

DEMOCRACY DAY
15th of September 2015

**Participative democracy:
Time to deepen democracy for a global responsibility and citizenship**

Complexity, speed and interactivity are the features of our time. Europe is at the centre of difficult processes these days with the crisis of migrants, internal economic struggle and turmoil and wars at its border. Despite the difficulties that we all encounter in finding sound and sustainable solutions to big societal challenges, it is not with less democracy but rather with more deep and intense democratic systems that we will find our way through.

Democracy represents the possibility for all different parts of our community to be represented in the decision and it is planning a peaceful way to change leadership and direction. No other systems will offer us the same possibility. Only by strengthening the potentialities of democracy, we would give a positive sense to a modern interactive and constantly changing setting.

Evidently, Democracy needs improvements since it is affected by its “usual” problems such as corruption, conflict of interest, manipulation of elections, passive attitude of citizens, to mention the most common problems. On the other hand, it is not by cancelling democracy that we will be better off. Democracy can’t be shortened, because it costs or because the leader is a good one and can decide for us all. It should be rather valued and cherished by strengthening the civic sense of all citizens, **to be able to be part of it and to feel the responsibility for a global and globalised society, in the city and in the world.**

Participative democracy, representing a constant dialogue between citizens and elected official and public sector, needs to be strengthened and it may represent the improvement of the classical concept of democracy. It opens dialogue and expertise and it has a constant possibility of monitoring the deeds of political representatives. It creates responsibility and engagement of every citizen. Especially in the local context, citizens’ participation in local democratic processes proved to be a real instrument for change and for peaceful and successful communities.

We should not give up since the price to be paid will be too high.

ALDA Secretary General
Antonella Valmorbida

[The Top 15 Achievements of ALDA 15 Years of Activities](http://www.aldaeurope.eu/public/publications/126-15-achievements-ALDA-updated-v2-IP.pdf) <http://www.aldaeurope.eu/public/publications/126-15-achievements-ALDA-updated-v2-IP.pdf>



[Antonella Valmorbida: Citizens' Participation at the Local Level in Europe and Neighbouring Countries](http://www.alda-europe.eu/public/doc/574181_Valmorbida.pdf) http://www.alda-europe.eu/public/doc/574181_Valmorbida.pdf

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