



Secretariat
of the
Association
c/o Conseil
de l'Europe
F-67075
Strasbourg
Cedex

with the support of



COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



To the kind attention of
ALDA members

LETTER OF REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR RELAUNCHING THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY KOSOVO

DR-09-26

Strasbourg, 28th January 2009

Dear members of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies

With this Letter we want to inform you about the activities in progress to re-launch the Local Democracy Agency in Kosovo. Due to diverging priorities of the former LDA Kosovo in Gjilan and its partner network established with the support of Kosovo Ensemble, Governing Board of ALDA has taken the decision to re-establish the Local Democracy Agency in Kosovo. Now, the process is taking place in close co-operation with the Association of municipalities of Kosovo (AKM) in order to secure the fulfilment of the main mission of the Local Democracy Agency, as an effective tool for promoting good governance in local communities at the disposal to the local self-governments in Kosovo. According to the action plan adopted, opening of the new LDA in Kosovo with the label of ALDA is scheduled for the 1st of September 2009.

Successful implementation of the Action Plan entails a selection of the host town where the LDA will be situated, selection of new partners, including a lead partner and appointment of a new Delegate. AKM is to offer the ALDA technical, logistic and political assistance in the whole process of the implementation of the Action Plan.

The objective of LDA Kosovo is to bring together local authorities and civil society organisations, in this way providing the assistance necessary to help ensure a smooth and stable transition towards democracy and European integration, with an emphasis on promoting tolerant and trust-based relationships within local communities. See also the ALDA website on activities of the LDAs in South Eastern Europe, www.alda-europe.eu.

Bearing in mind the multi-ethnic nature of Kosovo, among the most important priorities of the LDA will be to work towards the strengthening of cooperation of its communities and the facilitation of their economic and social integration. More specifically, the following priority areas are integrated in the objectives of the LDA in Kosovo:

- The promotion of concrete initiatives to consolidate democracy at the local level.

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Director

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Education and Culture DG
"Europe for Citizens" Programme

- The development of institutions at local level based on the exchange of know-how, training of the local councillors and civil servants.
- The promotion of an intercultural and interethnic dialogue and understanding
- The promotion of youth participation through trainings for successful implementation of EU Youth in Action programmes
- Capacity building for local target groups through promoting European standards in active citizen participation at local level

A fact finding mission will be organized in March and we are collecting interest of local authorities to be involved at this early stage for a fact finding mission.

With this in view, ALDA invites all the members willing to support the work and join the partners network of the Local Democracy Agency in Kosovo to express their interest and specify the potential priority areas of co-operation. Looking forward to receiving your feedback, for any further information please do not hesitate to contact ALDA staff members:

Srdjan Cvijic: srdjan.cvijic@aldaintranet.org

Stanka Parac: stanka.parac@aldaintranet.org

I thank you and I am looking forward to working with you on this new challenge.

Sincerely yours,

With best regards,

Antonella Valmorbida
Director

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