

ALDA NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2013

ALDA is strategic partner of UNDP: working together for local governance and local development



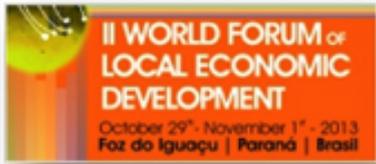
ALDA and [UNDP - Art programme](#) signed an important Memorandum of Understanding on 17 July 2013 in Geneva, at the UN Headquarter. The agreement highlights the common features of the programmes, developing synergies in fostering cooperation at the local level between local authorities and civil society, and aims at the development of common projects and strategies.

In particular, a constant cooperation is on going with the office of UNDP in Brussels. Contacts have been established for joint initiatives in Albania and Kosovo where both ALDA and UNDP Art are present. ALDA participated in many events organised by UNDP Art on local development and local governance, using synergies at the community level between local authorities and civil society. Developments are seen in Tunisia and Montenegro where actions from both organisations are present. Joint initiatives were organised during the recent Assises of Decentralised cooperation of the Committee of the Regions in Brussels and ALDA representatives participated in a recent event for the programme Art in Morocco. A joint work will also be possible to enlarge the UNDP Art programme to Eastern Europe by using, in this case, the added value of ALDA and the LDAs.

"There is a great possibility of cooperation with the Association of Local Democracy Agencies and the Local Democracy Agencies. The approach to development with a territorial, multilevel, and multistakeholder approach has now been recognised as a mail stone from the UN for the future steps of promotion of sustainable development. We are very happy to continue and strengthen this cooperation", confirmed Mr. Giovanni Camilleri, Global Coordinator of the programme Art Gold UNDP Geneva Office, who signed the agreement. As for ALDA, the Director Mrs. Antonella Valmorbidia states that this is a very important step to anchor our programme to a fundamental stakeholder promoting local governance, citizens' participation joining local and regional local authorities. "We are proud to be now strategic partners of the UNDP Art Gold and we will make sure that our mission will be further developed and strengthened by this new cooperation", she concluded.

[Read the agreement](#)

II World Forum of Local Economic Development: 28-31 October, Brazil



Following the success of the I World Forum of Local Economic Development (Spain, 2011), during which some 1,300 participants from 47 different countries exchanged territorial practices and tools for Local Economic Development (LED), the II World Forum of Local Economic Development will be held in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, from 29th October to 1st November.

The event is organised by the Technological Park of Itaipu (Brazil), the Brazilian Service of Support for Micro and Small Enterprises (SEBRAE), the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through the ART Initiative, with the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Regions United (FOGAR).

The main objective of the II World Forum is to advance the relation between the concept of territorial approach to development, the decentralization and deconcentration policies at national level, and the specific tools for integrating the three dimensions of Sustainable Human Development (SHD). The expected results of the 2nd Forum are: i) to advance the global dialogue on LED through the participation and the exchange of experiences between a large range of stakeholders; ii) to identify good practices of successful LED public policies; iii) to establish a system for exchanging experiences and data on LED; iv) to build partnerships and a joint roadmap for greater impact on the global agenda; and v) to raise awareness among governments to adopt policies to facilitate concepts of LED and territorial development as effective stimulus to improve the living conditions of their population.

Technical officers and politicians, Academia, local actors, representatives of the various levels of Government, institutions that promote and support local development, private sector and international organizations coming from the five continents, all while ensuring a territorial, social and gender balance, are expected to take part. Some international organizations, as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, UNWomen, the International Labor Organization, among others, and national ministries of different continents already confirmed their participation.

If you are interested in taking part and to find further information, do not hesitate to [visit the LED forum website](#) and/or contact the organizers at info.art@undp.org

ALDA Director running for the Board of CIVICUS



The Director of ALDA Antonella Valmorbida is among the 26 candidates for the election of the Board of CIVICUS. Mrs Valmorbida is part of the board of the alliance since 2012, when she was welcomed as a co-opted member.

In September, the voting members of CIVICUS will elect the 13 members of the new board, which will meet for the first time on 9-10 November 2013 in Johannesburg.

CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation, is an international alliance dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society throughout the world. It has worked for nearly two decades especially in areas where participatory democracy and citizens' freedom of association are threatened.

CIVICUS has a vision of a global community of active, engaged citizens committed to the creation of a more just and equitable world. This is based on the belief that the health of societies exists in direct proportion to the degree of balance between the state, the private sector and civil society. CIVICUS provides a focal point for knowledge-sharing, common interest representation, global institution-building and engagement among these disparate sectors. It acts as an advocate for citizen participation as an essential component of governance and democracy worldwide.

See [CIVICUS website](#)

Towards an LDA in Tunisia - Meeting of the working group on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in Trieste



A meeting of ALDA's working group on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation was held on 10 September in Trieste, Italy.

On that occasion, the process of the development of our activities in the Med region were launched. Furthermore, it was an important step to investigate the possibility and moving towards the opening of a

Local Democracy Agency in Tunisia, foreseen in 2014.

The coordinator of the working group, ALDA's Vice President Alessandro Perelli from the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, hosted the meeting at the premises of the region. Some 25 participants from Italy, France, Albania and Tunisia attended, included the President of the Tunisian Association Lam Echaml, Mr Moncef Ben Slimane.

See the [presentation for the meeting](#) (in French; .pdf)

In the picture: the Director of ALDA Antonella Valmorbida, the Vice President of ALDA, Responsible for International Relations of Friuli Venezia Giulia Alessandro Perelli, and the President of Lam Echaml Moncef Ben Slimane.

Seminar 'Active Citizenship and Learning Communities 2014-2020 – opening the doors...' – Udine, 23-25 September



The seminar 'Active Citizenship and Learning Communities 2014-2020 – opening the doors...' will take place in Udine, Italy, from 23 to 25 September.

Jointly organised by ALDA, Università delle LiberEtà del FVG, and by the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, it will focus on the new programming period 2014-2020.

The first day will be an information day focusing on the programmes Europe for Citizens and Erasmus+. The experts intervening will include Cecilia Liljegren, Coordination Team of the LL Programme of the EACEA, Elena Maddalena, Italian LLP National Agency, and Franca Fiacco, Leonardo da Vinci Programme, National Agency for Lifelong Learning.

The following two days will be dedicated to practical workshops, allowing the participants to present their best practices, share experiences, and build new partnerships for future projects.

The seminar will be concluded with the celebration party on the occasion of the 20 years of activities of Università delle LiberEtà.

Join the distance learning master in European Law and Policies



In April 2013, ALDA e the International Telematics University UNINETTUNO signed a cooperation agreement launching the new edition of the distance learning [Master in European Law and Policies](#).

The master aims to train an interdisciplinary professional profile of an expert in European law and policies, providing operational and professional skills necessary in the various stages of the drafting and implementation of European Policies.

ALDA Director Antonella Valmorbida will hold the module of European Funds and Europlanning. The professors of the master include Mario Monti, Romano Prodi, Franco Frattini, and other prestigious protagonists of the history of the European Union.

The distance-learning course it comprises of videolections and interactive webinars, all divided in 3 semesters. Enrollment in this program is open all year round. People who enroll to the master by contacting ALDA's office will enjoy a fee reduction.

ALDA launches the project DECIDE



ALDA has launched the project DECIDE - DEMocratic Compact: Improving Democracy in Europe.

The project, within the Europe for Citizen Programme, will foster the creation of a network of towns committed to increase the quality of democracy and citizen participation in the enlarged Europe. The network will be key to generate a democratic compact, a set of measures which will be tested and further disseminated in Europe.

The partnership is composed of 24 partners from 14 countries: 4 countries of the "old" EU15, 6 countries accessing the EU between 2004 and 2007 and 4 IPA countries. This will allow an enriching exchange among partners with different track record in the EU and will contribute to develop a sense of belonging to a common "house".

The project will run until May 2015 and will be co-ordinated by ALDA.

Read more about the [project DECIDE](#)

Annual meeting of the CORLEAP in Vilnius



The annual meeting of the Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP) took place in Vilnius on 3 September 2013.

The Director of ALDA Antonella Valmorbida participated in her capacity of coordinator of the Civil Society Forum Eastern Partnership

Subgroup on Local Government and Public Administration Reform.

'The target in front of us is the Summit EaP in Vilnius soon', stressed Mrs Valmorbida. 'We need to work hard, all of us, to have all three priorities (fiscal decentralisation, territorial cooperation and public administration) enshrined in the final documents and secure the commitments of the head of States. The Corleap and the CSF EaP managed to make a breach in the "heart" of high politics of the EU and we can now understand that our Awareness campaign is making some progress', she continued.

The CORLEAP is a platform for dialogue between local and regional authorities from the partner countries and the EU established by the Committee of the Regions (CoR). The EaP CSF has an official observer status to CORLEAP and its cooperation with CORLEAP has been a success. CORLEAP's focus on fiscal decentralisation can be regarded as an achievement of the Subgroup which worked hard to have the topic as a shared priority.

Read Antonella Valmorbida speech: [Contribution of the Subgroup on Local Government and Public Administration Reform of the Civil Society Forum for EaP](#)

[Agenda of the annual meeting of the CORLEAP](#)

ALDA accredited for the European Voluntary Service – EVS



ALDA had been accredited once more as sending and coordinating organisation for the European Voluntary Service (EVS) for the next three years.

Within the Youth in Action Programme, EVS aims to develop solidarity and promote active citizenship and mutual understanding among young people. It represents a unique chance for young Europeans aged 18-30 to engage in full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU for 2 to 12 months.

Not only does it promote mobility within and beyond the EU borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue, but it also encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background.

Read more about the [European Voluntary Service](#) on the Youth in Action Programme website

European Endowment for Democracy now accepts applications for support



On December 2011, European Member States and institutions unanimously agreed to establish the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) with an aim to promote the values of freedom and democracy with a particular focus on the European Neighbourhood. The EED was subsequently created as an independent private law foundation with its seat in Brussels. Since July 1, the EED has become operational with a fully-fledged team working in the EED Secretariat.

The EED is now accepting applications for support from movements and other actors engaged in achieving pluralistic multiparty systems and democratic societies. EED is open to requests and ideas from civil society organisations, movements and individual activists acting in favour of a pluralistic multiparty system regardless of their size or formal status, including young leaders and independent media. The EED works in a flexible way and will therefore receive and assess requests for support in an ongoing manner. Thus there is no deadline, and EED is ready to receive your ideas at any time.

The online request for support form and additional details are available in Arabic, English, French and Russian on the [EED website](#)

Tackling Illegal Economies: Libera organised the kick-off event in Marsala



As one of the main organisations within the partnership, ALDA participated in the kick-off event of the European project [TIE – “Tackling Illegal Economies”](#), funded by the Prevention of and Fight against Crime programme of the DG Home Affairs of the European Commission.

The meeting, organised by the Italian association Libera, took place in Marsala (Sicily, Italy) from 24-29 July and was an occasion to strengthen the bonds among the partners, to define their role and to develop the action plan of the project. As side event of Libera’s OLE – People have the Power! annual rally, it was also a unique opportunity to acquire detailed and up-to-date information on a topic of strong importance such as the impact of illegal economies in Italy and in Europe.

Renowned Italian MPs, journalists, prosecutors, academic professors, victims of Mafia and representatives of national associations, brought in their expertise and defined the overall frame of Mafia’s phenomenon. The attention though was put on the European dimension of its impact, therefore stressing the need of a more cohesive reaction both at national and European level.

Considering Mafias as a strictly Italian phenomenon has been identified as the main obstacle to tackle illegal economies efficiently at European level. Raising civil society’s awareness is therefore key, and ALDA will play a central role within the partnership by bringing in its multiannual expertise in this field.

Seminar on European topics for students in Neumarkt, Austria



From 29 July to 3 August, a seminar promoted by the European Federalist Movement was held in Neumarkt, Austria. The Director of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies Antonella Valmorbida participated, debating about the European Year of Citizens 2013 and the European Citizens Initiative.

High school students from all over Europe took part, and among them three students from Vicenza, winners of the 2013 edition of the contest 'Becoming European citizens', offered a scholarship provided by the office of ALDA in Vicenza.

During the one-week seminar in Austria, the students attended conferences and debates on European topics, and enjoyed excursions, sports events and guided visits to the cities of Carinthia and Styria.

Pulsart Restart: ALDA Director among the speakers



On 6 July 2013, ALDA Director Antonella Valmorbida participated as a speaker to the conference organised in the context of the international event Pulsart Restart held in Schio (IT) and dedicated to arts.

The conference was opened by the welcome speech of the Mayor of Schio, Mr Dalla Via. Mrs Valmorbida was present as expert of the Caucasus political situation, and thanks to the presence of two Georgian artists, she focused her intervention on the political situation in Georgia

The event aimed to present the importance of arts, analysing its potentialities and focusing on its key role at social level. Indeed all the speakers presented several artistic projects, which have had positive effects in their social and urban context. The event also represented the occasion to reinforce the cooperation between ALDA and its historical member, the Municipality of Schio. Watch the video of PulsArt 2013

[Watch the video of Pulsart 2013](#)

News from the Local Democracy Agencies

Youth for EU - 257 high school students for Europe



Great success for the new project “Youth for EU”, coordinated by the Local Democracy Agency from Brtonigla and dedicated to the youngsters aged from 16 to 26 years.

The first activities of the project, a cycle of the seminars about EU institutions, about the official annexing of Croatia to the EU and about the opportunities that are awaiting us after 1 July , involved 257 students from nine high schools in Croatia.

The initiative, which is taking part in the Regions Istria, Sisak-Moslavina e Osijek-Baranja, is financed by the European union within the IPA Info 2011 programme. The main activities of the project, officially started in January 2013, are diverse and will be developed on several levels: from workshops and conferences to the active participation of the young people involved. Currently, we have completed the cycle of seminars in the Italian high school of Buje, Pula and Rovinj as well as in several high schools in Osijek, Sisak and Topusko, while are still going on the seminars for the youth associations in the three Regions.

Among all this youngsters, after completing an “EU quiz” about the topics presented during the seminars, will be chosen the 30 participants for the EU camp which will take place in Istria in September. During the camp – which will offer workshops, seminars and debates – the participants will create and realize a TV spot and a radio programme (that will be broadcast by local TV and radio stations of the three Regions involved) in order to inform the citizens about Europe especially in such important period for Croatia. After coming back from the camp the youngsters will organize one conference in every Region. During these meetings there will be collected opinions, issues and desires that will be put into a unique document named “The Voice of Youth”, which will be given to the representatives of regional authorities during a final open event.

ALDA is partner of the project, together with the Local Democracy Agencies from Osijek and Sisak, Zaklada za poticanje partnerstva i razvoja civilnog društva, Croatian Environmental Press Centre, K.R.I.D. youth association from Petrinja, Europe Direct Trieste and Giosef Italy.

Read more information on the website of the Local Democracy Agency from Brtonigla/Verteneglio - in [English](#) or [Italian](#)

How to motivate citizens to be active?



In the Nijemci Municipality a promotional workshop took part on 25 July as part of the project [Support for Networking and Twinning at European Level – SNET.EU](#). The project is funded by the European Union and the workshop was organized by the Local Democracy Agency from Osijek, Croatia.

In the introductory part of the workshop, the concept of active citizenship and the European Year of Citizens 2013 were presented. The workshop focused on a concept of twinning of municipalities and towns, the history of twinning, twinning in Croatia in general, the program Europe for Citizens and a possibility for the financing of twinning under the two measures of this program.

Branka P. Turniški, the project manager, presented the Council of European Municipalities and Regions as an important institution dealing with twinning in Europe and in the world. She also presented the ten keys for successful twinning.

In the second part of the workshop, an interactive discussion was organized and the participants had the opportunity to talk about the priority issues in their local community and especially about the issue how to motivate citizens to be more active in the life of the local community, what are the potential challenges and obstacles on that way and how to solve them.

This promotional workshop was a good practice and preparation for the Open Days of the Municipality of Nijemci, which will be soon organized in the municipality.

International Youth Exchange “Free Time on Board” in Orahovica



The Local Democracy Agency Osijek together with the international partners Studio Progetto (Italy), Az emberség erejével Alapítvány (Hungary), Euroculture en Pays Gentiane (France) i Gönüllü Hareketi (Turkey) organised the international youth exchange “Free Time on Board”.

The exchange is a part of the EU programme Youth in Action and took place in the town of Orahovica, Croatia, from 5 to 15 July. Thirty participants and 10 youth leaders aged from 15 to 25 from five countries attended, with the primary goal of researching and discussing about active free time spending and with the particular goal of re-discovering social games and outdoor games as important social and intercultural tools.

The exchange gave to the participants the opportunity to meet different cultures and to get new friends, as well as discussing and learning about quality free time spending, and offered a possibility of an interactive and practical, creative work.

On the last day of the exchange, as a final phase of the seminar, the games developed by the participants were played in a social event open to the public - everyone who enjoys socialising, having fun and meeting new friends was welcome to participate.

[Read more about the Local Democracy Agency Osijek](#)

[Photo gallery](#)