



**ALDA**  
Association of Local  
Democracy Agencies



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**Invitation to the conference**

**“Volunteering for Democracy. Recommendations from Civil Society and Local  
Authorities”**

**8<sup>th</sup> July 2011, Bydgoszcz, Poland**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) has the pleasure to invite you to the international conference “Volunteering for Democracy. Recommendations from Civil Society and Local Authorities”, which will take place in Bydgoszcz (Poland) on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

This conference, organised jointly by ALDA and the Municipality of Bydgoszcz, will concentrate on the topic of improving citizen participation through volunteering. It represents the launching event of the first Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union for Kujavy and Pomerania Region. It will unite a prospected number of 150 representatives from civil society groups and local governments from all over Europe.

The conference will include formal and non-formal participation, with the possibility to express a plan for the future engagement of civil society and of local authorities in Europe in the field of voluntarism. The structure of the event consists of a series of plenary sessions involving high-level speakers from the civil society sector and institutions. In moderated workshops, the participants will then identify best practices and methodologies to increase the democratic standards of their communities, also through the active involvement of volunteers. The recommendations drafted during the conference will play a considerable role for the policy



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making of the involved institutions and organisations.

Several projects will be presented as best practices and analysed as possible facilitators of democratic and participative processes. The Polish civil society will be closely associated with the event. For further information, please find attached the draft agenda of the event.

Participation in the conference is free of charge. Cofounding opportunities for logistic costs may be available on a first-registered, first-served basis depending on the suitability of our resources.

If this invitation has managed to raise your attention, please confirm your participation by sending the attached registration form - after filling and officially signing it - back to us, to the following email address: [cinzia.spinazze@aldaintranet.org](mailto:cinzia.spinazze@aldaintranet.org) (in scanned version) or by fax to +39.04.44.54.01.46 or by post (ALDA / 225 Viale Mazzini / 36100 Vicenza).

**The registration deadline is the 10th June 2011.**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email at [cinzia.spinazze@aldaintranet.org](mailto:cinzia.spinazze@aldaintranet.org), by phone (+33.3.90.21.45.93) or by fax (+39.04.44.54.01.46).

We are looking forward to your hopefully positive reply.

Yours sincerely,



Antonella Valmorbida  
ALDA Director

Attachment:

- Draft Agenda of the Conference
- Registration form
- Call for best practices
- ALDA position paper on volunteering
- Practical information