



9 May 2014, Pula, Croatia

ALDA celebrates Europe Day, and keeps working hard towards the European elections!

Like every year, 9 May is definitely a day worth celebrating. Despite all criticism and Euroscepticism, the successes of the European Union for its citizens are blatant – last but not least in my country, Croatia, which joined the Union in July 2013.

2013 was the European Year dedicated to citizens, and ALDA was extremely active with projects and activities promoting awareness of the EU citizenship, as well as citizens' participation. By sitting in the Steering Committee of the **European Year of Citizens Alliance (EYCA)**, we were deeply involved in drafting the recommendations to EU institutions to improve democratic European citizenship.

In 2014, we are striving to implement those recommendations, and **to bridge 2013 to 2015, the European Year of Development**, in the belief that no sustainable development can be achieved without citizens' participation at all levels.

But 2014 also means **European Parliament elections**: in two weeks time, European citizens are called to cast their ballot and shape the future of Europe. ALDA has been working hard to raise awareness on these elections, which in our view are crucial for the survival of the European project.

Today we raise our glasses for a quick toast, and go back to our daily activities to promote the vote. Our Director and staff will keep organising meetings, conferences and events, to discuss the importance of voting pro Europe. We are also disseminating our members' voices – with the **campaign #1perDay**, in the last month before the elections, one of our members every day explains from their point of view why all EU citizens have to vote.

For the first time, we are also launching a campaign to raise individual support from citizens of Europe and its Neighbourhood. With a little annual contribution, all those who believe in our mission and activity can become '**Friends of ALDA**', and help our work to promote citizens' participation and local democracy.

Happy Europe Day – get in touch with us to strengthen Europe together!

Oriano Otočan

President of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)

Head of Department for International Cooperation and European Integration, Region Istria

alda@aldaintranet.org - www.alda-europe.eu

HEADQUARTERS IN STRASBOURG
c/o Council of Europe, office 1027
Avenue de l'Europe, 67075 Strasbourg, (FR)
Tel +33 (0) 390214593
Fax +33 (0) 388412751
aldastrasbourg@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN BRUSSELS
Rue de la Science, 14b
1000 Brussels (BE)
Tel: +32 2 880 37 28
aldabrussels@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN VICENZA
Viale Milano 66
36100 Vicenza, (IT)
Tel +39 0444540 146
Fax +39 0444 231043
aldavicenza@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN SKOPJE
Bld. Partizanski Odredi 15A 2/2
1000 Skopje, (MK)
Tel +389 (0) 2 6091 060

OFFICE IN SUBOTICA
c/o LDA Subotica
Trg cara Jovana Nenada 15
24000 Subotica, (SRB)
Tel/Fax +381 24 554587