



February 2025

ALDA's Statement

Supporting Civil Society and Civic Activism in Serbia

The European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA, monitors closely the situation in Serbia and the large students' protests following the fall of the canopy roof at the Novi Sad railway station on November 1st, 2024 and expresses its concerns about the doubts on corruption and lack of accountability connected to this tragedy.

We are supporting the right of peaceful assembly as a fundamental freedom of every citizen in pursuit of democratic values in their community. We urge that the fundamental rights of citizens be respected, especially the freedoms of expression and assembly. Following the principles of democracy, we hope that the government will engage in meaningful dialogue to address the legitimate concerns raised by the community.

Good governance and efficient and accountable institutions, as requested by the students and supporting citizens, align with the principles of the rule of law and democratic procedures enshrined in the European democratic tradition. As established by relevant reports, the independence of judiciary and fight against corruption remain key requirements in Serbia's advancement on its EU path, as well as in other parts of the Western Balkans.

ALDA is proud of its work in the Balkans for these last 30 years as the first Local democracy agency was established in Subotica, Serbia in 1993, and still acts as a conduit for participatory democracy on local level. Our work in Serbia, as well as in the Balkan region, is based on European democratic values and strives to support the community in achieving a higher level of good governance by pursuing a symbiotic relationship between the civil society and local governments.

Together, we work towards a future where integrity prevails, and the voices of the people are not only heard but also respected and acted upon.

Watch the interview to Nataša Vučković, President of ALDA, on TVP World:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHR89x23GfA>

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