

Programme for the Conference on cooperation for Local Government development in South Caucasus

Monday, 29 November

Arrival of participants to Kutaisi

Tuesday, 30 November

10:00 Opening of the seminar – Welcoming remarks

- *Mr. Lasha MAKATSARIA, Governor of Imereti Region*
- *Mrs. Antonella CAGNOLATI, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe*
- *Mr. Per VINTHER, President, Association of Local Democracy Agencies*

10:30 The experience of Kutaisi as host city for LDA Georgia

- *Mr. Giorgi TEVDORADZE, Mayor of Kutaisi*

10:45 The experience of NALAG as a partner of LDA Georgia

- *Mr. Mamuka ABULADZE, President of NALAG and Mr. David MELUA, Director of NALAG*

11:00 The experience of the City of Strasbourg as a partner of LDA Georgia: The motivation for Strasbourg to be involved in the LDA, what did Strasbourg get out of the partnership, successes of the cooperation and challenges throughout the partnership.

- *Mrs. Nawel RAFIK-ELMRINI, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, Responsible for International and decentralized cooperation and member of the Congress*

11:15 The experience of LDA Georgia seen from the inside: Successes and challenges during the first four years of LDA Georgia's work.

- *Mr. Ioseb KHAKHALEISHVILI, Executive Director LDA Georgia LDA Georgia*

11:30 Discussion and questions

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- 11:45 The experience of the Congress with LDAs in the Balkans:**
The original thoughts behind LDAs in the Balkans in the 90'es. Successes and Challenges of the first LDAs.
- *Mr. Refik RRUGEJA, Mayor of Kavaja and President of the Albanian Association of Municipalities and Vice President of NALAS*
- 12:00 The strategy of ALDA in South Caucasus:**
Expansion of the LDA network to cover all countries in South Caucasus
- *Mrs. Antonella VALMORBIDA, Director, Association of Local Democracy Agencies*
- 12:15 Discussion and questions**
- 12:30 Lunch**
- 12:30 Briefing for LDA Georgia partners (12:30 - 13:00)**
- 14:00 Results and lessons learned since the 2009 Kutaisi conference**
- 14:45 How do NALAS and National Associations involve members in their work?**
- *Mrs. Ginka TCHAVDAROVA, Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe and Executive Director of the National association of municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria*
 - *Mrs. Zorica VUKELIC - comments and additional remarks*
 - *Discussion with participants and ideas for future actions in South Caucasus*
- 15:30 Coffee break**
- 16:00 Main phases in the development of a functional National LG Association - key challenges**
- *Mrs. Zorica VUKELIC, Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe and Deputy Secretary General of the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Serbia*
 - *Mrs. Ginka TCHAVDAROVA - comments and additional remarks*
 - *Discussion with participants and ideas for future actions in South Caucasus*
- 17:30 Guided tour of Kutaisi (until 19:00)**
- 20:00 Dinner**

Wednesday, 1 December

- 10:00 The role of National Associations in assisting capacity building of their members?**

- *Mr. Refik RRUGEJA, Mayor of Kavaja and President of the Albanian Association of Municipalities and Vice President of NALAS*
- *Mr. Emin Yeritsyan, President of Communities Association of Armenia and Former Vice President of Congress*
- *Discussion with participants and ideas for future actions in South Caucasus*

11:30 **Coffee Break**

12:00 **Service delivery from National Associations to members**

- *Mrs. Ginka TCHAVDAROVA, Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe and Executive Director of the National association of municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria*
- *Mrs. Zorica VUKELIC - comments and additional remarks*
- *Discussion with participants and ideas for future actions in South Caucasus*

13:30 **End of Seminar – conclusions**

- *Mr. Günther KRUG, Former Vice president of the Congress and member of the Berlin House of Representatives*
- *Mr. Per VINTHER, President, Association of Local Democracy Agencies*

14:00 **Lunch**

15:00 **Departure of participants**