



Monitoring and supporting the added value of citizen participation at the local level: The 2014 State of Participatory Democracy Report

5th December 2014

Brussels (Committee of the Regions–Room JDE53)
9.30 – 13.00 Followed by a cocktail reception

Rationale

Local democracy and citizen participation at the local level are now at a crucial time. Indeed, policies for development – finally – are addressing the importance of this *part* of the democratic process to create the necessary conditions for political and social development of the community. Local democracy and local governance are one of the pillars on which the European Union is based. The role of local and regional authorities (included in their democratic role) is recognised as fundamental for the internal and external future of the EU. Today, institutional evolution in Europe increasingly addresses this important dimension to create better solutions for society and to develop a sense of shared ownership by the community. As for the external action of the EU, local governance and the interaction between local and regional authorities and citizens drive a large part of development programmes, with increased attention (and budget) in this new seven year programme. At the UN, participatory governance at all levels is an element of the proposed post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

The seminar proposes to address the issue of local democracy and citizen participation at the local level as an instrument for development and peace, in the EU and in the world, and presents practical approaches to monitor, assess and support this process.

The assumption of the seminar is that a participative community represents a successful community and that conditions need to be created to make participation effective.

The seminar will also refer to and present the publication, edited by Antonella Valmorbida, *Citizens' Participation at the Local Level in the EU and Neighbourhood Countries* (http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/public/doc/574181_Valmorbida.pdf) and the *2014 State of Participatory Democracy Report* (<https://stateofparticipatorydemocracy.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/spdr14.pdf>)

Programme

9.00 Registration of participants

9.30 **Word of Welcome:** President of ALDA – The European Association for Local Democracy, Mr Oriano Otočan

9:45 **Introduction:** EU Commission, Europe for Citizens, Head of Unit, Ms Brigitte Degen

10.05 **Presentation of the 2014 State of Participatory Democracy Report (The Hunger Project, UNDEF),** Mr John Coonrod

Q&A

10.45 Coffee break

11.05 **Presentation of publication ‘Citizens’ Participation at the Local Level in the EU and Neighbourhood Countries’,** edited by Mrs Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA

Q&A

11.30 **Programme DECIDE and presentation of first results of the practices of local democracy in Europe and Local Democracy Index,** ALDA - The European Association for Local Democracy, Project Manager, Mr Aldo Xhani

Q&A

12.00 **Discussion** moderated by Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA

12.30 Conclusions

12.45 **Reception** offered by ALDA