

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Scientific Committee of the International School for Local Democracy Promoted by ALDA, the European Association for Local democracy

Background:

The International School for Local Democracy, organised annually by ALDA, the European Association for Local Democracy at Villa Fabris in Thiene (Vicenza, Italy), **aims to promote local governance and democratic practices through education and capacity building**. To ensure the academic and political integrity of the School's programmes, ALDA intends to establish a Scientific Committee **comprising a minimum of three and a maximum of five distinguished experts in political science, local governance, democracy, and related fields**.

2. Purpose of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will provide strategic and academic guidance for the International School for Local Democracy. Its role is to ensure that the School's curriculum, sessions, and overall direction align with contemporary research and best practices in local democracy and governance.

3. Composition and Selection of the Committee

- The Scientific Committee will consist **of three to five members**.
- Members will be selected by a committee composed of representatives from the Coordination Board, Scientific Board, and Governing Board of ALDA.
- The committee's decision will be final and not open to appeal. Following the selection, the members will choose one of their peers to serve as President of the Scientific Committee.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Scientific Committee will oversee the following tasks:

- **Curriculum Development and Review**
 - Provide expert input and validation for the School's curriculum.
 - Ensure the curriculum aligns with the latest developments in local democracy, governance, and political science.

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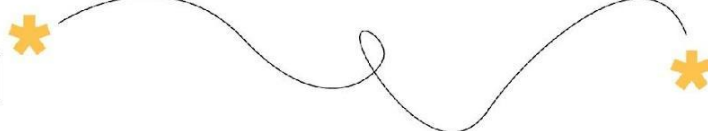
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- **Programme Design**
 - Advise on the design and structure of sessions, workshops, and activities.
 - Recommend themes and topics for each edition of the School.
- **Quality Assurance**
 - Monitor and evaluate the academic quality and relevance of the School's content.
 - Provide feedback on the effectiveness of the educational activities.
- **Speakers and Partners Recommendations**
 - Suggest and help identify potential speakers, lecturers, and partners with relevant expertise.
 - Facilitate connections with academic institutions, political bodies, and other organisations.
- **Reporting**
 - Prepare an annual report summarising the Committee's activities, evaluations, and recommendations for improvements.
 - Participate in regular meetings with ALDA's organising team to discuss progress and challenges.
- **Support ALDA's Vision**
 - Advocate for the School and its mission within relevant networks.
 - Promote the School's visibility in academic and political circles.

5. Requirements for Application

Applicants interested in joining the Scientific Committee should meet the following criteria:

- **Academic Background:** Minimum of a Master's degree in political science, local governance, democracy studies, or a related field.
- **Professional Experience:** At least 5 years of experience in academia, local governance, or political practice with expertise in local democracy.
- **Expertise:** A strong track record of research, publication, or professional work related to local governance, democracy, or public administration.
- **Commitment:** Willingness to contribute pro bono and attend meetings, including one annual in-person meeting at Villa Fabris in Thiene.
- **Network:** A well-established network in academic, political, or governance circles.

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6. Benefits to Committee Members

While the position is pro bono, members of the Scientific Committee will benefit from the following:

- **Recognition:** Official acknowledgment on the ALDA website and all School-related materials.
- **Networking:** Opportunities to collaborate with leading experts and practitioners in local governance and democracy.
- **Influence:** The ability to shape the curriculum and direction of an international educational initiative.
- **Professional Development:** Engagement in discussions and activities that contribute to personal academic and professional growth.

7. Application Process

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their **CV in English**, along with a **brief statement** highlighting their motivation and qualifications for the role, by **October 31, 2024**.

Applications should be sent via email to **villafabris@alda-europe.eu** with the subject line: "Scientific Committee of the International School for Local Democracy."

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