

30 Years Local Democracy Agencies in the Balkans

9th June 2023 in Brussels

Roundtable discussion, 9:00 - 10:30

Maison Hap, Maison Hap 508-510 Chaussée de Wavre, 1040 Etterbeek Room
Orangerie and Parc of Maison Hap

Concept Note

Background

This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the birth of the first LDA in Subotica, Serbia, which also marks the origin of ALDA's presence in the Balkans. Since then, the network and expertise of the LDAs has only expanded and deepened. Landmarks worth mentioning include the creation of ALDA in 1998 and the establishment of BNLD in 2019. The occasion is valuable to look back together on the road so far and discuss tomorrow's commitments.

Since the beginning of their existence, the activities of LDAs have focused on citizen participation in public life and in the decision-making process, decreasing the gap between citizens and institutions, and creating an active and proactive civil society.

Event

The event aims to connect the recent past with the present and future work of ALDA in the Balkans, recalling the history of its origin and development, emphasising the goals achieved and progress toward future ones. It will also be an opportunity to reflect on ALDA's changing role and the challenges ahead.

The speakers' contributions are designed to set the stage for more informed discussion and exchange among those present. Specific space will be left for questions and remarks so that the presentations are not solely one-way but participatory. These inputs will be further developed in ad hoc workshops and activities within ALDA's projects. The conclusion of the event will also help spread awareness of this foremost anniversary beyond ALDA's traditional target audience.

Agenda

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Moderator: Katica Janeva, ALDA - Head of Unit Western Balkans

Local Democracy Agencies –history of building local democracy

- Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA

Creating links between European communities and Balkan communities

- Dusica Davidovic (Serbia, SOC/G/PD), Deputy Mayor of Nis, Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe
- Emir Coric, Ministry of Local Self-Government North Macedonia, member of the Board of ALDA

Supporting local democracy with a view to democratic security in the Balkan region

- Elbert Krasniqi, Minister of Local Government Administration of the Republic of Kosovo*
- Viola VON CRAMON-TAUBADEL, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

From Postconflict Struggles Toward European Integration of the Balkans

- Dragica Martinovic, Vice-president of the EESC's Western Balkans Follow-up Committee
- Natasa Vuckovic, Director of the Center for Democracy, Belgrade, Serbia, member of the Board of ALDA

Working language: English

Number of participants: 60

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.