



**Newsletter**

**ALDA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2013**

### *Presentation of ALDA strategy at the Council of Europe*



Strasbourg

ALDA presented its strategy at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 19 November.

The Director and senior staff of the association gave an overview of the mission and activities of ALDA. A more in-depth look on the projects of the association was presented by international partners, including Sasa

Marinkov, leading the Local Democracy Agency (LDA) of Central and South Serbia, Tatiana Poshevalova, Programme Director of the International Consortium EuroBelarus, and Moncef Ben Slimane, President of the Tunisian association Lam Echaml, local partner for the foundation of LDA Tunisia.

Denis Huber, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions, gave the welcoming speech on behalf of Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

The event took place from from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the Room 14. If you would like more information, please contact Biljana Zasova: [biljana.zasova@aldaintranet.org](mailto:biljana.zasova@aldaintranet.org)

See the [programme of the event](#) (.pdf)

### *Kick off event for DECIDE in Reggio Emilia – Participating is my responsibility*



On 8 - 9 November the kick off event of the project DECIDE, funded by the Europe for Citizens programme, was held in Reggio Emilia, at the Loris Malaguzzi Centre.

DECIDE aims at developing, through the establishment of a thematic network of towns and by adopting a bottom-up approach, a democratic compact, namely a set of measures that are needed in Europe to increase the quality of

democracy and citizen participation. ALDA leads the project, involving 24 partners from 14 countries. The municipality of Reggio Emilia plays a relevant role.

More than 150 people attended the event and listened to the presentations of the experts about active citizenship and participation, discussing experiences from Reggio Emilia, Italy, and Europe.

Our Vice President, Alessandro Perelli participated at the event as a speaker. Speakers included Roberto Montagnani, vice - secretary of 'Servizio Decentramento, Partecipazione e Processi Deliberativi' of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Alfonso Corradini, Responsible of Officina Educativa, Anne-Mette Agemark, urban planning of Vejle municipality, Paula Razan, from the LDA Sisak, and Rodolfo Lewanski, Professor at the University of Bologna and expert about participatory processes. The morning session was concluded with a speech by Professor Marcelo M. Suárez-Orozco, from University of California.

The event continued with the activities of the partners, who were divided into working groups to discuss about good practices to foster participation, exchanging ideas, and imagining future actions.

Read more about the [project DECIDE](#)

### *LDA Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine) partner meeting in Strasbourg*



Strasbourg, 31 October 2013

In an effort to support the development of local communities, local democracy and citizen participation in Ukraine, ALDA, in cooperation with local and regional authorities and Civil Society Organizations around Europe is working at the establishment of a Local Democracy Agency (LDA) in Dnipropetrovsk.

On 31 October the partner meeting of LDA Dnipropetrovsk was held to consolidate and further develop the existing partnership and to define the next steps towards the opening of the Agency in early 2014. The partner meeting was organized as side event of the 25th Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

Read the [keynote speech delivered by Mr Dobrica Milovanovic](#) (pdf), representative of the Governing Board of ALDA. In order to promote the forthcoming LDA Dnipropetrovsk, ALDA had a promotional stand during the whole Session of the Congress. For more information please contact [alfonso.aliberti@aldaintranet.org](mailto:alfonso.aliberti@aldaintranet.org)

The partner meeting was featured also on the [website of the Congress](#), where you can also find the agenda of the session.

### *ALDA Director at the Lisbon Forum 2013 - Valuing civil society as actor of governance. Perspectives for the South Mediterranean*



The 2013 Lisbon Forum was held in the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon on 6 and 7 November, within the framework of the Joint EU/CoE Programme “Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood”. It was organised in cooperation with the Anna Lindh Foundation, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN).

The Forum had the objective to strengthen dialogue between civil society on the one hand and national governments and parliaments, as well as local and regional authorities on the other. The debate fostered internal dialogue and restructuring within civil society, and provide an opportunity to determine the potential role of international organisations in empowering civil society to become more involved in national political processes. It will try to answer the question: how can the governments, parliaments, and local and regional authorities contribute to making civil society an actor of governance?

The Forum yielded operational conclusions and policy recommendations that will provide guidelines to improve consultation, inclusive participation and cooperation of civil society as a partner in governance for governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, civil society and international organisations.

The Director of ALDA, Antonella Valmorbidia, attended the Forum and introduced a workshop on the topic of 'Interactive dialogue with civil society: role of local and regional authorities' on 7 November.

See the full programme on the [website of the COE](#) (.pdf)

### *Oriano Otocan and an ALDA delegation at the Assises of Decentralised Cooperation in Tirana*



The Second edition of the French Balkan Assises of decentralised cooperation took place in Tirana on 24th and 25th October 2013. Co-organised by the French Embassy in Albania, the Delegation for External Action of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the AFCCRE – the French member of the CEMR, the Assises was an excellent opportunity for broadening ALDA's cooperation network in the Balkans as well as a presentation of its activities. Mr. Oriano Otocan presented a broad view of the methodology of the LDAs and a special

contribution on local development from his experience in the Region Istria. Ivana Dimitrovska, managing ALDA office in Skopje, presented the Lower Normandy-Macedonia cooperation programme and the findings for the last three year programme and expectations for the new one.

As a side meeting, the Network France Balkans held its annual steering committee on 23rd October in order to

officially launch the new three-year programming period 2013-2016. The new and old partners of the Network discussed the forthcoming priorities and the 2013-2014 action plan and budget. This meeting was held in the presence of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Pays Vichy Auvergne, leader of the programme, the ACCRE and ALDA

### *ALDA Governing Board in Tirana*



ALDA Governing Board meeting took place in Tirana, on 25-26 October. It was organised on the occasion of the French Assises on Decentralised Cooperation, where ALDA President, Mr. Oriano Otočan, and the Head of ALDA office in Skopje, Ms Ivana Dimitrovska, appeared within the speakers.

ALDA Governing Board opening addresses were delivered by ALDA President, Mr. Oriano Otočan, Mr Fatos Hodaj, Director of the Association of Albanian

Municipalities, and Mrs. Marie-Madeleine Mialot Muller (Vice-president of the Regional Council of the Centre Region), on behalf of the President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

The Governing Board analyzed and debated different topics concerning the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies, such as the LDA Dnipropetrovsk, budgetary issues, the involvement of ALDA in the European Year of Citizens, and the activities of ALDA Working Groups.

### *Second international event of the project REACTION*



Marghita, Romania

On 14 - 15 October, the second international event of the project REACTION, funded by the Europe for Citizens programme, took place in Marghita, Romania.

The topic of the three – day event, “**Citizens as a resource for the development of local communities**” was aimed to reflect on the concept that citizens, through their active commitment, can represent a resource for the development of their communities.

Through non-formal methods like the Open Space Technology, and practical work into thematic groups, the international delegations had the chance to share experiences and best practices and to come up with new ideas to improve and reinforce the role of citizens as main actors for positive change and local development.

Delegations from 12 different countries, representing the partner organizations, gathered in Marghita. Local experts who brought their experience in the field of active citizenship enriched the event.

Anna Ditta and Aldo Xhani, from ALDA, provided the technical support to the event, in cooperation with the lead applicant, the municipality of Sacile, represented by Mrs. Arianna Zanini.

### *Plenary Session of the European Year of Citizens Alliance 2013*



The programme of the European Year of Citizens 2013 is almost at the end and the recommendations should be soon delivered to the European Commission, to be integrated in the official documents for the final presentation in Vilnius, on 12th and 13th December 2013.

The Plenary session of the EYCA 2013 had the goal to reach a final agreement on the activities of the Working Groups and the compilation of the final document. More than 60 European networks took part in the elaboration of

the document. ALDA was among the initiator of the European Alliance and coordinator of the WG 1 on Democracy and citizens' dialogue. ALDA was also very active in setting up the Italian Alliance together with CIME (european section of the European Movement International) and the Forum del Terzo Settore.

[European Year of Citizens 2013 website](#)

# NEWS FROM THE LDAs

## *The Local Democracy Agency Armenia - Gyumri at the Assises of Decentralised Cooperation France Armenia*



The Assises of Decentralised Cooperation France - Armenia took place on 16th and 17th October, in Valence. The event was organised with the contribution of the Region Rhones Alpes, which is also the leader of the LDA Armenia based in Gyumri. The gathering focused on the achievements of the numerous cooperations between French and Armenian Municipalities and the path for further development. The LDA Armenia is supported since 2011 by Rhones Alpes. In the framework of this active cooperation, the Delegate,

Lusine Alexandryan, attended the Assises and actively participated in the workshop on Sustainable Development. The Director of ALDA, Antonella Valmorbida, and the coordinator of the LDAs, Alfonso Aliberti, attended the event as well. The fact that the Local Democracy Agency is mentioned - as a tool for promoting local governance - in the programme to support local democracy of the Council of Europe was in the spotlight.

More information about [LDA Armenia](#)

More information about the [Assises \(in French\)](#)

## *Regional workshop on the European social model in Sisak*



Sisak, Croatia

The Centre for non-profit organisations' development (CERANEO) from Zagreb, in cooperation with four Croatian partner organisations – Local Democracy Agency Sisak, Gradska radionica Pula, Croatian Institute for local self-government Osijek and Association SRMA Sinj – is implementing the project “ESM2: Strengthening local capacities for the implementation of the

European social model and access to European social networks”, funded by the Croatian National Foundation for Civil Society Development. Within this project, regional thematic workshops have been already held in the Croatian towns of Pula, Osijek and Split, and followed with the fourth one held on 24-25 October 2013 in Sisak.

The regional thematic workshop in Sisak gathered almost all local stakeholders working in the area of social policy - volunteers, civil society organisations and institutions; this area has great importance for Sisak and for the whole Sisak-Moslavina County.

The Delegate of the Local Democracy Agency Sisak, Ms Paula Raužan, gave the opening address and presented the local and regional situation regarding social policy and social situations in Sisak-Moslavina County.

Before each mini-workshop (6 in total), experts held introductory lectures on the topic. The experts were Ms Marina Dimić Vugec from CERANEO, and Ms Jelena Matančević and Mr Danijel Baturina from the Social Work Study Centre Zagreb.

During these two days, participants developed concrete project ideas, in line with European social model, aiming at increasing social cohesion and social innovations development.

One of the objectives of the ESM2 project is to strengthen local capacities for the implementation of the European social model. Moreover, the project is addressing local stakeholders to better understanding and apply the concepts advocated and promoted by the European social model, which will enhance development of their local social agendas.

### *Meeting in Tivat for the project "Cooperazione Montenegro"*



On Tuesday 22 October, a meeting was held in Tivat, Montenegro, between the Management team of the clinic and a delegation of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, composed of Alessio Gratton, President of the Second Commission of the Regional Council, and Omar Greco, Deputy Mayor of Monfalcone.

Alessandro Perelli, Vice President of ALDA, and Lucio Gregoretti, member of the Governing Board of the association, were also present.

During the meeting, several aspects were discussed, which were related to the project "Cooperazione Montenegro", involving as partner the ADL Niksic, led by Kerim Medjedovic. The project also foresees the creation of an elevator for disabled children in the clinic in Tivat and an exchange of experiences among the department for mental health in Trieste and the psychiatric hospital in Kotor.

### *Fliers for the project "Improvement of local government services"*



[The Local Democracy Agency Mostar](#) within the project "Improvement of local government services," produced and distributed fliers that clearly indicate competence of the Administration of the City of Mostar (5 departments with associated services).

A total of 17.500 fliers were produced, of which 8.000 were distributed in the first round. Fliers were distributed in six regional offices plus Info point in the center, 6 registry offices and 40 local communities in the city of Mostar.

The second round of distribution of fliers is planned for December 2013th year. Project: "Improving local government services" is financially supported by the Open Society Fund BiH.

Fliers can be downloaded individually by clicking on the images you see on the [LDA Monstar website](#)

[Agencija lokalne demokratije Mostar](#) u sklopu projekta „Poboljšanje usluga lokalne samouprave“ izradila i distribuirala flayera koji zorno ukazuju nadležnosti Gradske Uprave Grada Mostara (5 odjela sa pripadajućim službama).

Ukupno je izrađeno 17500 flayera, od kojih je distribuirano 8000 u prvom krugu. Flayeri su distribuirani u 6 Područnih ureda plus šalter sala u centru, 6 matičnih ureda i 40 mjesnih zajednica u Gradu Mostaru.

Drugi krug distribucije flayera je predviđen za 12 mjesec 2013. godine.

Projekt: „Poboljšanje usluga lokalne samouprave“ je finansijski podržan od strane Fonda otvoreno društvo BiH.

Flayera možete preuzeti pojedinačno klikom na slike koje vidite na [web stranici](#)

### *A Huge Response to Regional Networking Events between Croatia and Serbia - From Coffee House Events to Common Cross Border projects*



We organised and attended four "Coffee House Events" in the municipality of Stari Jankovci, Bač, Vukovar and Ruma in Croatia and Serbia in order to discuss the already implemented but also ongoing cross-border projects in these municipalities. In a follow-up the municipalities of Drenovci, Apatin, Stara Pazova, Beli Manastir, Inđija, Nijemci, Beočin and Erdut will host us for the next „coffee“.

At the Coffee House Events we organized so far within the project Support for Networking and Twinning and European Level – SNET.EU the interest and response of participants was greater than expected. These events are designed to bring together different stakeholders from twelve involved municipalities from Croatia and Serbia, to present the municipalities, their potentials and their development plans, creating thus opportunities for development of common cross border projects and cooperation in the future.

During the Coffee House Events good practices of cross-border projects and cooperation are exchanged and their results obstacles and challenges are highlighted as recommendations and lessons learned for developing future common projects.

Each municipality involved hosts one Coffee House Event and presents itself. On that occasion we had the opportunity to hear about the development of a successful model of transparent allocation of grant funds to associations in Stari Jankovci Municipality. In Bač Municipality there was a lively debate about great tourism potential of this municipality based on its rich history and cultural heritage and all participants had the opportunity to visit Bač Fortress and The

Franciscan Monastery. In Vukovar and Ruma tourism was also on the agenda – in Vukovar the project Development of Tourism Product „Eco-Ethno Centre Adica“ was presented, while in Ruma a lot was presented about the Trskovača Swamp, the natural monument and protected habitat, which has a significant tourism potential and tourism motive for the Ruma area.

The next coffee was served on 25 October in Drenovci, the Croatian municipality bordering with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For more information about the project „Support for Networking and Twinning and European Level – SNET.EU“ you may visit the website of LDA [Subotica](#) and [Osijek](#)