

Strasbourg, 19th of April 2018

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**VALUE CHARTER OF ALDA
Proposed to the Governing Board**

April 2018

Preamble¹

The construction of a democratic society finds its stability and its vitality in governance resulting from the interactivity and the synergy of all the present actors - institutional or not - at the local level: the elected representatives, the national and local government, as well as the civil society in all its components.

The Council of Europe has created the Local Democracy Agencies after the war in the Balkans in order to contribute to the democratic reconstruction of the region. ALDA was then established in 1999 to support further the network of the Agencies and for supporting good local governance in a broader perspective. Since then, ALDA and the LDAs are working in Europe and beyond with the mission to promote good and democratic Governance, to help to build a stable and participative democratic society by gathering various actors of civil society and by developing positive synergies between them.

Our Values

Aware of the fact that a democratic, open and transparent **local governance**, based on the cooperation between the local authorities and the civil society, plays a major founding role in any democracy, ALDA makes confirms its values :

- The value of **decentralisation and strong and empowered local and regional authorities** as outlines in the European Charter on Local Self-Government and referring to Good Democratic Governance at local level, encapsulated in the 12 Principles adopted by the Council of Europe.
- The value of a **strong and independent civil society** so that this one can occupy the right spot in the framework of the Local Governance and in the civil society generally. ALDA believes in particular in the active and responsible citizenship, with a specific focus on supporting actions of young people and women, so that they can participate and contribute completely to the democratic processes.
- The **value of respect for the rights, for tolerance, and for the solidarity, the essential basic principles of "living together"**, the only ones which allows a real intercultural and interreligious dialogue and an implementation of a democratic, diverse and participative governance.

¹ ALDA main documents are also the Statute and the Strategic Framework approved on a three-year base, found on the website www.alda-europe.eu

- The value of **dialogue between the local authorities and the citizens**, and contributing to the joint actions shared between the elected representatives and the citizens with the aim to participate together in the social, economic and cultural development of the community.
- The **value to stand against the speeches of hatred, against the intolerance and promoting so a very diversified society.**
- The **value of cross-border cooperation and free movement as one of the universal human values based on European standards**, natural considerations for human mobility, influences of migration and integration of newcomers at national and local level in the construction of society based on rights, dignity, respect and reciprocity.
- The **value of links and exchanges between countries at the local level by promoting** the sharing of the knowledge and best practices and committing to the fact that the activities and the programs are developed and implemented in the respect of those founding principles which are the basis and the reason for being of ALDA.
- The **value of Europe as a peaceful and constructive space of cooperation among citizens respecting their diversities.**

Brussels, 4th of May 2018