



European Association
for Local Democracy

ACTIVITY REPORT 2017



www.alda-europe.eu



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Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

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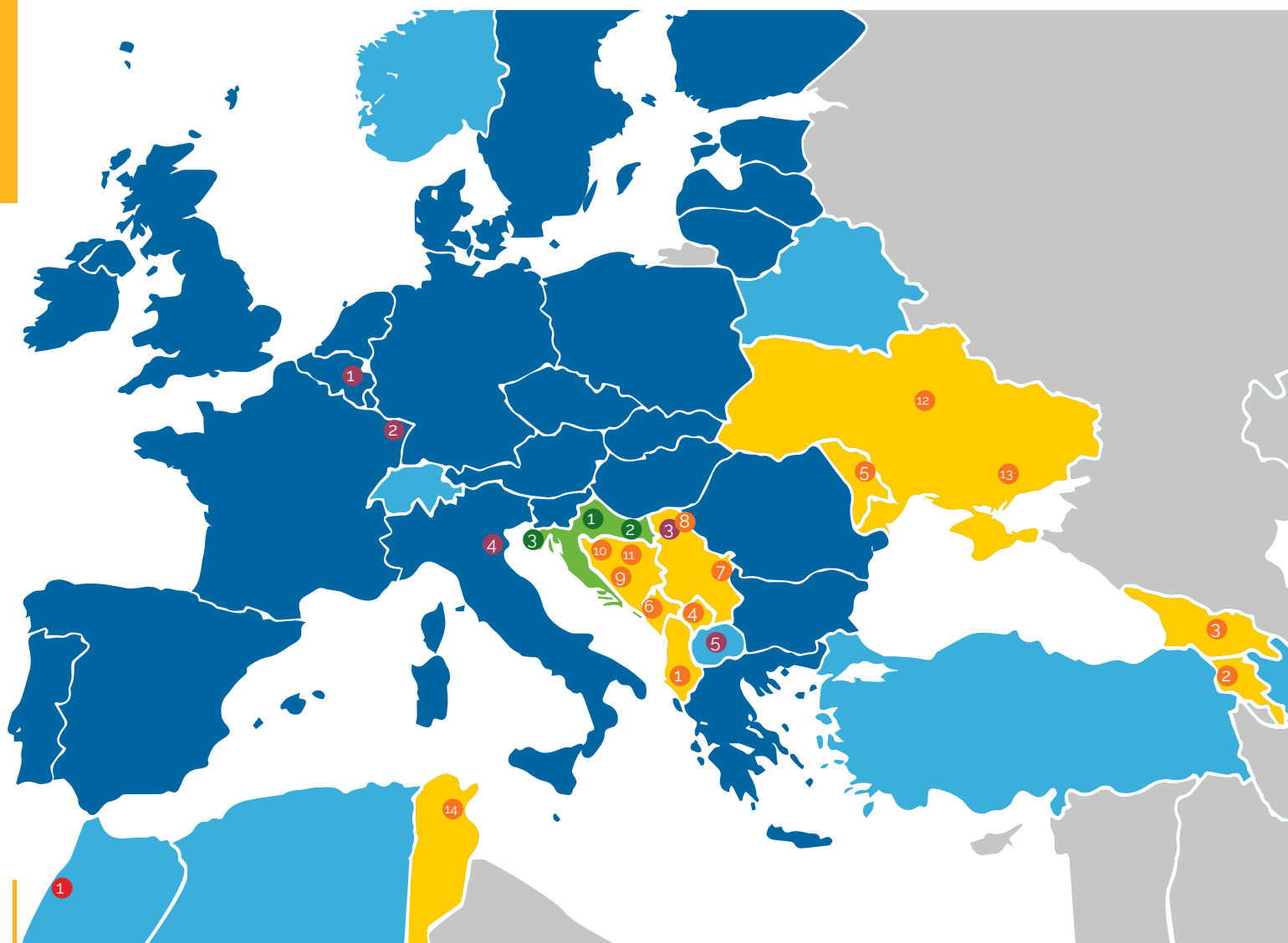
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All information included is updated to March 2018.

ALDA at a glance



COUNTRIES WITH ALDA ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERS / EU MEMBER STATES

ALDA OFFICES

1. BRUSSELS
2. STRASBOURG
3. SUBOTICA
4. VICENZA
5. SKOPJE

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS


1. SISAK
2. OSIJEK
3. VERTENEGLIO /BRTONIGLA

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES (LDAs)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. LDA ALBANIA | 6. LDA MONTENEGRO | 11. LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI |
| 2. LDA ARMENIA | 7. LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA | 12. LDA OF DNIPROPE-TRROVSK REGION |
| 3. LDA GEORGIA | 8. LDA SUBOTICA | 13. LDA MARIUPOL |
| 4. LDA KOSOVO | 9. LDA MOSTAR | 14. LDA TUNISIA |
| 5. LDA MOLDOVA IN CIMIŞLIA | 10. LDA PRIJEDOR | |


UPCOMING LDA

1. LDA MOROCCO

 "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

Former President, European Movement International

About ALDA

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

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

ALDA is a membership based organisation gathering 300 members (including local authorities, associations of local authorities, and civil society organisations) from over 40 countries in the enlarged Europe. ALDA is funded through membership fees, as well as project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and other public and private donors.

Our unique features

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

What we do

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

ALDA conducts its activities through different forms of action:

- Coordinating and supporting the 14 Local Democracy Agencies and 3 Operational Partners in their activities
- Conducting its own projects in the field of good governance and citizen participation at the local level
- Supporting other local stakeholders' initiatives by providing expertise gained through ALDA's knowledge and experience in the regions where ALDA and the Local Democracy Agencies are working

Where we work

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

Most of the Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) are located in the Western Balkans, which gives a natural focus on that area. But ALDA is also becoming more and more active in the European Neighbourhood. During the years, 5 LDAs have been established in various Eastern Partnership countries, while in 2017 the first one was established in the Southern Neighbourhood, in Kairouan (Tunisia). ALDA is also leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European Neighbouring countries, such as Belarus, Morocco, Algeria, and Turkey.



"Our work is more than work. It is passion, friendship, emotions and collective drive to be able to reach our common vision and have an impact on our own communities for a better future. I feel immensely proud of the results reached with our members, LDAs, colleagues, and partners."

Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General





Our network

40 
countries where
ALDA is present

+300 
our members

18 
years of activity

5 
offices

14 
Local Democracy
Agencies – LDAs

+250 
projects run

3 
Operational
Partners

1 
upcoming LDA

25 million  **people indirectly impacted**
in the enlarged Europe

Advocacy component

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

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

Letter from the President

Dear members, dear friends,

I am extremely proud to present the activity report 2017, outlining the top accomplishments of ALDA, the European Association for Local Democracy.

Last year, ALDA and Local Democracy Agencies set a record-breaking achievement. Three new LDAs were established, of which one in Cimişlia, Moldova; one in Mariupol, Ukraine, the easternmost city in Europe; and one in Kairouan, Tunisia, the first LDA in the Southern Mediterranean, which marks many years of coordinated work in the area and will be a key actor promoting the process of decentralization in the country.

The network counts today 14 LDAs and 3 Operational Partners in Croatia, and work is in progress for the upcoming LDA Morocco. The commitment of dozens of cities and regions throughout Europe to promote good local governance in the pre-accession countries and in the European Neighbourhood, East and South, reflects the understanding that working at the local level is the most effective path to sustainable and inclusive development in our communities.

I was personally very touched by the support video message by Commissioner Hahn, the Commissioner for the European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, highlighting the important role played by LDAs for local democracy. This recognition is a huge satisfaction for the whole network of ALDA.

Unfortunately, populist, xenophobic, and Euro-sceptical movements keep gaining ground in many areas of Europe. With the support of the programme Europe for Citizens, which reconfirmed ALDA as one of the key stakeholders promoting European values and the sense of belonging to a common house, ALDA will continue to promote citizens participation and knowledge in order to reduce the gap between citizens and EU institutions, and to fight against disinformation. In this regards it is necessary to raise awareness about the next European Parliament elections 2019, so that citizens know what is really at stake with their ballot.

I thank you all for your long-standing cooperation and trust. I also thank the Secretary General and the team of ALDA for their excellent, hard work. Year after year, the concrete results of our activity are the best proof of the need of our joint work.

Oriano Otočan
President of ALDA



Forward from the Secretary General

Dear members and friends,

I share our President's happiness with regards to our many successes in 2017. Successes that mark the dedication and excellent cooperation of our staff, Delegates, Board, members, and partners.

The three newly established Local Democracy Agencies are already fully operational, and join a network of 14 LDAs and 3 Operational partners. What a family!

At the same time, our network considerably expanded, with almost 300 cities, regions, associations and universities sharing our values, and working together for local democracy and citizens participation as members of ALDA.

In 2017, we completed our project LADDER (Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education and Raising Awareness), a 3 years journey gathering almost 50 partners and associates from the whole enlarged Europe. Its legacy lies in the millions of European citizens reached, and in the myriad of actions implemented to promote understanding and sharing of sustainable development goals, that all ALDA's activities target. Time to break the "democracy follows development" assumption, since the importance of real local democracy for communities well-being is open-and-shut.

We submitted and implemented a number of pioneering projects, strengthened cooperation with several DGs of the European Commission, furthered our work with international platforms and associations, and gave birth to new synergies.

This year 2018 brings us a huge responsibility. Our action is crucial for all of us and for the European project, since not only do we face Euro-sceptics, but openly anti-European movements.

Despite (Br)exit strategies and walls, despite the human temptation to find panacea, we all know – and are part of – the solution. The solution is a solid, democratic, reliable European Union, embracing the Western Balkans countries (and their very much needed reforms!), our best option on the international scene. Of course, the world will keep rotating even if we dismantle the top foreign politics achievements of the last fifty years - but all other possible scenarios would be much, much worse.

Our campaign "One small step for you, one giant leap for EU" will remind all European citizens, especially those who do not live daily mobility, what being part of Europe really means, and how our hopes and fears are similar, promoting a wide participation in the European Parliament election 2019.

Promoting good governance at the local level is no 100 meters race. It is rather a marathon, requiring a huge amount of preparation, skills, vision, perseverance, and grit. Getting close to ALDA's 20 years of activities, we no longer need to prove you that – we just need to keep running.

Join the marathon for democracy!

Antonella Valmorbida
Secretary General of ALDA



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(mandate 2016-2020)



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President, Bureau member

Representing the Istria Region (Croatia)



Mr Alessandro Perelli

Vice President, Bureau member

Representing Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region (Italy)



Ms Imislawa Gorska

Vice President, Bureau member

Principal at the International School of Bydgoszcz (Poland)



Ms Branka Mračević

Vice president, Bureau member

Herceg Novi Municipality (Montenegro)



Mr Roger Lawrence

Treasurer, Bureau member

Individual member (United Kingdom)



Ms Francesca Campana

Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació (Spain)



Mr Lutfi Haziri

Gjilan Municipality (Kosovo)



Mr Dobrica Milovanovic

Individual member (Serbia)



Mr Alexandru Osadci

CALM – Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (Moldova)



Mr Abdellah Souhir

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



Ms Natalia Sovkopljas

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



Mr Francesco Zarzana

Cultural Association Progettarte (Italy)



Mr Mohammed Salhi

Espace Marocain de l'Economie Sociale, Solidaire et Environnementale – EMESSE (Morocco)

Statutory Members



Ms Alina Tatarenko

Head of the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, Council of Europe

Appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe



Ms Gudrun Mosler-Törnström

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



Ms Nino Khukhua

Delegate of the Local Democracy Agency Georgia

Advisory Board

Ms Antonella Cagnolati

President of the Advisory Board

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

Ms Nadia Skenderovic Cuk

Deputy Head of Office of the Council of Europe, Serbia

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Head of Project for Touristic Development, France

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

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Ms Ruzica Jankahidac

Senior Project Assistant and Project Manager, France and Serbia

Ms Rada Orescanin

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

Mr Hans Martin Tschudi

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

Ms Maria Antonietta Nuzzo

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


Our objective:

Act locally, think globally for good governance and participation

The whole work of ALDA aims at supporting local governance and citizens' participation in the European Union, in the future enlargement countries of South Eastern Europe, and in the Neighbouring countries.

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



 "I am inspired and motivated by the fact that we start from scratch, from a blank paper on a desk, and we conclude with something very concrete, that creates a strong

impact on the territory. Needs find their response through a fascinating process. It is a great satisfaction when our projects are successful."

Marco Boaria, *Head of Resources and Development Department*

ALDA Europe

The Europe we are living in today is very complex and it is striving with global challenges, which cannot be tackled by the local communities or even national states alone. With the growing wave of populism, the international mobility from within EU and the outside, the increased urban fragmentation and socio-spatial exclusion, Europe is calling for joined forces to further promote European Union core values. Populist parties and politicians in several European countries have proven Europe in 2017 just part of the damage that can be done by shaping national discourses, framing themes and topics in the political debate and influencing policymaking through their presence in various national parliaments and governments.

In this context, it is crucial to develop a tolerant, respectful and multi-faceted European society where there is no place for manipulation, discrimination or various manifestations of hate. ALDA contributes to the creation of more inclusive and politically engaged communities by working with local authorities, civil society organisations and citizens in a holistic approach.

Promoting participatory citizenship at local level, including also the participation in the local elections and in the EU elections in 2019 is an instrument to create the necessary conditions for a fair political and social development of the community. Engaging citizens in

all aspects of their community's life and making their voices heard through peaceful and legal forms of participation is also an antidote to populism and anti-democratic movements. ALDA confirms its vision that only a bottom-up Europe, with the full involvement of citizens, can develop a sense of shared ownership of the European project. By fostering participatory citizenship, ALDA's programmes have been contributing to meet the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

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

- To promote citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity
- To foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level
- To raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values, and the Union's aim that is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples, by stimulating debate, reaction and development of networks

- To encourage a democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level, by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy-making process as well as promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at Union level
- To make citizens participate in the construction of a closer Europe, by making people from different countries meet to debate on the future Europe

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

Active citizenship

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

Culture and sport

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

Education

- Promoting non-formal education approaches to life-long learning
- Tackling early school leaving
- Encouraging youngsters and adults' mobility and exchange of experience
- Promoting integration and tolerance

Employment, entrepreneurship and economic development

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

Good local governance

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

Social issues

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

Migration

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

Equal opportunities, minorities and vulnerable groups

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

Youth


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

Health and environment

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



Voices from the field:

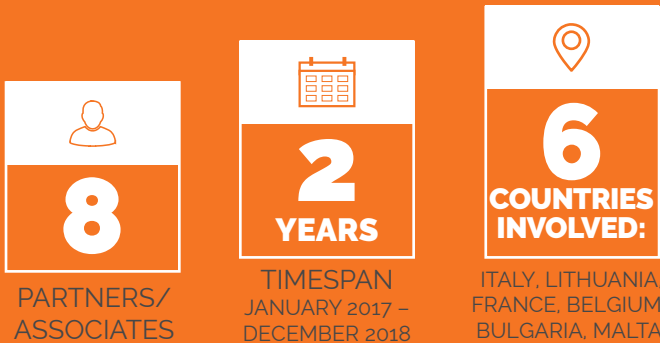
 *“The work I do challenges me every day to stay focused to my goals, to keep my core values and to bring my small contribution to the big world of Democracy. That’s why I’m proud to work in ALDA.”*

Mihaela Onofras, Project Manager EU Area

Project in the spotlight

GET UP – Gender Equality Training to overcome Unfair discrimination Practices in education and labour market

Funded by European Commission – Directorate General Justice and Consumers



The main priority of the project is to address the stereotyping of educational and career choices and to promote gender equality in education, training, career guidance and at the workplace. GET UP intends to launch a capacity building process for the professionals who intervene in transition phases along the education-training-labour market chain by developing and delivering a training on gender equality based on a common European Minimum Standard of Competences to be defined.


Objectives:

- Define a European Minimum Standard of Competences on Gender Equality (EMSC) for those responsible of Human Resources at the workplace (directors, employers, trade unions), Career Guidance professionals and Teachers supporting training and employment choices in order to guide, promote, recruit and retain individuals by overcoming gender stereotypes and taking into consideration their skills, competences and interests;

- Strengthen the skills and competences of the above-mentioned professionals of both private and public organisations and companies on European and national legislation, practices and behaviours aimed at overcoming gender stereotypes;
- Raise awareness on gender equality among partner organizations and their members, as well as the whole public, thus promoting also at European level the benefits deriving from the equal participation in society of men and women.



How does this project contribute to a better world?

 "Equality is one of five values on which the Union is founded. Inequalities between women and men violate fundamental rights. They also impose a heavy toll on the economy and result in underutilisation of talent. It is time to face and overcome the crucial gender-related issues of women low participation to the labour market, the sectoral and vertical segregation, the lack of family-friendly policies, the persistence of well-rooted gender stereotypes. Partners are convinced that one way to tackle them is to strengthen the role played by educational and career choices and by the people able to guide and support such transition phases. For that, GET UP concentrates its efforts on improving the competences of key actors in transition phases. In addition, it will work on integrating skills and competences of HR managers and employers so as to promote and ensure gender equality at the workplace."

Mihaela Onofras, Project Manager Europe Area



Partners meeting of the project GET UP in Brussels, Belgium – October 2017

KEY PROJECTS IN 2017

↑↓ MIGRATION

Urban Re-Generation: European Network of Towns – URGENT

Funding programme: Europe for Citizens

Timespan: September 2016 – August 2018

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



International seminar of URGENT in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina – November 2017

👶 YOUTH

Youth Metre – A tool for forward looking youth participation

Funding programme: Erasmus+ KA3 Forward Looking Cooperation Projects

Timespan: January 2016 – June 2018

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



YouthMetre multipliers meeting during the European Week of Regions and Cities 2017 in Brussels, Belgium – October 2017

📁 GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Metropolitan Europeans in Active Network, Inducing Novelties in Governance – MEANING

Funding programme: Europe for Citizens

Timespan: October 2016 – September 2018

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



International meeting of MEANING project in Porto, Portugal – June 2017

🏢 ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT

COOPilot

Funding programme: DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission

Timespan: April 2017-March 2018

COOPilot's objective is to provide innovative responses for youth employment challenges in the European Union, through the promotion of cooperative entrepreneurship. The project will start by an identification of needs and constraints in the selected countries for the implementation of training sessions (Malta, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Cyprus), where the cooperative movement is less developed.



COOPilot partners meeting in Athens, Greece – October 2017

RESEARCH
ENLARGE

Funding programme: Horizon 2020
Timespan: October 2016 – September 2018

ENLARGE intends to build and share knowledge on the design features and mechanisms that favour the effectiveness and sustainability of collaborative processes in the environmental field. The project will produce a game-book for all those who want to start a participatory process in the field, supporting their choices with a tailor-made approach, based on the successes and limits of real-life cases analyzed through a broad process of dialogue and communication among policy makers, civil society actors and practitioners.



Over 70 participants at the deliberative event, Milan (Italy) – October 2017

RESEARCH
RE.CRI.RE

Between the Representation of the Crisis and the Crisis of Representation

Funding programme: Horizon 2020
Timespan: May 2015 – April 2018

Led by ALDA, RE.CRI.RE puts together 15 Universities and Research Centres, covering 13 European countries, working together to investigate what kind of social identity change is occurring in Europe in time of crisis. The three-year project aims at analysing cultures of European societies and the impacts of the socio-economic crisis on them, in order to frame better policies at local, national and European level. To this end, civil society, policy-makers and experts of social sciences cooperate via a multi-stakeholder approach in RE.CRI.RE. actions.



Re.Cri.Re. General Assembly and public seminar hosted by the Bundestag, the German Parliament - Berlin, November 2017

GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE

CRISCO: Crossroad of the Regions – fostering involvement of all citizens in local life to Improve Social COhesion.

Funding programme: Europe for Citizens
Timespan: September 2017 – August 2019

The participants of this project are medium sized towns with a high rate of migrant population who tend to form separate socio-demographic groups, not enough involved in local life, sometimes at the expense of social cohesion and integration. That is the reason why this project aims at fostering the involvement of all citizens in local life in order to improve social cohesion and mutual understanding among the population of these cosmopolitan cities.



Meeting of CRISCO on the topic “cultural and social barriers to integration” in Strasbourg – March 2018

Focus on our activities in France

ALDA, being established at the initiative of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Strasbourg, has a strong presence in France. Thanks to this close relation and the presence of ALDA's office within the main building of the Council, ALDA promotes good governance and citizen participation also at local level in France through various projects.

The activities of ALDA in France led to the cooperation with partners such as NGOs (Makers for Change, JRS Strasbourg, AMSED), universities (Marseille, Paris) but also French Municipalities (Strasbourg, Sceaux, Paris).

To strengthen the impact of actions in France, ALDA has become a member of the European Movement France.



Voices from the field:

“Democracy at the local level is made by citizens and for citizens together with local representatives to respond concretely to the needs of the community. It is empowering, it is effective and it allows all the stakeholders to take part in the creation of local policies. In some countries, where freedom of thought is restricted

We cooperate closely with this broad French network structured through local and regional sections, and implementing a wide panel of awareness-raising activities about Europe.

ALDA has signed in 2017 a charter of partnership with the City of Sceaux, which will become ALDA's privileged territory of implementation of European projects, and also a pilot municipality for the project Co-Created in which 14 other French Municipalities are involved (Lingolsheim, Saverne, Strasbourg, La Chapelle-sur-Erdre, Saint-Sébastien-sur-Loire, Saillans, Schiltigheim, Orvault, Saverne, Sète, Bischwiller, Loos-En-Gohelle, Kingersheim, Billère).




by authoritarian governments, action at the local level can appear as the main pillar of freedom and democracy. Working for ALDA and contributing to this masterpiece makes my everyday work useful and meaningful.”

Agata De Latour, *Responsible of French Networks and Project Manager*

Project in the spotlight

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

PAL

 TOPIC: Fighting discrimination and anti-Gypsyism in education and employment in EU	
 FUNDING PROGRAMME: Rights Equality and Citizenship (REC) programme of the European Union	 TIMESPAN: January 2016 – January 2018

The project aims at developing a comprehensive approach and at endorsing a number of goals in education and employment, in order to speed up Roma Integration and support the implementation of national Roma inclusion strategies. The project aims to foster Roma youth participation on different levels, by gathering qualitative data about approaches and practices of Roma youth and supporting initiatives.



Migrants and Roma testimonies at the local event of the PAL project, in Strasbourg (France) – November 2017



Workshop for Young Roma about the employment opportunities in the framework of the project PAL – November 2017, Strasbourg

GOOD GOVERNANCE

CO-CREATED – CO-CREATION approaches for European civil servants: Educational framework

Funding programme: Erasmus+ programme KA2

Timespan: September 2016 – August 2019

Effective collaboration with societal actors in public service delivery and policy-making can help local governments improve their ability to address user needs and innovate their problem-solving capacity. The co-creation model is more and more used – and needed – in Europe, since it enables municipalities and local stakeholders to cooperate and join strengths towards common objectives, such as economic recovery, competitive growth, social inclusion, and better wellbeing levels.

CO-CREATED aims at equipping civil servants with the basic skills needed to implement co-creation approaches with the actors of civil society.



International meeting of partners of the Co-Created project, in Sevilla (Spain) – September 2017

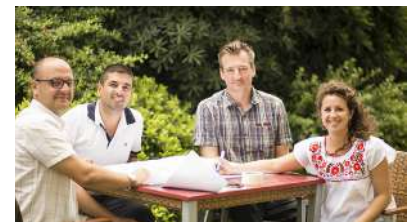
ALDA cooperation

ALDA works in most of the EU and European Neighbouring countries. Activities run in South East Europe, Eastern Partnership and Southern Neighborhood focus on good governance, empowerment of citizens, participation in public life, decentralisation, and European integration.

ALDA coordinates and supports the network of 14 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and 3 Operational Partners

(OPs) in their partnerships and activities. In 2017 three new LDAs have been established – in Cimişlia (Moldova), Mariupol (Ukraine) and Kairouan (Tunisia), while the preparatory work for the upcoming LDA Morocco is ongoing.



ALDA also leads several other projects and develops partnerships in other European Neighbouring countries, such as Belarus, Azerbaijan, Algeria, and Turkey.



www.civilsociety.exchange.org
-photo by Taras Kovalchuk

Project in the spotlight

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

TOPIC: Global Citizenship Education & Localisation of the SDGs	
 FUNDING PROGRAMME: DEAR – Development Education and Awareness Raising – DG DEVCO	 TIMESPAN: January 2015 – December 2017
27 CO-APPLICANTS – 19 ASSOCIATES	

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

Coordinated by ALDA, the project LADDER aimed at creating a multi-stakeholder network of Associations of LAs and alliances of CSOs that could act as multipliers for sustainable development and DEAR at local level. Citizens were also at the core of LADDER, as they represented the final beneficiaries of all the project's actions which aimed at informing and raising their awareness about their role and responsibility on global issues, as well as about the interdependencies between the EU and developing countries. Finally, LADDER was inherently linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the defining framework for global development until 2030.

2017 marked the last year of the project: a finalisation of all the actions fostering the localisation of the SDGs was performed. In particular, the consortium worked for supporting 73 micro-projects related to SDGs issues and implemented them at local level, finalising all the capacity building activities which included workshops about DEAR & SDGs and Job Shadowing exchanges, launching the international tour of the theatre play "In a better world" which contributed to raise citizens' awareness through the language of art, exchanging good practices about DEAR and Global Citizenship Education during the LADDER Tool Fair, and supporting their mission through different advocacy actions.



LADDER Final Conference, 21-22 November 2017 – Strasbourg, France



How does this project contribute to a better world?

"LADDER represented the possibility and opportunity to work together in order to make our world a better place to live in. Understanding, informing and educating about the role that each citizen has to play in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is the first step to action. By implementing the LADDER Project, ALDA contributes to "global education which is a type of education that opens peoples'

eyes and minds to the realities of the globalised world" (Maastricht Global Education Declaration).

Thanks to the LADDER project, I understood that working together more than an opportunity is the solution and that citizens need to be put in the front line in order to reach a more just, sustainable and equal world."

Sofia Caiolo, LADDER Project Manager



MAJOR CHALLENGE

Promote **Development Education & Awareness Raising (DEAR)** throughout the cooperation between Local Authorities and Civil Society Organisations.

DEAR

5 DIMENSIONS



5 Docs
DEAR & SDGs

1 Survey



RESEARCH
Participants
1268

CAPACITY BUILDING AND PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION



123
Capacity Building
Activities



1+ Methodological
Handbook
Exchange
DEAR best practices

6
Thematic Paths

3
Geographical Paths

21
Events

SUPPORTING GRASS-ROOT ACTIONS & CITIZENS

64
CITIZENS
JOURNALISTS
120
Articles

773 Slogan
Proposals

73
MICRO
PROJECTS
supported by LADDER

11
THEATRE
PLAY
Performances

CREATIVE COMPONENT

LADDER

36
months
countries

27
co-applicants

19
associates



"Common Future through Development Education", project implemented in Bulgaria by RAM Central Stara Planina within the Regranting Scheme Action of LADDER



"Youth for Peace", project implemented in Ireland by Wezesha Ltd within the Regranting Scheme Action of LADDER

Focus on South-East Europe

ALDA and LDA's consistent involvement in Western Balkan countries has made the LDAs a regional network of professional and accountable actors advancing the reform and the accession negotiation process with the EU, through strengthening the local ownership

over the reform process by getting the citizens of local communities closer to European values and standards.

ALDA's offices in Subotica and Skopje continue to grow and to provide technical and operational support to

ALDA and LDAs in the region. The establishment of Regional network for local democracy within the Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue strengthened the cooperation between the Balkan LDAs and ALDA, providing a structure for successful project development and implementation.

The network continues to provide effective contribution to research, analysis, policy monitoring, capacity building, practicing and promoting citizens participation, especially among youngsters. The partnership strategy, with a variety of commonly designed and implemented activities enables good communication and exchange between members of the network who are then able to support closer cooperation between youth and stakeholders between the communities which are involved.

With this in view, it is particularly relevant to note:

- ALDA and the LDAs have actively participated in the consultation process for the establishment and the programming activity of the Regional Youth Co-operation Office, in the consultation process within IPA 2 Programming, in SALTO Euromed Youth Regional Tool Fair 2017 planning and implementation.
- All LDAs in the Western Balkan countries are involved in the public policy making process within the SECO mechanism - Sector Organizations Consultative Mechanism to develop a structured dialogue within specified Chapter-based negotiation process and use its knowledge and exchange of information to strengthen the IPA 2 Programming and evaluation process.

- All LDAs in the Western Balkan countries were included in desk and field research work, drafting evidence-based Policy Recommendations to promote participation of young people in public life and in regional co-operation programmes.
- Within the respective host cities, the LDAs created a community of good local practice in fostering social cohesion, by promoting policy measures in social entrepreneurship development, inter-generational solidarity, intercultural exchange, improved participation of women and youth.
- At the end of 2017, the LDAs were part of a meeting in Brussels where the proposal for a Partnership Support Scheme was discussed. Delegates and partners of the LDAs were present, as well as representatives from the European Commission, DG NEAR and the Committee of Regions. During the meeting, a short video message by Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, in which the Commissioner congratulated and thanked ALDA and the LDAs for their work and achievements, was shown.



The team of ALDA Skopje during the forum “EU perspectives for local authorities” in Bitola – March 2017

Project in the spotlight

Civil society organisations for making local democracy work

 <p>FUNDING PROGRAMME: IPA Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2014-2015</p>	 <p>TIMESPAN: February 2017 - January 2020</p>
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The year 2017 marked the start of the project “Civil society organisations for making local democracy work”. The project is implemented by a consortium of partners: European Association for Local Democracy - ALDA Skopje, Association of Finance Officers of the Local Governments, European Movement from Macedonia and ALDA. ALDA Skopje is the lead partner in the project.

In 2017, several activities were realized. A series of trainings for representatives of local authorities and the civil society were realized in four different towns in Macedonia and a conference titled “New challenges, new perspectives for local democracy” was organized in Skopje. Furthermore, a public call for a national subgranting scheme was launched.

The project is designed to strengthen the impact of CSOs in public policies on a local level in Macedonia. In order to create sustainable impact, the project targets various groups of stakeholders: CSOs and grass-root organizations, local authorities, and centers for regional development.



Series of trainings for an overall number of 120 participants were implemented as part of the project – November 2017

OTHER PROJECTS

Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue

Funding programme: European Commission, Civil Society Facility - Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations

Timespan: January 2015 - December 2018

The Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue has the aim to increase awareness on youth participation, youth activism and the chance of young people to create and influence the policies closely related to them.

In 2017, the platform has implemented numerous activities on a local, national and regional level. Some of them are: Youth Taking Over Day, Regional Youth Forum, cultural exchanges between teams of youth correspondents, functioning of youth engagement workers, celebration of Youth Day, etc.

Program for decentralised cooperation between the Region Normandy and Republic of Macedonia led by Colombelles

Funding programme: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France and partners in the programme

Timespan: May 2007 – April 2018

In 2017, the cooperation between the region Normandy and the Republic of Macedonia continued under the lead of Colombelles. It included several actions on various subjects such as Remembrance, peace and reconciliation, local democracy, cultural heritage for the construction of European dialogue and youth and citizen participation. These activities involved many stakeholders from Normandy and Macedonia and created various multi-actor partnerships.

The focus of the program was the promotion of Reconciliation of the First World War through remembrance, which saw the implementation of several

Remembrance of the First World War in Macedonia

Funding programme: Regional Council of Normandy – Normandy for Peace Program

Timespan: January 2017 – December 2018

The project “Remembrance of the First World War in Macedonia” belongs to the framework of the programme for cooperation between Normandy and Macedonia and aims at territorial development through actions highlighting the collective European history of the First World War.

This project is developed through different aspects involving various stake holders from Macedonia, Normandy but also Europe in general. The activities are:

- Educational and scientific involving historical,

7 LDAs from the Balkans and ALDA Skopje realized the third year of the project successfully, working toward the production of tangible results, including youth publications and regional research on the topic of cultural participation among youngsters.



The third Balkan Youth Forum was held in Peja, Kosovo, where the youngsters also visited the Municipality Hall – October 2017

actions in Macedonia and Normandy during the year. The stakeholders from the Region of Normandy and Macedonia cooperated in the last 10 years to foster decentralised cooperation and local democracy through several topics, such as human rights, culture, youth, remembrance, while involving various actors such as citizens, CSOs, local authorities, institutions etc.



Forum “EU perspectives for local authorities” gathering more than 80 participants during three days, including panel discussions, trainings, presentations and round tables – March 2017

ethnological and archaeological researches, the creation of pedagogical materials for formal and non-formal education and conferences

- Cultural heritage and the promotion of memorial tourism through exchange of expertise and the creation of promotional tools for the remains of the First World War (mostly on the territory of Novaci, Macedonia)
- Raising awareness for the importance of Remembrance of the world conflicts in the building of a better Europe.



Monograph of pictures taken by Manaki during the First World War was promoted in Bitola – September 2017

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

Funding programme: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France

Timespan: January 2016 – December 2018

The project has the aim to create and develop a network of partners from France working on local governance on the Balkans, involving 13 partners in a 3-year-long programme. The main objective of this network is to mutualize the activities of the partners. In November 2017, the steering committee of the France-Balkans platform held a meeting in Paris. During the meeting, the further activities were presented.



Steering committee meeting of France-Balkans platform in Paris – November 2017

ALDA Summer University “Remembrance and intercultural dialogue”

Funding programme: cooperation Normandy-Macedonia/Central European Initiative - CEI

Timespan: July 2017

ALDA Summer University was organized in July in Skopje, in cooperation with the University FON. The summer university was organized as a set of interactive sessions employed with non-formal education methodology. More than 30 participants from Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and France attended lectures and sessions. The result of the seminar was the creation of recommendations on intercultural dialogue and youth participation in the Balkans, which were later disseminated.



ALDA Summer University “Remembrance and intercultural dialogue” gathered more than 30 participants who attended the lectures and sessions in Skopje, Macedonia – July 2017.

The role of youth in peacekeeping and conflict prevention

Funding programme: UK Embassy

Timespan: October 2016 – March 2017

This project aims to contribute to conflict prevention through organisation of public awareness activities with high schools around the geopolitical reasoning behind the First World War, the British contribution to First World War battles in the Republic of Macedonia, and the lessons learned from this conflict.

The project lasted from October 2016 to March 2017. The students worked in group projects on the topic of First World War, which were later presented in an exhibition in Skopje. As a result, a publication consisting of the students’ projects was created and disseminated.



One of the projects includes creating before-and-after photos of Bitola during the war and in the present – March 2017

FRANCOPHONIE AND YOUTH

In 2017, three projects implemented by ALDA Skopje were revolved around francophonie and youth: the multilateral youth exchange “Beliefs and superstitions from

Beliefs and superstitions from here and elsewhere

Funding programme: Erasmus+

Timespan: August 2017

The youth exchange “Beliefs and superstitions from here and elsewhere” took place in August and involved young people from four countries: Belgium, France, Macedonia and Serbia. For ten days, they discussed beliefs and superstitions from different cultures. The exchange was realized in Reunion Island (France). The youth exchange was delivered in French and all the participants were francophones.

Youth for Europe

Funding programme: Erasmus+

Timespan: August 2017- January 2018

The project “Youth for Europe” consisted of hosting 2 EVS volunteers from France for a period of 12 months in ALDA Skopje. The volunteers worked on activities focused on the promotion of intercultural understanding, as well as creating different tools for dissemination

here and elsewhere”, youth exchange “Des traces de pas aux camps de fortune: Crise migratoire et citoyennetés européennes” and the EVS project “Youth for Europe”.

Des Traces de Pas aux camps de fortune: Crise migratoire et citoyennetés européennes

Funding programme: Erasmus+

Timespan: August 2017

The youth exchange “Des traces de pas aux camps de fortune: Crise migratoire et citoyennetés européennes” was implemented on 1-8 August in Struga, Macedonia. The youngsters from Belgium, France and Macedonia deepened their understanding on migration through thematic games and communication tools. The exchange was delivered in French.

and promotion of the topic of remembrance and EU citizenship. As a result, the volunteers created a website “Portraits of Macedonia” which was presented during an exhibition in Skopje, featuring interviews with Macedonians about their favourite places.



23 young francophones exchanging on the topics of migrant crisis and European citizenship in Struga – August 2017



The youth exchange “Beliefs and superstitions from here and elsewhere” gathered 64 young francophones on Reunion island (France) – August 2017



“Portraits of Macedonia” presented in Skopje

Focus on Eastern Partnership

2017 has been a significant year for ALDA’s Eastern Partnership (EaP) dimension. With the financial support of the National Endowment for Democracy, in the framework of the project “Fostering local reforms in Ukraine and Moldova”, ALDA opened a new LDA in Moldova and Ukraine. The active work towards the opening of the new Local Democracy Agency Moldova in Cimişlia started in 2016 and was successfully concluded in March 2017, with the inauguration of the office, adoption of a new delegate, and five committed partners on board signing the MoU. The 12th LDA of the network works on the issues of migration, capacity building of local authorities, regional development, support to EU integration and involvement of youth and women in the decision-making process.

The local Democracy Agency Mariupol (Ukraine) was established in the easternmost city in Europe on 9

December 2017. The newly established agency will work to facilitate cooperation of local authorities and civil society by encouraging collaborative decision-making at the local level, supporting skills and capacities of civil society, raising awareness and involvement of citizens, and further the exchanges between Mariupol (and Ukraine), and Europe.

As for the other LDAs in the EaP, the LDA of Dnipropetrovsk Region is implementing two projects actively contributing to the integration of IDPs in the social life of the country and supporting the process of decentralisation. The LDA in Kutasi (Georgia) and Gyumri (Armenia) actively worked and developed a number of projects engaging both local authorities and their communities.

The year was significant also in another country,

Belarus – where we celebrated 10 years since the start of our activities in the country. Success stories from the 10-years cooperation between ALDA and our member Lev Sapieha Foundation were collected and disseminated.

Supporting communities’ initiatives, cultural heritage, public administration reform, local self-government system and civic participation – these are the main topics addressed by ALDA in six countries of the Eastern Partnership.

The proposal for a Partnership Support Scheme supporting the network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) was discussed in a meeting gathering over 40 representatives from all over the enlarged Europe on



“For the whole EaP region, 2017 was a challenging year from social, security and political perspective. Despite difficulties, ALDA extended its operations in the region by opening two more LDAs, implementing ambitious projects, and further promoting its values. In the years to come we will continue growing our presence

5 December in Brussels. Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations sent a very powerful message to ALDA, in which the Commissioner congratulated and thanked ALDA and the LDAs for their work and achievements (watch the full video on ALDA’s YouTube channel: [ALdaEu](#))



Establishment of LDA Mariupol – December 2017

in the Eastern Europe because, as one of the biggest CSO actors, we strongly believe that working with grass roots and promoting local democracy are keys to sustainable development of communities”.

Alexandru Coica, Eastern Partnership Coordinator and Project Manager



Official ceremony establishing LDA Moldova in Cimişlia – March 2017



Local micro initiative in Belarus in the spotlight – Minsk, July 2017



Eastern Partnership Delegates meeting members of ALDA in Vicenza office

Project in the spotlight

Fostering Local Reforms in Ukraine and Moldova



FUNDING PROGRAMME:
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)



TIMESPAN:
October 2016 – December 2017

In December 2017, the project “Fostering Local Reforms in Ukraine and Moldova”, funded by National Endowment for Democracy, was finalized. The project focused on boosting cooperation between civil society organizations and local authorities as important component of good governance and citizen participation at the local level by launching Local Democracy Agencies in Ukraine and Moldova.

LDA Moldova in Cimişlia was the first Local Democracy Agency established in the country. It stands as an operational platform for debates, capacity building

and shared cooperation between civil society and local authorities. Its role includes implementation of jointly defined priorities and projects while reinforcing the working level relationship between the local authorities and civil society/ citizens. It is of particular importance in the context of improving quality of life of citizens of Moldova.

As for the LDA Mariupol in Ukraine, it was the second LDA in the country after the LDA of Dnipropetrovsk Region. LDA Mariupol successfully joined the wider network of operational LDAs in the European neighbourhood, working towards the same objectives – fostering educational, economic and professional exchanges, and supporting democratic institution building within European Neighbourhood Policy. Its role is the implementation of priorities and projects jointly defined by partners, while reinforcing the working level relationship between the local authorities and organized civil society.

The successful launch of new LDAs will be followed by the development and implementation of their one-year programmes, which will serve as the primary indicators of success. It will also strengthen networking and cooperation, establish local and international partnerships and launch reform-oriented initiatives.



Preparatory meeting in Mariupol with local authorities, civil society, and international partners – July 2017

OTHER PROJECTS

SPREAD II – Sustainable Partnership for Reinforcement of Active Development

Funding programme: EU’s Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme

Timespan: July 2014 – June 2017

SPREAD II is led by ALDA and implemented with our long-standing Belarusian member Lev Sapieha Foundation. SPREAD II was the continuation of the previous SPREAD project, aimed at promoting an inclusive and empowered

civil society in Belarus, by strengthening the 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 reached these objectives also through an innovative re-granting scheme, financing dozens of small actions at the local level, promoted by groups of citizens and associations.

CHOICE - Cultural Heritage: Opportunity for Improving Civic Engagement

Funding programme: Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument)

Timespan: July 2015 – June 2017

In 2017, the project CHOICE was successfully finalized. The project CHOICE took off in 2015 and aimed at enhancing civil society’s role and building its capacities to develop a heritage-friendly living environment in Belarus, Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine. The final event of the two-year EU funded project “CHOICE - Cultural Heritage: Opportunity for Improving Civic Engagement” was held on 6 June at the Committee of the Regions, in Brussels.

the European Union, ALDA has supported more than 30 small projects at community level, aimed at preserving cultural heritage with the active engagement of citizens. All projects had cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder character.

A comprehensive publication was created, which includes the expertise and recommendations on cultural heritage per country and for the whole Eastern Partnership region. The publication is freely accessible under the project’s web site: choiceproject.eu

ALDA believes that the cultural heritage is an opportunity for improving civic engagement: this motto drove the project. Since the project’s start, together with 5 partners in four countries and with financial support of



Public discussion on cultural heritage policy in Moldova, Belarus, and Armenia – April 2017

Focus on Euro-Mediterranean area —



Establishment of the 1st Local Democracy Agency in the Mediterranean in Kairouan (Tunisia) – 27 April 2017

2017 has been a crucial year for ALDA's actions in the Mediterranean area, showing more and more that Maghreb is a European Neighbouring area sharing the same values of good governance, participation and commitment promoted by ALDA.

Thanks to the increasing interest of European actors to intensify exchanges and collaboration with the Mediterranean area and following the signature on 29 April 2016 of a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the will of the municipality of Kairouan to become host city of the LDA in Tunisia, 2017 has seen the establishment of a Local Democracy Agency in Tunisia.

Indeed, on 27 April 2017, ALDA, the Municipality of Kairouan and their partners officially celebrated the opening of the LDA Tunisia, with a major public event in Kairouan. It was also the occasion to present to the public the objectives of the LDA and the commitments of the partners, in the presence of many local and international actors working for democracy in Tunisia. The partnership of the LDA is composed by the Municipality of Kairouan (Tunisia), the City of Strasbourg

(France), the Region of Sardinia (Italy), the Fons Mallorquí (Spain), Auxilia Onlus (Italy), Sawa Med Tunisia, AKDI - Kairouan Association for Integrated Development and APNEK - Association for the Protection of Nature and Environment of the Governorate of Kairouan.

The LDA Tunisia is the first Local Democracy Agency in the Mediterranean area. But another Mediterranean LDA should soon join the network. Indeed, several study visits have been conducted in Morocco in 2017 in the perspective of the opening of a Local Democracy Agency in the North West of Morocco in 2018.






Voices from the field:

“My biggest and daily motivation as MED Coordinator is people. I have the chance to meet and to work with so many inspiring people, passionate and acting every day at their local level to make the world a better place.”

Anne-Laure Joedicke, Responsible Med Area and Project Manager

Project in the SPOTLIGHT

PARFAIT - Participation des Femmes pour l'Avancement et l'Innovation de la Tunisie

 <p>FUNDING PROGRAMME: the European Union in the framework of the Moussawat Program of the Tunisian Ministry of Women, for the equality between women and men</p>	 <p>TIMESPAN: October 2017 - October 2019</p>
 Country impacted: Tunisia	
 PARTNERS: ALDA (leader) + EPD and la Coalition pour les Femmes de Tunisie	

On 28 November 2017, ALDA and its partners, the European Partnership for Democracy – EPD, and Coalition pour les Femmes de Tunisie officially launched the project PARFAIT with a high-level event held in Tunis, attended by the Ambassador of the European Union, the Minister of Women and the representative of the President of the Republic of Tunisia, and more than 130 participants.

This two-year project, funded by the EU, aims at increasing women participation at local level by giving them the tools to fully access the public sphere – as voters and candidates, but also as empowered, informed and involved citizens, thus ensuring the ongoing decentralization process will be a success for every single Tunisian citizen.

Indeed, the PARFAIT project fits the current Tunisian political context: local authorities will gain autonomy and responsibility with the implementation of decentralization and the organization of local elections in May 2018. The Parliament also adopted a law stipulating that half of the electoral lists presented by political parties will be chaired by women. These changes are key opportunities to be seized by Tunisian women.

The specific objectives of the project are then to contribute to the improvement of women's participation to the decision-making processes in the targeted regions;

to promote the integration of the gender dimension by local authorities in all their actions and to promote a shared vision of the place of women in local and regional public life through the opening of spaces for dialogue and collective learning.



Secretary General of ALDA Antonella Valmorbida with Ayda Ben Chaabane, President of the Coalition for Tunisian Women, Mr Patrice Bergamini, Head of the EU Delegation to Tunisia and Ms Naziha Labidi, Minister of Women – Tunis, November 2017

Quote from Patrice Bergamini, Head of the EU Delegation to Tunisia: “Respect, equality and citizenship are essential values we should ensure to each woman, in Tunisia and elsewhere, because we know that if provided with the right tools, women can do anything better.”



Participants to the launching event of PARFAIT in Tunis – November 2017

AVEC - Villages Associations of Savings and Loans for the Economic and social empowerment of vulnerable women. Project in Morocco

Funding programme: Raja Foundation
Timespan: October 2016 – October 2017

In 2017, ALDA and its local partner, ARDES, successfully conducted the AVEC project “Villages Associations of Savings and Loans for the Economic and social empowerment of vulnerable women”, funded by the Raja Foundation (France). In the framework of this project, a group of 100 women benefited from capacity building activities. In addition, 5 Villages Associations of Savings and Loans (AVEC, according to its acronym in French) were created to support the development of small profitable and enduring businesses, also acting

as a springboard for the access to institutional form of funding. The project ended successfully in November. Nevertheless, ALDA and ARDES showed their desire to continue to support these women and their initiatives toward the strengthening of their cooperatives and to foster other similar initiatives among vulnerable women.



Supporting participative democracy in Algeria

ALDA Secretary General, Antonella Valmorbida, together with the consortium of AETS, implemented the programme that promotes participative democracy and citizens participation at local level in Algeria, with support of the European Commission, the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities of Algeria.

The work implemented in Algeria fits within the strategy of ALDA, aiming to support local democracy and citizens’ participation throughout Europe and its Neighborhood. The participants especially worked on the drafting of a “Guide on Citizens participation at the local level” for all local authorities of the country.

In 2017, 90 participants were thus trained to become future trainers in their local authorities throughout the country. Fully coordinated by the Directorate for training for public servants of Algeria, this initiative was a first attempt to equip local officials and civil society representatives for developing democracy. Indeed, this initiative followed after the adoption, in 2016, of a new Constitution, where the support to local, participative democracy is provisioned.



The network of Local Democracy Agencies

ALDA coordinates and supports the network of 14 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and 3 Operational Partners (OPs) in their activities. Initiated by the Council of Europe in the '90s, the programme represents a unique and successful experiment of democratic support, with full engagement of local governments and civil society organisations from Europe and from the cooperation countries. LDAs are locally based organisations funded and supported by partners (local and regional authorities, and civil society organisations), with a long term joint programme to promote local democracy and citizens' participation at the local level.

The first Agencies were located in the Western Balkans, supporting the democratic transition of the countries after the war, but ALDA is today active throughout the European Neighbourhood – East and South. The network is in constant expansion, and 2017 was a record-breaking year with three LDAs established – LDA Moldova in Cimişlia; LDA Kairouan (Tunisia), the first in the southern shore of the Mediterranean; and LDA Mariupol (Ukraine), in the easternmost city in Europe.

A crucial aspect of the LDAs is the process of partnership building, as their work is based on the innovative method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. The cooperation between local and international partners, as well as between local authorities and civil society organisations, transforms the process of activities design and implementation into a real capacity-building exercise for all stakeholders involved, and is a practical example of how a democratic participatory planning process can create results.

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

LDAs partnerships develop through two main lines of action:

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

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

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

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

On the occasion of the discussion about a proposal for a Partnership Support Scheme to LDAs in Brussels in December 2017, gathering delegates and partners of the operational LDAs, Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations sent a very powerful video message to the participants, congratulating and thanking ALDA and the LDAs for their work and achievements in the field of local democracy. This recognition is a huge satisfaction for the whole network of ALDA.

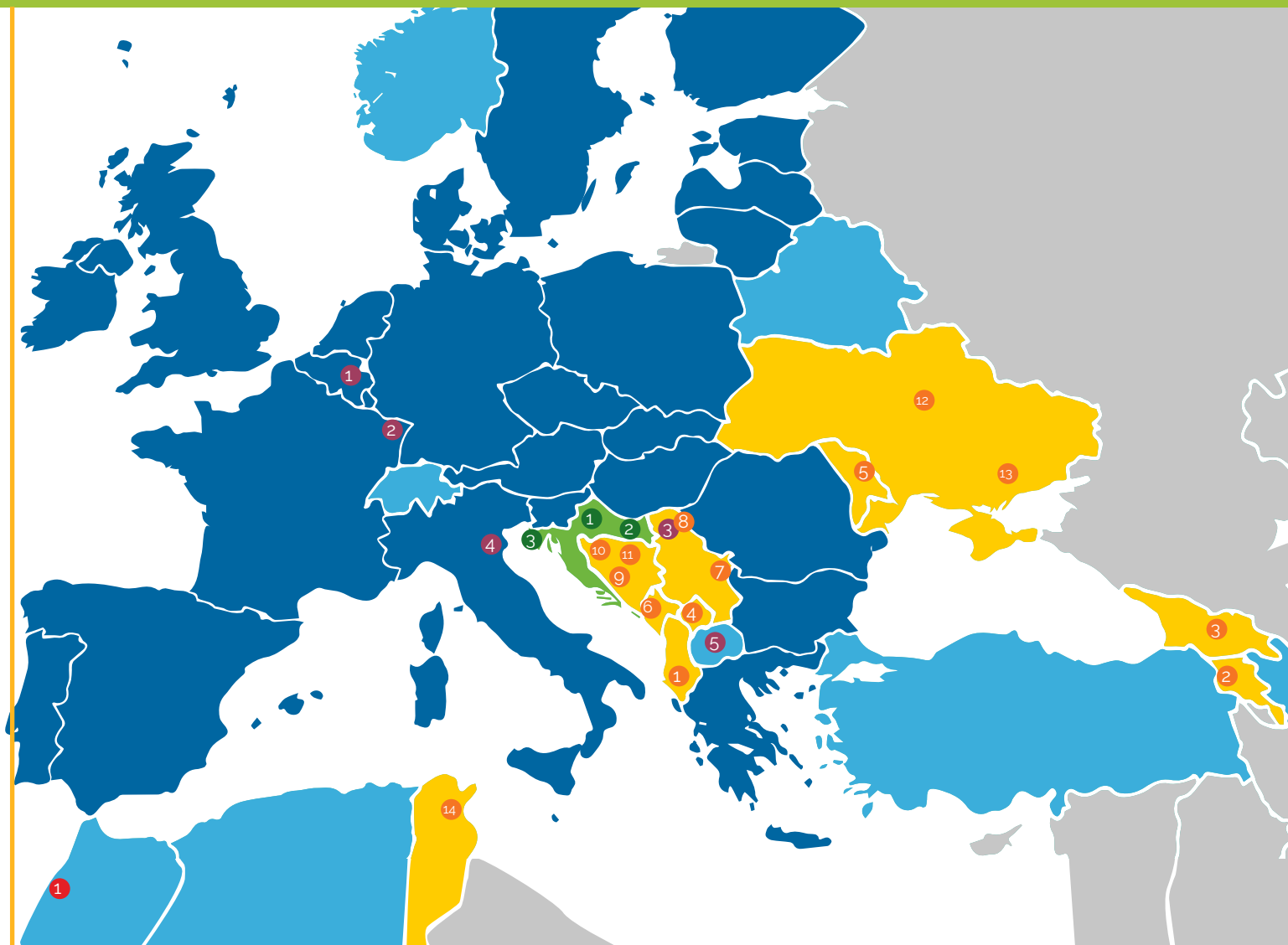


Celebration of 20 years of Lda Zavidovići

Video message by Commissioner Hahn, congratulating ALDA and LDAs. Copyright: AV Service EC

OBJECTIVES:

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



COUNTRIES WITH ALDA ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERS / EU MEMBER STATES

ALDA OFFICES

1. BRUSSELS
2. STRASBOURG
3. SUBOTICA
4. VICENZA
5. SKOPJE

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

1. SISAK
2. OSIJEK
3. VERTENEGLIO /BRTONIGLA

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES (LDAs)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. LDA ALBANIA | 6. LDA MONTENEGRO | 11. LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI |
| 2. LDA ARMENIA | 7. LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA | 12. LDA OF DNIPROPE-TROVSK REGION |
| 3. LDA GEORGIA | 8. LDA SUBOTICA | 13. LDA MARIUPOL |
| 4. LDA KOSOVO | 9. LDA MOSTAR | 14. LDA TUNISIA |
| 5. LDA MOLDOVA IN CIMIŞLIA | 10. LDA PRIJEDOR | |

UPCOMING LDA

1. LDA MOROCCO

Local Democracy Agencies



LDA ARMENIA, Gyumri

Tel: 00374 94 20 08 78 | **Email:** ldaarmenia@aldaintranet.org
Lead partner: Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)



Delegate:

Ms Lusine Aleksandryan

The LDA Armenia was established in 2011. Its main priorities are supporting the capacity building of local authorities and civil society in citizens' participation, supporting the participative practices in the promotion of sustainable tourism, strengthening and developing regional cooperation and empowerment of youth and women. Furthermore, the cooperation with the French Embassy, the Council of Europe, Kettering foundation, Black Sea NGO Forum and the European stakeholders promoted the implementation of many initiatives in the field of local democracy and participative decision-making.

Projects and activities implemented in 2017:

- "CSO-Government dialogue: Towards policy reforms on reducing the use of plastic bags" project – initiated with the local partner "Urban Foundation". The project tackles the issue of uncontrolled and overwhelming usage of plastic (PE) shopping bags and pollution of the environment with plastic trash.
- Support to kindergartens – improvement of "Bell" kindergarten floors being under Gyumri municipality con-

trol funded by the American "Paros foundation" and community in-kind contribution.

- Support to libraries – LDA Armenia implemented a series of trainings with the community libraries to promote their capacities with cooperating with educational institutions, within their networks and civil society organizations, on drafting projects and participatory budgeting.
- Trainings in the rural communities – LDA Armenia implemented trainings in the communities with local authorities and citizens on the problem jointly framing, deliberating and solving for community development based on the Kettering foundation methodology.
- Participation in Deliberative Democracy Institute trainings and conference organized by Kettering foundation in Dayton/ USA.
- Participation in annual Black Sea NGO Forum 10th edition /Chisinau, Moldova.



"Small changes starting from bottom lead to big results. Joint decision-making at the local level is the most trustful tool for state empowerment."



LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA, Knjaževac

Tel: 00381 64 3302523 | **Email:** ldacss@aldaintranet.org
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Delegate:

Mr Sasa Marinkov

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

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

The LDA Central and Southern Serbia (CSS) carried out a number of projects during 2017:

- "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 and Knjaževac Municipality
- "Establishing voluntary youth info service – Info point

Knjaževac", funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Republic of Serbia

- "Our citizens for our municipality", funded by European Union, Government of Switzerland, Government of Republic of Serbia through programme European Progress and Vlasotince Municipality
- "NET Or NEET – multi-stakeholders NETWORKs prevent early school leaving and reduce NEETs promoting innovative integrated education techniques", funded by the European Union through Erasmus+ Programme
- "WE-NET – Working Towards Environmentally Educated Towns", funded by the European Union through Europe For Citizens Programme
- "GREENist – The future and challenges of sustainable development of South Eastern Serbia", funded by Regional Environmental Centre Serbia and SIDA - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- "Ambassadors of Knowledge", funded by Knjaževac Municipality
- "Balkan Kaleidoscope", funded by EU through programme Europe for Citizens, European Remembrance



LDA OF DNIPROPETROVSK REGION, Dnipro (Ukraine)

Tel: 00380 97 972 57 56 | **Email:** ldadnipropetrovsk@aldaintranet.org
Website: www.lda-dp.com | **Lead partner:** Lower Silesian Voivodship



Delegate:
Ms Anzhelika Pylypenko

Local Democracy Agency of Dnipropetrovsk Region was established in 2015. It became the first LDA in Ukraine, and stands as a platform of cooperation, dialogue and exchange of experience and best practices across several aspects of regional development (cultural, social and economic) between local authorities and civil society in the EU and in Ukraine.

LDA fosters citizen participation at local level, and mobilizes civil society organizations, local and regional authorities to develop joint initiatives.

Main achievements in 2017:

- Completion of project ‘Participatory Democracy Development in Territorial Communities’. As a result, 2 communities participating became stronger and more independent
- Since 2017, the LDA is an active promoter and supporter of participatory budgeting. We’ve already implemented one project (Joint efforts – for the future: informal ways of solving problems) and applied with another – Digital Community

- Several project proposals submitted to potential donors including local and international partners
- LDA Deputy Delegate won the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council award for the support to local communities’ development.

Projects implemented in 2017:

- Participatory Democracy Development in Territorial Communities, NED (completed)
- UPDATE: Undercovering Potential of civil servants to Develop Amalgamated Territorial Communities, Embassy of France
- Joint efforts – for the future: informal ways of solving problems, Dnipro City Council (completed)
- IDPs SAVE: IDPs’ Social Adaptation as a Human Rehabilitation Vital Element, Waldensian evangelical church




LDA GEORGIA, Kutaisi

Tel: 00995 431242402 | **Email:** ldageorgia@aldaintranet.org
Webpage: www.ldageorgia.ge
Lead partner: City of Strasbourg, France



Delegate:
Ms Nino Khukhua

 “Democracy refers to “rule of the majority”. Democracy is a system of processing conflicts in which outcomes depend on what citizens do. It produces more public goods and invests more in human capital. Promoting local democracy contributes to a better world because it creates an operational platform of debate, capacity building and shared cooperation between civil society and local authorities.”

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

The LDA mandate is focused on:

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

A number of projects and activities were implemented in 2017, including:

- “The way forward for reforms in the housing sector: empowering grass-root homeowner’s associations in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine” – project has been funded by the European Commission.
- “Voice of More Women in Local Self-Government ”, funded by the USAID-EWMI-ACCESS Program;

- “Strengthen the Capacity of People with Disabilities in Elections and Politics”, funded by USAID/GYLA.
- “Increasing awareness about the Association Agreement with the European Union in Imereti Region”, funded by GIZ within the framework of the project “Cooperation Platform within the Association Agreement between Georgia and Moldova and Ukraine”.
- “Regional HUB in Imereti Region”, Funded by Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS);
- “Gender sensitive socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable IDPs through co-funding of their livelihood opportunities and promotion of their social mobilization”, funded by Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- “Local Self-Government Index”, Project was developed by the Center for Consultation and Training (CTC), Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) and the Management Systems Development Center (MSDC);
- “To raise the awareness of IDPs on their rights and entitlements and existing local/municipal and livelihood programs.”, funded by the support of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC);
- Support the Georgian National Platform for a More Equitable, Open, and Democratic Society- Funded by Eastern Partnership Georgian National Platform.



LDA KOSOVO, Peja

Tel.: 00377 44 861 589 | 00381 44 861 589

Email: ldakosovo@aldaintranet.org | **Lead partner:** Association "Trentino con i Balcani", Italy

The LDA Kosovo was officially opened in 2011 in Peja/Pec, to promote local democracy in the country. The LDA implements its mission through activities in the fields of democracy, justice, human rights, youth and equal opportunities, dialogue among minority communities in Kosovo, economic development, and social and cultural development. LDA Kosovo implements capacity building programmes aimed at fostering active citizenship and at establishing concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation, thus empowering citizens to improve their communities, as well as their society.

Main activities and projects implemented by LDA Kosovo in 2017:

- "Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue", funded by the European Union through Civil



Delegate:

Mr Elbert Krasniqi

Society Facility Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations

- Balcanimazione, funded by Associazione Trentino con i Balcani onlus
- "Fairy Tales to be together", funded by Associazione Trentino con i Balcani onlus and Docenti Senza Frontiere
- "International youth day", cooperation between Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo, Directorate of Culture, Youth and Sport, Local Youth Action Council and Youth Center of Peja
- "Educative campaign for cancer and tumors", funded by Associazione Trentino con i Balcani onlus and Trentino con il Kosovo



LDA MARIUPOL, Ukraine

Tel.: +380 (096) 005 48 42 | **Email:** ldamariupol@aldaintranet.org

The LDA Mariupol was established in December 2017.

Its main priorities are:

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

For December 2017, LDA Mariupol implemented several panel discussions with partners (Mariupol city council, NGO Mariupol development fund, active youth and civic



Delegate:

Ms Tetiana Lomakina

activists) to build a Strategy of cooperation for 2018. An Action Plan for 2018 was developed in accordance with the priorities of ALDA and other partners. It includes the concrete activities for 2018 year, such as:

- Organization of a series of programmes on the topics of democratic society;
- Workshops with active citizens of different age categories on the issues of popular, affordable and comfortable instruments of democracy;
- Promote the draft of the participatory budget;
- Training trainings explaining the work of the participatory budget;
- Trainings for public sector employees (teachers, doctors, employees of communal enterprises, culture and sports workers) and for STS, explaining the types of instruments, the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing democracy tools;
- Trainings for active citizens to enhance civic education;
- Training for librarians in order to increase transparency and participation in democratic processes.



LDA MOLDOVA IN CIMIŞLIA

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Lead partner: Solidarité Eau Europe, France

The LDA Moldova in Cimişlia has been established on 3 March 2017, with the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding by the partnership, thus kicking off the operational activities of the LDA. It represents the first Local Democracy Agency in Moldova, based in the city of Cimişlia, a historic and symbolic city, the aim is to create a platform for cooperation, dialogue and mutual exchange of experience in all aspects (cultural, social and economic) between local communities and communities of European partners and will constitute a platform of discussion between citizens, local associations and authorities on the field in order to meet the needs of local communities.



Delegate:

Mr Nicolae Hristov

In 2017, LDA Moldova implemented several initiatives, including the following public events:

- A panel discussion: Involving civil society in the decision-making process at the local level, which was held on 23 June 2017
- Youth participation in the process of consolidating local democracy, which was held on 6 October 2017
- Migration and local development, which was held on 29 November 2017



LDA MONTENEGRO, Nikšić

Tel: 00382 40 213 586 | **Email:** ldamontenegro@aldaintranet.org; ald@t-com.me; aldnk@t-com.me | **Webpage:** www.aldnk.me/index.php/mn/ | **Lead partner:** Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy



Delegate:
Mr Kerim Medjedović

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

In 2017 the LDA implemented several projects:

- Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue
- Initiative for establishing Youth Centre in Nikšić
- Greeters Montenegro

- Welfare youth development
- Net or Neet
- ALDA partnership support: LDA Montenegro strengthening partnerships with local authorities in Montenegro
- Empower zone ahead
- Making Europe Work
- Youth's Advocate



LDA MOSTAR, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Webpage: www.ldamostar.org | **Lead partner:** Apulia Region, Italy



Delegate:
Ms Dženana Dedić



"Local participation and local engagement are the only effective, and only possible base for good higher level democracy."

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

In 2017 the LDA Mostar implemented several projects and activities:

- "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
- "Balkan Kaleidoscope", funded by European commission, EACEA Europe for Citizens – Strand 1: European Remembrance
- "INCOME – Innovating Coworking Methods through Exchange", funded by European Commission, Erasmus + KA2, Cooperation for innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices, Strategic partnership for Youth.
- "Snapshots from the borders - Small towns facing the global challenges of Agenda 2030", funded by European commission, International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- "Transnational Cooperation in Békés County", in cooperation with the Egyensúly AE Egyesület Hungary, the project code EFOP-5.2.2-17-2017-00088
- "Youth's Advocate", funded by European commission, Erasmus + KA2, Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices - Capacity Building in the field of Youth
- "WomCom - Women's Communication for Solidarity", funded by European commission, Erasmus + KA2 –

Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices - Capacity Building in the field of Youth

- "Vols Europe - Volunteer Management in Europe's Youth sector", funded by European Commission, Erasmus+ programme - Capacity Building Youth - Western Balkans
- "Caravan Next - Feed the Future: Art moving cities", funded by European Commission - Creative Europe - Supporting Europe's cultural and creative sectors
- Fronterra program in Mostar - encouraging social entrepreneurship, change and unity, implemented in cooperation and funded by The Fronterra Foundation for Cultural and Sustainable Social Development the non-profit organization, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- "Sur les pas d'Albert Londres" (In the footsteps of Albert Londres), young journalists traveling seminar in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- "Diversity of the minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the preservation of their culture" documentary developed by students through Travel grant financed by European cultural foundation
- Educative touristic program developed for the Rustic pathways High schools' travel and service program Chardon Ohio US
- Educative touristic program developed for the groups of the Viaggi Solidali responsible tourism Torino Italy
- Educative touristic program developed for students from Trentino in cooperation with the Associazione Trentino con i Balcani Onlus
- ADA "Ashik Mostar", funded by the Ministry of education and culture of Herzegovina Neretva County, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina



LDA PRIJEDOR, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel: 00387 52 241 101 | **Email:** ldaprijedor@aldaintranet.org
Lead partner: Association Project Prijedor, Italy



Delegate:
Mr Dragan Došen

LDA Prijedor was established in 2000. Its main priorities are promoting citizens' participation, supporting

the democratic process at the local level, fostering the social network between citizens, organizations and insti-

tutions, supporting social inclusion and local economic development, and contributing to the work on Remembrance.

In 2017 the LDA implemented several projects and activities:

YOUTH AND CULTURAL AREA

- The second year of the “Theater workshop” project, aimed for youth aged 15 to 25 years. The workshop was created together between the Prijedor and Italian youth people and presented to the public of Prijedor and Trento
- Participation for the sixth time of high schools and youth organization from Prijedor in Youth film festival in Trento, where one school and three associations presented themselves with their short film and won significant prizes
- Fifth edition of the project “Prijedor, city of murals”, international prize “Paola de Manincor”

SCHOOL EXCHANGE

- Realized the training on cooperation in schools for elementary and high school teachers from Prijedor and realized the competition for the best school cooperative
- Study visit in Trentino (Italy) for students from agricultural school on production and processing of the meat
- Classes exchanges Liceo Galilei from Trento and Gymnasium “Sveti Sava” from Prijedor

SOCIAL AREA

- Continue to support the social centre with the public kitchen in Ljubija

- Project “Distance adoption”, support to the poor families in Prijedor from Italian families

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

- Project “Participatory territorial planning of local development” with the aim of realizing an analysis of the situation and the needs of one of the marginalized rural areas of Prijedor
- Support to responsible tourism
- Support to youth entrepreneurship

ACTIVITIES REALIZED BY ALDA SUPPORT, PROJECT “BALKAN REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND DIALOGUE” – third year of implementation

- Strengthening the capacity of LDA Prijedor workers (participation in regional trainings and meetings)
- Strengthening the capacity of young people from the area of Prijedor (organization of youth training and participation in regional trainings and meetings)
- Capacity building of Info Point, LDA Prijedor
- Participation of young people from Prijedor in a study visit by one of the national parliaments
- Organized workshop for mapping places of interest for young people of the City of Prijedor
- Financing at least two initiatives of young people from the area of Prijedor municipality through the created fund in the first year of implementation of the project
- Conducting research for the purpose of making a comparative analysis



LDA SUBOTICA, Serbia

Tel: 00381 24 55 45 87 | **Email:** lidasubotica@aldaintranet.org

Webpage: www.lda-subotica.org

Lead partner: Wolverhampton City Council, United Kingdom



Delegate:
Ms Silvija Patarčić

LDA Subotica was established in 1993, as the first Local Democracy Agency. Its main programmes are focused on capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions intended for three main target groups – policy and decision makers at local level, civil society organisations, youth and women’s groups in particular. Educating for democratic citizenship, promoting intercultural dialogue, regional cooperation, cross-sectoral partnership building for local sustainable development are the main types of activity, including networking at regional and European level. Its main priorities include advocating for democratic governance and participation and getting the accession negotiation process with the EU closer to citizens in local communities in Serbia and in multicultural Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in particular.

The LDA Subotica implemented several projects and activities in 2017:

- Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue - Civil Society Facility Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations - Support to Regional Thematic Associations
- Balkan Kaleidoscope – Europe for Citizens Programme, European Remembrance

- Youth Resource center for North Vojvodina region – Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sport
- Local Civic Monitor - European Policy Center Belgrade, WeBER project subgranting programme
- Vojvodina Initiative for EU - Open Society Fund
- Every Button Counts - Europe for Citizens Programme, European Remembrance
- Subotica – European Intercultural City - Provincial Secretariat for Interregional Cooperation and Local-Self Government, Government of Vojvodina
- Marking the Day of Europe in Subotica – information campaign and public event in Subotica
- Practice solidarity and shape Europe - Europe for Citizens Programme, Civil Society Projects
- Local governments, civil society organizations and media for accountable public finances – Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence
- Public Administration Reform – Membership in National Working Groups

LDA TUNISIA

Email: ldatusnia@aldaintranet.org | **Mobile:** +216 50 08 98 98

LDA Tunisia was established in April 2017. It represents the first Local Democracy Agency in the Mediterranean. The Agency is based in the city of Kairouan, a historic and symbolic city, and constitutes a platform of discussion between citizens, local associations and authorities on the field in order to meet the needs of local communities.

Since its establishment, the LDA has started working on the following activities:

Support to the urban mobility project Kairouan city: thanks to a partnership between ALDA, the city of Strasbourg and CODATU a project set up entitled "Sustainable and Shared Urban Mobility in Kairouan 2016-2017, programming mission of a development Ephemeral and / or transitory"

- Support to the PARFAIT project (Participation of Women in the Progress and Innovation of Tunisia). The LDA, as part of its mission to support local governance, is currently focusing on the electoral process and the municipal elections that will take place in May 2018
- Job Shadowing at LDA Subotica in Serbia at the end of December 2017. Participation organized by the LAD-



LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Lead partner: Association for Local Democracy Embassy in Zavidovići, Italy | **Webpage:** www.lda-zavidovici.org

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 Canton, Bosnia Herzegovina. Zavidovići and the surrounding area were severely affected by the war.

Main activities and projects implemented in 2017:

- The celebration of 20 years of LDA Zavidovići 1997-2017
- Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue
- Sigurno mjesto: services and activities for women
- Welfare Youth Development
- Balkan Kaleidoscope



LDA ALBANIA, Vlora

Tel: 00355 33408708 | **Email:** ldaalbania@aldaintranet.org

Lead partner: Metropolitan City of Bari, Italy

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



Delegate:

Ms Afaf Zaddem

DER project for an exchange of knowledge and experiences on the work and development of a LDA. Being LDA Kairouan the most newly created agency, it has been enriched by the expertise of a former LDA such as that of Subotica

Local network development with:

- ISET Kairouan, the Higher Institute of Technological Studies: Possibility of partnership with the center 4C ISET, career and skills certifications center
- Dramaturgy Center of Kairouan
- Make the LDA known to students of the Master of Mediterranean Studies at the Centre International de Formation Européenne

Meetings with technical and financial partners:


- Meeting with representatives of the French Development Agency as part of a call for projects to which the LDA is associated
- Participation in an information day organized by USAID on a grant program (TADAEEM) for civil society in the region. Meeting with representatives of USAID and possibility to apply for the call for projects with TADAEEM / USAID.



Delegate:

Mr Slađan Ilić

- Strani Vari – Summer centres for children
- Ludobus – Animation for children in rural areas
- Stand Art for Your Rights
- Development of family gardens in Zavidovići municipality
- 10 Years of Twinning: Zavidovići-Roncadelle
- "Memorial Allesandra" sport exchanges
- Vivicità – sport events, athletic race and tournaments
- Coalition for combating prejudice and intolerance in the community
- Youth Council of Zavidovići Municipality

 "Local democracy inspires communities to respond to the challenges they face with local solutions."

The LDA's thematic priorities are:

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

The LDA was suspended in 2017, and work is in progress to make it operational in 2018.

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS



OP OSIJEK, Croatia

Tel: 00385 31 494 256 | **Email:** ldaosijek@aldaintranet.org

Webpage: www.lda-osijek.hr

Lead partner: City of Lausanne, Switzerland



Delegate:

Mr Miljenko Turniski

The Operational Partner Osijek was established as an LDA in 1993, 25 years ago. Its mission is to encourage citizens to build an open, sustainable and inclusive society through networking, sharing of information and lifelong learning. The OP's vision is that through active participation in democratic life of the local communities, citizens contribute to the creation of society based on knowledge and values of equal opportunities, democracy, tolerance, social sensitivity, intercultural values, as well as ecological and consumer's awareness.

Main activities and projects implemented in 2017:

- A.R.C. – ACTIVATE! RECYCLE! CREATE!, funded by the City of Osijek
- WORK ON PERMACULTURE FARM, funded by French – German Youth Office

- Dignity World, funded by EC, Erasmus + Programme, Strategic Partnership
- YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRE INFO FORA, funded by Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy
- Institutional Support, National Foundation for Development of Civil Society
- Peacebuilding School Award
- The Osijek Days of Bioethics
- European Voluntary Service (EVS) accreditation
- International partner meeting, Penestin, France
- Involvement of 24 volunteers in 676 hours of volunteering.



OP SISAK, Croatia

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Webpage: www.lda-sisak.hr | **Lead partner:** ALDA



Delegate:

Ms Paula Raužan

"We must wonder, what is important to our citizens? How to relate rights with obligations and civic duties? Decades of dedicated work of various non-governmental organisations working on citizens' participations worldwide, prove that bottom-down approach that perceive citizens as passive consumers is not leading to sustainable change. Including citizens in shaping and developing their communities, especially youngsters, do lead to active participation and importantly to enhancement of local human capital."

Working on local democracy and active citizenship is never-ending, challenging, frustrating, hard, rewarding, brilliant and definitely necessary! Because, what else?"

The Operational Partner Sisak was established as an LDA in 1996. Its main priorities are fostering local democratic processes, active citizenship, voluntarism, promoting human rights and international cooperation, contributing to strengthening social capital of individuals, government and wider community.

In 2017, it implemented a number of projects and initiatives, including:

- Volunteer Centre Sisak, supported by the Town of Sisak and the Sisak-Moslavina County
- Sisak Volunteer' Network, supported by the Croatian Ministry of demography, family, youth and social policy and co-funded by the Town of Sisak
- Equality Forum Platform, supported by the National Foundation for Civil Society Development of Republic of Croatia
- Active youth for local development, supported by the Croatian Ministry of demography, family, youth and social policy

- RAISE – Raising the Advantages of Youth through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, supported by the EU, Erasmus + Program
- A Moment With Me – I am in because I am informed, supported by the Croatian Ministry for demography, family, youth and social policy and Centre for Civic Initiatives
- Citizens' Initiative in Upper and Lower Posavina, supported by the Croatian Ministry for demography, family, youth and social policy
- Edugaming, supported by the EU, Erasmus + Program
- What's the issue?, supported by the EU, Erasmus + Program
- Life Experience – My Youth for an Active Ageing, funded by the European Social Fund (Office for NGOs of the Republic of Croatia and National Foundation for Civil Society Development)
- Q25 – Strengthening Volunteering' System in Rural Communities of the Central Croatia, funded by the European Social Fund (Office for NGOs of the Republic of Croatia and National Foundation for Civil Society Development)
- Volunteer' School, funded by the European Social Fund (Office for NGOs of the Republic of Croatia and National Foundation for Civil Society Development)
- On volunteering waves – an infrastructure for strong and connected communities, funded by the European Social Fund (Office for NGOs of the Republic of Croatia and National Foundation for Civil Society Development)
- Institutional support, National Foundation for Civil Society Development of Republic of Croatia



OP VERTENEGLIO/BRTONIGLA, Croatia

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Website: www.lda-verteneglio.hr

Lead partner: Municipality of Bellinzona, Switzerland



Delegate:

Mr Umberto Ademollo

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

In 2017, the OP Brtonigla/Verteneglio implemented the following projects:

- A.C.T.I.O.N! – Acquisition of Competences to Improve Opportunities Now!
- Y.I.E.L.D. in Europe - Youth Ideas Empower Local Democracy in Europe

- T.E.N. Team for European Networking. Waiting to be approved

... and it was partner in the following ones:

- EVS “Bridge Over the Borders”
- Progetto EVS “Viseu Jovem”
- Progetto “New Forms of European Citizenship in Migration Era”
- Progetto “HumanityYouth Campaign”
- Progetto “Lord of volunteers”
- Progetto “European Training in agriculture sector”
- Progetto “#Medialogue”

ALDA worldwide

While the geographical scope of ALDA is the enlarged Europe, our Association is a leading stakeholder in the field of local democracy at global level. Our staff and experts are increasingly involved in actions all over the world.

ALDA is a member of CIVICUS, the World Alliance for Citizens Participation, and of European Partnership for Democracy (EPD). In 2017, the Secretary General of ALDA, Antonella Valmorbida, was appointed President of EPD, the platform advocating for a stronger presence of democracy support on the European Union's agenda and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices. EPD is currently working on the report on 10-year support to local democracy in Europe.

Ms. Valmorbida is also member of the Council of Advisors of the National Civic League, a Colorado-based organization supporting for over 120 years civic engagement in US communities. The National Civic League found in ALDA and its experience in the field of local democracy and citizens' involvement at the local level a key partner.

ALDA also joined the Deliberative Democracy Institute exchange at Kettering Foundation in Dayton (USA) in July 2017, with a mixed delegation of our Eastern Partnership Coordinator Nino Tvaltvdze, the Director of the Local Democracy Agency of Armenia Lusine Aleksandrian, and representatives of our member association ISBEM - Istituto Scientifico Biomedico Euro Mediterraneo.



Deliberative Democracy Institute exchange at Kettering Foundation, Dayton (USA) – July 2017

TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

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

ALDA+ supports various stakeholders – local and regional authorities, civil society organizations, educational institutions, small and medium enterprises, etc. – by providing a wide range of services, such as training and capacity building activities, technical assistance, online help-desk service, and tailored-made consultancies on different topics, including: project development and implementation, project financial management and audit, EU institutions, EU funds and programs (both direct and indirect/structural funds), citizens' participation (methods and techniques), non formal youth education, etc.

All services are designed and provided with a tailor-made approach, thus targeting the specific needs of the partners involved.

Main trainings delivered in 2017:

- Training course on project cycle management and on EU funding programs, addressed to cultural operators, supported by the ESF with the municipality of Bassano del Grappa (Italy), 30 participants
- Training course on EU funds and project cycle management for environmental guides from the social cooperative Biosphaera, 15 participants

- Training course on project cycle management and on EU funding programs, promoted directly by ALDA (Vicenza, Italy), 30 participants
- Trainings on European citizenship and active citizenship in primary and secondary schools in EU Member States, about 300 participants
- Training on EU – funded projects' financial management and reporting, as well as preparation to EC audits (Vicenza, Italy), 20 participants
- Training about EVS insights and management for Primavera 85 (target: volunteers, tutors and mentors) in Sovizzo (Italy), 30 participants
- Training on project cycle management at the European Partnership for Democracy, Brussels (Belgium), 30 participants
- Training course on project cycle management and on EU funding programs at the Centre Balears Europa (Spain), 60 participants
- Training course to civil society on partnership development, communication strategies and fundraising for the Association for slow living, Izmir (Turkey), 20 participants
- Training course on project cycle management, Europe for Citizens and ERASMUS + program for the Local Authorities of the Republic of Macedonia, 50 participants



"I'm glad to be part of ALDA; I feel that I'm doing good in a creative way. Despite its huge format, it is like being part of a family that appreciates me and supports my growth."

Sofia Corsi



+30 
TRAININGS DELIVERED

+700 
PARTICIPANTS

+15 
COUNTRIES

MAIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES ON PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Consultancy on project development for 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 program Europe for Citizens, Italy
- Support and assistance on monitoring funding opportunities for Pasubio Tecnologia (a public company working in the ICT field, Thiene, Italy), Eusebio Energia (a company working on sustainable energy, Milan, Italy), Betania ONLUS (an association working on social issues, Verona, Italy) and others
- Consultancy on project development and European Voluntary Service Management to Margherita Social Cooperative, Sandrigo, Italy
- Technical assistance on project development in the field of the ERAMSUS + programme to Istituto Musicale Guido Alberto Fano, Spilimbergo (a Musical training Institute), to SALeF (a training company) and to Cooperativa Sociale Jonathan, Italy
- Technical assistance on project development and management in the field of the European Voluntary Service to Primavera 85 Social Cooperative, Sovizzo, Italy
- Technical assistance about the accreditation in the frame of the European Voluntary Service to Consorzio Il Solco, a consortium of social cooperatives, Verona, Italy
- Technical assistance on project development and management in the frame of ERDF, to Villa Valmarana Srl, a company owning an important historical Palladian Villa in Vicenza, Italy
- Technical assistance on project development to several members and partners, both vis-à-vis and online, belonging to different categories, such as local and regional authorities, civil society organizations, universities, small and medium enterprises, etc. Among these, we list the main ones activated/implemented during the year: Municipality of Santorso (Vicenza, Italy); The Regional Association for Economic and Social Development - ARDES (Salé, Morocco); Local Democracy Agencies (Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, and Southern Neighborhood); Association “A mente libera” (Verona, Italy); Istituto Scientifico Biomedico Euro Mediterraneo - ISBEM (Mesagne, Italy); Milan Metropolitan City (Milan, Italy); SALeF Transformation Makers (Padua, Italy); Cooperative Con te (Quinto Vicentino, Italy); Social cooperative Samarcanda, Schio (Italy); Fargfabriken cultural association (Stockholm, Sweden); Lev Sapieha NGO (Minsk, Belarus) ... and many more!



COLLABORATIONS WITH UNIVERSITIES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Antonella Valmorbida, Barbara Elia and Marco Boaria participated as trainers in the master course on public management of the University of Catania, CEDOC Centre (Catania, Italy)
- Marco Boaria and Anna Ditta delivered a training on EU project cycle management at the Ca' Foscari Challenge School addressing public officers at local, regional and national level (Venice, Italy)



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES - LEARN AS IF YOU WERE TO LIVE FOREVER!

ALDA, through its company ALDA+ Benefit Corporation, offers a variety of training opportunities. Thanks to our multilingual staff (English, French, Italian, Macedonian,

Serbian, Russian, Spanish, Greek, Albanian, Georgian, Belarusian, Arabic), ad hoc trainings can be organized anywhere.

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 programs.

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

Target group: representatives of local authorities, civil society organizations, students, etc.: participants willing to know more about the funding opportunities available.

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

PRACTICAL WORKSHOP ON EU PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT

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

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

Target group: representatives of local authorities, civil society organizations, students, etc.: participants willing to learn how to develop a project and to manage a EU funded project.

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

TRAINING COURSE IN FINANCIAL MATTERS AND PREPARATION TO AUDIT

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

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

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

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

THEMATIC SEMINARS

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

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

Target group: any kind of participants interested in finding the right funding tool for supporting their ideas and/

or interested to know more about specific EU funding programmes.

Duration: 3 hours each.

TAILOR MADE COURSE FOR ALDA MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

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

Programme: to be agreed with the client

Participants' voices:



"Trainers and materials are the best you can find on the market, based on my personal experience."



"Learning about European projects through the voices and experiences of its protagonists is a true privilege!"



"Excellent training for all those who care about the European growth of their reality - and not only the working one!"



"I recommend the training to all those who work with territorial projects needing funding. Often field workers - myself included - lack information to manage a project from A to Z."

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



"I find it extremely motivating, to see the attitude evolution of the participants of our courses of EU project development. Many initially join to obtain fundings, but after the training they also recognize the value of project development, that lies in working for the well-being of the community, in order to improve it."

Marco Boaria, CEO of ALDA+



Join our network!

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES BY MAKING LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY WORK TOGETHER



ALDA is a unique membership-based organisation at the European level. We believe that the cooperation between local and regional authorities and civil society organisations is key to creating sound local democracy, and promoting citizens participation in their community life. That's why our members are both local/regional authorities and civil society organisations, from all the whole enlarged Europe.

We enhance joint work and synergies between local governments and organised civil society, in order to promote and improve the exchange of best practices in the field of local governance and citizens' active participation.

The network of ALDA grows year by year, thus reflecting the added value of the membership, as well as the fruitful cooperation and exchange among members from very different contexts. Today ALDA counts around 300 members from 40 countries.

Since 2017, the network also counts on Ambassadors, selected people who have been part of and supported ALDA for a long time, who are mandated to represent the Association, strengthening our visibility and presence all over the enlarged Europe, consolidating ALDA as a pan-European organization.

Among them, there are members of the Association, representatives of ALDA's Governing Board, Delegates of the Local Democracy Agencies, former staff members. Their role is both to improve visibility and establish relationships with new counterparts within their country of activity, and to support the action of members of ALDA on the territory, with a more decentralized and widespread approach.

For further information about ALDA membership, please contact: irene.zanetti@aldaintranet.org



Services for the members of ALDA

Being a member of ALDA means first of all sharing our mission. But it also means enjoying the following services:

Projects development and funding opportunities research

20 years experience in developing and implementing projects

- Priority on opportunities to be partners of projects, or to join consortia for tenders in various fields
- Support of ALDA multilingual staff in the project proposal development phase (EN, FR, IT, SR, MK, RU, ES)
- Identification of relevant international partners for specific geographic and thematic needs
- 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 authorities
- Visibility through a European network counting 300 members (local and regional authorities, CSOs, associations of local authorities)
- Support in the organization of study and networking visits in Brussels, and all over Europe
- Online presence for our members on ALDA's 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'

- Promotion of members' activities, initiatives and events at the European level through ALDA's communication channels (newsletter sent in six languages to over 11.000 contacts, website with over 360.000 visitors/year, social networks, media activities, publications and information materials)
- Access to the information points on EU and active citizenship (info-points based in Brussels and Vicenza)
- Free use of ALDA equipped offices and meeting rooms in Brussels (Belgium), Vicenza (Italy), and upon approval of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg (France)

Capacity building

Further your skills and horizons through a variety of opportunities

- Information on funding programmes and opportunities
- Participation in international events (conferences, seminars, etc.) promoted by ALDA
- Priority in partnership for specialized trainings (e.g. Master classes on EU programmes, trainings, etc.)
- Participation in ALDA working groups (on Citizens Participation and Local Governance, Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Mediterranean Area)
- Priority in offers of internship and job-shadowing, and in the programme "Volunteers for Democracy"
- Special rates for the services provided by ALDA+



ALDA members

MUNICIPALITIES

- Voskehask Community – Armenia
- Sarapat Community – Armenia
- City of Ieper – Belgium
- Etterbeek Municipality – Belgium
- Mostar Municipality – Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Verteneglio Municipality – Croatia
- Sisak Municipality – Croatia
- Vodnjan Municipality – Croatia
- City of Našice – Croatia
- Svetvinčenat Municipality – Croatia
- Osijek Municipality – Croatia
- Vejle Municipality – Denmark
- Strasbourg Municipality – France
- Kutaisi Municipality – Georgia
- Zugdidi Municipality – Georgia
- Patras Municipality – Greece
- Samos Island Municipality – Greece
- Chios Municipality – Greece
- Bari Municipality – Italy
- Lavis Municipality – Italy
- Reggio Emilia Municipality – Italy
- Thiene Municipality – Italy
- Monfalcone Municipality – Italy
- Bassano del Grappa Municipality – Italy
- Mesagne Municipality – Italy
- Lendinara Municipality – Italy
- Montecchio Maggiore Municipality – Italy
- Santorso Municipality – Italy
- Cremona Municipality – Italy
- Cervino Municipality – Italy
- Gazzo Municipality – Italy
- Formigine Municipality – Italy
- Erchie Municipality – Italy
- Zugliano Municipality – Italy
- Peja Municipality – Kosovo
- Mitrovica South Municipality – Kosovo
- Gjilan Municipality – Kosovo
- Ranillug Municipality – Kosovo
- Ferizaj Municipality – Kosovo
- Viti Municipality – Kosovo
- Novaci Municipality – Macedonia
- Tetovo Municipality – Macedonia
- Dojran Municipality – Macedonia
- Centar Municipality – Macedonia
- Birgu Local Council – Malta
- Cimișlia City Hall – Moldova
- Herceg Novi Municipality – Montenegro
- Rožaje Municipality – Montenegro
- Bijelo Polje Municipality – Montenegro
- Niksic Municipality – Montenegro
- Tétouan Municipality – Morocco
- Bydgoszcz Municipality – Poland
- Gdansk Municipality – Poland
- Valongo Municipality – Portugal
- Ploiesti Municipality – Romania
- Mioveni Municipality – Romania
- Kragujevac Municipality – Serbia
- Subotica Municipality – Serbia
- Knjaževac Municipality – Serbia
- Bujanovac Municipality – Serbia
- Novo Mesto Municipality – Slovenia
- Grosuplje Municipality – Slovenia

- Ivančna Gorica Municipality – Slovenia
- Villanueva de la Cañada Municipality – Spain
- Bellinzona Municipality – Switzerland
- Lausanne Municipality – Switzerland
- Delémont Municipality – Switzerland
- Karsiyaka Municipality – Turkey
- Dnipro City Council – Ukraine
- Wolverhampton Municipality – United Kingdom

PROVINCES OR COUNTIES

- Trento Autonomous Province – Italy
- Prahova County Council – Romania

REGIONS

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

ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- Albanian Association of Regional Councils – Albania
- Albanian Association of Municipalities – Albania
- AAM – Albania
- Association of Cities and Regions for Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+) – Belgium
- Regional Association of Municipalities “Central Stara Planina” – Bulgaria
- UBBSLA - Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities – Bulgaria
- NAMRB - National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria – Bulgaria
- Croatian County Association – Croatia
- AER, Assembly of European Regions – France
- AFCCRE, 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
- Energy Cities, the European association of local authorities in energy transition – France
- NALAG - National Association of Local authorities of Georgia – Georgia
- CONSVIPO, Consorzio per lo SViluppo del Polesine – Italy

- Tecla, Associazione di province Italiane – Italy
- COPPEM - Comitato permanente per il Partenariato Euromediterraneo dei Poteri Locali e Regionali – Italy
- Union of Municipalities Montiferru Sinis – Italy
- Association of Municipalities of Kosovo - AMK – Kosovo
- Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments - LALRG – 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
- Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova - CALM – Moldova
- Union of Rural Communes of Poland - ZGW RP – Poland
- AMR, Romanian Association of Municipalities – Romania
- The Mountain Community Iezer Muscel Association – Romania
- Standing conference of towns and municipalities – Serbia
- The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (UTCS / UMS) – Slovakia
- Fons Pitius de Cooperació – Spain
- Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació – Spain
- Fons Menorquí de Cooperació – Spain
- Causes Communes Ticino – Switzerland
- Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) – Turkey
- Association of Social Democratic Municipalities (SODEM) – Turkey

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

- CRCD Center – Albania
- Urban Research Institute – Albania
- Institute for Public Policies and Good Governance (IPPM) – Albania
- Association of Local Autonomy of Albania
- Association Educative et Culturelle Arc en Ciel – Albania
- Algeria
- Women for Development NGO – Armenia
- Foster Europe
- International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges - IAAI – Austria
- Austria
- NGO Alliance for Municipality Development (BINA) – Azerbaijan
- Center “Women and Modern World” – Azerbaijan
- “Intelligent Citizen” Enlightenment Center (ICEC) – Azerbaijan

- Lev Sapieha Foundation – Belarus
- European Projects Association ASBL – Belgium
- Inter-Environnement Wallonie ASBL Belgium
- ECIT (The Foundation on European Citizens' Rights, Involvement and Trust) – Belgium
- Çavaria – Belgium
- European Association for Viewers' Interests - EAVI – Belgium
- Oxfam Wereldwinkels vzw – Belgium
- POSECO asbl – Belgium
- Climate Coalition – Belgium
- Presidents Club Bulgaria – Bulgaria
- Law and Internet Foundation – Bulgaria
- Udruga ECHO – Croatia
- The Management Centre – Cyprus
- AGORA CE – Czech Republic
- ADK - Asociace debatních klubů, z.s. - Czech Debate Association – Czech Republic
- Association for Integration and Migration – Valgevene Uus Tee, MTU – Estonia
- Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation – Estonia
- Center for Civil Initiatives Support in Estonia (MKT) Mittetulundusühing Kodanikualgatuse Toetuskeskus – Estonia
- Taksvärkki ry – Finland
- ALFA Formation – France
- CIDEFE – France
- Institut international des droits de l'Homme et de la paix (2IDHP) – France
- LIKE - Villes et régions européennes pour la culture – France
- Le Partenariat – France
- D'Antilles et D'Ailleurs – France (Martinique)
- SJR Betriebs GmbH – Germany
- CIVILSCAPE – Germany
- EGTC Amphictyony – Greece
- SYMBIOSIS – Greece
- Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation (HEPF) – Hungary
- The Multi-Disciplinary Center (MDCM) – Israel
- Fondazione Teatro Comunale Città di Vicenza – Italia
- Associazione per l'Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale a Zavidovići – Italy
- Associazione Progetto Prijedor – Italy
- UNISCO - Network per lo sviluppo locale – Italy
- Fondazione Opera Campana dei Caduti – Italy
- Istituto Euromediterraneo – Italy
- Trentino con i Balcani – Italy
- Progettarte – Italy
- Putignanonelmondo – Italy
- ISBEM – Italy
- LC Associazione Learning Cities – Italy
- Fondazione CUOA – Italy
- Leonardo consorzio di Cooperative Sociali – Italy
- Studio Progetto Società Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS – Italy
- CISP - Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli – Italy
- SPES - Associazione Promozione e Solidarietà – Italy
- Centro di Servizio per il Volontariato del Lazio – Italy
- Istituto di studi federalisti Altiero Spinelli – Italy
- IL MOSAICO Association – Italy
- Margherita cooperative – Italy
- ANPAS - Associazione Nazionale Pubbliche Assistenze – Italy
- Consorzio Sol.Co Verona s.c.s.c. – Italy
- Coppula Tisa ONLUS – Italy
- Cultural Association Socrate - European School – Italy
- La Piccioniaia scs – Italy
- Arcigay – Italy
- Foundation AIDA – Italy
- JONATHAN Cooperativa Sociale – Italy
- Associazione "Italia-Serbia" – Italy
- Samarcanda Cooperativa Sociale Onlus – Italy
- A 31-20 Futuro Anteriore – Italy
- ARCI Servizio Civile Vicenza – Italy
- HUMANITAS – Italy
- Associazione "Le fate" ONLUS – Italy
- Le Guide - Associazione Sportiva Dilettantistica – Italy
- IRS - Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale – Italy
- Federazione Trentina della Cooperazione – Italy
- Auxilia Onlus – Italy
- National Agency for Microcredit / Ente Nazionale per il Microcredito – Italy
- Consorzio Operativo Salute Mentale Società Coop. Sociale C.O.S.M. – Italy
- Kallipolis – Italy
- European Academy of Bozen-Bolzano (Eurac Research) – Italy
- ENAIP Veneto Impresa Sociale – Italy
- Globus et Locus – Italy
- ICEI - Institute for International Economic Cooperation Italy – Italy
- Biosphaera – RSN Ricerche e Studi Naturalistici – Italy
- Associazione Giochi Antichi – Italy
- Cultural Association Nexus – Italy
- EuroBelarus – Lithuania
- Lithuanian NGDO platform (National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform) – Lithuania
- Coalition of youth organizations SEGA – Macedonia
- Community Development Institute – Macedonia
- CSCD-Center Sustainable Community Development - Debar – Macedonia
- Foundation for local development and democracy FOKUS – Macedonia
- Association of Finance Officers of the Local Governments and Public Enterprises – Macedonia
- Solidaritate Europeană pentru Apă în Moldova (SEAM) – Moldova
- Comunità degli Italiani del Montenegro – Montenegro
- Centre for Monitoring and Research - CeMI – Montenegro
- REMESS - Réseau Marocain d'Economie Sociale et Solidaire – Morocco
- ARDES, The Regional Association for Economic and Social Development (ARDES – l'Association Régionale de Développement Economique et Social) – Morocco
- Espace Marocain de l'Economie Sociale, Solidaire et Environnementale (EMESSE) – Morocco
- Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise - AMAPPE – Morocco
- Conseil de la société civile pour le suivi de la gestion de la chose locale – Morocco
- ROPAIESS : Réseau d'Oriental pour la Promotion et l'Appui d'Initiatives de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire – Morocco
- Corps Marocain Pour L'Enseignement Préscolaire – CMEPS – Morocco
- AMIDI - Association Migration pour le Développement Interculturel – Morocco
- Réseau Associatif pour le Développement Participatif de Meknès – Morocco
- Stichting Vrienden van Felix Meritis – Netherlands
- Stichting Fairtrade Gemeente Nederland – Netherlands
- International School of Bydgoszcz – Poland
- ECWM - European Centre of Youth Cooperation – Poland
- Klamra Foundation – Poland
- TILIA Association – Poland
- The National Federation of Young Farmers of Portugal - CNJ – Portugal
- Clube Intercultural Europeu – Portugal
- 4Change CRL (Cooperativa Cultural e de solidarierda social CRL) – Portugal
- EPAR - Desenvolvimento, Ensino, Formação e Inserção – Portugal
- ACI – Associação Centro InterCulturaCidade – Portugal
- Rural Women National Association (Asociația Națională a Femeilor Din Mediul Rural) – Romania
- CDCD ARAD (Social Care Directorate) – Romania
- Association for Sustainable Rural Development and Preservation of Traditions – Romania
- Foundation for Defending Citizens Against State Abuse - F.A.C.I.A.S. – Romania
- Danube 1245 – Serbia
- Regional Development Agency Eastern Serbia - RARIS – Serbia
- CEE Citizens Network (CEECN) – Slovakia
- Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto – Slovenia
- Association of nongovernmental organisations Youth Center Postojna – Slovenia
- Development Centre Novo Mesto, Consultation and Development Ltd. – Slovenia
- ZRC SAZU - Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts – Slovenia
- SLOGA - Slovenian Global Action – Slovenia
- Fundación Privada INDERA – Spain
- Associació Districte 11 - City to City – Spain

- Ser Joven Association – Spain
- Asociación Mar Violeta – Spain
- Baltic Fem – Sweden
- Association for Local Participation – Turkey
- Association for Community Self-Organization Assistance – Ukraine
- Assist Social Capital Community Interest Company (ASC) – United Kingdom

UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS

- Tbilisi Teaching University Gorgasali – Georgia
- IUAV University of Venice – Italy
- CEDOC - Centro di Documentazione e Studi sulle Organizzazioni Complesse ed i Sistemi Locali – Italy
- Cultural Institute Nicolò Rezzara – Italy
- Faculté des Sciences de l'Éducation, Université Mohammed V de Rabat – Morocco

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES (LDAs)

- LDA Albania – Albania
- LDA Armenia – Armenia
- LDA Mostar – Bosnia and Herzegovina
- LDA Prijedor – Bosnia and Herzegovina
- LDA Zavidovići – Bosnia and Herzegovina
- LDA Georgia – Georgia
- LDA Kosovo – Kosovo
- LDA Moldova in Cimişlia – Moldova
- LDA Montenegro – Montenegro
- LDA Central and Southern Serbia – Serbia
- LDA Subotica – Serbia
- LDA Tunisia – Tunisia
- LDA of Dnipropetrovsk Region – Ukraine
- LDA Mariupol – Ukraine

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

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

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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



“If I think about ALDA’s history and developments in the past years, as well as the Local Democracy Agencies’ achievements, working for ALDA to me means to be involved in the bridge between the local and the European and International levels. It also means working for a more inclusive and participative Europe and in that way, it makes me feel part of a wonderful process, where you can see how things you’ve only dreamed of become real.”

Francesco Pala, Assistant to the Secretary General



“ALDA is an organization that reaches to the very essence of democracy and governability with enormous potentialities and real, tangible goals. But what I like the most from ALDA is its international dimension in continuous expansion, creating a wide web of inclusion by opening spaces and opportunities to a great variety of beneficiaries/supporters”.

Linda Maria Dal Bosco, Assistant Financial Department



“I am proud to work for ALDA because of the strong impact generated on the people we meet. A sort of ‘magic touch’ with energy and smile on environment, gender balance, social inclusion and all the EU values.”

Giulia Mezzalira, Events Manager



“By working in ALDA, I witness and live the power and benefits of intercultural exchange every day. ALDA is an organization where teamwork is essential and we work collectively in order to achieve together the goal and activities of our organization. It is inspiring to work with so many professionals devoted and dedicated on the same vision for so many years. Slowly, but steady we change the world. One policy, one program at the time. I am proud to be part of the positive change that’s been made for the present and the future of our communities.”

Dragana Petrushevskaja and colleagues from Skopje office

OUR WORLD



PROGETTARTE

“Progettarte has been part of ALDA’s network for 15 years, feeling part of a big family.”

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

Francesco Zarzana
President of Progettarte, Cultural Association, Italy

NALAG

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

David Melua
Executive Director of NALAG, Association of Local Authorities, Georgia

VEJLE MUNICIPALITY

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

Arne Sigtenbjerggaard
Mayor of Vejle Municipality, Denmark

Get involved!

Become a friend of ALDA

If you believe that local democracy is key to better, more sustainable local communities, ALDA's doors are open to you. You can support our activities with a small donation starting from 20 €/year, and become a Friend of ALDA. You will always be informed about our initiatives, receive our monthly and thematic newsletters, be invited to meetings and events, and receive the E-card 'FRIENDS of ALDA' as symbol of the relationship and trust with our Association.

For further information please contact irene.zanetti@aldaintranet.org



Volunteers 4 Democracy

Would you like to support local democracy, citizens' participation, and human rights? You can help us with your skills and time 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 a fast-paced, international association. Particularly motivated volunteers will have the opportunity to attend international events for the association.


To join the programme, send an email to irene.zanetti@aldaintranet.org, attaching your CV, motivation letter, and description of 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.

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

 "I really appreciate that I had the opportunity to do the internship with ALDA because it brings you a lot of new experiences, allows you to improve and deepen your skills, offers you a space for your creativity and ideas while working in a friendly environment where you are not just an intern, you are actually part of the team. Six-months internship is the best period to find out how the organization works, to be able to work independently and to actually benefit from the experience".

Zuzana, Czech Republic -
Intern in ALDA's communication team



Become a citizen journalist, and have your say!

ALDA's citizen journalist initiative is open to all those who want to express their opinions about the issues they find interesting or worth to be publicly discussed. Our goal is to encourage and support active citizen participation in the enlarged Europe, thus empowering all Europeans to contribute to the improvement of their communities, and of the whole Europe. Contributions of citizen journalists will be disseminated via ALDA's communication channels.

Don't be shy, Europe needs your voice! For information or articles submission, please contact irene.zanetti@aldaintranet.org



"When I was a child I dreamt of working for an NGO making the planet a better place, and of flying. I am extremely happy about all initiatives opening the doors of ALDA to all those of you who want to make their dreams come true and join our adventure... Even if afraid of heights!"

Irene Zanetti, Head of Communications

Apply to the scholarship Gianfranco Martini

ALDA awards an annual scholarship in memory of our Honorary President, Gianfranco Martini. Martini was among the initiators of the concept of Local Democracy Agencies, and became the first President of ALDA in 1999. Throughout his active life he remained passionate

about the promotion of local democracy, the engagement of civil society and the encouragement of interethnic dialogue in Europe, with a particular focus on the Western Balkans.

This scholarship supports a student or researcher proposing a project focusing on local democracy, engagement of civil society and/or interethnic dialogue. The winner presents her/his work during the following General Assembly. Information about the application is disseminated through ALDA's website and channels.

Would like to know more?

Please contact francesco.pala@aldaintranet.org





European Association
for Local Democracy

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