



LDA Ukraine Stakeholders Meeting in Dnipropetrovsk, 6th March 2015

In an effort to support the development of local communities, local democracy and citizens' participation in Ukraine, ALDA - The European Association of Local Democracy, in cooperation with local and regional authorities and civil society organisations, is working to establish a Local Democracy Agency in Dnipropetrovsk (LDA)/ Ukraine.

Together with our partners we are planning to **launch the LDA in Dnipropetrovsk on 18th May 2015** in line with the Europe Day celebrations. Our **current confirmed partners** include the regions of Lower Silesia (Poland), Alsace (France), and the region of Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine). The LDA is endorsed by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, by the UNDP ART initiative and CORLEAP (The Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership) of the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

ALDA is currently looking for more partners from the EU regions/municipalities, as well as European and local civil society actors to come on board.

An **introductory event, scheduled for the 6th March in Dnipropetrovsk, to present the LDA and its objectives to the EU and Ukrainian stakeholders** interested in supporting this important initiative. The event will be organised back-to-back with the Youth event held by the Congress of the Council of Europe within the framework of the Congress project "Strengthening the capacity of local authorities in Ukraine".

ALDA and its partners have invited a number of EU-based and Ukrainian civil society groups, Regions and Municipalities with a work focus on Ukraine, to participate in the event on the 6th of March.

Agenda: 6 th of March. Venue: Abri hotel Time: 9:30-16.00		
09:00-09:30	Registration of the participants	
09:30-09:45	Introductory remarks	Mr Evgeniy Udod, Chairman of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council of the Dnipropetrovsk region
09:45-10:00	Introductory remarks	Mr Per Vinther, Member of the Governing Board of ALDA, Co-Chair of the EaP Working Group
10:00-10:15	The LDA concept and the role of the Partners in development	Ms Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA, and

	cooperation as a tool for local authorities and civil society	Ms Ela Horoszko, ALDA Project Manager and EaP Coordinator
10:15-10:30	Experiences, goals and challenges of working in Ukraine	Mr Blazej Zajac, President, The East-West Association for Mutual Understanding, Lower Silesia, Poland
10:30-10:45	Polish-Ukrainian Youth Cooperation	Mr Jan Szebesczyk, Project Coordinator, The House of Meetings of Angelus Silesius (DAS), Lower Silesia, Poland
10:45-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-11:30	Mechanisms of public participation in formulation and implementation of local policies	Mr Andrii Krupnyk, Director, All-Ukrainian NGO "Association for Community Self Organisation Assistance, Odessa
11:30-11:45	Challenges of regulatory policy to ensure forms of local democracy in Ukraine	Mr Oleksiy Orlovsky, Director, International Renaissance Foundation, Kyiv
11:45-12:00	Local needs and opportunities for the region and the LDA Ukraine	Mr Kirill Batalov, Director of "Communities of Dnipropetrovsk Region" Resource-Informational Centre
12:00-12:30	Questions and Answers	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:15	Opening presentation: Local Self-Governance in Serbia	Mr Dobrica Milovanovic, Member, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
14:15-15:30	Roundtable discussions in 4 groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What should the role of the LDA be in Ukraine - How should the LDA maximise its impact on the ground - How to best cooperate and work together (LDA/CSO/LA) - Identify the needs and priorities of the region 	Group exercise (4 groups)
15:30-15:50	Reporting from the groups	Each group reports for 5 minutes
15:50-16:00	Final conclusions	

What is a Local Democracy Agency (LDA)?

An LDA is a locally-registered NGO, functioning on the basis of a partnership between local and international actors. LDAs are established in the framework of the support programme of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to strengthen local democracy and human rights and promote sustainable development in line with European values.

Why Dnipropetrovsk?

The LDAs are by principle not based in capital cities. The Local Democracy Agencies act as promoters of democracy and local self-governance, to promote human rights and sustainable development. As such they form an operational platform of debate, capacity building and shared cooperation between civil society and local authorities.

The LDA Dnipropetrovsk will form part of a wider network of LDAs already existent in the European neighbourhood, working towards the same objective fostering educational, economic and professional exchanges. Its aims are to actively contribute to capacity-building on the ground, on an individual, as well as on an institutional and organisational level progressively feeding into the European Commission's mandate to support democratic institution building as a vital ENP objective.

It will be following a **multi-stakeholder approach** with priorities and projects to be defined, implemented and monitored in collaboration between the LDA, its partners, as well as local authorities and civil society/citizens. This is of particular importance with regard to ensuring transparency, sustainability, as well as local ownership of the LDA. This will even be more important in light of a possible post conflict reconstruction in Ukraine.

The role of the international partners will be to provide core financial support, participate in activities, prepare and implement joint projects, and to encourage networking and participation among communities. International partners will be regions and municipalities, as well as NGOs from Europe with an interest in strengthening local democracy and citizens' participation in Ukraine. They will be able to exchange best practices, join European projects on peace and reconciliation, community development, and decentralised cooperation.

The **overall objective** is to support the development of local communities, local democracy, and citizen participation in Ukraine.

Our **current valued partners** include the regions of Lower Silesia (Poland), Alsace (France), and the region of Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine). The LDA is supported by the UNDP ART initiative and CORLEAP (The Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership) of the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

For more information please contact:

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