

## **Stronger together: exploring EU's contribution to local democracy around the globe**

9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in Brussels

Roundtable,

14.00 - 16.00

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

### **Concept Note**

#### **Background**

This roundtable will take place in the framework of the General Assembly of ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy, titled "Local democracy will save democracy". It is organised by the ALDA Middle East & Africa Department, under whose responsibility several cooperation projects are managed in this area. Following the enlargement of ALDA's mandate in September 2020 "ALDA going global", a new impulse has been given in particular extending our actions to sub-Saharan Africa.

#### **Presentation of the event**

The roundtable will delve into the topic of the European Union as a global agent boosting democratic values in Third Countries exploring three specific areas: the African continent, Türkiye and the Euro-Mediterranean area. Together with the main networks and partners with whom ALDA collaborates, and with the participation of the Head of Sector in Democratic Governance of DG INTPA and Deputy Head of the Türkiye Unit of DG NEAR of the European Commission, the objective of this roundtable will be to highlight the global challenges affecting the communities bordering the EU and the initiatives taken by institutions and civil society organisations to address them. Four specific projects and initiatives (WYDE, THE:PLACE, WE ACT and the Anna Lindh Foundation) will be presented as examples of action, with a particular attention to the promotion of the cooperation between civil society organisations and local authorities as well as cross-country partnerships.

## Agenda

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### **Moderation and Opening**

Introduction and moderation by Giulia Sostero, Coordinator of ALDA Middle East and Africa Department

Welcoming words from Francesco Zarzana, President of Progettarte, Vice President of ALDA

### **14.10 - 14.40 Focus on Africa**

*14.10 EU as a global agent boosting democratic values in Third Countries*

- **DG INTPA - Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission:** Tom Millar, Head of Sector in Democratic Governance INTPA.G1
- **ALDA:** Antonella Valmorbida, ALDA Secretary General

*14.25 Youth participation in Africa: the WYDE project*

- **ALDA:** Abdelaziz Bouslah, Project Coordinator and Faty Babou, Grant Manager
- **EPD - European Partnership for Democracy:** Laura Pénot, Grants Officer
- **Elbarlament:** Sebastian Bloching, Managing director (online)
- **People in Need:** Kristýna Sosnovcová, Youth Civic Engagement Advisor (online)

### **14.40 - 15.20 Focus on Türkiye**

*14.40 Reinforcing EU-Türkiye relations to support democracy*

- **DG NEAR - Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission:** Kasia Marzec, Deputy Head of the Türkiye Unit
- **MMU - Marmara Municipalities Union** (ALDA member): Özge Sivrikaya, Senior International Affairs and Projects Expert/Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Ambassador

*15.00 WE ACT to support inclusivity in local elections in Türkiye*

- **ALDA:** Apolline Bonfils, Project Coordinator

*15.10 A Programme for Local Authorities and Civil Society exchange between the EU and Türkiye: this must be THE:PLACE*

- **MAD - Mekanda Adalet Derneği** (Centre for Spatial Justice): Sinan Erensü, Chair of the Board and Hüseyincan Eryılmaz, Project coordinator
- **ALDA**: Apolline Bonfils, Project Coordinator

### **15.20 - 15.45 Focus on France and the Euro-Mediterranean dimension**

*15.20 Partnerships for foreign relations: French cooperation through civil society support*

- **French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs**: Thibaut Lespagnol, Deputy delegate for Civil society, civic engagement and youth Délégué (DGM/CIV)

*15.35 An Euro-Mediterranean alliance for intercultural dialogue: the Anna Lindh Foundation*

- **Anna Lindh Foundation**: Alessandro Lamonica, Liaison Officer in Brussels

### **15.50 Q&A with the public**

### **16.00 Conclusions**

Giulia Sostero, Coordinator of ALDA's Middle East and Africa Department

Working language: English

Number of participants: 50