



Conference “Capitalisation and relaunch” and Celebration of the 15th anniversary of ALDA

*Hotel Ramada Lesendro Room,
Podgorica (Montenegro)
9 May 2015*



Anniversaries are traditionally used to go through our lives and evaluate them. Step by step, ALDA has turned 15 years old, since the registration of its Statute in 1999 and the start of its activities in 2000. In the fifteen years of ALDA’s existence, the organisation has produced many important activities and its contribution is still crucial for building a better, more democratic and inclusive society in Europe and its Neighbourhood.

The Conference “Capitalisation and relaunch” is an opportunity to both celebrate our 15th anniversary and to come together and assess the main achievements and challenges of the past. Things have not always been easy and smooth, on the contrary! But our dedication, assertiveness, and hard work always made it possible to find solutions. The main achievements in promoting citizen participation and good local governance in an innovative way result from our 15-years of work, and reflect the credibility gained by ALDA and its network of members and partners. Day by day, our experience becomes more precious and needed, and our unique network has to play a key role in building democracy in Europe and its Neighbouring countries.

The aim of this conference is therefore to reunite key representatives of European, national, regional and local authorities as well as civil society associations to exchange and assess the main achievements and the challenges ahead in the last 15 years in the geographical areas covered by ALDA’s action: Europe and its Neighbourhood.



Programme

Welcome speeches:

- **Mr Oriano OTOCAN**, President of ALDA
- **Mr Veselin GRBOVIC**, Mayor of Niksic, host city of the LDA Montenegro

Panel 1: EU Enlargement – the last 15 years achievements and the challenges ahead

Moderator: Mr Oriano OTOCAN, President of ALDA

Speakers:

- **His Excellency Ambassador Mitja DROBNIC**, Delegation of the EU to Montenegro
- **Ms Snežana RADOVIC**, Director General for European Affairs, Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
- **Mrs Nada DROBNJAK**, Member of the Parliamentary Committee for EU Integration, Parliament of Montenegro.
- **Mrs Barbara TOCE**, Vice President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Panel 2: Decentralisation & the multi-stakeholder approach towards the Enlargement and Neighbourhood of the EU?

Moderator: Mrs Antonella VALMORBIDA, Secretary General of ALDA

Speakers:

- **Ms Daliborka ULJAREVIC**, Director NGO Center for Civic education, Montenegro
- **Mr Dragan POPOVIC**, Belgrade Policy Center Director
- **Mr Sasa SCEKIC**, Assistant to the General secretary, Union of Municipalities of Montenegro
- **Mrs Sanja BOJANIC**, Team Leader/Programme Analyst, Democratic Governments & Economy and Environment, UNDP Montenegro.
- **Ms Paula RAUZAN**, Director LDA Sisak/Operational Partner ALDA, Croatia and **Ms Dzenana DEDIC**, Director LDA Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mrs Najeh SOUKI**, Executive Director, Lam Echaml, Tunisia
- **Mr Oleksiy ORLOVSKY**, Democratic practice Program Initiative Director International Renaissance Foundation, Kiev Ukraine

Debate with the audience

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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Oriano OTOCAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">President of ALDA – The European Association for Local Democracy</p> <p>Oriano Otočan is an expert in European policies. For several years he has managed the International Cooperation and EU affairs of the Region Istria, Croatia, strongly shaping territorial cooperation and regional development. President of the European Association for Local Democracy - ALDA since 2012, in 2014 he has been awarded the "Stella d'Italia" honor by the Italian President Napolitano for his support to the cooperation between Italy and Croatia. In 2013, he has been honored with the "European Projects Award" for outstanding achievements in local and regional development. In 2014, Mr Otočan started working at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. He is also active as a private entrepreneur.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Veselin GRBOVIC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mayor of Niksic, host city of the LDA Montenegro</p> <p>Veselin Grbović graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade. Mr Grbovic was a member of the Municipal Committee of Niksic and since 1998 he became a member of the Main Board of the DPS of Montenegro and of the Executive Board of the DPS Niksic. He was appointed to the Coordination Body of the Government of Montenegro to monitor the implementation of strategies to improve safety in road traffic. Mr Grbović was elected as a mayor of Niksic Municipality in 2013.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Mitja DROBNIC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ambassador to the Delegation of the EU to Montenegro</p> <p>Mitja Drobnić graduated from the University of Ljubljana with a degree in Economics. He served as Yugoslavian Consul in Dortmund from 1978 to 1982 and in Mannheim from 1986 to 1990. In 1991, Mr Drobnić became Section Head for Europe and North America at the Slovenian Foreign Ministry. In 2002, he was appointed Ambassador to Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.</p> |

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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Snežana RADOVIĆ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Director General for European Affairs, Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration</p> <p>Since 2012, Snezana Radović has been employed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro. She was Counsellor at the Embassy of Montenegro in Hungary for previous three years. In the course of her term in office in Budapest she was monitoring political situation in the country, she was responsible for consular and bookkeeping affairs and she was monitoring actively Hungarian EU presidency. According to the need she served as Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Nada DROBNJAK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Member of the Parliamentary Committee for EU Integration, Parliament of Montenegro</p> <p>Nada Drobniak served as a councillor in the Municipal Assembly of Podgorica from 2002 to 2006 and was the Head of the Gender Equality Office in the Government of Montenegro from April 2003 until May 2009. Ms Drobniak is currently acting as the President of the Committee for Gender Equality and is a member of the Committee for European Integration and Parliamentary Committee for Stabilization and Association of the Montenegrin Parliament and the European Parliament. Ms Drobniak is a member of the Regional Women’s Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice of South East Europe. She is also a regional contact person for the Gender Equality Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) for the Western Balkans.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Sanja BOJANIĆ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Team Leader/Programme Analyst, Democratic Governments & Economy and Environment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNDP Montenegro</p> <p>Sanja Bojanić is the Team Leader of the Democratic Governance cluster in UNDP Montenegro, a position she has held since January 2010. She supports Montenegro’s democratization and advancement in the European Union accession process through the enhancement of the rule of law, government effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and accountability, human security and respect of human rights. She also provides policy advice to the Resident Coordinator in the area of public administration and institutional reform.</p> |

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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Barbara TOCE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vice President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe</p> <p>Barbara Toce is the Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. In 2012, Ms Toce was elected Mayor of Pedaso. As delegated of the Board of Asteria Ms Toce followed projects for companies operating in the agro industry and renewable energy in India, Egypt, Tunisia, Mauritania, Argentina, Australia, and China.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Daliborka ULJAREVIC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Centre for Civic Education (CCE), Podgorica</p> <p>Daliborka Uljarević graduated at the Faculty of Political Sciences, Department of International Relations at the University of Belgrade and attended MA in European and East European Studies at the University of Montenegro. Ms Uljarević is active as a trainer / consultant within the Centre for development of NGOs team of trainers. As expert she is frequently engaged in various programmes lead by UNDP, URECNA, OSCE, UNIFEM, Sida, REC, ECOSOC, etc. From 2001 until 2005 Ms Uljarević worked as the Political and Media Adviser in the Council of Europe Office in Montenegro. She was one of the founders and a director of Nansen Dialogue Centre in Montenegro.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Antonella VALMORBIDA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secretary General of ALDA - The European Association for Local Democracy</p> <p>Antonella Valmorbida is the Secretary General of ALDA, the European Association for Local Democracy. She has a senior experience in promoting local democracy, empowerment of civil society, and good governance in Europe, in the Balkans, in Eastern Europe, and in the Med area. She is Chair of the EPAN – Enlargement, Pre Accession and Neighborhood - of CONCORD. She is the coordinator of the subgroup on local government and public administration reform of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership. Since 2008, she has been Professor of the University of Padua, Italy, in international decentralized cooperation and published articles and books on the topics of citizens participation at the local level.</p> |

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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Dragan POPOVIC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Belgrade Policy Center Director</p> <p>Dragan Popović was born in Kraljevo, 1980. He finished Law Faculty at the Belgrade University. He was working in several civil society organizations including Youth Initiative for Human Rights on position of researcher, program coordinator, program director, deputy and executive director. He is founder and director of Policy Center and member of Governing board of Human Rights House in Belgrade. Mr Popovic published several publications, analyzes and articles in area of human and minority rights, rule of law and transitional justice.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Sasa SCEKIC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Union of Municipalities of Montenegro</p> <p>Saša Scekcic graduated from the Faculty of Law in Podgorica. Mr Scekcic started to work for the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro in 2002. He performs the duties of an independent advisor in the local government system, follows the experiences of local communities of Montenegro, monitors the state of relations between civil society organisations and local government and performs other duties in relation to the system of local government, as well as other activities on behalf of the Secretary General.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Paula RAUZAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LDA Sisak – Operational partner ALDA (Croatia)</p> <p>After obtaining degree in Social Work Paula Razan worked in several CSOs in the fields of education, human rights and citizenship. As a director of LDA Sisak she is in charge of strategic planning, fundraising, project development, implementation and reporting and maintaining contact with media, governmental authorities and civil society organisations both at international and national level. She is a trainer on civil society strengthening and management, good governance, active citizenship, human rights, youth and volunteers' management, strategic planning and fundraising. She is the Director of the LDA Sisak.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Dzenana DEDIC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)</p> <p>Dzenana Dedic is Director of the LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) since establishment in November 2004. She is a commercial specialist by profession, with additional education in: integrated quality management, democracy, gender equality and critical thinking in the process of memorialization. Mr Dedic has more than 27 years of working experience, of which more than 20 years in NGO sector. In LDA Mostar, Ms Dedic is responsible for general management of the organization and implementation of organization's mission: "To support the process of democratisation in the City of Mostar by strengthening good governance and capacity building of local authorities and civil society, and active participation of citizens in public life"</p> |

Najeh SOUKI

Lam Echaml (Tunisia)



Najeh Souki is the Executive Director of Tunisian organisation Lam Echaml. After graduating from Accounting Sciences and obtaining professional master's degree in Optimization and modernization of enterprise, Mrs Souki completed training on "Civil Society Representative Trainings" organized by Tunisian School of Politics with the partnership of Council of Europe. Lam Echaml is an association of civil society organisations and independent citizens that has become an important information and training space for human rights, civic education and citizenship and a place of intercultural exchange.

Oleksiy ORLOVSKY

Democratic practice Program Initiative Director

International Renaissance Foundation, Kiev Ukraine



Oleksiy Orlovsky (40) is a lawyer, master of public administration, PhD in constitutional law. Oleksiy has been working at International Renaissance Foundation (Soros's Foundation) since February, 2007 in the positions of Civil Society Impact Enhancement Program Director, Civil Society and Good Governance Program Director, Democratic practice Program Initiative Director. He was a member of public councils under the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Municipal Economy and Ministry of Justice. In 2012-2014 Oleksiy was a member of the Constitutional Assembly of Ukraine.