



ALDA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

“Empowering citizens and strengthening local governance in neighbouring countries: lessons learned and opportunities from East to South”

“Active ageing and local governance: how to involve elderly as active citizens in their local communities”

7th-8th June 2012

Udine, Italy

Auditorium FVG Headquarters



ALDA your partner in Europe

The Association of Local Democracy Agencies is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. ALDA in particular focuses on activities that facilitate cooperation between local authorities and civil society.

ALDA was established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to coordinate and support a network of Local Democracy Agencies which was established in the early 1990es. The Local Democracy Agencies are self-sustainable, locally registered NGOs that act as promoters of good governance and local self-government.

ALDA is a membership based organisation gathering more than 150 members (including Local Authorities, Associations of Local Authorities and non-governmental organisations) coming from more than 30 countries. ALDA is funded through membership fees and project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe and other public and private donors.

Most of ALDA's work is based on the method of multilateral decentralized cooperation. This method involves a multi-stakeholder approach which focuses on strong partnerships between Local Authorities and non-governmental organisations. These partnerships create positive synergy and ensure that common goals are reached in a successful way.

In the framework of promoting good governance and citizen participation at the local level ALDA focuses on various themes, such as European integration, civic initiatives, youth involvement, human rights, immigration, equal opportunities, sustainable economic development, decentralisation and volunteering.

ALDA conducts its activities through different forms of action:

- Coordinating and supporting the 13 Local Democracy Agencies in their activities;
- developing and implementing projects based on ALDA's expertise in the field of good governance and citizen participation at the local level;
- providing technical assistance to Local Authorities as project partner using ALDA's knowledge, network and experience in the regions where ALDA and the Local Democracy Agencies are working.

ALDA works in most of Europe and the European neighbourhood countries. Activities in the European Union focus in particular on the promotion of Active European Citizenship. Activities in the Western Balkans and European Neighbourhood focus on good governance, citizen participation, European integration and decentralisation.

Most of the Local Democracy Agencies are located in the Western Balkans, which gives a natural focus on that area. But ALDA is also becoming more and more active in the European neighbourhood. Two new Local Democracy Agencies was established in Georgia, in 2006 and Armenia, in 2011. ALDA is currently working towards opening an Agency in Azerbaijan and leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European neighbourhood countries, such a Belarus, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

ALDA General Assembly 2012

7th of June 2012

Morning session: Extraordinary General Assembly and General Assembly

- 08.45 - 09.00 **Registration of participants**
- 09.00 - 09.45 **Welcome addresses by:**
Furio Honsell, *Mayor of Udine*
Keith Whitmore, *President of the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of Council of Europe*
Per Vinther, *President of ALDA*
Renzo Tondo, *President of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region*
- 09.45 - 10.20 **Extraordinary General Assembly**
Election of the chair proposal and vote for amendment of Statute
- 10.20 - 10.45 **Coffee break**
- 10.45 - 12.00 **General Assembly: Election of a chairman**
Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly of July 2011
Moral report of the President
Presentation of results 2011
Presentation and approval of accounts 2011
Treasurer's report for 2011, report by the Auditor 2011
Approval for the treasurer
Approval of the membership fees
- 12.00 - 12.20 **Presentation of the Programme and budget for 2012**
- 12.20 - 13.00 **Presentation of Candidates for election; nomination of Assessors**
- 13.00 - 13.30 **Vote**
- 13.30 **Lunch buffet** (during lunch, the votes will be counted)
- 20.00 **Official Dinner for ALDA members**

8th of June 2012

Morning session: General Assembly

- 09.00 – 10.00 **Second part of the General Assembly and presentation of the results of the elections**
Presentation of the new Governing Board and Bureau
- 10.00 – 10.30 **Presentation of first draft ALDA 2020**
- 10.30 – 11.15 **Subdivision in Working Groups and interactive discussion**
- 11.15 – 11.30 **Coffee break**
- 11.30 – 12.30 **Reports by the WG**
Discussion among members and partners of the Strategy 2020
- 12.30 – 13.00 **Presentation and approval of the ALDA 2020 and Multiannual programme**
- 13.00 **Lunch buffet**

Paper for discussion

The conference “Empowering citizens and strengthening local governance in neighbouring countries: Lessons learned and opportunities from East to South” will discuss the experience of European support to the development of democracy and good governance in its neighbourhood.

The Arab spring in 2011 opened the window of opportunity with possibilities for democratic reform that nobody had foreseen. One year later the opportunities are still there, but the big challenges and difficulties in turning these political and social changes into a framework that will lead towards consolidation of deep and sustainable democracy are evident and the importance of facing these challenges in the appropriate way can not be underestimated.

In the Central and Eastern part of Europe a window of opportunity opened already more than 20 years ago. For some countries these 20 years have led to a successful transformation of the political system and the past history seems very far away. For other countries in the Balkans and in the Eastern Neighbourhood these 20 years have been painful and challenging and it has not always been clear if the transition has resulted in more democracy and positive developments.

ALDA has been at the forefront of supporting the transition towards democracy working through the Local Democracy Agencies with Local Authorities and Civil Society organisations in the Balkans and Eastern Neighbourhood to push for and support the democratic development of the respective societies and local communities.

Which lessons have been learned in the East? How can we use these lessons to support the democratic development in the South? Which policy instruments were effective in the East? Are the current policy instruments towards the Southern neighbourhood effective and sufficient to provide the right type of support? Which role has Civil Society organisations played in the East? What type of support to them was successful? How can civil society organisations best be supported in the South? Which role has development of local self-government played in the East – which role can it have in the South? Is there a competition between East and South, with more attention for one less for the other?

These questions and many more will be discussed during the conference and during the two panels which will focus on the “opportunities for consolidating the European Policy and Action in Neighbouring Countries” and “Networks of Civil Society active for Local Governance. Lesson learned and ideas for the near future”.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Empowering citizens and strengthening local governance in neighbouring countries: lessons learned and opportunities from East to South”

7th of June 2012 – h. 14.30 – 18.00

- 14.30 – 15.15 **Welcome addresses by:**
Per Vinther, President of ALDA
Staffan de Mistura, Vice-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy (tbc)
Josko Klisović, Vice Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia (tbc)
Raffaele Lombardo, President of Sicily Region and representative of the Interinstitutional Forum “United by Mediterranean”
Renzo Tondo, President of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region
- 15.15 - 16.30 **FIRST PANEL: An opportunity for consolidating the European Policy and Action in Neighbouring Countries.**
Moderator: *Elio De Anna, Regional Councillor for culture, sport and international relations, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region*
Keith Whitmore, President of the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of CoE
Taulègne Béatrice, Deputy Director Direction E “Horizontal policies and networks”, Committee of the Regions
Representative of the European Commission Representation in Italy
Tanja Hafner Ademi, Executive Director Balkan Civil Society Development (tbc)
Ozgen Keskin, President of NALAS – Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South-East Europe
Ivan Jakovčić, President of Istria Region (Croatia)
Cristino Pedraza, Senior Advisor Art in UNDP Morocco
- 16.30 - 16.50 **Coffee break**
- 16.50 - 18.00 **SECOND PANEL: Network of Civil Society active for Local Governance. Lesson learned and ideas for the near future.**
Moderator: *Ulad Vialicka, Chair EuroBelarus*
Dzenana Dedic, Delegates’ representative LDAs network
Monsef Ben Slimane, Representative from network LAM ECHAML, Tunisia
Avi Rabinovitch, expert in municipal development in the Med area
Andreu Claret, Director Anna Lindh Foundation (tbc)
Claudio Di Giorgio, Head of External Relations, Informest
Chuck Hirt, Director of CEECN, Central and Eastern European Citizens Network representing Working Together for Development Alliance (tbc)
Azay Guliyev, Chairman of the Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Questions and answers
Antonella Valmorbida, Director of ALDA, closing remarks

VIT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Active ageing and local governance: how to involve elderly as active citizens in their local communities”

The International Conference **“Active ageing and local governance: how to involve elderly as active citizens in their local communities”** organised in Udine on 8th June 2012 is part of the project VIT-Very Important Twinning, Volunteering in Town. This initiative aims at encouraging twinning as a tool for long-lasting cooperation by promoting the European Union values. In 2012 the international event of VIT addresses the topic of Active Ageing within the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, which is intended to raise awareness on the contribution that older people make to society.

This event in Udine will focus on Active Ageing in the prism of town-twinning and local governance and will involve around 150 participants, representatives of Civil Society Organisations and Local authorities working with and for elderly, experts, members of older people’s organizations, citizens, etc. A special focus will be made on the importance of volunteering and citizens’ participation from younger to older at local level for good local governance and an inclusive society.

This conference will also be an opportunity for participants to share their experiences and good practices and to debate on the ways to make elderly active in their local communities and more specifically within town twinning.



Europe for Citizens
Programme



VIT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“Active ageing and local governance:
how to involve elderly as active citizens
in their local communities”

8th of June 2012 – h. 14.30 – 18.00

- 14.30 – 15.00 **Welcome addresses by Per Vinther, President of ALDA**
General overview of the EY 2012 and Active Ageing
Leila Giuseppina Nista and Rita Sassu, ECP - Europe for Citizens Point Italy
Presentation of the AGE Europe Platform and the campaign on a European Covenant of Mayors on Demographic Change
Alice Sinigaglia, Coordinator of the coalition and campaign of the 2012 European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations
- 15.00 – 15.15 **Choir of the University of Third Age of Trieste**
- 15.15 – 15.45 **Priority Healthy Cities and Solidarity Between Generation**
Furio Honsell, Mayor of Udine
- 15.45 – 16.00 **Coffee break**
- 16.00 – 17.00 **International panel on Active Ageing and the role of senior in town twinning: good practices from VIT partners**
Moderator: Franco Iacop, Vice President of the V Permanent Commission of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Council
Dorothee Fischer, RECREATURA arts et culture
Agnieszka Dybowska, Municipality of Bydgoszcz (tbc)
Tristan Dussol, AFCCRE, Association Française du Conseil des Communes et Regions d'Europe
Mirela Muca, Albanian Association of Municipalities
- 17.00 – 18.00 **Local panel on Active Ageing: good practices from the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region**
Ugo Lupatelli, President of the University of Third Age of Trieste
Mattia Vinzi, President of the Association ExisT
Conclusion

Contacts

Headquarters in Strasbourg

ALDA c/o Council of Europe - 67075 Strasbourg (FR)

Phone +33 3 90 21 45 93 - Fax +33 3 90 21 55 17

aldastrasbourg@aldaintranet.org

Office in Brussels

ALDA, Rue des Confédérés 47 - 1000 Brussels (BE)

Phone +32 274 201 61

aldabrussels@aldaintranet.org

Office in Vicenza

ALDA, Viale Mazzini 225 - 36100 Vicenza (IT)

Phone +39 04 44 54 01 46 - Fax +39 04 44 23 10 43

aldavicenza@aldaintranet.org

Support Office in Brindisi

ALDA c/o Municipality of Brindisi, Via Guerrieri 7 - 72100 Brindisi (IT)

Phone +39 0831 229 423/575 - Fax +39 0831 229 222

Office in Skopje

ALDA, Zenevska bb - 1000 Skopje (MK)

Phone +389 (0) 23065932

Office in Subotica

c/o LDA Trg Cara Jovana Nenada 15, 24000 Subotica (SRB)

Phone +381 24 554 587