

# Discover Europe with ALDA

## 2-DAY PROGRAMME

Get closer to the EU, its institutions and stakeholders through ALDA!

We give students the opportunity to interact with key European stakeholders.

### ABOUT ALDA

**Let us introduce ALDA!** ALDA - the European Association for Local Democracy - is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. ALDA focuses on activities that strengthen trust among the local community actors and, in particular, facilitate the 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 (LDAs) founded in the early 1990s. LDAs are self-sustainable, locally registered NGOs that act as promoters of good governance and local self-government. The network of LDAs, which now covers the IPA, Eastern Partnership and MENA regions, is our distinctive tool to promote good local governance in the Neighbourhood.

Starting with the successful experience of LDAs promoting community development through a territorial approach, ALDA's mission has expanded over time. We are nowadays a membership-based organisation gathering more than 200 members (bringing together Local Authorities, Associations of Local Authorities, non-governmental organisations and universities) coming from more than 40 countries. The successful approach launched in the early 90s has been expanded and promoted within both the EU and its Neighbourhood.

**What is unique about ALDA?** Most of ALDA's work is based on 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 synergies and ensure that common goals are reached in a successful way.

**What we do?** In the framework of promoting good governance and citizen participation at the local level ALDA focuses on various themes, such as European integration, decentralisation, civic initiatives and volunteering, human rights and sustainable economic development, youth, culture, social issue, health and environment. ALDA carries out its activities through different forms of action: coordinating and supporting the 11 Local Democracy Agencies in their activities; conducting its own projects in the field of good governance and citizen participation; supporting members' initiatives by sharing our expertise.

**Where we work?** ALDA works both within the EU and its Neighbourhood. Our action in the European Union focuses on the promotion of Active European Citizenship on its broader conception while in the Neighbourhood we also foster European integration and decentralisation.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The programme “Discover Europe with ALDA” gives University students the opportunity to visit the main EU institutions in Brussels and to interact with fundamental European stakeholders. The participants will get the chance to learn more about the European Union and its functioning, and to carry out a debate on civic and political matters that are important to them. The whole process will be coordinated by ALDA, an expert on EU related issues.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

Thanks to the programme “Discover Europe with ALDA”, participants:

- will gain a clear idea of the functioning of the EU and its institutions
- will have the chance to have a face-to-face meeting with key European stakeholders
- will have the chance to express their opinions and give advice on youth-related matters at the EU level

*Participants will receive the certificate of attendance awarded by ALDA, strategic partner of the European Commission and of the Council of Europe.*

## STANDARD PROGRAMME AND SCHEDULE

(The programme can be tailored to universities' and students' needs, also in terms of number of days)

<b>Day 1</b>	All day	Arrival
<b>Day 2</b>	Morning	Get to know ALDA and its work
	Afternoon	Visit to EU institutions
<b>Day 3</b>	Morning	Meet key EU stakeholders
	Afternoon	Discussion and wrap-up
<b>Day 4</b>	All day	Departure

On the arrival day, participants will get the chance to settle in Brussels and take some time to get acquainted to the city and its sites. ALDA will be suggesting the best sightseeing points in the city.

On the second day, the activities will start with a morning session in which ALDA's representatives will present the Association and its work at the European level.

In the afternoon, meetings with representatives of the main EU institutions - European Parliament, European Commission, Committee of the Regions, European Economic and Social Committee - on the topics of interest of the universities and students.

On the third day, participants will be accompanied by ALDA at interactive meetings with key EU stakeholders, who will share their expertise and will be open to discussion.

In the afternoon, ALDA will lead a wrap-up session to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate the activities they participated in and above all to express their recommendations on how the cooperation between the European Union and young people across Europe could be further developed.

## **COST AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### **Programme fee:**

- € 30 per participant per day (€ 60 for the standard programme of two days).  
*Submission of certified copies of the invoices incurred by the sending institutions required.*

### **The sending institution is requested to:**

- cover travel and accommodation costs (ALDA can support the identification of accommodation solutions upon request)
- submit the list of participants with the information needed to access the EU institutions
- send to ALDA the certified copies of all invoices occurred for the activity (travels, accommodation, meals, etc.). Travels must be accompanied by boarding passes or tickets

### **ALDA is in charge for:**

- supporting the sending institution to identify the best accommodation solutions according to its needs
- organising visits to EU institutions and meetings with stakeholders in Brussels
- logistics and organizational matters in Brussels

### **Please note**

In order for ALDA to organise the visits and support you for the accommodation, **it is compulsory that the sending institution:**

- applies to the programme “Discover Europe with ALDA” 3 months before the date of when the activity is required to be planned
- sends ALDA a list of participants at least 1 month before the start of the programme
- pays the agreed fees by bank transfer to the account that will be provided by ALDA at least 1 month before the start of the programme

The minimum number of participants required is 15.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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