. Tavolo Trentino per la Serbia

94. Tecla

#### **Lithuania**

95. Municipal Training Centre, Kaunas

**Norway**

96. Business Innovation Programme

**Slovakia**

97. Professional women

**UK**

98. Northern Ireland Public Sector  
Enterprises NI-CO

99. Newport Kutaisi Association, Wales  
UK

**Others****Italy**

100. ARCARI s.r.l.,

101. Associazione imprenditori  
Mogliano Veneto

102. Centro Marca

103. IAL FVG Agenzia Formativa – Area  
progetti internazionali

104. IPRES

105. Reggio nel mondo, agency for the  
promotion of Reggio Emilia  
Municipality

106. Sinergy Italia

107. SPIM Energia s.r.l.

**Greece**

108. Institute of Entrepreneurship  
Development

**UK**

109. International School for peace studies

**Individuals****Belgium**

110. Vinther Per

**France**

111. Affholder Sylvie

112. Bohner Ulrich

113. Casagrande Claude

114. Friederich François

115. Alain Fouconnier

**Germany:**

116. Sebastian Schley

**Italy**

117. Bottacin Diego

118. Bertotti Cristina

119. Bonacin Moris

120. Cirino Giovanna

121. Contin Agostino

122. Faggian Paolo

123. Franco Lara

124. Grigolato Margherita

125. Locatelli Rinaldo

126. Rizzo Sebastiano

127. Zini Guido

**Serbia**

128. Bisenic Dragan

129. Zivkovic Branka

**Spain**

130. Alvarez Jose Manuel Rodriguez

**UK**

131. Boorer Malcom

132. Mayer David

**Ukraine**

133. Khomra Ivan

134. Zaychykova Vitalina

**Statutory members**

135. LDA Central and Southern Serbia

136. LDA Kosovo

137. LDA Georgia

138. LDA Montenegro

139. LDA Mostar

140. LDA Ohrid

141. LDA Osijek

142. LDA Prijedor

143. LDA Sisak

144. LDA Subotica

145. LDA Verteneglio

146. LDA Zavidovici

**Honorary members**

147. Ento

148. Cause Comuni Svizzera

## The work of the Local Democracy Agencies in 2006

### THE MAIN THEMATIC PRIORITIES OF THE LDAs

Among the main thematic priorities of the LDAs in 2006 were:

#### 1. Transborder cooperation

LDA Kosovo  
LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla  
LDA Sisak  
LDA Ohrid  
LDA Subotica  
LDA Osijek  
LDA Mostar  
LDA Central and Southern Serbia

#### 2. Sustainable development

LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla  
LDA Prijedor  
LDA Central and Southern Serbia

#### 3. Capacity building for local authorities and civil society

LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla  
LDA Montenegro  
LDA Sisak  
LDA Central and Southern Serbia  
LDA Subotica  
LDA Georgia

#### 4. Interethnic dialogue

LDA Kosovo  
LDA Montenegro  
LDA Mostar  
LDA Sisak  
LDA Subotica

#### 5. Gender issues

LDA Sisak  
LDA Georgia  
LDA Zavidovici

#### 6. Local economic development

All LDAs (Programmes supported by the French and Norwegian Ministries of Foreign Affairs), but in particular  
LDA Kosovo  
LDA Zavidovici

LDA Prijedor  
LDA Montenegro  
LDA Central and Southern Serbia  
LDA Osijek  
LDA Sisak  
LDA Subotica

#### 7. Youth

LDA Kosovo  
LDA Georgia  
LDA Ohrid  
LDA Sisak  
LDA Subotica  
LDA Mostar  
LDA Zavidovici  
LDA Prijedor  
LDA Central and Southern Serbia  
LDA Osijek  
LDA Montenegro

#### 8. Communication skills/media

LDA Sisak  
LDA Central and Southern Serbia  
LDA Ohrid

#### 9. Minorities/refugees

LDA Sisak  
LDA Prijedor  
LDA Zavidovici

#### 10. Disabilities

LDA Mostar

#### 11. European Issues

LDA Kosovo  
LDA Subotica  
LDA Osijek  
LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla  
LDA Sisak  
LDA Central and Southern Serbia  
LDA Montenegro