

LADDER

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS DRIVERS FOR DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ALLIANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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
SLOGAN
COMPETITION

73
MICRO
PROJECTS
supported by LADDER

CREATIVE COMPONENT

11
THEATRE
PLAY
Performances

LADDER

36
months
countries

27
co-applicants

19
associates

ABBREVIATIONS

ARLEM	Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly
CLRA	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
CoE	Council of Europe
CONCORD	European NGO Confederation for relief and development
Conference of INGO	Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations of the Council of Europe
CoR	Committee of the Regions
CORLEAP	Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DEAR	Development Education & Awareness Raising
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
EaP	Eastern Partnership area
EC	European Commission
EEAS	European External Action Service
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
GENE	Global Education Network Europe
LAs	Local Authorities
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MED	Mediterranean area
PLATFORMA	European platform of Local Regional Authorities for development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEE	South East Europe area
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments

FOREWORD



Antonella Valmorbida
Secretary General of ALDA

Since its conception phase, LADDER has been designed as much more than yet another project. The proof is in the pudding – its three years of implementation, together with its outstanding outputs, recommendations, and follow up are the best measure of our success.

Thanks to jointly coordinated, timely efforts LADDER became visible and present in all the countries included in the project and beyond. We saw it everywhere – and all the time. LADDER reached the local communities and – following the spirit and the methodology of the project – it included many of those who had never been involved in European activities or in development cooperation.

Local governments are at the centre of our approach, working together to promote global responsibility and citizenship. LADDER community has been a key actor at the European level in the definition and strong emphasis given to the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and our path naturally crosses the UN Agenda 2030. We have been working hand-in-hand with all main stakeholders at the EU and global level.



Sofia Caiolo
LADDER Project Manager

The three years of life of LADDER confronted all of us Europeans with a set of tough challenges. The sense of economic and political insecurity influences everyone's life and choices, often making people focus on their personal, hyper-local issues. But there is no wall, border, or fear which can make our world better – only through a global vision and cooperation can our main problems be addressed. **LADDER offers a platform of meeting and dialogue** where Europeans and representatives of the Neighbourhood South and East meet and identify together common solutions, using the huge potential of the cooperation between local authorities and civil society.

LADDER is the European platform working on a strong and impact-oriented education towards global citizenship development and responsibility. Thanks to its methodology and cascade effect, it reaches the local communities – where change takes place.

This handbook gathers the work of LADDER's community on advocacy related to six main themes, the project "thematic paths" – namely Youth in Development, Migration, Citizen's Participation in Development, Environmental and Sustainable Development, Private Cooperation in Development, and European Year for Development 2015 & Follow Up.

As the leader of LADDER consortium, in ALDA we believe the voices and outputs of these paths can be extremely helpful in crafting new successful policies and practices, **empowering local communities to shape a better future, more inclusive and sustainable.**

We want to share the take-home message that working together, besides all prejudices, threats and fears, is more than an opportunity – it is the solution. Globalization means also global responsibility, and it affects all the aspects of our living together on this planet, including social and economic issues, environment, migration, demography, and many more.

Let's capitalize on what we have done so far, and move ahead together for even greater results.

“

**NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL
GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL,
COMMITTED CITIZENS
CAN CHANGE THE WORLD;
INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY THING
THAT EVER HAS.**

”

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ABOUT ALDA



ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy is an organization dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. It focuses on activities that facilitate the cooperation between local authorities (LAs) and civil society organisations (CSOs).

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 NGOs 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 organization gathering more than 250 members (including LAs, Associations of LAs, CSOs, and Universities) 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 our work is based on the method of multilateral decentralized cooperation. This method involves a multi-stakeholder approach that focuses on partnerships between LAs and CSOs, which creates synergies and helps reaching common goals successfully.

ALDA works in most of the EU and European Neighbouring countries. At the EU level, ALDA's activities focus on the promotion of Active European Citizenship, while the activities run in the European Neighbourhood, namely Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership and Mediterranean area focus on good governance, empowerment of citizens, participation in public life, and decentralisation.

Many LDAs are located in the Western Balkans, but ALDA is increasing its activities and projects in the European Neighbourhood. In the EaP countries, LDAs have been established in Kutaisi (Georgia), Gyumri (Armenia), and Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine). In 2017 two new LDAs have been established in Cimişlia (Moldova), and Kairouan (Tunisia), while the opening of two other LDAs is foreseen in Ukraine and Morocco. ALDA is also leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European Neighbouring countries, such as Belarus, Azerbaijan, Algeria, and Turkey.

For more information, please visit www.alda-europe.eu.

ABOUT LADDER



co-funded by the EU

Among the many activities and projects that ALDA manages, a key part of its work is dedicated to Sustainable Development. This is mainly represented by the LADDER project which stands for Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education & Raising awareness, coordinated by ALDA and funded by the DEAR Programme of DG DEVCO, under Lot 5 – “Global Learning and Advocacy Projects Led by a Local Authority or Association of local authorities”. Its total budget amounts to 3.88 million Euros (€).

LADDER aims to create a multi-stakeholder network of Associations of LAs (both national and European) and alliances of CSOs that can act as multipliers at local level. Launched in 2015 in parallel with the European Year for Development, it addresses major issues identified in the EC Communication “A Decent Life for all: ending poverty and giving the world a better future”, thus developing a synergetic and effective programme.

The 3-year project started in January 2015 and it runs until December 2017. The final beneficiaries of LADDER are ordinary citizens across the EU & non-EU countries. The project is meant to raise citizens’ awareness on global issues (short-term), to promote their engagement in global challenges & poverty eradication (mid-term) and to lead to a change of attitudes towards global and development challenges (long-term). To do so, the following specific objectives have been identified:

- 1 To strengthen the cooperation between LAs and CSOs and to build their internal capacities to act as “drivers for change” in DEAR;
- 2 To inform and raise citizens and communities’ awareness on their role and responsibility on global issues, as well as about the interdependencies between the EU and developing countries, by exploring and testing the most adequate methods of non-formal education.

The project includes a variety of activities that contribute to achieving its mission. Particularly, the project's activities are divided into five dimensions, as described below:

- Research;
- Capacity building & peer-to-peer learning;
- Advocacy;
- Grass-root actions;
- Cultural component.

The strong commitment of the 27 co-applicants and the active involvement of the 19 associates (including their respective networks) ensure the timely implementation of the project and the fulfilment of its objectives. Among the several actions implemented it is important to mention a series of

capacity building trainings and focus groups, exchange meetings, conferences and events that have been taking place at international, national and local level. In addition to this, in order to engage the local level and encourage citizens to take part in the project, not only a slogan competition for pupils was launched and a network of citizen journalists willing to write about global issues was established, but also a re-granting scheme has been implemented at the local level for all 28 EU Member States. As the title of the project implies, LADDER operates in the context of development education and awareness raising, and as such is inherently linked to the Sustainable Development Goals – the defining framework for global development until 2030.

ABOUT DEAR



Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) aims to inform EU citizens about development issues, mobilise greater public support for actions against poverty, give citizens tools to engage critically with global development issues, 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 the 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 actions against poverty** and fairer relations between developed and developing countries;
- **Change attitudes**, providing the European public with tools to engage critically with global developments and supporting the emergence of new ideas on development issues.

Why is "DEAR" important?

In an era of globalised and interconnected societies, it is of utmost importance to promote Citizen 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.



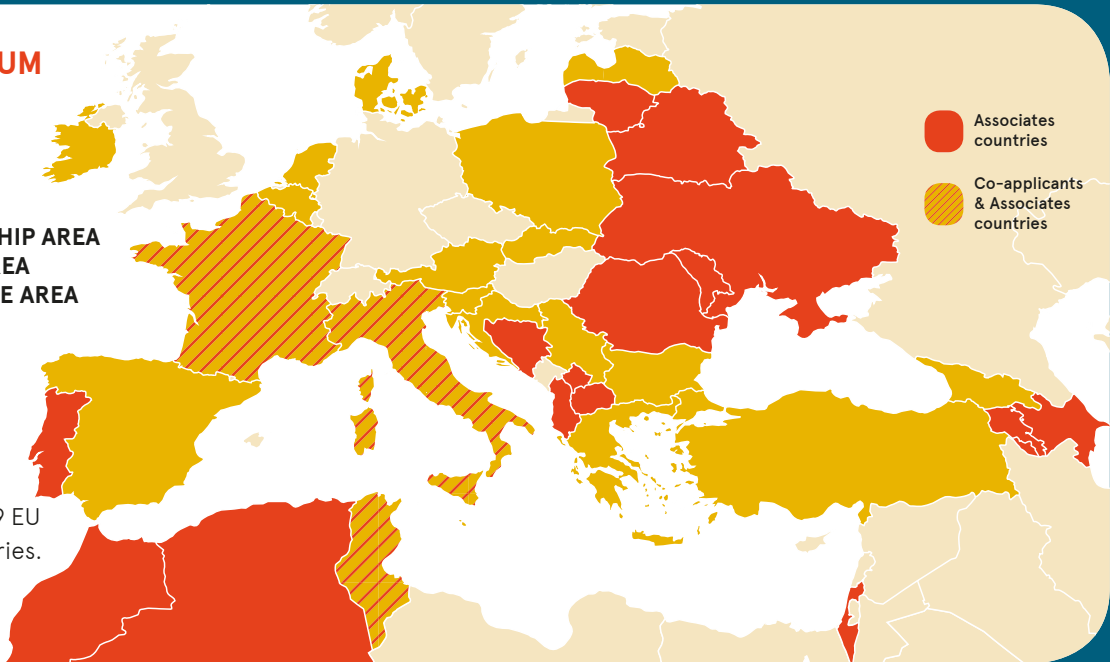
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THE CONSORTIUM

EUROPEAN UNION
EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AREA
MEDITERRANEAN AREA
SOUTH-EAST EUROPE AREA

27 co-applicants and
19 associates, from 19 EU
and 17 non-EU countries.



 Associates countries
 Co-applicants & Associates countries

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. **NAMRB** 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** Association for the local and European transregional cooperation (Italy)
13. **CIME** Italian Council of the European Movement (Italy)
14. **COPPEM** Standing Committee for the Euro Mediterranean Partnership for Local and Regional Authorities (Italy)
15. **Progettarte** Cultural Association (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. **CEEEN** 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 (the Netherlands)
25. **Lam Echaml** Association (Tunisia)
26. **MMU** Marmara Municipalities Union (Turkey)
27. **Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació** (Spain)

ASSOCIATES:

1. **ADD-Medenine** Association for sustainable development (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** International Committee for the Development of Peoples (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** Foundation NGO (Belarus)
17. **REMESS** Moroccan Network of Social and Solidarity Economy (Morocco)
18. **SEEEYN** South East European Youth Network (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
19. **SHATIL** New Israel Fund (Israel)

Description of the role of the co-applicants:



1. Project Coordinator



2. Coordinator of a thematic path - Focus on environmental and sustainable development



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 - Focus on public-private cooperation in development



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



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



26. Co-coordinator (co-chair) of a Thematic Path - Focus on EYD2015 and follow up



27. National Multiplier for Spain

1. THE LADDER PROJECT

The project includes a variety of activities, all of them contributing in reaching the overall objective – **to enhance the actions of LAs in development education and awareness raising**. The project's activities are divided into five dimensions, as described below:

- Research;
- Capacity building & peer-to-peer learning;
- Advocacy;
- Grass-root actions;
- Cultural component.

1.1 RESEARCH

Practical guide: This dimension consists in the development of a multi-dimensional database and a guide with practical ideas and tools for DEAR practitioners, LAs, CSOs and ordinary citizens.

Survey: The research dimension foresees an in-depth overview of the state-of-play of development education in the countries of the consortium. To do so, a detailed survey on this thematic will be filled in by representatives of LAs, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders at European, national and local level. This action is meant to provide statistics about DEAR in the countries covered by the project, but also to reflect on the knowledge and understanding of DEAR across countries. The survey has two different formats and lengths and it is translated in the national languages of the partners, adapted to the corresponding target group and the level of implementation (European, national or local). The results of the Pan-European surveys will be shared and disseminated online and during the project's events.

DEAR Monitoring: In parallel, the research dimension includes an on-going monitoring of the activities of other stakeholders working on DEAR: it covers, among others, all the EU-projects funded by the DEAR programme, as well as other platforms and stakeholders with relevant activities. This monitoring allows the project partners to stay up-to-date with the activities and priorities tackled by other actors, and provides the opportunity for potential synergies among practitioners in the spirit of collaboration for achieving the same goal!

1.2 CAPACITY BUILDING AND PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

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

Focus Groups: The consortium will organize focus groups addressed to educators (coming from LAs, CSOs, and other 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 to:

- a. Make the participants gain understanding of the addressed issue;
- b. Provide an accurate picture of the subject;
- c. Carry out an evaluation and analysis, formulating interventions;
- d. 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' organizations to spend a few days in another consortium's member organization. During this activity, the representatives of the different co-applicants' organizations having a role in development education (civil servants, as well as educators, trainers, aid workers etc.) will be working with another "colleague" learning new aspects and existing practices related to development education and awareness raising.

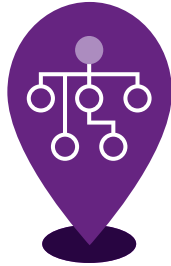
Tool Fair: This Fair is planned to exchange methodologies, practices, experiences and tools in the field of development education. Gathering stakeholders working on similar actions, the fair will offer to participants the opportunity to share experiences, network, learn from each other and potentially lead to new synergies.

1.3 ADVOCACY

THEMATIC PRIORITIES



EUROPEAN YEAR FOR
DEVELOPMENT 2015 & FOLLOW UP



PUBLIC-PRIVATE COOPERATION
IN DEVELOPMENT



YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION



ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



MIGRATION

In parallel with the other dimensions, the project pays particular attention 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, 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 level.**

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).

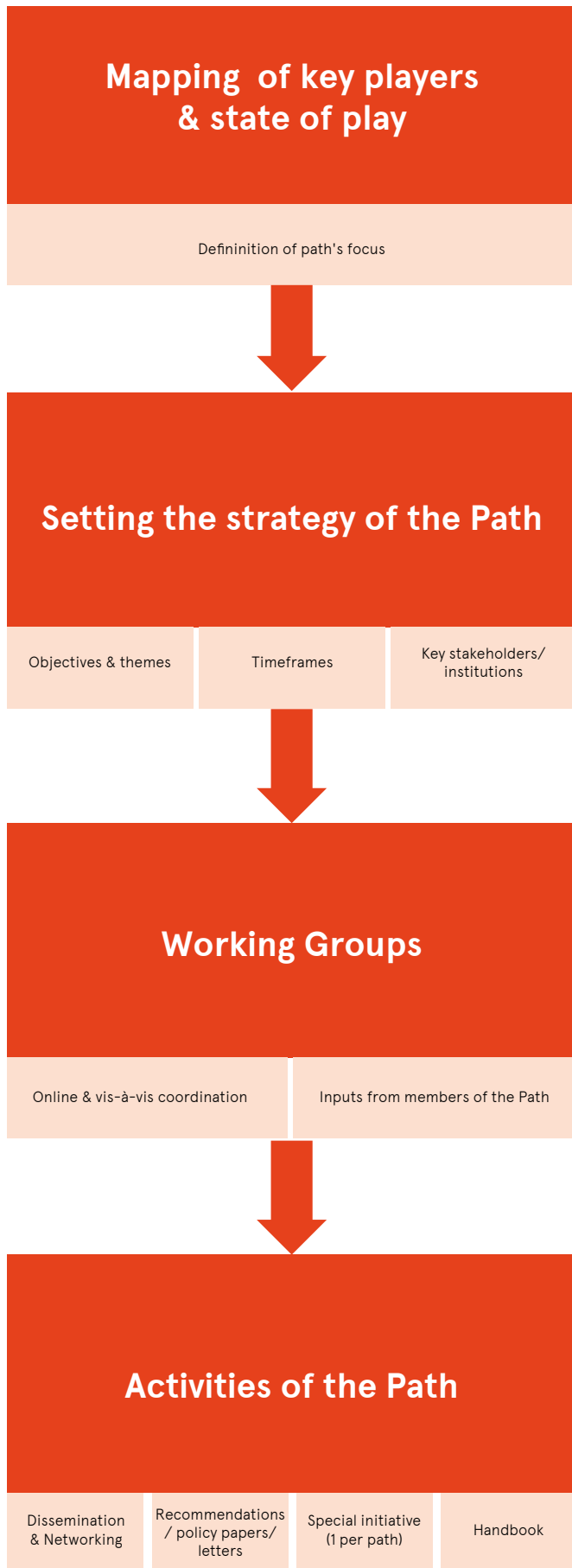
However, the project also foresees 3 geographical paths, **extending the outreach of DEAR towards the enlarged Europe** and tackling the Eastern Partnership (EaP), the Mediterranean area (MED), and the South-East Europe (SEE).



This geographical approach allowed to create interdependencies between EU and its Neighbourhood by enhancing the role of LAs and CSOs in development issues, and especially their role as change makers at local level.

Through the creation of a network of stakeholders for each geographical area, the project achieved to raise awareness of different stakeholders (EU, national governments, other institutional and non-institutional actors) on the role of LAs and CSOs in reaching the objectives of DEAR, inside and outside the EU. This became even more relevant following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals by the UN in September 2015 and the principle of universality of these objectives.

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



1.4 GRASSROOTS ACTIONS

Citizens' Initiatives: The project involves two major initiatives addressing citizens. First of all, a Pan-European **Slogan Competition** is included, 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 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 wish to write and report on topics such as poverty eradication, development, education, tolerance, climate issues, consumption, solidarity and many more. These citizen journalists will shape 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 development challenges.

Both initiatives will contribute in fostering the raising awareness of citizens on global development challenges.

Re-Granting Scheme: The mechanism will provide sub-grants to local and grassroots organisations and actors to develop projects addressing the issues related to development education. By supporting 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.

Throughout the re-granting scheme LADDER reached several objectives, such as:

- raising public awareness on development issues;
- promoting development education at the grass-root level in the EU;
- anchoring development policy in the local communities;
- supporting citizens' active engagement in global issues.

The re-granting scheme supported 73 selected projects relevant for DEAR policies by covering most of the EU Member states.

1.5 CULTURAL COMPONENT

Theatre Play: The fifth component of the project meant to reach the public and the citizens through art, music and theatre. Throughout this action LADDER was able 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 theatre play.

2. ACTIVITIES

IMPLEMENTED IN 2017

This section covers the third and last year of implementation of the project, namely from Month 25 (January 2017) to Month 36 (December 2017). The activities are described in the corresponding dimension (see Section I – the LADDER project), following a chronological order.

2.0 MANAGEMENT & COORDINATION OF THE PROJECT

Since the launch of the LADDER project which was held in Brussels in 2015, management and coordination meetings have taken place, bringing together partners and associates of the project. These meetings have continued in 2017 to assure coordination of actions carried out in the LADDER frame.



Steering Committee Meeting in Brussels, 18 January 2017

The meetings were respectively held on the 17-18 January 2017 in Brussels and on 30 June 2017 when all the consortium had an online meeting. On 21-22 November 2017 the Final Conference of the project took place in Strasbourg. This major event was followed by the final Steering Committee of the LADDER consortium (22-23 November) which represents an opportunity for all the co-applicants and associates to reflect, evaluate and strike a balance on the achievements reached in common effort during these three years. The project's external evaluator was also present and gave feedback on the project. The partners also contributed giving their input and expressing the lessons learnt and main challenges encountered within LADDER.



Dynamic Evaluation of the LADDER project by partners at the final Steering Committee in Strasbourg, 22-23 November 2017

All these meetings represented precious opportunities for the consortium to be updated regarding the project's implementation and to ensure collective awareness of the activities implemented by each co-applicant. The last meeting also gave a general overview on the integrity of the project. Finally, as aforementioned the Final Conference of the project took place in Strasbourg just before the final SC. The event aimed at representing not only the end of this three-year project, but also a moment for building new paths and planting the first seeds for future projects concerning the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The event was indeed held under the title "A journey to inspire LAs, CSOs and citizens to SDGs and to foster their implementation at the local level. What was achieved so far and what's next?", highlighting that the experiences made through LADDER need to be reintegrated in future projects. The lessons learned from LADDER needs to set the ground and be used for future initiatives.

In order to do that, over 100 participants gathered in Strasbourg turning the Final Conference into a great success and fostering the network and the cooperation between LAs and CSOs also beyond LADDER's consortium. The event represented the opportunity to inform the audience about LADDER's achievements, as well as discuss the localisation of the SDGs drawing on specific examples from different municipalities and civil society organisation experts in the field. External speakers intervened on the panels to contribute with their expertise and local examples. Among the panellists were Ms Elisabeth Dau (Institute for Research and debate on Governance -IRG), Mr Othmane Khaoua (City of Sceaux), Ms Inta Rimsane (Municipality of Rezekne), Ms Anette Grunnet (Velje



Group picture of the Final Conference in Strasbourg, 21 – 22 November 2017

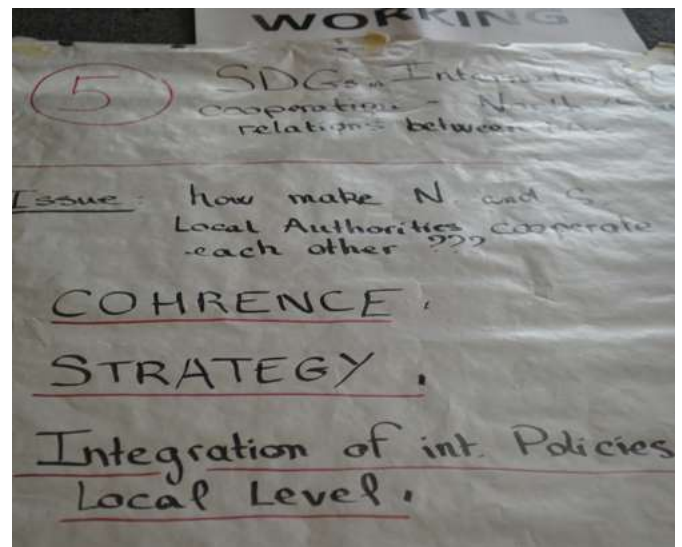
Municipality, Denmark), Ms Cristina SOSSAN (Equo Garantito), Mr Colin CAMPBELL (Assist Social Capital CIC), Mr Marjan Huc (SLOGA), Ms Natalia Sovkopljas (UTCS), Mr Mathieu Chaveneau and Laia Vinyes (PLATFORMA). Their intervention enriched LADDER’s final conference with professional examples of citizens engagement and good governance.



Working Group at Final Conference, 21 November 2017, Strasbourg

Participants also got actively involved as they brought in their own ideas through the Open Space Technology and focused on topics chosen by them in various working groups. The result were the following seven working groups:

- WG 1: Early Childhood in Development
- WG 2: Local Authorities and Civil Society Organisations for Local Development - Territorial Coaching
- WG 3: Fostering Partnership to Fight against Racism, Nationalism & Populism
- WG 4: Drugs and SDGs
- WG 5: International cooperation between Northern and Southern Countries, relation between LAs towards SDGs
- WG 6: Citizens Participation- How can we engage the non-engaged ones?
- WG 7: Implementing SDGs in Schools (Formal Education)



2.1 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

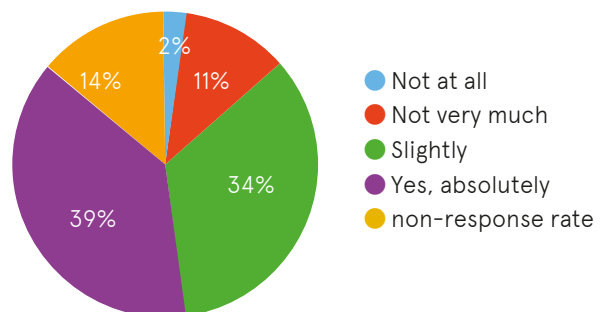
The research dimension was mainly developed in the first two years of the project producing several useful outputs regarding DEAR and the SDGs. In 2017 we could yield the results of the national and local surveys as well as have an analysis of the project’s impact.

SURVEY

In 2015 and 2016 surveys were carried out specifically targeting the participants of the training activities of the project (see “Capacity building and Peer-to-peer education” section). The survey aimed at collecting and analysing the perception of local actors about development education and their respective engagement in development, as well as the way individuals are involved in global issues at the local level. In 2016 results of the EU level trainings were published, in 2017 all survey results from national and local trainings have been retrieved.

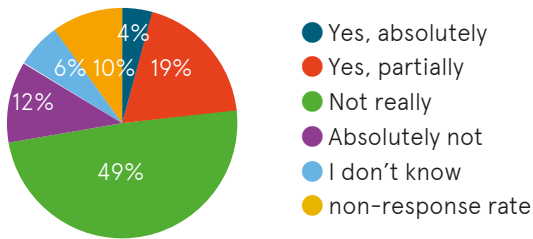
Among the several findings, the survey results from the national level in Ireland (Donegal County Council), revealed that a majority of 73% of the participants feels more or less that they are global citizens in a global world.

Donegal County Council – Q19: To what extent do you feel you are part of a global world & that you are a global citizen?



When looking at the results from the local level survey in Poland (URC RP), it becomes clear that the media are not disseminating information about global issues enough. Indeed only 4% of the participants reply that media are covering this issues properly.

URC Poland – Q6: In your opinion, is the media coverage on development issues enough in your country?



Finally, to the open question “Which role could individuals play to tackle poverty?” some of the responses demonstrate why the LADDER mission is essential and is worth to fight for it. Below some of the answers from the participants in the local level survey which demonstrate how individuals can play an active role:

“We could all be more active in our local communities becoming leaders that co-ordinate actions aimed at eradication of poverty locally”

“Each citizen should make ethical & moral choices in how we live everyday”

“Starting to buy Fairtrade can be one of the first step. In general, we should all be more aware of what we buy, where it comes from and how it was produced etc.”

“Each citizen can educate others, join or launch campaigns, contribute to consumerism awareness”

“Using social network to raise awareness and for fundraising”

“Empowering and informing citizens that all of their actions, no matter how small, can truly make a difference in the life of another”

“Supporting political organisations that promote these types of actions”

“Promoting Gender Equality”

All survey results from EU, national and local level can be accessed through the LADDER website: <http://www.ladder-project.eu/?p=19741>

ASSISES OF DECENTRALISED COOPERATION

ALDA together with many members of its network and of the consortium of the project LADDER, participated in the 5th edition of the Assises of Decentralized Cooperation – Regions and Cities for Development, organized by the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels, 10-11 July 2017.



Secretary General of ALDA, Antonella Valmorbidia, orating at Assises in Brussels

In the framework of this event, ALDA and the LADDER consortium co-organised a workshop with the Deputación of Valladolid. The workshop namely “LAs becoming drivers for change through development education: from the challenge to the opportunity” showcased different best practices presented by representatives from the Diputación de Valladolid (ES), the Universidad de Valladolid (ES), the Climate Alliance (DE), the Junta de Castilla y León (ES), the City of Kutaisi- Georgia and ALDA.

For the occasion, Ms. Sofia Caiolo (ALDA), LADDER Project manager, presented the survey implemented during the EU level trainings and highlighted the important role that LAs in cooperation with CSOs can play in informing and changing citizens’ attitudes towards global issues. Some of the key findings of the survey showcased that 73% of the participants believed that cooperation between LAs and CSOs is essential for the implementation of DEAR policies. This result confirms that the strategy behind LADDER, which sees the cooperation between LAs and CSOs as cornerstone of the project, is the right direction to take.



Presentation of LADDER survey results by LADDER Project Manager, Sofia Caiolo, during the Assises of Decentralised cooperation in Brussels

Additionally, more than half of the participants of the survey believed that citizens are slightly willing to take an active role in global issues and most probably because of their lack of information. This result showcased once again that development education is necessary in order to foster citizens' knowledge and to make them active global citizens. The Assises of Decentralised cooperation was an essential moment to share different perspectives and best practices about this. This event was not only the occasion for ALDA and its LADDER project to contribute and provide their inputs, but also to learn from others.

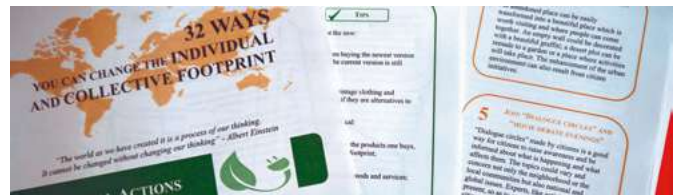
DEAR DATABASE

In addition to the surveys, the research dimension of the LADDER Project also included the development of a wide database for actors and other guides for individuals related to DEAR. Those have been developed in 2015 and 2016.



Five main outputs were produced, intending to collect the most relevant information on DEAR (relevant initiatives, stakeholders, key terms and other ideas related to DEAR) that may be useful for any stakeholder or citizen interested in the field. See the list of the outputs below:

1. A mapping of institutional actors engaged/working on DEAR policies and actions.
2. A mapping of non-institutional actors dealing with DEAR.
3. A glossary, defining key terms related to DEAR providing other links to useful websites.
4. A toolkit addressed to Local Authorities, with 26 ideas to encourage their positive impact as actors for a more sustainable world.
5. A toolkit addressed to citizens, with 32 suggestions of individual and collective actions in the spirit of sustainable lifestyle.



The outputs of the research have been published on the LADDER website (<http://www.ladder-project.eu/?p=16181>) and can be accessed by everyone.

2.2 CAPACITY BUILDING AND PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION

TRAININGS ON DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING (DEAR)

Following the principle of the cascade mechanism, trainings on development education topics were held at EU, national and local level. The trainings were implemented in 10 countries by 10 LAs and ALAs co-applicants of the consortium.

These trainings pursued the capacity building & awareness raising action of the project by targeting European, national and local multipliers.











3 EU-Level Trainings (in Croatia, Ireland and Greece)
Total Number of participants: 168



20 National-Level Trainings Total Number of participants: 627



40 Local-Level Trainings Total Number of participants: 1043

	EU Training	National Trainings	Local Trainings
EGTC Amphictyony (Greece) 	4-6 November 2015 (Athens)	14-15 December 2015 (Athens) / 24-26 January 2016 (Thessaloniki)	22-23 May 2016 (Orestiada) / 22-23 June 2016 (Preveza) / 22-23 September 2016 (Kamena Vurla) / 3-4 October 2016 (Creta)
Donegal County Council (Ireland) 	15-17 July 2015 (Donegal)	13-14 June 2016 (Galway) / 20 June 2016 & 7 December 2016 (Letterkenny)	3-4 December 2015 (Letterkenny) / 10 March 2016 & 8 April 2016 (Carndonagh) / 1 March 2016 & 5 April 2016 (Gweedore) / 15 March 2016 & 7 April 2016 (Donegal Town)
CAC (Croatia) 	22-24 July 2015 (Zagreb)	19-20 November 2015 (Šibenik) / 26-27 November 2015 (Zagreb)	16-17 February 2016 (Virovitica) / 15-16 March 2016 (Šibenik) / 30-31 March 2016 (Slavonski Brod) / 12-13 April 2016 (Rijeka)
LALRG (Latvia) 	-	20-21 October 2015 (Jurmala) / 28-29 October 2015 (Engure)	15-16 December 2015 (Aloja) / 7-8 March 2016 (Koknese) / 15-16 March 2016 (Gulbene) / 8-9 August 2016 (Tukums)
TECLA (Italy) 	-	25-26 January 2016 (Novara) / 23-24 February 2016 (Ancona)	20-21 April 2016 (Palermo) / 23-24 September 2016 (Pavia) / 10-11 November 2016 (Massa) / 20-21 December 2016 (Torino)
URC Poland (Poland) 	-	3-4 of December 2015 (Zakopane) / 7-8 of December 2015 (Zakopane)	6-7 September 2016 (Serock-Jachranka) / 3-4 October 2016 (Długosiodło) / 10-11 October 2016 (Lubicz) / 21-22 February 2017 (Lesznowola)
UTC Slovakia (Slovakia) 	-	10-11 November 2015 (Bratislava) / 18-19 October 2016 (Bratislava)	3 & 8 December 2015 (Bratislava) / 18 April 2016 (Prešov) / 21 April 2016 (Bratislava) / 20-21 September 2016 (Zvolen)
Birgu Local Council (Malta) 	-	9-10 December 2016 (Birgu) / 17-18 December 2016 (Birgu)	16-17 February 2016 (Birgu) / 8-9 July 2016 (Birgu) / 24-25 July 2016 (Birgu) / 19-20 September 2016 (Birgu)
NAMRB (Bulgaria) 	-	17-18 December 2015 (Velingrad) / 6-7 October 2016 (Albena)	12-13 April 2016 (Veliko Tarnovo) / 14-15 April 2016 (Veliko Tarnovo) / 21-22 July 2016 (Tsarevo) / 26-27 July 2016 (Svilengrad)
Municipality of Vejle (Denmark) 	-	23 February 2016 (Aarhus) / 1 March 2016 (Copenhagen)	2 & 19 May 2016 (Gellerup – Aarhus) / 18 May 2016 & 9 June 2016 (Vollsmose – Odense) / 21 & 28 September 2016 (Nykøbing Falster) / 5 & 26 October 2016 (Vejle)

The participants represented primarily LAs and CSOs from the target country: these actors are considered to have a major capacity to become change makers by adopting and implementing actions in line with sustainable development and awareness raising within their constituencies and their areas of intervention.

The trainings focused on best practices with regards to raise citizens' awareness on development issues, giving the participants tools to develop such activities after the trainings and promoting local actions for sustainable development, poverty eradication, solidarity, justice, and much more.

Each of the 10 target partners oversaw the implementation of 2 national and 4 local trainings in their respective countries. The majority of trainings was implemented during the first two years of the project.

The cascade mechanism put in place within the project, revealed to be an excellent tool not only because it empowers the national and local stakeholders providing them the possibility to learn and replicate within their context their own experience, but also because it allows LADDER to have an extremely wide outreach.



Boardgame developed by URC Poland for the trainings to teach about SDGs in a playful way

In other words, while the national trainings were organised by the corresponding national partner who participated at the EU level trainings, the local ones were led by local stakeholders (who had participated at the upper-level training), with the support of the corresponding national partner. The considerable number of trainings implemented reached more than 1,800 representatives of national and local actors. Not only did the trainings represent an opportunity to pursue the objectives of the project at grassroots level, but also a relevant moment to build a network of social links that contribute at implementing the SDGs at local and national level.



Training organized by UCT Slovakia

The trainings included a number of activities and sessions foreseeing the use of ice-breakers, presentations, open discussions, and different non-formal education methods. In addition, they represented also the occasion to develop innovative training materials, such as the educational board game elaborated by URC Poland. This ensured that the content of local trainings was both attractive and informative.

Having started in 2015 with 3 EU-level trainings, the training scheme was pursued in 2016 and 2017 (see previous reports). 2017 saw the implementation of one last local-level training, which was hosted by URC Poland in Lesznowola, in February 2017.

Focus Groups

The second action of this dimension was represented by the focus groups. A selection of the most active participants of the trainings on development education had the opportunity to attend also a focus group addressed to potential educators and multipliers coming from different stakeholders (LAs, CSOs, etc.) and active in the field of non-formal education.

The focus groups consisted in informal groups of discussion in order to deepen the thematic already discussed during the trainings related to development education. These one-day sessions aimed at debating approaches, methodologies, and tools that are used or can be developed at national and local levels. These events provided the participants with the opportunity to draw an accurate picture of the perception of development education at national level in the involved countries and draw conclusions on the level of the outreach of DEAR actions. This process allowed the LADDER project to come up with recommendations on DEAR strategies concerning the country in which the focus group is implemented.

Nine Focus Groups were implemented in 2016. In total, they gathered over 220 representatives of LAs & CSOs participating in these learning groups.

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When?	Where?		Who?
17-18 May 2016	Bratislava (Slovakia)		UTC Slovakia
08 October 2016	Albena (Bulgaria)		NAMRB
9 September 2016	Karlovac (Croatia)		CAC Croatia
15 December 2016	Vejle (Denmark)		Vejle Municipality
10-11 November 2016	Limni Plastira (Greece)		EGTC Amphictyony
25 November 2016	Jūrmala (Latvia)		LALRG
5 December 2016	Letterkenny (Ireland)		Donegal County Council
13 December 2016	Lesznowola (Poland)		URC Poland
29 December 2016	Birgu (Malta)		Birgu Local Council

SDGS WORKSHOPS

Additionally, to the trainings and the focus groups, another action that provided further learning opportunities to deepen knowledge and capacities of the different stakeholders are the SDGs workshops. These additional workshops followed up on topics related to SDGs, awareness raising and empowerment of local stakeholder. Each workshop approach and theme were fine-tuned and adapted by the implementing partner, taking into consideration the national context and the actual needs of the participants.



Group work at SDG workshop "The Role of Global Sustainable Development Goals in Local and Regional Development" by CAC 30 October 2017

Each workshop had a specific focus and approach. The workshops reviewed the lessons learned from the DEAR-funded project LADDER and provided opportunities for future planning and learning for local actors involved in awareness raising of the SDGs, or focused on the national implementation of the Agenda 2030 SDGs. Some implemented the workshop under the motto 'SDGs as a driver for development of local and regional communities' or introduced the participants to SDGs and Global citizenship in the framework of LADDER.

SDG workshops:

- 5 June 2017 LALRG (Latvia)
- 25-26 September 2017 Donegal County Council (Ireland)
- 15 October 2017 NAMRB (Bulgaria)
- 19-20 October 2017 URC Poland (Poland)
- 24-25 October 2017 UTCS (Slovakia)
- 30 October 2017 CAC (Croatia)
- 23, 25, 29 November 2017 Municipality of Vejle (Denmark)



SDG workshop organized by UTCS in Slovakia 24-25 October 2017

Just like the other capacity building activities, this action was not only about listening to experts and highly-qualified guest speakers, but each event also provided the opportunity for exchange of best practices and brainstorming. Some workshops provided its participants with practical knowledge on how to make a project come true and project management. Donegal County Council for example, provided opportunities for future planning and learning for LAs, Community groups and NGOs involved in SDGs awareness raising.

THE JOB SHADOWING ACTIVITY

The Job Shadowing activity was launched with the aim to increase the interactions within the network of the partners and build capacities.

After 8 Job Shadowings carried out in 2016, another 14 have been implemented in 2017. These exchanges aim at sharing best practices, facilitate peer-to-peer learning, gain new skills and promote the increase of intercultural exchanges on DEAR.

It provides experts, civil servants, trainers, LAs' staff and CSOs' representatives of the different consortium's organisation with the opportunity to spend a learning period abroad hosted by another partner. By engaging in this action, each participant has the opportunity to work with another "colleague", learning and sharing experiences and practices concerning the field of global citizenship and sustainable development.

Each Job shadowing activity lasts 4 days and is based on an agenda developed jointly by the host and the visiting partner. The program has the objective to encourage exchanges and create opportunities and synergies between the organisations. Overall, the job shadowing activities included, time for discussion and exchange, presentation of respective activities and best practices, participation to meetings or relevant events with actors and other DEAR projects.



Job Shadowing in Turkey, MMU hosting JEF Brussels representative, 13-17 March 2017

Among the activities implemented during the Job Shadowings of 2017 we can find the following ones:

- the experiential visit to the "Monastery of Kaisariani" in the Region of Attiki. An example of cultural heritage and environmental value impacting development actions at the local level (EGTC hosting CIME - Greece);
- the visit to Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Directorate of Youth and Sports, to see the youth dimension of municipalities' work. This was accompanied by a meeting with the representatives of the Youth Council, explaining how they operate and determine young people's needs and which activities they implement for the benefit of Istanbul's youth (MMU hosting JEF - Turkey);
- the participation in the "WEAR Project" workshop on Women's Health and Global Development, where women discuss health and how gender inequality impacts on women's health. Conclusion was that when it comes to education and support, community and local level

support is vital and health equality for women requires the acknowledgement of potential barriers faced by women (Donegal County Council hosting MMU - Ireland);



Donegal hosting MMU for the Job Shadowing peer-to-peer exchange, 2-5 May 2017

- the participation in a story telling activity in a primary school of Lloseta (Majorca), through teachers' narration, children discovered living conditions and realities present in other parts of the world. Through the methodology of story-telling, this primary school introduces a global citizenship concept (FONS hosting ALDA-Brussels - Spain);
- the visit of two primary schools (Mr Hristo Botev and Mr Ivan Vazov), where Roma pupils constitute a majority and meeting with the school directors to talk about projects they have implemented /are implementing for greater inclusion of Roma pupils and their parents in local community life: their prescription for success is consistent work and numerous initiatives (NAMBR hosting URC Poland - Bulgaria);
- the participation in The Hague Academy's summer course "A local perspective to the Sustainable Development Goals", learning about Territorial Approaches to Local Development (TALD concept) and Political Economy Analysis (PEA) (THA hosting SLOGA - The Netherlands);



SKGO hosting COPPEM representative for the Job Shadowing in Serbia, 20-24 March 2017

- the meeting with the Mayor of Golubac Municipality followed by the visit of local heritage sites: Golubac Fortress, Monastery, local ethno village, Lepenski Vir, Archaeological Mesolithic site, Madjanpek Municipality. Discussing about culture and culture heritage at the local level and the process of 'Ecomuseums' combining SDGs, development education and sustainable tourism (SKGO hosting COPPEM - Serbia).

Voices from the Participants of the Job Shadowing experience:

"I was pleased to learn more about JEF and their actions towards youth contribution and participation to the implementation of SDGs". Ms Ionescu (ENNA)

"[A] wonderful opportunity to exchange about experiences between Civil Society Organizations and Local Authorities in Malta". Ms Shovkopliias (UTCS)

"It was challenging to see all these passionate people speaking about projects of local development, growth, education and capacity building processes. I will use a lot of the things learnt here, in CIME." Mr Masini (CIME)

"[...] New ideas are coming from young people and this helps the organization to be run in a better way, and in a great atmosphere." Ms Afanasjeva (JEF)

"The practices that I had a chance to observe inspired me to do the things differently back home and I've met new people with whom I can share my thoughts and projects and discuss about them." Ms Erkan (MMU)

This experience "[...] will definitely very much improve my engagement and knowledge when planning further future activities, hopefully also in the frame of LADDER but as well directly cooperating [...] with The Hague Academy." Mr Huc (SLOGA)

"If there is a will, there is possibility to solve any issue. And the common interest and the lack of prejudice-this is the key to success!" Mr Grzegorzczak (URC P)

As aforementioned, in 2016, eight Job Shadowing activities took place. These productive peer-to-peer exchanges continued in 2017, eventually a total of 22 exchanges have taken place.

HOST	GUEST	DATES
ALDA Strasbourg	CAC	4-7 October 2016
Birgu Municipality	UBBSLA	7-10 October 2016
NALAG	SKGO	24-28 October 2016
Vejle Municipality	NAMRB	14-18 November 2016
SLOGA	SOS Malta	14-18 November 2016
ALDA Brussels	EGTC Amphictyony	15-19 November 2016
CIME	NALAG	21-24 November 2016
CAC	Donegal County Council	28 November - 1 December 2016
JEF	ENNA	28 February - 3 March 2017
EGTC	CIME	7- 10 March 2017
MMU	JEF	13 -17 March 2017
SKGO	COPPEM	20-24 March 2017
COPPEM	Foster Europe	3-6 April 2017
SOS MALTA	UTCS	17-20 April 2017
FONS	ALDA Brussels	2-5 May 2017
Donegal County Council	MMU	2-5 May 2017
NAMBR	URC RP	26-30 June 2017
The Hague Academy	SLOGA	3-7 July 2017
SKGO	ALDA Vicenza	9-12 October 2017
Lam Echaml	Progettarte	2-5 November 2017
SKGO	ALDA Strasbourg	18-22 December 2017
NALAG	ALDA Vicenza	18-22 December 2017

LADDER TOOL FAIR

Finally, in the frame of the capacity building and peer-to-peer education dimension, a unique international Tool Fair, was organized to exchange methodologies, good practices, experiences and tools in the field of development education and DEAR. The fair was also offering the opportunity to all partic-

ipants to attend some specialized workshops on the issues addressed by the project. This gave the opportunity for direct engagement of citizens and communities, contributing to development.



LADDER Tool Fair May 2017

The LADDER Tool Fair took place from the 10th to the 12th May 2017 in Toruń (Poland) and it was co-organized by the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region. More than 170 participants learned more about the LADDER project, SDGs, development education and above all this fair provided a unique opportunity for LAs' and CSOs' representatives to exchange and evolve from shared experiences.

The LADDER Tool Fair included speeches by high-quality panellists that represented different organisations and regions among which Mr Oriano Otocan (President of ALDA), Mr Zbigniew Ostrowski (Vice-Marshal of Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region), Mr Jan Hofmoki (Deputy Director in Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Mr Harm-Jan Fricke (Development Education/Global Learning Consultant), Mr Leszek Świątalski (Secretary General of URC RP) and Mr Mger Kuumchyan (Deputy head of Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council) and many more. Six different workshops for exchange of methodologies gave insight into local initiatives from different regions and countries. These workshops gave space to discuss problematics and find solutions. Following topics were addressed:



Tool Fair Dissemination

1. "Best practices of Global citizenship in the formal education sector": various examples of how local schools can teach concepts of global citizenship, dealing with the ability for critical thinking and individual/collective responsibility. Hindering factor to GC education can be the juxtaposition with tradition and tendencies towards regionalism.

2. **“Best practices of Global citizenship in the non-formal education sector”**: initiatives working on the training of civil servants, teachers and educational platforms presented their activities. Major conclusions were that the general public is not too familiar with SDGs and media coverage is relatively low. Participants of this workshop agreed that states do not sufficiently take into consideration the 2030 SDG agenda.

“All kind of connections are essential and must be improved, cause an open city is an open society”

Tool Fair Participant, Mr. Zbigniew Ostrowski

3. **“Empowering citizens and creating an enabling environment”**: this workshop was more a theoretical approach to civic space. It was debated how space for civil society can be created and that the rules to enter the civic engagement space should be more accessible. Furthermore, special attention should be paid to an inclusive space for youth and women. ALDA’s toolkit on good practices is the one starting point to improve on these themes.

4. **“Reaching out to citizens: the example of Local Democracy Agencies”**: presentation of LDA’s experiences on reaching out to citizens. Citizens still need coaching to engage in their community’s decision-making process, once they get involved it proves to be very successful. One challenge (especially in the former soviet EAP region) is the willingness to get involved as citizens still view the government as responsible of taking decisions.

5. **“Increasing ownership of SDGs: research findings on development education”**: presentations of networks that share solutions on how development education can be better implemented in a country. Within this context different examples of tools and booklets to teach for example local democracy were presented. Finally, ALDA’s survey on knowledge about DEAR and SDGs was presented, as well as the glossary on DEAR related terminology.



Workshop at LADDER Tool Fair in Torun, Poland - May 2017



Participants at LADDER Tool Fair in May 2017

6. **“Reaching out to citizens: local actors in action”**: This workshop was dedicated and led by LADDER’s co-applicants and especially the ALAs and LAs of the consortium. One problem addressed in this workshop was the gap that exists between people’s commitment and their actions regarding international development. The focus was very much on DEAR and examples were given on how local initiatives try to raise citizens’ awareness of their actions’ global impact. Before people take action, their awareness of the subject has to be improved.

The LADDER Tool Fair proved that exchange is a key element. Progress can only succeed if we learn from each other’s success and failure. It was a great possibility for participants to benefit from the exchange of practices concerning global citizenship and SDGs, as well as increase their knowledge on the matter and build a network for future cooperation.

2.3 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 region, the project runs advocacy activities together with the organisation 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. In addition, it aims at strengthening and supporting the role of LAs & CSOs and capacity in acting as drivers for change at local level. In addition to continuous meetings, conferences and papers drafted by the three paths, each path has put together a final handbook in 2017. This Geographical Paths handbook includes recommendations and policy inputs about the addressed issues addressing the 36-month implementation period. It constitutes a summary of the acquired knowledge and lessons learnt during 2015 and 2017 so that future projects can build up on the accomplishment. Have a look at the LADDER website to know more about it!

- The Mediterranean Area (MED)

The MED path aims at promoting the role of LAs and CSOs, supporting a decentralized and ownership-based Neighbourhood Policy in the MED area. The instability that the Mediterranean basin has gone through and the geopolitical circumstances have required actions to be taken by the project in order to support local actors in getting engaged in development education actions in their countries.

Review

In the two previous years the MED Path has already implemented several actions and events. It started with the Working Group meeting in Palermo (26 June 2015) to generate first ideas and decide on the path's strategy. During the same year a set of recommendations had been submitted to the EC regarding key points of the ENP. In 2016 the path had its second Working Group meeting in Tunis (29 April 2016) where the members finalized the "CHARMEDAL – the Mediterranean Charter for Democracy and Local Autonomy". The Special Initiative of the path took place in Tunis under the motto "Local democracy in the two shores of the Mediterranean" (19-21 October 2016).

LADDER MED Path meeting: Working group meeting in Kairouan (Tunisia)

Co-organized by ALDA and the coordinators of the MED Path, COPPEM and Lam Echaml, this meeting took place from the 26th to 27th April 2017.

The two-day event aimed at strengthening the role of LAs and CSOs in the MED area. At the occasion of the event, the Path finalized and approved the Strategic Paper for the LADDER MED Path. This paper informs about the impact of LADDER's consortium in the region and addresses the issue of advocacy in the area.



MED Path Meeting in Kairouan, Tunisia – 26-27 April 2017

Furthermore, this meeting dealt with another key-document: the "CHARMEDAL – Mediterranean Charter of Democracy and Local Autonomy". The path meeting marked the approval of the final version of the document, as well as the definition of its dissemination strategy. The meeting was also the occasion to inaugurate the first Local Democracy Agency (LDA) in the Mediterranean area. The introduction of the agency marked a new step in ALDA's efforts to foster democracy and good governance in the country and region, contributing also in the mission of LADDER in the MED area.

MED & PPC Path at the "5th Mediterranean Fair of Shared Social Responsibility"

The 5th Mediterranean Fair of Shared Social Responsibility (*5 Salone Mediterraneo della Responsabilità sociale Condivisa*) in Napoli (Italy) took place from the 15th to 17th June 2017. From the LADDER project, representatives from the MED and the PPC Paths contributed to the Fair. This event promotes multi-stakeholder dialogues in the Euro-Mediterranean area and new collaborative processes among institutions, academia, enterprises and civil society. Main objective was to strengthen co-operation and assist in the creation of a cohesive and inclusive society which takes into account the 'Glocal' Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) following the Agenda 2030.

During the opening ceremony the LADDER project was introduced. MED path coordinator, COPPEM, co-organized one of the sessions of the event namely "Think about Development" which reflects on sustainability, global development and the citizens' participation in decision-making processes. The seminar focused on following two main topics:

- the launch of a Permanent Platform for Structured Dialogue between LAs and CSOs in the Mediterranean, a process promoted by COPPEM and CIME under the LADDER project and

which intends to involve local development actors in the implementation of SDGs in the Mediterranean region;



Representatives from CIME and COPPEM at the '5° Salone Mediterraneo della Responsabilità sociale Condivisa' in Napoli, Italy – 15-17 June 2017

- the identification of new Public-Private Collaborative Processes, Profit & Non-profit, which could foster the protection of territories and the valorisation of the Cultural Heritage. This thematic dealt with Development Education and Citizenship Processes in the Mediterranean, where Local Communities are called to value local and territorial heritage. The emblem and model of this approach is the Ecomuseum, a green community-led and social-driven dynamic that envisages the construction of a cultural movement and urban regeneration with which the active and participatory community takes care of a territory by enhancing its cultural heritage. Objective of this seminar was to rethink development and provide an opportunity to enrich Corporate Social Responsibility assets by promoting the centrality of the social system and cultural plot, offering the ethics of responsibility as a key to sustainable development.

- The South-East Europe (SEE) Area

The scope of the SEE path is to reinforce the interdependencies between the EU and the SEE area: by tackling challenges such as migration and refugee flows. This geographical path seeks to empower LAs and CSOs, enabling them to play an active role in protecting human rights and in promoting the integration of migrants. Following the discussion and the plan established in 2015, the SEE Path decided to focus especially on the decentralisation process as well as the empowerment of youth in development issues.

Review

In 2015 and 2016 the SEE Path was already very active. First Working Group Meeting was in Montenegro (May 2015) to define their priorities. A roundtable on the migration issue held in Belgrade (November 2015), resulted in recommendations on the refugee crisis. These recommendations were shared with stakeholders at EU, national and local level. The following year the path co-organized a conference on migration & refugees (20-21 June 2016) to exchange practices on migration management.

South East Europe Path – Youth Participation in Focus

In the framework of its action in the SEE area, SLOGA and SKGO organized the special initiative "Youth Participation in Focus" in Belgrade, Serbia 10 - 12 October 2017. This international conference consisted in workshops and discussions on the topic.



Meeting at SEE Special Initiative in Belgrade, Serbia - 10-12 October 2017

The international conference gathered institutional representatives and youth participants from the region and the European Union. Mr Bojan Stevic, representative of the Ministry of local self-government of Serbia spoke about the importance of Youth offices in the development of local communities of youngsters, while the Serbian representative of the Ministry of youth and sport, Mr Snezhana Klashnja stressed job opportunities as key factor for youth participation. ALDA representative Ms Stanka Parac Damjanovic, focused on the objectives of ALDA to include youngsters in policy making by increasing their skills to participate in decision making on a local level, but also by encouraging collaboration between LAs and youth organisations. Regional Local Democracy Agencies were present at the conference. The representative from LDA Montenegro, Mr Bozina Stesevic shared thoughts and experiences regarding working with youth and presented the Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue as an example of good practice.



Young people at workshop during SEE Special Initiative in Belgrade, Serbia - 10-12 October 2017

Apart from the conference, several workshops were organized in Belgrade, Sremski Karlovci and Zrenjanin. The events took place within the European Local Democracy Week. The participants of the event got the chance to attend workshops and discussions including LAs and young people. The workshops resulted in the publishing of recommendations for youth participation on a local and national level.

- 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. The path promotes the role of LAs and CSOs, recognizing and supporting their capacity to act as change makers for development at local level.

Review

In the two preceding years the EaP Path initiated several events. The path's launch Working Group meeting was held in Dnipropetrovsk (17-18 May 2015). During the same year a letter was sent to Commissioner Johannes Hahn in view of the Riga EaP summit (May 2015). The EaP path was also involved, together with the MED path, in drafting a position on the ENP. End of 2015 the Path implemented a three-day conference on Eastern Partnership as its Special Initiative in Tbilisi (1-4 December 2015). Furthermore, the path published a Joint Declaration with PLATFORMA on the ENP (February 2016).

Advocacy for Territorial Development

In the frame of its advocacy work, LADDER's EaP path published a paper on Territorial Development. The publication "Decentralised cooperation and community approach as a tool for a strengthened cooperation between the European Union and Eastern Partnership Countries" was released on 3 July 2017 and disseminated during the Assises of Decentralised Cooperation (Brussels, 10-11 July 2017).

Local authorities and local communities are the most effective problem solvers if they have the possibilities to have their own decision-making and resources. The process of decentralisation and empowerment of local communities and the participative approach is one of the most challenging ones of these last years in the Eastern Partnership countries. Thanks to decentralised cooperation, which engages local authorities and local communities in international cooperation, it is possible to develop projects and activities that support local democracy and economic and social development. These are also creating strong links between communities and citizens, creating dialogue and trust.

Decentralised cooperation is an exercise of shared values of good local governance and citizens' engagement and community approach to decision-making process. It could therefore be further strengthened and valorise to bring closer the different communities from the EU and from Eastern Europe on a value based relationship. Examples and showcases support this evidence.



Panellists at the Special Initiative of the EaP Path in Georgia, 1-4 December 2015.

Countries of Eastern Partnership have a great potential to cooperation with local governments and local communities in the EU despite difficulties and challenges. In order to unlock all the possibilities of decentralised cooperation in Eastern Partnership countries, engaged with local governments and communities in the EU, the paper recommends to support further autonomy of local governments and regional governments in EaP, attributing to them resources and competences to have their own decision-making process. Furthermore, the paper advocates for the support of decentralised cooperation to find alternative ways to work against prejudices among different communities and countries. Another aim should be the engagement in a mutual cooperation between CSOs and Local Governments as examples and tools of democratic and participative problem solving.

Finally, LADDER's EaP path highlights in the report the importance of the Local Democracy Agencies, run by ALDA, as one of the most effective instrument supporting decentralised cooperation and creating synergies for the municipalities, regions and engaged communities.



Group picture at the EaP Special Initiative in Georgia, 1-4 December 2015.

Declaration to Eastern Partnership Summit

As a reaction to the 5th Brussels Eastern Partnership Summit, the path has written a declaration on 5 December 2017. The declaration was addressed to involved stakeholders and calls for a multi-stakeholder approach in EaP with regards to the 2020 Agenda. The EaP should rely more on local stakeholders and foster decentralization. Through the document the path calls for support and strengthening of LAs, supporting decentralization process in the EaP and strengthening capacities of civil society and its projects as well as opportunities for cooperation with LAs.

THE THEMATIC PRIORITIES

The project pays a particular attention to 6 themes, for which it dedicates a specific "line", called 'Thematic Paths'. As described in the previous section, the path's aim is to raise 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. During 2016, the six paths started to bear fruits moving according to the plans. Throughout the year, each path contributed to the development of advocacy activities. Throughout 2017 each path continued to draw attention and foster dialogue around the thematic focus of the path and the related challenges.



Just like the Geographical paths, the Thematic Paths have also published a final Handbook at the end of 2017. Within this handbook the coordinators of each path collected recommendations and policy inputs about the addressed issues in order to capture the value of results within the LADDER framework.

- Youth in development (Path 1)

In 2015, the Youth in Development path led by JEF agreed that the promotion of youth engagement and awareness on development issues would be the priority of the path, in order to empower young people and support them in becoming drivers for change.

Review

Throughout 2015 and 2016 the path ensured an ongoing monitoring of EU policies, contributing in reaching the objectives with several outputs. In 2016 the path launched a campaign to support the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) in order to back the development of food systems based on the principles of sustainability and social justice. A second action during that year was an open letter submitted to EU representatives in education to maintain high-quality education for UK and EU students after Brexit. The aim was to maintain EU mobility and educational exchange programs.

Reaction to European Solidarity Corps

In May 2017, the Youth Path drafted a resolution in response to the 'European Solidarity Corps' (ESC). This new EU initiative launched in December 2016, aims to improve opportunities for young people and promotes solidarity. The guiding principle of the ESC is to unite young people who are willing to contribute to societal change through volunteering and organisations that support local communities and work for a more inclusive society together. In order to write a legal base for the initiative, the Commission launched a public consultation directed at young people, youth workers and educators, youth organisations, public authorities and other stakeholders.



The LADDER Youth Path welcomed the initiative of the ESC, as it creates opportunities for young people to volunteer in the field of sustainable development, and contributes to the awareness-raising efforts promoting development issues around the continent. JEF Europe, as leader of the Youth Path, drafted a "Call for more involvement of local authorities in the implementation process of European Solidarity Corps". The path clarified in this call that decision-makers at the local level are well-placed to engage citizens, and especially young people, in development initiatives. Thanks to their proximity to pressing social issues, local authorities have the knowledge and the experience of specific, local or regional issues.



Group work at JEF Special Initiative in Brussels, September 2017.

Response to the revised European Consensus on Development

A second action developed by the Path during 2017 was the draft of a resolution in response to the European Consensus for Development. In June 2017, the Youth Path drafted a new framework for development cooperation for the EU and its member states. The European consensus for development is the EU's response to the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development and reaching the SDGs.

JEF Europe welcomes the essential integration of a youth dimension in the new EU Consensus on Development and the recognition of youth unemployment as one of the biggest challenges for both developed and developing countries, especially those experiencing situations of conflict. The new EU Consensus highlights the role of education and of creating quality jobs in promoting the engagement of young people in the economic, social and political life of their societies.



Group work at the Youth Special Initiative in Brussels, September 2017



All participants of the Youth Path Special Initiative in Brussels, September 2017.

In their response, JEF Europe also expressed its concerns with regards to the implementation of this new framework for EU development policies as it reveals a strong leaning towards solving short-term political concerns rather than laying out a long-term vision to address primary objectives of poverty eradication and fight against exclusion and inequalities. In that sense, it supports the concerns of numerous other CSOs, which expressed their worries about the securitization agenda and hardened tone of the new consensus.

"Youth for Sustainable Europe"

In 2017, the Young European Federalists (JEF), Youth in Development path leader, organised also its Special Initiative "Youth for Sustainable Europe" in Brussels from 25-27 September in Brussels. The event aimed at discussing the links between SDGs and youth.

The initiative consisted of a series of panels and workshops. A first panel debated the role of youth and sustainable development related to the Agenda 2030, by providing examples from local and institutional realities. The panellists ultimately agreed that the SDGs can only be tackled in a holistic approach and that the whole spectrum of political stakeholders – from Active Citizens to the European Commission – must be involved in this task. On the second panel, the discussion was centred on the EU consensus of Development and the role of youth in EU external policies.

The 3-day event saw the use of workshops to involve the mainly young participants, the first of which was held by Democracy 21. During this workshop, all participants got involved in group exercises and learned about e-participatory tools and practices. At the second workshop YouthMetre and the DEEP project were presented by ALDA and ECAS. Both projects proposed the use of technological tools (digital platform, website, apps, etc) on which active young citizens can present and discuss their proposals with policymakers and other stakeholders. The second round of parallel workshops, held by ESN and EFIL, engaged with the topic of youth participation in raising awareness to the implementation of SDGs at a local level and volunteering.

The conclusive debate of the event was held in the beautiful University Foundation venue. The panellists discussed the effective possibility to reach the SDGs by their deadline, highlighting the importance and the difficulty of making the private sector aware of the problems of sustainability.

- Migration (Path 2)

The Migration Path led by SOS Malta has the overall objective of raising citizens' and stakeholders' awareness on the role and importance of migration, bearing in mind Human Rights and European values. Further to the refugee crisis having highly affected European and neighbouring countries, the members of the Path decided to pay particularly attention to the phenomenon. Their goal is to promote and raise awareness on irregular migration and refugee flows, hindering factors of the situation, as well as the role of LAs and CSOs.

Review

In September 2015 the path sent a letter to EU representatives to advocate for an immediate, comprehensive and human response to the migration crisis. From 11-13 November 2015 the migration path organized its Special Initiative in Malta under the topic "Migration and Development: EYD 2015 – The year of local actions for global solutions". 2016 saw the implementation of an online questionnaire addressed to migrants already living in Europe in order to better understand the obstacles faced in their integration process and promote evidence based policies capable of addressing the current crisis within a long term perspective. In March 2016 a field visit to Chios marked the beginning of cooperation with the Municipality of Chios. The path also drafted a letter as reaction to the European Council conclusions on migration and later on a second one on the Social Rights Pillar. Beginning of September 2016, the path co-organized a Refugee Policy Lab in Athens to enhance dialogue on migration within a European framework. Furthermore, the path contributed to a forum on intercultural dialogue & refugees' educational challenges, October 2016. Finally, the path participated in the event "Migration, urban fragmentation and intercultural dialogue" organized by the project URGENT.

In order to maintain the focus on this thematic, the path has implemented, after multiple actions in 2016, further initiatives throughout 2017:

Reaction to the Malta Declaration of the Council of the EU Meeting

In February 2017, the Migration Path followed its previous action which implies the drafting of a reaction statement to EU-level decisions on Migration.



LADDER CONSORTIUM JOINT STATEMENT- REACTION TO THE MALTA DECLARATION of the MEETING of the Council of the EU 3rd February 2017

In reaction to the 'Malta Declaration' produced by the members of the European Council in Malta of the 3rd February 2017, we, the consortium of LADDER (composed of 46 Local Authorities, Civil Society organisations and networks, originating from 36 EU and non-EU countries), wish to first welcome the importance given to migration within the agenda of the Malta Presidency of the Council of the EU. However, we wish to express our disappointment regarding the statements made within the Malta Declaration which continue to risk securitising the response to migration within and around the EU borders at the expense of respecting and upholding the Human Rights of migrants.

The Migration Partnership Framework Agreement launched last year showed a deep determination to curb irregular arrivals in the EU through the Eastern Mediterranean route. We have previously issued our concerns with such a policy and the EU-Turkey Agreement. The results of this latest summit manifested within the Malta Declaration are equally worrying. According to our commitment to respect human rights, international law and uphold European values, we find the following elements of the Malta Declaration are, in particular, a cause for concern:

A Focus on Libya: Towards a Dangerous "Double Filter"

The EU member states insist on the need for cooperation with Libya, and stabilisation of the country to tackle migration issues. They express their readiness to contribute to the improvement of the political situation, by helping local authorities acquiring "control over the land and sea borders". The success of this project relies on several policies such as financial and training support of national coast guards, of local communities or of reception capacities.

Whilst welcoming an approach that sees the EU looking beyond its own borders and seeking ways to contribute to stabilisation in the neighbouring region, through for example 'development of local communities to improve their socio-economic situation and enhance their resilience'. All efforts being made continue to put a focus on keeping migrants out of Europe. The statement clearly implies that EU policy will be to build a "double wall" or a "double filter" to prevent migrants from entering into Europe. The first wall would stand at the Libyan borders and the second at the European ones. We remain extremely concerned for the situation of migrants within Libyan Borders and question the stability and safety of the country for such vulnerable populations.

Joint Statement of the LADDER Consortium reacting to the Malta Declaration

Previously, in June and December 2016, the Migration Path members drafted letters to highlight its disappointment to the position taken by the European Council regarding migration, which undermines fundamental European principles. One of these letters was addressed to Mr Joseph Muscat (Prime Minister of Malta) and Mr George Vella (Minister of Foreign Affairs) and aimed at drawing attention towards the need for Europe's Heads of States to ensure a humane response to the asylum and migration crisis, currently affecting Europe and the neighbouring regions.

In 2017, the Migration working group pursued its activities issuing a reaction to the Malta Declaration of the Council of the EU Meeting on 3 February 2017. The main points raised and identified as causes for concern by the Migration path are:

- the systematic return of irregular migrants is a risk for the respect of their human rights;
- The need for safer migration routes to Europe in order to undermine the market of smugglers and increase safety for migrants;
- The new sources of instruments of funding which should not represent a leverage for regulation of migrants at the cost of Development Aid;
- The importance of approaching the migration crisis with long term strategies and to increase funding to development aid and humanitarian assistance to tackle the root causes of migration at their roots.

Migration Follow up to the Special Initiative: "Urbanism: resilience, welcome and urban innovation"

For the follow up to the Special Initiative of the Migration Path, an international seminar was organized in Thessaloniki (Greece) the 27 May 2017, under the motto "Urbanism: resilience, welcome and urban innovation". ALDA joined forces with Science Po Paris, the City of Thessaloniki, the Institut Français de Thessaloniki, SOS Malta and the consortia LADDER and RE.CRI.RE to organise the seminar. The event was in line with the previous raising awareness events on development education promoted by the Migration Path within the LADDER framework in 2015.



Refugees queuing in Chios

The broader context for this event were the new challenges European cities face, as they have to deal with climate change or the refugees crisis. Local communities get involved and are simultaneously obliged to develop innovative approaches. Emergencies require in fact quick actions and an inclination to innovate; while structural changes impose a long-term

view. The seminar questioned the effort of cities to establish coherent strategies. Cities have to combine much needed urban transformations with a strategic approach. Their duty is to prepare resilient answers to climate change and facilitate actions to welcome new arrivals as well as people in transit. In the light of these circumstances, transformative and cooperative models of urban change are vital, even more so when cities are struggling with the consequence of austerity.



Seminar "Urbanism: resilience, welcome and urban innovation" in Greece, May 2017

The seminar was opened by a panel on "EU and local policies for refugees: cities on the forefront". The first panel was followed by concrete experiences of policy makers at the local level such as the Deputy Mayor of the City of Thessaloniki and of the City of Rome. The closing session of the seminar "Actions and development programme in Thessaloniki" proposed new solutions and actions via exchanges at transnational level to the local Greek context. This provided participants with new alternatives and examples of good practices to tackle the matter.

Guide for Local Authorities

The path has published in 2017 a guide with recommendations titled "Good practice guide for Local Authorities engaging with migration and development".

This guide encourages LAs to collaborate among themselves, to join their resources and exchange knowledge and good practices to lobby national governments in order to encourage them to allocate more resources. It is concerning the immediate needs of the migration crisis but also about the long-term integration plan at the local level. The guide provides LAs with concrete ideas of networks they can join and good practices implemented by other LAs. The conclusion are 8 actions that can be taken by LAs:

1. Join an existing network or create a network;
2. Launch a national campaign, initiative or project;
3. Rate cities integration/diversity approach;
4. Develop a transnational project to address specific emerging issues;
5. Promote the regularisation, permanent residency and/or achievement of citizenship of migrants;
6. Enhance knowledge about the migration including its links with the wider global agenda for sustainable development;
7. Promote and support other initiatives by other actors within the city;
8. Develop a Strategy for integration and Migration management at local level.

Migration and development issues are multidimensional and require the participation of all the stakeholders in society. Change of practices depend a great deal on the good will of local actors.

- Citizens' Participation in development (Path 3)

In 2015, the members of the path, led by CEECN, decided to address the role of citizens in development by promoting the individual engagement in development issues, empowering ordinary citizens to take action, to become drivers for change and to inspire others while raising their voices. After previous actions during 2016, their work continued in 2017 with the engagement of citizens for development.



Participants and panellists at Citizen Participation University in Kumbabony, Hungary – 3-7 July 2017

Review

In July 2016 the path organized its Special Initiative in the framework of the Citizens Participation University in Hungary. The aim of the event was to increase citizen participation and engagement to have an impact and create a fairer society.

Letter to address the issue of Participatory Budgeting

As part of its advocacy actions to raise stakeholders' awareness, the Citizen Participation Path sent out a letter to Jean-Vincent Placé who is long-standing representative of the Île-de-France Regional Council at the European Committee of Regions, in order to address the issue of Participatory Budgeting (PB).

In the letter, which has been sent in May 2017, CEECN strongly advocated for the expansion of the scope of PB through measures aimed at encouraging broader acceptance of PB and initiate new PB projects in locations where they have not yet been tested. Amongst other recommendations, CEECN calls on Mr. Placé to initiate an own-initiative in his assembly of local and regional representatives that would: create a fund specifically for use of local authorities in PB processes; fund research, collection of best practices, and provide structural support for local authorities engaged in PB processes; increase funding for CSOs providing technical support to LAs wanting to implement PB.

Real Money. Real Power. Participatory Budgeting.

Thus far, European policy-makers have failed to recognize the immense significance of PB in building a participatory society, and it is imperative to change this course. No city is better positioned to drive forward the PB agenda in Europe than Paris, home to Europe's largest participatory budget. As a representative of the Regional Council, Mr. Placé should have a vested interest in pushing forward PB on a larger scale throughout Europe.

The letter is based on policy recommendations provided by several EU-based experts in the field of PB from July 2016 until the beginning of 2017. The entire input-gathering and consultation process was coordinated by CEECN and organisations that participated in the research include: Shared Future, PB Partners, Stocznia, Empatia Project and Centre for Social Studies at the University of Coimbra.

Given the diverse expertise of the research participants that put together the recommendations, the coalition serves as an important voice on the importance of expanding PB Europe-wide.

Citizen Participation University 2017

As in the previous year, the Citizens' Participation Path co-organized the "Citizens Participation University", hosted by the Civil College Foundation in Kumbabony (Hungary).



Workshop at CPU in Kumbabony, Hungary – 3-7 July 2017.

Aiming at inspiring the participants to have a concrete impact for a fairer world, this initiative organised several intensive sessions mixing theoretic panels and practical workshops. The multiple interactive sessions and group discussions developed during the 5-day event, gave participants the opportunity to discuss and share opinions regarding the importance of education for change. This event brought together citizens and professionals to learn from and with one another about civic engagement and local practices. Various learning labs gave also further insight into different topics such as social enterprise, culture and art for community building as well as empowerment of Roma communities.

During this CPU, the current political challenge that civil society faces in Hungary and Central Eastern Europe in general was highlighted. In the light of the difficult political background, the future of CPU and civil engagement was brought about.

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

In 2015, the path members coordinated by CIME 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 enhancing the cooperation between the public sector (including LAs) and the private sector (including CSOs). The stronger cooperation between these actors is meant to raise awareness on development while facilitating and increasing actions at the local level by private stakeholders.

Review

In October 2015 the path organized a workshop on LAs and SDGs in the framework of the 3rd World Local Economic Development Forum in Italy. The following year, the path implemented a workshop on the localisation of the SDGs, held in the framework of the European Development Days (EDDs) 15 June 2016.

Special Initiative: Public-Private Cooperation in Economic Development and Job Creation

The special initiative on "Public-Private Cooperation in Economic Development and Job Creation" was co-organized by the path leader CIME and took place in Rome from 22 to 24 of February 2017. The event explored a variety of issues in PPC, reflected on major critical features of cooperation and offered a platform to exchange best practices amongst participants.



Panelists at the Special Initiative: PPC in Economic Development and Job Creation

There is a wide agreement that a multi-layered, multi-stakeholders approach is a general goal. Systematic cooperation between all public and private actors in development policies is the single most important factor for their success. However, this objective is difficult to implement: the relevant stakeholders pursue different aims on different time horizons and therefore require a strong communication system as well as binding and enforceable agreements.

Bottom-up and top-down approaches to development may be partially successful; the issue is how to make them fully successful. From this standpoint, LAs as public entities legitimately representing communities of their respective territories are the most appropriate entity to reconcile these two approaches to development. In order to be able to

accomplish this task, they need to increase their capabilities, strategic awareness, communication skills etc. These are the main conclusions that emerged from the three-day event. Furthermore, participants debated and agreed on the role of businesses and the private sector.

The tangible results of this Special Initiative can be seen in the draft of two documents:

- The European Charter of Local Authorities for Public-Private Cooperation in Development and Job Creation;
- The Charter for Medium and Large Size Enterprises in International Cooperation. The Relevance of Corporate Social Responsibility.

These Charters have been submitted to institutional and non-institutional actors, as well as to LAs representatives to call for structural change in PPC. The workshop provided a better insight in the field of PPC and some tools to more effectively act within this field.

International workshop on PPC and Sustainable Tourism

A second initiative implemented by the PPC Path in 2017, was the international workshop “Public-Private Cooperation (PPC) and Sustainable Tourism” which took place in Cagliari from 12 to 14 July 2017. Co-organized by path leader CIME and by the Sardinia Region, the workshop’s main objective was to revise the properties of the tourism industry with regards to governance. The tourism sector requires an accurate cooperation model between different stakeholders and this can be considered especially true when taking into account the implementation of the SDGs.

The workshop discussed the tourism industry’s role in implementing SDGs. Panellists emphasized critical issues and opportunities for PPC in sustainable tourism. During the 2-day event there was an open debate about specific value chains in tourism – the discussion identified the role of PPC and of the Mediterranean European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-Border Cooperation (ENI CBC Med) as essential in fostering these chains.



Participants at the workshop organized by the PPC Path in Cagliari, Italy – 12-14 July 2017

Time was also spent on informal project planning/designing/management, using participatory tools to develop project ideas through the Goal Oriented Project Planning (GOPP) approach. This important part of the workshop provided the participants with mechanisms and know-how regarding successful implementation of projects.

This workshop has proved how the Path’s work builds networks

for further cooperation, as the participating organisations and local actors testified a strong interest and commitment to work together in the future. A strong interest in contributing to the implementation of the SDGs and to increase sustainable tourism through a multilayer and multi-stakeholder approach was stressed.

- Environmental and sustainable development (Path 5)

The main objective of this path is to foster resilient sustainable development in the framework of development education.

In 2015, the path coordinator Foster Europe and the members agreed that their priority is the promotion of sustainable and resilient development in order to face current environmental challenges and climate change. The path focuses on awareness raising through non-formal educational programs to promote a democratic answer, which can encompass all ages and areas of public life. This way they are advocating for a comprehensive response from the EU and its Member States, including the role of LAs and CSOs in that direction.



4th Danube Participation Day in Budapest, Hungary co-organized by Foster Europe - 17 October 2017.

Review

In 2015 the path sent a letter to national and EU stakeholders in light of the COP 21 in Paris, advocating for resilient sustainable development. In November 2016 the path implemented its Special Initiative in Slovakia on the context of the Danube Participation Day. 2016 saw these premises transforming into concrete actions through the implementation of the Path’s Special Initiative and some other actions related to advocacy. These actions have been pursued and finalized in 2017.

The 4th Danube Participation Day in the EU Danube Strategy



As in the previous year, the path leader Foster Europe co-organized and participated in the 4th EUSDR Danube Participation Days. This year's event took place the 17 October 2017 in Budapest (Hungary) under following title "Science meets Participation, Innovation and Sustainability – The agenda for Participation in EU Macro-Regional Strategies".



Speaker at 4th Danube Participation Day in Budapest, Hungary - 17 October 2017

The Danube Participation Day is the main meeting of Civil Society in the EU-Strategy for the Danube Region. This open format reunited once more experts and local representatives of regional organisations, institutions and networks representing civil society, academia and cities. It promotes exchange and cooperation of relevant stakeholders in the Danube Region with the aim of developing participatory, multi-level governance, supporting a stable and sustainable political, social and economic development of the region.

The focus of the Danube Participation Day 2017 was the presentation of the 'Participation Agenda' for local actors and Civil Society in the EU macro regional strategies. Five working groups focused on the conditions and challenges of implementing participation, good governance and sustainable development in research, social innovation, cohesion policy and inclusion in the EUSDR and other EU macro-regional strategies. Working Group II "Participation Partnership - Building Macro-Regional Strategies on local and multi-level governance" was guided by Foster Europe representative Mr Stefan Lütgenau and Mr Fabio Masini participated as representative of the PPC path of LADDER.

Conference on DEAR and Development Education

A second action carried out by this path was a conference on DEAR and development Education co-organized by Foster Europe, on behalf of the Environmental and Sustainable Development Path, and the Vienna Institute for Development Cooperation (VIDC).

This one-day conference which was held on 11th December 2017 focused on inclusive education and specifically dealt with SDG 4, 7. The conference discussed issues of inclusive education and its links to development education and awareness raising for pupils. The conference was not only addressing secondary schools but also the dual-educations system in Austria, targeting apprentices in retail, industry, and services. Target groups of the event were the members of the national and provincial parliaments dealing with development issues and education issues, civil society organisations dealing from the same realms, SME's active in fair trade and retailers

offering fair trade products, Social partners, the relevant Federal Ministries (Education, Foreign Affairs), the relevant bodies of the Austrian Education System (Landesschulräte), School-Directors, institutions for political education, Media, and the Austrian development Agency (ADA, co-financing).

- EYD2015 cooperation and follow up (Path 6)

In 2015, the Path's main focus was the promotion and dissemination of the European Year for Development 2015 (EYD2015) objectives, activities, parallel events and online platforms. Throughout 2016 and 2017, after the EYD2015 came to an end, the Path continued its actions on awareness raising focusing on the SDGs.

Review

In September 2015 the path sent a letter to Commissioner Timmermans on the implementation of SDGs at EU level. February 2016 a second letter to Mr Timmermans called for overarching strategy at the EU level for the implementation of the goals. In May 2016 the Special Initiative was implemented in France, covering the topic of capitalisation of the European Year for Development. The path also participated in the event "Next steps for sustainable European future: Reforming Europe – Implementing SDGs", July 2016. Lastly it joined the newly formed SDG Watch Europe alliance in Brussels, October 2016.



The working group continued to support the newly-established alliance "SDG Watch Europe". This cross-sectoral alliance of networks and large CSOs aims at promoting and advocating for the implementation of SDGs. It is a non-formal EU-alliance composed of more than 75 CSOs active in development, environment, social, human rights and more. The goal of this alliance is to hold governments accountable for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

2nd anniversary of the SDGs

The 25th September 2017 was the 2nd anniversary of the SDGs. LADDER took part in two actions in cooperation with SDG Watch Europe and Concord Europe.



Gathering at Schuman roundabout in Brussels for the 2nd anniversary of the SDGs, 25 September 2017.

Together with SDG Watch Europe, a large social media campaign was run, raising awareness on each SDG, ending with a gathering at Schuman Roundabout in Brussels next to a big pink elephant. The message was directly addressing EC President Juncker, encouraging him to include more the SDGs in European policies. SDGs are absolutely essential and, as the big pink elephant, cannot be hidden. The second campaign was run in cooperation with Concord Europe and consisted in the realisation of a video on people's wishes related to SDGs, and the responsibilities covered until now by the European Union on the issue. This was accompanied by a website with a list of recommendations which were sent to Mr Frans Timmermans, responsible for the implementation of SDGs at EU level. The video has been published online and can be found under #BlowTheCandle.



Have a look at the Blow the Candle out: SDG anniversary clicking on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7M6PXGv17ZI>

6th Scenario: Sustainable Europe for its citizens

Another advocacy action LADDER endorsed within this path is the sixth scenario advocating for a sustainable future for Europe's citizens. European Commission President Juncker released a "White Paper On the Future Of Europe" which presents five scenarios for how the Union could evolve by 2025 depending on how it chooses to respond to the actual situation. SDG Watch Europe replies to this by presenting an alternative sixth scenario which puts environmental and social wellbeing at the core of a future European scenario. The scenario stresses the European necessity to put sustainability,

well-being of its peoples and care for the environment at its heart. It continues by remarking that Europe should reinforce these values by an ambitious implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, fulfilling the Paris Climate Agreement and leading the global transformation to a truly inclusive development model and a fossil free economy. Additionally, it points out that public money spent by the EU should be used for the public good and people and civil society organisations should be closer to policy making, have access to information and justice and be in a position to hold decision-makers accountable. The scenario stressed how the SDG Watch Alliance wants to create ownership and rekindle trust, for current and future generations, in a Europe where well-being within planetary boundaries, social justice, decent jobs, equity and human rights are leading principles.

Special Initiative: From Local to Global: Migration's Challenge with Civilization

In the framework of the EYD2015 path and in cooperation with the Migration Path leader SOS Malta, MMU organized a one-day conference "From Local to Global: Migration's Challenge with Civilization" which took place 16th November 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey.



Photo exhibition on the topic of migration at the occasion of the conference in Istanbul, 16 November 2017

The conference discussed policies and practices in the light of the mass migration and humanitarian crisis. Three sessions addressed local, national and regional levels of action. In the first session representatives of Turkish municipalities shared their experience on the growing role of Turkish local authorities in social cohesion of urban refugees. Furthermore, speakers from different countries analysed the current situation on regional scale and shared their knowledge and experiences regarding migration at the regional level in Turkey. The conference was also attended by Turkish representatives of CSOs and central administrations who contributed to a session on "Management of Migration Flows: Best Practices About Reception and Integration of Migrants in Turkey", sharing their actions and practices at the national level. Part of the event was also a photo exhibition by Mr Mustafa Kocakoç on migrants and refugees.

Voices from the Geographical and Thematic Path Coordinators:

“LADDER opened doors to a new approach in regional development by introducing and combining development education an awareness rising with regional development and the aspect of participation of civil society. In the realm of WP5 “Sustainable Development” potential for cooperation and synergies to be tapped were manifold. Not least LADDER introduced a network of decent partners to us.”

“LADDER enabled us flying in the DEAR space and landing in the LA-NGO global solidarity reality-check. Being part of LADDER project was a very useful experience for building efficient network in South East Europe countries for more connected and active citizenship on the local levels.”

“Coordinating the Thematic Path on Public-Private Cooperation within the Ladder Project was a wonderful, thought-provoking experience, that brought together national governments, LAs, NGOs and private firms to discuss topics of sustainable development, enhancement of human capital, innovative new jobs.”

“Ladder has been a journey of learning, networking and collaboration towards common goals. Working together with NGOs, academics, local government and others has brought fruitful discussion and an ability to tackle the subject from different perspectives and bring together different needs and opinions into a common working approach and successful outcomes in the migration path in particular.”

“Coordinating the Youth in development Path of LADDER project was challenging, eye-opening and inspiring experience! A great initiative bringing together professionals and volunteers in development education to find common solutions for a better future for all.”

“Working on the LADDER project was one of the most learning experiences I have been involved with. The concept of DEAR seemed quite abstract but through the activities of this effort, it became very real and meaningful for me and many civil society activists.”



Citizen Participation University in Kumbabony, Hungary – 3-7 July 2017

2.4 SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS

The 4th dimension of the project is the support of grassroots actions and citizen-driven activities related to Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR). After the very successful implementation of a Slogan competition in 2015 and 2016, 2017 saw the continuation of the Citizen Journalist initiative as well as its training and the implementation of the Regranting Scheme action.

Citizens' journalists

After its launch in 2016, the network of citizen journalists coming from all the partner countries of the project and beyond, grew in 2017. Following the considerable success of the Slogan competition (which was instead launched in 2015 and gathered more than 750 proposals), the Citizen Journalists Initiative provides an opportunity for citizens to have their say with respect to global issues and be supported at a wider level. The network involved non-professional journalists and ordinary citizens who, on a voluntary basis, wish to write, report, and share their opinions and concerns on global development topics.



Citizen journalists' articles were published on the LADDER website in 6 sub-categories: poverty & development, climate & energy, tolerance & inclusion, citizens' participation, engagement of public & private sector and local actions for global impact. With this in mind, the network was developed in order to stimulate debate on development education and to raise awareness on development issues.



CJs with their certificates after the completion of the CJ-training in Strasbourg, 21 November 2017.

In total, the initiative identified 60 CJs coming from the different countries covered by the project, but also others (Philippines, Ethiopia, etc.). The initiative provided the writers with a platform to share their views and opinions on different matters, related to one of the six subthemes. The contributions received add a local perspective to global issues, the authors provide solutions or criticize local practices that are linked to the global scale. Eventually, over 130 articles have been published on the platform that call for readers' critical engagement. The following is a selection of extracts from different articles:

Poverty & Development

Title: No more Poverty Porn

Author: Ana Maria Ilie

Link: <http://www.ladder-project.eu/?p=16030>



"What does "Poverty Porn" mean? Is any type of media – written, photography, film – that exploits the state of the poor to generate sympathy, to collect charitable donations or support for a particular cause. [...] As Emily Roenigk reveals in her work and articles – there is a problem with the way we represent the poor in our media, exploiting their condition and even their suffering for financial gain. As we often do with the objectification of women, we need to pause and ask ourselves whether it is ethical to depict the graphic qualities of a human being to Western audiences for the sole purpose of eliciting an emotional experience and ultimately, money. This way, poverty porn takes shape and it does almost nothing to address the real structural problem of poverty. [...] Showing children and moms in a very bad look, but intentionally searching for that in order to impress and raise awareness it's really damaging and gives not an accurate image of the situation. In addition, encourage and enforce stereotypes about certain parts of the world and about people. In order to raise funds about different humanitarian causes there can be a different approach with focus on campaigns that respect human rights and the people's dignity, where the context is very clear presented and the protagonists can speak for themselves. For instance, follow the Golden/Rusty Radiator Awards where there are shown positive ways of collecting funds and emphasizing on the effects of the poverty porn approach."

Climate & Energy

Title: Housing I – Madrid

Author: Irene Vivas Lalinde

Link: <http://www.ladder-project.eu/?p=15420>



"The European Union has become a champion of clean energies and demonstrates it in strategies such as Europe 2020[1] aiming at reducing greenhouse gas emissions 20% lower than in 1990, having 20% of energy from renewables and increasing 20% in energy efficiency. Sounds good, right? People like Juan, the interviewee, constitute a part of the society which moves from theory into action. Unfortunately, the political "climate" in Spain is not favourable to these changes and makes it even harder for aware citizens to avoid the normal channels that protect the interests of oligopolies. Juan Manuel was waiting for me under the porch of his magnificent house. After half of his life in South America and the US, he is now retired and installed on the outskirts of Madrid. [...] Once his wife Simona and he came back to Europe, they decided to invest their savings in a beautiful and sustainable – economically, as well- house to live with their two daughters. [...] First of all, the couple bought a solar with a proper North – South orientation: closing the north and opening the south wall through several terraces. Then, they isolated the walls, prepared the outer sheath for solar panels and installed a radiant floor in order to be energy efficient and avoid the involuntary loss of heat or cold. [...] Later on, Juan decided to change the energetic system from a diesel-powered boiler to an aerothermical system [2] (reducing 3 or 4 times the electricity bill) [...]. Juan Manuel and Sami, as their friends call her, two people trying to live the European dream and showing that this fight between the EU strategy and our State apparatus must come to an end. 29, 3 % of the CO2 [5] emissions in the European Union come from the energy supply and this won't change if we help the energy sector

to keep its benefits rather a citizen, village or enterprise to be auto sufficient.”

[1]http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

[2] The Aerothermia is one of the most unknown renewable energies in the world. [5]<http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/greenhouse-gas-emission-trends-6/assessment>

Tolerance & Inclusion

Title: Shocking lack of insight into Danish slave trade

Author: Sarah Nipper

Link: <http://www.ladder-project.eu/?p=16599>



“I have in my 18-year-long-life never really made the acquaintance of the Virgin Islands, or the Danish West Indies as the islands were called a 100 years ago, when they were still under Denmark’s control. [...] In a fundamentally free society as the one we have in Denmark, it sounds inconceivably in many ways that we as a country have been promoting something as frightening as slavery. Nevertheless, this is a reality we have to respond to. For our Danish ancestors to earn a great deal of money on the sugar trade, they had to invent the Triangular Trade, which, among other things, involved the transatlantic slave trade from the Gold Coast in Africa to the Danish West Indies. [...] In week 16, some of the second-grade classes at our high school, Rødkilde Gymnasium, had a feature week in the subjects, history and English. The course went under the name TST – Transatlantic Slave Trade – with the motto “Breaking the Silence”. The purpose of the course was to create knowledge about the slavery and to end today’s ignorance towards the slaves’ influence on the economy of the present time. [...] The memory and the communication of such information are the key of TST, which is a part of the academic goals that the UNESCO-schools have set up. The schools are a part of the world-wide network that intends to put global problems on the agenda. The entire course has been a huge eye-opener to me and my fellow students, and we have all extended our horizon by getting an insight into the faith that our ancestors have laid on the slaves of the Danish West Indies. [...] I share her frustrations on the area in many ways, and I believe that there should be a reformation of the way, we talk about history in Denmark. We have to remember, why there is something called colonial produce, and why there on various coffee-packaging are pictures of hardworking dark-complexioned people.”

Citizens’ Participation

Title: Kasserine, art & freedom

Author: Shady Rabhi

Link: <http://www.ladder-project.eu/?p=18076>



“It’s nice to dream, and within dreams we look for what we are not able to find in reality. And through imagination we start getting inspired, giving birth to art. Art is the tool we use to express ourselves, to love, to move, to protest, to make things happen. In Kasserine, my hometown in Tunisia, many youngsters chose art as the most powerful weapon: photography, theatre, poetry, movie making, rap... they are all tools to fight and to try to improve our reality by denouncing violence, corruption, inequality, pollution, and many other issues affecting our society. This movement is having completely unexpected results: it is diffusing and developing a structured, unified and powerful network, which is able to address needs, messages and ambitions of youngsters – a mission that the political class is totally missing and ignoring. Ghawth Zorgui is a 28-year-old guy native from Kasserine, drama teacher at the college of Cité Ennour. Drama is a subject seldom taught in the region. And Ghawth

is among those young dreamers who decided to further follow their passion. He understood that his mission in Kasserine is crucial, and that by teaching drama and spreading out the importance of art and theatre he can help youngsters in facing all forms of injustice they are surrounded by. Among difficulties and challenges encountered by Ghawth and other artists, the worst is the absence of cultural spaces. [...] Step by step, this cultural space improved, and citizens started feeling the presence of a cultural life in Kasserine. From this story, we learnt that the change is possible if there is the will to cut off discrimination and dictatorship ghosts, who kill our culture and freedom of expression.”

Engagement of public & private sector

Title: Guess what? Time’s changed

Author: Eleonora Mandelli

Link: <http://www.ladder-project.eu/?p=15533>



“Time has passed since we considered the State as our main interlocutor. [...] Nowadays, we are contributing towards taking tremendous steps backwards not only with public spending cuts, but also with meeting necessities: the Welfare State, as we know it, is no longer able to guarantee the same benefits as before, and there is the urgency to reformulate its central role. The Private Sector has already moved towards this direction, demolishing the old perception of a ‘natural’ contrast with the Public Sector and providing citizens with services typically perceived as governments’ territory only (from unemployment, to healthcare and housing). The book “Solution Revolution”[2] gives plenty of collaboration examples, especially highlighting the birth of a new entrepreneurs’ category who do not see profit as the main incentive, but as a means to sustain long-term objectives for social purposes. As for citizens, they are finding ways to solve everyday problems[3] with low-cost solutions and by taking advantage of existing channels (yes, I am talking about the well-known Sharing and Collaborative Economies); and what we can sense from our surroundings is the already-emerged will of greater inclusion in decision-making processes and more empowerment at local levels. Time seems to suggest a shift from the passive and classic ‘care receiver’ to a more active ‘care solver’, in which deep interest from the general public finds its expression in taking direct action.”

[2] William D. Eggers, Paul Macmillan, The Solution Revolution: How Business, Government, and Social Enterprises Are Teaming Up to Solve Society’s Toughest Problems (2013)

[3] For further readings see Chiara Camponeschi Enabling city volume 1 and 2

Local Actions for Global Impact

Title : The 5 Euros electricity bill

Author : Hasan Haj

Link: <http://www.ladder-project.eu/?p=16019>



“My awareness towards taking care of our planet increased in July 2015, when I watched an Arabic program named “Khawater”, translated as reflections. [...] Since then I managed to get to a 5 Euros electricity bill for 2 months. This small amount came as a shock for people I told about it. Even the bank cashier was surprised and asked me if I live with candles. My answer was that I don’t live with candles. I simply use only what I need. All plugs are off when I’m not home. And when I am home, only one lamp is on. I am simply taking more care to turn off everything I don’t need. Since that bill, I’m sharing the story of it with people. Once we had a public speaking workshop and we needed to prepare 2 minutes speech at the end of it. I spoke, of course, about my 5 Euros

electricity bill. I was amazed that when I finished, many people reached out to me and said they will start to pay attention to small things and turn off everything that is not needed. [...] I don't think that we all should get 5 Euro electricity bills, but I am sure that we all can decrease our bills and cut costs, and, more important, reduce our consumption to take care of our planet. If someone will decrease 10 Euros from her or his bill – it is only 10 Euros, but if 1 million people will decrease with 10 Euros, its 10,000,000 Euros worth of electricity that can be used in the future for things we actually need. Never underestimate the power of individuals in making a difference.”

Training of Citizen Journalists on Communication and Journalism

A selection of the best 18 CJs has been invited to participate in a training about media and journalism in relation to sustainable development.

The CJs who were given the great opportunity to participate in this training, had been selected on the ground of 5 criteria:

- Commitment - number of articles published
- Quality of the articles
- Relevance of the article with the DEAR thematic
- Variety of topics taken into account
- Constancy in work

The CJ-Training took place from 19-21 November 2017 in Strasbourg, France. The participants were introduced to the ethics of journalism and how to use social media more efficiently in order to promote their work. This was also the opportunity for the participants to build a network among themselves that goes beyond LADDER and will keep alive this action of the project afterwards.



Citizen Journalists at the Training in Strasbourg, 19-21 November 2017

RE-GRANTING SCHEME: GRASSROOTS ACTIONS ON DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

In 2017 the second round of the Re-granting Scheme (also known as sub-grants) was implemented. As in the previous year, the goal of this initiative is to support grassroots organisations. In other words, local institutions are supported in the development of local projects that address core issues related to development education that can contribute to the LADDER's mission.

This second call for proposal was launched with the objective of supporting micro projects with concrete and specific results, which contribute to raise public awareness on development issues. In addition to this, the proposals anchored development policy in the local communities whilst supporting citizens' active engagement in global attempts to eradicate poverty, and promote justice, human rights, and sustainable ways of living.



Re-granting project 'Common future through development education' implemented by RAM Central Stara Planina (Bulgaria) – June to October 2017

The supported projects represent a source of inspiration and examples for citizens, NGOs and LAs, generating constructive and result-oriented activities. These projects could foresee several different actions such as: exchange events, training events, networking building activities, information campaigns, raising awareness activities, exchange of good practices (e.g. visits, meetings, etc...), thematic seminars, workshops, exhibitions, youth activities, working camps and other voluntary activities, publications of manuals, leaflets, audio-visual productions, creative and cultural activities, etc.

During the first round of call for proposals in 2016, 23 winning projects were supported. Once more the 2017 call for proposals was very successful and several inspiring ideas and proposals were received by the Consortium. As many as 50 winning projects have been implemented in 2017.



Re-granting Project 'Butterfly Effect' implemented by Associação para o Planeamento da Família (Portugal) – August to October 2017

























The overall outcome of the two-year Re-granting scheme is the implementation of 73 inspiring projects in 25 EU member states. Almost 1 million citizens have been reached in total through direct participation in activities or dissemination via online media, radio airing, posters etc. In order to share this far-reaching initiative, a video has been created in cooperation with LADDER's cultural partner Progettarte:

























Have a look at it, following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXJ-Cjk9Grs>

A handbook containing detailed information of all 73 Re-granting projects, the name of the organisation and the activities implemented, was produced. For more information and to download the complete online version visit LADDER's website.

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ASSOCIATION
Bulgaria	"Orbit: education for development: for future, growth, tolerance & activity"	Gabrovo Municipality
Bulgaria	"Youth Eco Forum for Sustainable Development"	Isperih Municipality
Croatia	"YEAH! – Youth Employment in Agriculture and Health promotion"	Dalmatian association of organic producers DALMATIA EKO
Croatia	"The Recycling September in Natura 2000 area"	Town of Garesnica
Denmark	"Girls have rights too"	Somali Women's Organization in Denmark (SWOD)
Denmark	"Thirsty"	Abdinasir Jama FARIID
Estonia	"Development education in Estonian rural schools"	Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation
Germany	"The Climate Breakfast"	Kontaktstelle fuer und Entwicklung (KATE) e.V.
Greece	"EchoCitizen: awareness campaign on the impact of noise on the health children and teenager"	SD MED Observation planning and Eco-innovation
Greece	"Drugs and SDGs – policies for development and harm reduction"	Diogenis NGO
Ireland	"The WEAR Project"	The National Collective of Community-based Women's networks – Donegal Women's Network
Ireland	"Feile Dochas project"	Amazing Grace initiative
Italy	"Citizens Together for a Global Citizenship"	MUSOCO
Italy	"Displaced visions"	COSPE
Latvia	"Increasing Public Awareness about global development issues through the prism of waste sorting"	Municipality of Auce
Latvia	"Development education activities in Jekabpils local county municipality, through communication"	Municipality of Jekabpils
Netherlands	"Open the Treasury"	Stichting Fairtrade Gemeente Nederlande
Poland	"The Beauty of Diversity – a short guide to tolerance"	Association for Artistic Initiatives at School no 1 in Lubicz
Poland	"The development of entrepreneurship in rural areas through the creation of local food processing incubators"	Zegrzynskie Lake Local Action Group (LAG)
Romania	"Global Santa Klaus"	APDRDCT – Association for Rural Sustainable Development and Traditions
Slovakia	"Zvolen separates waste"	NGO CEPTA
Slovakia	"We work locally, we think globally"	OW Slatinka
Spain	"Exhibition The Syrian Exodus: Fighting for survival."	Fons Pitius de Cooperacio

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ASSOCIATION
Bulgaria 	"Less is more!"	Municipality of Sandanski
Bulgaria 	"Common future through development education"	Regional Association of Municipalities Central Stara Planina
Croatia 	"So young, so equal"	Network of Associations Zagor
Croatia 	"Kupa Natura II- sustaining natural wealth of river Kupa from spring to delta"	Association for promotion of Culture of Living "Zvono uz Kupu" (ZUK)
Croatia 	"Eco toy library Sibenik"	Ecological Association Krka Knin
Croatia 	"Prepared for Climate Change (PCC)"	Student Association of educational science "Futuri Magistri"
Czech Republic 	Migrant Woman Among Us	SIMI
Czech Republic 	"Students Agora 2017"	Agora CE o.p.s.
Denmark 	"SALAAM Filmfestival"	SALAAM Film & Dialog
Finland 	"Empowering young people to active citizenship"	Taksvarkki Ry
France 	"A tool box for the Tandem Solidaires"	CERCOOP
Greece 	"ACCELERATE"	Association of parents & guardians of persons with disability, Fthiotidas
Greece 	"PROMETHEANS Intergenerational Net for Community Wellbeing"	Municipal Theatre of Marathon (DITHEMA)
Greece 	"Hate Free Larissa"	Youthnet Hellas
Hungary 	"Think Global, Act local"	Okotars
Ireland 	"Art, Earth, Environment."	Courses@Cluain na dTor
Ireland 	"Sharing Stories: Creative methodologies for global justice"	Galway One World Centre
Ireland 	"ECO-Inshowen (Educate Change Organise)"	Inshowen Development Partnership
Ireland 	"Sustainable Communities Planning"	Lisdoonvarna Tidy Towns
Ireland 	"Perspectives on the Goals"	Westside Resource Centre CLG
Ireland 	"Youth for Peace (YFP)"	Wezesha
Italy 	"Local partnership for Global Change"	Equo Garantito
Italy 	"Education to responsible choices (ESC)"	Leonardo Consorzio di cooperative sociali - societa cooperative sociale ONLUS
Italy 	"Global Minds for Global society"	ESTà

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ASSOCIATION
Italy 	"GlobalEdu"	Marche Solidali – Coordinamento delle organizzazioni marchigiane di cooperazione e solidarietà internazionale
Latvia 	"Get involved!"	Jelgava Local Municipality
Latvia 	"Sustainable development education in Kekava"	Local Action Group (LAG): Association "Partnership Daugavkrasts"
Latvia 	"Water- the beginning, the existence and continuation."	Rucava County Council
Lithuania 	"Youth Awareness raising about UN SDGs till 2030: the Youth of SDGs' 30"	NGDO Platform
Lithuania 	"Raising awareness on global development issues in Lithuania"	LITDEA
Malta 	"Recycling pallets"	Birgu youth club
Malta 	"Being chameleon"	Ghaqda Filarmonika Prince of Wales Own
Malta 	"Different races, culture - come closer"	Ghaqda Piroteknika 10 ta' Awwissu
Malta 	"Circular economy"	SIT foundation
Poland 	"Act locally, think globally!"	Association "Better Community Czerwonak"
Poland 	"Youth Association for Sustainable Development of Długosiodło Municipality"	Federation for Education Initiatives
Poland 	"The activation of rural community through organizing of social initiatives."	LKS Burzyn
Portugal 	"Projeto Efeito Borboleta (Butterfly Effect Project)"	Associação para o Planeamento da Família
Slovakia 	"Learning Global through Local"	Academia Istropolitana Nova (AINova),
Slovakia 	"Active citizens and LA's working for a greener neighbourhood"	Center for community organising (CKO)
Slovakia 	"Time for more tolerance"	Center for community organising (CKO)
Slovakia 	"Throug minorities against extremism"	Krajanský inštitút
Slovenia 	"Spoznaj svojo hrano! (Get to know your food)"	HUMANITARNO DRUŠTVO ADRA SLOVENIJA,
Slovenia 	"Strengthening the role of LAs in Slovenia in Tax Justice related to development issues"	Ekvilib
United Kingdom 	INVOKE School Conference to Inspire Vocations and Opportunities for Knowledge Exchange (INVOKE)	COCO
United Kingdom 	"Biosphere Citizen Bridges: Citizens as partners towards sustainable development within UNESCO Biosphere Reserves"	Assist Social Capital CIC

Latvia, Rucava County Council “Water- the beginning, the existence and continuation.”

Rucava County Council wants to protect the local Baltic Sea area. The project’s aim is therefore to raise awareness on environment pollution of the sea. In the end a movie should be produced by citizens and film makers.



Greece, SD MED Observation planning and Eco-innovation “EchoCitizen: awareness campaign on the impact of noise on the health children and teenager”

The project aims at involving all stakeholders in meetings regarding Health and Noise in the city of Athens. The aim is to guarantee the protection of young children from Noise, raise awareness at the grassroots level on the problematic of noise.



Poland, Association Better Community Czerwonak “Act locally, think globally!”

The aim of the project is to raise public awareness of global development issues and promote development education and active involvement in local issues, which also have a global dimension. Informal trainings are organized to reach that goal.



Czech Republic, SIMI “Migrant Woman Among Us”

The project focuses on migrant women in the Czech Republic. Empowering them and increasing awareness of the inequalities that exist especially for migrant women. This is done through several events and workshops.



Ireland, Wezsha “Youth for Peace (YFP)”

This youth project aimed at raising awareness among youth in Ireland, dealing with violence prevention and SDGs. It discussed causes and effects of global war and conflict that led to the migration crisis. Through sensitization it promotes the notion of global citizenship, peace and inclusive society.



Denmark, FARIID “Thirsty”

The purpose is to gather knowledge on the global issues of water and sanitation matters, to share and tackle them with different NGOs. Citizens were engaged with a solidarity walk on where information stops gave opportunity to discuss and reflect. Eventually, the project ended with a ceremony with information on droughts and water problems around the world.



2.5 CREATIVE COMPONENT

After having participated in different LADDER events and meetings in 2015, the partner in charge of the creative component of the project (Progettarte), created a theatre play that serves as a tool for development education, awareness raising and mutual understanding. Based on the DEAR and LADDER approach Mr Zarzana, President of Progettarte, wrote the play "In a better world". After two initial performances in 2016, the play truly started its Europe tour in 2017 with nine further representations. Approximately 700 spectators in eight different countries have attended the play.



Cast of pianist, actresses and singer after performance in Almada, Portugal – 25 May 2017

- Paris, France 11 May 2016
- Modena, Italy 27 November 2016
- Majorca, Spain 15 March 2017
- Tours, France 17 March 2017
- Palermo, Italy 05 April 2017
- Torun, Poland 11 May 2017
- Almada, Portugal 25 May 2017
- Mostar, Bosnia 6 September 2017
- Vienna, Austria 23 September 2017
- Belgrade, Serbia 10 October 2017
- Strasbourg, France 21 November 2017

The theatre performance is a key component of the LADDER project since it represents an opportunity to raise citizens' awareness through the universal language of art, music and theatre. "In a better world" is a choral performance which mixes lyrics, poems, chant and music to make its audience aware of global issues. The story is about a young migrant woman who tragically loses her love on her trip to Europe, but saves the lives of two little children. The play deals in a unique way with the ever-current topic of refugees and migration, giving it a hopeful dimension. It invites the audience to reflect on this humanitarian tragedy and invokes engagement for tolerance and human rights. Two videos that are solely about LADDER's objectives and activities, open and close the performances, leaving the audience inspired for further actions and individual involvement.



Singer Eleonora Mazzotti during the performance in Palermo, Italy – 05 April 2017

Music takes a central role in the play, several songs performed during the play have been specifically composed for the project and are accompanied by piano compositions. The key component music, alternates throughout the play with movingly acted parts. At one point these two elements - music and acting - merge and create a special duet between singer and actress.



Eleonora Mazzotti and Elena Polic Greco at performance in Belgrade, Serbia – 10-12 October 2017

"In a better world" was not only so successful because it used the universal language of art to deal with burning issues, but the play was also translated and performed in 4 languages: Italian, English, French and Spanish. That way lyrics and poems could convey the message in different mother tongues, the messages gain access to a broader audience.



Poster announcing the performance in Vienna, Austria – 23 September 2017

The Audience

Each event represents an occasion to reflect on topics such as human rights, tolerance and equality. Throughout the play, the audience is provided with a message of hope and peace, encouraging dialogue between refugees and the receiving society. The performances are the moments when artists have the opportunity to reach out to the public. These valuable encounters always represented an opportunity for citizens and artists to have informal discussions, share experiences and opinions on this global matter that concerns us all. Many spectators felt the need after the play to go and exchange with the artists, which is the initial aim of the play: engage critical thinking.

Voices from the audience:

“La storia è molto toccante e la cosa più impressionante è che tratta la nostra realtà.”

“It was really amazing. The voice of the singer was great and the story was really touching.”

The play is really able to express DEAR!
I really like it.... I love it!

“In a better world is really about the topic of the day. Migration is really all over the world and the play passed on the message in a strong and effective way!”

“Coinvolgente!”

“La pièce théâtrale parle de fraternité, amitié, respect de l’autre, éducation... qui est en fait la thématique de LADDER. La pièce théâtrale a enrichi le projet ! On a fait des training, focus group et autre chose mais le théâtre c’est une autre façon de passer notre message.”



The audience of In a better world in Palermo, Italy - 5 April 2017

Storybook

Based on the play, a storybook has been created which illustrates the entire process and implementation of the play. It comments on the synergy which art and development education create, explains the birth of the play and gives insight into methodologies. It also includes personal experiences of the team members who were directly involved in the play: art director, actresses, musicians, assistants. Photos of the different performance illustrate the storybook.

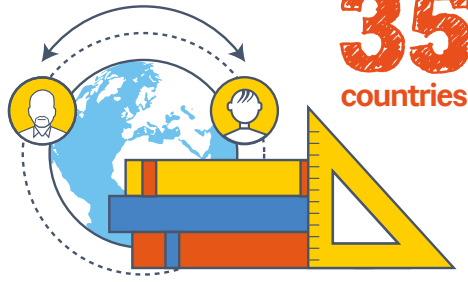
LADDER RESEARCH



SURVEY

TO MEASURE THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DEAR & SDGs AROUND EUROPE

1268
LAs & CSOs



PRACTICAL GUIDES



26 WAYS TO TURN YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY MORE SUSTAINABLE - 4 THEMATIC AREAS: ENERGY & TRANSPORT; FOOD & ENVIRONMENT; SUSTAINABLE & INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT; EXISTING BEST PRACTICES & INITIATIVES



32 WAYS YOU CAN CHANGE THE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE FOOTPRINT



MAPPING STAKEHOLDERS

MAPPING OF INSTITUTIONAL AND NON-INSTITUTIONAL ACTORS DEALING WITH DEAR

109 non-institutional actors

33 institutional actors



GLOSSARY

58

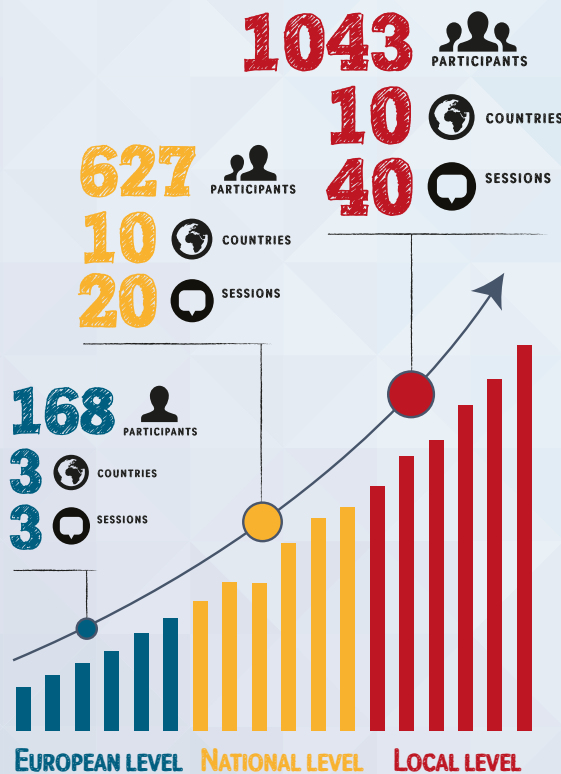
WORDS about DEAR



LADDER CAPACITY BUILDING



TRAININGS



LADDER'S TOOL FAIR



FOCUS GROUPS



JOB SHADOWING



SDGs WORKSHOP



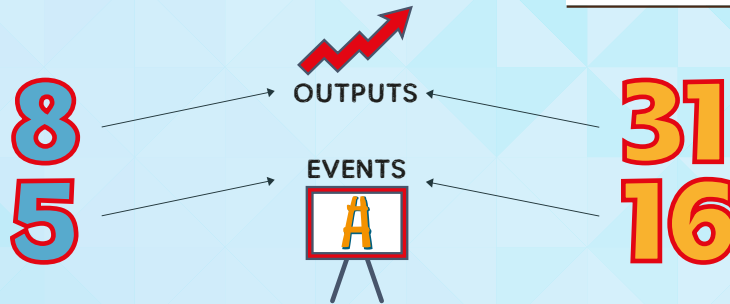
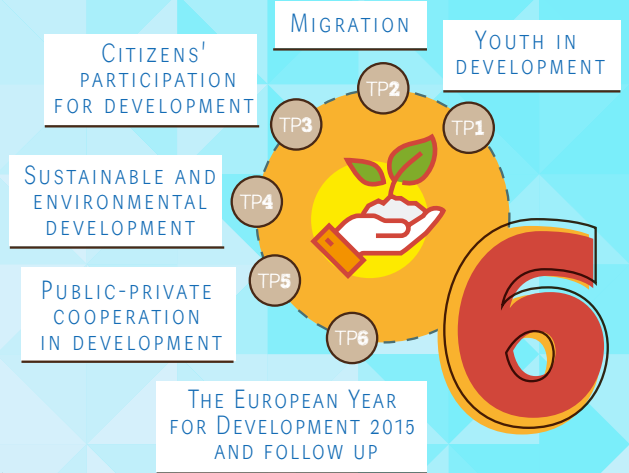
LADDER ADVOCACY



GEOGRAPHIC PATHS



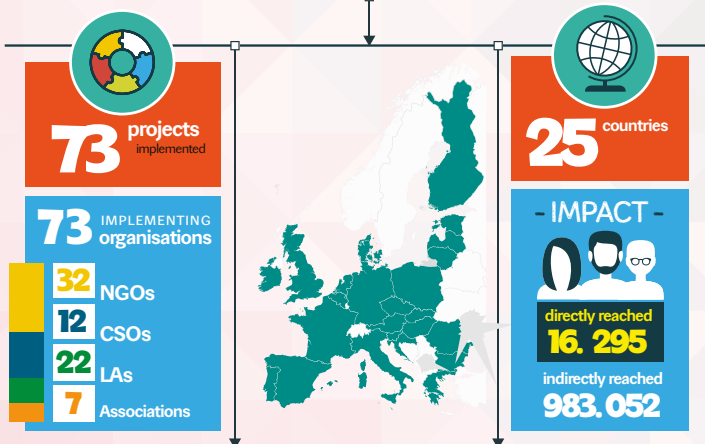
THEMATIC PATHS



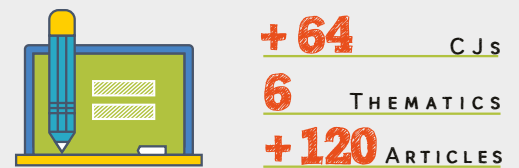
LADDER SUPPORT TO GRASS-ROOT ACTIONS & CITIZENS



REGRANTING SCHEME ACTIONS



CITIZEN JOURNALISTS NETWORK



SLOGAN COMPETITION



ABOUT





THEATRE PLAY "IN A BETTER WORLD"



theme

human rights and tolerance

plot

A young refugee woman crossing the sea for a better life in Europe. On the tragic journey she loses her partner but **saves two children**. She **brings them safely to Europe** where they can live safely.



goal

raise awareness on DEAR and migration



“

EVERY NEW BEGINNING
COMES FROM SOME OTHER
BEGINNING'S END

”

Seneca

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