



Membership Info Pack



Promoting good governance and citizens participation at the local level in an enlarged Europe and beyond

- since 1999 -

ABOUT US

ALDA - the European Association for Local Democracy is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of **good governance and citizens participation** at the local level. ALDA in particular focuses on activities that facilitate cooperation between local authorities and civil society. Every day, we **develop projects with our members** to support their activities for the good of the whole community. We are experts in identifying all possible means (EC funds, partnership, donations, etc.) to make our work – and our members' work possible.

ALDA is a **membership-based organisation** gathering more than **300 members** (including local authorities, associations of local authorities and non-governmental organisations) coming from more than 40 countries. ALDA is funded through membership fees and project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe and other public and private donors.



ALDA was **established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe's** Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to coordinate and support a network of Local Democracy Agencies, which was established in the early 1990s. ALDA is the umbrella organisation of the Local Democracy Agencies which are self-sustainable, locally registered NGOs that act as promoters of good governance and local self-government in their regions.



WHAT WE DO

In the framework of promoting good governance and citizens participation at the local level, ALDA focuses on various themes, such as **European integration**, **decentralized cooperation**, **civic initiatives** and volunteering, **human rights**, **migration** and **sustainable economic development**.

ALDA conducts its activities through different forms of action:

- Coordinating and supporting the **16 Local Democracy Agencies**.
- **Conducting our own projects** (and members' projects) in the field of good governance and citizen participation at the local level.
- **Supporting other local stakeholders' initiatives** - like Local Authorities - by providing expertise gained through ALDA's knowledge and experience in the regions where ALDA and the Local Democracy Agencies are working.



ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy, is a global alliance of local and regional authorities and civil society actors working together with a participatory approach for resilient, inclusive and sustainable societies.

+300 members

16 LDAs

+500 projects implemented

54 countries where ALDA is active

6 offices

+25 million citizens involved

55% of our resources are entirely redirected to our members and partners

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT ALDA

As its core element, **ALDA supports citizens** and groups of citizens in their initiatives aimed at **improving their local context**, building bridges with local authorities in order to make the change real.

Upon the need of members, **ALDA creates ad hoc partnerships**, finding the perfect stakeholders, in order to generate synergies and create promising collaborations to **find solutions** and reach the desired results.

In this framework, we work through a **participatory approach** and the **method of multilateral decentralised cooperation**, always focusing on strong partnerships between Local Authorities and civil society organisations.



OUR PRIORITIES



Advocacy

Making citizens' voice heard in Europe and all over the globe, sharing best practices and shaping the future with a bottom-up approach: this and much more is what ALDA is standing for.

Changing Europe from below

ALDA, as a Civil Society Organisation, is engaged with members and partners to make Europe more citizens' oriented, more inclusive, participative, and sustainable.

A better World one by one

ALDA is actively part of the global plan for the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) achievements by contributing to policy processes targeting EU institutions and citizens, advocating towards the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

Local Democracy in the World

ALDA works to support resilient communities, connect stakeholders and enhance the functioning of local institutions thus promoting local democracy and citizens' engagement all over the globe.

WORKING GROUPS

Members' participation and their active involvement are two cornerstones of ALDA's work and the basis of our strength and added value.

As one can read in our [Strategic Plan](#), the importance of sharing and exchanging knowledge and expertise with professionals is crystal clear, as well as the importance of boosting the democratic and participatory life of our association.

Thus, we are going to create five Working Groups which will be focused on the main areas of interests for ALDA and its members, as reported below:

1. Local governance and participatory democracy
2. Social inclusion
3. Digitalisation
4. Environment and local development
5. Civil society and community empowerment



More in detail, while each group will be animated and supported by a staff coordinator and the related thematic hub within ALDA, the objective is to set up a fruitful exchange among the members involved to turn the five selected areas into events, meetings, and of course exchange opinions, cooperation, projects, and expertise on that.

To get more **information**, [read the call for Interest](#)



OUR MEMBERS SAY ABOUT US...



“The collaboration with ALDA on the FACE project represented a great opportunity for us, in terms of intellectual outputs, professional growth, exchange with other countries and associations” – Gabriela Diaz and Anna Mascheroni, Cittadini Digitali (Italy)

“ALDA taught and provided us with tools to support our local democracy, promote active citizenship, stimulate societal and intercultural engagement; and all this in a participatory way. We want to show our citizens, and let them experience, that they are part of Europe and that our role as local government doesn’t stop at the borders of our town, region or country.” - Erik Fuhlbrugge, Zoersel Municipality (Belgium)

#ALDAMEMBER

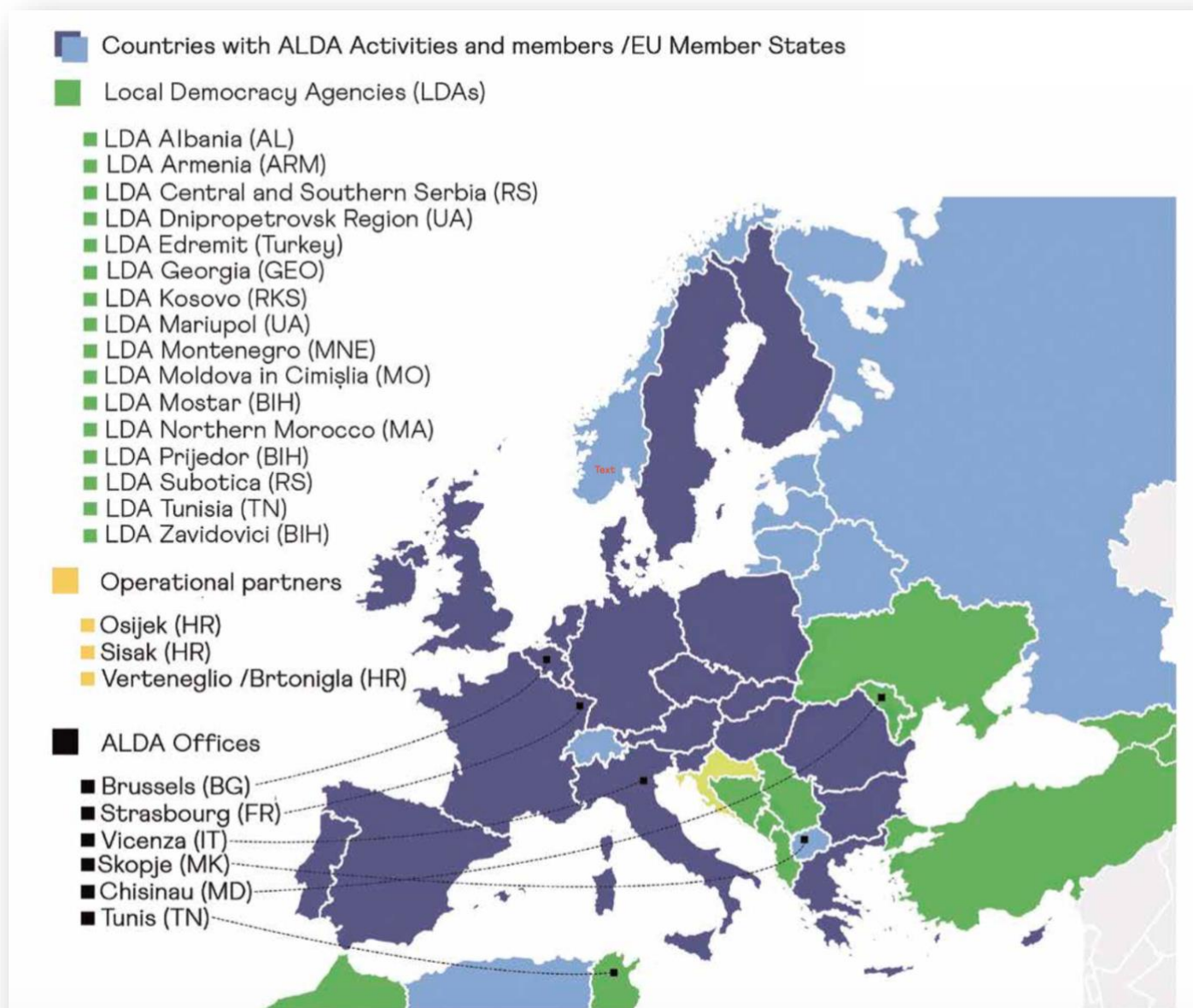
“Civil society organisations like ALDA play a critical role in fostering active citizenship and creating a sense of togetherness in Europe. With ALDA ever since the 2019 European elections campaign has been a real pleasure. Together, we brainstorm ideas, share materials and support each other’s campaigns to communicate about Europe better to citizens and encourage their democratic participation at EU-level” – Shevani Murray, Civil Society Outreach Unit, DG COMM, European Parliament



WHERE WE WORK

ALDA works in most of the European Union and the European neighbourhood countries. Activities in the European Union focus in particular on the promotion of Active European Citizenship. Activities in the Western Balkans and European Neighbourhood focus on good governance, citizen participation, European integration, and decentralisation. The first Local Democracy Agencies (LDA) are located in the Western Balkans, which gives a natural focus on that area. Recognising the need and the possibility, ALDA is also becoming more and more active in the European neighbourhood. The most recent LDA was created in 2019 in Tétouan, Morocco, a few years after the establishment of LDAs in Kairouan (Tunisia), Cimişlia (Moldova) and Mariupol (Ukraine). ALDA is also leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European neighbouring countries, such as Belarus, Turkey and Kyrgyzstan.

Our Network



SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

First, our mission: being a member of ALDA means first of all sharing our mission: the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level

As a member you will access the following services:

PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES RESEARCH

“Over 20 years’ experience in developing and implementing projects”

- Priority on opportunities offered to be partner of projects, or to join consortia built to apply for tenders in various fields
- Support of ALDA multilingual staff in the project proposal development phase (EN, FR, IT, SR, MK, RU)
- Identification of relevant international partners for specific areas
- Support to the partnership building process and dissemination of members' calls for partners

BEING PART OF A CONSOLIDATED EUROPEAN NETWORK

“Strategic partner of the Council of Europe and the European Commission”

- Support in relations with EU, CoE, UN, Agencies, public and private international institutions
- Support in relations with local and regional authorities, and National Governments in the enlarged Europe
- Support in relations with European Officials, MEPs and other international and European authorities
- Visibility through a European network counting around 300 (local authorities, NGOs, association of local authorities)
- Promotion of members' activities, initiatives and events at the European level through ALDA's communication channels (newsletter sent to over 11.000 contacts, website with over 200.000 visitors and 1.300.000 visits per year, social networks, media activities)
- Online presence for our Members on ALDA website, and presentation to the network of contacts via the newsletter
- Access to EU experts, professional networks, academic organisations

INFORMATION, STRUCTURE AND DISSEMINATION

“Wide dissemination of our members’ activity and logistic support”

- Regular updates via ALDA communication channels, particularly our **monthly newsletter in ten languages**: English, French, Bosniac/Serbian/Croatian, Italian, Arabic, Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Moldovan, Georgian
- ALDA and EU publications, information materials
- Access to the information points on EU and active citizenship (Brussels and Vicenza)
- Free use of ALDA equipped offices and meeting rooms in Brussels (Belgium), Vicenza (Italy), and upon approval of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg (France)

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

“Further your skills and horizons through a variety of opportunities”

- Information on funding programmes and opportunities
- Participation in international events (conferences, seminars, etc.) promoted by ALDA
- Priority in partnership for specialised trainings (e.g. Master classes on EU programmes, trainings, etc.)
- Participation in ALDA working groups (on Citizens Participation and Local Governance, Western Balkans, Mediterranean Area, Local Democracy Agencies support)
- Priority in offers of internship and job-shadowing
- Participation in the programme ‘Volunteers for Democracy’, allowing members to select volunteers to participate into international events



HOW TO BECOME MEMBER: THE APPLICATION PROCESS

To become member of ALDA, the Governing Board will evaluate your expertise and motivation for being part of the community:

- Write in one page a **short description of the applicant**, its activities and motivation for becoming a member of ALDA
- One page describing your **experiences in participative democracy and citizens engagement** at the local level with best practices and programmes.

The form, together with a copy of the **last approved budget**, the short description of the applicant and the motivation + participative democracy and citizens engagement practices for becoming member of ALDA, should be returned to ALDA via email to membership@alda-europe.eu

Memberships are approved on a continuous basis, usually every two months, by ALDA's Governing Board. The candidates will be requested to present their application in an online meeting after which the Governing will decide the membership status. We will agree upon the date of the interview with the candidates.

As soon as the Governing Board approves the application following the online meeting, the applicant will receive the instructions for payment of the membership fees.

The applicant is considered a full member of ALDA:

- once the membership fee is paid
- after reception of the formal decision of membership coming from the highest body of the governance (either municipal/regional council decision or Governing Board decision for association).

The member will then access the services of ALDA and will be able to vote at the annual General Assembly.

For more information, please contact us at +39 0444 54 01 46

Or email us to: membership@alda-europe.eu

Thank you for your interest in ALDA - the European Association for Local Democracy!



Citizens, Equality, Rights
and Values programme



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