

ALDA's winter greeting: towards a 2022 full of new initiatives!

ALDA Newsletter December 2021



Winter Greetings & Happy New Year from ALDA

"Dear Members, Partners and Friends of ALDA, behalf of the whole team of ALDA, its Governing Board and all the LDAs, let me wish you all the best Winter Holidays that 2021 can offer to all of us!" – stated our **President Mr Oriano Otočan** at the beginning of its letter.

"The year about to end has been a unique one – continued Mr. Otočan – with the COVID-19 pandemic crisis still challenging deeply the implementation of our activities and everyday work all around Europe and beyond. Many of you have faced difficulties in the management of the crisis, from the economic to the social and cultural point of view. It is the reason why our support towards local communities has been more important than ever."

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ALDA Governing Board: leaving the 2021 for another fruitful year of initiatives in 2022

Despite a rainy and cold morning, December 2nd marked a great day for the ALDA's Governing Board, since the latter had the possibility to meet both in presence at Vicenza's office and online. **President, Mr Oriano Otočan**, gathered all the members for this last meeting of the 2021. Differently from the previous ones, having the possibility to see each other in person gave a new and fresh energy, allowing ideas and fruitful discussions.

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ALDA Staff Meeting: team building, dialogue, and sharing

On November 28-29 and December 1st 2021, ALDA had its much anticipated Staff Meeting in Vicenza (Italy) together with colleagues from all over Europe and beyond! Everyone was very happy to finally be together again after a prolonged absence due to the ongoing pandemic, and some of the colleagues had never seen the new Vicenza office after the move! The key words of the meeting were: **team building, dialogue, and sharing.**

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A new promising partnership between ALDA and IRDP

Partnerships are stronger than the distance! On Monday, December 13th, 2021, a very special event took place, sealing a new valuable partnership between **ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy** and **IRDP – Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace**. The event, livestreamed on ALDA's Facebook page, involved ALDA Secretary General, **Antonella Valmoribida** and the Director of IRDP, **Eric Ndushabandi**.

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Ukraine Working Group: 2021 annual meeting

Since 2015, when the **Ukraine Working Group** was firstly created by the European Committee of the Regions (COR), leaders of local-government associations and city mayors gather to reflect and share perspectives and concrete knowledge on Ukraine state of art in terms of politics and reform. This year as well, led by **Alexandra Dulikiewicz**, mayor of Gdansk and chairwoman of the meeting, the event was organized on November 18th 2021 on hybrid mode.

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ALDA FOR THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE



ALDA invites all Civil Society Organisations' representatives to join the survey by filling the questionnaire on: **"the Union's democratic foundations, and how to strengthen democratic processes governing the European Union – To Make Europe a citizens project"**, chaired by ALDA and ECOLISE, focusing on boosting citizens engagement, involvement and participation to guarantee a high qualitative social development. Join the survey, choose your language and fill in the questionnaire in

[English](#) [French](#) [Italian](#)

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Celebrating one year of the European Cities Label!

On 19th November 2021, the Young European France organised the national day entitled **"European Cities Label"**. Launched in 2020 for French municipalities by the **Young European France (JEF)**, this initiative is supported by the **France, European Movement (MEF)** and **Union of European Federalists in France (UEF)**. The European Cities Label is a specific label for cities, aimed at giving them access to a wide network of towns, supporting in implementing European action in their territory, while highlighting their commitment to Europe and the European Union.

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Peja hosts the 4th international meeting of the Valid project

From the 22nd to the 25th of November the **city of Peja** in eastern Kosovo* welcomed the delegation of the Valid Project in a new opportunity to promote intercultural dialogue and collaboration between the local authorities and civil society. The **Valid** project aims to spread more inclusive policies and European values to cities around the region, to finally develop a network of cultural exchange and tolerance.

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[SDG 11 →](#)



Third and final international event of the 'Recruit' project in Madrid

The Community of Madrid hosted, on 24th and 25th of November 2021, the **third international event of the RECRUIT Project**. **RECRUIT Project's** main objective is to promote the exchange between three Mediterranean countries (Greece, Italy and Spain) to tackle local unemployment through the **sharing of good practices in Social Economy**. The latter represents, in addition, the focus of the event itself. Thus, different associations and enterprises from **Spain** shared their experiences

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[SDG 8 →](#)



BRIGHT Project's 3rd capacity building workshop in Italy

The **BRIGHT** project had its third capacity building workshop in the beautiful **Azienda Agricola Favella farm, Corigliano-Rossano, Italy**, on November 16 and 17, 2021. During the two day event participants had the chance to share and listen to in person testimonies and experiences from all the different representatives from the various stakeholders. Women leaders who took part of the BRIGHT project intervened, sharing the voices of all the women working in agriculture who were involved in the BRIGHT project.

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[SDG 4 →](#)



Interested in Euro-Turkish cooperation? Join THE:PLACE programme!

Another step toward the achievement of crucial partnership between Europe and Turkey... and ALDA is proudly part of it!

How? Thanks to our new project **THE:PLACE – Turkey Hand in hand with Europe: Programme for Local Authorities and Civil Society Exchange**. **THE:PLACE**, implemented by ALDA and **MAD – Center for Spatial Justice** and funded by the Mercator Foundation, is a project aimed at building long lasting Turkey – European Union networks of Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities between stakeholder from the European Union and Turkey and increasing their capacity to create meaningful impact in their respective fields of action.

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[SDG 17 →](#)

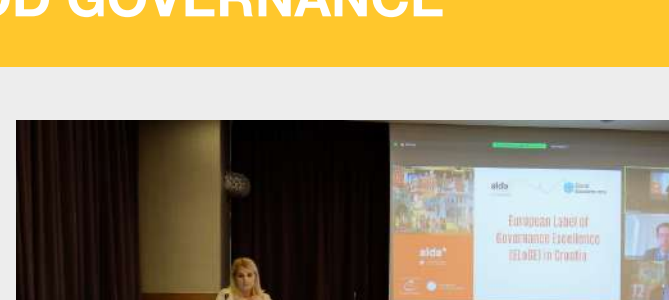
ALDA FOR THE GOOD GOVERNANCE



Skopje: Launching Conference of ELoGE in North Macedonia

Skopje: the European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA organised the "Launching Conference" of the project **European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE)** in North Macedonia on the 18th of November. With great enthusiasm representatives from Macedonian Local Authorities (LAs), previously invited to take part of the project, gathered in Skopje and online to learn more about the ELoGE label.

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ELoGE in Croatia: first steps and establishing cooperation

ALDA continues to contribute to **good governance on local level in Croatia** and takes its activities on the next level. ALDA launched the "European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE)" for Croatia on the 22 November 2021 in Zagreb. The project was promoted in a hybrid type of event, giving representatives of municipalities and participants the possibility to join both online and in presence.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT...



Stop climate change, start a climate of change

[Help us, sign the petition!](#)

Climate change is not only a problem for the health of the planet and its inhabitants, but it is also beginning to affect individual freedoms and social justice. Many people find themselves in a vulnerable situation due to the consequences of climate change and are forced to leave their region because they can no longer provide for themselves. Faced with this situation, the project **"End Climate Change, Start Climate of Change"** was born, with the support of the DEAR program (Development education and awareness raising) of the European Commission.

[Read more & Sign the petition →](#)

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

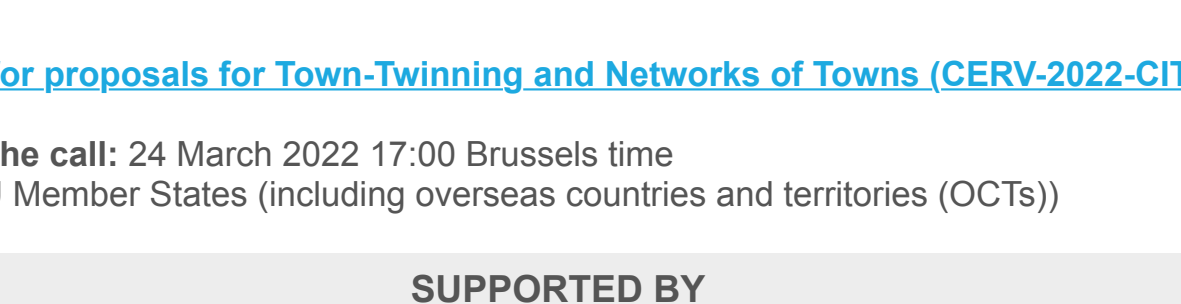
Call 1 - Promote equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination (CERV-2022-EQUAL)
Deadline of the call: 24 February 17:00:00 Brussels time
Location: EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))

Call 2 - Promote capacity building and awareness on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and activities on strategic litigation relating to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights breaches (CERV-2022-CHAR-LIT)
Deadline of the call: 24 February 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time
Location: EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))

Call 3 - Politics and the impact of online social networks and new media - HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-07
Deadline of the call: 20 April 2022 17:00 Brussels time
Location: world wide

Call 4 - Call for proposals for Town-Twinning and Networks of Towns (CERV-2022-CITIZENS-TOWN)
Deadline of the call: 24 March 2022 17:00 Brussels time
Location: EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))

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