
A CELEBRATION OF
DEMOCRACY
**ALDA FESTIVAL AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
2024





Citizens, Equality, Rights and
Values programme



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WHO IS ALDA

A GLOBAL ALLIANCE

ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy - is a global alliance of local and regional authorities and civil society dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizens participation at the local level in the European Union, its Neighbourhood and beyond.

“

ALDA is a key stakeholder in the field of **local democracy, active citizenship, and cooperation** in Europe, its neighbourhood, and all around the world, mainly acting through participative methods and decentralised cooperation.

As a core element, ALDA supports **citizens and civil society organisations** in their initiatives aimed at improving their local context, **building bridges with local authorities** to make this change real.

ALDA leads a wide range of actions **supporting local, national and international stakeholders** in achieving their goals in the fields of **European integration, decentralisation, human rights, social inclusion, sustainable development, civic initiatives** and much more.



MISSION & VISION

MISSION

ALDA works with and for local resilient communities, to address future challenges from a **democratic, environmental, social and economic point of view**. Democracy and citizens' engagement are and will be key factors for unlocking positive and constructive proposals for the future and ALDA, together with its members and partners, is at the centre of concrete proposals and activator of positive changes.

Through the analysis of the past, reflecting on what has been achieved so far, our ambition is not only to overcome the crisis but to gain **relevance** and importance at the **global level**.

VISION

ALDA aims at strengthening a **worldwide global alliance of local and regional authorities and civil society actors working together in local communities**, in order to make them more resilient, socially and economically successful, more inclusive, sustainable and fair. **Participatory democracy at the local level is key** for the improvement of the life of citizens and for achieving universal Sustainable Development Goals.





ALDA AT A GLANCE

An outstanding network of local and regional authorities, civil society organisations and academic institutions gathering more than **300 members** from Europe and beyond.

+54

Countries

+300

Members

+25

Years of activity

COOPERATION AT THE CORE

ALDA is a unique **membership-based organisation** at the European level. We believe that **cooperation between local and regional authorities and civil society organisations** is key to creating sound local democracy and promoting citizen participation at the community level.

ALDA enhances joint work and synergies between local governments and organised civil society, in order to promote and improve the **exchange of best practices in the field of local governance and citizens' active participation.**

The network of ALDA grows year by year, thus reflecting the added value of the membership, as well as the fruitful cooperation and the enrichment derived from the exchange among our members coming from different contexts.



MANAGEMENT

ALDA is led by a **Governing Board** elected every four years, composed of its **members' representatives**, and committed to fulfilling its mission.

Currently, its President is **Mr. Oriano Otocan**; its Vice Presidents are **Mr. Francesco Zarzana**, **Mr. Alessandro Perelli** and **Ms. Nataša Vučković**. ALDA Secretary General is **Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida**.



Mr. Oriano Otocan

President



Mr. Francesco Zarzana

Vice President



Mr. Alessandro Perelli

Vice President



Ms. Nataša Vučković

Vice President



Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida

Secretary General



ALDA FESTIVAL & GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023



Four days of exciting events, more than 200 participants coming from all over Europe and beyond, debates, conferences, workshops: the **ALDA Festival and General Assembly 2023** was this and so much more.

From **June 6 until June 9, 2023**, the ALDA staff, members and whole network of the Association met in **Etterbeek**, Belgium for the most important annual event of the year: the **ALDA General Assembly**.

+200

participants

18

concurrent events around
Etterbeek

4

days of events



TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE DEMOCRACY



In 2023, this key event entitled **“Local Democracy will save Democracy”** was conceived to engage the whole network of members, partners and friends of the Association, involving them not only in the culminating event of the General Assembly, but also in a **series of related activities** to discuss and reflect together on current **challenges and events, European values, priorities and next steps.**

Conferences

International
Events

Panels

Workshops

Follow-up
activities

Knowledge Fair



SOME OF OUR GUESTS



Dubravka Šuica

Vice President of the European Commission



Leen Verbeek (Online)

Congress of the Council of Europe Representative



Gilles Pelayo

Head of Unit of the Education & Culture Executive Agency - EACEA



Ugo Poli

Central European Initiative Representative



Vincent De Wolf

Mayor of Etterbeek



H.E. Dirk Schübel

EU Special Envoy for EaP



Marta Markowska

Policy Officer for Digital Education of the D.G. for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture - European Commission



Viola Von Cramon-Tabaudel (Online)

Member of the European Parliament

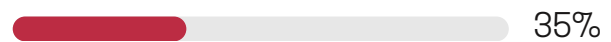
200+

participants

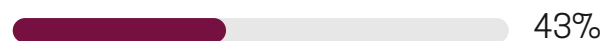
came all together to discuss the future of local democracy.

WHERE DID THE PARTICIPANTS COME FROM?

Civil Society Organisations



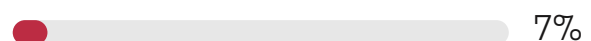
Local, regional and national governments



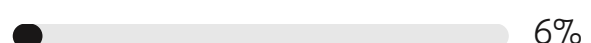
European Institutions



Citizens



Other





ABOUT ALDA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

ALDA General Assembly 2024 will be extremely important for the entire Association, since the **elections for a new mandate of the Governing Board will take place in this occasion.**

The Governing Board

The Governing Board is the highest body of ALDA. Right now it is composed of **15 members from 9 different countries**, with one President, three vice presidents and a Treasurer. The functions of the board are extremely important and delicate, they go **from drafting the strategy of the Association, to managing the staff, to approving new members** and more. The newly elected Governing Board will run for four years until 2028.



The annual most important event of ALDA

The ALDA GA 2024 will represent a key moment for ALDA also because the **Strategy 2024-2028** will be revised and approved, shaping the future of the Association and of its network as a whole. For this special occasion, ALDA needs an exceptional place and the city of Barcelona would be the perfect setting for such an outstanding event.



ABOUT

ALDA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

The main theme of the ALDA General Assembly 2024 will be connected with

- The upcoming European Elections
- Mediterranean and Southern Policies

CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT AT THE CENTRE

The interests and needs of citizens should be at the centre of all political decision-making at all different levels of government. It is at the heart of democracy that citizens' concerns are the basis for change.

Participatory processes enable just that: they empower citizens to take part in the decision-making process and drive change.

Through the implementation of projects which have citizens' engagement and participation as main goals, and through the activities carried out by the **Thematic Hub on Citizens Engagement**, ALDA works on a daily basis to stimulate active involvement of citizens and youth in social and political life, both at the local and global level. As a civil society organisation, it is our duty to inform them and ensure that their voices are heard.



ABOUT ALDA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

The ALDA General Assembly 2024 will be a celebration of participatory democracy. We will not only highlight the importance of **citizens** in the democratic system but we will also engage them and make them an integral part of our General Assembly by involving them in **events, conferences, workshops and more!**



Sub-themes

As applied for the ALDA General Assembly 2023, the one in 2024 will run for **4 days** and will also be surrounded by **several events focused on sub themes**, strictly connected to the main one and very relevant to ALDA and the whole network.



+300 attendees

The side events will be organised according to the priorities of the Thematic Hubs and of the regional areas. They will focus on topics like women and youth engagement **in democracy, Human rights, Digitalisation, Gender Equality, Migration and so much more!**

Since the Association and its network are in constant growth we expect to have around **300 attendees.**



ORGANISATION **TIMELINE**

Work are already in progress regarding the organisation of next year ALDA General Assembly.

Discover how to contribute to the shaping of the event.

18 Oct 2023

Program drafting during ALDA Governing Board in Skopje (North Macedonia)

Nov 2023

Date identification and Agenda drafting

Dec 2023

Sending invitations to partners and speakers

Jan 2024

Save the date

Jan-Mar 2024

Final confirmation of guests and panelists

Mar 2024

Opening of registrations



WHY BARCELONA

Barcelona is the **home of Democracy**. A visible place where citizens come together to share experiences, learn and enjoy under the banner of **democratic values, freedom and peace**.

By being awarded as the **First European Capital of Democracy**, the **city of Barcelona** became the perfect framework to celebrate the **triumph of democracy**.

THE PLACE TO BE TO SHAPE DEMOCRACY'S FUTURE

ALDA has been involved since the very beginning in the beautiful initiative of the **European Capital of Democracy**, having its Secretary general, Mrs. Antonella Valmorbidia, as a member of the Experts Jury. During the award ceremony, the importance given to **citizen participation, to digitalisation and innovation** made Barcelona the place to be in order to support and promote democracy.

The intention to have **ALDA's General Assembly 2024 in Barcelona** is a way to once again recognise the city's fundamental role in strengthening democracy, by organising an inclusive event that involves the city's citizens and makes the surrounding atmosphere vibrant and filled with the values that are the foundation of democracy.



**European Capital
of Democracy**

**THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL PARTNERS
WILL MAKE OUR EVENT EVEN MORE
ENGAGING.**

A TRUE CELEBRATION OF DEMOCRACY.



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The contents of it are sole responsibility of ALDA and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.



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European Association
for Local Democracy



GET IN TOUCH



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for Local Democracy**



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