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# WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL



# Nataša Vučković

President

It is with great pride and a profound sense of responsibility that I reflect on my **first year as President of ALDA**. From the very beginning of my mandate, I have been inspired by the richness of our community, the depth of our mission, and the power of collective action to advance democracy at the local level.

2024 was a year of both **challenges and milestones**, particularly for the Western Balkans—a region close to my heart and central to ALDA's identity. While democracy in the region faced worrying backslides, ALDA strengthened its role as a trusted actor by launching bold initiatives and empowering civic voices. The **rebranding of our Skopje office as ALDA Balkans** marked a new chapter in our regional engagement, reinforcing our commitment to cross-border dialogue and democratic development.

In this spirit, I was especially proud to celebrate **ten years of LDA Mostar**, a living testament to ALDA's long-term vision and impact. The story of Mostar is emblematic of our model: partnerships that

endure, support that empowers, and dialogue that bridges divisions.

Beyond the Balkans, we witnessed the expansion of our network in Ukraine, the consolidation of strategic advocacy partnerships at the European level, and the growth of ALDA as a global organisation. ALDA is today more than an association—it is a movement of people and institutions committed to democracy, peace, and community-led change.

As President, I am committed to honouring this legacy and advancing it further. The challenges ahead—whether in terms of shrinking civic space, armed conflict, or social fragmentation—call for stronger cooperation, louder voices, and renewed courage.



Together with our Governing Board, Secretary General, and all members, I look forward to continuing this journey—making ALDA a reference point for local democracy not only in Europe, but around the world.



# Antonella Valmorbida

Secretary General

2024 has been a defining year for ALDA. In a rapidly changing global environment marked by instability, elections, and new social challenges, we have not only maintained our strategic direction—we have grown stronger and more interconnected. As an organisation rooted in promoting *local democracy, active citizenship*, and *decentralised cooperation*, ALDA continued to rise to the occasion with impact, innovation, and inclusion.

We proudly launched over 20 new projects this year and implemented more than 65 initiatives through our 7 Thematic Hubs, tackling key issues such as youth empowerment, green transition, civic

Nataša Vučković ALDA President

participation, and digital governance. We became official partners in major European and international platforms, signed a new Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission, and deepened our cooperation with institutions such as the Committee of the Regions, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, and Europe Direct.

One of the highlights of 2024 was the **General Assembly in Barcelona**, which not only introduced ALDA's renewed governance with a newly elected Board, but also adopted our **2024-2028 Strategy**. We affirmed our shared commitment to building a resilient and responsive *ALDA Community*—a decentralised yet unified network made up of ALDA, ALDA+, ALDA Italia, our regional offices, and our 17 LDAs and 2 Operational Partners.



Equally significant was our expanding international footprint. From a high-level mission in Bhutan to engaging civil society in Moldova and promoting youth-led networks across Africa, ALDA has shown that democracy, participation, and partnership are not limited by borders.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are determined to capitalise on this momentum. We will scale up our efforts in Ukraine and Georgia, continue to diversify our funding and partnerships, and further invest in capacity building for our members and staff. The road ahead is complex, but we remain deeply committed to the principles that have guided ALDA for over 25 years: solidarity, participation, and democratic transformation from the ground up.

I thank our staff, members, and partners for making 2024 a remarkable year—and for believing in ALDA's mission to turn democratic values into everyday action.

Antonella Valmorbida
ALDA Secretary General



# **ABOUT ALDA**





# Who we are

ALDA serves as a guiding force for promoting local democracy and citizen engagement not only in Europe but also across neighbouring regions and beyond. Established in 1999 through the initiative of the Council of Europe, ALDA has evolved into a global alliance uniting associations, civil society organisations, and local governments.

Central to ALDA's mission is the coordination and support of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs), which function as grassroots champions of good governance and local self-government. **These LDAs, operating as self-sustainable, locally registered NGOs, play a pivotal role in fostering community empowerment.** 

Over its more than two-decade journey, ALDA has spearheaded the development of over 500 projects, directly engaging nearly 25 million citizens. Drawing on its wealth of expertise and commitment to participatory methodologies, ALDA emerges as a strategic force in advancing local democracy, active citizenship, and collaborative governance.

With a diverse membership base spanning 45 countries, including 300 organisations, 15 LDAs, and 2 Operational Partners, ALDA stands at the forefront of realising the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030. Through its unwavering dedication to fostering cooperation between local authorities and civil society, ALDA continues to drive meaningful change and contribute to building more inclusive and sustainable communities worldwide.



# The ALDA Community

Since its inception in 1999, ALDA has undergone considerable expansion, not only in terms of projects, members, actions, and expertise, but also in the establishment of twinned bodies and entities. This growth has allowed ALDA to become increasingly connected with the diverse local and regional communities and stakeholders with whom we collaborate.



ALDA—the European Association for Local Democracy—was registered in Strasbourg (FR) over 20 years ago with a small number of members and activities. **Today, it has evolved into a global alliance of Civil Society Associations and Regional and Local Authorities**, reflecting its natural inclination towards a multi-stakeholder, inclusive approach.

Driven by this commitment to inclusivity, ALDA has embarked on a gradual process of localising its branches. Over a decade ago, ALDA took the step of registering a branch office in Skopje (MK) to serve as a hub for our work in the Western Balkans. Additionally, ALDA has expanded its network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) to include 15 locally registered associations, each endorsed annually by ALDA's Governing Board. This deliberate approach underscores ALDA's dedication to nurturing sustainable partnerships and meaningful engagement at the grassroots level.

As a result of this capitalisation on expertise and experience, new entities were established:

- ALDA+ profit company, in 2017, the Benefit Corporation owned by ALDA which delivers technical support to Local Authorities and CSOs all over the world;
- At the end of 2022 ALDA officially registered its local branch in Italy: ALDA Italia Aps (ALDA Italy Association of Social Promotion), establishing deeper links and having a stronger impact within the community ALDA and its offices are based in.



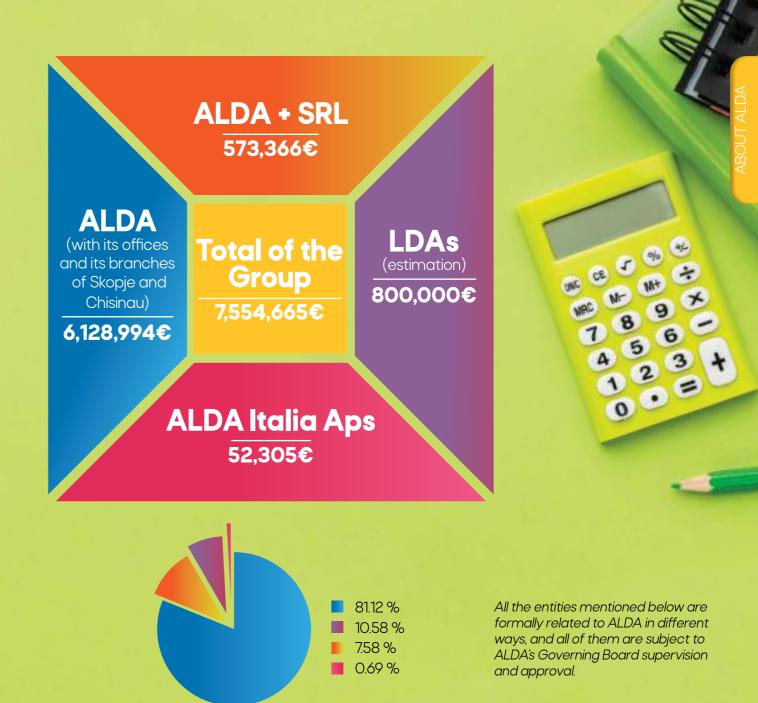


This continuous process of development and differentiation has brought ALDA to a whole new level, where ALDA's offices, ALDA+, the network of the LDAs, have thus become autonomous yet interdependent realities, working together for the same mission, as a real community: **the ALDA Community**.

The aim around the creation of this Community is to enact an organisational change within ALDA that transitions it into a community-based structure. This change seeks to imbue ALDA with traits such as resilience, adaptability, and cooperation, commonly associated with communities. It underscores the importance of shared values, principles, and goals among all entities within ALDA.

The process of organisational change is described as requiring an environment of autonomy and trust, where each part of the organisation acts as a core unit, and no single component dominates the others.

ALDA's organisational change is **intentional and planned**, aimed at **improving operational efficiency** and achieving strategic goals. It involves both organisational restructuring and individual level changes, fostering greater awareness, connections, and reliance on other entities within the organisation. Thus, starting from 2020, the ALDA Community has been presented and structured to include various entities, all aligned with ALDA's core mission: **promoting good local governance and citizen participation**.





# 🜟 What we do

To advance good governance and encourage citizen participation at the local level across Europe and beyond, ALDA leads a comprehensive range of initiatives aimed at supporting **local**, **national**, **and international stakeholders in achieving their goals**. These efforts encompass various fields including European integration, decentralisation, human rights, social inclusion, sustainable development, civic initiatives, and more.

ALDA adopts a multi-stakeholder approach, acknowledging and harnessing the diverse resources available within local communities. Through this approach, ALDA fosters a broad network of citizens and local authorities who are fully committed to promoting local democracy and empowering communities through citizen participation, both within Europe and globally.

Since 2020, ALDA has been extending its expertise in local democracy beyond European borders and neighbouring regions, reaching out to other parts of the world requiring assistance and support in our field of expertise (*ALDA going global*).

Throughout over 20 years of activities, alongside its members and partners, and with the backing of European institutions and various other donors, ALDA has made a significant impact on over 25 million citizens across Enlarged Europe and beyond.

# ALDA leads its activities through different forms of actions and channels:

- Conducting a myriad of projects in the field of good governance and citizen participation at the local level in Europe and beyond, with its members, its partners and the Local Democracy Agencies.
- Coordinating and supporting the 17 Local Democracy Agencies and 2 Operational Partners
- Managing and supporting its wide network of members, made of over 350 stakeholders including local authorities, associations of local authorities, provinces, counties, civil society organisations, and academic institution.
- Collaborating with European and worldwide networks on campaigns, statements and joint initiatives to let citizens be heard and contribute to the decision-making process of their communities. It cooperates as official partners of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and it is a long-term partner of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme and other key policies and programmes of the European Commission.
- Supporting local stakeholders' initiatives by providing ALDA's unique expertise gained during its over 20 years of activity in the European Union and its Neighbourhood through the establishment of partnerships and the identification of relevant stakeholders to cooperate with, scouting funding opportunities to implement project ideas, and assuring dissemination and visibility of their initiatives.
- Leading advocacy and lobbying activities, raising the voice of its members and partners in order to orient local, national and European policies in our field of activities to make a stronger and more cohesive Europe, based on the principle of equality, democracy and human rights.





ALDA works in most of the European Union, in its Neighborhood and it is developing partnerships and activities in many other parts of the World.

In 2024, ALDA strengthened its global presence by launching new partnerships and initiating dialogue in **Latin America**, notably during the "IX Conference of the Observatory on Decentralized Cooperation EU-Latin America", held in Bogota, Colombia. The event gathered institutional and civil society actors



from both regions, laying the groundwork for future collaboration focused on local governance and democratic participation.

In parallel, ALDA also took strategic steps toward expanding in Asia, conducting its first **mission in Bhutan** to explore cooperation opportunities on green and inclusive economic transition, local development, and civic empowerment — aligning with Bhutan's holistic development vision.

Activities in the European Union are mainly oriented to the promotion of active citizenship and to strengthen European values and identity, while the work in the Western Balkans, in the European Neighborhood and beyond focuses on good governance, citizen participation, European integration, and decentralisation.

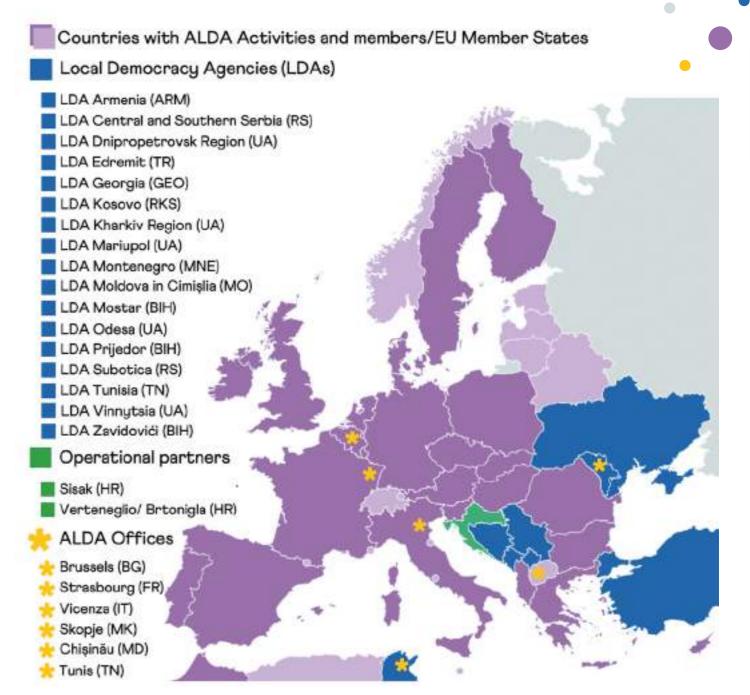
As coordinator and supporter of the network of the Local Democracy Agencies, a natural focus is given to the Western Balkans, where the majority of them are located.

Nonetheless, thanks to the incessant work of our team, this network does not stop growing and spreading, especially in the Eastern Partnership, for what it concerns 2024.

This growing network reflects ALDA's unwavering commitment to supporting local democracy and resilience in Ukraine, even amidst ongoing challenges.







# **ALDA'S STRUCTURE**



■ Office of the Secretary General



Antonella Valmorbida Secretary General



Adrien Licha Coordinator of the Secretariat Office



Mariaelisa Aloi **Event Manager** 



Policy and Campaign Officer



Senya De Zotti ogistic Officer





Kvartsyana ALDA Representative



Viacheslav Yefyemenko



Anastasiia Buslaieva

Ukraine LDAs Coordinator

Fundraising and Project Design Department / ALDA+ B-Corp / ALDA Italia APS



Marco Boaria



**Anna Ditta** 



**Deborah Anzile** Project Designer



Claudia Dal Mas Project Designer



**Alma Bustamante Project Designer** 



Ivan Popov Project Designer



Silvia Anselmi Project Designer



**Lizzy Catherine** Galiazzo ALDA+ Grant & Strategy Coordinator - Italy



Alessandra Baio ALDA+ Project Designer



Giulia D'Agostino ALDA+



Luisa Dal Pra' Project Manager ALDA Italia APS



Tanja Vujanovic ALDA+ Financial Officer

# Human Resources Department



**Matteo Parisen** Toldin Human Resources



Silvia Lora **Human Resources** Assistant



Project Implementation Department



Head of the Project Implementation i Department -Territorial & Local

Rita Biconne



**Alberto Botte Executive Assistant** 



**Mohammed Mustafa** 

Project Manager - Migration Hub Coordinator

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Valeria Fantini



Camilla Vedovato

Project Manager -Gender, Inclusion &

Human Rights Hub



**Rita Martino** 



Rebecca Marconi

0

Project Manager



Marzia Cescon

Project Manager



Sara Afendi

Project Manager



Nadia Di Iulio

Coordinator

Project Manager



Michele Bonomi

Project Manager



Aladdin Alrifai

Digital & Innovation Hub Coordinator Project Manager



**Matilde Ferrari** 

Project Manager



Ginevra Gatti

Project Manager



Lizeth Lopez

Project Manager



Alice Lazzarin

Project Manager



**Alice Fantin** 

Project Manager



Lorenzo laniro

Italian Networks & Citizens Engagement

# ■ Western Balkans



Katica Janeva

Skopje Office Director & Western **Balkans Coordinator** 



Ivana Velkova



Project Manager



Senior Project and Tender Designer



Policy and Community **Engagement Officer** 



Maja Varoshlija

Project Manager



Simona Slavkova

Grant Manager



Simona Bishkoska

Communication Officer



Viktorija Postolovska

Project Manager



# **■** Eastern Partnership



**Viorica Tudos** 

Project Manager & Director of Chisinau Office



Natalia Karmanova

Financial Officer



0

**Ecaterina Popa** 

Communication Officer



Irakli Jgharkava

Southern Caucasus & Central Asia Coordinator



# Middle-East & Africa



Giulia Sostero Africa, SouthWest Asia and Türkiye Coordinator



Director of Tunis Office & Africa Regional Officer



**Faty Babou** Grant Manager -WYDE Project



**Yasmine Falfoul** Communication Project Manager



Fedoua Bouderdaben Project Manager



**Zuhal Onal** Project Coordinator & Turkiye Country Representative



Burcu Genc Project Officer







Elisabetta Uroni lead of the Communication Department



Alessia Masin Communication Officer



**Manal Snidi** 



Communication





Elisabetta Pinamonti

lead of Financial & Administration



Linda Dal Bosco

Paying Manager & General Accountant



Raffaella Bedin

Reporting Officer



**Martina Dus** 

Financial Assistant



Silvia Piccoli

Reporting Officer



**Beatrice Guerra** 

Reporting Officer



Laura Sinigaglia

Reporting Officer



Giulia Albertoni

Cofunding Manager



Nadia Vigolo

Reporting Officer



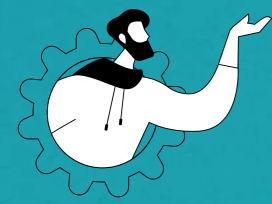
**Eleonora Bertin** 

Service & Quality









# **GOVERNING BOARD**

(mandate 2024-2028)



Nataša Vučković

President & Bureau member representing the Center for Democracy Foundation (Serbia)



Roger Lawrence

Vice President & Bureau member representing Wolverhampton City Council (United Kingdom)



Andrea Rilievo

Governing Board member representing Società Cooperativa Sociale Studio Progetto (Italy)



Inna Volkova

Governing Board member representing the Odesa Rayon Council (Ukraine)



**Maurizio Camin** 

Vice President & Bureau member representing Associazione Trentino per i Balcani (Italy)



Oriano Otočan

Treasurer &
Bureau member representing the Istria
Region (Croatia)



Francesco Zarzana

Governing Board member representing Progettarte Asociation (Italy)



Maddalena Alberti

Governing Board member representing the Association Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale a Zavidovici (North Macedonia)





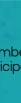
Maria Eugènia Gay Rosell

Governing Board member representing the Barcelona Provincial Council (Spain)



Marta Sys

Governing Board member representing the Merkury Foundation (Poland)





**Thibaut Guignard** 

Governing Board member representing the Municipality of Plœuc-L'Hermitage (France)



Vadym Boichenko

Observing member representing the Municipality of Mariupol (Ukraine)

# Statutory members



Irina Sahakyan Vetter

Head of Partnerships at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe



Ana Jovanovic

Governing Board member representing the LDA Central and Southern Serbia (Serbia)





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# ADVISORY BOARD



### **Ahmet Allouch**

Advisor at the Tunisian National Constituent Assembly (Tunisia), contributes to the Thematic Hub on Youth and Digitalization



### Elif Avci

Participatory processes and Youth Engagement Advisor at the Istanbul Development Agency, collaborates with the Thematic Hub on Youth & Digitalization



### Maite Arrondo

Freelance consultant and researcher on urban innovation, specialised in housing policies, who cooperates with the Thematic Hub on Gender. Inclusion and Human Rights.



### Tamara Ehs

Expert on civil society and local governance, follow the activities implemented by the Thematic Hub on citizens' participation and environment & climate.



# Kirsi Verkka

Participatory budgeting development manager at the city of Helsinki, who cooperates with the Hub on Citizens' Participation and Territorial & Local Development.



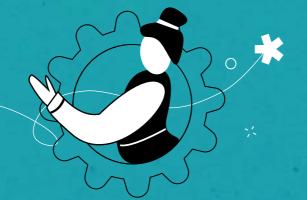
### Ibrahim Ndagijimana

One Mainstreaming Coordinator in GIZ Rwanda/Rights Based Programme, collaborates with ALDA for the activities in Rwanda.



# Senida Mesi

Former Deputy Prime Minister of Albania, expert on civil society local governance, is the point of contact for the Western Balkans









# **OUR PRIORITIES**



# Advocacy & Network

In 2024, ALDA significantly strengthened its institutional partnerships and advocacy reach, confirming its role as a key actor in promoting local democracy across Europe and beyond. Among the milestones of the year, ALDA Secretary General **Antonella Valmorbida** joined the **Europe Direct Network**, further reinforcing the organisation's presence within the EU's ecosystem of citizen engagement. ALDA was also selected by the **European Commission** as one of ten prominent European organisations to sign a new **Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA)**—a recognition of its longstanding contribution to participatory governance and civic engagement.

Institutional cooperation was further deepened through the **signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Committee of the Regions**, a joint commitment to advancing democratic participation and multi-level governance. ALDA also brought its expertise to key European platforms, such as the **2nd Annual Team Europe Democracy Meeting** and the **Fall University of the Mouvement Européen - France**, contributing to strategic discussions on the future of democracy in Europe. In parallel, relations with the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** were strengthened, underlining ALDA's ongoing commitment to supporting local and regional actors.



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In this context, the 2024 European Parliament elections presented a valuable opportunity to foster citizen engagement with the European project. As an official Communication Partner of the European Parliament, ALDA played an active role in bringing the EU closer to its citizens—organising over 100 events, conferences, and participations in key European gatherings. Our campaign, "Better Europe Together", reached more than 5,200 people, creating a strong momentum that we are determined to sustain. To build on this engagement and maintain public interest in EU affairs, ALDA launched the "Meet your MEP at Home!" initiative. This project created direct and informal spaces for dialogue between citizens and their Members of the European Parliament, helping to foster greater understanding of EU institutions and policymaking processes at the local level.

These achievements laid a solid foundation for the General Assembly held in Barcelona in May 2024, which marked a turning point in ALDA's governance and strategic direction. With the election of a new Governing Board, the adoption of the 2024-2028 Strategy, and renewed member engagement, the Assembly reaffirmed ALDA's collective ambition to drive inclusive and sustainable change across Europe and its neighbourhoods.

ALDA indeed emphasises advocacy as a core component of its mission. By affiliating itself with various institutions and organisations, ALDA strengthens its capacity to advocate for local democracy, good governance, and citizen participation.





European Partnership for Democracy



Européen





























European Movement

International























































# ALDA for the Agenda 2030

Since the historic United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, where the Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted, ALDA has been steadfast in its commitment to promoting awareness of the SDGs among its members and network, and integrating them into all our projects. Achieving the Agenda 2030 necessitates the application of various principles, with universality, inclusiveness, and localisation being particularly pertinent to ALDA's work.

Through active engagement in European and international networks, as well as local actions and initiatives, ALDA plays a significant role in the global effort to achieve the SDGs. This includes contributing to policy processes, engaging with various EU institutions and citizens, and advocating collectively for the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

ALDA collaborates closely with a range of networks to support the implementation of the SDGs. These include Concord Europe, the SDG Watch Europe, Civicus, Energy Cities, and Platforma, alongside local authorities and associations of local authorities across Europe. This collaborative effort ensures a robust implementation of the SDGs at the local level, leveraging the collective strength and expertise of all involved parties.







# **ALDA Stands with Ukraine**

Despite ALDA's longstanding presence in Ukraine since 2012, its support for the nation and its people has significantly escalated since the onset of the tragic Russian invasion in February 2022. This intensified support extends beyond the cooperation with the Local Democracy Agencies established in the country: LDA Dnipropetrovsk region and LDA Mariupol (now operating from Kyiv). ALDA has also organised events, conferences, and initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of the situation in Ukraine and forging robust partnerships to facilitate the nation's recovery.

After establishing a dedicated task force in 2022 to address the situation, ALDA further intensified its support in 2023 by launching a **Flagship Initiative in Ukraine**.

According to the Flagship Initiative, **9 new Local Democracy Agencies should be established in the country in the following years**, in addition to the already existing ones in Mariupol and in Dnipropetrovsk region. In mid-November 2023, the implementation of this initiative led to the first achievement: the opening of the Local Democracy Agency Odesa. The growth of the Local Democracy Agencies did not stop there. In 2024, **two further LDAs were inaugurated in Vinnytsia and in the Kharkiv Region**, expanding the network across the country.



In parallel, ALDA has organised and contributed to a wide array of events and awareness-raising activities, including the Round Table in Dnipro on self-organisation for Ukraine's sustainable recovery (September 2024), the international event "Building sustainable municipalities for a resilient and promising future in Ukraine" (March 2024), and the reception of a high-level Ukrainian Delegation of Mayors, Civil Society Experts, and Business Leaders in Brussels (April 2024).



ALDA's action in Ukraine has also extended to advocacy and institutional cooperation. In coordination with its members and partners, the organisation actively supported the work of the **Alliance of Cities** and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, set up by the European Committee of the Regions, and contributed to the activities of the **Working Group on Ukraine** and **CORLEAP** by providing timely insights and updates on developments on the ground.

As a recognition of ALDA's expertise and deep-rooted engagement in Ukraine, the organisation was invited to provide technical assistance to the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** in the framework of its preparation of the **Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025**, with particular focus on the pillar dedicated to local development. This invitation followed ALDA's active participation in the **Ukraine Recovery Conference 2024** in Berlin and further underscores its key role in supporting Ukraine's path toward a resilient, democratic, and sustainable future.





# Local Democracy in the World

Since the adoption of the "Going Global" strategy in 2020, ALDA has been steadily expanding beyond its traditional geographic scope, reinforcing its commitment to promoting local democracy and participatory governance worldwide. To do so, ALDA draws on its method of decentralised cooperation and leverages nearly 25 years of experience in empowering local communities, fostering multilevel partnerships, and supporting citizen engagement. This strategic shift has enabled the Association to engage with a broader range of stakeholders and foster democratic resilience in diverse global contexts.

In 2024, this ambition translated into tangible actions across continents. In Latin America, ALDA took part in the IX Conference of the Observatory on Decentralized Cooperation EU-Latin America, held in Colombia in November 2024, contributing to a transatlantic dialogue on citizen participation and inclusive governance. In Africa, the Association joined the International Forum on Participatory Democracy in Benin, further strengthening its ties with key local actors across the continent. In Asia, ALDA deepened its engagement in sustainable development through a partnership with the Handicrafts Association of Bhutan, launched in May 2024, aimed at promoting green practices and community-led environmental action.

These initiatives reflect ALDA's growing global footprint and its commitment to advancing democratic values in a wide variety of local contexts—bringing its expertise and methodology to support communities far beyond Europe's borders.





# **ALDA WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES**



# European Union



In 2024, ALDA's actions remained guided by a clear compass: bringing European values into the daily lives of citizens—in cities, towns, neighbourhoods, and villages. We work to show that Europe is not just a political project but a shared identity built in everyday life.

It was a decisive year for democracy. A new European Parliament was elected, and a new College of Commissioners took office. ALDA launched a wide-reaching campaign to mobilise citizens for the elections—engaging thousands both online and offline, and activating our network to promote participation in the EU project.

The year was also marked by major elections across Europe:

- National elections in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Portugal, and Slovakia.
- Regional elections in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, and Spain.
- Local elections in Belgium, Cyprus, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Poland, and Romania.

Through our projects and advocacy, ALDA promotes democracy not as a one-time act, but as a daily practice—starting with voting and extending to active involvement in local communities and shared public life.

We also played an active role in key European events such as the **European Week of Regions and Cities** and the **EU Civil Society Week**, contributing to high-level debates on democracy, citizen engagement, and territorial development.

With the majority of our projects taking place within the EU, we remain committed to reinforcing the European project and advancing active citizenship at all levels.

Finally, 2024 marked the second year since the Russian aggression against Ukraine. ALDA continues to support Ukraine's reconstruction—materially and socially—by standing with a nation defending democratic values and human dignity.







The year 2024 in the Western Balkans can be best summarised with the phrase: one step forward, two steps back. While some countries marked notable progress – Montenegro emerged as the frontrunner in EU accession talks and Albania opened its first negotiation chapters with remarkable speed—others remained entrenched in long-standing stalemates, particularly due to unresolved bilateral disputes. Amid widespread political instability and democratic volatility, the region experienced both encouraging developments and concerning setbacks. Most notably, civic space continued to shrink, and democratic backsliding became increasingly visible.

In this challenging context, ALDA reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening local democracy, leveraging its network and advocacy capacity to support civil society and foster regional cooperation. The year also marked a milestone for ALDA's presence in the region, with the Skopje office rebranded as ALDA Balkans, officially recognising its role as the regional hub for the Western Balkans. Strengthening this strategic position was the election of Nataša Vučković from Serbia as President of ALDA, underlining the importance of the Balkans within the organisation's broader vision.

In summary, 2024 was a year of both trials and transformation. It cemented **ALDA Balkans' role as a central actor** in the region's democratic and civic landscape—a role that will continue to grow in 2025 and the years to come.



# Eastern Partnership

The year 2024 marked an important moment for ALDA's engagement in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region. It was the first year of implementation of our Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the European Commission's DG NEAR (now known as ENEST), which enabled reinforced coordination both with the EU institutions and fellow FPA beneficiaries. This partnership framework provided the basis for a more strategic and unified response to regional developments.

A key focus in 2024 was the unfolding **crisis in Georgia**, which began with the reintroduction of the controversial "**foreign agents law**" and persisted throughout the year, remaining unresolved into 2025. In response, ALDA and other FPA members mobilised swiftly — organising **webinars and joint actions** to address the increasingly difficult conditions for local NGOs and civil society actors working in an increasingly hostile legislative environment.

In parallel, ALDA renewed its active role within the **Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum**, taking on a new mandate and being entrusted with the **chairmanship of the Governance Committee**. This nomination reflects ALDA's longstanding dedication to the region and its recognised expertise in promoting democratic governance. ALDA also took part in the **EaP Civil Society Summit**, contributing to the Forum's strategic dialogue and cross-border cooperation efforts.



In **Ukraine**, ALDA continued to be at the forefront of civil society support, working closely with local members to reinforce resilience through **inclusive and participatory democratic practices**. Alongside European partners, ALDA also maintained strong advocacy for continued international support to **Ukrainian municipalities and civil society organisations**.

One of the most significant developments was the **establishment of two new Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs)** in **Vinnytsia** and **Kharkiv**, with a third planned in **Ovruch**. These LDAs operate as **multilateral partnerships**, each involving actors from at least three different countries, creating a tangible expression of European solidarity. Thanks to their **multi-stakeholder and participatory approach**, the LDAs have been officially acknowledged by Ukrainian authorities as **effective tools for strengthening local governance and social cohesion**.



# Middle-East & Africa

The year 2024 was marked by significant political developments across the Middle East and Africa, highlighting both opportunities and challenges for local democracy.

In **Türkiye**, the March local elections were a crucial moment. Thanks to the **WE ACT** project, over 250 women were trained in political and civic skills; 44 ran for office and 14 were elected as councillors or





mukhtars. Despite strong results for the opposition, post-election crackdowns targeted **DEM party** representatives in the East, later extending westward. ALDA also supported the **ELoGE** award to 13 municipalities, recognising local democratic efforts. Under the **THE:PLACE** programme, 9 EU-Türkiye CSO partnerships were launched, addressing issues from migrant inclusion to sustainable consumption.

In **Tunisia**, **presidential elections** in October saw record-low turnout, reflecting deepening public distrust amid authoritarian drift. Despite growing restrictions on civil society, the now-concluded **AUTREMENT** project left a lasting impact in **Mahdia** and **Kairouan**, with citizen engagement in urban planning and improved mobility infrastructure.

In **Senegal**, the election of **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** sparked renewed hope in democratic resilience. ALDA also took part in the **African Forum on Participatory Democracy** in Benin and supported over **20 youth-led CSOs** through the **WYDE** programme, fostering youth civic engagement across the continent.

Meanwhile, the escalation of violence in **Palestine** and the broader Middle East raised grave human rights concerns. ALDA issued a **statement in October** calling for a ceasefire and reaffirmed its support for peace during the "**Reclaiming our Shared Humanity**" conference and declaration initiated by the EEAS and IEMed.

On the Euro-Mediterranean front, the creation of the EU's new DG MENA brought structural change. ALDA remained active as co-head of the Anna Lindh Foundation French Network, co-organising a regional workshop in Barcelona during our General Assembly. With Réseau Euromed France, ALDA also promoted youth activism, culminating in the Mediterranean Youth Network meeting in Reggio Calabria. Additional engagement included consultations with the Committee of the Regions, participation in the ARLEM Plenary in Amman, and coordination of the Med Youth Lab of the Union for the Mediterranean, training 65 young people on project development.

These efforts reaffirm ALDA's determination to support **local democracy and civic participation** across the region—laying foundations that extend beyond project cycles and giving voice to citizens where it is most needed.



# **2024 AT A GLANCE**





65
ongoing
PROJECTS



20 NEW projects



34 new MEMBERS



7 THEMATIC HUBS



7.5
milion €
BUDGET



+25
million
BENEFICIARIES



# **OUR PROJECTS**



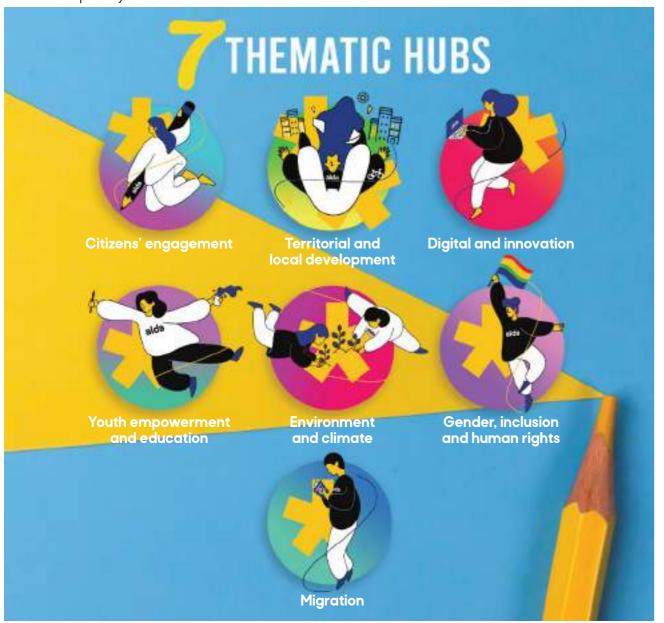
# **ALDA Thematic Hubs**

Following its fast growth in recent years, ALDA has become more and more active in many areas. Thus, with a view to improvement of activities with members and partners, and for ensuring a more holistic approach in the governance and planning of the Association, a new organisational method has been created, the so-called Thematic Hubs.

The Thematic Hubs are groups intended to ensure a more holistic and fluid action of the Organisation. Therefore, the Thematic Hubs aim to:

- Strengthen ALDA's commitment by promoting a thematically structured knowledge and know-how, promoting a better coherence between our 80+ ongoing projects.
- Make the involvement of members more systematic through animation and participation in project activities (events, training, content/paper productions,...) through the close collaboration between Hubs and Working groups.
- Encourage cross-departmental interaction, especially with the development team and regional units, which have their own geographic specialisation but they cross the thematic hubs with their activities.
- Favour the professional growth and specialisation of ALDA staff in specific fields and topics of interest.

Those **seven Thematic Hubs** encompass all actions and projects that ALDA implements according to theme and priority. These are:





As its key priority, the Citizens Engagement Hub wants to strengthen local democracy and citizens participation, as well as providing knowledge, experience and tools to promote decentralised cooperation in Europe, and beyond.

Indeed, being one of the broadest and multifaceted democracies in the world, Europe is nowadays a leading actor in citizens participation and participatory democracy worldwide.

The 6 priorities of the European Commission for the 2019-2024 period highlight democracy as one of the most important topics. Among these, "A new push for European democracy" and its programmatic asset states the importance to develop the democratic life of European citizens, now more than ever endangered by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which represents a war against democracy itself.

Through this Hub, ALDA promotes projects and activities which highlight the importance of civic role and contribution in the most relevant environmental and social challenges.

# CIRAN

- Critical RAw materials extraction in enviroNmentally protected areas

















ITAIMS AT fostering sustainable development through a new approach to critical raw materials sourcing in protected zones. Indeed, these resources have been identified by the European Union as crucial for industrial development and implementation of clean technologies.

\*\*Recycling alone cannot meet our consumption needs, making further extraction inevitable—though technology is steadily improving. That's why it's essential to educate society and foster more responsible consumer behaviour. \*\*J



# **ERICA**

- Environmental monitoRlng through Civic engAgement















Countries impacted:
France, Italy, Netherlands,
Poland, Spain

IT AIMS AT: synergising action on local environmental problems with climate change issues through citizen science educating, informing and engaging citizens in addressing environmental issues engendered by fossil fuels.



Activity Report 2024 S1

### **FOSTER**

- Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience





Programme













2026

Nr. of partners Associates:





IT AIMS AT: contributing to the development of governance frameworks that can effectively and inclusively address future environmental challenges at local level, by fostering foresight strategies and preventative local management of climate change-related phenomena.



# THE:PLACE- Turkey Hand in hand with Europe: Programme for Local Authorities and Civil society Exchange















Nr. of partners November 2021 - October 2025



Leader



IT AIMS AT: creating long-lasting partnerships among CSOs and between CSOs and LAs in Türkiye and EU. To this aim, CSOs beneficiaries of both the EU and Türkiye are selected to benefit from a capacity building programme and a re-granting scheme allowing them to implement projects comprising on one side an bilateral exchange to learn from each other and know more about the NGO sector in both locations, and on the other side a set of local activities to promote sustainable development in their communities.

Associates:

# INSPIRED MOLDOVA



THE PLACE









2027



Nr. of partners Associates:



Countries impacted: Moldova



encourages dialog and collaboration with public authorities so that civil society becomes a key actor in promoting democracy in Moldova.

# SHARED HORIZONS







Donor:

**Expertise** 

France





June 2026

Nr. of partners/ Associates:





IT AIMS AT: fostering peace and reconciliation in the Western Balkans. ALDA is responsible for the Component 2, that aims at preserving and promoting the region's cultural heritage, particularly manifested through 6 bridges situated in 6 different countries in the Western Balkan region.





# **TALE**

- Take the Lead in the next European Elections



**PROJECTS** 





Donor: European Parliament



Timeframe:
January 2023 -

July 2024

Nr. of partners/ Associates:

ALDA role:



IT AIMS AT: expanding outreach and engagement to increase voter turnout across EU member states, thereby reducing disparities in voter participation. Through participatory processes the goal is to activate and empower individuals, encouraging them to play an active role in shaping their communities and ultimately vote in the upcoming European elections in 2024.

54 Activity Report 2024 S5



# **SIMPLE**



Donor:

Erasmus+





Budget:

60.000.00€







Timeframe:

November 2023

- December

2024









Nr. of partners/ ALDA role: Associates:

Partner



IT AIMS AT: tackling two sport-specific priorities in the field of ERASMUS + Programmes: on the one hand, encouraging healthy lifestyles for all, promoting participation in sports as a tool for health, as well as physical and mental well-being; and on the other hand, promoting equality and European values in and through sport, creating spaces for social inclusion.



# Anna Lindh Macedonian Network

Budget:

NA





Donor:

Anna Lindh

Foundation















Nr. of partners/ Associates:





IT AIMS AT: promoting intercultural and civil society dialogue in the face of growing mistrust and polarisation. The national networks reflect the diversity of society and work in various fields such as

38

intercultural relations, cultural heritage, religion, research, human rights, democracy and community development, arts, youth and education, gender issues, environment and sustainable development and media.



# TERRITORIAL & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT HUB



The launch of our **Flagship Initiative** at the General Assembly in Barcelona marked a milestone for ALDA's **Territorial and Local Development (TELD) Hub**. #Terr4Dev - Territorial Partnerships for Local Governance and Development lays the foundation for our vision of territorial development: a localised, participatory approach that sees the territory as a dynamic governance space shaped by a diverse community of actors.

58 Activity Report 2024 59

This initiative promotes **territorial partnerships** as essential tools to achieve the goals of the **European Consensus on Development**, particularly poverty eradication and sustainable development. It emphasises:

- Tailored Partnerships Fostering collaboration among local authorities, civil society, and the private sector to address local challenges collectively.
- Urban Development Facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges between local governments in EU member states and the Global South to share best practices and strengthen capacities.

At the heart of #Terr4Dev is the recognition of territory as a complex, evolving landscape—formed by plural voices and local knowledge. Empowering this diversity leads to **inclusive**, **systemic**, **and context-sensitive development**. In 2025, the initiative will expand, beginning with a session on **citizen** 



participation and co-governance during the World Forum on Local Economic Development in Seville, focusing on policy-making and local economic development.

Another key achievement in 2024 was the release of the "Methodological Guidelines for Developing Town-Twinning and Network of Towns Projects." This practical handbook offers in-depth guidance for municipalities engaging in CERV Programme projects, supporting sustainable partnerships that strengthen community ties and build European solidarity. It further reinforces ALDA's commitment to capacity building across its network.

Looking ahead to 2025, ALDA will continue promoting **territorial and local development** as essential pillars of democracy. By empowering communities to shape their territories, we foster **social cohesion**, **inclusive governance**, and **equitable opportunities**. Through decentralisation and active citizen involvement, we strengthen the very foundations of a vibrant democratic society.

# **EU4ACCOUNTABILITY**

Empowered civil society for increased social accountability in Moldova











frame: Nr. of partners
Associates:

partners/ ALDA role:

ALDA role: Countries impacted:

Partner Moldova

Donor: European Neighbourhood Instrument

: Budget: an 1.698.393,00 € hood

Timeframe: January 2022 -June 2024

IT AIMS AT: improving social responsibility at the local level and creating sustainable cooperation mechanisms between local public authorities and civil society organisations in the Republic of Moldova, to better respond to the needs of local communities.

Through 59 community-driven projects, **local public administrations and civil society organisations** worked together to open up decision-making. As a result, citizens across towns and villages now experience more inclusive governance and real, visible improvements in their daily lives.

60 Activity Report 2024 61

# **EMERGENCY RESPOND TO UKRAINE CRISIS**

- Humanitarian Aid To The Internally Displaced People (IDPS)









Cooperacio











IT AIMS AT: supporting two Ukrainian municipalities (Odesa and Dnipro) reconstruction of basic services and infrastructures, and IDPs with the provision of life-saving humanitarian aid, first-needs equipment and improving access to critical services.



# E-VOICE



















IT AIMS AT: exchanging good practices to build inclusive and resilient communities around Europe. Four main issues affecting communities and young people in the post-pandemic period have been identified namely (1) mental health problems, (2) educational poverty, (3) unhealthy habits, (4) unemployment.



# **AUTREMENT**











Nr. of partners Associates:





IT AIMS AT: promoting sustainable urban development in Kairouan and Mahdia and thus improving the quality of life of their inhabitants and their economic and tourist attractiveness. The two cornerstones of the project are (1) the development of sustainable and active modes of mobility, mainly cycling, through the implementation of dedicated urban infrastructure, and (2) the strengthening of citizen participation in local governance.



This project has really contributed to asserting the value of the bicycle as a sustainable means of transport and as a tool for the preservation of the health of citizens. It also paves the way for other projects focusing on infrastructures that are needed to encourage sustainable mobility in Kairouan and Mahdia. ""

- Youssef Mansouri, project volunteer



# **ESSPIN**

- Economic, Social and Spatial Inequalities in Europe in the Era of Global Mega-trends

















United Kingdom



Donor: Horizon



2.674.000,00€



Nr. of partners Associates: 13



Countries impacted: Partner Italy, Czech Republic, Ireland, France, Netherlands, France,

IT AIMS AT: addressing European challenges with an aim to share actions, understandings, evidence, insights, responsibilities and benefits across stakeholders including policymakers and civil society. The goal of the project is to re-examine the nexus of social, economic and spatial inequalities in the EU

in the light of emerging and highly interacting mega-trends and challenges, threatening to increase pressures and make policy choices even more difficult.



UP2YOU - Upgrading University Pathways To Promote Bottom-up Sustainable And Inclusive Development













IT AIMS AT: promoting collaboration between Civil Society Organizations and Higher Education institutions in order to strengthen the role and effectiveness of both sectors in promoting sustainable and inclusive development within local communities through multidisciplinary approaches.

# **SPUR**

- Social Post-covid Urban Revitalisation





Programme









IT AIMS AT: fostering the collaboration between 6 local authorities of 5 European Countries which are the bearer of significant expertise in supporting marginalised youth and elders and are often working with people coming from a migratory background or marginalised gender.

# V4GCP

8 BECENT WIND AND

- Voices For GreenChange Partnership in Buthan







是您护用数。

SEE



Program





Timeframe: September 2024 -September 2027



ALDA role: Partner

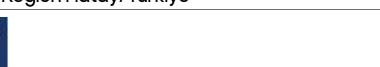


IT AIMS AT: Improving a sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the Country by empowering and facilitating the participation of the private sector in local and national decision-making process.



Support to the settlement of temporary Shelter Areas in Earthquake Region Hatay/Türkiye







Fons Mallorqui de Solidaritat i Cooperació



37.500.00€









Countries impacted: Türkiye

IT AIMS AT: answering a critical and pressing need, as a significant portion of the affected population lacked suitable or adequately furnished beds, making their living conditions extremely difficult. The project's objectives are centered around addressing the needs of the region's inhabitants who have lost their homes, workplaces, schools, health facilities, and more.

264 beds have been successfully provided to the residents of the shelter area, among which families and children, as well as elderly people, single women and people with disabilities.





# DIGITAL & INNOVATION HUB DIGITAL & INNOVATION HUB

The Digital & Innovation Hub serves as ALDA's platform for exploring how technology can strengthen local democracy, citizen participation, and good governance. Positioned at the intersection of **digital transformation** and **participatory processes**, the Hub provides practical solutions for municipalities, civil society organisations, and community actors to navigate the evolving digital landscape responsibly and inclusively.

The Hub's work is organised around three key pillars:

- **digital governance**, supporting local authorities to implement technology for transparent and efficient services:
- online participation, empowering citizens to engage meaningfully through digital platforms;
- and digital capacity building, equipping both public officers and communities with the skills needed to fully participate in the digital age.

Since 2024, the Hub has coordinated a growing portfolio of EU-funded projects addressing real-life digital challenges, including the deployment of digital twins in urban planning (BUILDSPACE), open-data governance at local level (EnCLOD), virtual reality for public services (MEDIUM), responsible Al applications (GINEVRA), media literacy and countering disinformation (Media4EU), and participatory governance platforms like "Decidim".

# **OUR DIGITAL VILLAGE**

















IT AIMS AT: intervening in rural areas by promoting the acquisition of digital and transversal skills, preparing people to face the challenges of the future. It will do so by co-creating high-quality educational



content that responds to the needs of the local context, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term transformation towards digitalisation through active awareness raising on all levels of society.

#### MEDIA4EU

Democracy and Human Rights

- Improving media and journalism process in the Republic of North Macedonia











Donor: Budget: European Instrument for











IT AIMS AT: improving media and journalism standards in the Republic of North Macedonia. It is notable that while the Republic of North Macedonia's legislation allows for free expression and speech as well as public access to information and other protections, particularly for groups such as journalists and the media, press freedom still remains an issue due to external pressures.



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & EDUCATION HUB



The Youth Empowerment and Education Hub is ALDA's focal point for initiatives centred on youth empowerment, civic participation, and inclusive education. Acting as a dynamic platform, the Hub connects local authorities, civil society organisations, and young people across Europe and beyond, with the shared goal of strengthening youth engagement in democratic life.

With 15 ongoing projects and initiatives, the Youth Hub champions youth-led action, delivers capacitybuilding opportunities, and advocates for meaningful youth participation in policymaking processes. It operates in close alignment with ALDA's overarching mission to reinforce local democracy by equipping young people to become active citizens and changemakers in their communities.

The Hub's work is structured around four key pillars:

- Project Development Designing and implementing initiatives that promote youth inclusion, engagement, and democratic participation at the local and international levels.
- Networking & Knowledge Exchange Facilitating dialogue and collaboration among youth organisations, policymakers, and stakeholders to share best practices and co-create impactful strategies.
- Capacity Building & Training Delivering workshops, mentorship schemes, and educational programmes that empower young people with the skills and confidence to lead, advocate, and participate.
- Advocacy & Policy Engagement Elevating youth voices in public debates and policy processes at the local, national, and European levels.

By drawing on ALDA's deep experience in participatory governance and community engagement, the Youth Hub cultivates a sustainable and inclusive ecosystem where young people can thrive as drivers of democratic renewal. It remains a flexible and forward-looking space, ready to respond to evolving challenges while staying true to its core mission: ensuring all young people have the tools, opportunities, and voice to shape their future.

#### **BOOST**

- Balkans for Optimising Opportunities, Sustainability and Transformation of Civil Society



Donor:

AFD - French

Development

Agency







Timeframe:

April 2024 -

April 2027











Macedonia, Serbia

BOOST

ALDA role

Countries impacted: Leader Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North

IT AIMS AT: strengthening democratic, economic and social development of the WB region. This will be achieved through long-term program support for empowering civil society capacities in different

Vr. of partners

Associates:

15

thematic pillars: youth and entrepreneurship, rural development; environment, preservation of cultural heritage and community development.

Through BOOST, we are not just supporting civil society - we are creating lasting networks. empowering youth and women, and ensuring that local voices shape the future of the Western Balkans in alignment with European values >>>

- Maja Varoshlija Project manager of BOOST



## CIVIL SOCIETY FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION







European Union 1.100.000.00 € & Friėdrich Ebert Foundation



Timeframe: January 2023 · June 2025



ALDA role: Partner



IT AIMS AT: strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations to support and promote the alignment of budgetary priorities with the integration agenda at national and local level, and at

increasing the involvement of the three civil society platforms to act as one and provide the necessary support for the implementation of the conditionalities related to Moldova's EU candidate status and the Association Agenda.

11 The granting of EU candidate status to the Republic of Moldova represents a new chapter in EU-Moldova relations and a beginning of the transformation of Moldovan society on the path to EU membership. In this way, supporting an enabling environment for civil society will continue to be one of the key priorities for the EU, as we strongly believe in the fundamental role that civil society plays in helping the country achieve our common European values and standards."

- Janis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation in the Republic of Moldova



## **USF IPM**









Budget: 2.310.612.50 €



Nr. of partners Associates: - April 2027



Partner



IT AIMS AT: enhancing career prospects for future talents and boost entrepreneurial and innovation process management skills of business representatives by transferring knowledge and skills via trainings and workshops implemented in the established centres for entrepreneurship and innovation (El centres). Besides reverting brain drain via increasing youth employability, the USE IPM will strive to improve gender balance in, male-dominated entrepreneurship.

## ADD Something Meaningful







Erasmus+





September 2025







IT AIMS AT: increasing the active involvement of young people on the local level through the use of the IDEATHON method as a basis for creating an effective mechanism for the participation of young people.



## **RECAP**

- Recovering Inclusion through Creativity After Pandemic







Donor: Erasmus+



Budget: 302.666.00 €



Timeframe: February 2022 - March 2024



Associates: 10



ALDA role: Leader



ReCAP

Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Spain

IT AIMS AT: supporting the active involvement and civic participation of youth, through non-formal learning activities, with a special emphasis on young people with fewer opportunities, such as girls, NEETs, people with migrant background, LGBTQIA+ members. With the pandemic these people have been further marginalised from the socialisation places. It is therefore necessary to recreate the social fabric by allowing these young people to express their feelings and challenges in the public space.



### SINCRONY









Horizon



Budget: January 2024 -June 2027 290.750,00€



Nr. of partners Associates: 8



Countries impacted: Partner Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

IT AIMS AT: supporting youth, especially those belonging to minoritarian and marginalised groups, in reclaiming the necessary power to inform the European political institutions.

## SPEAK UP



Erasmus+

















SpeakUP

IT AIMS AT: revitalising the public sphere as an arena where individuals can come together to discuss and identify societal problems and work towards consensus building through rational debate.



#### STAR 2.0

- Street Art for The Future















ALDA role:
Partner



IT AIMS AT: using the power of street art to connect and uplift disadvantaged youth, giving them an opportunity to express themselves in their communities.

15



## WYDE Civic Engagement

















IT AIMS AT: improving the enfranchisement, empowerment, and inclusion of youth in all levels of democratic participation at the national, regional, and global scales.



### PACIFY-D:

#### Promoting the Active Citizenship of Youth through Diplomacy









257.530.00 €



Timeframe: Nr. of partners Associates: April 2022 -March 2024



Partner



IT AIMS AT: providing training opportunities to young people and establishing Country Info Points as local learning centres for youth education, developing guidance on the organisation and support of the operation of such environments. The purpose is primarily to strengthen democratic attitudes through civic engagement and civic participation.

#### INCLUDATE

- Education for Inclusion







Erasmus+







ALDA role: Partner



IT AIMS AT: the inclusion of people with fewer opportunities, specifically migrants, which are prone to intersectional marginalisation through a combination of ethnic discrimination and social-economic deprivation..

E FUTURE WEWANT



## **READY**

















READY

IT AIMS AT: raising the capacity of organisations working with young people outside of formal learning, promoting non-formal learning activities in Partner countries.

#### The Future We Want















IT AIMS AT: increasing the level of engagement of young Europeans with sustainability and development issues, at creating better ways of living and at providing a meaningful voice to the European youth in setting the EU policy agenda on sustainable development through advocacy on the 2030 Agenda at local and European level.



84 Activity Report 2024 85





The project won the **GENE - Global Education Youth Award 2024**, and got the third-place of the **European Youth Goals Awards**.

#### H.E.Y!

- Heightening The Engagement Of Youth







Erasmus+

Budget: 279.622.00 €



Nr. of partners, Associates:





IT AIMS AT: empowering young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, by proposing a positive youth development approach focused on making young individuals stronger and more resourceful. In particular, it aims at a) supporting their positive engagement in building more equal and inclusive communities, b) improving the existing local youth work practice of the youth leaders and operators and c) improving successful school-to-work transitions, as a potentially powerful way of weakening the intergenerational transmission of poverty and reducing inequality.





Climate change and environmental damage are urgent issues for the European Union and across the globe, as their effects are already being felt. For this reason, there is a need to adapt more quickly and comprehensively. Climate change in fact has already led to damages to nature, losses in biodiversity and is affecting the lives of billions of people around the world, harming people's health, their ability to grow food, housing, safety and work.

At the European level, the **European Green Deal** is the response of the Commission to climate and environmental-related challenges. On an international level, the **Sustainable Development Goals** 

(SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

While working to reach its core objectives towards the promotion of good governance and citizens' participation at the local level, ALDA has put environment and sustainability at the core of its strategy, representing now one of its pivotal points.

ALDA is dedicated to addressing pressing environmental challenges by emphasising the crucial role of citizen participation in shaping sustainable development policies and by pushing forward the relevance of inclusive environmental citizenship. Recognising the profound impact of climate change – especially on vulnerable communities – globally, ALDA advocates for civic engagement as a powerful catalyst for effective and swift environmental policy outcomes and believes that involving citizens in decision-making processes is integral to achieving positive and long-lasting environmental results.

# SHARED GREEN DEAL - social sciences & humanities for achieving a responsible, equitable and desirable green deal















Timeframe:
February 2022

Timeframe: Nr. of partners
ebruary 2022 January 2027 22



Partner



Countries impacted:

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom

IT AIMS AT: providing Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) tools to support the implementation of eight Green Deal policy areas at the local and regional level.

# NEVERMORE - New Enabling Visions and Tools for End-useRs and stakeholders thanks to a common MOdeling appRoach towards a ClimatE neutral and resilient society



BUILDSPACE





Horizon Europe





Timeframe:
June 2022 May 2026

Nr. of partners.
Associates:
16





Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, Sweden, Spain

IT AIMS AT: supporting excellence in research on climate science and climate policy. The focus is on the modelling theory to take a significant step forward to overcome the current silo approach in favour of an integrated assessment and evaluation of the impacts, risks and interactions of climate change across sectors.

#### BUILDSPACE











January 2026







ALDA role:
Partner



Countries impacted:

Belgium, France. Greece. Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom

IT AIMS AT: providing innovative services to stakeholders and at supporting them in making informed decisions towards energy-efficient buildings and climate-resilient cities. To do so, the project combines terrestrial data from buildings (collected by IoT platforms and BIM solutions) with aerial imagery from drones equipped with thermal cameras and location annotated data from satellite services (e.g. EGNSS and Copernicus).



#### **INEQUALITIES MATTER**



206.000,00€



Donor:

CERV

Programme



Timeframe:

March 2023 February 2025



partners/ ALDA





inequalities matter \*\*\*\*

IT AIMS AT: making Environmental citizenship more inclusive by giving voice to those citizens (migrants, ethnic minorities, vulnerable youth, and elderly people) that are often excluded from the public debate.

Activity Report 2024 91



#### CID

- Circular Design for bio-based innovation towards climate-neutral cities







Donor: Erasmus+



1.499.520,00 €



Timeframe: September 2023 - August 2026



Associates:



ALDA role: Partner



Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Spain, United Kingdom

IT AIMS AT: promoting climate-neutral cities in Europe through a green and resilient transition. It focuses on integrating circular economy principles into various design sectors critical for cultural change and social inclusion. CiD adopts a multidisciplinary approach to address skill and knowledge gaps in architecture, urban design, and product/service design. The project aims to ensure the sustainability of its results by engaging Europe-wide organizations in architectural practice, society, and culture.

By the end of the project, a strong network of 100 key stakeholders will be established, driving knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions for a more sustainable future.



## **CLIMENTINES**













Erasmus+











IT AIMS AT: fostering a new generation of young people in Europe who have the knowledge and the tools to actively engage and impact climate action policies in their countries and at the European level.



#### **BLUELIGHTS**













Timeframe: January 2024 -June 2027



Associates: 25



ALDA role: Partner



Spain

IT AIMS AT: strengthening blue education in Europe to set the right conditions for the cost-effective implementation of the next Mission upscaling phase.



### CCRI KNOWLEDGE HUB





















IT AIMS AT: enhancing the impact of the existing Circular Cities and Regions Initiative by expanding the network of stakeholders involved in the transition to the circular economy. It seeks to bring together the knowledge and critical mass developed around Circular Economy implementation and to build on the Circular Economy stakeholder platform. It focuses on supporting cities and regions, particularly those in the early stages of the circular economy transition, to adopt sustainable practices.



#### **POWERYOUTH**

- Empowering youth for energy community actions















Nr. of partners Associates: 10





IT AIMS AT: empowering and involving young people in energy communities to actively contribute to the energy transition. The project recognises the significance of youth leadership in adopting new lifestyles and acquiring skills for supporting sustainable energy practices.



#### **GREY4GREEN**







Erasmus+











IT AIMS AT: developing competences in various sustainability-relevant sectors, developing green and sectorial (3rd age) skills strategies and methodologies, as well as future-oriented training schemes that meet the needs of individuals and organizations. It also tests innovative practices to prepare seniors and 3rd age personnel to become true agents of change.





✓ Volunteering is a way of being in life, but what I feel in this case is that I can contribute to the quality of the environment and society in general."

- Rui Cardoso, 67 years old, retired financial manager

## **GENESIS**











September 2024 - August



ALDA role: Associates: Partner 20



IT AIMS AT: demonstrate that innovative, nature-based intelligent solutions for enhancing the climate resilience of critical water infrastructure can lead to more reliable and consistent/predictable water

management practice by effectively protecting groundwater, by drastically improve the efficiency of water use and reuse, thus sustain social and economic activities while mitigating the potentially severe effects of climate change on local communities.



## **EU24**

**PROJECTS** 

- Engage For The Planet







Donor: CERV Programme



216.575,00 €



- July 2024







IT AIMS AT: decreasing the democratic participation gap of young citizens, citizens of diverse backgrounds and mobile citizens in a gender-balanced way by showing them that their voices matter.

While the turnout in the last EU election was the largest in 25 years, citizens of different backgrounds and mobile union citizens remain underrepresented among active EU voters as well as democratic engagement.







Taking an Intersectional Approach, the Thematic Hub is designed to view individuals holistically, recognising that people's social identities often intersect, leading to compounded experiences of discrimination. With a focus on young citizens, particularly those facing greater challenges, this initiative is pivotal in shaping a more equitable future, aligning with both international and EU policy priorities and ALDA's overarching mission of promoting good governance and active citizenship.

From a European perspective, principles of Anti-Discrimination are fundamental across various policies and actions, including the **Gender Equality strategy 2020-2025** and the **Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025**. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play a vital role in advancing equity and equality, working to eliminate inequities, promote equal participation, prevent discrimination, and support self-expression and realisation. Ensuring effective monitoring and implementation of policies is essential, requiring CSOs to establish mandatory processes.

Participating in programs and initiatives that reduce gender inequality and discrimination is key. Integrating gender equality and anti-discrimination into all campaigns and advocacy efforts will further this progress.

Recently, ALDA has developed and published its "Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination" policy, outlining the Association's stance on recruitment, career progression, partnerships, memberships, suppliers, and beneficiaries.

#### POLITIK-HER:

School of politics for young women









Budget: 250.000,00 €









IT AIMS AT: It aims at: empower young women in developing cohesive, inclusive, and sustainable communities, through multi- stakeholder roundtables, mentorship, and action plans to develop skills, knowledge, and confidence.



## **FOCUS**



**PROJECTS** 







Programme











focus

France, Germany, **Netherlands** 

IT AIMS AT: building public awareness of the Charter and its value, and the capacity of key stakeholders for its broader application. Partners will implement a transnational project focused on (a) building media capacity to showcase Charter Impact (b) fostering expert discourse around Charter application, (c) enabling Charter use at sub-national level, and (d) supporting participatory engagement with Charter by young people.

#### **HATEDEMICS**

















IT AIMS AT: strengthening the preventive and reactive measures against hate speech and disinformation online. It aims to empower NGOs/CSOs, fact checkers, public authorities and youngsters as activists to effectively prevent and combat polarisation, the spread of racist, xenophobic and intolerant speech, as well as conspiracy theories.



#### MOVING ON









Programme

Budget: 38.178.13 €



January 2023 January 2025

Nr. of partners Associates:

ALDA role: Partner



Netherlands, Spain

IT AIMS AT: promoting equality, inclusion and participation of Roma, Sinti and Travelers youth in sport and through sport, ensuring gender equality.



#### **WE ACT**

- Women Empowerment and ACTion in Politics and Media







Budget: 723.190.85 €









IT AIMS AT: enhancing the participation of women and LGBTIQ+ communities in local governance, and to empower women aspiring to run in the 2024 local elections in Türkiye, through the whole territory.

It was a training that broadened my areas of interest. I would like to be involved in new programs on similar topics as well. >>

**WE ACT Coaching Program Participant** 



## **EXTRA-C**: Extraordinary Citizens













Donor: Erasmus+







ALDA role: Partner



IT AIMS AT: raising awareness and improve inclusive participatory democracy by promoting the active participation of young people with intellectual, psychosocial and developmental disabilities in the democratic life of their (local/regional/national) environment and at a EU Level.



In 2024, the Migration Hub established a strong operational foundation, advancing its mission to promote inclusive migration policies and local governance. Key achievements included enhanced member engagement, strategic capacity-building efforts, and the development of robust communication and advocacy tools.

The Hub cantered its work around four strategic pillars:

- ALDA Members Mobilization and Networking A detailed mapping of ALDA members involved in migration was completed, identifying their activities, beneficiaries, and capacities. Regular consultation meetings fostered collaboration and knowledge sharing. A monthly internal newsletter was launched, featuring updates and funding opportunities, alongside a consolidated position on migration to be finalized by the 2025 General Assembly.
- ALDA Action Implementation Two EU projects were actively supported. Efforts included monitoring calls for proposals and co-developing new initiatives with members. As a result, at least three migration-related project proposals were submitted.
- Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange The Hub conducted needs assessments and tailored trainings for Local Authorities and CSOs, focusing on migrant inclusion and policy design. Outputs included a participatory democracy toolkit (January 2025) and ongoing peer-learning events, empowering civil society and migrant communities.
- Advocacy The Hub mapped key migration stakeholders and led awareness campaigns in collaboration with EU institutions, including DG HOME and DG NEAR. Two advocacy actions were completed, with one scheduled for mid-2025.

### **EPIC-UP**

- The European Platform of Integrating Communities

















**Programme** 





Nr. of partners Associates: 25





IT AIMS AT: developing and testing integration strategies for the inclusion of migrants at local level. EPIC-UP will establish Community of Practices (CoPs) in six EU countries where good practices and strategies will be leveraged.

#### **AMIL**

- Alliance multi-stakeholder for Migrants Integration and Labor







Programme

Budget: Donor: AMIF 1.103.391,92 €









IT AIMS AT: promoting the sustainable integration of third-country nationals (TCNs) into the labour market by expanding and strengthening the 'MEIC Migrants Economic Integration Cluster'. This multilevel and multi-stakeholder cluster is intended to enhance coordination among key territorial socioeconomic actors, thereby fostering the integration of TCNs into the labour market.





# THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

ALDA coordinates and supports the network of 16 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and 3 Operational Partners (OPs) in their activities. Initiated by the Council of Europe in the '90s, the programme represents a unique and successful experiment of democratic support, with full engagement of local governments and civil society organisations from Europe and the neighboring countries.

The LDAs are locally-based organisations funded and supported by both local partners, such as authorities and civil society organisations, and international associates with a long-term joint programme, providing financial and political support to fulfil their mandate and to accompany local democracy, civil society empowerment.



Indeed, partnership building is a crucial aspect for each LDA, as their work is based on the innovative method of multilateral decentralised cooperation.

All in all, the LDAs and OPs pursue the following objectives:

- Promoting good local governance and citizens participation, creating an inclusive society
- Building capacities through the exchange of know-how and training to local elected representatives and civil servants
- Creating a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to dialogue, engagement, and solidarity
- Improving intercultural dialogue and diversity management in multicultural local communities

2024 marked an important milestone: the LDA Mostar celebrated its 20th anniversary, marking two decades of commitment to local democracy and civic engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since

its establishment in 2004, the Agency has become a key actor in the region, implementing over a hundred projects, fostering EU integration, and promoting innovative democratic tools. Its longstanding work stands as a testament to the impact of the LDA model in strengthening democratic practices at the local level.

Moreover, in 2024, ALDA's commitment to strengthening democratic resilience took a significant step forward with the opening of two new Local Democracy Agencies in Ukraine: LDA Vinnytsia and LDA Kharkiv Region. These additions reflect the growing demand for local democratic support and the vital role that LDAs play in fostering citizen engagement and participatory governance, particularly in conflict-affected contexts. Their inauguration brings the network to a total of 17 LDAs and 2 Operational Partners, further extending ALDA's presence and impact across the Eastern Partnership area. These developments not only reinforce the importance of local actors in Ukraine's democratic recovery but also pave the way for the establishment of additional LDAs in 2025, consolidating the network's role as a cornerstone of multilateral decentralised cooperation.

### LDA ARMENIA



**Delegate:** Lusine Aleksandryan

Location: Gyumri

Lead partner: Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)

Email: <u>Idaarmenia@alda-europe.eu</u>



The Local Democracy Agency Armenia was established in 2011 in Gyumri, the second Armenian city. Among its main priorities are to promote the capacities of local authorities and civil society in citizens' participation, support participative practices in the development of local and sustainable tourism, reinforce regional and international cooperation, empower youth and women in environmental, democratic and community development initiatives. Furthermore, the cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Council of Europe, Civil Society Forum of Eastern Partnership, United Nations, European Commission, Policy Impact Lab and other European stakeholders who supported the implementation of many initiatives in the field of local democracy and participative decision-making.

Projects and activities implemented in 2021:

- "Youth and Informed society" project
- Mid-term evaluation of DE II project

## LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA



**Delegate:** Ana Jovanovic **Location:** Knjaževac

Lead partner: Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Italy

Email: ldacss@alda-europe.eu



The LDA Central and Southern Serbia was established in 2001 in the City of Niš, Serbia. With the aim of spreading its program further onto the territories in need, in 2014 the LDA has moved its headquarter to Knjaževac, a city in South-Eastern Serbia. The LDA carries on activities in Niš, Knjaževac, Kraljevo and Kragujevac and it contributes to the development of local democracy in the communities of Eastern, Southern and Central Serbia through capacity building programs based on the principles of active citizenship and establishment of concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation in development of their communities.

#### Projects and activities implemented in 2024:

- FEUture Resonance: Amplifying Youth Engagement and Advocacy inSerbia's EU Accession
- Process
- BOOST Balkans for Optimising Opportunities, Sustainability and Transformation of Civil Society
- Improvement of the Association's Digital Presentation

#### LDA OF DNIPROPETROVSK REGION



Delegate: Anzhelika Pylypenko

**Location**: Dnipro

Lead partner: Lower Silesian Voivodeship, Poland

Email: |dadnipropetrovsk@alda-europe.eu



The Local Democracy Agency of Dnipropetrovsk Region was established in 2015. It became the first LDA in Ukraine, and stands as a platform of cooperation, dialogue and exchange of experience and best practices across several aspects of regional development (cultural, social and economic) between local authorities and civil society in the EU and in Ukraine. LDA fosters citizen participation at the local level, and mobilises civil society organisations, local and regional authorities to develop joint initiatives.

#### Projects and activities implemented in 2024:

- "Indestructibility Point" project in the Sokil residential area
- Opening of the ALDA Center at the University of Customs and Finance
- HUB for children in the Mykolaiv community of Dniprovskyi district

#### LDA EDREMIT



Delegate: Elisa Falcini Location: Edremit

Lead partner: Edremit Municipality and Edremit City Council, Türkiye

Email: |daedremit@alda-europe.eu



LDA Edremit was formally established in January 2024, following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in October 2021. LDA Edremit is a permanent platform for cooperation, to improve dialogue and mutual exchange of experience in all aspects (cultural, social and economic) between the municipality, civil society and citizens of Edremit.

Moreover, it fosters cooperation between Edremit local communities and the communities of Turkish and European partners. The LDA supports local democracy and citizens' participation for the successful community engagement of its partner associations and cities.

- The promotion of respect for Human Rights, democracy and the rule of law.
- The promotion of concrete initiatives to consolidate democracy at the local level.
- To develop practices of citizens participation at the local level such as participatory budgets, citizens' initiatives and other instruments which include cooperation between citizens and local authorities for better and inclusive policies.
- The empowering of institutions at the local level thanks to the exchange of know-how, training of the local councillors and territorial civil servants.
- The development of a pluralist civil society and the participation of all the components of society to more transparent and inclusive local decision-making mechanisms.
- The promotion of intercultural and interethnic dialogue.
- The promotion of decentralised and transnational cooperation, engaging communities including national and international partners.

 Strenghtening women's decision-making power and effective political participation in local governance









#### LDA GEORGIA



Delegate: Shota Kvaratskhelia

Location: Kutaisi

**Lead partner:** City of Strasbourg, France

Email: Idageorgia@alda-europe.eu



Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia) was established in 2007 in Kutaisi as part of ALDA's strategy in the Southern Caucasus. The agency is committed to promoting good governance and citizen participation at the local level, with a focus on facilitating cooperation between local authorities and civil society organisations.

The mission of LDA Georgia is to enhance local democracy and civil society, support democratic reforms in Georgia, and develop innovative approaches to local and national challenges through collaboration with local and international stakeholders.

#### Projects and activities implemented in 2024:

- The Voice of Youth in Local Self-Government
- Empowerpreurship Program: Strengthening Youth through Entrepreneurial/Storytelling Skills Development
- Civil Society STAR Initiative Imereti Regional Hub
- More Transparency and Accountability for Effective Self-Government

### LDA KHARKIV REGION



Contact point: Yaroslav Bedenko

Location: Kharkiv

**Lead partner:** Association Trentino con i Balcani, Italy



LDA Kharkiv Region

The Local Democracy Agency Kharkiv Region is the third LDA established in the country. The creation of this Local Democracy Agency in Ukraine, as an instrument of peace and social cohesion, is the first step for the creation of other LDAs in the country, as established by ALDA's Flagship Initiative in Ukraine.

LDA Kharkiv Region opened its premises in 2024, and the year was dedicated to the establishment of partnerships and planning of future projects and activities.

#### LDA KOSOVO



Legal representative: Shpresa Sefaj Berisha

Location: Peja/Peć

Lead partner: Association Trentino con i Balcani, Italy

Email: Idakosovo@alda-europe.eu

The LDA Kosovo was officially opened in 2011 in Peja/Pec, to promote local democracy in the country. The LDA implements its mission through activities in the fields of democracy, justice, human rights, youth and equal opportunities, dialogue among minority communities in Kosovo, economic development, and social and cultural development. LDA Kosovo implements capacity building programmes aimed at fostering active citizenship and at establishing concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation, thus empowering citizens to improve their communities, as well as their society.

#### Projects and activities implemented in 2024:

- Preservation of Traditional Crafts and Skills through the Empowerment of Artisans
- International DiSPLAY Project
- Photography Exhibition on Cultural Heritage
- Cultural Heritage Site Visits
- IT Training for Minority and Majority Youth
- Youth Entrepreneurship Training under DiSPLAY Project

#### LDA MARIUPOL



Delegate: Tetiana Lomakina

**Location**: Mariupol

**Lead partner:** City of Gdańsk, Poland **Email:** Idamariupol@alda-europe.eu



Local Gernscreey Agency of Keesyo

The Local Democracy Agency Mariupol was established in December 2017, with the aim of implementing democracy best-practices in Mariupol in order to develop a productive dialogue between the community and the local government as well as to support participatory democracy tools for a fair and sustainable development.

After the beginning of the war in Ukraine, in February 2022, **the LDA Mariupol team was forced to leave Mariupol** because the city was occupied and bombed by the Russian military. The LDA moved

then to Kyiv and since then it has been working in partnership with the Mariupol State University, Mariupol City Council, Mariupol Youth Union, and the Women's Council of Donetsk Oblast, also forced to leave the city.

#### Projects and activities implemented in 2024:

- PAVE -Peace Awareness through Volunteering and Education
- Programme "Social Entrepreneurship in Ukraine"
- Partnership activities with Red Cross Society in Slavuta Community, Khmelnytskyi Region
- Project to improve the resilience of IDP children
- Equipping a children's room in a new medical hub for Mariupol residents in Kyiv











#### LDA MOLDOVA IN CIMISLIA



**Delegate:** Nicolae Hristov

Location: Cimișlia

**Lead partner:** Solidarité Eau Europe, France

Email: <u>Idamoldova@alda-europe.eu</u>



### Projects and activities implemented in 2024:

- Modernisation of livestock farms, automation of the milk collection process, and enhancement of the feeding production
- Better sanitation and hygiene facilities for students in rural schools project

#### LDA MONTENEGRO



Delegate: Kerim Medjedović

Location: Nikšić

**Lead partner:** Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy

Email: Idamontenegro@alda-europe.eu

The Local Democracy Agency of Montenegro, established in 2001, focuses on various priorities including local administration capacity development, human rights and peace building, youth participation, local economic development, and European Union integration processes. Operating within a network of 11 Agencies in the former Yugoslav republics and supported by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies, LDA Montenegro plays a crucial role in advancing democratic processes and socioeconomic development in Southeast and Eastern Europe. Through decentralised cooperation and partnerships with cities, regions, and other organisations, it contributes to the overall development of the region in collaboration with its partners.

- YouSEED Youth Social Economy Exploring for Rural Development
- Pathway to EASTern EUrope RURAL living labs as a mean To empower youth at local level
- BOOST Civil society of the Western Balkan empowerment for the local and regional development
- WB cities creating more opportunities for young people

#### LDA MOSTAR



Delegate: Dženana Dedić

**Location**: Mostar

Lead partner: Apulia Region, Italy Email: Idamostar@alda-europe.eu



Since its establishment in November 2004, the Local Democracy Agency Mostar has operated as a locally registered non-profit, non-governmental organisation. Supported by its partners and in cooperation with other Agencies and ALDA, LDA Mostar has facilitated numerous activities and projects aimed at the development of the local community and its integration into regional processes. Through collaboration at both the local and regional levels, LDA Mostar strives to promote active citizenship and transparent, accountable local authorities, ultimately contributing to the advancement of a modern democratic society. Its activities span across various aspects of community life and offer opportunities to enhance the living standards of all segments of society by driving tangible changes.

#### Projects and activities implemented in 2024:

- Project Mostar Spaces to Activate and Rejuvenate
- PIROUETTE Performative aRts fOr yoUth EngagemenT and communiTy rEgeneration
- Raising Environmental Sustainability through Art REST\_ART
- Digital Serious Play for Youth Business Ideas Development DiSPLAY
- Virtual Exchange for Balkan Youth Veby
- Youth Ambassadors of Non Formal Learning Phase 2 YAMNFL2
- Let's Debate Change In Bosnia and Herzegovina
- BOOST: Balkans for Optimizing Opportunities, Sustainability, and Transformation of Civil Society
- Cohesion of Local Initiatives for the Progress of Communities KLIN
- Not Neat to be NEET
- Education and workshop on the occasion of "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence"

## LDA ODESA



Delegate: Valentyna Puzikova

**Location**: Odesa

**Lead partner:** Odesa Rayon Council, Ukraine



The Local Democracy Agency Odesa has been opened in November 2023 and it is the third LDA established in the country. The creation of this Local Democracy Agency in Ukraine, as an instrument of peace and social cohesion, is the first step for the creation of other LDAs in the country, as established by ALDA's Flagship Initiative in Ukraine.

#### Projects and activities implemented in 2024:

- Support for the Development of Ukrainian Cultural Diplomacy through the Supporting Ukrainian Artists and Cultural Organizations to Co-Create and Showcase
- A comprehensive vision of Ukraine's participation in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

### LDA PRIJEDOR



**Delegate**: Dragan Došen **Location**: Prijedor

Lead partner: Association Project Prijedor, Italy

Email: <u>Idaprijedor@alda-europe.eu</u>



LDA Prijedor was established in 2000. The mission of LDA Prijedor is to advance local democracy and regional cooperation with the goal of integrating the Western Balkans into the EU, achieved through the empowerment of civil society and local authorities.

In addition to longstanding partners like Associazione Progetto Prijedor from Trento (Italy), with whom LDA Prijedor has maintained continuous collaboration for over 20 years, and ALDA, LDA Prijedor has become a member of the regional network of Balkan organisations for local democracy (BNLD). This affiliation ensures closer access to funding opportunities. Furthermore, LDA Prijedor actively seeks out and applies for various grants and opportunities at local, national, and international levels.

- Continued support for school cooperatives
- Eleventh edition of the project "Prijedor, city of murals", international prize "Paola de Manincor" 2024.
- Continued support the social centre with the public kitchen in Ljubija
- Project "Distance adoption", support to the poor families in Prijedor from Italian families
- Support for the Day Center for People with Mental Disabilities
- Continued support for the integrated center "Potkozarska kuca",
- Microcredit program for small entrepreneurs from the Prijedor area

#### LDA SUBOTICA



**Delegate:** Silvija Patarčić **Location:** Subotica

Lead partner: Wolverhampton City Council, United Kingdom

Email: Idasubotica@alda-europe.eu

LDA Subotica, established in 1993 as the inaugural Local Democracy Agency, focuses its programmes on capacity building, awareness raising, and advocacy efforts targeted at three primary groups: local policymakers and decision-makers, civil society organisations, and youth and women's groups. The agency's activities encompass educating for democratic citizenship, fostering intercultural dialogue, promoting regional cooperation, and facilitating cross-sectoral partnerships for local sustainable development. Additionally, networking at both regional and European levels is a key aspect of its operations.

The Agency's main priorities include advocating for democratic governance and participation, as well as bringing the EU accession negotiation process closer to citizens in local communities, particularly in the multicultural Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in Serbia.

#### Projects and activities implemented in 2024:

- Let's Debate Change Vojvodina
- BOOST Balkans for Optimising Opportunities Sustainability and Transformation of Civil Society
- Urban culture connecting youth in the Western Balkans
- Between the lines: Little school of media literacy
- All our towers: Fostering a culture of interreligious dialogue among young people

### LDA VINNYTSIA



Delegate: Olha Oliinyk Location: Vinnytsia

Email: Idavinnytsia@aldaintranet.org



Opened in 2024, LDA Vinnytsia Region is a strategic initiative aimed at reinforcing democratic governance, strengthening decentralisation reforms, and boosting citizen participation at the local level. It plays a key role in fostering international cooperation and supporting sustainable development in central Ukraine through multilevel partnerships.

LDA Vinnytsia opened its premises in 2024, and the year was dedicated to the establishment of partnerships and planning of future projects and activities.

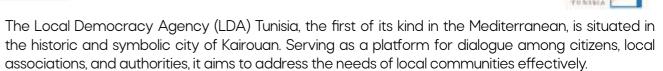
#### LDA TUNISIA



**Delegate:** Afaf Zaddem **Location:** Kairouan, Tunisia

Lead partner: Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació, Spain

Email: <u>Idatunisia@alda-europe.eu</u>



With a focus on implementing participatory democracy tools, LDA Tunisia facilitates citizen participation at the local level. Its long-term objectives include improving decision-making processes, fostering joint citizen initiatives, and promoting trust and dialogue among stakeholders to ensure inclusivity.

Employing a bottom-up and multi-stakeholder approach, the agency's work strategy revolves around developing solutions to enhance local governance. By engaging directly with the community and attentively listening to their concerns, LDA Tunisia can assess their needs accurately. This enables the agency to identify relevant partners and mobilise support, ensuring precise and impactful interventions aligned with the community's aspirations and requirements.

- Velopark
- READY project
- VISA project
- Peace Club
- Nos Racines project
- The 8th Tunisian Climatology Days: Academic discussions on "Climate change and hydroclimatic risks in the region"
- The Yasmina Project: Economic Empowerment of Women through Weaving

#### LDA ZADOVICI



**Delegate**: Slađan Ilić **Location**: Zavidovići

Lead partner: Association for Local Democracy Embassy in Zavidovići, Italy

Email: <u>Idazavidovici@alda-europe.eu</u>

The Local Democracy Agency in Zavidovići was established in April 1997, following many years of cooperation between Italian NGOs and local authorities with the host city of Zavidovići. It is located in the Zenica-Doboj Kanton, BiH Federation, Bosnia Herzegovina. Zavidovići and the surrounding area were severely affected by the war.

#### Projects and activities implemented in 2024:

- Water is Memory Laboratories luvenis II
- Ludobus Activities for children in rural areas
- Family Gardens Orti famigliari
- CoZY HUB Co-working Zavidovići Youth Hub
- Strani Vari Summer animation for children and young people
- BOOST: Balkans for Optimising Opportunities, Sustainability and Transformation of Civil Society















Local Domocracy Agency Sisak

## \*

# **Operational Partners**

#### **OP SISAK**



Delegate: Paula Raužan

**Location**: Sisak

**Lead partner:** ALDA, European Association for Local Democracy

Email: Idasisak@alda-europe.eu

The Operational Partner Sisak was founded in 1996 as an LDA with a core mission of fostering local democratic processes through citizen engagement in decision-making. Our objectives encompass the advancement of a pluralistic, multicultural society, the promotion and education of human rights, active citizenship, and volunteering. Additionally, we are committed to nurturing lifelong learning and non-formal education initiatives, among other endeavours.

#### Projects and activities implemented in 2024:

- A Sisak Institutional support
- Live equality, celebrate diversity!
- Youth Programme of Sisak-Moslavina County
- Weaving Solidarity
- Platform for development of school volunteering
- Volunteering Network
- Volunteer Centre Sisak

## OP VERTENEGLIO/BRTONIGLA



**Delegate:** Umberto Ademollo **Location:** Verteneglio/Brtonigla

**Lead partner:** Municipality of Bellinzona, Switzerland

Email: info@lda-verteneglio.hr



Established in 1996, the Operational Partner Verteneglio/Brtonigla is dedicated to advancing several key priorities. These include bolstering local democracy, promoting cross-border cooperation, enhancing collaboration with youth organisations and civil society organisations (CSOs), and empowering youth as well as marginalised communities.

In 2024 OP Verteneglio/Brtonigla was active with a series of projects mainly concerning territorial development and youth and education themes.





**ALDA+ BENEFIT CORPORATION** 





## Foreword from the Chief Excutive Officer

2024 has been a transformative year for ALDA+, marked by consolidation, innovation, and growth across all areas of our work. Building on the strong foundations laid in previous years, we have continued to expand our services and strengthen our identity as a trusted partner in training, consultancy, and technical assistance at the local national and international levels.

Among our most significant milestones was the full implementation of our Quality Management System, following the ISO 9001 certification obtained at the end of 2023. This achievement has enhanced the efficiency and consistency of our internal processes and reaffirmed our commitment to delivering highquality services. We are equally proud of obtaining Gender Equality Certification, a testament to our

values of inclusivity and equity, which are reflected both in our operations and in the projects we support.

2024 also saw the official launch of the ALDA+ website, a new digital platform that showcases our services, promotes our training offer, and connects us with a growing international audience. This step forward in our communication strategy goes hand in hand with our increasing involvement in high-impact projects across sectors such as local governance, environmental sustainability, digital innovation, and civic participation.

Our capacity-building branch, ALDA+ Academy, continued to flourish, delivering dozens of training



While 2024 brought achievements, it also brought challenges. The evolving European funding landscape and growing demand for customised services required us to continuously adapt and innovate. Yet, it is precisely in this dynamic environment that ALDA+ thrives – responding with agility, creativity, and professionalism to the emerging needs of our partners and clients.

As we close this chapter, we do so with renewed determination to strengthen democratic resilience, promote sustainable local development, and invest in the people and communities we serve. I would like to thank our dedicated team, our partners, and our clients for their trust and collaboration. We look forward to continuing this journey together.

> Marco Boaria CEO of ALDA+

# Who We Are

Established in 2017 as a benefit corporation owned by ALDA, ALDA+ has continued to grow as a key provider of tailored services in training, consultancy, technical assistance, and project development. Leveraging over 20 years of ALDA's experience in local democracy, participatory governance, project-cycle management, and European affairs, ALDA+ supports a wide range of clients, including local authorities, civil society organisations, educational institutions, SMEs, and individual professionals.

In 2024, ALDA+ consolidated its internal processes and service delivery, building on the **ISO 9001 certification** obtained in December 2023. This milestone affirmed our commitment to quality and enabled us to further improve efficiency, consistency, and client satisfaction.

In the same year, ALDA+ also obtained **Gender Equality Certification**, confirming its commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable work environment. This recognition reflects the organisation's proactive approach to integrating gender-sensitive practices across its operations and policies.

The implementation of our **Quality Management System** continued to advance, with clear operational guidelines in areas such as project design and reporting, training delivery, and technical assistance. Meanwhile, our proprietary management software **PROMPT+**, launched in 2023, proved instrumental in optimising workflow and enhancing operational performance.

In 2024, ALDA+ also became a member of BNI – Business Network International, one of the world's leading business referral networks. This affiliation strengthens ALDA+'s ties with local and international entrepreneurial ecosystems, fostering new opportunities for collaboration, visibility, and strategic partnership development. Being part of BNI allows ALDA+ to extend its outreach and share its expertise in EU project development, training, and technical assistance with a broader network of professionals and businesses.

Another key achievement in 2024 was the **launch of the new ALDA+ website**, providing a dynamic and accessible platform for promoting our services, training offers, and project outcomes. This online presence significantly boosted our visibility and outreach to new partners and clients across Europe and beyond.

## **Beyond ALDA: the PLUS factor**

In November 2024, ALDA+ launched its official website: <a href="www.aldaplus.eu">www.aldaplus.eu</a>, establishing a dedicated digital space to present its mission, services, and growing portfolio. As the specialised branch of ALDA offering consultancy, training, and project support, ALDA+ created this platform to improve visibility and access to its tailored services for local authorities, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders across Europe and beyond.

The website outlines ALDA+'s key areas of expertise — including technical assistance, Project Cycle Management, training, and consultancy — while also showcasing its team, key achievements, and tailored service offer. A dedicated section is devoted to **training opportunities**, which include both standard and custom-designed courses. The standard catalogue features modules on *European Union Funding Programmes*, *Financial Management and Auditing of Funded Projects*, *Project Cycle Management*, *European Commission Portals*, and *Communication and Dissemination*. Additionally, ALDA+ develops **tailor-made training courses** to address the specific needs of its audience.

Currently available in Italian and English, the website is set to expand in 2025 to include additional languages and new features. The website represents both a communication milestone and a strategic development for ALDA+, reinforcing its role as a trusted partner in delivering high-quality services in support of local governance, civic participation, and sustainable development across a wide range of sectors in Europe and beyond.

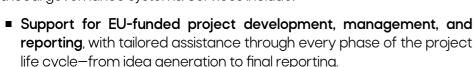


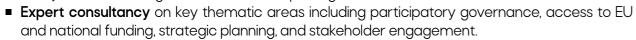


ALDA+ offers a **structured and diversified portfolio of services** designed to support a wide array of stakeholders engaged in **strengthening local governance**, **civic participation**, **and European integration**. The examples listed below represent core areas of our work but are not exhaustive. Our services are continuously adapted and expanded in response to emerging needs, new partnerships, and evolving policy priorities.

#### **Technical Assistance**

ALDA+ provides specialised technical support to public and private actors, helping them navigate the complexity of EU funding, project development, and local governance systems. Services include:





- Scouting of funding opportunities, with feasibility assessments to guide clients toward viable, high-impact project proposals.
- Management of public services and local offices, such as Innovation Labs, Municipal and Intermunicipal European Desks, ensuring a direct interface between institutions and citizens.
- Organisation of territorial initiatives (e.g., Europe Days, civic workshops, and consultation events) to promote EU values, knowledge, and visibility at the local level.
   In 2024, ALDA+ Academy further solidified its role as ALDA's core platform for capacity-

## Training (ALDA+ Academy)

building and knowledge transfer. Through a range of structured learning paths, the Academy reached diverse groups—including civil servants, NGO professionals, educators, youth workers, and individual citizens—with both in-person and online formats. Key training areas included:



- Project Cycle Management and Logical Framework, providing essential tools for effective planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Fundraising and EU grant writing, equipping participants to successfully access and manage European and international funding.
- Participatory methods and stakeholder engagement, fostering inclusive governance and community-driven development.
- Understanding EU policies and programmes, offering up-to-date insights into the EU's evolving strategic framework.

One of the Academy's most visible outcomes in 2024 was the further development of the **School for Local Democracy**, an inclusive and practice-oriented learning space for local leaders and community

actors. Additionally, ALDA+ reinforced its **strategic partnerships** in the education sector, collaborating with universities, public bodies, and European networks to co-develop tailored training offers and expand outreach.

## Projects

ALDA+ continued to operate as a **reliable project partner and leader**, participating in a variety of initiatives funded through direct and indirect EU programmes, as well as by international organisations and national institutions. Our involvement spans:



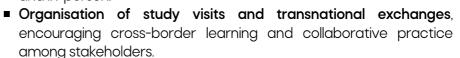
- Project ideation and design, including needs assessment and stakeholder mapping.
- Consortium building and partnership development across countries and sectors.
- Full-cycle implementation, with attention to contextual needs and operational sustainability.
- Monitoring and evaluation, ensuring accountability and measuring long-term impact.

Thematically, our projects address a wide spectrum—from local democracy and youth empowerment to climate transition, gender equality, and digital innovation.

### Communication and event planning

ALDA+ offers communication and event services to ensure that projects are not only well implemented, but also well understood and widely shared. Our expertise includes:







- Development and implementation of communication strategies tailored to project needs, ensuring coherence, visibility, and audience engagement.
- Media work and campaigns, including storytelling, video content, press outreach, and social media promotion, to disseminate project results and foster community involvement.



## ALDA-Prompt: an innovative and continuously evolving tool for financial and Project Management

In 2024, ALDA+ advanced the development and promotion of **ALDA-Prompt**, a cutting-edge software solution designed to support financial management and project reporting. This innovative tool streamlines administrative processes and significantly enhances overall project management efficiency.

With its user-friendly interface and powerful features, ALDA-Prompt has established itself as a comprehensive solution for international organisations, civil society organisations (CSOs), NGOs, and social cooperatives seeking robust tools to manage and monitor their projects.

ALDA-Prompt is not a static product; it is under continuous development and improvement to adapt to the evolving needs of its users. This ongoing enhancement ensures that the software remains aligned with the dynamic requirements of project management and financial oversight. By actively incorporating user feedback and technological advancements, ALDA-Prompt evolves to provide increasingly effective solutions for its clients.

ALDA+ is proud to offer this software, which actively contributes to greater transparency and accountability in project implementation, supporting more effective and impact-oriented governance.

For those who wish to learn more about ALDA-Prompt and explore its potential, it is possible to request a dedicated presentation and live demonstration. Please feel free to get in touch for further information – presentations can be arranged on request and without any obligation.

For more info: info@aldaplus.it



## Villa Fabris - A shared space for community, culture, and Europe

In 2024, ALDA+ continued its active role in the revitalisation of **Villa Fabris**, a historical residence in the heart of Thiene (Vicenza, IT), as part of a consortium composed of **Engim, Samarcanda**, **and ALDA+**, which was awarded the six-year management mandate by the Municipality of Thiene at the end of 2023.

Formerly home to the prestigious European School of Restoration, Villa Fabris is now undergoing a profound transformation, thanks to the "Villa Fabris - Bene Comune" project. This initiative aims to restore the Villa not only as a physical space of beauty and heritage, but as a living hub of civic engagement, creativity, and European values.

Throughout 2024, the consortium laid the groundwork for the Villa's new identity as a **multi-functional public space**, open to families, youth, seniors, associations, and institutions. ALDA+ led the development of activities that reflect its mission: embedding **democracy**, **participation**, and **European citizenship** into the Villa's daily life.

Key achievements in 2024 included:

- The launch of public consultation and co-design sessions, inviting citizens and local stakeholders to share ideas and co-create the Villa's future functions.
- Hosting international events and training programmes, turning the Villa into a space for transnational exchange and professional development within the ALDA+ Academy framework.
- Organising cultural and civic initiatives that blend local traditions with a European dimension, such as youth-led debates, inclusive workshops, and EU-themed events.
- Initiating partnerships with schools and social organisations, making the Villa a welcoming space for educational and intergenerational encounters.

The Villa is also envisioned as a "house of ideas", offering a serene and inspiring setting for dialogue on democracy, social innovation, and collective responsibility. ALDA+, alongside ALDA and ALDA Italia, brings a strong European outlook, ensuring the Villa becomes a territorial landmark with continental relevance.

Villa Fabris is not just being restored—it is being **reimagined** as a **common good**: a place where community life and European values intersect, and where local energy and international perspectives generate shared growth.



## A Journey of Memory and Roots

In 2024, ALDA+ began developing a new educational initiative aimed at conveying a direct knowledge of the place of your family's roots. This type of journey is characterised by an educational and reflective approach, going beyond a simple tourist visit to promote a deep understanding of the locations, traditions, food and wine culture that characterize Italian territories. This travel proposal is addressed to all emigrants from Australia, Canada, South America, and anyone who, for various reasons, has left their native countries to live abroad.

The first "Journey of Memory" is scheduled for autumn 2025. Interested individuals are invited to regularly check the ALDA+ website for updates on the 2026 programme and upcoming opportunities.



# ALDA+ Academy: consolidating our commitment to training and capacity building

In 2024, **ALDA+ Academy** continued to grow as a key platform for training and professional development, further consolidating its role as a central component of ALDA's mission to strengthen local democracy and European values. Throughout the year, the Academy delivered a wide range of **training programmes to diverse target groups**, covering topics such as EU funding, participatory governance, project management, and civic engagement.



A major milestone was the **launch of the new ALDA+ website**, designed to improve the visibility and accessibility of the Academy's offer. This new platform enables more effective promotion of courses and services, fostering stronger connections with local authorities, civil society organisations, and international partners.

The Academy's consolidation was also reflected in the establishment of **strategic partnerships** with

institutions and networks committed to training and local governance. These collaborations have allowed ALDA+ Academy to enrich its content, expand its reach, and co-develop innovative learning experiences.

Among its flagship initiatives, the **International School for Local Democracy** stands out as a concrete product of ALDA+ Academy - offering tailored learning paths for local leaders and community actors committed to participatory and inclusive governance.

ALDA+ Academy is thus increasingly recognised as a reference point for those seeking high-quality, impact-oriented training that supports democratic innovation at the local and European levels.

## The Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure: systematic analysis



When: 18-25 January, 1-8-15 February 2024



Target group:
Administrators and
municipal technicians



Nr. of participants:



Where: Council Hall of Monte di Malo Municipality (Vicenza, Italy)

The first edition of the **Training Course on Environmental Protection Regulations and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** was held in person and targeted municipal technicians, with the aim of enhancing and updating their knowledge and skills regarding the environmental impacts generated by projects, plans, and programs. The initiative sought to promote the development of more sustainable projects within the territory by fostering a preventive approach through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

## European project design for the environment and the territory



19 -26 January, 2 -9-16 February 2024



Target group:

Administrators and municipal technicians



Nr. of participants:



wnere:
Council Hall of Monte di
Malo Municipality
(Vicenza, Italy)

The Training Course on Accessing EU Funding for Environmental Protection and ZSC Areas, with a Focus on the LIFE Programme was designed to provide participants with the skills needed to access EU funding for initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment and Sites of Special Protection (ZSC). The course included an overview of the LIFE programme's funding opportunities, the presentation of the latest call for proposals, and concrete project examples to encourage participants to explore and utilize this funding instrument.

## Training Workshop / Project Work - EU Project Design for Culture and Audiovisual Sectors



January - March 2024



Target group: Culture and Audiovisual Sectors' representatives



Nr. of participants: 20



Vicenza, Italy

This course offered a practical and focused introduction to designing and managing European projects in the fields of culture, creative industries, and audiovisual media. Participants gained insights into key EU funding programmes (such as Creative Europe, Erasmus+, and Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values), and learnt how to build strong project concepts aligned with European priorities. The course included hands-on exercises on project drafting, partnership building, budget planning, and the use of Logical Framework Approach. Ideal for cultural operators, creatives, local institutions, and NGOs looking to engage in the European cultural ecosystem.

## **European Skills for Local Governance** - SEI'Training and Activation Programme



April - November 2024



Target group:

Public employees and local administrators from the Alto Vicentino area participating in the SEI project



Nr. of participants:



n-person across 4 different municipalities + 2 online sessions via Zoom (Vicenza province, Italy)

This multi-phase programme provided targeted capacity-building for local government staff within the SEI network, equipping them with tools and knowledge to engage effectively in European initiatives. Six workshops addressed key topics such as EU funding, project cycle management, co-design, and communication in participatory processes, combining theoretical sessions with practical exercises. The programme also included two major public events: the Europe Day celebration on May 9th at Villa Fabris, and the participation of a SEI delegation at ALDA's General Assembly in Barcelona. These initiatives supported both the internal empowerment of local actors and the external promotion of active European citizenship.

## ELoGE - the European Label of Governance Excellence



When: 4 - 5 April 2024



Target group: Udruga Gradova Association (Croatia)



Nr. of participants:



Skopje (North Macedonia)



ALDA was accredited entity for implement the methodology of "The European label for governance excellence-ELOGE" for Croatia, North Macedonia in 2021 and Kosovo in 2022, and thusly the ALDA staff members, Ivana Velkova and Katica Janeva were certified ELoGE trainers. ELoGE is a methodology created by the Council of Europe, as a tool for local authorities to measure their compliance with the 12 principles of good governance. By a specially created benchmark, the local authorities measure the level of good governance and if the level is satisfactory, they are awarded with the label. In March 2024, ALDA was contracted to deliver an EloGE training to the newly accredited entity for Croatia, Udruga gradova, to gain knowledge to implement the next cycle of ELoGE with the local authorities. 2 participants from Udruga gradova participated in the 2-day training in April 2024 and learned about the different stages of EloGE from a theoretical and practical point of view.

### **Europe Day in Villa Fabris**







Nr. of participants: **25** 



On 9th May 2024, on Europe Day, ALDA+ organised workshops and activities dedicated to students of local schools to teach them the values and institutions of the European Union through quizzes and





games. The first edition involved about 25 young people who challenged themselves in the knowledge of European institutions and values through the methodology of non-formal learning. Ms. Nicoletta Panozzo, member of the City Council of Thiene – where the event was held – praised ALDA "thanks to which we can all learn the importance of local democracy in our city".

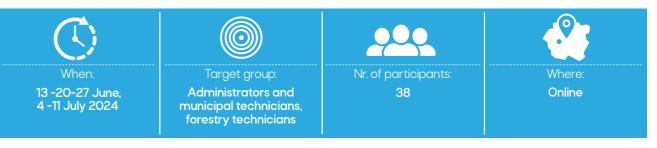
# Presentation on the Management of a Forestry Project within the Framework of the Natural Capital Call by Fondazione Cariverona





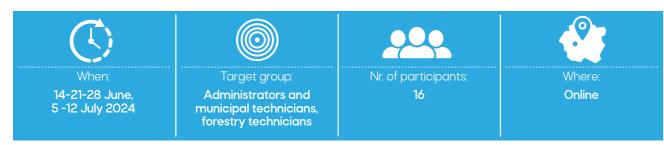
Alda+ held a seminar for students of forestry and environmental sciences from the school of agriculture and veterinary medicine. The topics were structured in two phases: the first focused on presenting the call for proposals and the application form, while the second addressed the project's indicators and budget.

# The Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure: systematic analysis



The Training Course on Environmental Protection Regulations and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was held in person and specifically addressed to municipal and forestry technicians. Its goal was to enhance and update their knowledge and skills regarding the environmental impacts generated by projects, plans, and programs. The course aimed to support the development of more sustainable initiatives within the territory through a preventive approach based on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

### European project design for the environment and the territory



The Training Course on Accessing EU Funds for the Protection of the Natural Environment and ZSC Areas, with a Focus on the LIFE Programme was designed to help participants understand how to access EU funding for initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment and Sites of Special Protection (ZSC). The course included a presentation of the LIFE programme call for proposals and featured concrete examples of projects, with the aim of raising awareness and encouraging participants to explore the opportunities offered by this funding instrument.

### Gender Equality and Inclusiveness in Professions and Services



This workshop, organised in partnership with **Studio Centro Progetti**, explored gender equality and inclusiveness in the professional and service sectors. The session includes a presentation of ALDA's gender-related projects and a broader reflection on how EU programmes integrate gender equity, inclusion, and diversity management. The workshop featured interactive discussion and concluded with a light networking aperitif. It offered a valuable opportunity to engage with local stakeholders add reinforce partnerships in the field of social inclusion.

### How to work with the EESC and CoR



A one-hour training session dedicated to improving ALDA staff's knowledge and understanding of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), as part of an ongoing series on European institutions. The training covered the structure of both the EESC and the CoR, committee, legislative role, and advised on how to engage with Members of both institutions. The course also featured an interactive quiz to test the colleagues' understanding of the institutions.

### Training on "New contacts - members" section of FileMaker



The training had the objective of exposing the new and old functions of the section "New contacts - members", how they are relevant for colleagues and give general rules of use.

# Gender mainstreaming in project writing & inclusive communication



The training aims to inform participants about key European policies and objectives related to gender equality, share practical strategies for integrating a gender perspective into project writing, and

raise awareness of gender stereotypes and gender-sensitive communication, encouraging critical reflection within their professional environment.

# Project Management and Coordination - "Getting started - preliminary phase"



The training focused on the **phases and procedures of project implementation**. After sharing basic knowledge of the project management cycle, key terms, phases, and actors involved in project implementation were identified. Subsequently, the preliminary actions were explained, including project analysis, contracting, preparation of the project management toolkit, and the formal launch of the project. The ordinary agenda of a project manager was also discussed, with particular attention to daily management tasks related to coordination, financial management, deviations, communication, and the project's closing phase. Quizzes and exercises were incorporated to assess participants' knowledge.

# Writing projects in the field of Green Economy: EU and NON-EU funding opportunities



The training focused on how to successfully implement a project. After sharing basic knowledge of the project management cycle, key terms, phases, and actors involved in project implementation were identified. Subsequently, the preliminary actions were explained, including project analysis, contracting, preparation of the project management toolkit, and the formal launch of the project. The ordinary agenda of a project manager was also discussed, with particular attention to daily

management tasks related to coordination, financial management, deviations, communication, and the closing phase. Quizzes and exercises were included to assess participants' knowledge.

### How to work with the European Parliament



A one-hour training session dedicated to improving ALDA staff's knowledge and understanding of the European Parliament, as part of an ongoing series on European institutions. The training covered the structure of the European Parliament, its political groups, committees, and advised on how to engage with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). The course also featured an interactive quiz to test the colleagues' understanding of the institution.

### Med Youth Lab



Train youth on project development and soft skills, such as public pitching, in order to empower them to prepare proposals across three key thematic areas according to the UfM Youth agenda calls to action: green skills, youth mobility for educational and professional exchange; Youth engagement in multistakeholder and dialogue.

The training, coordinated and delivered by ALDA+ team with a few external experts, combined theoretical sessions on Project Cycle Management in plenary and work into thematic groups. The training closed with a public pitching hold by each group in front of a panel of UfM stakeholders including CSOs, policy makers, and representative from international organisations.

### **EU Project Development & EU Funding Programmes**



Presentation and discussion of the two EU funded projects, respectively by CERV, Interreg Italy Austria and AMIF programmes of the European Union. It concentrates on the basic elements of the projects, key objectives and expected outcomes, and the process explaining the reasons behind the implemented workflow. Challenges, deviations and conflict management have been shared, along with suggestions and recommendations.

### Design of a Project Communication Strategy



This training aims to strengthen participants' understanding and management of EU-funded projects, introduce key communication strategies, and provide practical examples to support their effective implementation.

# Writing Projects in the Field of Green Economy: EU and Non-EU Funding opportunities



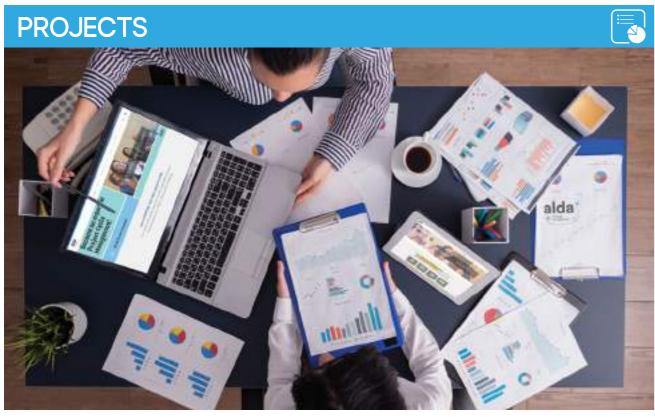


The training on Writing Projects in the Field of Green Economy: EU and Non-EU Funding Opportunities provided participants with practical knowledge on developing high-quality project proposals tailored to the priorities of green transition in the Western Balkans. Participants explored key funding sources such as Horizon Europe, IPA III, and other donor programs, and learned how to identify relevant calls through official portals and platforms. In the final module on Effective Monitoring, they gained insight into how to track funding opportunities, monitor project implementation, and understand essential administrative requirements, including registration data, partner profiles, and budget documentation. The training also focused on how to read and interpret donor guidelines effectively, ensuring that proposals are both compliant and competitive, with closing remarks reinforcing the importance of strategic planning and continuous learning.

### Understanding Europe: Youth and Active Citizenship



This training course aimed to raise awareness and deepen knowledge of the European Union among young people, while promoting active and informed citizenship. The programme included a mix of lessons, interactive workshops, and thematic events focused on key EU issues such as migration, environment, international relations, and youth participation. Participants explored both historical and contemporary dimensions of Europe, learnt about institutions, rights, and policies, and engaged in discussions and collaborative projects. The course culminated in the co-creation and presentation of a collective project on European themes, encouraging hands-on participation and peer learning.





# National projects

# + SEI - Thiene: più Europa | Strengthening the European Dimension in the Alto Vicentino Area

In 2024, the **Servizio Europa Intercomunale (SEI)**, newly relaunched as "**Thiene: più Europa**", continued its mission to bring Europe closer to local communities through a structured programme based on three core pillars: **training**, **project development**, **and territorial engagement**.

The **training** pillar featured a comprehensive programme targeting municipal staff and elected officials from the Alto Vicentino area. Delivered through a series of six interactive workshops - both online and in-person - the training covered key topics such as EU direct funding, project cycle

management, participatory planning, and fundraising. Participants acquired practical tools and insights to better navigate European opportunities and integrate them into local governance.

In the area of **project development**, SEI supported the design of new project proposals, with a strong focus on **youth and culture**, aligning local needs with European funding frameworks and priorities.

The European territorial engagement efforts culminated in the Europe Day celebration on May 9th, held in Villa Fabris Park in Thiene (Italy). The event brought together local schools for an inspiring day of games, workshops, and reflection on European values - highlighting the importance of connecting young generations to the European project.

SEI - Thiene: più Europa - continues to be a strategic hub for empowering local authorities and communities to engage meaningfully with Europe, building stronger connections, skills, and civic participation.

The project has been initiated and is coordinated by the Municipality of Thiene and involved the following municipalities:

- Malo Municipality
- Marano Vicentino Municipality
- Villaverla Municipality
- Fara Vicentino Municipality
- Lugo di Vicenza Municipality
- Zanè Municipality

# + Alta Via della Grande Guerra Project



Alta Via della Grande Guerra is a hiking trail that stretches for approximately 200 kilometres through the Prealps of Vicenza, connecting the four memorial shrines in the Province of Vicenza that hold the remains of Italian and Austrian soldiers who fell during the First World War: Pasubio, Cimone, Asiago, and Grappa. The project, initiated by the Province of Vicenza, reflects a commitment to preserving historical memory and enhancing the natural beauty of the area. Its management has been entrusted to ALDA+. Throughout 2024, ALDA+ organised six guided hikes along the route to engage local communities, it promoted the trail, and it created new maps and informational brochures.

A conference was organised at the European Parliament in April 2024 to present the project and the trail.

"A European network of peace trails — that's what we've called it, with young people as our primary audience. We've restored trenches and forts," explained Nardin, the President of the Vicenza province "and we've connected the landmarks that most strongly represent our shared memory, paying tribute to those who fell in war to secure our freedom. Today, we want to open this route to international collaborations that can transform a scar of war into a symbol of peace, especially for younger generations. Alta Via della Grande Guerra stands as a reminder for Europe — a Europe that must protect and uphold the rights we have fought so hard to achieve."

Additionally, a multi-year Strategic Plan for the High Route of the Great War was developed to transform the trail into an Integrated Tourist Offer by leveraging existing resources and creating new opportunities for the development of the local tourism sector. This document laid the foundation for building a network of businesses that will collaborate to present the Club of a themed tourism product focused on walking trails.



# 🕂 Removing architectural barriers of the Lipari Diocesan Museum

The project focuses in elevating the standard of museum services at the Diocesan Museum of Messina Lipari Santa Maria del Mela, prioritising inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability.

Key objectives encompass enhancing museum accessibility, outreach services, and facilities for visitors with reduced mobility, alongside bolstering digitization efforts. The outcomes of the projects include extended operating hours of the Museum, capacity building training for touristic guides focusing on inclusivity and accessibility, heightened promotional initiatives, collaborations with local organizations, adoption of environmentally sustainable practices and the development of the <a href="new Museum website">new Museum website</a>. ALDA+ assumed the role of project coordinator, overseeing project coordination and financial reporting within this framework. The project has strengthened the local network for the management of Lipari's historical and cultural heritage such as the Museum, involving the tourism, education and technology sectors.

# EXCOVER - Explore and Discover Aeolian Islands

The Municipality of Lipari spearheads a project aimed at enhancing the UNESCO naturalistic status of the Aeolian Islands by promoting **sustainable tourism practices** in the region. Recognising the substantial interest in nature-based activities among visitors, such as trekking and biking, the project aimed to leverage these preferences by focusing on niche activities like volcanoing and animal watching through targeted marketing efforts. Additionally, the project endeavored to bolster local tourism infrastructure, integrate services to enhance sustainability and visitor experience, and implemented naturalistic engineering interventions for trail maintenance.

The project was funded by Italian Ministry of Tourism. As part of the initiative, ALDA+ will coordinate the organisation of the <u>Sustainable Tourism Festival in Lipari</u> on October 11 and 12, 2025, with the IT.A.CÀ network for the 17th edition. The festival, which takes place from June to November and involves 11 regions for a total of 20 stages, is inspired by this organisational model. The theme of the Aeolian stage, "Holding the future in your hands," starts from the concept of hands as a tool for preserving and transmitting knowledge, but also as a means of innovation and weaving together the past, present, and future. Through hands, it will explore the value of knowledge that transforms and renews itself, from fishing to crafts, from agriculture to technology, from art to sustainability.

# + The Pathway of Confinement. The sites of the Antifascist Confines in Lipari

The project focused on **digitally documenting cultural heritage** by creating an app set in locations linked to **anti-fascist exiles in Lipari** (Italy). Designed to appeal to a broad age range, the app serves as a guide through key sites, providing historical context through letters written by the exiles. By blending digital technology with historical narratives, the project aimed to offer visitors a hybrid physical and virtual tour experience, deepening their appreciation of Lipari's anti-fascist history within the broader tourism landscape of the Aeolian Islands. The path of Confinement, or better the paths, were created through the installation of 50 ceramic tiles that reproduce QR codes that can be scanned on Apple or Android smartphones. By framing the tile or typing in the browser, it is possible to enter into the application and obtain information about the place where you are and discover what happened there from the accounts of the internees themselves. The initiative was funded by Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) under the framework of NextGenerationEU. Within this framework, ALDA+ has assumed the responsibility for project coordination and financial reporting. The project was successfully finalised in April 2025, with extensive promotion of the application and presented at various local events in Lipari.

# 🕂 3D Capture

The project <u>3D Capture</u> aimed to **digitalise historical and cultural trails**, offering the opportunity for both public and private entities to create virtual reality experiences of significant places of interest. Focused on the Veneto side of the Pasubio mountain massif (Italy), particularly trails like the "Strada degli Eroi" and "Scarubbi" from World War I, the project utilised **3D Capture technology**. These trails, with immense cultural value, are often challenging to access due to environmental conditions and altitude.

The solution involved creating a 3D mapping equivalent to Google Maps' Street View for these trails, rendering them digitally accessible to a wider audience. This initiative not only benefited people with disabilities and those unable to visit in person but also contributed to the tourism sector by promoting these historical routes. In this project, ALDA+ has provided technical assistance with the proposal and was responsible for financial reporting. The project successfully ended in 2024 increasing the visibility of the Pasubio trails and **creating a new model for accessing trails**. The initiative was funded by the Region Veneto, through the ERDF funds.



# International projects

### → ENCLOD

- Enhancing governance Capacities of Local authorities using Open Data





Interreq

Central Europe

Programme







Budget: 3.825.620,00 €



Timeframe: Nr. c May 2024 - As October 2026



ALDA role
Partner



IT AIMS AT: significantly enhancing the awareness and knowledge of policy actors and decision-makers from pilot territories and beyond regarding the potential of Open Data (OD) and the Internet of Things (IoT) for territorial governance. This will be achieved through the collection of case studies, targeted education, and capacity-building activities.

10



### **MEDIUM**

- Municipalities Experimenting with Digital Innovation, Upskilling and the Metaverse







Erasmus+





September 2024







Belgium, Italy, Portugal

IT AIMS AT: educating on the uses and possibilities of new digital technologies in the field of virtual reality, augmented reality and the metaverse.





→ VALUEBOX - Promoting Fundamental Rights and Inclusive Education in European Schools through Gamification







Erasmus+

250.000,00€

ecember 2022

- November 2024

Nr. of partners Associates:



IT AIMS AT: enabling educational staff to build an inclusive and high quality education as well as the European dimension of teaching in secondary schools, integrating those with fewer opportunities which are paramount for creating and maintaining a cohesive European society.

# GreenScape CE

















Europe











IT AIMS AT: integrating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Green Infrastructure (GI) in the grey infrastructure in 5 CE urban areas, significantly affected by aggravating urban heat island effect: Milano Metropolitan Area, Ptuj, Szeged, Warsaw and Zagreb through peer-to-peer learning, transnational capacity building and participatory decision-making.

**Collaboration** is key to finding the best nature-based solutions for our cities. Through this project, we gain valuable insights that help us implement green infrastructure—making our cities more resilient, sustainable, and livable >>

- Marijo Spajić, project partner





## **GINEVRA**









Europe

Interreg Central 2.540.000,00 € February 2026



Nr. of partners Associates:



Austria, Croatia, Germany, Partner Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovenia

IT AIMS AT: strengthening institutional capacities of small/medium Central European cities in responsible, multi-level governance of transformative innovations that significantly impact integrated territorial development.

# **3P4SSE**







Europe

2.116.156.00 €









IT AIMS AT: addressing regional socioeconomic gaps within the Central Europe (CE) cooperation area by strengthening and cluster social and solidarity economies (SSEs) creating multilevel governance models based on Public-Private Partnership (3Ps) scheme. The specific objective is defining a CE common approach and strategy for regional collaboration forms in SSEs.





ALDA+ actively engages in tender opportunities issued by the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and a wide range of other international donors and institutions. These tenders represent a key strategic avenue for ALDA+ to deliver its high-level expertise in project management, project development, capacity building, and participatory processes.

With a proven track record in winning and implementing competitive tenders, ALDA+ significantly contributes to international cooperation and local governance by offering tailored services such as stakeholder engagement, capacity empowerment, policy advice, training, and technical assistance. Its team of highly qualified professionals brings decades of combined experience in managing complex international projects, ensuring both the technical quality and strategic relevance of the services delivered. The organisation's proactive and professional approach to tendering allows it to forge strong partnerships, ensure quality project delivery, and amplify the impact of donor-funded initiatives across Europe and beyond.



### Council of Europe tenders

ALDA+ has established a long-standing and fruitful cooperation with the Council of Europe, contributing to initiatives that strengthen democratic institutions, foster citizen participation, and support good governance at the local level.

Some of the tenders on which we have been working on and will working in the next years are:

- National Consultancy services for the promotion of local democracy and the localisation of democracy and human rights in the Republic of Moldova.
- Consultancy services to assist central-level institutions in the Western Balkans and Türkiye
  in preparing, drafting, and submitting funding proposals for EU, IPA, and other relevant funding
  tools.
- International Consultancy services in the field of capacity building, policy and legal advice and developing of standards of good governance.
- Consultancy services: international expertise in the fields of multilevel governance and migrants' integration

- Strengthening participatory democracy and human rights at local level in Georgia
- International Consultancy services in the areas of women empowerment, global education and youth cooperation.
- National consultancy services on various aspects of civil participation in decision-making process at local level in Georgia.
- Consultancy services (including technical expertise) in intercultural cities and inclusive integration (policy and strategy advice, evaluation, capacity building and network co-ordination) at local, regional and national levels.
- Consultancy services in the areas of migration and asylum (legislative and policy expertise, capacity building and community outreach) within the Council of Europe action plan on protecting vulnerable persons in the context of migration and asylum (2021-2025) and related activities.
- Consultancy services in the field of **good democratic governance and public financial** management.

### LIFE Svolta Blu Project - Technical Assistance on communication and dissemination

In the framework of the LIFE Svolta Blu project — coordinated by Viacqua S.p.A. and co-funded by the LIFE Programme of the European Union — **ALDA+ provides external technical assistance in the field of communication and dissemination to the project leader, Viacqua S.p.A.** The project promotes sustainable water management in the Vicenza area by piloting a voluntary "blue credit" system that encourages water-saving actions, aquifer recharge, and reduction of water footprints by individuals, companies, and public institutions.

As part of its role, ALDA+ is responsible for a wide range of communication and dissemination activities, including – among many others – the drafting and implementation of the project's communication and dissemination plan, coverage of project events, management of social media channels, creation of newsletters, design of interactive exhibitions, and development of a Water Footprint Calculator to engage and inform the wider public. Through this comprehensive support, ALDA+ ensures strong visibility, public engagement, and long-term impact of the project at local, national, and European levels.

Running from 2024 to 2028, the LIFE Svolta Blu project is a clear example of the technical assistance that ALDA+ offers to its partners. In this initiative, ALDA+ supports the project leader, Viacqua S.p.A.,

by providing expert guidance and implementation in the field of communication and dissemination. This collaboration reflects the broader expertise that ALDA+ brings to institutions, organisations, and local authorities. Beyond communication, ALDA+ delivers a comprehensive range of tailor-made services, including the monitoring of funding opportunities, support in the design and implementation of participatory processes, and consulting in local governance and project development. It also offers direct operational support to public authorities, for instance by helping to establish European programming offices or managing services such as digital hubs, Europe Direct centres, youth initiatives, and tourism development projects. Thanks to its extensive international network, ALDA+ also facilitates stakeholder engagement and strategic partnerships, while ensuring the smooth and professional organisation of events — both online and in person.

Through its integrated and flexible approach, ALDA+ strengthens the capacity of its partners to access resources, foster participation, and deliver impactful, sustainable results.

# + ALDA International School for Local Democracy

From 28 to 30 August 2024, ALDA launched the **first edition of the Summer School on Local Democracy** at Villa Fabris in Thiene (Italy), marking a key milestone in its efforts to promote inclusive and participatory local governance. The event brought together around **30 participants from 12 countries** across Europe, the Balkans, Africa, and Latin America, including youth workers, civil society representatives, local government officials, and activists committed to fostering democratic practices in their communities.

The three-day programme combined **keynote lectures**, **interactive workshops**, **peer-to-peer learning**, and informal exchanges. Topics ranged from the fundamentals of local democracy and good governance to innovative participatory tools and multilevel cooperation. A particularly powerful moment was the session dedicated to **Ukraine**, which included direct testimonies from Mariupol, insights into displaced civic identity, and a broader reflection on how local authorities can act as anchors of resilience in times of war.

Heldentirely in English and free of charge, the Summer School provided a truly international and inclusive environment, reinforcing ALDA's commitment to accessible and impactful learning opportunities. Participants appreciated the balance between theory and practice, as well as the inspiring setting of **Villa Fabris**, which fostered collaboration and dialogue beyond borders.

This first edition served as a **pilot initiative** for ALDA's long-term vision to establish a **permanent International School on Local Democracy**, with Villa Fabris as a training and knowledge hub. The successful outcome of the 2024 Summer School set a strong precedent for future editions, confirming the importance of investing in democratic education to empower local actors and strengthen community resilience.



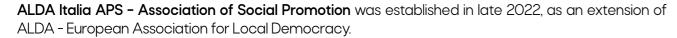




# **ALDA Italia APS**



## Who we are



Led by President Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida, who also serves as Secretary General of ALDA, and Director Mr. Marco Boaria, ALDA Italia aims to solidify its presence and connections within the national territory, becoming catalysts for comprehensive local change.

With a mission aligned with ALDA's overarching goals, ALDA Italia APS focuses on promoting local democracy and citizen participation through targeted and cohesive initiatives. The association serves as a conduit for fostering collaboration and support among local, national, and international stakeholders in areas such as European integration, decentralisation, human rights, social inclusion, sustainable development, and civic engagement.



- Habitat in living landscape

















**DESCRIPTION**: The reference territory for the implementation of the project is contained within the municipalities of Monte di Malo, Cornedo Vicentino and Castelgomberto, in the surroundings of the city of Vicenza (Italy). Within the Natura 2000 network, these municipalities host two Special Conservation Areas (ZSC) which are very important sources of biodiversity and are recognised at European level. These areas are called "Le Poscole" and "Buso della Rana". To protect and preserve these areas more effectively and concretely, the Municipality of Monte di Malo, leader of the project, implemented targeted actions which will allow the creation of a site management plan. The project also forsees support interventions for the enhancement of the **Priaboniano Museum**, an important cultural institution in the area where the collections belonging to this natural area converge. Thanks to the project, participatory paths will be created for the expansion of the Special Conservation Areas "Buso della Rana" and "Le Poscole", with the aim of creating a single and more extensive protected area. This expansion will make it possible to reach an optimal size for the creation of a management plan with a view to enhancing and protecting natural sites.

We will have to ride the wave and take a step to change the mentality of our inhabitants: the potential of our territory is not yet clear, as well as the importance of protecting the environment. It is important to move on together. >>

- Mosè Squarzon, Mayor of Monte di Malo Municipality



### Villa Fabris Bene Comune



ALDA ITALIA APS















IT AIMS AT: giving the community of the Alto Vicentino area the opportunity to once again access spaces for gathering, learning, and personal growth. The project adopts a multidimensional approach, targeting various age groups in a cross-cutting and intergenerational manner. It intersects different dimensions: social/educational, inclusive, and participatory—with particular focus on digital skills.

Willa Fabris is more than just a place—it's a symbol of what happens when a community comes together to learn, grow, and build the future it wants. This project is about giving new life to shared spaces and making sure no one is left behind

- Thiene City Council member



## Cura e Solidarietà - Prospettive dal Basso











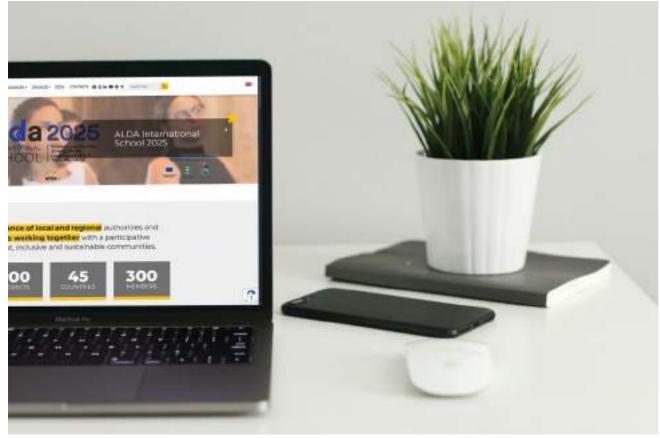
Nr. of partners Associates:





IT AIMS AT: improving the quality of healthcare and legal support services, complementing local healthcare services and enhancing the quality of life for marginalised individuals.

Moreover, the project seeks to involve new doctors to become volunteers and educate the population about the right to health.



# **BEHIND THE SCENES**





# Communication activities

In 2024, ALDA's communication activities played a pivotal role in amplifying our mission, engaging our network, and enhancing visibility across Europe and beyond. A key highlight was our **multilingual campaign for the European Elections**, designed to promote civic participation and counter disinformation, reaching thousands of citizens through videos, testimonies, and digital storytelling.

Throughout the year, ALDA placed a strong emphasis on **showcasing the work of our members**, **Local Democracy Agencies**, **and project partners**, using our platforms to spotlight their initiatives and impact. We expanded our storytelling formats to include podcasts, behind-the-scenes features, and interactive content, while ensuring consistent coverage of key events such as the General Assembly in Barcelona, Civil Society Week, and international conferences.

Internally, communication was also a tool for recognition and cohesion, with new formats introduced to highlight the work of colleagues across offices.

In line with our commitment to transparency and accessibility, we continued to publish high-quality multilingual content, refreshed the structure of our newsletter, and refined our visual identity – reinforcing ALDA's role as a vibrant and responsive voice for local democracy.



# Administration & Budget

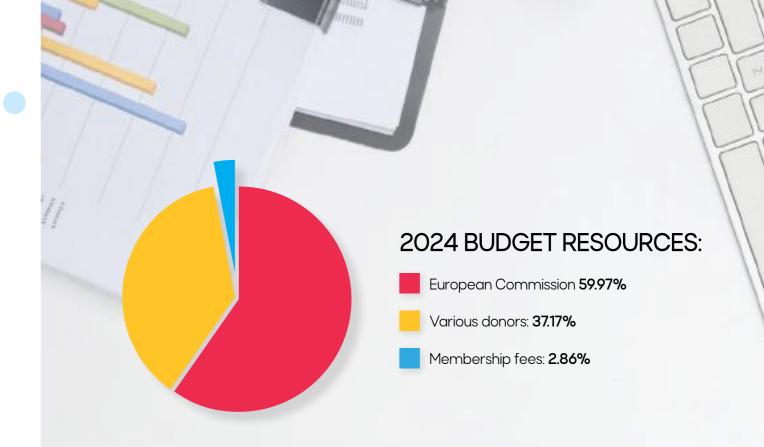
In 2024 ALDA executed an annual an estimated budget of 6.128.994,35€. In this period, ALDA has managed around 70 projects all over Europe and beyond. We were privileged to count on the support of the European Commission, public authorities and private organisations.

The projects, without staff for running and for project, without for administration costs, and without the costs allocated to institutional activities, are 2.168.487€

In 2024 we continued to progress in the consolidation of our financial resilience and solvency, aiming to a balance in our financial situation and a final positive net result for the year 133.282 €), consolidating our reserves, which now reaches about 292.017€.

Moving forward, our financial priorities will focus on increasing our global level of activity responding to the challenges in Europe and in the world, addressing them with the powerful instrument of local democracy and participation of civil society at the local level. The aim is to diversify our funding base by reaching out to new donors and partners in the frame of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030.





### IN ADDITION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, **OUR DONORS IN 2024 WERE:**

- Anna Lindh Foundation
- Concord
- European Parliament
- Fonjep
- Gopa Wordwide consultants
- L'Agence Française de Développement
- Media Diversity Institute

- Mercator Foundation
- The Centre of Expertise of the Council of Europe
- UNDP United Nations Development Program
- The Fons Maillorquì
- United National Funds for Democracy
- University of Padua Program Stede



# Fundraising and Project Design: turning ideas into action

The **Fundraising and Project Design (P&D) Department** plays a central role in sustaining the mission of the ALDA Community by identifying funding opportunities and developing high-quality project proposals.

Organised into two sub-units, the department combines an **international unit**, focused on European and global cooperation, and a **national unit**, which concentrates on initiatives within Italy. The latter also supports the growth of **ALDA Italia APS**, the newest addition to the ALDA network.

Comprising around 15 project designers, the department monitors over 80 donors, including EU funding programmes, international organisations, national ministries, development agencies, foundations, regions, and embassies.

Each year, the P&D team prepares approximately **250 project proposals**, aligning with ALDA's strategic goals, thematic hubs, and geographic priorities. These proposals also reflect the needs of ALDA members and partners, helping to strengthen cooperation within the network and beyond.



### Key Activities of the Department:

- Monitoring Funding Opportunities: Regularly tracking EU and non-EU donor databases to identify relevant calls for proposals that align with ALDA's mission.
- **Network Needs Mapping**: Coordinating internally among project designers (specialised by theme and geography), thematic hub coordinators, the Membership Officer, the General Secretariat, and other stakeholders (e.g. advisory board, partners) to gather input and define priorities.
- Partner Search and Consortium Building: Identifying and engaging relevant, complementary partners to ensure strong, well-balanced project consortia.
- **Proposal Preparation:** Developing solid project ideas grounded in context-specific needs analysis; drafting budgets; collecting administrative documents; and uploading applications via donor portals.
- Contracting and Handover: Once a project is selected for funding, the department prepares the contracting dossier and transfers responsibility to ALDA's Project Management team.
- Follow-up and Capitalisation: Project designers remain involved post-submission to support follow-up actions—scaling up successful initiatives, addressing challenges identified during implementation, and nurturing effective partnerships for future proposals.
- Evaluation and Capacity Building: The P&D team also contributes to the evaluation of regranting schemes and delivers training on EU and non-EU funding, Project Cycle Management, budget design, and other core topics.

Through this comprehensive process, the Fundraising and Project Design Department ensures that ALDA remains at the forefront of innovation, partnership-building, and sustainable impact across Europe and beyond.





# ALDA MEMBERS, MORE BENEFITS, MORE INVOLVEMENT, MORE CHANGE

ALDA is a unique membership-based organisation at the European level. Today ALDA counts 290 members from 33 countries in Europe and its neighbourhood, with 34 new members joining us in 2024!

We firmly believe that fostering collaboration between local and regional authorities alongside civil society organisations is crucial for having a resilient local democracy and advancing citizen engagement. This principle is reflected in our diverse membership, which comprises both local and regional authorities as well as civil society organisations spanning across the entire extended European region.

Currently, the network is composed primarily of **non-profit organisations**, which represent the largest group with 131 members. Local authorities make up the second-largest group with 98 members, including 87 municipalities, 2 provinces, and 9 regions—demonstrating engagement across multiple levels of governance. In addition, 30 associations of local authorities contribute to the network, playing a key role in linking grassroots actors with institutional frameworks and promoting inter-territorial cooperation.





2024 was a year filled with vibrant activities for and with our members. The highlight of the year was the Membership Days, held on December 4th, 5th, and 6th. For the first time, ALDA offices in Vicenza, Brussels, Skopje, Chisinau, and Tunis opened their doors simultaneously on the first day to host roundtable discussions with members. This provided a valuable opportunity to discuss and align strategies, gather feedback, and strengthen connections among members.





ALDA was proud to attend the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities on March 19, 2024, where our historic member, ADL Zavidovići Association, received the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award 2023.





# Members' benefits

Being a member of ALDA means first of all sharing our mission: the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. Our network of members embrace our founding values: decentralisation, a strong and independent civil society, respect of human rights, tolerance, and solidarity, standing against speeches of hatred and intolerance, cross-border cooperation and free movement. ALDA is also committed to promote gender equality and avoid all forms of discrimination. In order to do so, ALDA is implementing a comprehensive Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Policy, as approved by the General Assembly of ALDA in June 2023, whose guidelines members of ALDA are invited to share.

Being a member of ALDA means first of all being guided by a shared mission. But it also means enjoying the following services:

### Projects development and funding opportunities research:

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

### Being part of a consolidated European network, ALDA provides support in the relations with:

- European Commission, Council of Europe, UN Agencies, and other public and private international institutions
- Local and regional authorities, as well as national governments in the enlarged Europe, European officials, MEPs, and other relevant international authorities
- Visibility through a European network counting 300 members (local and regional authorities, CSOs, associations of local authorities)
- Support in the organization of study and networking visits in Brussels, and all over Europe
- Online presence for our members on ALDA's website, and presentation to the network of contacts via the newsletter
- Access to EU experts, professional networks, academic organizations

### Information and structures, providing wide dissemination of our and our members' activities:

- Promotion of members' activities, initiatives and events at the European level through ALDA's communication channels (monthly newsletter sent in six languages to over 12.600 contacts, website with over 360.000 visitors/year, social networks, webinars and ALDA Talks, publications and information materials)
- Access to information points on EU and active citizenship (info-points based in 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)

### Capacity building, to further 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 specialized trainings (e.g. Master classes on EU programmes, trainings, etc.)
- Participation in ALDA working groups (on Citizens Participation and Local Governance, Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Mediterranean Area)
- Priority in offers of internship and job-shadowing, and in the programme "Volunteers for Democracy"
- Special rates for the services provided by ALDA+

For further information about ALDA membership, please contact: <a href="mailto:membership@alda-europe.eu">membership@alda-europe.eu</a>



# Members of ALDA



#### Municipalities

- Albaida Municipality, Spain
- Altavilla Vicentina Municipality, Italy
- Bar Municipality, Montenegro
- Bari Municipality, Italy
- Belfiore Municipality, Italy
- Birau Municipality, Malta
- Brescia Municipality, Italy
- Budva Municipality, Montenegro
- Bydgoszcz Municipality, Poland
- Čajetina Municipality. Serbia
- Castelfranco Emilia Municipality, Italy
- Centar Municipality, North Macedonia
- Chernivtsi Municipality. Ukraine Cimislia Municipality, Moldova
- Dnipro Municipality, Ukraine
- Durrës Municipality, Albania
- Edremit Municipality, Türkiye
- Etterbeek Municipality, Belgium
- Gallio Municipality, Italy
- Gazzo Municipality, Italy
- Gdansk Municipality, Poland ■ Gjilan Municipality, Kosovo
- Grez-Doiceau Municipality,
- Belgium
- Grosuplie Municipality, Slovenia
- Hani i Elezit Municipality, Kosovo
- Herceg Novi Municipality, Montenegro
- leper Municipality, Belgium
- Isola Vicentina Municipality, Italy Ivančna Gorica Municipality.
- Slovenia
- Izmir Metropolitan Municipality. Türkive
- Kairouan Municipality, Tunisia
- Karpos Municipality, North Macedonia

- Karsiyaka Municipality, Türkiye
- Khoni Municipality, Georgia Kniaževac Municipality, Serbia
- Konak Municipality. Türkiye
- Kotor Municipality, Montenegro Kremenchuk Municipality. Ukraine
- Kryvyi Rih Municipality, Ukraine
- Kutaisi Municipality, Georgia
- Labin Municipality. Croatia ■ Lavarone Municipality, Italy
- Lavis Municipality, Italy
- Lendinara Municipality. Italy
- Lousada Municipality, Portugal Marano Vicentino Municipality, Italy
- Mariupol Municipality. Ukraine
- Merefa Municipality, Ukraine
- Mesagne Municipality, Italy Mioveni Municipality, Romania
- Modena Municipality, Italy Mostar Municipality, Bosnia and
- Herzegoving Niksic Municipality, Montenegro
- Novaci Municipality, North Macedonia
- Novo Mesto Municipality, Slovenia
- Novomoskovsk Municipality. Ukraine
- Oberhausen Municipality, Germany
- Odesa Municipality. Ukraine
- Osiiek Municipality. Croatia Ozuraeti Municipality. Georgia
- Ploeuc-l'Hermitage Municipality, France
- Poitiers Municipality. France
- Poltava Municipality. Ukraine
- Recoaro Terme Municipality, Italy
- Roskovec Municipality. Albania Samtredia Municipality, Georgia
- Santorso Municipality, Italy
- Sceaux Municipality, France

- Shtime Municipality, Kosovo
- Sireti Municipality, Moldova
- Sisak Municipality. Croatia ■ Slavutvch Municipality, Ukraine
- Subotica Municipality, Serbia
- Thiene Municipality, Italy
- Torri di Quartesolo Municipality,
- Trebnie Municipality. Slovenia
- Trento Municipality, Italy
- Valongo Municipality, Portugal
- Vicenza Municipality. Italia
- Vimercate Municipality, Italy
- Vinnytsia Municipality , Ukraine
- Vushtrri Municipality. Kosovo Wrocław Municipality, Poland
- Zelenodolsk Municipality, Ukraine
- Zoersel Municipality, Belgium
- Zugdidi Municipality, Georgia Zualiano Municipality, Italy

### Provinces or Counties

- DIBA Diputació de Barcelona.
- Harahita County. Romania

### Regions

- Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Italy
- Grand Est Region, France
- Hauts-de-France Region, France
- Istria Region, Croatia
- Kuyavia and Pomerania Region, Poland
- Lower Silesia Region, Poland ■ Poltava Region . Ukraine
- Rivne Region, Ukraine
- Volyn Region, Ukraine

#### Associations of Local Authorities

- ACR+ Association of Cities and Regions for Sustainable Resource Management, Belgium
- AER Assembly of European Regions, Belgium
- AFCCRE French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, France
- AKM Association of Kosovo Municipalities, Kosovo
- All-Ukrainian Association of Communities, Ukraine AMR - Romanian Association of Municipalities.
- Romania ■ ASMEL - Associazione per la Sussidiarietà e la Modernizzazione degli Enti Locali, Italy
- Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities, Ukraine
- Association of Local Autonomy of Albania, Albania
- Central Stara Planina Regional Association of Municipalities, Bulgaria
- Congress of Self-Government of Ukraine, Ukraine
- Croatian County Association, Croatia
- EGTC Amphictyony, Greece
- Energy Cities The European association of local authorities in energy transition, France
- ENTO European Network of Training Organisations for Local and Regional Authorities, France
- European Municipalities Association Horta Sud, Spain ■ FELCOS Umbria, Italy
- Fons Català de Cooperació al Desenvolupament, Spain Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació, Spain
- Fons Menorquí de Cooperació, Spain
- Fons Pitiús de Cooperació, Spain
- Leader France. France
- Local Councils' Association, Malta Marmara Municipalities Union, Türkive
- NALAG National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia, Georgia
- Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities,
- UBBSLA Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities, Bulgaria

- UMS Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, Slovakia
- Union of Rural Communes of Poland, Poland
- Vinnytsia Regional Association of Local Self-Government Bodies, Ukraine
- ZELS Association of the units of local-self government of the Republic of North Macedonia, North Macedonia

#### Civil Society Organisations

- Accademia Olimpica, Italy
- AEXCID Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation, Spain
- Agora Central Europe, Czech Republic
- Agricoltura è Vita Campania, Italy
- AlPA Albanian Institute of Public Affairs, Albania
- Albania Sustainable Development Organisation, Albania
- All Digital, Belgium
- Alpine Pearls, Austria
- Altiero Spinelli Institute of Federalist Studies, Italy
- ANTS National Interests Advocacy Network. Ukraine
- Arial Gymnasium SSD. Italy
- Association for the Development of Voluntary Work Novo Mesto, Slovenia
- Association of Finance Officers of the Local Governments and Public Enterprises, North Macedonia
- Association of Ukrainian Civic Initiatives. Ukraine Associazione Luciano Lama ODV. Italy
- Associazione Olivicoltori Sanniti. Italy
- Associazione Paese dell'Acaua, Italy
- Associazione per l'Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale a Zavidovici, Italy
- Aster Tre Italy
- AVMAD Associazione Veneto Malattia di Alzheimer e Demenze Degenerative, Italy
- Azienda Sanitaria Provinciale di Ragusa, Italy
- Biosphaera. Italy

- Brain Associazione Traumi Cranici. Italy
- Brindisi Produce S.C.A.R.L., Italy
- Campana dei Caduti Foundation, Italy
- Caracol Olol Jackson Onlus, Italy
- Casa dei Sentieri e dell'Ecologia Integrale, Italy
- CEE CN Central and Eastern European Citizens Network. Slovakia
- Center for Civic Cooperation, Bosnia and Herzegoving
- Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia
- Center for Legal Civic Initiatives, Albania
- Centoragai. Italy
- CIA Confederazione Italiana Aaricoltori -Benevento, Italy
- CIAC Centro Immigrazione, Asilo, Cooperazione Internazionale di Parma e Provincia. Italy
- CitizensACT Centre of Active Citizens for Sustainable Development, Cyprus
- CIVILSCAPE, Germany
- Climate Coalition, Belgium
- Clube Intercultural Europeu, Portugal
- Communia Rete permanente per i beni comuni, Italy
- Coro Pueri Cantores del Veneto. Italy
- COSM Consorzio Operativo Salute Mentale Società Coop. Sociale, Italy
- CRISP Crisis Simulation for Peace, Germany
- CSV Lazio Centro di Servizio per Il Volontariato del Lazio, Italy
- CSV Vicenza Centro di Servizi per il Volontariato di Vicenza, Italy
- CUT Centro Universitario Teatrale Trieste, Italy
- Danube 1245. Serbia
- Development and investment center of the Uman Municipality, Ukraine
- Development Centre Novo Mesto, Slovenia
- Diesis Network, Belgium
- Districte 11 City to City, Spain
- DURA Dubrovnik Development Agency. Croatia
- DYPALL Network, Portugal
- ECHO Association for Promoting Active Citizenship. Croatia
- ECIT Foundation (European Citizens' Rights, Involvement and Trust), Belgium

- ECN The European Crowdfunding Network AISBL, Belaium
- ECWM European Centre for Youth Cooperation, Poland
- ENAIP Veneto Impresa Sociale, Italy
- EPA European Projects Association ASBL, Belgium
- Euni Partners. Bulgaria
- EuroBelarus, Lithuania
- European Buddhist Union. Belaium
- Europimpulse Network, Spain
- FACIAS Foundation for the Defense of Citizens Against State Abuse Romania
- Fairtrade Municipalities. The Netherlands
- Federazione Trentina della Cooperazione, Italy
- FGPEP Fédération Générale des Pupilles de l'Enseignement Public, France
- Film Festival della Lessinia, Italy
- Fondazione Comunitaria di Agrigento e Trapani, Italy
- Foster Europe, Austria
- GAL Alto Tammaro: Terre dei Tratturi, Italy
- GEA Cooperativa Sociale, Italy
- GEYC Group of the European Youth for Change, Romania
- Globus et Locus. Italy
- GSI Italia, Italy
- Hub Nicosia, Cyprus
- Human Rights Cities Network, Belgium
- Humanitas, Italy
- Lam Buchanets, Ukraine
- ICEI Institute for International Economic Cooperation, Italy
- InnovED, Greece
- Institute for Albanian Municipalities, Albania
- IPEMED Mediterranean Economic Foresight Institute. Croatia
- IPRES Foundation. Italy
- IRS Institute for Social Research, Italy
- ISBEM Euro Mediterranean Biomedical Scientific Institute Italy
- Kallipolis, Italy
- KASAIPT Kapacity, Adaptability, Solidarity, Adventure. Portugal
- KITEV Kultur im Turm e.V., Germany
- La Mente Comune APS, Italy

- La Piccionaia, Italy
- La Vigna Cooperativa Sociale, Italy
- Labsus Laboratorio per la sussidiarietà, Italy
- LabTS Laboratorio di cultura politica del terzo settore, Italy
- Le cose che vanno. Italy
- Les Têtes de l'Art. France
- LIKE Villes et régions européennes pour la culture,
- Margherita Società Cooperativa Sociale Onlus, Italy
- Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly Foundation, Spain
- Merkury Foundation, Poland
- MFE Verong European Federalist Movement in Verona, Italy
- MitOst e.V. F. Germany
- Mouvement Européen Vaucluse et environs. France
- Mundus, Spain
- Netural Società Cooperativa, Italy
- New Life Association. Türkive
- Nicolò Rezzara Cultural Institute, Italy
- Notus, Spain
- Peace Volunteering Network, Albania
- Pedemontana Veneta e Colli, Italy
- Platonia Foundation, Spain
- Polis Vestina, Italy
- Progettarte Italy
- Progetto Zattera Blu, Italy
- Replay Network, Italy
- Rinascita Cooperativa Sociale, Italy
- SAMA Street Art Museum Amsterdam. The Netherlands
- Samarcanda Cooperativa Sociale Onlus, Italy
- SEGA Coalition of youth organizations, North Macedonia
- SLOGA Slovenian Global Action, Slovenia
- SOS Malta Solidarity Overseas Service, Malta
- Stand Up for Europe, Belgium
- Studio Progetto Società Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS.
- Teatro Comunale Città di Vicenza Foundation, Italy
- TOC Association for the Development of Sustainable Communities, Serbia
- Trentino con i Balcani, Italy
- Udhëtim i Lirë Liberi di Viaggiare, Albania
- Urban Research Institute Albania

- WeYouth Organization, Tunisia
- WTFO Europe European Branch of the World Fair Trade Organisation, Belgium
- Zagorje-Sutla Local Action Group, Croatia

### Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs)

- LDA Armenia Armenia
- LDA Center South Serbia (LDA CSS), Serbia
- LDA Edremit. Türkive
- LDA Georgia, Georgia
- LDA Kharkiv Region, Ukraine
- LDA Kosovo, Kosovo
- LDA Mariupol Ukraine
- LDA Moldova in Cimislia, Moldova
- LDA Montenegro, Montenegro
- LDA Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- LDA Odesa, Ukraine
- LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region, Ukraine
- LDA Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- LDA Subotica. Serbia
- I DA Tunisia Tunisia
- LDA Vinnytsia, Ukraine
- LDA Zavidovici, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- OP Brtonigla-Verteneglio, Croatia
- OP Sisak, Croatia

#### **Education entities**

- Accademia d'Archi Arrigoni, Italy
- Faculty of Organisation Studies in Novo Mesto. Slovenia
- IUAV University of Venice, Italy
- Mariupol University. Ukraine
- Paulon International School, Italy
- University of Customs and Finance, Ukraine

### Single members

- Barbara Elia. Italy
- Dobrica Milovanović, Serbia
- Fischer Dorothee, Spain
- Roger Lawrence, United Kingdom

186 Activity Report 2024



# GET INVOLVED - ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP STARTS WITH YOU!





Friends of ALDA

If you believe that local democracy is key to better, more sustainable local communities, ALDA's doors are open to you. You can support our activities with a small donation starting from 20 €/year and become a Friend of ALDA.

You will always be informed about our initiatives, receive our monthly and thematic newsletters, be invited to meetings and events, and receive the E-card 'FRIENDS of ALDA' as symbol of the relationship and trust with our Association. The card will also ensure discounts on training opportunities and other activities organised by ALDA and ALDA+

For further information please contact alda@alda-europe.eu



# Volunteers for Democracy

Would you like to support local democracy, citizens' participation, and human rights? You can help us with your skills and time through an ad-hoc volunteering agreement!



Volunteering with ALDA means contributing to local democracy in Europe and its Neighbourhood, as well as developing new skills, practicing languages, and being part of a fast-paced, international association. Particularly motivated volunteers will have the opportunity to attend international events for the association.

To join the programme, send an email to <u>alda@alda-europe.eu</u>, attaching your CV, motivation letter, and description of how you would like to contribute to ALDA's activities.



# Citizen journalists

Have your say and express your opinion on issues you find interesting or worth to be publicly discussed. Our goal is to encourage and support active citizen participation in the enlarged Europe, thus empowering all Europeans to contribute to the improvement of their communities, and of the whole Europe. Contributions of citizen journalists will be disseminated via ALDA's communication channels.

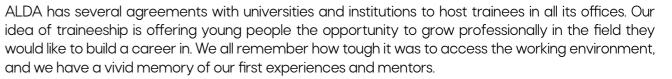
### Don't be shy, Europe needs your voice!

For information or articles submission, please contact alda@alda-europe.eu





# Traineeship opportunities



That's why we offer traineeships within our organisation, and make sure they represent a cornerstone in trainees' development. We are not looking for people to make coffee – we do manage this crucial task pretty well. We need people with fresh ideas and creativity, enthusiasm, and willingness to be part of the team of ALDA. Tutors and staff make sure that the traineeship develops personal and professional skills of the youngsters, and a variety of support initiatives are in place to support our former interns.

If you are interested in establishing an agreement with a University, School, or other institution, please contact internships-alda@alda-europe.eu



### Strasbourg

Council of Europe 1, Av. de l'Europe F-67075 Strasbourg, France +33 3 90 21 45 93 aldastrasbourg@alda-europe.eu

#### **Brussels**

Rue de la Loi 26, Mercator Building 4th Floor - Salon for European Civic Organisations Brussels 1040, Belgium aldabrussels@alda-europe.eu

#### Vicenza

Corso Palladio 76 36100 Vicenza, Italy +39 04 44 54 01 46 aldavicenza@alda-europe.eu



www.alda-europe.eu



### Skopje

Bld. Partizanski odredi 43B/1-5 1000 Skopje, North Macedonia +389 (0) 2 6091 060 aldaskopje@alda-europe.eu

#### Chisingu

Str. București Nr. 93 Of. 3. Chișinău, MD-2012 Republic of Moldova aldamoldova@alda-europe.eu

#### **Tunis**

Rue Brahim Jaffel, Imm. Azaiez 2 floor, Apt 4 El Menzah 4, Tunis 1082, Tunisia aldatunisia@alda-europe.eu

### **ALDA INSTITUTIONAL CHANNELS**





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alda\* - European Association for Local Democracy

### **ALDA PROJECT CHANNELS**



