

With the support of



ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

**ACTIVITIES 2001**

**WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT**

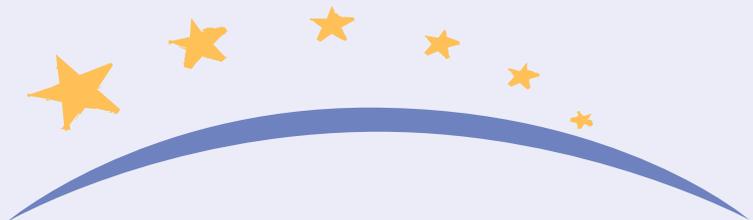
# Strengthening the regional dimension of the Programme of Local Democracy Agencies

Rinaldo LOCATELLI Executive Director of the Congress

Promoting the regional dimension within the network of the Local Democracy Agencies (LDA) has become an important task of the LDA Association, which was created under the auspices of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in 1999. Thanks to the generous contribution of the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, the Irish Government and the “Local Government Initiative”, nine Agencies in four South Eastern European countries initiated in the year 2000 activities that aimed at promoting mutual exchanges within the LDA network and consolidate the work that had already be done in the LDA host municipalities in South East Europe.

The Council of Europe, on the other hand, has continued to promote confidence-building measures in the area and, thanks to the support of the Congress, the development of local democracy in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” through the LDA network. These many activities will be complementary to other Congress initiatives aiming at promoting the role of national associations of local authorities in the regions and the setting-up of partnership between European towns, regions and non-governmental organisations, in the framework of the Stability Pact.

The Congress expresses its gratitude to the work carried out so far by the LDA Association and very much encourage it to pursue its goals that will contribute to enhance local democracy, the development of civil society, intercultural dialog and transborder co-operation.



The local Democracy Agencies of the Council of Europe and their Association which I have the honor to chair are here following described. I don't think that it is necessary of a specific presentation since the reader will be able to discover – in the following pages - immediately their importance, results and successes. However, an general overview about the whole programme might be useful.

The tragic events in former-Yugoslavia during the 90s brought to its dismantling and to the institution of new States, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia and the new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Immediately the Council of Europe and, first of all, its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (institution which represent local authorities of 43 member States) were facing a fundamental issue of that situation. Beside the moral reconstruction that will be needed in the countries affected by the war, it was urgent to tackle another task, maybe less visible but also more relevant: the civil, democratic, moral and cultural reconstruction.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities considered as a crucial challenge to work, from the bottom, together with the communities, to bring the new States and their societies towards democratic institutions, autonomy and respect of human rights and minorities, inter-ethnic and interreligious dialogue, political and civic education of young people, pluralism of media and information. The initiative was meant to be undertaken from the lowest institutional levels, closes to the citizens – namely the municipalities and other local authorities.

In order to make concrete this challenge, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities promoted the establishment of Local Democracy Agencies, according to procedures which are described in the following pages and with the mandate mentioned above.

We now have 10 Agencies and the needed co-ordination is provided by the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies.

The Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities support from a political and financial point of view these activities. The LDAs are also supported by the local authorities and the NGOs which understood the necessity to make concrete, with different forms of partnership, their solidarity for pursuing the goals of the LDAs. Other prestigious institutions – national and European – gave their precious support to the Association.

Which results ?The reader could make his own opinion but I am convinced that – without being considered exaggerate – if the LDAs would not exist, it will be urgent to let them exist! In fact, their strengthening and their enlargement – LDAs outside of the Balkans are under consideration – and the number of partnerships are the evidence of this success.

All of this will not be possible without the support of the Council of Europe and its Congress of Local and Regiona Authorities, without the political and financial support of the host cities of the LDAs, without the statutory organs of the Association and its Executive Secretary and without whom – in different manners – has been close to our work..

I would like to thank deeply all of them and to express them the gratitude of the citizens who benefit from the constant support of the LDAs.

# ASSOCIATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

A network of local and regional authorities, active partners in international relations for the promotion of local democracy.

The network of the Local Democracy Agencies is dedicated to:

- promote practical initiatives to consolidate democracy at local level;
- foster institution building at local level through exchange of know-how and training of local elected representatives and administrators;
- develop a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to respect for human and minority rights;
- foster the development of a civil society in which all sections of the community participate;
- promote intercultural dialogue;
- promote the respect of human rights.



*inauguration of the LDA in Niksic (FRY-Montenegro)*

*11th of May 2001*

**Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and the Association of LDAs are instruments at the disposal of local and regional authorities that contribute, as effectively as possible, to the local development in South and Eastern Europe.**

**THE ASSOCIATION OF LDAs**

The Association was set up in December 1999 at the initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the LDA partners.

It is composed of representatives from all participants in LDA networks: the Council of Europe, the CLRAE, partner towns and regions, LDA host towns, LDA Delegates, partner NGOs and, generally speaking, all individuals and institutions interested or involved in LDA projects.

- It co-ordinates the overall LDA activities.

- It contributes to the fundraising and the development of common projects.

- It provides LDAs and Delegates with technical and administrative support.

- It can receive voluntary contributions, from national, local and regional authorities, foundations and other bodies for the purpose of developing general or specific LDA projects.

- It acts as the LDAs' representative in dealing with institutions and sponsors and is responsible for the proper use of funds under its management.

- It devises and runs training courses for Delegates, local assistants and other LDA contact groups.

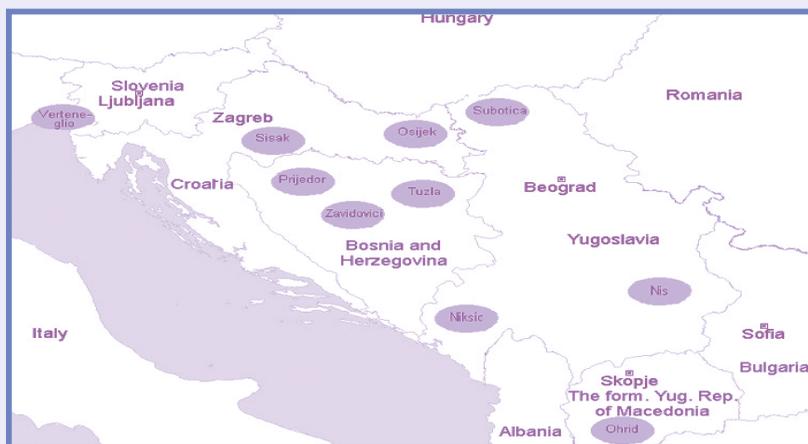
- It provides a forum for discussing LDA programme strategy and planning.

**It works to promote LDA activities and the international role of European local authorities in promoting local democracy, Human Rights and Minority Rights.**

## THE WORK OF THE DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

### THE NETWORK OF LDAS IN FIGURES:

- 10 Agencies;
- 4 countries in South-Eastern Europe;
- Partners of LDAs;
- 90 towns and regions from European States;
- 50 NGOs;
- 9 years at work in the Balkans;
- 40 members of the Association (towns, regions and NGOs from European States).



### Some examples of the activities of the LDAs:

- Training for local elected representatives and officials;
- Schools of Civil society (with the support of the Council of Europe's Confidence-Building Measures Programme);
- Pre-election public information activities;
- Training for young journalists in local democracy and intercommunity dialogue;
- Workshops on transfrontier co-operation;
- Activities to develop civil society and participation of young people;
- Programmes to integrate minorities into the community.

## PARTNER AUTHORITIES OF THE AGENCIES

One of the partners is designated the “**project leader**” and takes particular responsibility for managing the network, co-ordinating projects, raising funds and overseeing the administration and financing of the project.

**A host city will be the Agency headquarter which constitute the base for the activities. The main target groups are citizens, NGOs, elected representatives, local government officers and civil servants.**

**An Agency is based on an agreement setting out the practical contribution of partners (cities, regions and non governmental organisations).**

These partners provide technical and financial support and expertise for projects run by the LDA.

*Partners municipalities, regions and non-governmental organisations.*

**Through the network thus established, the partner authorities have the opportunity to participate, as their resources and expertise permit, in a convincing and effective policy of external relations. Their involvement reflects a commitment by residents of the partner authorities. Depending on the needs expressed by the host authority, local and regional authorities and NGOs may take part in an LDA's programme of activities in a variety of ways:**

- by funding specific projects (in the field of education, health, media, environment, youth or microeconomic projects, for example);
- by sending elected representatives or experts to lead seminars;
- by hosting study visits in partner towns, regions or associations;
- by establishing links between representatives from the socio-economic or voluntary sectors and key players in the host authority.



*Gender programme in Sisak - HR*



The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies coordinates the work of the Local Democracy Agencies and promotes their work, the partnership and the support to the whole programme.

In order to realize this work, the AADL implements the following activities :

- Coordination, networking, promotion, daily support for LDAs;
- Information center and publications for the LDAs;
- Training for the delegates and local assistants (Zavidovici, March 2001);
- Steering committees for the on-going programmes;
- Website for the AADL ([www.ladaonline.org](http://www.ladaonline.org));
- Training for trainers of LDAs for leadership and communication skills (Novigrad, Croatia, 2nd to the 7th of September 2001);
- Contact with the partners of the LDAs and members of the AADL;
- Support and information for the LDAs' delegate;
- Accounting and report for funds;
- Evaluation of the results of the LDAs' programmes supported by the AADL;
- Fundraising;



## Address

### ASSOCIATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

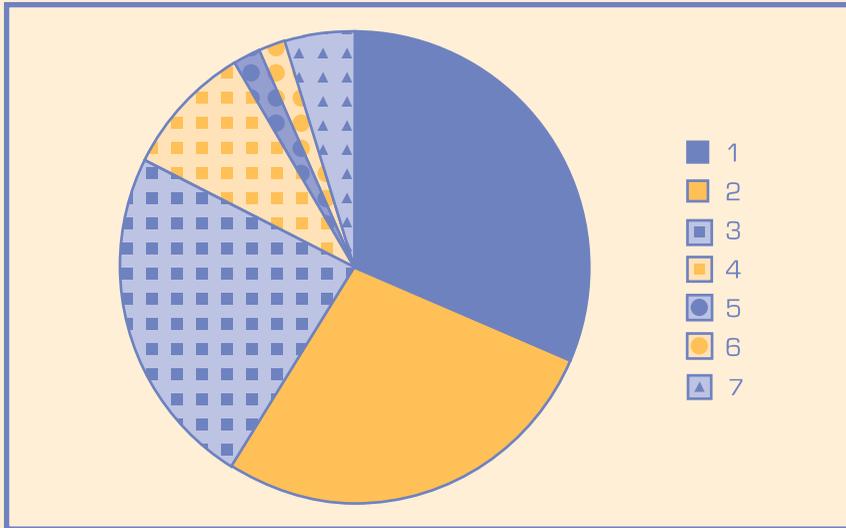
C/O Council of Europe  
Office B 532  
67075 STRASOURG - France  
Tel: 0033 3 8841 3551  
Fax: 0033 3 88 41 27 51 / 37 47  
e-mail: [sylvie.affholder@coe.int](mailto:sylvie.affholder@coe.int)

## President

Gianfranco Martini ([gemellaggi@aiccre.it](mailto:gemellaggi@aiccre.it))

## Executive Secretary

Antonella Valmorbida  
Tel: 0039 335 5236341  
[a.valmorbida@libero.it](mailto:a.valmorbida@libero.it)



1. **Swiss Agency for Development - Stability Pact** (sponsors activity of coordination of the Association and projects for 8 LDAs).
2. **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities – Council of Europe** (sponsors the coordination and institutional activities of the Association and projects for 10 LDAs). The Council of Europe supports substantially the Association of the LDAs with further contribution in kind (premises, staff, experts, translation, others).
3. **Irish Government - Stability Pact** (sponsors activity of coordination of the Association and projects for 2 LDAs).
4. **Local Government Initiative – Budapest** (sponsors co-ordination of the Association, 1 Training of Trainers, 1 training for 8 LDAs).
5. **Annual fees** from the members of the Association of LDAs (sponsor the coordination of the Association).
6. **Annual contribution of partners** for the support to specific LDAs (the city of Lausanne for the LDA in Osijek).
7. **Partners of the LDAs** (sponsors the activity of co-ordination and promotion of the Association of the LDAs).

LDAs are supported also by other resources (partners, public and private funds and the Confidence Building Measures programme of the Council of Europe), which are here not presented as transfer of the ALDA.

## Local authorities

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

City of Tulza  
City of Zavidovici  
City of Prijedor

### Croatia

City of Brtonigla-Verteneglio  
Region Istria

### Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

City of Subotica  
City of Niksic (Montenegro)

### France

City of Saint Denis – France

### Greece

City of Antirrio

### Italy

City of Lainate  
City of Mogliano Veneto  
City of Arese  
City of Bellaria  
City of Portogruaro  
City of Greve in Chianti  
City of Borgo Valsugana  
City of Preganziol  
City of Lavis  
Region Friuli Venezia Giulia  
City of Reggio Emilia  
City of Ancona  
Province of Venice

### Switzerland

City of Bellizona  
City of Neuchâtel  
City of Lausanne  
City of Lugano

### UK

East Staffordshire

## International Association of Local Authorities

Assembly of European Regions  
Cités Unies de France

## Associations of Local Authorities

### France

Association française pour le Conseil des

Communes et Régions d'Europe

### Italy

Association of the cities of the Province of Treviso – Italy

### Moldavia

Association of the mayors of the district of Chisinau

### Switzerland

Causes Communes Suisses  
Causes Communes Vaud

## Non Governmental organisations

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

Local Citizens' Committee Zavidovici

### Bulgaria

Balkan Assist Association

### Croatia

ADL Sisak  
RODA Sisak

### Cyprus

International Association for the Protection of Human Rights in Cyprus

### France

Association Les Parrains de l'Espoir

### Greece

ANKA Kardica

### Italy

Association for the Zavidovici LDA  
Kulturni Centar Tuzla – Bologna  
Circolo Arci "I Ponti"

Association Project for Prijedor  
International Consortium of Solidarity  
Genova

### Individuals

Mr. Léon Saur  
Ulrich Bohner  
Claude Casagrande  
Nevio Perna  
Paulo Faggian  
Cristina Bertotti  
Contin Agostino  
Valer Claudio  
Aggradi Carla  
Rinaldo Locatelli

# INTEREST FOR THE MEMBERSHIP

## Subscription Request to the Association of Local Democracy Agencies

the town

the Region

the NGO

Mister or Mrs

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Tel + \_\_\_\_\_

Fax + \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

interested in becoming a member of the Association of the LDAs and will pay his/her contribution to the appropriate Association of the LDAs' bank account, and according to the criteria below:



# WITH A LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY

## Bank details of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies

Bank : Société Générale / Sogenal  
Address : Council of Europe  
Bank code : 3003  
Agency code : 02363  
Individual number : 00050012853  
RIB: 77

Number of inhabitants	Total of Contribution (Euros)
1 – 10 000	250
10 000 – 50 000	500
50 000 – 200 000	1.000
200 000 – 1 000 000	2.000
1 million plus	4.000
Non-governmental organisations	250
Actual persons	50

**Thank you for your support and for your interest  
in the Programme of Local Democracy Agencies!**

Form to be returned to  
Secretariat of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies  
C/o Council of Europe, Office B532, F – 67075 Strasbourg



+ 33 (3) 41 35 51

+ 33 (3) 41 27 51 / 37 47



sylvie.affholder@coe.int

Head Office: La Maison des Associations de Strasbourg (France)

**Address****ASSOCIATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES**

C/O Council of Europe  
Office B 532  
67075 STRASOURG - France  
Tel: 0033 3 8841 3551  
Fax: 0033 3 88 41 27 51 / 37 47  
e-mail: sylvie.affholder@coe.int

**President**

Gianfranco Martini (gemellaggi@aiccre.it)

**Executive Secretary**

Antonella Valmorbida  
Tel: 0039 335 5236341  
e-mail: a.valmorbida@libero.it

**Redaction**

Antonella Valmorbida  
Tullio Fernetic  
Michela Cavallini  
Miljenko Turniski  
Andrea Rossini  
Annalisa Tomasi  
Igor Pellicciari  
Stanisa Surbatovich  
Mirijana Lozanoska  
Stanka Parac

**Realization**

GeeC by Esoxena  
Tel. 0039 0415350552  
e-mail: geec@esoxena.it

Issued: December 2001