



ALDA CALLS FOR INTERESTED EUROPEAN PARTNERS TO A NEW LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY IN AZERBAIJAN

The Association of Local Democracy Agencies, with the support of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, intends to enlarge its activities to promote local democracy and citizen participation at the local level in the South Caucasus by opening a Local Democracy Agency (LDA) in Azerbaijan in 2012.

In 2006 LDA Georgia opened as the first LDA in South Caucasus in Kutaisi. The LDA network in South Caucasus was enlarged when LDA Armenia opened in Gyumri in 2011. ALDA is now starting its work to complete the LDA network in South Caucasus by taking the initial steps towards opening an LDA in Azerbaijan.

Therefore ALDA is looking for European Local and Regional Authorities and NGOs which are interested in becoming partners of the LDA and support the efforts of opening the LDA in Azerbaijan.

The LDA would be a place to gather interested international partners from European NGOs, local and regional authorities and Local authorities associations to work with Azerbaijani local authorities and NGOs to increase the citizen participation and cooperation at the local level.

Currently ALDA is searching for potential partners and organisations interested in supporting the opening of an LDA in Azerbaijan and becoming partners of the LDA. An information meeting for interested potential partners is scheduled to take place on March 22 in Strasbourg in connection with the plenary session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

ALDA hopes many European Local and Regional Authorities and NGOs will be interested in participating in this meeting and support the initiative. If you have any questions or wish further information, please contact Mr. Peter Sondergaard, ALDA Policy Officer (email: peter.sondergaard@aldaintranet.org or phone: +32 274 201 61).

[This document](#) provides a more detailed description of the background and ideas for LDA Azerbaijan.



THE GOVERNING BOARD OF ALDA LAUNCHES THE PROGRAMME 2012

The Governing Board of ALDA, which was held in Brussels on the 3rd of February, launched the programme 2012.

Despite the difficulties for local authorities and civil society (ALDA main partners), the organisation continues its positive trend in terms of activities and memberships. The priority will be the full support to local governance and

cooperation between Local Authorities and Civil Society. The Local Democracy Agencies (today up to 13 offices) will be strengthened with projects and partners. A special focus will be given to the new LDAs (Armenia and future in Azerbaijan, in Southern Caucasus as well as the LDA in Kosovo).

The General Assembly that will be held in Udine (Italy) the 7th and 8th of June will also elect a new Governing Board, that will be fundamental to accompany the organisation through these delicate times, when local governance and citizens' participation remain one of the strongest option to promote democracy and peace in Europe and its neighbouring countries. An ALDA 2020 Strategy is currently discussed among the members and closest partners of ALDA as well as a more precise three years Position Paper that will be approved in Udine, too. A revision of Statute will also be proposed in order to update this document with the present situation of the organisation.

The programme confirms also the strong partnership with the programme [Europe for Citizenship of the DG Communication](#), from which ALDA receives an Operating Grant and also projects. ALDA is active member of the Structured Dialogue as well as part of the initial Alliance to prepare the [2013, Year of Citizens](#). ALDA will continue to work on twinning activities and it will support European Citizenship with its 150 members in Europe. ALDA will also strongly focus on the [programmes in South Eastern Europe](#) and all the possible support to further integration to the EU, based on local governance and support of local authorities. A new office in Skopje supports [the programme](#) on Local Governance of the [programme of Decentralised Cooperation Basse Normandie/Macedonia](#) and the [decentralised Cooperation France/Balkans](#).

In Eastern Europe and Caucasus, ALDA is working with LDAs and thanks to programmes to support local Democracy, like in Belarus. It is strongly involved in the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership as Coordinator of the Subgroup on Local Government and Public Administration reform and therefore, also closely working, with the Committee of the Regions on this.

As for the Southern dimension and the MED region, a further commitment has been made. Some projects will be launched in Tunisia and Algeria and potentially, it will be possible to use our experience in transitional countries to support local governance and citizens' participation in this area.

With the launch of the programme WTD (Working Together for Development) (first steering committee 28th of March in Brussels), ALDA is also bringing its experience in the field of development with the support of Local Authorities and civil Society.

Last but not the least, ALDA is interested to work with all the potential partners in Europe to achieve its mandate. It joined several networks on which it is planned to have an active participation, like Concord, Civicus and the European Movement.



NEW PROJECT OF ALDA: TIC-TAC -TRAINING, INFORMATION, COOPERATION - TOWARDS ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

ALDA is launching a new project TIC-TAC (Training, Information, Cooperation - Towards Active Citizenship) which will last until January, 17th 2013.

TIC-TAC project aims at promoting all the measures of the [Europe for Citizens programme](#) at strengthening the participation of the potential programme's stakeholders through the creation of a platform for the establishment of long lasting partnership reaching a significant number of different stakeholders (Association of LA, CSOs, LAs, citizens).

The main activities will be an international training course in Brussels focused on all the actions of the Europe for Citizens programme, the organization of 12 local Info Days and an international Citizenship Fair aiming at promoting exchange of good practices among partners & at creating and strengthening relations through the setting-up of a network based on a dynamic and interactive method.

The partnership is composed of 22 organizations such as Associations of LA, of LA, NGOs, other local actors, both private and public. Media will also be involved.

For more information, please contact: Marine Henry, ALDA Project Manager Active Citizenship (marine.henry@aldaintranet.org; +33 (0)3 90 21 45 93).

REMEMBRANCE FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE



On January 27th, 1945, 67 years ago, the German concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by the Russian Army, giving name to the International Holocaust Memorial Day on that date every year.

A new Europe has been built on the ruins of war and hatred, with the conviction that something like the Shoah should never be allowed to happen again.

Against such a back-ground Local Democracy Agencies were established in the wake of the conflict leading to the break-up of the former Yugoslavia with the objective of helping to build a society founded on democratic principles, rule of law and respect for human and minority rights. Engaging various ethnic groups in this endeavour and at times mediating between them has reconfirmed to the Local Democracy Agencies and their umbrella organisation the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) that the past plays an important role in shaping a future based on tolerance and reconciliation.

Together with its partners, ALDA works daily for intercultural understanding and active participation of citizens in its programme on Active Remembrance. The President of ALDA, Per Vinther, stresses that "we are constantly reminded that it is necessary to bring people to remember their past and learn from mistakes their ancestors have made! This also has a direct bearing on the appreciation of the benefits of living in a democratic society".

The Association of Local Democracy Agencies, ALDA, is heavily engaged in promoting active citizenship within the EU Programme "Europe for Citizens" and in that vein had embarked on the recently concluded PEACE project - Peaceful Education for Active Citizenship in Europe, which concluded on an engagement by the partners of the network to work jointly on the historical conscience of youth in their countries and in Europe as a prerequisite for the survival of our peaceful and democratic societies.



POSITIVE THE RESULTS OF THE REFERENDUM IN CROATIA

The positive results of the referendum in Croatia were expected. 66% of the voters supported the process of integration to the European Union that should take place in July 2013. Croatia will be the 28th member of the European Union. For ALDA, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies, and for the three Local Democracy Agencies in Croatia (Osijek, Sisak and Verteneglio/Brtonigla) it is a real achievement and success, after 15 years of working actively towards that objective.

Since the launch of the EU's Stabilisation and Association Process, ALDA and the LDAs has worked to promote in Croatia the standards of the European Union in terms of democracy and development of local authorities and civil society.

"The work of the Local Democracy Agencies in Croatia, which have been so precious to the Croatian communities since 1993 in promoting human rights and democracy, will need to be transformed into valuable experienced support for local authorities and NGOs. The LDAs will then be full partners of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies for its future

activities in the rest of the Western Balkans where there are still eight Local Democracy Agencies active. We believe that Croatia will be an active member of the European Union and a force for stabilizing and developing its neighbours in South Eastern Europe”, says the President of ALDA, Mr. Per Vinther.



ALDA'S PROPOSALS ON "2013 EUROPEAN YEAR OF CITIZENS" AT THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE. (Brussels, 26-27 January 2012)

“The European Year of Citizens, suggested by the [European Commission](#) for the 2013, today focused on rights, mostly on right to move and work in the Union, should have a wider perspective, and promote European citizenship and identity, including social and cultural aspects”. This is the main [proposal of ALDA](#) about the EYC 2013, expressed during the public hearing promoted by the European Economic and Social Committee, in Brussels.

The European Economic and Social Committee is drawing up an opinion on the proposal of the European Commission and would like to give every European citizen, NGO, enterprise, trade union etc. an opportunity to contribute to its opinion, which will be sent to the European Parliament, Commission and Council once it has been adopted. A first NGOs meeting was held in Brussels in EESC on the 27th of January and ALDA was represented by Mr. Marco Boaria. Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida, ALDA Director, attended to the public hearing that was held the day before. “We are interested in an Alliance which main aims should be promoting the participation of a wide spectrum of civil society organisations working to promote European citizenship and implement the European Year of Citizens 2013. ALDA supports the idea of organizing quickly “decentralized” groups of support at the national level”, stated Mrs. Valmorbida.

ALDA think that the activities of the “year” should be done even more on new members States, future member countries (those of the Enlargement process), and the countries of the ENPI Interregional Programme, since they are the direct beneficiaries of the effects as neighbors of Europe.

ALDA proposes that the programme of the 2013 European Year of Citizens works mainly with small and local events and not only focusing on high level discussions, engaging civil society and local authorities and promoting an open debate on the future of participation mechanisms to strengthen European identity and The European Project. ALDA proposes also to reach political objectives in terms of citizens' participation (and mechanisms for facilitating this) with legislative initiatives, best practices at the community level, etc. with the EYAC 2013. The group, in preparing the Year, should set these high objectives, planning the Year in this direction, considering the upcoming European Parliament Elections in 2014.

For further information please visit the [EESC website](#)



FRANCE-BALKANS NETWORK: DECISIVE STEERING COMMITTEE HELD IN BRUSSELS (24 January 2012)

The France-Balkans network held its annual steering committee in Brussels, in the Committee of the Regions on 24 January 2012. The French partners had the opportunity to discuss the recent decision by the Auvergne Regional Council to transfer the leadership to the Pays Vichy Auvergne.

The multilateral decentralised cooperation France-Balkans programme aims at promoting the development of good governance at regional and local level and improving capacities of local authorities to allow them to function and to provide good services to their citizens. This project proposes to achieve this objective by creating a network of French local authorities involved in the Balkan and Balkan stakeholders in order to work on a common plan which would open the programme to other partners in Europe.

The partners reiterated the political dimension to the network aiming at strengthening and stabilizing the democratic process in the Balkan region; supporting the European integration process of candidate and potential candidate countries; opening the French territories to cooperation with other local and regional authorities in Balkan countries. At the meeting, the partners had an exchange of view with a representative of the French Embassy and two representatives of the Directorate General of Enlargement with whom they discussed about the contribution by French but also European local authorities to the EU enlargement process. In this perspective, the partners gave a new spin to the programme by enhancing the importance of territorial approach to development as a contribution to European integration of the Balkans. They also confirmed their interest to the multi-actor multi-sector approach, which aims at gathering expertise and contributions from political, social and economic stakeholders interested in investing in the Balkans and therefore opening new opportunities for cooperation and investment at European level. They also finalised the action plan for 2012 which consists of three events in 2012 on topics such as tourism and open air activities, water management, new technologies and human rights.

Finally, the partners renewed their commitment to the networking activities and decided to open the network to more French but also other European partners such as Italy, Austria but also Turkey.

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For more information please see [the agenda](#) and the [list of participants](#) .



OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE TANDEM PROJECT IN BELARUS: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WITH PRESENTATION OF MINI GRANT PROJECTS (Minsk 16-17 December 2011)

The project "TANDEM - cooperation for citizen participation and community development in the Republic of Belarus" was officially launched during the International Conference "Sustainability and partnership between NGOs and local authorities", held in Minsk on December 16 and 17 2011. The conference, that was organised by ALDA and the Lev Sapieha Foundation, was devoted to the presentation and discussion of mini-grant projects that will be supported as part of TANDEM.

The conference was opened by the Head of Operations at the Delegation of the European Union in Belarus, Mr. Llewellyn Edwards and was attended by Belarusian non-governmental organisations, local authorities and community groups as well as representatives of municipalities and NGOs from Latvia and Lithuania. The representatives from Lithuania and Latvia shared their experience of cooperation between local authorities and community organisations and told participants about the situation and work conducted in their municipalities. The Representatives of Belarusian NGOs, Local Authorities and community groups presented the goals and objectives of their projects which will be supported as part of TANDEM. A further part of the conference was devoted to project management, reporting and concrete questions on ways to manage the projects successfully. About ten projects have been selected to receive support under TANDEM. These projects all aim at supporting cooperation between local authorities and civil society organisations and will implement activities to create sustainable development at the community level.

The variety of projects and geographical diversity is remarkable: among the projects is an initiative of a bicyclist organisation in Minsk which wants to improve the quality of bike paths in the Belarusian capital and create a micro-level bicycle infrastructure there. The Association of Gomel children and young people" (ASDEMO) in cooperation with the local authorities in Gomel will create a leisure activities place for young people in Gomel's district number 19. Another project covering the cultural heritage will be implemented by the Information and Regional Studies Center at Golshanskaya Rural Library District Oshmyany in Northwestern Belarus. The initiative will set up a virtual museum of the Struve Geodetic Arc, a chain of commemorative plaques and obelisks which were built along the meridian line from Norway to Moldova in the 19th century. The project aims to share the knowledge of the Struve Arc and to disclose the historical and cultural potential of the regions where the Struve Arc runs. The Arc became World Heritage in 2005. The project will be implemented with the support of the Latvian municipality Gulbene, which is also situated near the line of the Arc.

The sub granting projects will now apply for registration at the Department of Humanitarian activities under the Presidential Administration of Belarus to be able to receive the allocated grants. The sub-granted projects will last 12 months.

The TANDEM project is supported by the European Union's Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development programme and will be implemented by ALDA together with the Lev Sapieha Foundation and the Belarusian Organisation for Working Women and will last until first half of 2013.



ELDW 2012: A CO-ORDINATION MEETING IN PARIS (19th of January)

An ELDW general meeting was held the 19th of January at the Council of Europe bureau in Paris. The aim was to assess the recent 2011 edition of the Week and to prepare the new 2012 edition.

Mr. Per Vinther, ALDA President, represented at the meeting also the Croatian City of Sisak which qualified this year for the "12 Stars City" label.

The National Associations of the local authorities, the European institutions and associations, as well as the other international partners of the ELDW was invited to attend the meeting. The mayors of the 19 municipalities which took part in the ELDW 2011 as "12 Star cities" was also be invited to share their views and experiences. About half of the 12 Star Cities were represented and used the opportunity to present what they had been doing in their European Local Democracy Week.

Afterwards, participants had a discussion about the topic of the new 2012 edition that will probably be the "Social Cohesion". In the next weeks the ELDW secretariat will announce the title of the new edition.



THE ROLE OF LAs AND CSOs IN PROMOTING SOCIAL AND MIGRANTS' INCLUSION, AND GENDER EQUALITY DISCUSSED DURING THE FINAL EVENT OF STAND.UP (Malta, 16-17 January 2012)

The Minister for Home and Parliamentary Affairs in Malta, Mr Carmelo Misfud Bonnici, attended to the final event of the project "STAND.UP: Strengthening

Twinning and Networking for Development Agreements. United in Partnership" that has been held in Malta (16-17 January 2012).

The International Conference "Social Integration and Gender Equality through a Good Local Governmental System" has seen the participation of 80 representatives of Local Authorities and Civil Society Organizations coming from 11 countries

of the enlarged Europe. It has been a unique opportunity to discuss the role of LAs and CSOs in promoting jointly activities to foster social inclusion, in particular migrants' inclusion in local life, and gender equality at the local level. STAND.UP, implemented by ALDA in partnership with 17 international partners, aims to promote citizen participation and interaction with local and European institutions, through the methodology of town twinning.

During the Conference it has been possible to compare Malta and Puglia experiences on welcoming migrants coming from North Africa. Moreover, the presence of local and international organization promoting gender equality has encouraged local Mayors to share their experiences with their counterparts from other European countries. The event has strongly benefited from the support of a relevant institutional figure such as Mr Carmelo Misfud Bonnici, Minister for Home and Parliamentary Affairs in Malta, and from the contribution of Mr Michael Cohen, President of the Local Councils' Association whose presence has further strengthened the dissemination of the project outcomes. As final part of the activity, a steering committee among project partners has been held so as to plan the follow up of the project.

For more information contact Mr Alfonso Aliberti, Project Manager of ALDA, at alfonso.aliberti@aldaintranet.org.

Download [here](#) the project results.

 [Speech by the Minister Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici](#)

 [STANDUP PROJECT ON MALTATODAY 17-01-2012](#)



ALDA NOMINATED FOR THE 5TH ACTIVE CITIZENS OF EUROPE (ACE) AWARDS

ALDA has been nominated for the [5th Active Citizens of Europe \(ACE\) Awards](#), for his outstanding efforts on volunteering and active citizenship programmes.

The announcement was given during the 20th VolontEurope Conference, that was held in Edinburgh, delivered in partnership with CSV in Scotland and supported by the European Commission's 'Europe for Citizens' Programme.

The ACE Awards recognises outstanding individual volunteers and volunteering

NGOs, as well as corporate companies with effective CSR and volunteering programmes, who have proved to be outstanding pioneers and ambassadors for voluntary action and Active Citizenship.

The awards recognize the great work that ALDA has done and is doing in these fields.

The 2011 winners, selected by the ACE Awards Judges are: amongs NGOs: Scottish European Educational Trust (Scotland), Sue Ryder (for work in Scotland through the Prison Volunteer Programme), Serve the City (Europe-wide), amongs Volunteers: Redhall Walled Garden Trainees (Scotland), Saronikos Young Volunteers in Action (Greece), amongs Corporate Organisations: Fundação INATEL - 'Conversa Amiga' Programme (Portugal).



INTACT PROJECT: STUDENT MEETING ON EUROPEAN VALUES, ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND TWINNINGS IN BRINDISI (16th December 2011)

As a part of the INTACT project, funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union, has been realized in Brindisi (Italy) an event for students of secondary schools.

The meeting, promoted by the Municipality of Brindisi with the ALDA Office cooperation in the city, the Youth Information Office and in collaboration with IPRES, took place on 16th of December in the City Hall.

During a first introductory moment the promoters presented the project and its aims and the twinning activities of the Municipality of Brindisi.

The students were then involved in a debate on active citizenship and twinings, aimed at the identification of new needs or perceptions on those issues.

Divided into working groups, the boys discussed the issue and answered a questionnaire on European identity and the results were then presented to all participants during a plenary session.

It was possible to verify the level of knowledge of youth on twinning activities in the area and were collected moods and proposals on active citizenship, European identity and twinning programs.

The results of the plenary discussion will be shared with other partners of the INTACT project and will form an "owned" basis for all the institutions involved in the definition of new activities in international cooperation and twinning.

[Download here](#) the press clipping on the meeting

[Download here a video](#)

NEWS FROM LDAs



DZENANA DEDIC (LDA MOSTAR) NEW REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LDAs' DELEGATES IN THE GOVERNING BOARD OF ALDA

Ms. Dzenana Dedic (LDA Mostar) has been appointed as the new representative of the Delegates in the Governing Board of ALDA.

The decision has been taken during the last Delegates coordination meeting, held on the 9-10 of January in Nis (SRB). She will substitute Mr. Umberto Ademollo, Delegate of LDA Verteneglio, and she will be in charge for one year. We have made some questions to the Dzenana to see how she intend to fulfill this new challenging appointment. (In photo: Dzenana Dedic in the center, with the staff of the LDA Mostar)

Dzenana could you tell us a bit more about you and about your involvement in the LDA Mostar and in the LDAs network?

After almost 10 years of experience in NGO sector I started my engagement in LDA Mostar from August 2004. Official inauguration of LDA Mostar was 22nd November 2004. My position till the end of 2009 was administrative/financial officer and assistant to delegate, and according to the legal registration I was director of the LDA registered at national level as CSO. From the beginning of 2010 I am at the position of delegate of LDA Mostar.

What will be your contribution in the GB to bring the voice of the delegates?

In general I see my job as a big challenge and chance to participate in democratization process of my country and region in whole. ALDA and LDA network is perfect environment to reach that goal. Gives us huge opportunities to realize many useful activities and actions. LDA delegates should use more that opportunity and strengthen the cooperation among LDAs and force ALDA to improve network's position at European level using its credibility gained during the years of active work.

To conclude, how do you see LDAs network in the future?

Each LDA individually I see as a strong partner to local and national governments and jointly in ALDA network, as strong partner to EU institutions especially in pre accession and accession processes and EU enlargement. Also we have to find good model to stay connected to the Croatian LDAs once that Croatia become the EU member state.



THE IPA BIH PROJECT "CIVIL SOCIETY IN ACTION FOR DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP" ON "PEACE NEWS"

"Peace News", the [electronic newsletter](#) of the Bosnian Organisation "Mreža Za Izgradnju Mira", "Peace building network" of which LDA Mostar is member, in the issue of January 2012 published an article about the IPA Project "Civil Society in action for dialogue and partnership".

The project is implemented by ALDA, lead partner, while the partners are the Local Democracy Agencies Mostar, Zavidovici (BiH), Osijek (HR), Subotica (SRB), as well as the Forum of Tuzla Citizens, Centre for Local Development Breza, DON Prijedor and Novenade Bihac.

The project is designed to help strengthen the democratic role of NGOs in enhancing the citizen participation in local policy/decision making through promoting co-operation agreements and NGO issue based networking measures within the two years of project implementation: to help improve organizational and management capacities of NGO-s engaged in promoting democratic governance at local level; develop local awareness raising actions promoting democratic potential of CSOs and their role in good local governance; support the networking actions of issue based NGOs at local and regional level in Bosnia and Herzegovina; improve the awareness of policy and decision makers on European standards of good local governance and citizen participation; foster issue based cooperation of CSOs and local authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina with their counterparts in other IPA countries and EU member states.



LDAs MOSTAR AND CSS, NIS, SIGNED THE AGREEMENT OF A PROJECT ON GENDER EQUALITY OF WHICH ARE PARTNERS

LDAs Mostar and Central and Southern Serbia - Niš signed a partnership agreement with the Association of Fenomena from Kraljevo (Serbia) for the implementation of project "Promotion of the European Charter for equality between women and men at the local level", during the first project meeting that took place on 11-12 January 2012.

The Project, funded by the European Commission under the IPA Civil Society Facility: Partnership Actions-Empowerment of Women, will be implemented during the 2012.

The Association Fenomenon, as the leading organization in the project, will implement the activities in cooperation with other organizations: Centre for Local Democracy LDA from Nis, Serbia; ANIMA - Center for Women and Peace Education from Kotor, Montenegro, Association of Citizens for Local Democracy Agency Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina and The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden.

The overall project objective is to contribute to the development of policies, measures and budgeting to improve gender equality in Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The specific objective is to create conditions for development of policies, measures and budgeting to improve gender equality, development of local action plans to implement the European Charter for equality in cities and municipalities participating in the project.



CIVIL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EU!

LDA Osijek together with 13 associations from Osijek-Baranja County on the 18th January has organized a press conference on occasion of EU referendum in Croatia.

On the referendum on Croatian accession to the EU, the co-ordination of civil society association of the County has expressed a common attitude.

It was stressed that the EU support was a key element for achieving change in society, and to be joining the European Union continues to work on democratization and raise standards.

They find that Croatia was ready to join the union and the accession will bring many benefits, especially to youth, through the promotion of mobility in education and work. Local Democracy Agency in Osijek was one of the associations that signed the statement.

CIVILNE UDRUGE ZA EU!

U povodu referenduma o pristupanju Hrvatske Europskoj uniji koordinacija udruga civilnog društva izrazila je zajednički stav. Naglašeno je kako je potpora EU bila ključan element za postizanje promjena u društvu, te kako treba pristupanjem Europskoj uniji i dalje raditi na demokratizaciji i podizanju standarda. Ocjenjuju kako je Hrvatska spremna za ulazak u uniju, te će pristupanje uniji donijeti brojne beneficije, osobito mladima, kroz poticanje mobilnosti u obrazovanju i radu. Agencija lokalne demokracije bila je jedna od udruga potpisnica ove izjave.

Osijek TV news

[Radio Osijek: Miljenko Turniski - Agencija lokalne demokracije Osijek](#)

[Glas Slavonije 19/01/2012](#)

[HRT Radio Osijek 18/01/2012](#)

[Osijek031.com 18/01/2012](#)



LDA OSIJEK: ITALIAN DELEGATION VISITED 5TH MANIFESTATION OF LIVE NATIVITY IN ALJMAŠ (HR)

From 4th to 7th January 2012 Italian delegation composed of representatives of Montenero Di Bisaccia Municipality and their Pro Loco Association visited now already 5th Live Nativity manifestation in Aljmaš village in Eastern Croatia. Five

years ago together with LDA in Osijek they initiated this manifestation in Erdut municipality which has indeed a lots of potential for developing of religious tourism in its Aljmaš sanctuary.

This is a third visit of Molisian delegation to this manifestation in which they already traditionally played the roles of three kings. The same manifestation they prepare every year in Montenero already for 30 years. During four days of this year's manifestation they managed to involve some 200 volunteers and to attract 15000 visitors. Their methodology and success in definitely something that inhabitants of Erdut Municipality gladly look for. Through years this event enabled to both citizens and local authorities representatives to exchange ideas, talk about common challenges and discover new fields of their future cooperation.

TALIJANSKA DELEGACIJA POSJETILA MANIFESTACIJU ŽIVE JASLICE U ALJMAŠU

Od 4. do 7. siječnja 2012 talijanska delegacija koju su činili predstavnici grada Montenero Di Bisaccia i njihove asocijacije Pro Loco posjetili manifestaciju Živih jaslica u Aljmašu koja se u ovom dijelu Istočne Hrvatske događa već 5. puta. Upravo oni su prije godina zajedno s Agencijom lokalne demokracije u Osijeku inicirali pokretanje ove manifestacije na području Općine Erdut koja uistinu ima mnogo potencijala za razvoj vjerskog turizma u aljmaškom marijanskom svetištu. Ovo je treća posjeta moliške delegacije manifestaciju na kojoj su već tradicionalni glumili sveta tri kralja. Sličnu manifestaciju zadnjih 30 godina oni pripremaju i u svom gradiću. Tijekom četiri dana ove su godine uspjeli uključiti dvjestotinjak volontera u samu manifestaciju i privući 15000 posjetitelja. Njihova metodologija i uspjeh definitivno su nešto čemu se i aljmašani nadaju. Kroz pet godina ova manifestacija omogućila je kako građanima tako i predstavnicima lokalnih vlasti da razmjene ideje, razgovaraju o zajedničkim izazovima te identificiraju područja buduće suradnje.

ALDA AND LDAs STATEMENTS



JOINT ALDA AND LDAs STATEMENT ON THE REFERENDUM IN CROATIA

ALDA and the Croatian LDAs, in the context of the EU referendum, encourage all the citizens in Croatia to take an active role and vote, thus bringing Croatia closer to the European Union than ever before.

The Local Democracy Agencies in Osijek, Sisak and Brtonigla, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies with its seat in Strasbourg, France and the the other LDAs in the Western Balkans, give a public statement.

"We understand – is written in the statement- and experience the process of the European integration as a process of affirmation of positive social values, civic freedoms and rule of law. The European perspective has opened to Croatian society an opportunity for creating new policies introducing higher standards in many fields of social and economic life.

By involving citizens, local and regional authorities our organisation and network members in Southeast Europe have for a long time supported and advocated European values and standards.

Long standing experience of our organisations in Croatian local communities has taught us that in the last years support by EU institutions has been the key element for accomplishing the social and economic reforms and equitable change. Being fully aware of many challenges that Croatia is facing in this moment of the accession to EU, we consider that this is a step in support to both continuing and to the future process of democratic stability, strengthening of institutions, balanced regional development, fair social policy and economic development.

We consider that it is important to develop a participatory democratic culture and active citizenship and we strongly support citizens' participation in decision making. With this in view we encourage all the citizens in Croatia to take an active role and vote, thus bringing Croatia closer to the European Union than ever before".

ALDA, the Croatian Local Democracy Agencies Osijek, Sisak, Brtonigla, and the Local Democracy Agencies Prijedor, Zavidovici, Mostar, Niksic, Subotica, Nis, Peja, Shkodra have signed the statement.

ZAJEDNIČKA IZJAVA ALDA-e I ALD-e POVODOM REFERENDUMA O ULASKU HRVATSKE U EUROPSKU UNIJU

Povodom referenduma o ulasku Hrvatske u Europsku uniju, Agencije lokalne demokracije Sisak, Osijek i Brtonigla te Asocijacija Agencija lokalne demokracije sa sjedištem u Strasbourgu, Francuska, daju zajedničku javnu izjavu:

Proces europskih integracija shvaćamo, a i iskusili smo ga, kao proces afirmiranja pozitivnih društvenih vrijednosti, građanskih sloboda i vladavine prava. Europska perspektiva otvorila je hrvatskom društvu priliku za stvaranje novih politika s višim standardima u različitim poljima društvenog i ekonomskog života. Uključujući građane, lokalne i regionalne vlasti naše organizacije i članovi naše mreže iz Jugoistočne Europe već dugi niz godina podupiru i zagovaraju europske standarde i vrijednosti.

Dugogodišnje djelovanje naših organizacija u lokalnim zajednicama diljem Hrvatske, pokazalo nam je da je upravo potpora europskih institucija bila ključni element zadnjih godina za postizanje socijalnih i ekonomskih reformi i promjena. Duboko svjesni mnogih izazova s kojima se Hrvatska suočava u ovom trenutku pristupanja Europskoj uniji, smatramo kako je to korak u podršku trenutnog, ali i budućeg procesa stabilizacije demokracije, jačanja institucija, ravnomjernog regionalnog razvoja, pravedne socijalne politike i ekonomskog razvoja.

Smatramo kako je važno razviti kulturu sudioničke demokracije i aktivnog građanstva te snažno podupiremo sudjelovanje građana u procesima donošenja odluka. S ovim stajalištem potičemo građane Hrvatske da preuzmu aktivnu ulogu i izađu na referendum te tako doprinesu još više približe Hrvatsku Europskoj uniji.

Asocijacija Agencija lokalne demokracija – ALDA, Hrvatske Agencije lokalne demokracije Sisak, Osijek i Brtonigla, Agencije lokalne demokracije Prijedor, Zavidovići, Mostar, Nikšić, Subotica, Niš, Peć, Skadar



"BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA AUTHORITIES SPEED UP THE PROCEDURE TO JOIN THE PROGRAMME EUROPE FOR CITIZENS". CALL OF WESTERN BALKANS LDA'S DELEGATES

The Delegates of the Western Balkans LDAs strongly call upon the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia who have formally expressed interest in participating, to speed up the procedure of joining the Europe for Citizens Programme.

At their first Southeast Regional Coordination and Partnership Building Meeting, held on 10th January in Nis, Serbia, the delegates of LDAs were reviewing the present status and challenges of the local democracy in the region, in view of its potential role in upholding the EU intergration process in the Western Balkans countries.

Having in mind that local tier of governance should have a stronger say in EU integration, and that so far Croatia, Albania and Macedonia have acceded the Europe for Citizens programme as one of the most effective tool linking the local governments and citizens all across Europe - is written in a official statement of the LDAs - we strongly call upon the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia who have formally expressed interest in participating, to speed up the procedure of joining the Programme".

Submitted the call the Delegates of the LDA of Sisak, Osijek, Verteneglio (Croatia), Prijedor, Zavidovici, Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Subotica, Nis (Serbia), Niksic (Montenegro), Peja (Kosovo) and Shkodra (Albania).