



ALDA

European Association for Local Democracy


Activity Report 2015



www.alda-europe.eu

Supported by:






"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

ALDA AT A GLANCE

COUNTRIES WITH ALDA ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERS / EU MEMBER STATES

UPCOMING LDAS

- ODESSA (UA)
- MOLDOVA (MD)
- TUNISIA (TN)

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES (LDAS)

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

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

- OP - LDA SISAK (HR)
- OP - LDA OSIJEK (HR)
- OP - LDA VERTENEGLIO/BRTONIGLA (HR)

ALDA OFFICES

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

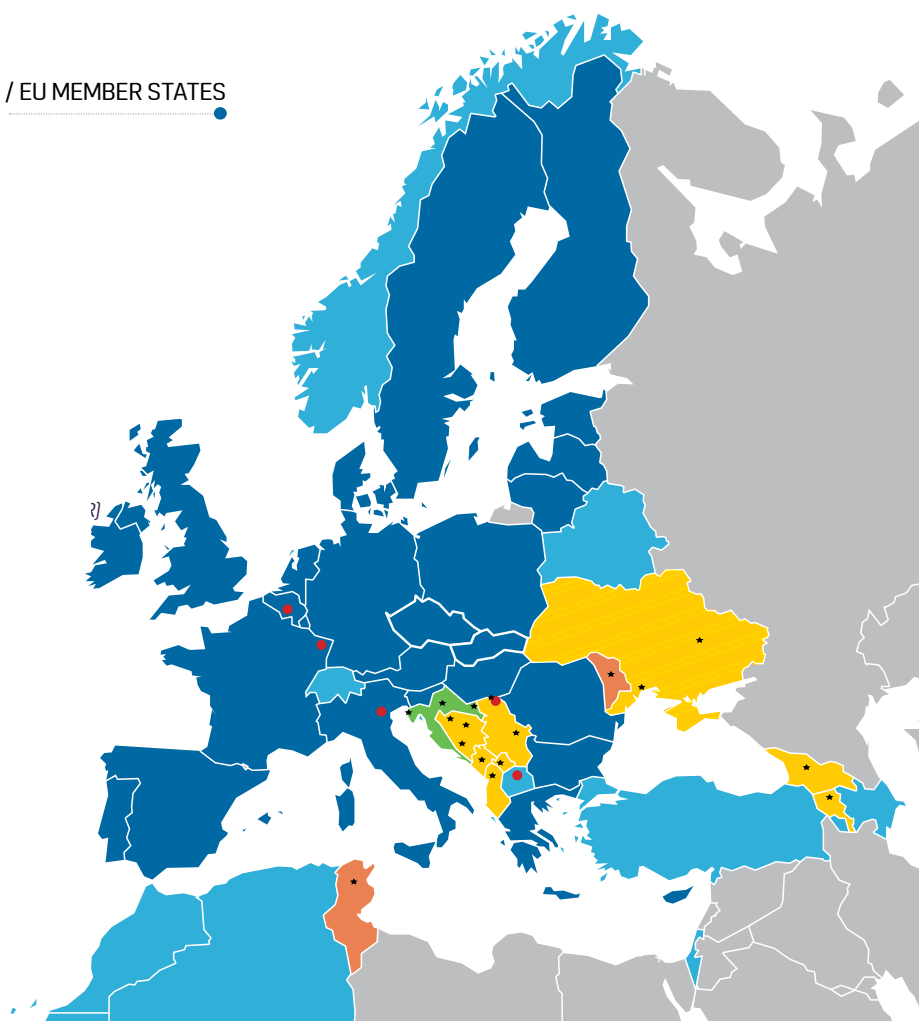


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All information included is updated to March 2016.

About ALDA

ALDA - the European Association for Local Democracy, is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. ALDA in particular focuses on activities that facilitate cooperation between local authorities and civil society in the European Union and its Neighbourhood.

ALDA, established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, among its activities coordinates and supports a network of Local Democracy Agencies created in the early 1990s. The Local Democracy Agencies are self-sustainable, locally registered NGOs acting as promoters of good governance and local self-government in their regions.

ALDA is a membership based organisation gathering about 200 members – including local authorities, associations of local authorities and non-governmental organisations – from over 40 countries. It is funded through membership fees as well as project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe and other public and private donors.

What is unique about ALDA

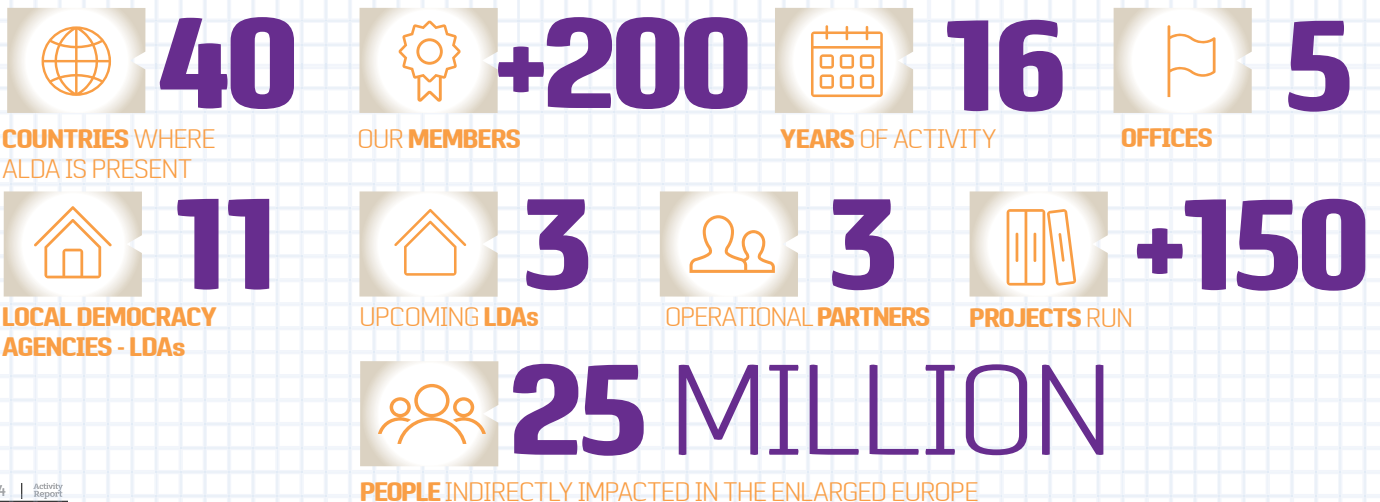
Most of ALDA's work is based on the method of multilateral decentralized cooperation. This method involves a multi-stakeholder approach, which focuses on strong partnerships between local authorities and civil society organisations. These partnerships create positive synergy and ensure that common goals are reached jointly and successfully.

What we do and where we work

In the framework of promoting 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.

The activities of ALDA are articulated around three main areas: ALDA Europe, ALDA Cooperation and ALDA Plus.

OUR NETWORK



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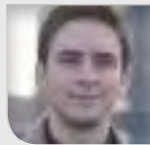
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LADDER project



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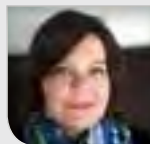
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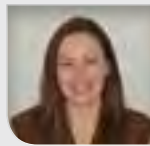
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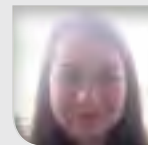
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Letter from the President



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 2015.

In 2015, ALDA worked hard and achieved several important successes. Among those, the opening of the Local Democracy Agency of the Dnipropetrovsk Region, in Ukraine; the relaunch of the LDA in Vlora, Albania; the strengthening of our activities in the Mediterranean area; a number of pioneering projects presented and implemented, as well as our strong involvement in the European Year for Development.

On the occasion of the General Assembly 2016, I would like to thank all the members of the Governing Board, who committed themselves to leading the activities of ALDA during the past four years. Being the President and cooperating with you was an honour and a pleasure, and the incredible achievements of the Association over the last years are the best indicators of the Board's engagement and dedication.

I wish all members of the new Governing Board good luck to further enlarge and consolidate the activities of ALDA over the next four years!

Major challenges are on our plate in 2016 and beyond, in particular the launch of the Local Democracy Agencies in Odessa (Ukraine), in Tunisia, and in Moldova. I am confident that our cooperation with members and partners, as well as the credibility gained by ALDA over the past years, will support our work towards these ambitious goals.

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 the present context of migration crisis, the economic and political instability of Europe, and the shadow of the international terrorism, I am truly convinced that the activity of ALDA is needed more than ever.

Oriano Otočan
President of ALDA

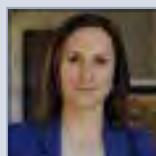
GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD IN 2015 (MANDATE 2012-2016)



Mr. Oriano Otočan
Representing the Region Istria (HR)
President, Bureau member



Mr. Alessandro Perelli
Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region (IT), International Relations and Strategic Infrastructures office
Vice President, Bureau member, Coordinator of the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation Working Group



Ms. Imislawa Gorska
International School of Bydgoszcz (PL), Principal
Vice President, Bureau member, Coordinator Eastern Partnership Working Group



Mr. Roger Lawrence
Wolverhampton City Council (UK), Councillor
Treasurer of ALDA, Bureau member



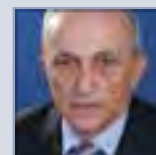
Ms. Paula Raužan
Delegate of the DP Local Democracy Agency of Sisak (HR)
Vice President, Bureau member, Coordinator LDAs Working Group



Mr. Per Vinter
Individual member (DK)
Coordinator Eastern Partnership Working Group



Ms. Annie Anne
Former Lower Normandy Region (FR), Vice-President, International Relations
Coordinator Western Balkans Working Group



Mr. Micea Cosma
Prahova County (RO), President

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Antonella Cagnolati
General Coordinator of the Lisbon Forum 2013 of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (Consultant), Italy
President of the Advisory Committee

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 Zavidovici, Italy

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

Forward by the Secretary General



Antonella Valmorbida
Secretary General of ALDA

Dear members, dear friends,

I share our President's happiness for the results achieved by ALDA in 2015, which are the outcome of the coordinated work of our staff, Governing Board, Delegates, members and partners over the whole year.

Not only have the activities and projects of ALDA exponentially increased. The Association itself has grown to a totally new dimension, which makes ALDA one of the leading stakeholders in the field of local democracy in Europe.

On the occasion of the General Assembly 2016, the top annual event dedicated to our network of members, I am glad to announce that ALDA has today more than 200 members! This number reflects the recognition gained through our 16 years of work, and encourages us to further strengthen our network.

I would like to thank the Governing Board, whose members have guided and supported the work of the Association from 2012 to 2016.

While welcoming the new elected Board, I cannot but hope for the same level of commitment, dedication, and innovation. The growth of ALDA is a realization we all have to be proud of, but we also have to be aware this escalates daily and strategic challenges for all those who are involved.

I thank you all for the great cooperation, and look forward to further working together!

Antonella Valmorbida
Secretary General of ALDA



Mr. Lucio Gregoretti
City of Monfalcone (IT), Head of the International relations service
Coordinator Eastern Partnership Working Group



Mr. Dobrica Milovanovic
City of Kragujevac (SRB), Deputy Mayor



Mr. Ruggiero Mennea
Apulia Region (IT), Councillor



Mr. Yvan Godefroy
Association "Maison de l'Europe", Caen (FR), President
Coordinator Active Citizenship Working Group

GOVERNING BOARD APPOINTED MEMBERS



Ms. Silvija Patarcic
Chair of the LDA Delegates' Advisory Committee
LDA Subotica (SRB)



Mr. Jean-Claude Frécon
President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, or his representative, Appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe



Mr. François Friederich
Representing the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (FR);
Head of division 'Electoral assistance and census', Directorate general for democracy

Ms. Ruzica Jankahidac
Senior Project Assistant and Project Manager, France and Serbia

Mr. Józef Rogacki
Plenipotentiary of the Governing Board of the Voivodship Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (Toruń) / Councillor of the Regional Parliament of the Kujava and Pomerania – President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Poland

Ms. Rada Orescanin
Financial and Administrative Manager of EU Projects and Projects for Cooperation and Developments 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

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 Plus) 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 – which include gender issues, minorities issues, youth employability, environment, education, and voluntarism.



ALDA works in the European Union promoting participatory citizenship at local level as an instrument to create the enabling conditions for communities political and social development, as well as to increase equality, welfare, security, and sustainability.

Engaging citizens in all aspects of the life of their community and making their voices heard through peaceful and legal forms of participation is an antidote to populism and anti-democratic movements. ALDA confirms its vision that only a Europe built from below with the full involvement of citizens can develop a sense of shared ownership of the European project. By fostering participatory citizenship and intercultural dialogue, ALDA's programme has been contributing to meet the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy. Participatory citizenship, economic competitiveness and social cohesion are interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

Within the framework of supporting the European project through a bottom up approach, ALDA's citizenship programme (ALDA Europe) focuses on the following priorities:

- ◀ to contribute to 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 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 even 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.

By conducting its own and its members' projects, as well as through lobbying activities, ALDA fosters citizen participation and local democracy on four main pillars: culture, education and volunteerism; social issues; youth empowerment and employment; health and environment.

Advocacy component

ALDA advocates for an enabling environment for citizen 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)
- ▶ Strategic partner of the European Commission within the structured dialogue of the Europe for Citizens programme
- ▶ Observer in 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 3 of CONCORD
- ▶ Initiator and Coordinator of the European Year of Citizens Alliance (EYCA)
- ▶ Initiator and Coordinator of the Italian National Alliance for the European Year on Active Citizenship 2013
- ▶ Member of the European Year for Development 2015 Civil Society Alliance (and our R&D Coordinator Marco Boaria in the Steering Committee of EYD 2015)
- ▶ Member of the European Movement International
- ▶ 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 Valmorbidia in the Board of Directors)
- ▶ Member of the European Year of Volunteering 2011 Alliance
- ▶ Member of the Central and Eastern European Citizens Network
- ▶ Initiator of Civil Society Europe
- ▶ Member of Europe+
- ▶ Member of CIVICUS

PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

RE.CRI.RE – Between the Representation of the Crisis and the Crisis of Representation

Programme
Horizon 2020



Mini seminar on RE.CRI.RE at Aristotele University in Thessaloniki, Greece | November 2015



16
PARTNERS

3 YEARS
DURATION
MAY 2015 – APRIL 2018

COUNTRIES INVOLVED
FRANCE
ITALY
DENMARK
MALTA
CYPRUS
GREECE
BULGARIA
THE NETHERLANDS
ESTONIA
UNITED KINGDOM
GERMANY
SPAIN

OBJECTIVES:

- To map the systems of meanings grounding the social identities in the different European societies
- To understand the role played by the symbolic universes in mediating the impact of policies
- To verify whether a major change of the symbolic universes grounding the social identity has been occurring/has occurred
- To identify both general guidelines and context-specific, strategic and methodological guidelines for policy-making in post-crisis contexts, that are consistent with the symbolic universes at stake
- To explore the repercussions of the change of the symbolic universes for some social objects, relevant to European cohesion (e.g. solidarity, Europe, democracy, participation, social inclusion, sustainability, innovation)
- To validate both general and context-specific guidelines in terms of relevance, effectiveness, feasibility as well as appropriateness to the symbolic universes



Kick off meeting in Mesagne, Italy | June 2015

This project aims to understand what kind of social identity change is going on within European societies.

For policy-making, the analysis of social identity is highly valuable because the social identity moderates the impact of policies. And this is particularly true in times of crisis.

In particular, the project aims:

A To verify whether the symbolic universes grounding the social identity has undergone a major change within European societies, as a consequence of the socio-economic crisis

B To draw strategic and methodological implications for policy-making from point A.

This project includes 4 core scientific work packages:

A Multilevel Analysis of the Symbolic Universes, aimed at mapping structurally and developmentally the systems of meaning (i.e. the symbolic universes) grounding the social identity

B Case Studies for policies, aimed at see how different policies have been organized and how their impact might or might not have been moderated by the symbolic dynamics at stake

C The results of this analysis will be transformed into abstract criteria, contextualised in 5 different European macro-Regions, discussed with stakeholders, opinions leaders, policy-makers and finally stored within the guidelines

D Finally, the guidelines will be validated in terms of pertinence, effectiveness and the feasibility criteria, through seminars with the policy makers, opinion leaders and stakeholders, belonging to national, European, international agencies involved in the construction and implementation of policies. Also, focus groups will be organized in each cultural context in order to study the impact of context-specific criteria.



First General Assembly of the project in Brussels, Belgium | February 2016

GOOD GOVERNANCE AT LOCAL LEVEL

DECIDE – DEMocratic Compact: Improving Democracy in Europe

Funding programme: **Europe for Citizens**

Duration: 30 May 2013 – 29 May 2015

DECIDE aimed at developing a democratic compact, namely a set of measures to increase the quality of democracy and citizen participation at the local level through the establishment of a thematic network of towns and the adoption of a bottom-up approach.



Final event in Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina | May 2015

TIE - Tackling Illegal Economy

Funding programme: **Prevention of and Fight against Crime**

Duration: 01 July 2013 - 30 June 2015

TIE aimed at creating the grounds for collaboration between the public institutions, judges, civil society and the academic world in identifying and promoting the best ways to undermine the profitability of crime by means of the aggression to criminal assets.

ENVIRONMENT

WE-NET – Working for Environmentally Educated Towns

Funding programme: **Europe for Citizens**

Duration: 01 July 2015 – 30 June 2017

The general objective of the project WE – NET is to establish a network of municipalities from different regions across Europe and work together on promoting recycling at the local level by facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices.

EYES - European Youth Environment Sentinels

Funding programme: **Erasmus+**

Duration: 31 December 2014 - 31 October 2015

The project EYES brought together youth workers active in the field of health promotion and protection of the environment to exchange experience, knowledge and good practices while being trained on the precautionary principle stated in Article 191 of the TFEU in order to launch the process of setting up youth environmental sentinels across Europe.



8-day Training for European Young Environment Sentinels in Vicenza, Italy | June 2015

EMPLOYMENT

Break Down, Break Out

Funding programme: **Erasmus+**

Duration: 01 September 2014 – 31 August 2016



Second transnational meeting in Rome, Italy | May 2015

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.

PATHS (Youth for Solidarity Economy and Entrepreneurship in Europe)

Funding programme: **Erasmus+**

Duration: February 2015 - March 2016

The project is a strategic partnership between European organizations which are active in the field of education, training and youth, designed to promote cooperation and innovation in young social entrepreneurship.



Partners meeting in Sheffield, UK | June 2015

Work on Social Cooperation (WOSOCOOP)

Funding programme: **Erasmus+**

Duration: 01 September 2014 – 31 May 2015

The project aimed at tackling youth unemployment by bringing together youth workers to exchange knowledge, experience and good practices while being trained on the application of the Italian social cooperative model in the youth field as a successful methodology.



7-day Training course activity, in Casarsa, Italy | January 2015

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

BESPAT (Best European Policies, Analysis and Transference)

 Funding programme: **Progress**

 Duration: 01 June 2014 – 30 November 2015

The general objective of the project is to identify and exchange good practices regarding the policies and actions in the sector of personal and household services as a way to define a "Policies and Actions Proposal" to encourage the efficiency of these services and to contribute, through the creation of new jobs, to the objectives of European 2020 Strategy.



Coordination meeting in Madrid, Spain | November 2015

TOPSA Patras

 Funding programme: **Operational Plan for Region of Western Greece (through ESF)**

 End of project: November 2015

The project aimed at creating job opportunities for unemployed professionals in the region of Patras, in Western Greece. The City of Patras, long-term member of ALDA, invited the Association and our member Consorzio Leonardo to the international closing conference held in June to present Italian experiences and best practices; ALDA realized and disseminated the two publications: "Guide on Social Cooperatives and Social Economy in Italy. Guidelines and Case Study Experiences" and "Report about the survey on social enterprises in Italy".



A delegation from Patras, Greece, on a study visit in Vicenza, Italy | July 2014



Young participants at the European Parliament for the final conference in Strasbourg, France | May 2015

CHARM: Creativity and Healthy style: Advancing the Role of Music

 Funding programme: **Youth in Action**

 Duration: 03 March 2014 – 31 August 2015

Consisting of a training course, transnational youth initiatives, and a final seminar, CHARM focused on helping – through non-formal learning actions connected to music and arts – young people from 5 different countries improve their skills and actively participate in the life of their communities.

T-TRUST

 Funding programme: **Erasmus+**

 Duration: 02 February 2015 - 29 February 2016

T-TRUST aimed at making a contribution to prevent early school leaving during the transition from Middle to High School. The project organised a thematic seminar specifically targeting educators who deal with activities for/about/with students from 11 to 17 years of age.



Institutional welcome by Mr. Federico Formisano, President of the Municipality Council of Vicenza, to participants in Vicenza, Italy | June 2015

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

It coordinates and supports the network of 11 Local Democracy Agencies and 3 Operational Partners in their ac-

tivities. Most of the Local Democracy Agencies are located in the Western Balkans, but ALDA is becoming more and more active in the European Neighbourhood. In 2015 ALDA opened the LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region in Ukraine, and it is now working towards the opening of 3 new Local Democracy Agencies in: Odessa (Ukraine), Moldova and Tunisia.

PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LADDER - Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education & Raising awareness

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



Special Initiative in Tbilisi, Georgia | December 2015



45
PARTNERS

3 YEARS
DURATION
2015 - 2017



COUNTRIES INVOLVED

ITALY, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, DENMARK, GEORGIA, GREECE, IRELAND, LATVIA, MALTA, POLAND, SERBIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, THE NETHERLANDS, TUNISIA, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, UKRAINE, ROMANIA, KOSOVO*, LITHUANIA,

AZERBAIJAN, MOLDOVA, PORTUGAL, ARMENIA, FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, SOUTH AFRICA, FRANCE, BELARUS, MOROCCO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, ISRAEL, TURKEY



OBJECTIVES:

- ◆ Inform, raise awareness and engage citizens in global challenges
- ◆ Strengthen the capacity of LAs and CSOs to act in a sustainable way as drivers for development
- ◆ Foster their role of multipliers



Special Initiative in Malta | November 2015

The aims of the LADDER project are: raising public awareness on development and global issues, mobilising public support for global challenges, and leading to a change in the attitudes of the public towards development and global issues. In order to achieve these objectives, LADDER targets in particular at Local Authorities (LAs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as actors, which have a multiplier potential, and thus, via a cascade effect, can become drivers for change. Hence, LADDER consortium is composed by a network of LAs and CSOs: 25 partners and 20 associates from both EU and non-EU countries. The activities of the LADDER consortium comprehend a wide range of capac-

ity building and raising awareness activities in the countries involved. Furthermore, LADDER also foresees three geographical dimensions focusing on the Mediterranean area, on the South East European Area and on the Eastern Partnership, and six thematic paths, which are fundamental to foster specific thematic priorities. The six thematic paths are: youth in development, migration, citizens' participation in development, public-private cooperation in development, environmental and sustainable development, the European Year for Development 2015. Therefore, LADDER focuses on the role of LAs & CSOs in promoting awareness on global development issues & engagement at different levels for development.



Launching Conference in Brussels, Belgium | June 2015

— Focus on: — South-East Europe

ALDA and LDAs consistent involvement in Western Balkan countries has made the LDAs a recognizable network of actors promoting EU integration and getting the citizens of local communities closer to European values and standards.

The establishment of ALDA Office in Subotica (SRB) in 2008 and the registration of ALDA Office in Skopje (MK) in 2012, brought an important improvement: the two offices are essential and further used as tools for providing technical and operational support to ALDA and LDAs with a view to IPA 2 Programming in particular.

Further attention will be given to organizational capacity building and 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, EVS Programme, and more recently EU Citizenship Programmes) represent more than evident results that contributed substantially to strengthened organizational capacities of LDAs.

- With this in view, it is particularly relevant to note:
- ✦ **ALDA and LDAs have participated in consultation process for establishment and activity programming of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office which will be officially opened in Tirana in July 2016**
 - ✦ **All LDAs in the Western Balkan countries are involved in 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 information exchange to strengthen IPA 2 Programming and evaluation process**
 - ✦ **All LDAs in the Western Balkan countries were included in research work and drafting Policy Recommendations to promote participation of young people in public life and in regional cooperation 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 respective host cities, LDAs have created a community of good local practice in fostering social cohesion through the promotion of policy measures in social entrepreneurship development, inter-generational solidarity, intercultural exchange, improved participation of women and youth.**



LADDER SEE geographical path - Round table “Refugee crisis - challenges and consequences” in Belgrade, Serbia | December 2015



Public presentation of the Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue in Skopje, Macedonia | December 2015



Cooperation between the Normandy Region and Republic of Macedonia - Steering Committee in Skopje, Macedonia | November 2015

PROJECTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

France Balkans

Network funded by the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs



The young journalists preparing reportage in the French cemetery of the WW1 in Skopje, Macedonia | August 2015

The network France Balkans gathers French actors involved in the Balkan countries. This project aims at creating a platform for a long-lasting French-Balkan multilateral decentralized cooperation. In this framework, in 2015, ALDA took part to the organisation of the travelling seminar "On the footsteps of Albert Londres" in Macedonia and Albania. 12 future journalists from France, Albania and Macedonia discovered the history of the WW1 in the Balkans.

Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue

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

The Operating Grant is intended to support the work of LDAs in the Western Balkan countries to contribute more effectively in structuring regional thematic cooperation and coordination between CSOs and public authorities and help improve environment for youth activism and participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities.

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



Visit to the National Parliament of Montenegro in Podgorica, Montenegro | May 2015

OTHER PROJECTS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Local coalitions for community development

IPA 2011 Civil Society Facility

Montenegro Programme

Applicant - ALDA

Partners: LDA Montenegro, LDA Subotica, LDA Knjazevac, PALGO Centre

The Sub-granting Programme (eight supported grass root NGOs in municipalities: Niksic, Bijelo Polje, Ulcinj, Rozaje) was designed to help contribute to strengthening and sustaining of the role of CSOs in community development through capacity building and networking actions for more effective CSOs participation in designing, implementing and monitoring policy measures aimed to get the citizens closer to the EU standards in democratic governance.



Conference in Podgorica, Montenegro | May 2015

CARAVAN NEXT - Feed the Future

Creative Europe: Culture sub-programme / European cooperation projects /

Category 2: Larger scale cooperation projects

Applicant - Odine Theatret, Holstebro, DENMARK

Caravan NEXT is a European project by the Social and Community Theatre (SCT) focused on bringing SCT 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 challenges in the new millennium". Some of the main events will be hosted in Subotica, Mostar and Skopje.



International Conference WE-FOR-GET in Maribor, Slovenia | March 2014

Decentralized cooperation programme between the Lower-Normandy Region (now Normandy Region, France) and the Republic of Macedonia

Europe for Citizens Programme,
Measure 1 Town Twinning

In 2015 the Lower Normandy Region (now Normandy Region) and the Republic of Macedonia celebrated their 10 years of cooperation. This fruitful cooperation currently engaging more than 50 stakeholders has gained wide notoriety on both territories and has developed through the years into a very successful relationship between the two partners.

Lower Normandy, called Normandy since the territorial French Reform in 2016, and Macedonia cooperate to further good local democracy on diverse subjects such as Human Rights, Culture, Youth (formal and non-formal learning), Remembrance, involving various actors: citizens, CSOs, local authorities (politicians and civil servants), educational and cultural institutions, enterprises, etc. The institutional cooperation aspect of the programme works in furtherance and support of territorial decentralization, local governance by building capacity of local decision makers, and promoting active citizenship.

The new key topic of cooperation is Remembrance of the First World War. This project aims to promote reconciliation and European values through Remembrance. The actions for raising awareness in both countries and development of memorial tourism in Macedonia (Normandy's chief expertise) will be the focal point of the cooperation.



100 partners gathered for the celebration of the 10 years of the Cooperation Normandy Macedonia in Caen, France | April 2015

YES, TODAY!

Funded by Chiesa Valdese



Young people from Azerbaijan and Macedonia during the study visit in Macedonia | March 2015

The project aims to improve the knowledge of the young Azeri about youth unemployment, social and economic inclusion and local development through a multidisciplinary and multicultural approach and to equip them with the skills needed to be able to actively participate in their communities.

BETonEU - The Balkans and Europe Together: Opportunity for a New Experience towards Unification!

Europe for Citizens Programme,
Measure 1 Town Twinning

BETonEU is a two year cooperation and twinning project, gathering 19 partners from 12 EU Member States and Western Balkan countries. In the series of ALDA successful applications within the Programme, this was the first time that the city of Subotica, member of ALDA in the Balkans, saw the approval of a EFC project. The project aims at representing an unbiased platform for exchanging, reflecting, debating, networking and acting for the future of Europe, as ambassadors of the motto "United in diversity".



Third international event in Subotica, Serbia | September 2015

Bridges of Expertise to Fight Gender Based Violence

IPA Turkey: Strengthening Capacity of National and Local NGOs on Combating Violence Against Women

Project activities comprised capacity building, research and data collection on needs assessment of the local public and civil society stakeholders, exchange of best practices with EU based counterparts, actions in support to widening the scope of services in area of prevention and assistance to victims in combating the violence against women, as well as a series of local and EU wide awareness raising events on gender based violence. Published Guide on combating violence against women was presented in CoE during the Congress Session in October 2015.



Presentation of the Guide and best practices at the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg, France | October 2015

Focus on: Eastern Partnership

ALDA has been active in all six EaP countries in 2015. In Azerbaijan, the Chiesa Valdese-funded “Yes, Today!” project aimed at youth empowerment, employability and skills development has been successfully concluded. In Belarus, the TANDEM II project has concluded with the closing conference in Minsk in April, while the SPREAD II project continues to support the development of effective local governance until 2017. The project on mobilised civil society for local democracy continued in Georgia. Together with its partners in Armenia, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, a new project on cultural heritage and civic engagement (CHOICE) kicked-off in September.

As for the LDAs in the EaP, in May the LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region opened with the support of the regions Lower Silesia (Poland) and Alsace (France). The LDAs in Kutasi (Georgia)

and Gyumri (Armenia), were active and developed a number of projects engaging both local authorities and their communities. Furthermore, the efforts towards opening the LDA in Moldova and another one in Ukraine, on the shores of the Black Sea in Odessa, have been made in close cooperation with local partners, the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CALM) and the All-Ukrainian Association for Community Self-Organisation respectively.

The EU-funded project LADDER, the follow-up to the WTD project from back in 2014, engages the EaP partners and associates through its EaP thematic path. In 2015 the partners made a joint submission to the ENP review consultation in which they have emphasised the important role of local authorities in the EU’s EaP initiatives.

PROJECTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

SPREAD II – Sustainable Partnership for Reinforcement of Active Development

Funded by the EU’s Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme

SPREAD II is the continuation of the previous SPREAD project run with our long-standing partner the Belarus-based 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 this objective through several calls for applications under the regranting scheme.



Meeting the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova, in Chisinau, Moldova | March 2015

Mobilised Society for Local Democracy

Funded by Neighborhood Civil Society Facility under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

The project, led by the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG), aims at strengthening the role of regional civil society groups and mobilisation of citizens and local communities in support of the decentralisation efforts. ALDA has been actively following the process through the organisation of training of trainers on project management cycle and developing PR guidelines for community leaders.

CHOICE – Cultural Heritage: Opportunity for Improving Civic Engagement

Funded by Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument



This two-year project started in July 2015. CHOICE aims at enhancing civil society’s role and to build its capacities to develop a heritage-friendly living environment in Belarus, Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine. In the first few months of the project, civil society organisations active in the field of local development, protection and rehabilitation of culture heritage and landscape in the four countries have been identified by the local partners at the grassroots level and would be actively involved in subsequent initiatives under the regranting scheme. In this time, there have been several exchanges with local communities about how to engage in the policy dialogue with the central government on the subject matter, given that the successful implementation of the international cultural conventions requires a conscious and engaged citizenry.



Steering Committee in Vicenza, Italy | September 2015

Focus on: Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

Also for the Mediterranean area, the activities of ALDA Working Group on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation were key in 2015.

Our cooperation with PASC Tunisia – Programme d'Appui à la Société Civile – was strongly developed and was materialized this year with two international conferences organized in Tunisia with the cooperation of ALDA: on Decentralization and Social Cohesion (11 June, Tunisia) and on Youth Volunteering (18 December, Le Kef).

Besides, the LADDER project involves several partners and associates in the Euro-Med area (Algeria, Italy, Morocco, and

Tunisia) and one of its geographical path focuses exclusively on the MED area.

At the same time, the process called Sunflower/Girasole/Tournesol for an enhanced cooperation with countries from the Mediterranean area continued. ALDA and its working group are paving the way through the above-mentioned activities to the opening of the future LDA in Tunisia. Several field missions were thus conducted in this framework and allowed to identify the city of Kairouan as a strong option for the implementation of the LDA by the end of 2016.

ACTIVITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

International Conference on Decentralization and Social Cohesion

On 11 June 2015, ALDA experts took part in the international conference on Decentralization and social cohesion organized in Tunis by PASC Tunisie and CFAD, in collaboration with ATERDAL – L'Association Tunisienne d'études et recherches en démocratie et affaires locales, ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy – and with the support of Club de Madrid, with the exceptional participation of Mr José Rodriguez Zapatero, Former Prime Ministry of Spain. The event was a milestone for debating and reflecting on the challenges ahead of Tunisia and all stakeholders involved in the process of decentralization.



Workshop on Decentralization and Local Development facilitated by Jean-Luc Boeuf during the international conference on Decentralization and social cohesion in Tunis, Tunisia | June 2015

International colloquium on volunteering - Le Kef

On 18 December 2015, an international colloquium on volunteering took place in Le Kef (Tunisia). The event entitled "Le bénévolat / volontariat : une expérience humaine et citoyenne" was organized by PASC Tunisie in partnership with ALDA and gathered around 100 participants from Civil Society Organizations based in North-West Tunisia. The event gave the opportunity to debate on the challenges, benefits and opportunities of youth volunteering in Tunisia, in the specific post-revolution context where the number of Civil Society Organizations considerably increased and where youth really proved to be the main driver of social change.



World-Café during the event Bénévolat / volontariat - une expérience humaine et citoyenne in Le Kef, Tunisia | December 2015

MED Path of the LADDER project



MED Path meeting in Malta – La Valetta | November 2015

ALDA is the leader of a 3 year-project funded by the European Union and designed to sensitize public opinion on development issues, to promote development education and to change behaviours confronting those challenges on the basis of local authorities. This ambitious project is focused on three geographic areas of the ENP (European Neighbourhood Policy), which includes the Mediterranean area. Within the framework of the MED Path, coordinated by Lam Echaml and COPPEM, the following actions took place in 2015:

- Establishment of a Med working group as a platform of reflexion, exchanges and action at the EU level concerning DEAR (Development Education and Awareness Raising). In 2015, the LADDER Med Path met on several occasions: in Podgorica (MNE) during the General Assembly of ALDA, in Brussels (BE) during the launching conference of LADDER project, in Palermo (IT) within a meeting on the "Ecomuseum" concept launched by UNESCO, and in Malta during the Special event "Migration and Development: EYD 2015 – The Year for Local Action for Global Solutions".
- Answer to the call for contribution launched by the European Commission for the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP): ENP recommendations available among main documents on www.ladder-project.eu
- A "Charter of Mediterranean local democracy" is under preparation upon suggestion of Lam Echaml. This Charter will be voted and approved during a MED Path meeting in Tunisia in April 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 11 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and 3 Operational Partners (OPs) in their activities. Most of the Local Democracy Agencies are located in the Western Balkans, but ALDA is more and more active in the European Neighborhood. In 2006 it expanded its network to Southern Caucasus. The youngest one is the LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region, established in May 2015. The network is in constant expansion – ALDA is currently working towards the opening of LDAs in: Odessa (Ukraine), Moldova and Tunisia.

The LDAs and OPs are supported by more than 100 partners (local authorities and civil society organisations) 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.

Most of ALDA and LDA's work is based on the innovative and successful method of multilateral decentralised cooperation, which involves a multi-stakeholder approach and focuses on partnerships between Local Authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations. These partnerships create synergy and ensure that common goals are reached in a successful way. It focuses on mutual benefit of the cooperation, on a participative and long term approach in order to strengthen the real effectiveness of the impact on both communities. The multilateral approach allows a better sustainability as well as a multicultural input to the initiatives.



Opening of the LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region, in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine | May 2015



Official relaunch of the LDA Albania, in Vlora, Albania | October 2015

The LDAs partnerships by means of multilateral decentralised cooperation have been developed through two main lines of action:

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

OBJECTIVES:

- ✦ To promote good local governance and support initiatives aimed at improving citizen participation
- ✦ To enhance institution and capacity building at local level through exchange of know-how and training of local elected representatives and administrators
- ✦ To develop a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to respect for human and minority rights
- ✦ To foster the development of a civil society in which all sections of the community participate
- ✦ To support intercultural dialogue and diversity management capacities in multicultural local communities
- ✦ To promote the respect for human / minority rights in local communities



- ★ LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES (LDAs)
- OPERATIONAL PARTNERS (OPs)
- UPCOMING LDAs
- COUNTRIES WITH ALDA ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERS / EU MEMBER STATES
- ALDA OFFICES

Financial sustainability of the LDAs

A study carried out by ALDA in 2013 shows that the overall budget of the LDAs per year constantly increased since 2009 despite the economic context, guaranteeing a sufficient availability of resources for the implementation of the respective action plans. The available funds are managed by the LDAs themselves or by the members of the partnership established for the implementation of a specific project. Following the implementation of projects and activities, financial reports are drawn up to ensure transparency and appropriate use of the funds.

There are three different types of funding sources:

- 1. funds resulting from the LDA's fundraising**
- 2. ALDA's support to the LDAs**
- 3. fees of the LDAs' partners.**

The funds resulting from the fundraising activity of the LDAs have steadily increased over the years, representing in 2012 a total of 87,10% of the total available budget. These funds come from European, national and other international supporting programmes originating from the EU, the Council of Europe, national, regional and local authorities and other international organisations.

At the same time, the other two sources, partners' fees and ALDA's support to LDAs, considerably decreased in terms of financial support.

ALDA pursues its coordination and supporting mission to the LDAs by providing them with adequate expertise at all stages of the implementation of projects (funding opportunities, establishment of new partnerships, project implementation, exchange and sharing of good practices, technical support, joint projects, etc.). ALDA has been involving in several projects and providing support of all kind to the Local Democracy Agencies in order to further the promotion of local democracy and citizens' participation at local level.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES



LDA Albania

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Lead partner: Metropolitan City of Bari, Italy



Delegate: Madlina Puka

The Local Democracy Agency Albania has been established in 2008 in Shkodra, in the north of the country. The experience in Shkodra ended in 2014. After two years of inactivity, the Agency was re-opened in Vlora, in October 2015 in the south of the country, with the aim to be the intermediation and dialogue development place, and mutual exchanges at every level (cultural, social, economic) between the communities in Albania and European Community partners. The LDA was re-opened with the main purpose to promote the concrete initiatives for the consolidation of the democracy at local level, the development of the institutions capacity at local level through exchange of its expertise and experience, training of local councillors and civil administration, the development of a network of European cities in the

protection of human rights including minorities in large sense of the word, a social pluralist society including all the social conviction and the promotion of intercultural and interethnic dialogue. The agency aims to spread its activities in the entire territory of the Republic of Albania by opening branches in counties and municipalities as well as in other states by providing the number of its members.

The LDA's thematic priorities are:

- ✓ Strengthening cross-border and regional cooperation
- ✓ Supporting capacity building for local authorities and NGOs
- ✓ Supporting citizens participation
- ✓ Supporting European Union integration

Among its missions:

- To facilitate the participation of civil society in decision-making at the local level
- To promote interest, sensitivity and the ability of citizens to participate in decision-making at the local level.
- To promote sensitivity and ability of local authorities to meet the needs of citizens
- To promote interest and information exchange between Albania and other countries in Europe with the aim of promoting best practices through close cooperation and continuous exchange.



LDA Armenia, Gyumri

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Lead partner: Region Rhône-Alpes, France



Delegate: 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 practices of citizens' participation in promoting sustainable tourism, strengthening and developing regional cooperation and training activities for local staff.

The year 2015 can be considered as cooperative and successful for the Local Democracy Agency foundation in Armenia (LDA Armenia) after the difficult circumstances in the stabilization and establishment processes. 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 2015 the LDA implemented several projects and activities:

- ✓ Cooperation with the French Embassy in Armenia for several activities

✓ Implementation and participation in the International training EYES (European Youth Environmental Sentinels) for youth workers on citizen participation, health and environment

✓ Workshop on "Tourism in Armenia and Cooperation", in collaboration with the Rhone-Alpes Region (France)

✓ Cooperation with the Council of Europe for the organisation of seminars to promote citizen participation in Armenia

✓ Conference on "Good Governance", with support and cooperation of ALDA and Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development, in the Armenian State University of Economics

✓ Assistance of 24 kindergartens controlled by the community in Gyumri, in cooperation with the Municipality

✓ LDAs network delegates from Armenia and Georgia had the opportunity to participate in the Black Sea NGO forum - 8th edition, in Georgia. It aimed to define a strategic framework for regional cooperation at the Black sea

✓ Participation in the second Special Initiative of LADDER project with focus on the Eastern Partnership. The event drew the attention on Development Education & Awareness Raising (DEAR) as a process for a change of attitudes. In addition, a side meeting of EaP Local Democracy Agencies' representatives took place, with ALDA Secretary General and EaP coordinator

✓ Implementation of a workshop on Cultural Heritage within CHOICE project, aiming at preserving cultural heritage and enhancing cooperation among organizations working in the field



LDA Central and Southern Serbia, Knjaževac

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Delegate: Saša 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 April 2014 the LDA has moved its headquarters to Knjaževac, a city in South-Eastern Serbia. The LDA covers a 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) has been involved in the following projects during 2015:

✓ "Balkan Regional Platform For Youth Participation And Dialogue", funded by European Union through Civil Society Facility Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations - Support to Regional Thematic Associations, acting as co-applicant to ALDA

✓ "T-TRUST - Training on Techniques & Research on Unemployment, School-Leaving of Teen-agers", funded by the European Union through Erasmus+ Programme, acting as national partner from Serbia to the applicant Cooperativa Sociale Margherita, Italy

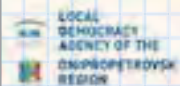
✓ "10 Wonders Of Knjaževac - A Tourist Guide Through Knjaževac By Youth For Youth", funded by Knjaževac Municipality, acting as applicant

✓ "Youth With A Plan", funded by the European Union Through Erasmus+ Programme, acting as national partner from Serbia to the applicant LDA Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

✓ "Application Successful", funded by the European Union Through Europe For Citizens Programme, acting as local support to LDA Subotica and the applicant European House Budapest, Hungary

✓ "WE-NET - Working For Environmentally Educated Towns", funded by the European Union Through Europe For Citizens Programme, acting as local coordinator on behalf of Knjaževac Municipality to the applicant Thiene Municipality, Italy

✓ "Day Of The European Union At The Festival Of Youth Culture Of Serbia", funded by Knjaževac Municipality, acting as applicant



LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region

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Lead partner: Lower Silesia Region, Poland



Delegate: Anzhelika Pylypenko

The Local Democracy Agency of the Dnipropetrovsk Region was established on 18 May 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 will foster citizen participation at the local level, while it will aim at mobilizing Civil Society Organizations and Local and Regional Authorities to develop joint initiatives.

In 2015 the LDA implemented several projects and activities:

- ☑ Training by ALDA on communications, financing, strategic planning and project development
- ☑ "On air" in the live program at Channel 51 (broadcast on Dnipropetrovsk region). The topic was "Self-organization in the Community", presentation of LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk region
- ☑ The implementation of UCBI "Say your word!" project, supported by USAID. The project was implemented by All-Ukrainian NGO "Civic Platform of Ukraine" in Dnipropetrovsk region. LDA staff held discussions on the issues of local elections: election process circumstances, updates on the current legislation, rights and obligations of local members of the parliament, youth participation in local elections and self-government; LDA role in local democracy development and youth initiatives support; decentralization and community amalgamation process in Dnipropetrovsk region: risks and possibilities
- ☑ Partner Meeting in Wrocław, added a new partner – Lower Silesian Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations (DFOP) with the Chairman of the Board – Mr Walde-mar Weihs, who is also a Director of Mercurry Foundation
- ☑ Participation in the meeting of the Association of Parity Organizations of Lower Saxony, which was conducted in Hanover, Germany



LDA Georgia, Kutaisi

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Lead partner: City of Strasbourg, France



Delegate: Nino Tvaltvadze

Today the LDA Georgia is in the situation to get a second wind. It is a chance to continue the work that has been done by the previous staff, while at the same time bringing some updates to give the organization fresh breath.

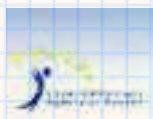
The biggest challenge for the LDA, and the whole country, is the newly signed and ratified Association Agreement with the EU. Because besides bringing new opportunities, it also brings responsibility that the government, civil society, and every citizen have to fulfil. The LDA Georgia, as part of ALDA family, can play its role in supporting the process of integration

with EU, especially in the development of local democracy.

The second significant circumstance, also very challenging, is the ongoing reform of Local self-government in Georgia, together with the newly elected public officials, which will bring to the organization new waves of opportunities, ideas and – hopefully – the support of donors, and all of this will produce change on the local level.

A number of projects and activities were implemented during the year, including:

- ☑ "Mobilized Civil Society for Local Democracy" Coalition project of NALAG, ALDA and LDA Georgia, funded by the European Commission
- ☑ Protected voice – Guarantee of effective self-governance – Project funded by Open Society Foundation Georgia
- ☑ "Vision of New Generation" with the partnership of Georgian Young Lawyers' Association – funded by the Council of Europe
- ☑ "The way forward for reforms in the housing sector: empowering grass-root homeowners associations in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine"
- ☑ Project "IMERY – Joint Initiative of Municipalities of Imereti Regions"
- ☑ Training for SOS Children's Villages Georgia, on children's rights



LDA Kosovo, Peja

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Lead partner: Association Trentino con i Balcani, Italy



Delegate: Elbert Krasniqi

LDA Kosovo was officially opened in 2011 in Peja/Pec, Kosovo, with the purpose to foster opportunities of meetings and constructive dialogue with the aim to improve relationships and the coexistence among communities through a shared reflection on the past, present and future, in a perspective of conflict elaboration and transformation. Its main priorities are to promote the local democracy related to the European Integration processes, to promote and strengthen the social areas regarding youth, culture and equal opportunities, to foster dialogues among different communities in Kosovo, to improve the economic development and to support logistics for the LDA's partners.

LDA Kosovo gained relevant experience even for the future on how to improve the collaboration of different communities in Kosovo's society, within a regional perspective through an exchange of cultural and intellectual reflections. LDA Kosovo, by summing up the great results earned, strongly believes that using culture as a tool on building bridges between communities in local and regional perspective, will bring even in the future general improvements of its citizens, and the key role of local democracy in a society.

Some of the main projects implemented by LDA Kosovo in 2015 are:

- ☑ Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue – in which LDA Kosovo dedicated most of the concentration and which introduced a combination of upgraded successful activities in 2015, that made the LDA gain new strategies to manage the activities involving actively the youth and also achieve its goals and improvements even for the future
- ☑ Balkan animation 2015
- ☑ Youth camps – making possible the participation of the youth from Italy and the youth of organisations in Kosovo in educational and formative activities
- ☑ Conference on the protection of children's rights, named "Peja child friendly city" in the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ☑ Training for SOS Children's Villages Georgia, on children's rights



LDA Montenegro, Nikšić

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Lead partner: Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy



Delegate: 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 2015 the LDA implemented the following projects:

- ☑ Local coalitions for community development – LCCD
- ☑ Centre for Social economy Development – CRSE
- ☑ "Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue"
- ☑ "Welcomes – Welfare innovation at the local level in favour of cohesion"
- ☑ "T-Trust: training on Techniques and Research on Unemployment and School – leaving of Teenagers prevention"
- ☑ "War and peace in Europe: (Only) a contradiction?" – Deconstruction of the intrinsic dialectic of the terms "war and peace" through political-esthetic education
- ☑ "Beingpreneur, Be business, Man!" - Enhancing the entrepreneurship skills of youth leaders and promoting innovation and creativity of young people for employability



LDA Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Lead partner: [Apulia Region, Italy](#)



Delegate: 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 2015 the LDA Mostar implemented several projects and activities:

Projects:

- ✓ Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue
- ✓ ERASMUS + Youth with the plane
- ✓ Centar for Architecture, Dialogue and Art - ADA Mostar, established within the LDA Mostar in April 2015. Among the activities of Centar ADA realised in 2015: Mostar LAB; Summer school Urban Synapse; Building Blocks
- ✓ Caravan Next Creative Europe (even not being partner of the project, the LDA Mostar will host one of the foreseen events)

Activities:

- ✓ Action: "How much monthly you pay the government" in cooperation with Centar for public interest advocacy
- ✓ Participation in development of the Integral development strategy of the City of Mostar
- ✓ Participation in the working group of the Pro - Future (Trust, Understanding, Responsibility for the Future) Program



LDA Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel: 00387 52 241 101

Email: ldaprijedor@aldaintranet.org

Lead partner: [Association Project Prijedor, Italy](#)



Delegate: Dragan Dosen

The LDA Prijedor was established in 2000. Its main priorities are supporting citizen 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 2015 the LDA implemented several projects and activities:

Project "Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue", with the following activities:

- ✓ Identifying young people at local group leader
- ✓ Opening the information desk at the office LDA Prijedor
- ✓ Participating in the training workshop in Serbia (Knjaževac)
- ✓ Realising a study visit to the Parliament of Montenegro

- ✓ Realising the voluntary exchange (LDA volunteers from Prijedor moved to Subotica, while volunteers from Knjaževac moved to Prijedor)

- ✓ Helping the Municipality of Prijedor in the organization of the event "Days of poetry on Mount Kozara"

- ✓ Realising creative workshops for young people (art and painting workshops; exhibition works in the lapidary of the Museum of Prijedor and LDA office)

- ✓ Participating in the First Balkan Youth Forum for the promotion of local democracy in Subotica

- ✓ Realising the laboratory of art "My city - City of youth"

- ✓ Realising the visit of the Youth Council of high school students to the Local Parliament, fostering their knowledge about the local government system, its role in the creation of youth policy and how young people can realise their ideas with the support of the Municipality

- ✓ Conducting a research in order to identify problems and needs of young people nowadays

- ✓ Signing the Memorandum of Understanding between LDA Prijedor and Prijedor City on the establishment of a fund for young people which will fund at least two small youth initiatives

Project "DECIDE Democratic-Compact: Improving Democracy in Europe": participation in an international conference regarding the involvement of the associations of civil society in decision-making process, with the participation of twelve EU countries and the Western Balkans



LDA Zavidovići, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel: 00387 32 877 008

Email: LDAZavidovici@aldaintranet.org

Lead partner: [Association for Local Democracy Embassy in Zavidovići, Italy](#)



Delegate: Sladjan Ilić

The Local Democracy Agency in Zavidovići was established in April 1997, following many years of cooperation between Italian NGOs and local authorities with the host city of Zavidovići. It is located in the Zenica-Doboj Kanton, Bosnia and 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 2015:

Projects with ALDA:

- ✓ Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue
- ✓ DEmocratic Compact: Improving Democracy in Europe (DECIDE)
- ✓ "EYES - European Youth Environment Sentinels" training course in Vicenza

- ✓ "W.O.SO.COOP" training course in Pordenone

LDA Zavidovici projects:

- ✓ Sigurno mjesto - services and activities for women

- ✓ B.EST - Building rESilient communities in BiH

- ✓ Strani Vari - summer centers for children

- ✓ Exchange between kindergartens in Alba (Italy) and Zavidovići (BiH)

- ✓ Ludobus - animation for children in rural areas

- ✓ "Meeting Generations 2015" - EVS in Ankara (Turkey)

- ✓ "Acting for democracy" - EVS in Zavidovići

- ✓ "Being Citizen Today" - bilateral youth exchange in Zavidovići

- ✓ "Gender Cooperation 1.0" youth exchange in Torino

- ✓ Twining Zavidovići - Roncadelle - sport exchanges

- ✓ Vivicitá - athletic race for peace and solidarity

- ✓ AiutiAMO la Bosnia Erzegovina - post-emergency aid to vulnerable families victims of the flood

- ✓ Support to economic stability of women from areas affected by floods

- ✓ Orti Familiari - Family Gardens

- ✓ Youth against violence

- ✓ #No hate - Coalition "Kultura mira" in Zavidovići

LDA Subotica, Serbia

Tel: 00381 24 55 45 87

Email: lidasubotica@aldaintranet.org

Lead partner: Wolverhampton City Council, UK



Delegate: 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 in 2015:

- ✓ Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue
- ✓ Local coalitions for community development
- ✓ Marking the Day of Europe - Promotion of EU funded projects in the local community
- ✓ Building bridges of democracy - Phase 2: The Danubiana project
- ✓ Application Successful
- ✓ Development network of Subotica
- ✓ Vojvodina.EU - The collection of success stories IPA 2007-2013
- ✓ Open Parliament Initiative in Serbia

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS



ALDA Operational Partner Sisak (LDA Sisak), Croatia

Tel: 00385 44 521 227

Email: ldisisak@aldaintranet.org

Lead partner: ALDA



Delegate: Paula Raužan

The Operational Partner - LDA 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 2015 the OP - LDA Sisak held several projects, including:

- ✓ Democratic Compact: Improving Democracy in Europe - DECIDE, supported by the European Commission, Europe for Citizens Program. Lead partner: ALDA
- ✓ SPREAD II: Sustainable Partnership for REinforcement of Active Development, supported by the European Commission, ENPI Program. Lead partner: ALDA
- ✓ For Community without Domestic Violence, voluntary work. Lead partner: LDA Sisak
- ✓ Volunteer Centre Sisak, supported by Town of Sisak and Sisak-Moslavina County. Lead partner: LDA Sisak
- ✓ Sisak Volunteer' Network, supported by Croatian Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, and co-funded by the Town of Sisak. Lead partner: LDA Sisak
- ✓ Croatian social policy Europeanisation and Croatian social charter, supported by National Foundation for Civil Society Development. Lead partner: CERANEO - Centre for development of non-profit organisations, Croatia
- ✓ 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. Lead partner: South East European Youth Network, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ✓ Training course "Advanced Volunteer Management", funded by the EU, Erasmus + Program, Key Action 1. Lead partner: Youth Centre BIT, Slovenia
- ✓ Training course "Creating Opportunities - Social Entrepreneurship for Innovative Youth", funded by the EU, Erasmus + Program, Key Action 1. Lead partner: TOG - Community Volunteers Foundation, Turkey
- ✓ 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. "Forum for Equality" is one of the platforms established by the end of 2015 with intention for long-lasting work. Leader: Croatian Legal Centre



ALDA Operational Partner Verteneglio/Brtonigla (LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla), Croatia

Tel: 00385 52 774 617

Email: info@lda-verteneglio.hr

Lead partner: Municipality of Bellinzona, Switzerland



Delegate: Umberto Ademollo

The Operational Partner - LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla was established as LDA in 1996. Its main priorities are supporting the development of local democracy, supporting the European integration of the Region, fostering cross-border cooperation and raising awareness on human rights, minority rights and youth active participation.

In 2015, the OP - LDA Brtonigla/Verteneglio implemented the following projects:

- ✓ Y.E.S. - Young Europeans' Solidarity (funded by Erasmus + programme)
- ✓ S.M.I.L.E. - Social, Multicultural and Inclusive Life in Europe (funded by Erasmus + programme)

In 2015 the OP Brtonigla/Verteneglio was partner in the following projects:

- ✓ Europeizacija hrvatske socijalne politike i hrvatska socijalna povelja - Europeanisation of the Croatian social politics and the Croatian Social Charter (funded by Nacionalna zaklada za razvoj civilnog društva - Demokratizacija i razvoj civilnog društva)
- ✓ Waves of citizenship, waves of legality (funded by the Europe for citizens programme)
- ✓ WOSOCOOP - Work on Social cooperation (funded by Erasmus + programme)
- ✓ REACT - Act Local Think Global (funded by Erasmus + programme)
- ✓ ARE YOU (TH) VISIBLE? (funded by Erasmus + programme)
- ✓ PLAY - Passion, Love, Active Participation, Employability (funded by Erasmus + programme)
- ✓ Getting in Touch with Cyber-Youth (funded by Erasmus + programme)

In 2015 the OP - LDA Brtonigla/Verteneglio implemented the following activities on local level:

- ✓ Presentation and promotion of the European Voluntary service in the Istrian Croatian and Italian high schools: - SMSI "Dante Alighieri" of Pula; SMSI "Leonardo Da Vinci" of Buje, High school "Vladimir Gortan" of Buje
- ✓ Celebration of the Francophone Week
- ✓ Celebration of the European week and Europe Day
- ✓ Participation in the award ceremony in Bruxelles for the EVS project "Get Involved in Local Democracy"
- ✓ Round table "Common territorial challenges: Europa 2014 - 2020"
- ✓ Evening organised in the honour of Gino Bartali
- ✓ Presentation of the book/CD "Turno di Notte" of Marco Anzovino



ALDA Operational Partner Osijek (LDA Osijek), Croatia

Tel: 00385 31 494 256

Email: ldaoosijek@aldaintranet.org

Lead partner: City of Lausanne, Switzerland



Delegate: Miljenko Turniski

The Operational Partner - LDA Osijek was established as an LDA in 1993 over 20 years ago. Its main priorities are fostering of citizens' to contribute in building a democratic, open and inclusive society, supporting civil society organisations and

local authorities in developing sustainable democracy, education and disseminating information about active citizenship and sustainable development and development of social innovations and services in a community.

In 2015 the OP - LDA Osijek managed several projects:

- ✓ Europeanization of Croatian Social Policy and Croatian Social Charter
- ✓ Through the Past We Learn About the Future
- ✓ Being Woman - Becoming Woman - Female Identities in Europe Today
- ✓ Goddess of Iroise Sea
- ✓ T-TRUST: Training on Techniques & Research on Unemployed, School-leaving of Teen-agers

During 2015 the OP - LDA was a beneficiary of institutional support of the National Foundation for Civil Society Development for stabilization and / or development organizations.



ALDA supports various stakeholders – local and regional authorities, civil society organizations, educational institutions, etc. – by providing a wide range of services such as training and capacity building activities, technical assistance, online 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, 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.

Training activities in ALDA Office in Vicenza, Italy



TRAININGS DELIVERED

- Training on project cycle management to Cercando il Lavoro, municipal agency supporting job-searching (Vicenza, Italy), tot. **15 participants**
- Training on project cycle management to AGICES, national association of fair trade organizations (Vicenza, Italy), tot. **10 participants**
- Training courses on project management with CIS Foundation, a territorial cultural foundation (Verona, Italy) – 2 courses (for beginners and advanced), tot. **50 participants**
- Training on project cycle management with Association E.S.T. – Education, Society, Territory (Padova, Italy), tot. **20 participants**
- Training on project cycle management to Cooperativa Sociale Jonathan, social cooperative (Padova, Italy), tot. **10 participants**
- Training on project cycle management to Consorzio Il Solco, a consortium of social cooperatives (Verona, Italy), tot. **20 participants**
- Training on the programme Europe for Citizens with the Association de la Ville et des Communes de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale (Brussels, Belgium) addressed to the communes et CPAS of Brussels, tot. **20 participants**
- Trainings on European citizenship and active citizenship to primary and secondary schools in EU Member States
- Training on Citizen Participation for Local Authorities, ALDA and LDA Armenia (Yeghegnadzor and Aghveran, Armenia), tot. **200 participants**
- Training on EU opportunities for international volunteering with EPD, European Partnership for Democracy (Le Kef, Tunisia), tot. **100 participants**
- On-line training for Local Authorities of the EaP (Eastern partnership) countries with the Minority Rights Group
- Training and moderation of the “migrants” group with the Danube Civil Society Forum (Ulm, Germany), tot. **100 participants**
- Training on active European citizenship to Informest, a regional body dealing with economic development and international cooperation of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Gorizia, Italy), tot. **50 participants**
- Training on project cycle management to the staff members of the LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region (Tbilisi, Georgia), **5 participants**
- Training on organization management, financial issues, communication to Local Democracy Agencies staff members (Brussels, Belgium), **10 participants**



+15

NUMBER OF TRAININGS



+700

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS



+10

COUNTRIES INVOLVED

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

ALDA offers a variety of training opportunities. Thanks to our multilingual staff (English/French/Italian/Macedonian/Serbian/Russian/Spanish), *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 approaching the EU for the first time, willing to know more about the funding opportunities available.

🕒 Duration: available in standard format (21 hours) 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 work 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 an EU funded project.

🕒 Duration: 40 hours

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
- Pasubio Tecnologia, a public company working in the ICT field (Thiene, Italy), support and assistance on monitoring funding opportunity
- Consultancy on project development and implementation to Margherita, a social cooperative (Sandrigo, Italy)
- Technical assistance for the implementation and final reporting (narrative and financial) of the project REACTION – Resources Anti-Crisis – Town-twinning, Innovation, Openness and Networking, co-funded by the programme Europe for Citizens and led by the Municipality of Sacile (Italy)
- Technical assistance on project development and management in the field of the European Voluntary Service to Primavera 85, a social cooperative (Sovizzo, Italy)
- Consultancy to the Council of Europe for activities in Georgia and Armenia
- Technical assistance to the Municipality of Monfalcone (Italy) for the organization of an international project event in Strasbourg
- Technical assistance on project development to several members and partners, both vis-à-vis and via Skype, belonging to different categories such as local and regional authorities, civil society organizations, universities, etc. Among these, we list the following main ones activated during the year: Municipality of Santorso (Vicenza, Italy); Leonardo, a consortium of social cooperatives (Pordenone, Italy); Fondazione AIDA, a cultural foundation (Verona, Italy); Jonathan, a social cooperative (Padova, Italy); REMESS, Réseau Marocain de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire (Morocco); FACM, Forum Algérien pour la citoyenneté et la modernité (Algeria); Vivirecoaro, a territorial association focused on territorial local development (Vicenza, Italy); AGICES, national association of fair trade associations (Italy); Local Democracy Agencies (different countries); Fondazione CIS, cultural foundation (Verona, Italy).

And many more...

COLLABORATIONS WITH UNIVERSITIES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- ALDA Secretary General, Antonella Valmorbida, participated as a trainer in the master course on international decentralized cooperation of the University of Catania, CEDOC Centre
- Cooperation agreement with the International Telematics University UNINETTUNO for the distance learning Master in European Law and Policies. The Secretary General of ALDA, Antonella Valmorbida, held the module on European Funding and Euro-planning, while ALDA Project Development Officer, Anna Ditta, supported the students in her capacity of Tutor
- Antonella Valmorbida and Anna Ditta, delivered a training on EU institutions and policies and EU funding programmes in cooperation with the University Ca' Foscari (Venice, Italy) for the students of the master in EU Project Management
- Antonella Valmorbida, Anna Ditta and Marco Boaria, Head of the Resources and Development Unit, delivered a training on EU funding programmes and EU project cycle management with Fondazione CUOA, business school in Vicenza (Italy), 2 courses, tot. **50 participants**



Training on good governance in Gyumri, Armenia | July 2015

For any questions on our training opportunities, to require a tailor-made training programme or a consultancy, please contact Marco Boaria, Head of the Resources and Development Unit: marco.boaria@aldaintranet.org

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:** 21 hours

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, Territorial cooperation programmes, 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

Tailor made course for ALDA members

🗨️ **Objective:** provide tailor-made trainings to members and partners, on topics related to the EU programmes and EU project cycle, according with the needs of the members.

🌟 **Programme:** to be agreed with the members.

👥 **Target group:** members of ALDA and whoever the members wish to invite.

🕒 **Duration:** 24 hours

SERVICES TO THE NETWORK OF ALDA

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 European level. The Association believes the cooperation between local authorities and civil society organisations is key to achieve its objectives and to implement its mission. That's why ALDA members are both local authorities (LAs) and civil society organisations (CSOs), from all over Europe and the European Neighbourhood.

In particular, thanks to ALDA commitment in decentralised cooperation and in the implementation of several projects in the framework of European programmes, ALDA promotes joint work and synergies between LAs and CSOs, in order to promote and improve 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 200 members.



Mr. Dobrica Milovanovic, member of ALDA's Governing Board, and Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA, meet the HE Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta in La Valletta | November 2015

SERVICES FOR THE MEMBERS OF ALDA

Sharing our mission

Being a member of ALDA means first of all sharing our mission – the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level.

As a member you will access the following services:

Projects development and funding opportunities research – 15 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)
- Identification of relevant international partners for specific areas
- 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 200 members (local authorities, NGOs, 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'*

- Timely updates via ALDA communication channels, particularly the monthly newsletter in EN, FR, RU, SR, IT, AR, ALDA 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, Mediterranean Area, Local Democracy Agencies support)
- 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



Municipalities:

Mostar Municipality – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Našice Municipality – Croatia

Osijek Municipality – Croatia

Sisak Municipality – Croatia

Verteneglio-Brtonigla Municipality – Croatia

Vodnjan Municipality – Croatia

Veje Municipality – Denmark

Strasbourg Municipality – France

Patras Municipality – Greece

Bari Municipality – Italy

Bassano del Grappa Municipality – Italy

Borgo Valsugana Municipality – Italy

Lavis Municipality – Italy

Lecce Municipality – Italy

Lendinara Municipality – Italy

Mesagne Municipality – Italy

Monfalcone Municipality – Italy

Montecchio Maggiore Municipality – Italy

Ravenna Municipality – Italy

Reggio Emilia Municipality / Reggio nel Mondo – Italy

Sacile Municipality – Italy

Santorso Municipality – Italy

Thiene Municipality – Italy

Gjilan Municipality – Kosovo

Mitrovica South Municipality – Kosovo

Dojran Municipality – Macedonia

Novaci Municipality – Macedonia

Tetovo Municipality – Macedonia

Birgu Local Council – Malta

Herceg Novi Municipality – Montenegro

Rožaje Municipality – Montenegro

Bijelo Polje Municipality – Montenegro

Bydgoszcz Municipality – Poland

Ploiesti Municipality – Romania

Knjaževac Municipality – Serbia

Kragujevac Municipality – Serbia

Subotica Municipality – Serbia

Novo Mesto Municipality – Slovenia

Villanueva de la Cañada Municipality – Spain

Bellinzona Municipality – Switzerland

Delémont Municipality – Switzerland

Lausanne Municipality – Switzerland

Karsiyaka Municipality – Turkey

Wolverhampton Municipality – UK

Provinces or Counties:

Trento Autonomous Province – Italy

Prahova County Council – Romania

Regions:

Istria Region – Croatia

Lower Normandy Region (now Normandy Region*) – France

Apulia Region – Italy

Friuli-Venezia-Giulia Autonomous Region – Italy

Veneto Region – Italy

Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship (Kuyavia and Pomerania) – Poland

Lower Silesia – Poland

Associations of Local Authorities:

AAM (Albanian Association of Municipalities) – Albania

AER (Assembly of European Regions) – Belgium

Regional Association of Municipalities “Central Stara Planina” – Bulgaria

UBBSLA (Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities) – Bulgaria

Croatian County Association – Croatia

AFFCRE (Association Française du Conseil des Communes et Régions d’Europe) – 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

Patto territoriale Oristano Società Consortile a r.l. – Italy

TECLA (Associazione di province Italiane) – 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

AMR (Association of Romanian Municipalities) – Romania

Iezer Muscel Mountain Community Association – Romania

Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities – Serbia

The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia UTCS – Slovakia

Causes Communes Ticino – Switzerland

SODEM – Association of Social Democratic Municipalities – Turkey

Civil Society Organisations:

CRCD (Center for Research Cooperation and Development) – Albania

Institute for Public Policies and Good Governance (IPPM) – Albania

Urban Research Institute – Albania

FACM – Forum Algérien pour la citoyenneté et la modernité – Algeria

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

Periferia aisbl – Belgium

Balkan Assist Association – Bulgaria

Presidents Club Bulgaria – Bulgaria

The Management Centre – Cyprus

ADK – Czech Debate Association – Czech Republic

AGORA CE – Czech Republic

Valgevene Uus Tee, MTU – Estonia

ALFA Formation – France

CIDEFE – France

Institut International des droits de l’homme et de la paix (2IDHP) – France

Maison de l’Europe – France

CIVILSCAPE – Germany
 Europäische Akademie Otzenhausen gGmbH – Germany
 SJR Betriebs – Germany
 SYM & IOSIS – Greece
 EGTC Amphictyony – Greece
 Island Panorama – Iceland
 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
 CISP Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli – Italy
 Consorzio Sol.Co Verona s.c.s.c – Italy
 Coppula Tisa ONLUS – Italy
 Fondazione AIDA – Italy
 Fondazione CUOA – Italy
 Fondazione Opera Campana dei Caduti – Italy
 Federazione Trentina della Cooperazione – Italy
 Futuro Anteriore – Italy
 GEIE – Italy
 HUMANITAS - Italy
 IL MOSAICO Association – Italy
 IRS - Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale – Italy
 ISBEM – Italy
 Istituto Euromediterraneo – Italy
 Jonathan Social Cooperative - 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
 Progettarte – Italy
 Putignananelmondo – Italy

Samarcanda Social Cooperative ONLUS – Italy
 Shoqata Kulturore Bashkimi Kombetar – Italy
 SPES - Associazione Promozione e Solidarietà Centro di Servizio per il Volontariato del Lazio – Italy
 Studio Progetto Società Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS – Italy
 Tecnologie Democratiche – Association for Social Promotion – Italy
 Trentino con i Balcani – Italy
 UNESCO - 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
 Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova – CALM – Moldova
 Solidaritate Europeană pentru Apă în Moldova (SEAM) – Moldova
 REMESS – Réseau Marocain d'Economie Sociale et Solidaire – Morocco
 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
 Rural Women National Association (Asociatia Nationala a Femeilor Din Mediul Rural) – Romania
 CEE Citizens Network (CEEEN) – Slovakia
 Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto – Slovenia
 Association of non-governmental organisations Youth Center Postojna – Slovenia
 Associació Districte 11 - City to City – Spain
 Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació – Spain
 Fons Menorquí de Cooperació – Spain
 Fons Pitius de Cooperació – Spain
 Fundación Indera – Spain

Baltic Fem – Sweden
 Association for Community Self-Organization Assistance – Ukraine

Universities:

European University of Tirana (UET) – Albania
 Tbilisi teaching University – Georgia
 Center of Documentation and Studies on complex organizations and local systems (CEDOC) – Italy
 IUAV Venice – Italy
 Ukrainian School of Political Studies – Ukraine

Single Members:

Van Damme Lukas – Belgium
 Vinther Per – Belgium
 Flemming Meyer – Denmark
 Affholder Sylvie – France
 Bohner Ulrich – France
 Vulcano Luigi – France
 Schley Michael – Germany
 Bottacin Diego – Italy
 Imislawa Gorska – Poland
 Dorothee Fischer – Spain
 Tschudi Hans Martin – Switzerland
 Boorer Malcolm – UK
 Mayer David – UK

Local Democracy Agencies:

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 Montenegro – Montenegro
 LDA Centre South Serbia – Serbia
 LDA Subotica – Serbia
 LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region – Ukraine

Operational Partners:

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

OUR WORLD

www.alda-europe.eu



PEOPLE
INDIRECTLY
IMPACTED
IN THE
ENLARGED
EUROPE

25
million



16



YEARS
OF ACTIVITY

150



PROJECTS
RUN

COUNTRIES
WHERE WE
ARE PRESENT

40



LOCAL
DEMOCRACY
AGENCIES

11



200



OUR
MEMBERS

3



OPERATIONAL
PARTNERS

5



OFFICES

PROGETTARTE

"PROGETTARTE HAS BEEN PART OF ALDA'S NETWORK FOR 15 YEARS, FEELING AS 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, 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,
National Association of Local Authorities of
Georgia, 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

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, attaching your CV, motivation 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 anna.ditta@aldaintranet.org.





ALDA

European Association
for Local Democracy

Stay connected!

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