

ALDA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016



Conference and Toolkit day on decentralised cooperation, and General Assembly of ALDA - register now!

In the framework of ALDA General Assembly, that will take place on 12 May in Paris, some public events have been organised and foreseen by ALDA for 12-13 May.

On Thursday 12 May, two public events will take place: the “Capitalisation of the European Year for Development: the added value of Decentralised Cooperation to promote local governance” and the “Launch of the Programme France Balkans”. Both conferences will be hosted in the Building La Convention, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris, France.

Besides, together with UNDP and AFCCRE, ALDA is organising the Toolkit Day, scheduled on 13 May. The toolkit day foresees two parallel workshops, the first one entitled “Development Education – How should we valorise solidarity external actions of local authorities and associations amongst citizens?”, and the second one on “Localizing SDGs”.

The two-days will be full of varied activities and high-level speakers. The agenda foresees a debate, where the speakers will be sharing their experiences and knowledge. The speakers include the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, as well as the representatives of the European Commission, UNDP, AFCCRE, LADDER Project, CONCORD, Energy Cities, as well as many representatives of local and regional authorities and of civil society organisations, coming from the EU, Western Balkans and European Neighbourhood countries. Other activities include the projection of a movie “Sur les pas d’Albert Londres” and a theatre play, in the framework of LADDER Project.

All these events are opened to public participation, therefore the previous registration is required.

Useful links:

[Agenda of public events \(EN version\)](#)

[Agenda of public events \(FR version\)](#)

[Preliminary agenda of ALDA General Assembly 2016 and LADDER events](#)

[Assemblée Générale d’ALDA et activités du projet LADDER](#)

[Agenda of the event: "Enhance the development cooperation impacts on territories" \(EN version\)](#)

[Ordre du jour de l'événement: "Valoriser les impacts de la coopération au développement sur les territoires" \(FR version\)](#)

[Registration form](#)



Launch of the Local Democracy Agency in Moldova opening process

On 4-5 April an important step towards the opening of an upcoming LDA in Moldova took place.

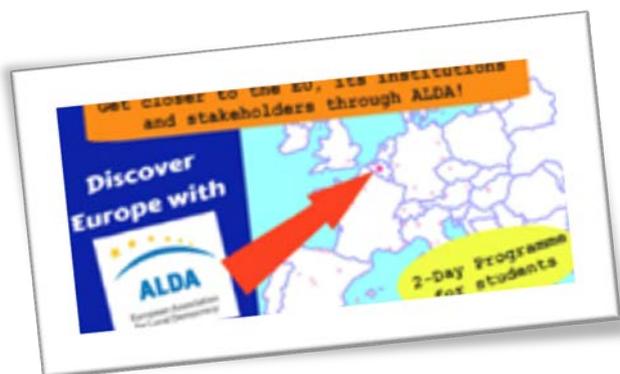
ALDA's South-Eastern Europe coordinator, Stanka Parac, project manager and Eastern Partnership coordinator, Ela Horoszko, and the current head of the LDA Kutaisi and soon to take over the coordination of ALDA's Eastern Partnership activities, Nino Tvaltadze, and the representative of the northern Polish region of Kuyavia-Pomerania, Evelina Masarova, travelled to Moldova to meet with the local partners in Chisinau, the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova – CALM, and in Cimişlia, a town in Southern Moldova identified as the LDA location.

In Chisinau ALDA met with the representatives of European development agencies, international and local NGOs active in the field of good governance and citizen participation, and the international organisations and embassies to present the LDA's goals and objectives, as well as discuss cooperation opportunities. The participants had a chance to exchange on challenges and identify priorities in terms of the future project work such as development of civil society outside of the capital and regional development, inclusive education, women and children's rights, and expanding capacity of local authorities and services delivery to population.

Together with CALM and colleagues from the NEXUS project on migration, ALDA travelled to Cimişlia at the invitation of the mayor, Mr Gheorghe Răileanu, to meet with the local community and visit the future offices of the LDA. It was an opportunity to present the LDA model and invite the community to actively participate in its future activities to make the most of the partnership.

Useful links:

[Photo gallery](#)



Get closer to the EU, its institutions and stakeholders through ALDA!

ALDA is offering the two-day programme "Discover Europe with ALDA", which will give students the opportunity to interact with key European stakeholders.

As a strategic partner of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, ALDA is offering this service to give the chance to the participants to learn more about the European Union and its functioning, and by

participating in a field visit with interactive meetings with key EU stakeholders.

ALDA, with its more than 15 years of experience in the field, will be in charge of the logistics and organisational matters, which can be tailored according to the universities' and students' needs and interests. In addition, the programme closes offering a space for discussion, so the students can express their opinions and recommendations on how the cooperation between EU and young people across Europe could be further developed.

For universities and students this is a great opportunity to get an in-depth understanding of how the EU functions, to meet face-to-face key European stakeholders, and to have the chance to express their opinions and advices. The participants will receive a certificate of attendance awarded by ALDA.

Useful links:

[Full information Programme "Discover Europe with ALDA"](#)



Forum: The Democratic Process in Tunisia and the Prospects for Cooperation and Development in the Mediterranean Basin

On Saturday 9 April, the Forum on the Democratic Process in Tunisia and the

possibilities for cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean area took place in Trieste, Italy. Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA, intervened in the event, which was organised by the Region Friuli Venezia-Giulia. The region, long-term member of ALDA and sitting in the board of the Association (Alessandro Perelli is Vice President of ALDA), supports the Tunisian democratization process through the practical assistance for activities of civil society organisation and the development of cultural and economic relations.

As part of the activities promoted, and within the framework of DevelopMed project, this Forum provided an opportunity to dialogue and discuss a new model of cooperation based on democracy, coexistence and peace, which supports a way out from the crisis situations in North Africa and the Near East.

The speakers included the "Quartet for the Tunisian National Dialogue", Nobel Peace Prize 2015, representatives from the Tunisian Association Lam Echaml, ALDA's Secretary General Antonella Valmorbida, and the member of the Executive Council Gregoretti (Euro-Mediterranean Institute and member of ALDA's Governing Board).

For several years, ALDA has been working to foster the democratisation process in Tunisia in cooperation with local partners, and it is now further running the activities to open a new Local Democracy Agency in the country. The Region Friuli Venezia-Giulia supports existing LDAs, and actively contributes to the process for opening the first LDA in Tunisia.

Useful links:

[Video - Interview by FVG.TV](#)



Joint mission in Ukraine - Strengthening the LDA of Dnipropetrovsk Region, and paving the way to the future LDA in Odessa

On 21 and 22 March 2016, a joint delegation from ALDA, from the Polish Municipality of

Gdansk, the Local Democracy Agency Dnipropetrovsk, and Association for Community Self-organization Assistance, were on a visit in Odessa, Ukraine, to meet several representatives of the local and regional institutions.

The aim of the visit was to explore the possibilities of further cooperation and of the opening of an LDA in Odessa supported by interested local and international partners.

ALDA was represented by its Secretary General, Antonella Valmorbida, and the Coordinator for Eastern Partnership, Ela Horoszko; the Head of Dnipropetrovsk Local Democracy Agency, Angelica Pylypenko, attended as well; Gdansk Municipality was represented by Piotr Kowalczyk, Deputy Mayor, Anna Kieturakis, expert on Eastern Europe at the Gdansk city administration, and Maciej Buczkowski; Andrii Krupnyk, Chairman of the Association for Community Self-Organization Assistance, member of ALDA since 2015 and deeply involved in the activities of the LDA Dnipropetrovsk, organised the joint mission and is present at all steps.

The key representatives met in Odessa were: Eugenia Abramova, Odessa Regional Council Deputy, Head of Administrative Services Center and with CSOs leaders; Solomia Bobrovska, Deputy Head of Odessa Regional State Administration; Pavel Vugelman, Deputy Mayor of the Odessa city and Ms Svetlana Boyeva, Head of Odessa City Council Department of International Relations.

Following the days in Odessa, the delegation of ALDA moved to Kiev, to meet with members, partners, and international stakeholders. The working week ended in Dnipropetrovsk, region hosting the first LDA in the country opened in May 2015, where the Director of the LDA Kutaisi (Georgia), together with ALDA Secretary General Antonella Valmorbida, met Gleb Prygunov, Head of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council, and Borys Filatov, Mayor of Dnipropetrovsk.

Useful links:

[Photo gallery](#)



The end of a European Year but not of its main aim

December 2015, and the European Year for Development 2015 (EYD2015) came to an end after 12 months of actions.

It represented an unparalleled initiative to inform European citizens on EU development policies, showcase EU's role in development

and inspire European citizens in getting involved.

As contributing stakeholder, our Association supported the year with awareness raising actions across its network to spread the word and spirit of the EYD2015. Member of the EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance as well as lead partner of different multi-annual EYD2015-related projects such as [LADDER](#), ALDA organized a number of public events and ran online actions to raise the awareness of citizens as well as of local actors, such as Local Authorities (LAs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), who have the capacity of becoming multipliers.

We would like to thank all members and partners who joined forces and with whom the fruitful cooperation led to successful outreach and activities. We look forward to pursuing the activities with the same aim of awareness raising and inspiring people for engaging in development & poverty eradication.



ALDA's led project selected for the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Grant

This year 17 projects will be funded by the Grants provided by the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, and ALDA leads one of them. The selected projects cover at least three EaP countries.

The project is entitled "Update on Public Administration and Local Governments Reform in EaP" and belongs to the Working Group # 1, which addresses "Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and Stability". The aim of this WG is to provide an opportunity for the partner countries to integrate with the European Union by developing stable democratic structures and by enabling stronger participation of civil society, in areas such as human rights, electoral standards, media freedom, combating corruption, training and networking of local authorities.

The EaP CSF specific role within the Eastern Partnership initiative, is to contribute to democratic and economic transformation of the Partners countries, by supporting the civil society and

people-to-people dimension of the initiative. Since last year, the EaP CSF Secretariat have promoted these grants, focusing on advancing reforms in the EaP countries and encouraging activity of the civil society in policy domains where the civil society has not been active so far.

Useful links:

[Results of the Selection for EaP CSF Sub-Grants](#)



Communication as key to successful youth participation

From 21 to 25 March 2016 in Ohrid, Macedonia, ALDA Skopje held a training on Basics of Communication for the Teams of

Youth Correspondents, within the project Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue.

The training programme was attended by 30 youngsters from six Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia).

The 5-days event provided an overview of the basics of communication during which the youngsters had the possibility to receive useful information and practical advice in the field of communication.

All the participants were fully engaged throughout the training course developing creative thinking and gaining knowledge on communication with stakeholders, interaction with media and writing skills. The activity was facilitated by professional trainers sharing new ideas and inspiration with productive and interesting dialogue.

This training programme was organized as an activity under the project “Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue” funded by the European Commission.



Kick off of the Programme of Decentralised France/Balkans, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France

With the steering committee in Paris, the partners of the Programme France/Balkans have officially launched the first steps of the

activities.

The programme wants to focus on the opportunities for French local authorities to work with their counterparts in the Balkans for supporting Local Governance. The multilateral programme receives the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France (through the programme of Decentralised Cooperation).

The Leader of the project is the Pays Vichy-Auvergne, which is including numbers of partners like the city of Dijon, the AFCCRE, the Sicala Haute Loire, the Region Normandy, and many other important stakeholders.

The activities - that will take place over three years - will focus on the empowerment of local governance, thanks to the capacity building for local authorities and CSOs in different fields, like culture and tourism, human rights and youth participation.

ALDA is among the main partners of this project, and will be active with the support of all its network, the LDAs and the ALDA office in Skopje.

The launching conference will take place in Paris, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the 12th of May.

Useful links:

[Agenda of public events \(EN version\)](#)

[Agenda of public events \(FR version\)](#)

[Registration form](#)



Strengthening local democracy in Armenia – Joint publication ALDA / LDA Armenia

The European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) and the Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Armenia, based in Gyumri, have released the publication “Strengthening Local Democracy in Armenia – Guidelines on citizens’ participation”.

This document has been prepared by Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA, and Lusine Alexandryan, Director of the LDA Armenia, as a contribution to the project “Support for the consolidation of local democracy in Armenia” implemented by the Council of Europe with the support of the Government of Denmark.

The publication aims at presenting standards, reference texts, best practices, participation techniques and useful ideas on citizen participation, as discussed during the regional seminars held in Armenia in July 2015.

The guidelines presented will give practical hints to all those who are seizing the challenge to embark on participative local governance in the country.

Useful links:

Download the publication on ALDA's website in [English \(.pdf\)](#) and in [Armenian \(.pdf\)](#)

Follow LDA Armenia's activities on the [Facebook page](#)



Support us! Vote for ALDA's project "ART, PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRACY" and help us make it happen!

ALDA's project "Art, participation and democracy" is participating in a call organised by the Franco-German Institute,

where it has passed the first selection step, and now it is among the 21 displayed on the institute's website for the general public voting procedure.

This will last from 18 April until 9 May 2016, thus only 3 weeks where we need your vote and support in dissemination!

The project "Art, participation and democracy" will focus on a 4-day event with participants from France, Germany and Bulgaria. The initiative, which is to take place in Strasbourg, will be attended by 15 young artists who will learn and share ideas about democracy and civic participation, making use of their creative skills to contribute to the promotion of EU values at the local level.

How to vote?

1) Click on the following link:

- In English: <http://www.lets-go-join-in.eu/vote.html>
- In French: <http://www.on-y-va-ensemble.eu/voter.html>
- In German: <http://www.auf-gehts-mitmachen.eu/abstimmung.html>

2) Select 3 projects from the list including ALDA's: **ART, PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRACY** and **submit**

3) Provide your **e-mail** address (the other details are optional)

4) You will receive an e-mail (please remember to check your junk folder, just in case) where you have to **validate** your vote

Thank you very much for your cooperation! Please disseminate it to all your contacts!
