

ALDA NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2015



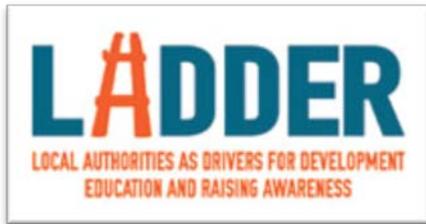
Latvian Presidency and European Year for Development 2015: an important start of the year for ALDA

With January 2015, the Latvian Presidency is setting the agenda of the main political lines of the European Union, by chairing the Council. Among the important issues to follow, Latvia selected Eastern Partnership as one of the core of its activities. Indeed, it will host in May the Summit of the Eastern Partnership that will probably pave the way for a reform of this important instrument of the European Union with its Eastern Neighbours.

This part of the European Neighbourhood is of particular interest of ALDA and its members since the organisation is supporting two fully operational Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) – in Gyumi, Armenia and in Kutaisi, Georgia. ALDA is also working for setting up – hopefully in May – a Local Democracy Agency in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, with the support of the Region Lower Silesia (PL) and Region Alsace (France). The challenge is important considering the need to work in a particular area, at the border with the conflict zone of the Donbass.

In addition to these fundamental elements to promote local democracy and local governance as one of the main pillar of the stabilisation and development in the Eastern Partnership countries, ALDA is also working steadily in Belarus and with programmes in Georgia. The Association also runs some youth programmes in Azerbaijan. Therefore, for all of us – the LDAs and ALDA members – the Latvian Presidency will be of fundamental important to raise the profile of citizen participation at the local level as a top item on the agenda of the European decision makers. It is also crucial to underline the importance of this year 2015, dedicated by the EU to Development policies. And ALDA is – among its activities – a real promoter of development with projects making Local Authorities and Civil Society work together. We actively participated to the development of the Alliance for the European Year for Development, working closely with CONCORD and we will be active all year long to make citizens more aware and involved in development issues. For many reasons, ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy will be at the core of the European programmes and policies with many activities and projects. We will work hard to implement our actions with all members and partners.

Oriano Otocan, President of ALDA – The European Association for Local Democracy



Project LADDER on the starting blocks - 26 partners, 20 associates, one major challenge for the EU and its Neighborhood!

The project "**LADDER - Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education and Raising awareness**" is about to start. The preview event of the 3-year project, led by ALDA together with other 25 partners and 20 associates from the European Union and its Neighborhood, will take place on 21-22 February in Modena, Italy, in the framework of the festival BUK.

Funded by EuropeAid, LADDER aims at raising awareness and strengthening the capacity of associations of local authorities and civil society organizations to act in a sustainable way as drivers for development, fostering their role of multipliers within their countries, communities and networks, to develop a multi-level active engagement in global challenges.

The European Year of Development 2015 is the right time to address these ambitious goals. ALDA together with all the project partners and associates will start this journey with passion and commitment, aware of the relevance of development cooperation and of its future for citizens, local authorities, and organized civil society in the enlarged Europe.

LADDER is the natural follow up of the project Working Together for Development, which focused on information, training, and networking for local authorities associations and networks of civil society organizations in the field of development cooperation. The will of the great majority of WTD partners in continuing the challenge together by setting higher goals cannot but be considered a key result of the project itself.

Further information:

Read more about the project [LADDER](#)
[Read more about the project WTD](#)



Launch of the operating grant for the LDAs - Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue

From January 2015, ALDA and the Balkan LDAs are starting the implementation of the operating grant – **Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue**, a new platform in the Balkans which aims to establish a network of organisations that will contribute in structuring

regional thematic cooperation and coordination between civil society and public authorities from targeted countries to improve environment for youth activism and participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities. The first meeting will be held in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 27th and 28th January.

The project is initiated by ALDA, with LDAs from Mostar, Zavidovici, Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Subotica, Knjazevac (Serbia), Niksic (Montenegro), Peja (Kosovo) as co-applicants and ALDA Macedonia as affiliated entity, who will jointly implement the activities locally. This very important project is financed by the European Union through the programme *Civil Society Facility - Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations (Support to regional thematic associations)*.

Through the course of the project a series of conferences, trainings, exchanges, workshops and meetings will be held in five targeted countries from the region, through the following main components of activities: 1) network coordination and management of activities; 2) network capacity building; 3) awareness raising and visibility actions; 4) exchange of good practice among the region countries; and 5) research and analysis.



Focus on EaP - ALDA Interview with MeP Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Belarus

On 7 January, ALDA interviewed Mr. Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, the MEP, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Belarus and member of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats), to discuss issues regarding citizen's participation and decentralization in the European context.

According to Mr. Zdrojewski, the EU currently faces several challenges related to various interests and values among its member countries and their neighbours. It is therefore very difficult to create a general spectrum of issues that should be taken care of in such a large area, and a lot of time is devoted to blocking inappropriate laws at the EU level. He suggests that greater focus should be given to specific rather than wide European issues. However, according to his opinion local matters such as social justice and coherence in policies can be more efficiently if managed at the local level, with the support of central governments but without strong interference of the EU.

Mr. Zdrojewski highlighted the advantages of Internet access in terms of significant improvement in communication between the local authorities and local civil society organizations, as well as in terms of information exchange between them and citizens all over Europe.

As a former Minister of Culture and shadow Minister of Defense, he referred to the importance of relation between security and culture. Building bridges between the two can contribute to tolerance and openness which is crucial for countering present security threats such as terrorism. His priority as a MEP for his 5-years mandate is the focus on overlapping responsibilities and overly complicated communication in defense system and fiscal barriers in connection to culture.

Listen to the [podcast of the interview](#) to MeP Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski

Former interviews of ALDA to MEPs and European stakeholders can be listened on our [SoundCloud channel](#)



Discover Europe by discovering the work of ALDA! Lottery to celebrate our (first) 15 years of activities together

The fifteenth anniversary of the European Association for Local Democracy, ALDA, is coming ahead soon in December. We believe this is an important birthday, worth to be celebrated with our members, partners, and friends, and for this we are launching a lottery.

By participating in ALDA's lottery, not only will you be part of our community supporting the promotion of local democracy and good governance in the enlarged Europe. The lucky winners will have a chance to discover Europe, from its heart to its periphery.

The 31 prizes, offered by members and partners of the association, include trips, typical food and wine, IT devices, and magazines, and will make you discover something new about Europe, as well as about ALDA.

Get ready to go behind-the-scenes with us! Tickets cost 5 € each, and the final extraction will be on 15 March.

For more information and for reserving tickets, please contact Barbara Elia: barbara.elia@aldaintranet.org

List of prizes:

Discover Europe and the work of ALDA!

1. Travel and 3-night stay in Strasbourg (France) for 2 people - offered by ALDA
2. Travel and 3-night stay in Brussels (Belgium) for 2 people - offered by ALDA
3. Travel and 3-night stay in Vicenza, Veneto (Italy) for 2 people - offered by ALDA
4. Travel and 4-night stay in Caen, Lower Normandy (France) for 2 people - offered by Region Lower Normandy





5. Travel and 3-night stay in Kotor (Montenegro) 2 people - offered by LDA Montenegro



6. Travel and 3-night stay in Mostar (Bosnia Herzegovina) for 2 people - offered by LDA Mostar



7. Travel and 3-night stay in Ohrid (Macedonia) for 2 people - offered by Region Lower Normandy



8. Travel and 3-night stay in Palic / Subotica, Vojvodina (Serbia) for 2 people - offered by LDA Subotica



9. Travel and 3-night stay in Georgia, Black Sea for 2 people - offered by LDA Georgia



10. 2-night stay in B&B in rural tourism, Erdut / Osijek (Croatia) for 2 people - offered by Erdut Municipality



11. 2-night stay in B&B in rural tourism, Daij (Croatia) for 2 people - offered by Erdut Municipality



12. 2-night stay in B&B in rural tourism, Aljmaš (Croatia) for 2 people - offered by Erdut Municipality

13. 3-night stay in Strasbourg (France) for 2 people - offered by Strasbourg

14. 3-night stay in Brussels (Belgium) for 2 people - offered by ALDA



15. New Eastern Europe, a bimonthly dedicated to Central and Eastern Europe – 1 year subscription - offered by New Eastern Europe

For you and your family!

16. Travel and 3-night stay in Strasbourg (France) for the Christmas Market 2015 for 2 people - offered by Strasbourg



17. 3-night stay in Hammamet (Tunisia) for 2 people - offered by Lam Echaml



18. 3-night stay in Varna, Black Sea Coast (Bulgaria) for 2 people - offered by UBBSLA



19. 1 week-end stay in Karşıyaka (Turkey) for 2 people - offered by Karsiyaka Municipality



20. 2-night stay in San Candido, Dolomites (Italy) for 2 people - offered by Hotel Leithof - Dolomiten Living



21. 5-night stay in Salento, Apulia (Italy) for 2 people - offered by ISBEM



22. 6-night stay in Ravenna, Emilia Romagna (Italy) for 2 people - offered by Hotel Diana



23. 6-night stay in Ravenna, Emilia Romagna (Italy) for 2 people - offered by Association ENDAS

abc.it

24. iPad Apple mini Retina 16 GB Wi-Fi + Cellular - offered by abc.it



25. 6 PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) bottles of wines from Apulia (Italy) - offered by Albano Carrisi

26. 6 PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) white organic wines from Alsace (France) - offered by family Friederich/ Zasova



27. Large basket of typical food and drinks from Cilento, Campania (Italy) - offered by Laurino Municipality

28. 3 entries to Disneyland Paris (France) - offered by ALDA

29. 3 entries to [Gardaland](#), Verona, Veneto (Italy) - offered by ALDA



30. 2 entries for EXIT Festival 2015 in Novi Sad (Serbia) - offered by LDA Subotica

31. 4 entries for the exhibition "Tutankhamon Caravaggio Van Gogh" in Vicenza, Veneto (Italy) - offered by Vicenza

Winners will be informed about the prizes conditions and details.



Civil Society Europe launch - First assembly and press conference on 3 February

Major European Civil Society Organisations joined in Rome on 16th December 2014 for the creation of [Civil Society Europe](#) (see .pdf). Thirty European Networks, including ALDA, are already supportive of this initiative aiming to establish a permanent coordination of the organised civil society at EU-level, a place for horizontal dialogue and a strong voice for effective advocacy in favour of policy changes that address the transversal issues of Equality, Solidarity, Inclusiveness & Democracy which should be at the heart of the European project.

Civil Society Europe's objective is to create an enabling environment for horizontal exchanges between civil society organisations and movements across Europe. It aims to provide a common and permanent space to share experience and knowledge, scale up campaigns and other forms of collective action and strengthen the capacity of its members to connect people in the diversity of their democratic forms of expression to act for change around our shared values.

Civil Society Organisations and Movements are catalyst of citizens' aspirations for change, first and foremost change in the content of the European policies which do not deliver along expectations and needs in terms of social justice and universal access to fundamental rights. From this perspective, Civil Society Europe aims to be influential in building a real civil dialogue at EU level, in shaping the agenda on transversal issues of common interest for civil society across Europe.

All European civil society networks supportive of this initiative may express their commitment, their expectations from this process and their willingness to engage in Civil Society Europe Steering Committee, whose responsibility will be to define Civil Society Europe work programme, strategy and internal functioning and to work towards ensuring the Civil Society Europe development and sustainability.

We are glad to invite you to the **PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF CIVIL SOCIETY EUROPE MEMBERS which will take place on 3rd February from 9:30 to 12:00 in Brussels in the Social Platform premises, Square de Meeûs 18, Brussels.** This meeting will precede the **PRESS CONFERENCE on 3rd February** to be held from 13:30 to 14:00 in the European Parliament Press Center with the support of EP Vice-President, Sylvie Guillaume, and give members the opportunity to elect Civil Society Europe Steering Committee. Please note that the General Assembly is an internal meeting only accessible to Civil Society Europe members, while the Press Conference (13:30-14:00) will be open to the general audience. **Registration to both events is needed via this [online form](#).**

For a smooth organisation of these two important moments in the building of Civil Society Europe, we kindly ask you to express the willingness of your organisation to join Civil Society Europe as soon as possible, by 27th January at 12:00 pm at the latest, by sending this [letter of engagement](#) to Alexandrina Najmowicz at anajmowicz@civic-forum.eu

Civil Society Europe has now been created in the eternal city of Rome, home of the European Treaties. A small step for those involved, a huge step for organised civil society at EU-level that wants to be part of the dialogue, debate, consultation and policy making!



Boosting citizen participation on health and environment in Italy – the success of the project COHEIRS beyond its EU funding timeframe

In a territory strongly affected by environmental violations and increasing severe diseases such as the renowned “Terra dei Fuochi” area in the region Campania in Italy, the project COHEIRS

developed a structured process of citizen participation by promoting the cooperation between the consortium made up of civic associations active in tackling environmental misconducts directly or collaterally threatening the public health, schools and research institutions, on one side, and Campania Region and the representative of the Italian Ministry of Internal Affairs, Mr. Donato Cafagna, on the other.

The project COHEIRS was a key means in the promotion of this structured dialogue. The [memorandum of understanding](#) signed between the partnership of the project and Mr. Cafagna aimed to officially recognise the civic observers in the region as partners in facing the environmental emergency of the territory was a significant step to pave the way to a long lasting collaboration among the civil society and regional and national authorities.

Within this framework, more than 100 civic observers led by ISBEM and ISDE Italy are now active on the ground in the whole region to monitor and report environmental violations as well as to raise awareness, inform and train citizens on the precautionary principle stated in the article 191 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union.

The success of the initiative is leading the consortium to make further efforts and coordinate the action through the establishing of the National Federation COHEIRS. The mission of the association will be to further promote the dialogue between national, regional and local authorities and civil society associations on issues of strong relevance to the whole community such as environment and health.

The initiative, strongly supported by ALDA, has seen the participation of broad society and is open to all those associations, educational and research institutions as well as simple individuals to whom environmental protection and public health are dear.

For more information, visit the [project website](#) and [ALDA's webpage](#). Follow and join the [civic observers in Campania on the dedicated facebook page](#)!

Please find here the [poster](#) of the training for civic observers, held on 13th December in Acerra.



Representatives of the Ministry of local self government of Macedonia visiting Lower Normandy

Last December, a study visit in Lower Normandy was organized for 7 representatives of the Ministry of local self government of Macedonia.

The mission objective was to contribute to the strengthening of the capacities of the Ministry of local self government in the field of territorial development. The Ministry is responsible for decentralization and regional development policies in Macedonia. The representatives of the

Ministry had the opportunity to learn about territorial organization in France and the functioning of the French region. Additionally, special attention was paid to the management of European funds for regional development. One of the most interesting subjects for the representatives was the current territorial reform in France and the unifying of Upper Normandy and Lower Normandy in one region.

The mission of the Macedonian representatives is one of the activities in the framework of the institutional cooperation between region Lower Normandy and the Ministry of local self government of Macedonia. The two institutional partners are cooperating since 2009 with the signing of the first convention for decentralized cooperation. The whole of the cooperation between Lower Normandy and Macedonia is in the field of local governance and contributes to the development of local policies on both territories. In this aspect the Ministry of local self government is the institutional partner in Macedonia, which assures visibility and coordinates the public partners.

During this study visit an Action Plan for 2015 was drafted regarding institutional support for the Ministry. The Ministry and the Region Lower Normandy are planning a series of mutual activities as well as the follow-up of reforms in France and the implementation of decentralization policies in Macedonia.

The Decentralized Cooperation between Lower Normandy and Macedonia is coordinated by ALDA. For more information please visit the [official website](#).



Panel discussion “Active Citizenship versus populism: the path of democracy”

On 15th January, ALDA, the European Association for Local Democracy, together with **FONDACA** - Fondazione per la Cittadinanza Attiva- and **Rete dell’Università per l’Europa**, organised the panel discussion “**Active Citizenship versus populism: the path of democracy**” in Rome.

The event was the occasion to present the publication edited by **Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA**, “[Citizens participation at the Local Level in the EU and in the Neighbouring Countries](#)”. The book focused on the 15 years’ experience of ALDA and its members in the field of citizenship participation.

After the speeches of **Giovanni Moro, FONDACA President**, and of **Antonella Valmorbida, ALDA Secretary General**, the debate, chaired by **Professor Francesco Guy, Coordinator of Rete Università per l’Europa**, was opened to the public. Please find here below some of more salient points of the discussion.

Giovanni Moro, President of Fondaca, underlined that Antonella Valmorbida's book allows dealing with the issues related to active citizenship and citizen participation, which are effective solutions against populism, if they are seriously implemented like in ALDA.

Stefano Ceccanti, Professor at the University "La Sapienza" in Rome, pointed out that populism related to European policies is due to the absence of a real European government.

Paolo Ponzano, Institutional Affairs Advisor at the General Secretariat of the European Commission, stressed the importance of Article 11 of the Treaty of Lisbon, which firstly acknowledged citizens' right of participation. Before that, in fact, the consultation of civil society consisted in collecting the experts' opinions and not in a direct involvement of citizens in decision-making processes.

Alessandro Perelli, ALDA Vice President and Responsible of the International Relations in Friuli-Venezia-Giulia Region, declared: "The work we are doing is the cure against populism and the growing inattention towards the system and democratic mechanisms".

Pier Virgilio Dastoli, President of CIME, underlined the importance of the Aarhus Convention. Participatory democracy is stronger when representative democracy itself is strong.

Serena Foracchia, Member of Reggio Emilia Council, presented the experience of Forum del Terzo Settore -Third Sector Forum - of the city, which contributes in crucial way to the life of the Municipality and attempts to establish relationships also at the European level. The municipality, which has always been in the forefront for its democratic practices, is a really active member in ALDA.

[Please find here Antonella Valmorbida's complete speech \(in Italian; .pdf\)](#)



Kick-off meeting of the project BESPAT

The partnership of the project **BESPAT** – Best European Policies, Analysis and Transference – gathered on 15-16 December in Madrid to hold the first transnational partner meeting and officially launch the project. ALDA was represented by Aldo Xhani, project manager of BESPAT.

The meeting was an occasion to define the key pillars of the preparatory activities in order to launch the implementation phase and pave the way for meeting the objectives of the project. As outcome of the two-day meeting, the partners agreed on a common action plan, on its communication strategy and on its monitoring and evaluation system. Particular focus was given to the methodology and criteria to be used in the identification and collection of good practices when it comes to policies and actions in the sector of personal and household services.

BESPAT is a key project within ALDA's 2015 Economic and Social programme. Its aim is to identify and exchange good practices regarding the policies and actions in the sector of personal and household services carried out by local, regional or national governments of the countries involved in the project as a way to define a Policies and Actions Proposal to encourage the efficiency of these services and to contribute through the creation of new jobs to the objectives of the European 2020 Strategy.

The project will encourage new forms of collaboration through partnerships between public and private actors in the labor market. The project consortium is composed by organisations formed by private companies of the social economy sector with a high relevance in the public sector, belonging to national advising boards such as CONFESAL and SNS, and networks of local authorities, associations of local authorities, regional authorities as well as NGOs and Universities such as ALDA, DIESIS and REVES.

Please find [here](#) more information on the project.



ALDA invited to showcase its expertise in citizen participation at the European Parliament

Within the framework of the seminar on “Citizen Matters. Views and Perspectives on European Citizenship”, organised by MEP Mr Fernando Maura, Rapporteur of the Europe for Citizens programme at the European Parliament, ALDA was invited as one of the main European stakeholders in the field of citizen participation to showcase its multiannual expertise in promoting participatory democracy.

The event gathered together MEPs, representatives of the DG Communication managing the programme Europe for Citizens, academics and practitioners to debate and exchange experience on the relation between citizen participation and the sustainability and further development of the EU project. The seminar was an occasion to analyse the threats of today's increasing skepticism towards the integration process in the EU and reflect upon new means in bridging the gap between citizens and the EU institutions.

Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA, invited the panelists and the audience to reflect upon the need of strengthening the sense of belonging to the EU project. “We can do so by promoting the feeling of sharing a common destiny”, she stated. This objective is far from being met and the simple existence of the institutions gives us the wrong impression that we achieved this common destiny.

Particular attention was put on the necessity of considering democracy as a continuous struggle. Within this framework, Ms Valmorbida showcased ALDA's multiannual work in promoting the cooperation between civil society and local authorities. “We must not only equip citizens with the

tools and skills to participate in public life, we must also make sure that participation is accepted by working at the level of local authorities” was her final remark.



Focus on citizenship and twinning: ALDA at the CEMR conference in Rome

Our Secretary General Antonella Valmorbida participated in the conference "Citizen in my City - Citizen in Europe", organized by CEMR on 15-16 December in Rome, Italy.

Mrs. Valmorbida was among the panelists of the session "**Citizens in Europe, Citizens in the World**", organised in cooperation with Platforma today, from **14:30 to 16:30**. [The session is still available in streaming.](#)

The other panellists were:

- Carl WRIGHT, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
- Alicia BARQUERO, Councilor for Equality and Development Cooperation Policies of Murcia (Spain), Member of the Commission of Development Cooperation of FEMP
- Jocelyne BOUGEARD, Deputy Mayor of Rennes (France)
- Angelo BAGLIO, Head of Unit "Civil society organisations – Local authorities", DG DEVCO – EuropeAid, European Commission
- Josep ROIG, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Moderator: Octavi DE LA VARGA, Head of the European Union and International Strategy, Diputació de Barcelona

On the occasion of the conference, the Structured Dialogue of the programme Europe for Citizens was also organised, and Mrs. Valmorbida participated representing ALDA and its wide experience with the programme.

More information on the [conference website](#)

After the event, a document containing 25 proposals to revive the European project was drafted and endorsed also by ALDA. The text entitled "Hope for Europe! 25 proposals to revive the European project", designed with both local and regional elected representatives and European institutions in mind, presents solutions to reconnect citizens with public action at every level: local, regional, national and European. To this aim, it stresses the importance of active participation in the decision-making process including, in particular, those people from social groups that are still poorly represented - especially women, young people and migrants.

The 25 proposals are available in [English](#) and [French](#).



ALDA and new staff celebrating the Association 15 years of work and looking at the future

On the occasion of ALDA first staff meeting in 2015, ALDA organized the celebration of its 15 years of activities on 10 January. Our former colleagues, those who contributed to shape the Association and made a difference, were also present. "When you are part of ALDA in your life, it's forever" said Ms Stefania Toriello, who worked long years with ALDA and was key to the development of a variety of activities.

On Sunday, the staff meeting officially started, and new staff members were presented, together with the new organogram. Monday 12 was entirely dedicated to staff meeting and strategy discussion, while on Tuesday a training for trainers will be held by our colleagues Marco Boaria and Anna Ditta.



LDA Georgia at full speed

During November and December 2014, the Local Democracy Agency Georgia, seated in Kutaisi and led by Mrs Nino Tvaltvdze, was extremely active in project drafting, in implementing training and other activities, as well as in fostering cross-border cooperation with Armenian stakeholders.

The [activity report](#) of the LDA (see .pdf) shows the impressive number of activities put in place over the last months in 2014. ALDA and all the partners are particularly happy to see concrete results arising from the efforts of the Agency delegate, Mrs Tvaltvdze, who since her start in summer 2014 managed to reboot activities and programmes, and tighten cooperation with a variety of stakeholders, the LDA Armenia in primis.

In February 2015, ALDA's trainers will be in the country again, in order to deliver the second training to representatives of local civil society organisations within the project [Mobilised Society for Local Democracy](#), in cooperation with LDA Georgia and NALAG.



Progress in Sisak local voluntary policy development

The joint process of volunteering development planning in Sisak gets enriched by the involvement of new interested stakeholders in a Working group for Sisak Local Voluntary Policy development.

The process of Sisak Local Voluntary Policy Development started in 2012, continues by enlargement of the **Working group gathering 18 representatives of CSOs and institutions in Sisak** that include volunteers in their programs and are interested in more quality volunteering development and in providing institutional support to volunteers.

The **Sisak Local Voluntary Policy development Working group meeting held on the 16 December 2014 in Sisak City Hall is initiated by the Local Democracy Agency Sisak**. LDA Sisak started the process due to strong need for improvement of conditions for volunteering and its acknowledgment at the local level, namely through defining and adopting an enforceable local policy. Providing instruments for better implementation of the Law on Volunteering in accordance to the needs and possibilities of a local community is the aim of local voluntary policy.

During the meeting, the Working group got acquainted with already done, with examples of voluntary policies development in nearby area, discussed the policy draft and agreed on joint work.

The local voluntary policy is developing as part of the projects „**Sisak Volunteer Network**“ and „**Volunteer Centre Sisak**“ funded by the Croatian Ministry of social policy and youth and Town of Sisak.