



LADDER

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS DRIVERS FOR DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS

ANNUAL REPORT
2015



ALDA
European Association
for Local Democracy



With the financial
support of the EU

Abbreviations

LAs: Local Authorities

CSOs: Civil Society Organisations

DEAR: Development Education & Awareness Raising

MDGs: Millennium Development Goals

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

EU: European Union

EC: European Commission

EP: European Parliament

CoR: Committee of the Regions

CORLEAP: Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership

ARLEM: Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly

EESC: European Economic and Social Committee

EEAS: European External Action Service

DG DEVCO: Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (EuropeAid)

DG NEAR: Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

DG Regio: Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

ENP: European Neighbourhood Policy

EaP: Eastern Partnership area

MED: Mediterranean area

SEE: South East Europe area

CONCORD: European NGO Confederation for relief and development

UCLG: United Cities and Local Governments

PLATFORMA: European platform of Local Regional Authorities for development

CoE: Council of Europe

CLRA: Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Conference of INGO: Conference of International Non-governmental Organizations of the Council of Europe

FOREWORDS

> From the Secretary General of ALDA, MRS ANTONELLA VALMORBIDA



LADDER is not a simple project, but a living community that has embarked on a more than ambitious objective: to change the paradigm of the policies in awareness and education in development by engaging civil society and local authorities.

It represented a concrete proposal to work on the potentiality of the multi-stakeholder governance at the local level and to bring it together towards a common goal – building and consolidating global citizenship and responsibility.

Our LADDER community is a complex exercise but - and this result is not unexpected - still possible and very effective. Local communities ARE a real composition of public institutions, civil society groups, educational structures, private stakeholders and more. Together, they set the path of the development of their communities, they find (or do not find) the solutions for a peaceful and successful living together. This multi-stakeholder approach is often more real and factual than the opposite.

Our partners in the EU and in the Neighbourhood East and South have proved to be fantastic in all the possible senses. They deeply played the game of cooperation, mutual understanding, building a common ground for growth and empowerment of our communities.

They went through the difficult road of merging the concept and work of their own development with the more global approach to development and the global citizenship for a better world, to which we all belong. In all the multi-facet actions of the first year of implementation of LADDER, the partners have made a real effort to step up the level of their members and constituency as for awareness in development and they managed to change their way of working and addressing their approach to development. 2015 was the European Year for Development and the year that ratified the new Sustainable Development Goals for our planet. LADDER is our contribution to these collective goals.

We joined the discussions and had a strong impact on some of the decisions made. Indeed, in both context, at the UN and EU level, the role of local governments with local authorities and the localization of the Development Goals represent a point carved in stone for the future.

I am particularly grateful to all the stakeholders making LADDER community a reference in the EU landscape of Awareness and Education for Development: each and every single staff of my team, the Governing Board of ALDA intensively involved in the process, the partners, with whom we are in daily contact, and the thousand people we have been in touch with and from which we have learned so much. LADDER is a community travelling together, day by day, for 36 months of common activities. Let's sail together for an even stronger impact of our actions on our communities and our global world, in the years to come!

> From LADDER Project Manager, MR NIKOS GAMOURAS

After the completion of its first 12 months, LADDER presents an overall picture of smooth implementation, with a strong commitment of co-applicants & particular interest



of associates involved. Being a large scale pilot exercise, a platform of cooperation with an extensive partnership bringing together actors from different backgrounds, namely Local Authorities (LAs) and their Association from one side, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and their networks on the other side, in

addition to other international organizations and stakeholders, has proved to be a valuable and content-full exercise after 1 year.

The first year of implementation took place in a very critical and important period for Europe, coinciding with the European Year for Development 2015 (EYD2015), the discussion and approval of the Sustainable Development Goals and a major crisis on migration.

The project, implemented with a broad number of partners, accompanied and adapted as much as possible the development of these processes, confirming to be a living community! On top of the project activities' implementation, the consortium decided to set a global framework of the project, which consisted in the drafting of the LADDER roadmap, publicly adopted at the Launching conference of the project in June 2015. The Roadmap set the global vision of the project, providing the framework and linking its multiple dimensions together, giving a global sense to the actions and foreseeing a number of synergies to develop with other relevant stakeholders, which has been carefully followed & applied during the reporting period, in pursuing the overall objective of making LADDER, seen as a consortium of stakeholders, an actor for change. More to come!

*“If you cannot do great things,
do small things in a great way.”*

Napoleon Hill

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be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.*

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>> INTRODUCTION

A. ABOUT LADDER: THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

The LADDER project stands for Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education & Raising awareness. It is funded by the DEAR Programme of the EU, under the Lot 5 “Global learning and advocacy projects led by a Local Authority or Association of local authorities”.

It intends to create a wide platform of Networks of Local Authorities (both national and European) and alliances of CSOs to pursue the objectives of the EYD 2015 and increase DEAR actions, by addressing key issues identified by the Communication “A Decent Life for all: ending poverty and giving the world a better future”, developing thus a synergic programme aiming at reaching the planned objectives.

It is a 3-year project that started in January 2015 and will conclude in December 2017.

The beneficiaries of LADDER are ordinary citizens: it's meant to raise their awareness on global issues (short term), to promote their engagement in global challenges & poverty eradication (mid term) & to lead to a change of attitudes towards global and development challenges (long term).

For more information, www.ladder-project.eu

The structure and the budget

LADDER is an EU-funded budget. Its total budget is 3.88 million Euros (€).

The project's activities are articulated in 9 different chapters (commonly known as Work Packages):

I. Management and Coordination:

Project Management, implementation of activities and coordination among partners, monitoring & Evaluation, reporting

II. Applied Research Survey, data collection and research on DEAR

III. Capacity Building Trainings on DEAR at EU, National & Local Level

IV. Thematic Paths: Advocacy mechanisms to raise the awareness of relevant actors (EU, national, local, private, non-state actors etc) on the role of LAs & CSOs in the corresponding theme:

Migration
Youth in development
Citizens' Participation for Development
Public-Private Cooperation for development
Sustainable & Environmental development
European Year for Development 2015

V. Geographical Paths: Advocacy mechanisms to raise the awareness of relevant actors (EU, national, local, private, non-state actors etc) on the role of LAs & CSOs in the corresponding geographic area and spread the DEAR approach outside the EU:

Mediterranean Path
South Eastern Europe Path
Eastern Partnership Path

VI. Educators' capacity building and networking: Job shadowing, and peer-to-peer education.

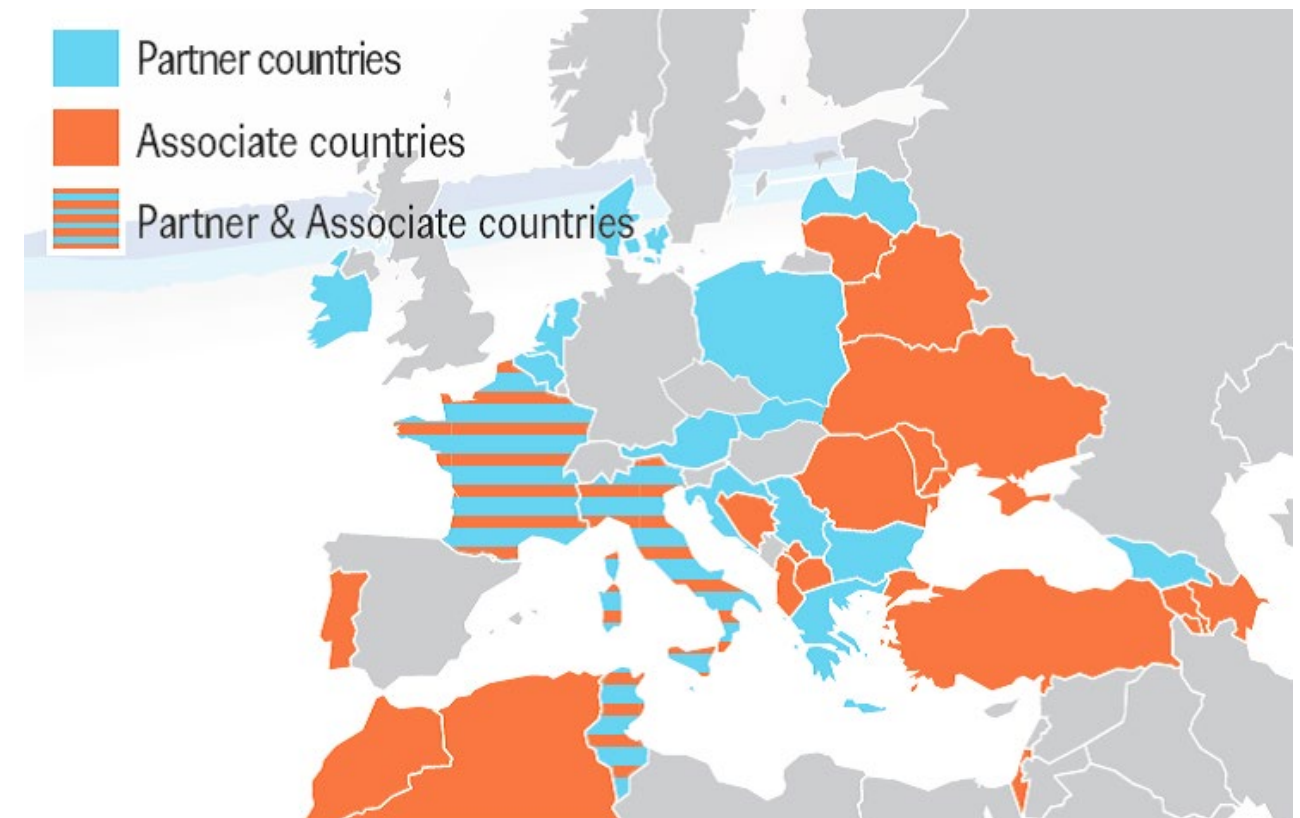
VII. Re-granting scheme: supporting local projects on DEAR in the EU member states.

VIII. Communication and Dissemination: project's website, animated video, promotional materials, citizens' journalist, Slogan competition, etc.

IX. Creative Component: professional theatre play as a tool for awareness raising

The consortium

The project consortium is composed of 25 co-applicants and 20 associates, coming from 18 EU and 17 non-EU countries, as presented below.



CO-APPLICANTS:

1. ALDA (leader) European Association for Local Democracy (France)
2. Foster Europe Foundation for Strong European Regions (Austria)
3. JEF Young European Federalist (Belgium)
4. ENNA European Network of National Civil Society Associations (Belgium)
5. UBBSLA Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (Bulgaria)
6. NAMBR National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (Bulgaria)
7. CAC Croatian Association of Counties (Croatia)
8. Vejle Municipality (Denmark)
9. NALAG National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (Georgia)
10. EGTC Amphictyony (Greece)
11. Donegal County Council (Ireland)
12. TECLA Associazione per la cooperazione transregionale locale ed europea (Italy)
13. CIME Consiglio Italiano del Movimento Europeo (Italy)
14. COPPEM Comitato Permanente per il Partenariato Euromediterraneo delle Autorità Locali e delle Regioni (Italy)
15. Progettarte Associazione Culturale (Italy)
16. LALRG Latvian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (Latvia)
17. SOS Malta Solidarity Overseas Service Malta (Malta)
18. Birgu Local Council (Malta)
19. URC Poland: Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland (Poland)
20. SKGO Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (Serbia)
21. CEECN Central and Eastern European Citizens Network (Slovakia)
22. UTCS Union of Towns and Cities (Slovakia)
23. SLOGA Slovenian Global Action (Slovenia)

24. The Hague Academy for Local Governance (Netherlands)
25. Lam Echaml Association (Tunisia)

ASSOCIATES:

1. ADD-Medenine Association pour le Développement Durable (Tunisia)
2. AAM Albanian Association of Municipalities (Albania)
3. FACM Algerian Forum for Citizenship and Modernity (Algeria)
4. ALI Agency for Legislative Initiatives (Ukraine)
5. AMR Romanian Municipalities Association (Romania)
6. AKM Association of Kosovo Municipalities (Kosovo)
7. ALAL Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (Lithuania)
8. BINA NGO Alliance for Municipality Development (Azerbaijan)
9. CALM Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (Moldova)
10. North-South Centre North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (Portugal)
11. CFOA Communities Finance Officers Association (Armenia)
12. CIRa Center for Institutional Development (FYROM)
13. CISP Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (Italy)
14. Civicus World Alliance for Citizen Participation (South Africa)
15. CLRA-CoE Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe (France)
16. Lev Sapieha NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation (Belarus)
17. REMESS Réseau Marocain de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire (Morocco)
18. SEEYN South East European Youth Network (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
19. SHATIL New Israel Fund – Shatil (Israel)
20. MMU Marmara Municipalities Union (Turkey)

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROLE OF THE CO-APPLICANTS:



1. Project Coordinator



2. Coordinator of Environmental and Sustainable development Path



3. Coordinator of a Thematic Path-Focus on Youth in development



4. Coordinator of the mobilization of CSOs in EU & support for visibility, & communication



5. Co-coordinator (co-chair) of a Geographical Path-Focus on Eastern Partnership



6. Coordinator of the actions in Bulgaria



7. Coordinator of the actions in Croatia



8. Coordinator of the actions in Denmark



9. Co-coordinator (co-chair) of a Geographical Path-Focus on Eastern Partnership



10. Coordinator of the actions in Greece



11. Coordinator of the actions in Ireland



12. Coordinator of the actions in Italy



13. Coordinator of a Thematic Path on



14. Co-coordinator (co-chair) of a Geographical Path-Focus on Eastern Partnership



15. Coordinator of the Creative Component



16. Coordinator of the actions in Latvia



17. Coordinator of a Thematic Path-Focus on Migration



18. Coordinator of the actions in Malta



19. Coordinator of the actions in Poland



20. Co-coordinator (co-chair) of a Geographical Path-Focus on South East Europe



21. Coordinator of a Thematic Path-Focus on Citizens' participation in development



22. Coordinator of the actions in Slovakia



23. Co-coordinator (co-chair) of a Geographical Path-Focus on South East Europe



24. Coordinator of Capacity building activities



25. Co-coordinator (co-chair) of a Geographical Path-Focus on Mediterranean

B. ABOUT ALDA

ALDA - the European Association for Local Democracy - is a Non-Governmental Organization dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. It is in particular focusing on activities that facilitate the cooperation between local authorities (LAs) and civil society organisations (CSOs).

At the initiative of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, ALDA was established in 1999 to coordinate and support a network of Local Democracy Agencies ("LDAs") created in the early 1990s, acting as their umbrella organisation. The LDAs remain one of its supporting programs, acting as self-sustainable, locally registered NGOs that act as promoters of good governance and local self-government. ALDA is a membership based organization gathering more than 200 members (including Local Authorities, Associations of Local Authorities and non-governmental organizations) coming from more than 40 countries. It is funded through membership fees and project funding from the EU, the Council of Europe and other public and private donors. Most of its work is based on the method of multilateral decentralized cooperation. This method involves a multi-stakeholder approach which focuses on strong partnerships between LAs and NGOs which lead to synergies in reaching common goals successfully.

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

The Association conducts its activities through different forms of action:

- Coordinating and supporting the 11 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 – such as LAs - by providing expertise deriving from its knowledge and experience in the areas of interventions.

ALDA works in most of the EU and European Neighbourhood countries. EU activities focus in particular on promoting Active European Citizenship. Activities in the Western Balkans and the European Neighbourhood focus on good governance, citizen participation, European integration and decentralisation.

Most of the LDAs are located in the Western Balkans. But ALDA is increasing its activities and projects in the European neighbourhood. In 2006, a LDA was established in Kutaisi (Georgia), in 2011 in Gyumri (Armenia) and in 2015 an LDA was inaugurated in Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine). ALDA is also leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European Neighbourhood countries, such as Belarus, Moldova, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Turkey.

For more information, www.alda-europe.eu

C. ABOUT DEAR

Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) aims to inform EU citizens about development issues, mobilise greater public support for action against poverty, give citizens tools to engage critically with global development issues, to foster new ideas and change attitudes.

DEAR activities play a key role in EU development assistance. They are deployed in order to raise public awareness about development issues and promote development education in EU and acceding countries. The EU has set up a dedicated programme for this purpose.

The DEAR programme is taken forward primarily through actions implemented by non-state actors and local authorities in the EU and acceding countries.



Its objectives are to:

- inform EU citizens about development issues and foster awareness and understanding of global development and recognition of interdependence;
- mobilise greater public support for action against poverty and fairer relations between developed and developing countries;
- change attitudes, provide the European public with tools to engage critically with global developments and support the emergence of new ideas on development issues.

The European Commission has been playing an important role in facilitating dialogue among DEAR policy-makers and practitioners, fostering capacity development among DEAR partners and supporting capacity development and networking activities of the EU-funded DEAR projects.

To achieve these objectives, the DEAR programme focuses on two lines of action:

- **Global Learning**, to foster knowledge and competences to engage with development issues, through the use of participatory and experiential education methodologies, either within or outside the formal education system;
- **Campaigning & Advocacy**, where the objective is to support citizen involvement and advocacy for more sustainable policies, political and economic structures and individual practices, in relation to global development.

Why is "DEAR" important?

It's a necessity, in an era of globalized and interconnected societies, to promote Citizens' participation and awareness while stimulating their involvement in development issues. DEAR is addressing the roots of inequality and calls for action and awareness raising on development, promoting actions in line with the principle of justice, solidarity, understanding and mutual respect.

I. THE LADDER PROJECT

The project includes a wide range of activities, all of them contributing in reaching the overall objective, namely to enhance the actions of LAs in development education and awareness raising.

The project activities' are divided into five dimensions, as described below:

- Research
- Capacity building and peer-to-peer education
- Advocacy
- Grass-root actions
- Cultural component

A. RESEARCH

This dimension will develop a **multi-dimensional database** on DEAR that will allow the project to constantly adapt to the circumstances and context in which it is implemented (political, economic, social contexts, etc).

The research dimension of the project consists more specifically of an in-depth survey on development education. To be filled in by representatives of Local Authorities, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders at European, National and/or Local level, it is meant to provide **statistics on the situation** of DEAR in the countries covered by the project, but also to reflect on the knowledge and understanding of DEAR across countries. The survey consists of different format and lengths, adapted to the corresponding target group and the level of implementation (European, National or Local).

An online version of the survey is also included in this dimension, intended to collect inputs and feedbacks from ordinary citizens on development related issues and on DEAR policies. In parallel, the dimension includes also an on-going monitoring of a large number of websites and platforms working and/or relevant for DEAR practitioners: this concerns, among others, DEAR projects and other related websites in order to understand the main priorities tackled by other projects, enquire for potential synergies as well as get inspired and exchange good practices and original initiatives!

B. CAPACITY BUILDING AND PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION

TRAININGS: During the project, several trainings on DEAR targeting LAs and CSOs are organized at the EU, national and local level. The purpose is to raise awareness of LAs & CSOs themselves, stimulating their potential of becoming actors for change at the local level, raising awareness on sustainable development and poverty eradication. By holding dedicated DEAR training, the project intends to empower LAs and CSOs in order to increase their capacities and become multipliers at the local level. All trainings will take place in the EU.

FOCUS GROUPS: The consortium will organize focus groups addressed to educators (coming from: LAs, CSOs and other stakeholders and international organizations) active in the field of non-formal education. The focus groups are meant to reflect upon development education at national and European level, especially debating on methodologies and tools in order to:

- Make the participants gain understanding of the addressed issue
- Provide an accurate picture of the subjects
- Carry out an evaluation and analysis, formulating interventions
- Test new ideas/programmes, obtaining a wide range of information on the given topic

JOB-SHADOWING: this initiative will allow employees of the co-applicants to spend a few days in another co-applicant of the consortium for a peer-to-peer mission on LADDER related issues and on DEAR. During this activity, the representatives of the different co-applicants having a role in development education (civil servant as well as educators, trainers, aid workers) will be working with another "colleague" in order to shadow him/her to learn new aspects related to the role of educators in the field of development education.

TOOL FAIR: This Fair is organized in order to exchange methodologies, practices, experiences and tools in the field of development education.

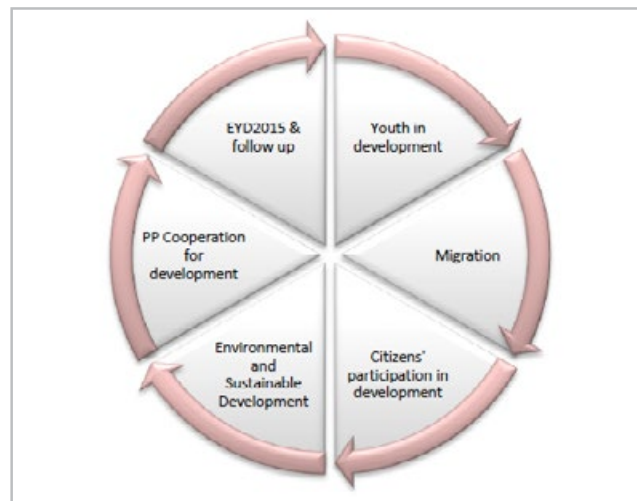
The fair will also offer to participants the opportunity to attend some specialized workshops on the issues addressed by the project.

C. ADVOCACY

Thematic priorities

The project focuses, in particular, on 6 specific themes:

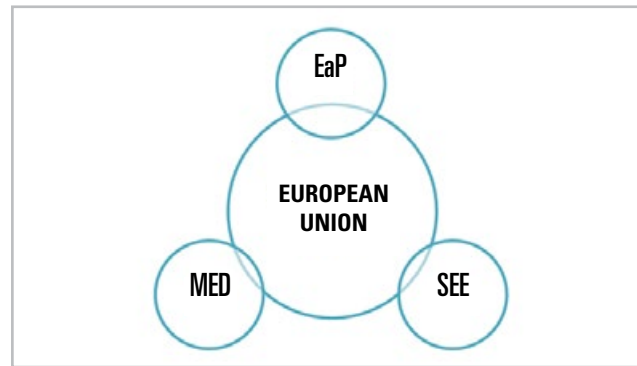
- Youth in development
- Migration
- Citizens' participation in development
- Environmental and sustainable development
- Public-Private Cooperation in development: economic growth and job creation
- European Year for Development 2015 & follow up



Every theme is composed by a network of organizations, which work together to raise awareness on the corresponding theme, while advocating and supporting the role of LAs and CSOs for development & DEAR. Each Thematic path has an advocacy dimension, targeting **different levels and stakeholders at EU, national and/or local levels.**

Areas of action

The project activities focus mainly on the EU, with the majority of the actions and activities being oriented towards EU citizens and stakeholders in the EU (public & private).



In parallel, the project foresees 3 different geographical paths, **to extend the outreach of DEAR towards the enlarged Europe.**

The objective is to create interdependencies between the EU and the Neighbourhood by enhancing the role of LAs and CSOs in development issues, and especially their role of change makers at local level:

- Eastern Partnership (EaP)
- Mediterranean area (MED)
- South Eastern Europe (SEE)

Through the creation of a network of stakeholders within working groups for each geographical area, the project aims at raising awareness of different stakeholders (EU, national governments, other institutional and non-institutional) on the role of LAs and CSOs in reaching the objectives of DEAR, inside and outside the EU.

This has become even more relevant following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN in September 2015, and the principle of universality of these objectives.

The below diagram summarizes the action of the each Thematic and Geographical Path:



D. GRASS-ROOT ACTIONS

CITIZENS' INITIATIVES: The project involves two major initiatives addressing exclusively citizens. First of all, a Pan-European **Slogan Competition** covering all countries of the consortium, aiming at involving pupils aged 10-18 years old and providing them with an opportunity to raise their voice and have their say with regards to global development and related topics and challenges.

In addition, the project includes the **Citizens' Journalists** initiative, intended to select young and talented non-professional journalists coming from different EU and non EU-countries, who report and write on topics such as poverty eradication, development, education, climate, consumption, solidarity etc. These citizen journalists will form an informal network of active citizens, supported and promoted by the corresponding national co-applicant. While the project and the informal network will provide them with a space of expression as well as representing a support and recognition of their work, a selection of them will also benefit from a dedicated training on journalism and communication to enhance their skills and to further encourage them to write and report on global and development challenges.

Both initiatives will contribute to raising awareness on global development challenges by directly involving and empowering citizens.

RE-GRANTING SCHEME: The re-granting scheme will support local and grass-root organizations and institutions to develop projects addressing the issues related to development education by focusing on small actions that can produce a spill-over effect. These results will stand as examples and inspiration for citizens, CSOs and LAs on how to generate constructive and result-oriented activities within their often-limited resources.

The scope of the re-granting scheme is:

- to raise public awareness on development issues
- promote development education at the grass-root level in the EU
- to anchor development policy in the local communities
- support citizens' active engagement in global issues.

The re-granting scheme is intended to support 68 selected projects relevant for DEAR policies by covering all the 28 EU Member states.

E. CULTURAL COMPONENT

LADDER consists as well of creative component, which is meant to reach the public and the citizens through art, music and theatre. The purpose is, indeed, to raise awareness and to inform the public on the topics addressed by the project through the universal language of art, especially theatre and music, with the development and performance of a professional play during the implementation period of the project.

II. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2015

This section covers the first year of implementation of the project, namely from Month 1 (January 2015) to Month 12 (December 2015). The activities that took place are described in the following pages in the corresponding dimension (see description in Section II of this report), following a chronological order.

> A. Project's launch & parallel outreach

On top of the actions held described in the corresponding dimension (see below), the first year of the project included a number of events and outreach activities to officially launch the project as well as to increase its visibility.

1.1st Steering Committee & Launching Preview

The **first Steering Committee** of the entire consortium of the project LADDER was organized by the lead partner, in cooperation with the project partners, on the 21st and 22nd of February, in Modena, Italy. It provided all 45 organizations of the consortium to meet and discuss on the different elements of the implementation of the project, to agree on the strategy of implementation as well as to get to know each other, fundamental element that facilitates the coordination.



Group picture from the SC1 (Modena, IT)

The Steering Committee was held back to back with the BUK Festival, an international book and cultural festival conceived and organised by the association Progettarte, historical member of ALDA and partner of the project. With more than 20.000 visitors in its last edition, this synergy allowed the project to increase its visibility and

promote the European Year for Development 2015, a major component of the LADDER project. At this occasion, the project held its **launching preview conference**, seizing the opportunity to promote the project & its objectives.

The conference included interventions from representatives of a variety of stakeholders, including the Vice-President of the Congress of Local & Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Mayor of Modena and a representative of the EYD2015 alliance.



Launching preview conference - 21/02, Modena IT

A special attention was given to the **European Year for Development 2015**, to promote and encourage the involvement of all participants in its activities and spirit (awareness raising, information sharing on the role of the EU, the importance of engagement for development and local action etc).

Among the highlights of the launching preview, was the thought-provoking quote “we cannot all succeed when half of us are held back” (Malala Yousafza), giving the tone of the conference and raising awareness on global development issues. Finally, the thematic months of the EYD 2015 were presented together with the global development Agenda, reference being made to the MDGs & the to-be-adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for poverty eradication.

2. 4th Assises of Decentralised Cooperation

The project was presented and showcased during the 4th Assises of Decentralised Cooperation (Brussels, Belgium) contributing in several panels and parallel sessions. The event brought hundreds of LAs and CSOs in Brussels at the Committee of the Regions on the 1st and 2nd of June.

Representatives of LADDER were invited to contribute to the session on “**Education for development and global citizenship**”, valorizing the experience and the multi-stakeholder approach of the project. It focused on the importance to put the local level at the centre of the action for development.



LADDER Stand at the 4th Assises of Decentralised cooperation

In the framework of the Assises, ALDA and project co-applicants shared information in order to have the project referenced & promoted via the following tools: i/ presence on the online version of the “wall of local & regional initiatives”, within the context of the EYD2015 (<http://lra4dev.cor.europa.eu/portal/Pages/2015-is-the-European-Year-for-Development.aspx>); 2/ presence of the printed version of the wall; 3/ promotional LADDER project stand.

3. European Development Days 2015

On the 4th June 2015, ALDA co-organized an Auditorium Debate at the European Development Days (EDDs) in Brussels on the topic “Global citizens can change the world!”, together with CONCORD, DEEEP, CIVICUS, GENE and the North-South Centre.

The panel presented different ways to put Global Citizenship in action, followed by an interactive discussion on how to support citizens' engagement in the implementation of the new development agenda and ensuring global justice for all. On behalf of the project, Mr David Melua, Executive director of NALAG (member of ALDA and co-applicant of LADDER) contributed to the panel bringing the LAs' perspective in development education.

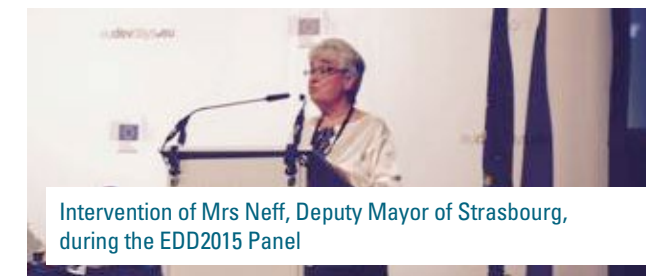


High level panel – “Global citizens can change the world”, EDD2015, Brussels BE, 4 June 2015

The aim of the debate was to exchange on the role of each actor and each citizen in promoting Global Citizenship, answering 3 questions:

- What is Global Citizenship?
- Why is it important to engage citizens in global development?
- What has to be done to increase its reach?

The deputy-Mayor of the city of Strasbourg, Mrs Annick Neff, also contributed on behalf of the project, showcasing and presenting the challenges of development education at the local level in the city of Strasbourg (FR).



Intervention of Mrs Neff, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, during the EDD2015 Panel

4. Launching conference of LADDER

On 5th June 2015, the **Launching Conference** of LADDER project was held in Brussels, at the Committee of the Regions of the EU.



Launching Conference LADDER - group picture



Launching conference of LADDER - plenary

Mr Oriano Otočan, President of ALDA, Mr Karl Heinz Lambertz, Vice President of the Committee of the Regions, and Mrs Valentina Auricchio, Head of Sector DEAR programme - DG DEVCO, with high participation and contributions from other stakeholders and international organizations (Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities).

The conference focused on the crucial role of Local Authorities as Drivers for DEAR, presenting in detail the project and its objectives as well as the LADDER Roadmap, a document elaborated jointly by all consortium members and adopted at the launching conference, outlining the principles and global objectives they agreed to work on together. The event was also the occasion to promote the European Year for Development 2015 and the importance of local stakeholders & citizens for development.

5. 3rd Congress on Global Education

The **Global Education Congress** was another occasion to promote the project and to contribute to high level discussions on global education and the role local actors. It took place in Zagreb on the 26-28 November, with more than 120 participants and DEAR practitioners. It was organized by the North South Centre of the Council of Europe and other stakeholders. LADDER consortium members participated at the Congress, presenting the project at a panel on Global education skills for youth, as well as during a working group session on good practices and ongoing projects. A particular attention was given to the role of LAs.

The consortium members had the opportunity to contribute to the drafting of the Congress Recommendations on Global Education that were adopted and presented to the Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe.



3rd Congress on global education, 26-28 November, Zagreb, HR

6. DEAR Fair



DEAR Fair - group picture

The Fair, organized by the EC, took place in Brussels (Belgium) on the 21 & 22 of October of 2015 in the framework of the EYD2015. It succeeded in gathering together around **180 participants from all 28 EU Member States**, all active in DEAR actions.

The Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, **Neven Mimica**, gave a keynote speech and attendants also enjoyed the intervention of other remarkable.

The Fair aimed at exposing DEAR projects work and resulted in a fruitful networking experience between the different stakeholders. A specific session on sharing good practices was the opportunity to present the project LADDER and showcase its main objectives and expected results, with participants expressing interest in the project's approach and activities.

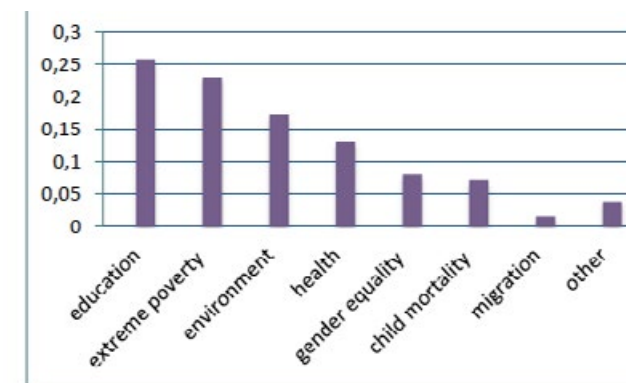
> B. Research activities

In 2015, the LADDER consortium prepared **surveys**, which have been submitted to the participants, both CSOs and LAs representatives, to the three EU level trainings organized in 2015. These trainings addressed exclusively the multipliers that the project focuses on, namely Local Authorities & CSOs that have the potential to play a major role in development education. The surveys were composed of 5 parts, covering a wide range of topics and perspectives of DEAR, and allowed the consortium members to draw conclusions on the state of play of DEAR at national & local levels, also shared via the website of the project.

A beta version of the survey was also produced and submitted to the participants of all local and national trainings, implemented in 10 EU countries, and that will continue to take place in 2016. The conclusions and analysis of the results is planned for 2016.

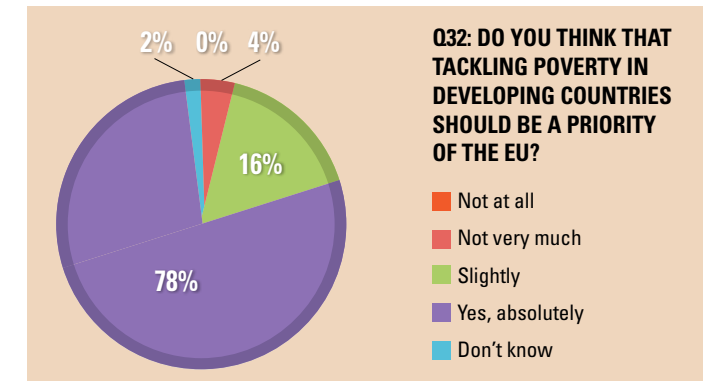
In a glance, the results revealed that among others, that participants considered (in %) education and extreme poverty, followed by environment and health, as the main concerns to be tackled by DEAR policies, mentioning Youth and LAs as primary target groups.

Chart: What DEAR policies should address as a priority?



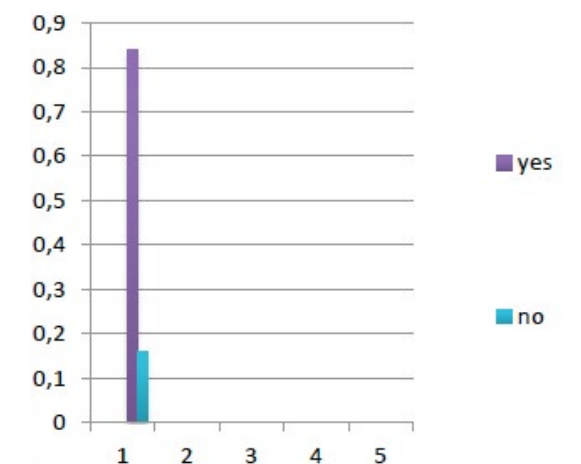
The participants considered crucial the cooperation between LAs and CSOs to enhance DEAR and they also considered fundamental the role of the EU.

Chart 2: Do you think that tackling poverty in developing countries should be a priority of the EU?



The participants underlined that tackling poverty is priority for both the EU and Member states and recognize them as international actors strongly concerned about this issue.

Chart 3: Do you think tackling poverty is in the interest of the EU? (%)



The participants considered themselves as **global actors** that can influence the world stage, showing a strong motivation and determination to carry it out. Detailed analysis of the results was carried out by ALDA with the support of project partners and uploaded online.

An **online survey** is foreseen to be published in the next year of implementation on the LADDER website to collect data from ordinary citizens on development education related issues.

> C. Capacity building and peer-to-peer education

1. Trainings on Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)

The objectives of the trainings on DEAR were to:

Strengthen the capacity of LAs and CSOs to act in sustainable way as drivers for development

Improve DEAR methods in non-formal educations

Develop and reinforce the cooperation between LAs and CSOs

In 2015, a number of trainings on DEAR took place at the EU, national and local level, following the principle of the **cascade mechanism** of the project. This involves trainings for representatives of European & National Associations of LAs and CSOs that can act as **multipliers at the local level**. Once trained, these actors can duplicate the trainings back in their constituencies in order to raise awareness of citizens on development issues and promote local action for sustainable development, poverty eradication, solidarity, justice and many more.

The following trainings were held in 2015 with great success:

- EU Trainings on DEAR (organized by the lead partner)
 - 15-17 July (Donegal, Ireland)
 - 22-24 July (Zagreb, Croatia)
 - 4-6 November (Athens, Greece)
- National Trainings on DEAR (organized by the corresponding national co-applicant):
 - Bulgaria: 17-18 December
 - Croatia: 19-20 November and 26-27

EU training in Donegal (Ireland)"



November

- Greece: 14-15 December
- Latvia: 20-21 October and 28-29 October
- Poland 3-4 December and 7-8 December

- Local Trainings on DEAR (organized by local stakeholders in cooperation with the corresponding national co-applicant)

- Ireland: 3-4 December
- Latvia: 15-16 December
- Slovakia: 3 & 8 December

EU level Trainings on DEAR



EU training in Athens (Greece)

The trainings were meant to present the DEAR concept, its methodology and its implication at different levels. The role of local stakeholders such as LAs & CSOs was among the major principles of the trainings, in order to promote DEAR actions at the local level as well as to widen the knowledge of participants about development education and global citizenship. The trainings were delivered involving the methodology of active participation of participants, which includes among others, working groups & group discussions, brainstorming sessions, and icebreaking activities. The trainings presented to the participants the DEAR strategy and worked together on the basis of a 9-step strategy in developing DEAR project ideas, which resulted in very interesting ideas shared during the trainings.

Finally, the trainings culminated with a session "Training of Trainers" (ToT) dedicated to a specific category of LADDER partners, who are in charge of organizing national and local level trainings in DEAR in their respective countries.

The participants of this particular session gained the skills in the field of delivering trainings on DEAR.



EU training in Zagreb (Croatia)

National level trainings on DEAR

Further to the organization of the DEAR trainings at EU level, 10 co-applicants were in charge of the next steps of the cascade mechanism to organize and deliver national & local trainings on DEAR. The purpose of the national trainings was to inform and empower LAs and CSOs, to become multipliers of change at the local level and to raise awareness on sustainable development issues. The overall objective was to develop their capacity, reach further representatives of LAS & CSOs and increase considerably the awareness of a high number of local actors on DEAR and their capacity to act as change makers at the local level.



Training at national level (Bulgaria)



Training at national level (Greece)



Training at national level (Poland)



Training at national level (Croatia)



Training at national level (Latvia)

Local level Trainings on DEAR

Further the organization of the EU & national trainings, further trainings at local level to raise awareness of citizens & representatives of grass root organizations as well as of LAs, were organized.

Further trainings are foreseen during the next implementation year.

These trainings followed the same approach as the “upper-level” trainings, mentioned above, informing participants on DEAR and building their capacities in becoming actors at the local level and inspiring others to adapt their behaviour in relation to sustainable development and poverty eradication.



Training at local level (Ireland)



Training at local level (Slovakia)



Training at local level (Latvia)

2. Monitoring and Evaluation workshop 6-7 May (Podgorica, Montenegro)

On 6th and 7th May 2015, the consortium members participated in a specific capacity building session on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). This workshop took place in Podgorica (Montenegro) with the support of an external expert who delivered the workshop. It provided the opportunity for the participants to refresh/develop their skills on monitoring and evaluating EU projects, especially when it comes to large projects such as LADDER, focusing on DEAR.



M&E workshop - group picture

D. ADVOCACY

The Geographical Paths

In parallel with the EU focus of the project, LADDER covers 3 additional geographical areas, namely the Mediterranean area, the Eastern Partnership area and the South Eastern Europe area (see description below). For each zone, the project runs advocacy activities together with the organization of events and meetings. The aim of these actions is to increase the outreach of DEAR in the corresponding areas, expanding the zone of intervention of the project. It aims at strengthening and supporting the role of LAs & CSOs and capacity in acting as drivers for change at local level.

- The Mediterranean Area (MED)

The corresponding geographical path aims at promoting the role of Local Authorities and CSOs, supporting a decentralized and ownership-based Neighbourhood Policy in the MED area. The Mediterranean basin has been under pressure while the geopolitical circumstances led to the need of concrete support to local actors in promoting and engaging in DEAR actions in their countries.



MED Path WG Meeting Palermo - 26/06 (Palermo, Italy)

A preparatory meeting of the MED path network organizations was held in June in Sicily. The meeting was the opportunity to brainstorm and exchange on the strategy for the MED area, further to the launching conference beginning of June in Brussels. Taking stock of the ongoing situation in the area, the Working group members also seized the opportunity to participate and contribute to an event organized by COPPEM on the concept of eco-museums. The level of transferability of the concept in other communities as a good practice for local engagement & action with a global dimension was addressed, the concept being considered as a tool for promoting DEAR actions of citizens & local stakeholders. The working group meeting also led to an exchange of opinion in view of the submission of common paper regarding the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), end of June review process (see below).



ED WG and related event, Palermo (Italy)

ENP review: LADDER Community Recommendations to the EC

In 2015, the path drafted a common position on the key points of the ENP to amend or improve. These recommendations were submitted to the European Commission (DG-NEAR) on behalf of the entire LADDER community. The recommendations focused, particularly, on the importance of local democracy, on local autonomy and on decentralized cooperation. The overall objective was to advocate for a coherent and regional-based ENP, able to critically reinforce the role of LAs and CSOs as drivers for development. More actions are foreseen to take place in the upcoming years of implementation.

- The South East Europe (SEE) Area



The SEE path's scope is to reinforce the interdependencies between the EU and the SEE area: by tackling challenges such as migration and refugees influxes, it seeks to empower LAs and CSOs in order to enable them to play an active role in protecting human rights and in promoting the integration of migrants. Seizing the opportunity of the M&E workshop in Montenegro (May 2015), the SEE WG met in person to discuss the topics & areas to work on, having in mind the central elements of their geographical area as well as the geographical priorities and circumstances. It was agreed to pay particular attention to the **decentralisation process** as well as the empowerment of **youth in development** issues.

Migration roundtable: Recommendations

During the 2nd part of the year, the SEE Path decided to react to the ongoing refugee crisis (especially following the unexpectedly high increase of arrivals of refugees/migrants, using the so-called "Balkan Route", refugees after crossing the Aegean Sea to reach Greece, pursuing their way towards Western Europe transiting via the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia etc. To that end, the SEE WG met in Belgrade end of November 2015 to brainstorm and exchange on the role of LAs in the management of the refugee flows.

To that end, the SEE Path agreed on key recommendations regarding the Refugee Crisis, which is particularly affecting the geographical area of the Path. Among others, the recommendations stressed the importance of guaranteeing the respect of European values and Human rights in the management of the refugee flows, as well as the principle of solidarity while asking for a joint action at the international, national and local level to tackle this phenomenon. The recommendations were sent to EU and national public and private stakeholders and shared online on the project website.



SEE working group, Roundtable on migration, Belgrade (Serbia)

More actions are foreseen in the upcoming years of implementation.

- The Eastern Partnership (EaP) Area



The EaP geographical path seeks to foster a comprehensive and ownership-based Neighbourhood Policy in the EaP area by the EU. In particular, the path aims at promoting the role of LAs and CSOs, recognizing and supporting their capacity to act as change makers for development at local level.

Communication to the Commissioner Johannes Hahn in view of the Riga Summit on EaP

The letter, produced by the path and sent to the EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn, stated the necessity of a Neighbourhood Policy based on the principles of differentiation and concentration while advancing the benefits of the multi-stakeholder approach. It was communicated to the Commissioner and other stakeholders in advance of the fourth Eastern Partnership Summit in May 2015, as well as uploaded on the website of the project.

A working group of the EaP Path was also held in Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine).

The WG meeting took place on the 17-18 of May and allowed the members to reflect and elaborate a common voice to address the ENP (European Neighbourhood Policy) review (see below). Connecting with the festivities related to the Europe's day celebrated on the 18th of May in Dnipropetrovsk, the WG meeting matched also with a major event organized by the project coordinator, the Congress of the Council of Europe and the Committee of the Regions of the EU, seizing the momentum of raising awareness and exchanging on development issues and the role of local stakeholders (LAs, CSOs) for development.



EaP Working group meeting and related event, Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine

ENP review: LADDER Community Recommendations to the EC

In 2015, the EaP path (together the MED path) drafted a common position on the key points of the ENP to amend or improve. These recommendations were submitted to the European Commission (DG-NEAR) on behalf of the entire LADDER community.

The recommendations focused, particularly, on the importance of local democracy, on local autonomy and on decentralized cooperation. The overall objective was to advocate for a coherent and regional-based ENP, able to critically reinforce the role of LAs and CSOs as drivers for development.

Special Initiative on Eastern Partnership – 1-4 December (Tbilisi, Georgia)

From 1st to 4th December 2015, the Special Initiative of EaP Path was held in Georgia. The event was organised by NALAG in cooperation with ALDA and UBBSLA.

It consisted of a 4-day special event, involving a multi-level approach that involved a high-level conference with stakeholders including the EU Delegation, representatives of Associations of LAs from the EaP region, CSOs and others, on the first day in the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi. On the 2nd & 3rd day, the event was split into a decentralized on-the-ground approach, tackling 3 DEAR-related topics selected by the EaP WG, namely i/ Migration ii/ Sustainable agriculture iii/ Energy efficiency. 3 different cities of Georgia were then visited by the corresponding thematic group (Telavi – Sustainable agriculture ; Kutaisi – migration ; Borjomi – energy efficiency), in each of them, participants having the opportunity to interact with representatives of the local authority concerned but also other stakeholders as mentioned in the programme.

The last day was in Tbilisi, where the participants had the opportunity to exchange and present the conclusions of each of the thematic groups. The Special initiative was concluded by a **statement** reflecting the major elements of this Special initiative and the way forward, expressing the major conclusions of the event, which was widely shared as well as disseminated on the website of the project.



EaP Special initiative, Tbilisi, Georgia



EaP Special initiative - Tbilisi (Georgia) – Representatives of NALAG, ALDA and EU Delegation to Georgia

The Thematic priorities

The project pays a particular attention to 6 themes, for which is dedicated a specific project “line”, called Thematic Path. As described in the previous section, the Path’s aim at raising awareness on the specific theme from a DEAR perspective.

In 2015, all Paths’ members had the opportunity to discuss, exchange and agree on the approach to adopt for each, selecting the specific issues they Path should be targeting. Some of the paths already produced several outputs, as described below, while others have agreed on the upcoming outputs and issues to tackle.



- Youth in development (Path 1)

The thematic path on youth is led and coordinated by JEF.

In 2015 the path members and the coordinator decided the direction and the objectives of the path. The path on youth will, thus, focus on the role of youth in development by promoting their engagement and their awareness on development issues. The objective is to empower young people in order to allow them to become drivers for change. This objective will be reached by taking actions at the local level and by advocating for more space for youth at different levels. Further activities are foreseen in the upcoming implementation years.

- Migration (Path 2)

The Migration Path is led by SOS Malta.

The Path has an overall objective to raise the awareness of citizens and stakeholders (both public and private) on the role and importance of migration, bearing in mind Human Rights and the European values. Further to the refugee crisis having highly affected European and neighbouring countries, the Path’s members decided to pay a particular attention to that phenomenon, promoting and raising awareness on the irregular migration and refugee flows, the root causes hindering this situation, as well as the role of local authorities and CSOs in that direction.

“Humane, comprehensive & immediate action for migration”, September 2015

In September 2015, the Migration path drafted and sent a letter to the EU Ministers of Justice & of Interior Council of the EU, advocating for an immediate, comprehensive and human response to the migration crisis, which is currently affecting Europe and the Neighbouring area. This letter was handed to the Maltese Minister (ensuring the EU Presidency) and sent to all relevant EU institutions (EC, EP, etc) and national contact points of the corresponding Ministries.

Special Initiative on Migration 11-13/11 (Sliema, Malta)

SOS Malta, in collaboration with ALDA, the Special initiative of the Migration Path entitled “**Migration and Development: EYD 2015- The year for local action for global solutions**”, which took place on 11th to 13th November 2015 in Malta, back to back with the Valletta Summit.

It consisted of a 3-day event bringing together 35 foreign delegates and over 60 local representatives and citizens. Presentations were given on different aspects of the theme related to migration and development such as the ‘SDGs and migration’, ‘the role of migrants as drivers of development’, ‘the refugee crisis in Europe and the role of LAs in development education and integration’.



Migration special initiative – Picture with HE President of Malta, Governing Board member and Secretary General of ALDA, Director of SOS, Malta.

The special initiative was opened by a key note address from HE Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, the President of Malta. Presentations, panel discussions and workshops followed, including stakeholders covering different perspectives of migration in a comprehensive way (MEP, CONCORD, European Civic Forum, Academia, representatives of the recently-launched “Network of Solidarity Cities”, local CSOs, UNCHR, women organizations etc).

The Migration Path working group had the opportunity to meet in Sliema and agree on the priorities, namely empowering the role of LAs and CSOs on migration and development issues in order to raise their voice at the local and global level.

Further activities of the Path are foreseen in the next implementation years.



Migration Special initiative – plenary session

- Citizens' Participation in development (Path 3)

In 2015, the path members established the priorities, the principles and the themes that will be tackled. Hence, the path is meant to address the role of citizens in development by promoting the individual engagement in development issues.

The objective of the path is to empower ordinary citizens in order to allow them to take action, to become drivers for change and inspire others while raising their voices. The path will focus on actions to empower communities to produce a cascade mechanism, which will create an impact at the global level. This thematic path is led by CEECN.

Further activities of the Path are foreseen in the next implementation years.

- Public-Private Cooperation in development: economic growth and job creation (Path 4)



The private-public cooperation is coordinated by CIME.

In 2015 the path members agreed to address the role of the private sector in relation to development topics, seeking to expand the role of the private sector in promoting development related issues and enhance the cooperation between the public sector (including LAs), and the private sector, including CSOs. The stronger cooperation is meant to raise awareness on development while facilitating and increasing actions at the local level by private stakeholders.

Workshop on LAs and SDGs implementation, at the 3rd World LED Forum – 15/10 (Turin, Italy)

The workshop “**Local Governments as Drivers for Change – Localizing the SDGs implementation through the LED approach – The Eastern Partnership (EaP) experience**” took place on the 15th of October in Turin (Italy), in the framework of the World LED Forum (Local Economic Development), a high-level and visible event gathering more than 2000 participants from all over the world.

At the occasion of the workshop, different experts in the field, as well as, representatives of LAs and CSOs reflected over ways of promoting and localizing the implementation of the SDGs through the LED approach. This approach aims at generating sustainable local economic opportunities, developed under a strategically planned and locally driven partnership approach involving public & private actors, academia and Civil Society, the so-called quadruple helix of actors.



LADDER Workshop at the World LED Forum, panel (Turin, Italy)

Further activities are foreseen in the upcoming years of implementation.

- Environmental and sustainable development (Path 5)

This path aims at fostering resilient sustainable development in the framework of development education.

In 2015, the path coordinator and the members agreed on the priority, namely promoting sustainable and resilient development in order to face the current environmental challenges and the climate change. The path focuses on awareness raising, specifically, by making use of non-formal educational programs to promote a democratic answer, which can encompass all ages and areas of public life and advocating for a comprehensive response from the EU and Member States, including the role of LAs and CSOs in that direction.

LADDER Statement with regards to the COP21 Conference (Paris - December 2015)

The path produced a letter regarding the COP21 Conference in Paris, sent to EU and National stakeholders, including representatives of EU Institutions (European Commission, European parliament members, European Council etc) and National representatives (relevant Ministries) participating in the negotiations in Paris. The letter provided recommendations to build resilient sustainable development, stressing the importance of a multi-level and multi-sectoral approach, involving all the actors, necessary to reach the SDGs in a concerted and joined way.



- EYD2015 cooperation and follow up (Path 6)

In 2015, the Path supported and promoted the EYD2015 (European Year for Development 2015) objectives, including the principles and objectives, as well as the visual identity of the European Year in its activities and parallel events and online platforms.



In parallel, the path members agreed to focus on promoting and advocating for an effective and comprehensive Agenda 2030 at the European level, considered as a wider framework of action that encompasses the objectives of the EYD2015. The EYD2015, an initiative of the EU to inform EU citizens about global development issues and on the EU role & action worldwide, represented an unparalleled opportunity to inform EU citizens on the role of the EU in global development, as the major contributor to global development aid at international level.

Letter to Commissioner Timmermans on SDGs implementation at EU level

Within this framework, a letter to the Commissioner Timmermans was sent on behalf of an alliance of CSOs that LADDER consortium members are part of (so-called SDG Watch) in September 2015. The letter was advocating for a “robust, effective, participatory and transparent monitoring and accountability mechanism at EU level to guide and review the implementation of the strategy, to analyse progress and redirect efforts as necessary.” The objective is advocating for a universal, people-centred and planet-centred Agenda and also to follow up by monitoring the implementation of the Agenda at the European level.

our world
our dignity
our future

E. SUPPORTING GRASS-ROOT

The 4th dimension of LADDER is the support to **grass-root actions and citizen-driven activities related to Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)**.

- Slogan Competition

In 2015, the project launched its Europe-wide (covering EU and non-EU countries, covered by the consortium members) **Slogan Competition** across schools, giving to youngsters to raise their voice and have their say on development topics.

In 2015, all consortium members launched the competition in order to involve citizens in the project and to raise their awareness on global issues. The slogan competition was meant for **pupils aged 10-18 years old**, coming from schools of EU and non EU-countries. The participants had to submit slogans, videos or pictures on the theme of development and awareness raising. The competition encountered great success, with the participation reaching a total of 773 proposals submitted on time, some of them being submitted individually by pupils while others being the product of a collective effort of a group of youngsters or an entire school class.

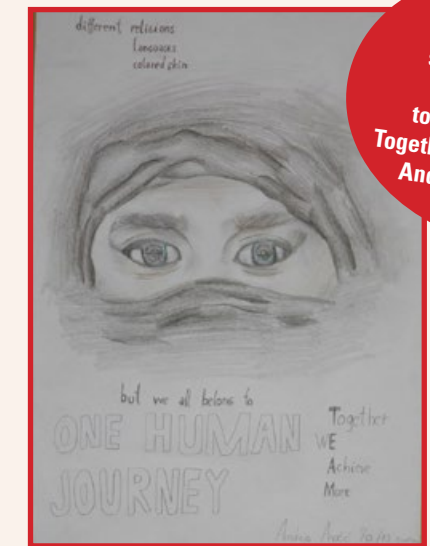
A total of 34 winners were selected and promoted online, on the project's website, while a top 5 was selected by a selection committee of the project's consortium member in charge of communication. All winners are available on this link:

<http://www.ladder-project.eu/?p=14373>

Below, a glance of the TOP 5 submitted proposals are presented:

“Don't let your eyes cover your heart with judgement”;

by Jelena Buden,
Dalija Poustecki,
Ena Anđel,
Anamarija
Zulicek (Croatia)
– screenshot
of the video



Different religions, languages, skin colours; but we all belong to one human journey. Together we achieve more!”, Andrija Aracic, Croatia

“Feel free to improve our world!!!”
Patricia Mancos
(Romania)



“Don't put your feet up, Help stop the heat up.”
submitted by
Kaitlin Doherty
(Ireland)

“We want a world like a painter's palette, a set of colors”
Valentina di Foggia
(Italy)



- Citizens' journalists

In parallel, the network of citizens' journalists across the countries of the project was launched. Its purpose was to identify and develop a network of non-professional journalists (citizens' journalists) who cover or have the willingness to write, report, cover and simply voice their concerns and opinions on global development topics, and support them.

This initiative is expected to be further developed in the upcoming implementation year. The network will be consolidated in the upcoming year of implementation, supporting and following the identified active citizens (publishing their contribution on the website of their project, support them in the promotion/publication of the pieces of writing online, on newspapers and magazines, etc). A selection of the citizens' journalists will also be invited to a dedicated training on communication and journalism, to be held during the project's implementation period.

F. CREATIVE COMPONENT



In 2015, Progettarte, the co-applicant in charge of the creative component of LADDER, followed the activities of the project and developed a professional theatre play, getting inspired from experiences of the project as well as from the DEAR approach and objectives. It is expected to be performed in 2016 and 2017 throughout countries covered by the project, as a "tool" to promote DEAR through culture and art.

During the 1st Steering Committee and launching preview (Modena, February 2015), the members of the project were invited to another theatre play of Progettarte. It offered them the opportunity to get to know the Association and have an insight of its experience in theatre play development and performance. The theatre performance dealt with topics such as freedom of press, migration, poverty and inequality, terrific success with a large participation of the public.

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