

Membership Infopack



Promoting good governance and
citizens participation at the local level in
Europe and beyond since 1999

Introduction

ALDA - the European Association for Local Democracy is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizens participation at the local level. ALDA in particular focuses on activities that facilitate **cooperation between local authorities and civil society**. Everyday, we develop projects with our members to support their activities for the good of the whole community.

ALDA was established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and has now established cooperation with the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions.

ALDA is funded through membership fees and project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe and other public and private donors.

ALDA is a membership-based organisation gathering **310 members** coming from almost **40 countries**. ALDA members include **local and regional authorities, associations of local authorities, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and academic institutions**.

Besides members, ALDA Community counts 6 offices 19 Local Democracy Agencies in Neighbouring Countries. Activities of ALDA, following the ambitious aim of "going global", now cover countries in sub-saharan Africa and Central Asia.





What we do

ALDA conducts its activities through concrete actions:

- Developing and managing its own projects (and members' projects) in the field of good governance and citizen participation advocating towards the implementation of the Agenda 2030 at the local level;
- Coordinating and supporting the 19 Local Democracy Agencies and 2 Operational Partners;
- Cooperating as official partners of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. Working as long-term partner of the *Europe for Citizens Programme* and *Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme* and other key policies and programmes of the European Commission;
- Leading advocacy and lobbying activities raising the voice of its members and partners to orient local, national and European policies in our field of activities to make a stronger and more cohesive Europe and neighbourhood.

ALDA works through a participatory approach and the method of multilateral decentralised cooperation, always focusing on strong partnerships between Local Authorities and civil society organisations.

Thematic Hubs

Following its fast growth in recent years, ALDA has become more and more active in many areas. Thematic Hubs ensure a holistic approach in the governance of the Association and make the involvement of members more systematic. Discover the [Thematic Hubs of ALDA](#) and join the activities!

Citizens Engagement



The Hub wants to strengthen citizens' participation by providing deep knowledge on the topic and experience-based learning and tools.

Digital & Innovation



The Hub supports a digital transition able to guarantee a democratic, inclusive and informed citizen participation.

Gender, Inclusion & Human Rights



The Hub employs an Intersectional Approach to address the compounding experiences of discrimination arising from overlapping social identities.

Migration



The Hub analyses how migration is evolving and how to implement effective policies and responses to address this multifaceted issue at multiple levels.

Youth Empowerment & Education



The Hub promotes active engagement of young people and education opportunities focusing on disadvantaged youth.

Environment & Climate



The Hub supports a green transition at the service of the fight against climate change and environmental degradation.

Territorial & Local Development



The Hub empowers citizens through decentralised decision-making, fostering social cohesion and ensuring equitable opportunities for local development.

Only members of ALDA access the services of the Thematic Hubs and enjoy targeted engagement in the fields of the Hubs.



BEING A MEMBER OF ALDA

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, whose guidelines members of ALDA are invited to share.

**Become an
#ALDAmember
and get
connected with
an international
network of
local
stakeholders,
supporting
each other as a
one big
community.**

As an ALDA member you will access the following services:

PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Based on members' eligibility, priority on opportunities offered to be partner of projects, or to join consortia built to apply for tenders in various fields.

Support of ALDA multilingual staff in the project proposal development phase (EN, FR, IT, SR, MK, RU) and in finding project partners among the members' network of ALDA

Access to subgrant opportunities in the framework programmes of ALDA (in 2026, within ALDA's Operating Grant of the CERV programme, 12 members of ALDA will be granted a total of 180,000 €)

2. EUROPEAN REPRESENTATION IN BRUSSELS

Advocacy activities with European and international institutions in support of public interests, in collaboration with local, regional, and national governments in the enlarged Europe.

Information and dissemination on funding opportunities and European calls for proposals accessible to members.

Visibility, promotion, and networking through ALDA's European network (with hundreds of members and partners), our communication channels, and events organized or co-promoted with European institutions (General Assembly, Festivals, international conferences, project activities, etc.).

Free use of ALDA's fully equipped offices and meeting rooms in Brussels (Belgium), Vicenza (Italy), and, subject to approval by the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg (France) for specific meetings.

3. GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE, INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION

Voting rights during the annual ALDA General Assembly and eligibility as member of the Governing Board of ALDA

Regular updates via ALDA communication channels, particularly our monthly newsletter in 10 languages: English, French, Bosniac/Serbian/Croatian, Italian, Arabic, Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Georgian and Armenian

Availability of ALDA and EU publications; access to the information points on EU and active citizenship

Guaranteed visibility through ALDA's communication channels, including online presence on the website and introduction to the network of contacts.

4. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Information on funding programmes and opportunities (training sessions and dissemination of information)

Participation in international events (conferences, seminars, webinars etc.) promoted by ALDA on good local governance, project management and development, communication

Access to the Thematic Hub services: targeted call for partners, thematic training sessions, participation to events, dissemination of publication and papers

Priority in offers of internship and job-shadowing

ALDA +

ALDA + Srl Benefit Corporation SB is the benefit company exclusively owned by ALDA which aims to pursue purposes of common benefit and to operate in a responsible, sustainable and transparent way towards people, communities, territories and the environment.

Founded in 2017 to capitalise on ALDA's twenty years' experience in projects development, implementation and management, ALDA+ is today ALDA's operational tool mainly dedicated to delivering:

- Consultancy on areas related to local government
- Technical assistance on Project Cycle Management (development, management and reporting of funded projects)
- Mediation and assistance in the management of participatory processes within the communities
- Direct management of public services
- Organisation of study visits for institutions, international organisations and Civil society
- Training courses (participatory processes, European policies, European programmes and sources of financing, development and management of European projects, financial reporting, etc.)

Visit the [dedicated webpage](#) for more information.

If members need specific assistance in these fields, ALDA + can provide them with targeted expertise and services at a reduced cost.

Contact

For more information please visit the dedicated webpage at <https://www.aldaplus.it/> or contact ALDA's membership officer by email at membership@alda-europe.eu or by phone at +39 0444540146.



HOW BECOME AN ALDA MEMBER



CONTACT AND INFORMATION

After a first contact with a potential new member, the application form and the Infopack are sent to the organization.



MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTS

The potential member sends the completed application form with a copy of the last approved budget, a letter of motivation and a short description of its experiences in participative democracy.



MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Potential members are invited to attend an online meeting with ALDA Governing Board to introduce themselves and their candidature.



APPROVAL

The Governing Board approves new members. After the online meeting, new members receive the official letter of welcome to ALDA and are invited to pay the annual fee.

Documents are to be sent to membership@alda-europe.eu

Members are approved on a continuous basis, usually every two months, by the ALDA's **Governing Board**.

The candidates will be requested to present their application in an **online meeting** after which the Board will decide the membership status.



The applicant is considered a full member of ALDA once the applicant receives the **formal approval** from ALDA's Governing Board.

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



The new member will receive the instructions for payment of the fees, which is calculated on the basis of your Association/Organisation/Municipality's **last approved budget**, to assure all our members a fairer fee allocation and enabling smaller organisations to join ALDA and enrich our network.

The grid with the amount of the annual fee is attached to the [application form](#).

Contact

For more information please visit the official website of ALDA at www.alda-europe.eu and the link: www.alda-europe.eu/become-a-member or contact ALDA's membership officer by email at membership@alda-europe.eu or by phone at +39 0444540146.



OUR MEMBERS TALK ABOUT US



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

Erik Fuhlbrugge, Zoersel Municipality (Belgium)

"Civil society organisations like ALDA play a critical role in fostering active citizenship and creating a sense of togetherness in Europe. with ALDA ever since the 2019 European elections campaign has been a real pleasure. Together, we brainstorm ideas, share materials and support each other's campaigns to communicate about Europe better to citizens and encourage their democratic participation at EU-level"



Shevani Murray, Civil Society Outreach Unit, DG COMM, European Parliament

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

