



ALDA

European Association for Local Democracy

Who we are, what we do

ALDA (European Association for Local Democracy) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion of good local governance, namely through the empowerment of civil society and the promotion of active citizenship. It works in Europe (28 EU Member States), in the Balkans' Region, and in the last years in South Caucasus and North Africa. In the framework of promoting good governance and citizens' participation at local level, ALDA focuses on various themes, such as European integration, civic initiatives, youth involvement, human rights, immigration, equal opportunities, sustainable economic development and volunteering. Most of its work is based on the method of multilateral decentralization cooperation, which involves a multi-stakeholder approach focusing on strong partnership between Local Authorities and non-governmental organizations.

ALDA is a membership based organization gathering more than 250 members (including Local Authorities, CSOs, Youth Associations, Universities) coming from more than 40 countries.

ALDA is funded through membership fees and project funding from the European Commission (Europe for Citizens and Erasmus+ amongst others), the Council of Europe and other public and private donors. Throughout its 17 years of activity, over 250 projects have been implemented by ALDA's team, and 25 million people have been indirectly impacted.



5 Offices

ALDA has 5 offices around Europe, there is an office in Strasbourg (France), Brussels (Belgium), Vicenza (Italy), Skopje (Macedonia) and in Subotica (Serbia)



14 Local Democracy Agencies

The Local Democracy Agencies have been established in the Western Balkans by the Congress of the Council of Europe since 1992, as a support programme to strengthen local democracy, interethnic dialogue, foster respect for human rights and further sustainable development. Currently, LDAs are also located in the Eastern Partnership Area and in the Mediterranean Area.

ALDA +



Is the operational tool of ALDA to provide services to third parties - local authorities, civil society organizations and educational institutions. It provides a wide range of services such as training and capacity building activities, technical assistance, and ad hoc consultancy on different topics, including: project development and implementation, project financial management and audit, EU institutions, EU funds and programmes, citizens participation (methods and techniques), non-formal youth education.

These services are provided with a tailor-made approach, thus target the specific needs of the partners involved.



2017 Main Accomplishments



Regardless of its short length (one year), ALDA+ has worked at full regime in 2017: it developed 10 projects through technical assistance agreements and trained over 200 participants over 400 hours.

Here we present a selection of our most engaging work from last year, which third parties have benefited and enjoyed:

⇒ **PRIMAVERA 85**, Italy: a social cooperative dealing with disadvantaged people. ALDA+ team developed and managed a project on European Voluntary Services (EVS).

⇒ **Villa Valmarana ai Nani**, Italy: the important Villa of Palladio Architect (1670) was improved by opening a bookshop and an innovative immersive room.

⇒ **Municipality of Bassano del Grappa**, Italy: We trained over 20 people coming from relevant cultural organizations on project cycle management and EU funds.

⇒ **Biosphaera**, Italy: We delivered a training on EU fund for Environmental Guides to a social cooperative working in the environmental field.

⇒ We are supporting the project development and management in the **Municipality of Thiene**.

⇒ **Centre Balears Europa**, Spain: It was organized an intensive training on project cycle management and EU funds.

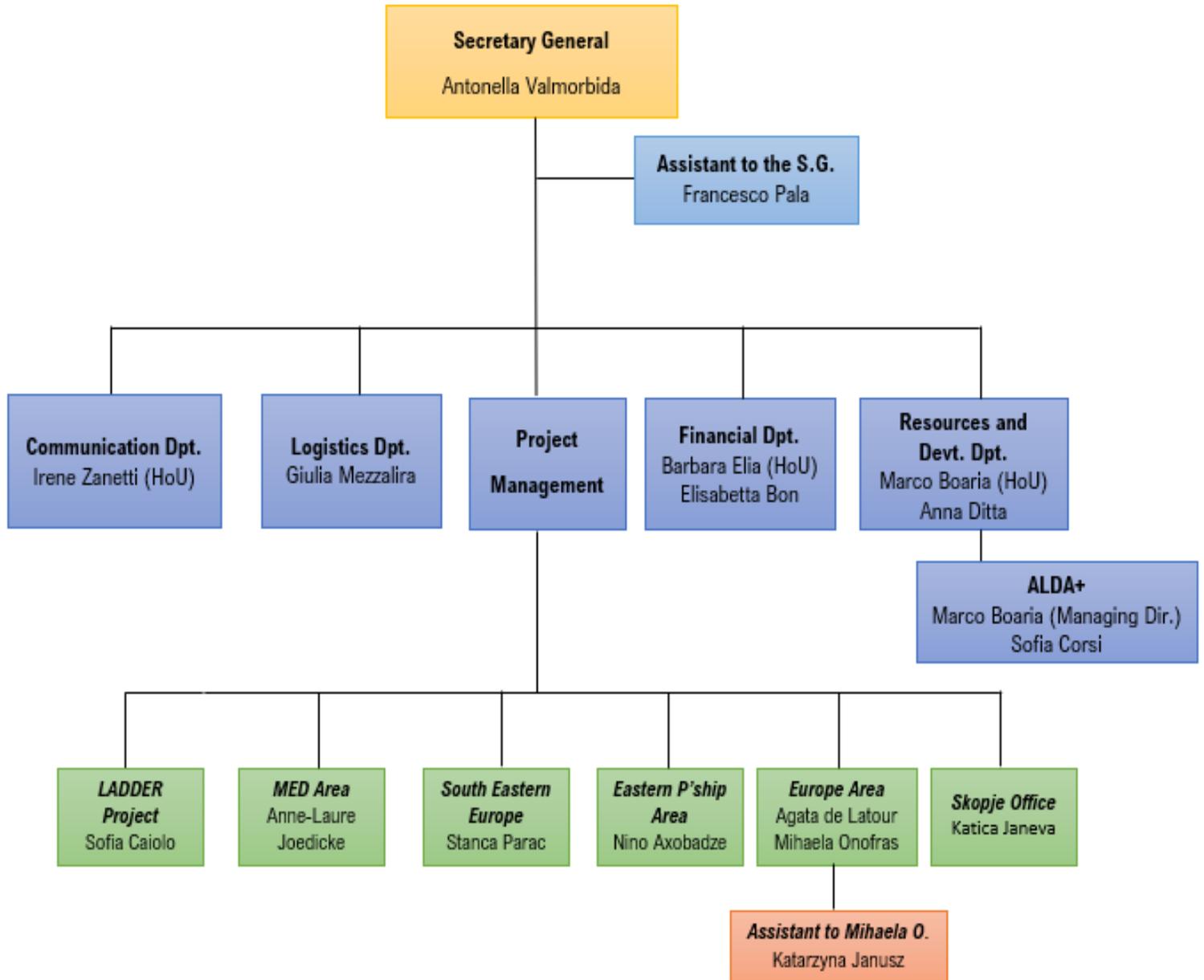
⇒ **Izmir**, Turkey: We trained civil society on partnership development, communication strategies and fundraising. Self-organized trainings in Vicenza on EU funds, project

development and project cycle management, financial management, addressing different and various beneficiaries; local authorities, civil society, students, companies, etc.

For further information on ALDA+, do not hesitate to contact Marco Boaria, Managing Director.

marco.boaria@aldaintranet.org

ALDA's Organigram





Our Offices



Strasbourg Office (France)

Strasbourg's office is in the Council of Europe's site. The idea of creating ALDA in 1999 came from this organization, thanks in particular to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. This office has been conceived for an international dimension and has always been focusing on the ALDA network expansion at a European and global level. Moreover, the French office's strategy has recently aimed at deepening its presence in France, by expanding its contacts and network at a local, regional and national level. For this reason, we are trying to increase our relations with local and national media. Some of the projects we're developing like Co-created, financed by the EU and linked to the co-creation of local policies, allow us to strengthen our relations. Our landmarks, which are ALDA's main partners and recipients are local authorities (cities, departments, regions), together with civil society organizations and ordinary citizens. For example, we have constant relations with the city of Strasbourg, the region of Alsace and Grand East (which has also financed some of our activities), in addition to an increasing number of associations like Solidarity Water Europe, the Institute for research and debate on governance based in Paris, etc. Indicators of our activities in France are: projects we develop on the territory: Co-created, Get Up, CRISCO, URGENT, ST BANK <http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/project.php> Our French partners: <http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/members.php> French networks we're part of: <http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/membership.php>

Brussels Office (Belgium)

ALDA's office in Brussels is able to guarantee the Association a strategic position in terms of implementation process as well as a reinforcement of policies and European programs as an active influencer of institutional processes. Specifically, ALDA participates in the dialogue carried out by the European Commission in relation to the program "Europe for Citizens", for which the Association's mission is considered of major importance for the dissemination and implementation of the program itself, up to the point that since 2009 the Association has always been

awarded on an annual base structural funds called "Operating grants" for its merit and remarkable engagement. The local authority and civil society organization network, consisting of more than 250 members from 40 different countries represents ALDA's main value in terms of program implementation and puts ALDA in the advantageous condition of carrying different actors' positions and interests unambiguously in the emerging relations among European institutions, in particular with the Commission, local authorities and civil society, thanks to its assistance, logistic support and multiannual experience.

Being the site of several permanent local authority and neighborhood delegations, Brussels allows ALDA to maintain contacts and constant cooperation with representatives of cities, regions and countries from the eastern partnership. At the same time, the institutional counterpart, represented by European Commission General Directors, DG NEAR in particular, equally represents one of our biggest contacts in Brussels.

ALDA activity indicators in Brussels are: ALDA's activities in Brussels and Belgium also involve extra EU thematic fields and in particular the eastern partnership. In this context, the relations we develop with European Commission's DG NEAR are essential, as well as those with most of eastern partnership local authority permanent delegation sites, with the further aim to strengthen our ALDs in Georgia, Armenia, Ukraine and Moldova. Of course, Brussels is often the place where meetings and conferences in relation to projects or joint initiatives together with EU neighborhood stakeholders take place. Indicators of our activities in Belgium and Brussels: projects we implement:

CRISCO, ST BANK, LADDER, Operating grants Europe for Citizens, CHOICE, IDPs SAVE (<http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/project.php>).

Events we organize: (<http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/index.php>).

Our Belgian partners: (<http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/members.php>). Belgian networks we're part of: (<http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/membership.php>).

Vicenza Office (Italy)

ALDA's office in Vicenza is the biggest office of the Association, hosting the Secretariat, the Communication Department, the Resources and Development Unit, the Logistic, the Financial Department and ALDA+ Office. As it can be seen from this brief introduction, all the projects and other actions implemented by ALDA are coordinated and firstly developed here in Italy. Indeed, the office represents the cornerstone of the whole life of the Association. Because of that, the work environment in the Vicenza office is extremely motivating, multitasking and diversified, and give the opportunity to be in touch with all the field of action in which ALDA is involved, as well as a clear panorama of the internal and external relation which a European NGOs as ALDA is dealing with. Having an office in Vicenza is also strategic for ALDA as it allows our Association to develop and foster its Italian network which counts more than 70 members and it grows month by month. Finally, it is important to stress that in the Vicenza's office bilateral and strategic meeting as well as formative trainings concerning EU issues are often implemented.

Skopje Office (Macedonia)

ALDA Skopje is an ALDA branch office and it carries out activities in Macedonia and Western Balkans, mainly focusing on good governance promotion, civic participation and European integration and decentralization. This mission involves constant contacts with local authorities, as well as Macedonian and international organizations. ALDA Skopje's main activity since it was born in 2006 is the decentralized cooperation program coordination between the region of Normandy and Macedonia: www.bn-mk.org.

The program aims at promoting stakeholders' cooperation and mobility between these two territories. Activities involve youth, new technologies, culture and human rights. Several actors participate in this long-lasting cooperation experience: Municipalities, NGOs, cultural associations, schools and universities. As for Municipalities, those of Novaci, Debar, Berovo, Veles and Vevcani are involved, together with several associations. Civil service volunteers are actively involved in the implementation of this program, and specifically in the youth component, where they will build relationships with youth associations, high schools and universities. Since 2015 ALDA Skopje is actively involved as a partner in a project related to Western Balkans, consisting of creating and animating a regional Balkan platform for youth participation and dialogue. The project involves youngsters from 6 different Balkan countries. Local activities of this project, in which we want to actively involve civil service volunteers, are implemented in cooperation with the Municipality of Center in Skopje and with the Municipality of Kavadarci. Indicators of ALDA's activities in Skopje are: accomplished projects: PALEDE, WELCOMING, The role of youth in peacekeeping and conflict prevention, program for decentralized cooperation between Region Normandy and the Republic of Macedonia: <http://www.aldaeurope.eu/newSite/project.php>

Our Macedonian partners: <http://www.aldaeurope.eu/newSite/members.php>. Macedonian networks we're part of: TACSO = Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations IPA mechanism. Macedonian Associations network which are working for a further implication of associations in EU fund implementation processes for the Balkans.

Our Departments



Secretariat

There is no body without a head as well as there is no head without a body. The Secretary General Office makes the link between the Institutional life of ALDA and the operational one, looking forward to the implementation of the mission of the Association.

Working in the Secretary General Office of ALDA means first of all liaising daily with the Institutional representatives from both the European Union and the Association itself. As for the European Institution, the Secretary General Office is often in touch with representatives from the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee as well, in order to give the raise to fruitful synergies and cooperation and move forward to a better and participative Europe!

From an internal point of view, the Secretary General is dealing with the Governing Board of the association, representing the voice of the associative grassroots of ALDA (composed of more than 450 members coming from more than 40 countries!), as well as with the 14 Local Democracy Agencies, the core and the cornerstone of ALDA, that thanks to their several local and international partners assure a huge eco in implementing our projects and actions. At the same time the Secretary General Office represents the cross among all the departments of ALDA and ensure the Humana Resources Management of the ALDA's staff.

Want to know more about it? Feel free to contact Francesco Pala, francesco.pala@aldaintranet.org

Communication Department

What is not communicated does not exist. If you agree, the Communication Department of ALDA is the place to be! Seated in Vicenza (Italy) and in constant liaison with colleagues, members, and partners from throughout 40 countries in the EU and its Neighborhood, the Communications are the filter between the activities of the Association and its network and the rest of the world. We manage visibility thought websites and social media, as well as newsletters, printed materials, and others. You will be part of the team designing and running campaigns, as well as monitoring results and suggesting improvements or new solutions. Your creativity and analysis skills will be listened to in a flexible and goal oriented small team. Interested? Reach out to Irene, Head of Communication, for any other information:

irene.zanetti@aldaintranet.org

Logistic Department

The logistic department is based in Vicenza. It supports the activities that are planned by the other departments of ALDA and it underpins the smooth implementation of the association and its initiatives.

The daily duties are based on managing all the practical issues related to the travels of staff/partners, logistical organization of initiatives and events related to the life of the association and namely in the framework of EU funded projects. This implies taking care of flights, organize the premises of the events, the catering service and the interpreting services, when needed. Logistical assistance often implies also the presence on the spot during the events.

Part of the tasks includes to deal with the providers for the office supplies and follow the practical needs of the office on daily base.

Working in the logistic department means dealing with organizational and communication tasks, having a multitasking attitude and ensure the best services while learning to fully master budget constraints.

Should you need more information, feel free to contact Giulia Mezzalira.

giulia.mezzalira@aldaintranet.org

Resources and Development Unit

This unit has the crucial task to ensure the sustainability of ALDA, through fundraising activities, which mainly focus on the scouting of funds of various natures (EU and other Public and private donors) and the preparation of project proposals to be submitted to donors.

This is the place where the ideas are turned into real projects. Here, interns and volunteers can contribute with their creativity to conceive projects which are relevant to the mission and the scope of ALDA. It is very much a team work, based on exchange of ideas, share of contents, virtual and sometimes physical relations with partners, members and our LDAs. The job involves a key phase of analysis on a wide range of topics going from youth, to women's rights, environment, sport, et., as there are no limits to the means and fields local democracy shall be constructed on!

Geographically speaking, we build projects for the whole ALDA's working area, involving EU, the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership and the Mediterranean area. Each area with its specific, interesting dynamics to be deepened and learnt!

To get to know more about the work in this department, feel free to contact Anna Ditta.

anna.ditta@aldaintranet.org

ALDA +

Lately, ALDA created a profit company, called ALDA +. The scope is to enhance and diversify the sources of income. Through ALDA +, based in Vicenza within the Resources and Development Unit, we provide technical assistance in project writing and implementation, delivery of trainings on participatory democracy, EU funds, techniques and tools of project management and more. Interns and volunteers are very much involved in supporting our activity through ALDA + too, proposing ideas for fundraising, trainings and more.

To get to know more about the work in this department, feel free to contact Marco Boaria.

marco.boaria@aldaintranet.org

Please follow the link for detailed information about every position available

<http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/vacancies.php#int>