



**In Peja/Pec signature of a pre agreement for the opening of the new ADL Kosovo, promoted by ALDA  
LDA KOSOVO, A BRIDGE TOWARDS EUROPE**

A bridge towards Europe and an important instrument to ensure a smooth and stable transition towards democracy and European integration, with an emphasis on promoting tolerant and trust-based relationships within local communities.

The signature of a pre agreement for the opening of the new LDA Kosovo (the Local Democracy Agency) promoted by ALDA (the Association of Local Democracy Agency) supported by the Council of Europe, will be an important instrument to foster the process

of dialogue between majority and minority for the benefit of all communities.

Meaningful is the role of ALDA and the launch of the new LDA Kosovo in the framework of the ruling recently delivered by the International Court of Justice about the 2008 declaration of independence of Kosovo.

“ALDA recognizes the UN's highest court ruling – recently states Mr. Per Vinther, President of ALDA – and will put its work in the medium term perspective of European integration of all the countries of the region and the support of the equal rights of all minorities. ”

Among the partners taking part in the signature of the agreement for the opening of the LDA Kosovo was Municipality of Peja/Pec (Kosovo), municipality of Yalova (Turkey) and the Association of Municipalities of Kosovo – AMK (Kosovo) as local authorities; as far as the NGOs are concerned, Tavolo Trentino con il Kosovo / Province of Trento, that will be initially the new LDA partner leader, Reggio Terzo Mondo (Kosovo and Italy), AIBI, amici dei bambini (Kosovo and Italy) and Alfa Formation (France) participated. As far as the Region Istria (Croatia) is concerned, the signature is planned to follow straight away, whereas Canton of Neuchatel (Switzerland) is evaluating to become a signature partner.

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies was represented by M. Lucio Gregoretti, from the Municipality of Monfalcone (IT), member of the Governing Board and by the ALDA Director, Antonella Valmorbida.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe was represented by Mr. Günther Krug, (Germany), Vice-President of the Chamber of Regions of Congress and member of the Bureau of the Congress, that had an important meeting with the local authorities representatives from Kosovo and from the partners' town.

“The Congress is fully committed to working with Local democracy Agency in order to develop and strengthen democratic stability in this region” stated Mr Krug, speaking on behalf of the President of the Congress Ian Micallef.

“The fruitful experience of on-going cooperation between ALDA and the Congress –stated also Mr Krug- should inspire future initiatives and actions to make the best use of limited resources at our disposal. The Congress stand ready to examine new projects and initiatives to be proposed by ALDA and to be jointly implemented by the Congress in the years to come”.

The meeting was held in the premises of the Municipality on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tavolo Trentino con il Kosovo in Peja/Pec, and it was part of the activities scheduled for the celebration of its Anniversary.

“We are here to confirm our full involvement in the new LDA Kosovo –stated Alberto Pacher, Vice-Presidente of the Trento Province (Italy)- and the commitment of the Province of Trento, in the process of democratization and development of Kosovo”.

A key contribution for the opening process of the LDA Kosovo was given, during 2009, by the Council of Europe, through

the funding of project “Youth Empowerment in Kosovo”, and, during 2010, by the Swiss Cooperation office-Kosovo

through the funding of the project “Local Democracy Agency Kosovo: New Challenges and Perspectives”. The implementation of both projects allowed ALDA to carry out a coherent set of activities that led to the settlement of a large and committed partnership. Thanks to the different and useful activities envisaged in the projects it was possible to select the Municipality of Peja/Pec as the host city of the LDA. The Municipality authorities are enthusiastic of hosting the office of the LDA, and they have caught all the potentiality of having a LDA as a tool for promoting the peaceful coexistence of the local communities.

The opening of the LDA Kosovo represents a further step in that direction, and will include a coherent set of activities contributing at the local development and at the peaceful coexistence of the local population belonging to different ethnic background. Practically, the LDA Kosovo will act as an effective tool for local democracy building at the disposal both of the international community and the local stakeholders. Conscious of the importance that the opening of the LDA Kosovo will have in the region, ALDA shared with its members the last steps of that process and wanted to involve them as operative actors.

The objective of LDA Kosovo is to bring together local authorities and civil society organizations, in this way providing the necessary assistance to help ensure a smooth and stable transition towards democracy and European integration, with an emphasis on promoting tolerant and trust-based relationships within local communities.

Bearing in mind the multi-ethnic nature of Kosovo one of the priorities of the new LDA will be to work towards the strengthening of the cooperation among its communities and the promotion of their economic and social integration.

"I would like to stress the importance of promoting local democracy and human rights in Kosovo through the LDA – states Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida Director of ALDA – Kosovo is still facing many internal and international challenges, and the action of the LDA could help the local communities to respond in a positive manner to those challenges."



### **A pilot project involving ALDA and the Municipality BRINDISI: A PARTNER OF ALDA IN ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP**

Giving more organic unity to the activity of presentation, handling and giving report on projects related to European projects, setting up an innovative training project and supporting active citizenship: these are the objectives of a collaboration started between the Municipality of Brindisi and ALDA, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies. The Municipality of Brindisi became a member of ALDA some years ago, sharing the same objectives, purposes and operational methods.

With the acceptance of a project proposal submitted by ALDA, the Councillor responsible for International Co-operation and Active Citizenship, Mr Giacomo Massimo Ciullo, has promoted the approval of two formal acts by the Municipality. Thanks to these two acts, on the one hand, the city of Brindisi will consolidate its own international and European role, on the other hand it will be able to develop an innovative project on citizens' active involvement in governance.

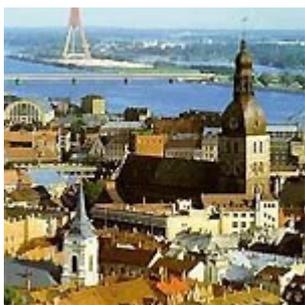
"We have been working with ALDA for a long time – Councillor Giacomo Massimo Ciullo has declared – and we well know its potentialities and abilities in raising the local governments' position to an European level. As far as our Municipality is concerned, we have been active for so many years in a co-operative action with the Balkans area. Thanks to ALDA's consultancy, we will set up an "Europe Office" which will help us to make a radical change with regard to both our international relationships, by means of improving the organization context of our activities, and our capacity and possibility to use the opportunities offered by the European programmes at the utmost."

A further, and at the same time important, advantage granted by the agreement made between the Municipality of Brindisi and ALDA is given by "Active Citizens", a pilot training/action course which is addressed to both the Municipality institutional bodies and citizens. The objective of this project, based on the necessity to build a social and political community identity with a full contribution by citizens and to promote their involvement starting from the local level, is to create training opportunities and related participation processes. A practical course of lessons, evidence, research and target groups is therefore aimed to turn into collective actions of processing, dialogue and co-operation, in other words into an actual practice of active citizenship.

"Our aim is to open the City Hall to citizens – Councillor Giacomo Massimo Ciullo has stated – in a new dimension founded on a continuous dialogue meant to give the Municipality the chance to know the citizens' opinions and needs punctually and, at the same time, to give citizens deep knowledge of how a local authority, the rights and the opportunity it grants."

Founded with the aim to promote the local democracy and human rights in Europe, with particular regard to the Balkan area and Eastern Europe, thanks also to its synergic work with institutional bodies and civil society, ALDA confirms itself as a privileged subject for local authorities even in the field of consultancy and training.

Working within a network of several and reliable subjects operating in an European framework – the Director of ALDA, Mrs Antonella Valmorbida, asserts – is the plus through which we move further with the support of this partner work with the Municipality of Brindisi. This member from Puglia region, as partner leader for the Albanian Skutari LDA and promoter of a programme on active citizenship, has already shown its subtle sensibility in line with ALDA's style, approach and objectives."



### **Organized by ALDA in support to AED activities in Armenia NGOS' STUDY VISIT IN RIGA, LATVIA**

ALDA has organised its second study visit in support to AED activities in Armenia. NGOs have visited their counterpart in Latvia from the 7th and the 14th of August.

The programme has been assisted by the Director of ALDA, Mrs Antonella Valmorbida [begin\\_of\\_the\\_skype\\_highlighting](#) [end\\_of\\_the\\_skype\\_highlighting](#), and by Mr. Peter Sondergaard, policy officer of ALDA, as well as by Ms Alexandra Petcu, support for development resources of ALDA.

The activity received the support of the Association of Municipalities of Latvia and gave the participants the opportunity to learn about the process of governance and dialogue with

civil society in Latvia.



## **By the Steering Committee of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership 220 NGOS SELECTED FOR THE FORUM IN BERLIN, 18TH AND 19TH OF NOVEMBER 2010**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2010, the third meeting of the Steering Committee for the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership selected the 220 NGOs which will take part in the Civil Society Forum that will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2010. Out of 220, only 60 will be from the EU members States.

The selection went through a thousands of applicants coming from the EaP countries and Europe. The preselected list were double checked by the national coordinators and the specific working groups.

The director of ALDA, Antonella Valmorbida ~~begin\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting~~ ~~end\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting~~, was involved in the preselection of the EU participants together with Mrs. Iris Kempe, from the Heinrich Boell Foundation, South Caucasus office, and Mrs. Katarzyna PELCZYNSKA-NALECZ Centre for Eastern Studies, from Warsaw. An elaborated draft of the programme was discussed together with the organisation of the speakers.

In the upcoming months, the Working Group meetings will take place in order to prepare the participants for the next Forum and elaborate the first ideas.

The European Commission is financially supporting the Forum and the Working Groups.

The second Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership will therefore evaluate the progress of the NGOs' perspective in the EaP official process and identify further recommendations for the four platforms (Democracy and Human Rights, Energy, Environment and Peer to Peer Exchanges).



## **ALDA has been given accreditation as Coordinating Organization for Youth in Action programme-Action 2 – European Voluntary Service**

Acting as Coordinating Organisation, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies wishes to create a Multilateral EVS Network in the framework of the Youth in Action programme – Action 2 – European Voluntary Service. The deadline for submitting request for participation is 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

This activity will permit the Promoters, Sending and Hosting Organisations, to participate in receiving or sending volunteers in between 18 and 30 years old for an abroad experience. The volunteers will be nationals of the EU member States + EEA countries +

Turkey of the Neighbouring Partner Countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia) and they will carry out their service in a country other than their country of residence. In brief, the respective sending organisation has to be from the country of residence of the volunteer.

Each project can involve up to 100 volunteers and several promoters, lasting no more than 24 months. EVS activities can last from two weeks to 12 months (depending on the number of volunteers concerned) and they must include the preparation for the volunteers, the voluntary service and an evaluation phase.

ALDA will be the Coordinating Organisation, charged of the supervision of the phases that precede and follow the EVS activities – such as planning and preparation and evaluation and follow up - but also of the support to the Promoters in the overall implementation of the project.

The Sending Organisation must help the volunteers in contacting the Hosting Organisation, providing them with a pre-departure training course and with all the help they would need. It also manages the contacts with the volunteers during the EVS activity and their involvement in the final evaluation, also supporting them in the reintegration in the home community.

The Hosting Organisation must provide a mentor who will personally follow the volunteers, offer them supervision and guidance and fill every need (especially it must prove them with suitable accommodation and meals) of the volunteers, with a particular view on their integration in the hosting community. The tasks of the volunteers have to be duly defined, as well as the learning opportunities. Finally, a due allowance must be granted.

ALDA is launching a call to find potential partners that will act as Sending Organisations, Hosting Organisation or both. Every promoter must be accredited as a sending and/or hosting organisation.

The deadline for receiving your willing to participate is 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

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## What can community organisations do to make civil participation a reality?

### ALDA ON THE CEECN SUMMER UNIVERSITY

ALDA joint the celebrations of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its sister organisation, the Central and Eastern European Citizens' Network (CEEEN) on 20<sup>th</sup> July in Budapest, Hungary. An ALDA representative presented to the fifty members of this network of community organisations the genesis and the content of Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the decision-making process of the Council of Europe during their 1<sup>st</sup> Summer University held in the Civic College Foundation, on 20-25 July in Kunbabor, Hungary.

This initiative is ALDA's part of the promotional activities launched by the Conference of International Non Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe for the promotion of the Code of Good Practice as a tool for citizens participation at local regional and national levels.

For more information on the CEECN Summer University please visit [www.ceeecn.net](http://www.ceeecn.net).

For more information about the COde of Good Practice please visit [www.coe.int/ngo](http://www.coe.int/ngo).

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### MOSTAR MUNICIPALITY BECOMES ALDA MEMBER

Mostar Municipality becomes ALDA member. The City Council of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) accepted the ALDA's invitation for partnership and by this decision, made on the 29th of June, City of Mostar has become ALDA member.

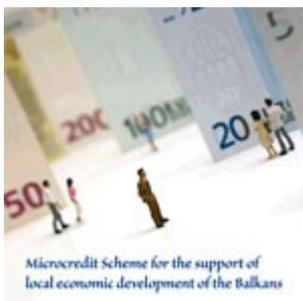
The City Council as deputed the Mayor to take all the technical steps needed for the ALDA membership.

ALDA has been working in Mostar since 2004 with the LDA that was established in November 2004. The Agency is located in this symbolic city, which is still substantially divided in terms of ethnicity. The LDA is not only operating on the municipal, but also on the Canton level.

LDA Partners are Region Puglia (lead partner, Italy); City of Mostar (BiH); Municipality of Vejle (Denmark); Province of Venice (Italy); City of Monfalcone (Italy); Municipalities of Orkdal and Sund (Norway); City of Kragujevac (Serbia); NGO "IPSIA" (Italy)

The main activities of LDA Mostar include capacity building for local authorities and NGOs, interethnic dialogue, youth issues, local economic development, sustainable tourism including the training of tourist guides and the development of information material, media issues and European integration.

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### Tirana 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2010

#### MEETING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MICROCREDIT PROJECT IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

The Steering Committee of ALDA/Bank Intesa San Paolo which took part in Tirana on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2010 gathered the representatives of the LDAs in Croatia, Serbia and Albania. The representatives from PBZ and Intesa San Paolo Beograd, as well as Intesa San Paolo Albania were the counterparts of the LDAs.

"The meeting was extremely successful and showed the results and the perspectives for the future. A special good opportunity is offered by our new presence in Albania and the LDA in Skodra, even if we are aware of the difficulties" said the Director of ALDA, Mrs Antonella Valmorbida, who was there on behalf of ALDA.

The participants assessed the outcome of the past year of activities with almost 2.000.000 euro funds disbursed with the support of the LDAs. Unfortunately, the scheme could not be implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The next months, called "Bridging activities" will be dedicated to the implementation of the project with the second part of the capital provided by the Council of Europe Bank, as it was described by Ilaria Olstini and Michel Bongiorno, from Intesa San Paolo Milano.

The whole programme and actors are preparing the next three years activities that will be also presented to the possible support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As for ALDA network, the Bridging activity is supported by the Trust Fund of the Council of Europe Bank.

The programme in Albania will also be identified in the next few months. However, the results of the meeting in Tirana gave to all a positive perspective of this new coming country in the programme.

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## **ALDA CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP**

ALDA has launched a set of calls for partnership in its different working areas. Download here all the relative documents:

- Call for proposals aiming at supporting new and innovative projects for pilot projects addressing the themes of “powers and responsibilities” in the field of migration policies at the local level.
- Call for proposals aiming at supporting the implementation of the Code of Good Practices for Civil Participation in the Decision Making Process.
- Call for partners to Develop Innovative Actions on the Initiative Power of Citizens.
- Call for proposals European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights – Country-based support scheme 2010 in the Republic of Moldova.
- Call for proposal Youth in Action – Action 4.5 Support to information activities for young people and those active in youth work and youth organizations.
- Call for proposal Getting to know Europe: Local and Regional Communities and the European Union.
- Call for proposal European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) - Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Lithuania-Poland-Russia 2007-2013.
- Call for proposal Action 4.3c — Youth Support Systems — Support to youth workers’ mobility and exchanges.
- Call for proposal Cross-border cooperation programme Albania-Montenegro 2007-2013. Instrument for pre-accession assistance, component II.
- Call for proposal Youth in action programme – action 4.6 – “Youth support system” Partnership.
- Call for experts Project "Capitalise Migrant Capacities-Algeria".

**Read more on [www.ald-europe.eu](http://www.ald-europe.eu)**