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SEEDS OF DEMOCRACY

Connecting Places and Communities

Call For Proposals

**4 March
Overview and Q&A**

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The Call



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The CERV Programme

The Call falls under the umbrella of the CERV programme, which seeks to support and develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law.

ALDA

ALDA aims at strengthening a worldwide global alliance of local and regional authorities and civil society actors working together in local communities, in order to make them more resilient, socially and economically successful, more inclusive, sustainable and fair.

12 INITIATIVES FUNDED



TIMELINE



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● **17/02/2026 -
01/04/2026**

THE CALL IS OPEN

The proposals must be submitted
in English by the **01st of April 2026**
at 23:59 CET filling in the Online
Application Form.

● **16/04/2026**

THE RESULTS ARE OUT

The projects to be awarded and the
exact amount of financial support
will be decided by the **Selection
Committee (SeC)**.

● **16/04/2026 -
23/10/2026**

IMPLEMENTATION

The beneficiaries can implement
their activities within the scope of
the **Partnership Agreement**.

Thematic Focus



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This call for proposals aims to support initiatives and actions aimed at **strengthening local democracy** and local communities and at enhancing **citizens' active participation in democratic life**. Supported actions should promote **inclusive, participatory and community-led processes** that engage local actors and decision-makers, encourage a sense of belonging and shared responsibility, and translate European rights and values into tangible local practices.

ALDA'S THEMATIC HUB PRIORITIES

The actions **must align with the priorities set by ALDA's thematic hubs**. Proposals should clearly identify **one thematic hub** under which their action falls and how it contributes to the overarching goals within that theme.

Values of non-discrimination and equality (including gender equality), and the promotion of inclusivity must be integrated in **all foreseen actions**, regardless of their specific objectives. In fact, proposals should clearly articulate how these values will be integrated into the project design, implementation, and outcomes.

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

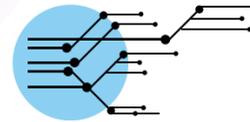


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ALDA Thematic Hubs



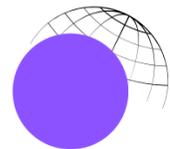
ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE



DIGITAL & INNOVATION



GENDER, INCLUSION & HUMAN RIGHTS



MIGRATION



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & EDUCATION



TERRITORIAL & LOCAL DEVELOPEMENT

ALDA THEMATIC HUBS



Environment & Climate

- **CLIMATE JUSTICE AND INCLUSIVE TRANSITION:** SUPPORTING ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING THAT IS INCLUSIVE AND “LEAVES NO ONE BEHIND”, RECOGNISING THE ROLE OF CITIZENS IN SHAPING ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS AND ENSURING MARGINALISED GROUPS ARE INVOLVED IN THE GREEN TRANSITION.
- **LOCAL CITIZENS’ ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION:** STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AMONG LOCAL ACTORS AND PROMOTING COMMUNITY-BASED CLIMATE INITIATIVES AND PARTICIPATORY CLIMATE ACTIVITIES.

ALDA THEMATIC HUBS



Digital &
Innovation

- **ONLINE PARTICIPATION AND E-GOVERNANCE** TO MAKE LOCAL DECISION-MAKING MORE TRANSPARENT AND INCLUSIVE.
- **MEDIA & INFORMATION LITERACY**, INCLUDING PREBUNKING/DEBUNKING DISINFORMATION.

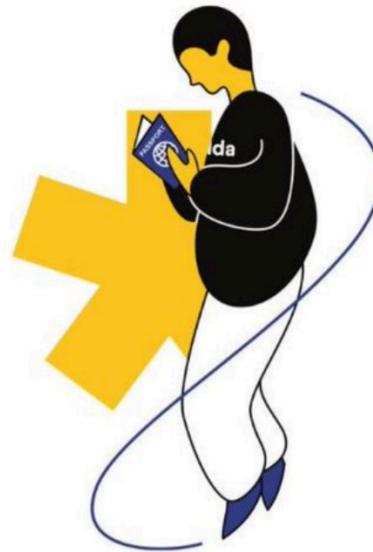
ALDA THEMATIC HUBS



Gender, Inclusion & Human Rights

- **ADVANCING GENDER-RESPONSIVE CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND GOVERNANCE.** SUPPORT INITIATIVES THAT ENHANCE WOMEN'S, YOUNG GIRLS' AND MARGINALISED GROUP'S REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS, LEADERSHIP ROLES AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.
- **PROMOTE AND FOSTER HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES THAT PROTECT AND ADVOCATE FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS,** COMBAT DISCRIMINATION AND SUPPORT MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION, DIALOGUE AND COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES THAT CHALLENGE STEREOTYPES AND SYSTEMIC EXCLUSION.
- **COUNTERING HATE SPEECH AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE:** CAMPAIGNS, TRAINING AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS THAT CHALLENGE HARMFUL NARRATIVES AND PROMOTE SAFE, RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENTS.

ALDA THEMATIC HUBS



Migration

- SUPPORT **ACTIVE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION AND LOCAL INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH MIGRANT BACKGROUNDS** (IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, UNDOCUMENTED, DIASPORA, ON THE MOVE WITH LIVING MIGRATION EXPERIENCE) **IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES** STARTING FROM THE LOCAL LEVEL.
- PROMOTE **INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES** AT THE LOCAL LEVEL THAT FOSTER **INCLUSION AND BRING BENEFITS TO BOTH MIGRANT AND HOST COMMUNITIES**.
- **CAPACITY-BUILDING, KNOWLEDGE-SHARING**, COMBAT **MIS/DISINFORMATION**, DE-CENTRALIZED AND DECOLONIZED APPROACHES TOWARD INTEGRATION, ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE **POSITIVE NARRATIVES** FOR KEY ACTORS WORKING IN THE MIGRATION SECTOR.

ALDA THEMATIC HUBS



Youth Empowerment & Education

- ADVANCE THE **CAPABILITIES AND POLITICAL EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE** TO ENSURE THEIR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LIFE AND SOCIETY.
- ENCOURAGE AND **SUPPORT LOCAL DEMOCRATIC ACTORS WORKING WITH AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.**
- ENSURE THE REPRESENTATION OF THESE LOCAL DEMOCRATIC ACTORS AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL.

ALDA THEMATIC HUBS



Territorial & Local Development

- PROMOTING CONCRETE INITIATIVES ABOUT SDGS LOCALISATION, IN PARTICULAR FOCUSED ON SDG11 - MAKE **CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE**
- INCREASING KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIMENTING **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION ON URBAN REGENERATION AND COMMON USES OF PUBLIC SPACES**
- CONTRIBUTING TO **TERRITORIAL PROMOTION AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**, ESPECIALLY ENHANCING LOCAL PRODUCTIVE, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL CHAINS (FOR INSTANCE, SUSTAINABLE TOURISM, HISTORICAL/CULTURAL ROUTES)

Eligibility



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- **Be a legal entity, private non profit organisation (private body)**
- **Be established in a Member State of the EU;**
- **Respect EU values as laid down in Art. 2 of the Treaty on European Union and the EU Charter of fundamental rights;**
- **Be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action, not acting as an intermediary;**
- **Be a member of ALDA before the launch of this call**
- **Commit to ALDA's "Gender Equality and anti discrimination policy" and to sign the statements for members, if they have yet to do so.**

Eligible Activities



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**AWARENESS RAISING
ACTIVITIES**

**EXCHANGE OF GOOD
PRACTICES**

**TRAINING AND
CAPACITY-BUILDING
ACTIVITIES**

**CREATIVE AND
CULTURAL ACTIONS**

**INITIATIVES OF
COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FACILITATING
THE INTEGRATION WITH
LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND
UNIVERSITIES**

**ACTIVITIES THAT INCREASE
THE INVOLVEMENT OF
CITIZENS AND CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATIONS**

with local, regional, and national governments, with a focus on shaping policies that foster sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities.

**PROMOTION AND
DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES**

Not Eligible



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ACTIONS CONCERNED ONLY OR MAINLY WITH INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIPS FOR PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS ETC

ACTIONS SUPPORTING POLITICAL PARTIES

ACTIONS CONCERNED ONLY OR MAINLY WITH INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDIES OR TRAINING COURSES

ACTIONS WHICH CONSIST EXCLUSIVELY OR PRIMARILY IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, E.G. LAND, BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES, EXCEPT IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

ACTIONS INTENDED TO RAISE FUNDS OR PROMOTE THE VISIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT OR ITS PARTNER(S)

ACTIONS WHICH DISCRIMINATE - EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, AGAINST INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS OF PEOPLE

ACTIONS INCLUDING PROSELYTISM

CORE FUNDING OF THE APPLICANT OR (WHERE RELEVANT) ITS PARTNERS.

ACTIONS CONSISTING MAINLY OF RESEARCH OR OF STUDY.

Target Group



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CITIZENS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 18 AND 30 YEARS OLD

MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

people with a migrant background, Roma, Sinti and Travellers people, girls and women, LGBTIQ+ people, gender minorities, people with Physical/Mental/Sensorial barriers

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Grant



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15.000 Euro each

12 Projects

**The sub granting
scheme will
cover 100 % of
the total project
budget.**



Grant

The structure for the budget

The form is a *mixed-budget based*, the reimbursement is on the basis of actual eligible costs plus a percentage for the personnel costs.

To be **eligible**, the costs:

- are incurred during the **lifetime of the submitted proposal** and partnership agreement
- are **indicated** in the estimated overall budget of the submitted proposal
- are **necessary** for the implementation of the project
- are **identifiable and verifiable**, in particular being recorded in the accounting records
- comply with the requirements of **applicable tax and social legislation**.
- are **real costs, reasonable, justified**
- they are **not covered through EU grants** in the form of contribution to unit costs, lump sums or flat-rate financing.

Grant

For the Personnel costs as flat rate contribution:

The costs for personnel that will be considered as “eligible costs” are all costs incurred by the beneficiary which meet all of the following criteria:

- They must be declared under the budget line Personnel costs as planned in the application phase
- They must **not cover other kind of costs** apart than Personnel costs. Consultants are not eligible
- They must **fulfil the general eligibility conditions** for the type of cost concerned

The usual accounting practices must be applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

Grant



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For the budget planning and reporting:

The personnel costs will then be reported as percentage on the total budget.

Out of the total grant, **the staff costs budget line can be considered up to a maximum of 30% of the grant.** Applicants can also decide to lower the percentage from 30% to 20% or 10%, or - in case they consider to have no need for the staff costs - to 0% and use the whole grant as a budget based on actual costs incurred.

No supporting documents for the staff costs will be asked at this phase but they need to be kept and available in case of audits by the EC.

All the other actual costs will be supported by the required documentations (i.e., contracts, invoices, proof of payments).

Evaluation



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Relevance of the action

Quality of the project design and implementation

Impact

Evaluation



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Relevance of the action

The project objectives are clearly defined, realistic and address the needs and goals of the applicants	(1-7 points)
The project proposal is relevant to the call objectives and addresses the key thematic focus of the action.	(1-7 points)
The target group is clearly identified and the expected results meet their needs.	(1-7 points)
The profile, experience and activities of the applicants are relevant for the field of the application	(1-5 points)

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES



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2.2 Connection with Alda Hubs *

Please choose the key thematic HUB connected to your project proposal

- Environment & Climate Hub
- Digital and Innovation Hub
- Gender Inclusion & Human Rights Hub
- Migration Hub
- Youth Empowerment & Education Hub
- Territorial and Local Development Hub

2.2.1 Thematic Focus - ALDA Hubs (1500 characters max.) *

Please describe how the project proposal is relevant to the call objectives and addresses the key thematic focus of the action.

Long answer text

2.2.3 Details and description of the planned activities (4000 characters max.) *

Please, describe the planned activities in detail, including the foreseen project timeline. Provide a detailed explanation of the proposed activities specifying: i) the activities you plan to implement through the action; ii) how you intend to implement them (please mention if you will implement creative solutions in terms of methodology, implementation tools, communication strategy etc); iii) which stakeholders you plan to involve in the organization of the activities (if any); iv) existing linkages with on-going activities, events, processes, projects etc (if any)

Long answer text

2.3 Describe the target group of the project (1500 characters max.) *

Please specify the characteristics of the group of people that the project aims to reach and involve in the action and the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries you expect to reach through your project idea. Guiding questions: Who are the members of the target group? What are their needs? How does this project meet their needs?

Long answer text

2.4 Connection of the Applicant to the theme (1500 characters max.) *

Please, briefly describe how your Organization, its experience and activities are in line with the theme of the call, and mention if the proposed action is part of a consolidated activity or bigger event.

Please choose one reference HUB for your action - please take your time to check the hub priorities on the call and the pages on Alda website, in order to connect your actions to them

Mention how your action can be linked to the HUB priorities

Here please connect your actions to the key priorities of the HUB you identified. In addition to the key hub, here you can mention if your action interconnects with other hub/themes.

Evaluation



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Quality of the project design and implementation

The proposed methodology is clear, adequate and feasible and the project work plan is clear, complete and effective	(1-5 points)
The activities that applicants commit to carry out satisfy the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness	(1-5 points)
The activities are designed in an accessible and inclusive way, with regards to racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, (dis)ability, age, gender, sex or sexual orientation	(1-5 points)
The project incorporates the use of digital tools and methods	(1-5 points)
The project is designed in an eco-friendly way and incorporates green practices in different project phases	(1-5 points)

When writing the proposal, make sure to be very clear on this.

The SeC will evaluate solely taking into account what you write.

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES



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3.1 What is the methodology you intend to implement? *

Please describe the proposed methodology, and how it is adequate to achieve the project's goals

Long answer text

3.2 To what extent do the proposed activities comply with the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness? *

Please mention if and how your activities will fulfill the idea of sustainability post end of the project

Long answer text

3.3 Innovation, inclusion and sustainability of the action *

Please mention if and how, your activities are: i) designed in an accessible and inclusive way, with regards to racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, (dis)ability, age, gender, sex or sexual orientation; ii) designed in an eco-friendly way and incorporates green practices in different project phases and iii) including the use of digital tools and methods.

Long answer text

3.4 Please mention if you plan to use digital tools and methods to support the implementation of the Activity. *

If you plan to use digital tools and methods, please describe them.

Long answer text

3.5 Please mention if the project applies eco-friendly design and green practices during its implementation *

Please mention if you plan your project to be eco-friendly, and if so please mention your plan to make the activities environmentally sustainable.

Long answer text

- **Please take note of the guiding questions**
- **The SeC will evaluate solely taking into account what you write in the proposal.**

The points here will depend on how clear and specific you are - *ex: how are you going to be sustainable?*

Evaluation



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Impact

The project proposal includes concrete and logical steps to integrate the project results in the regular work of participating organisation;	(1-5 points)
The project has the potential to positively impact its participants and participating organisations, as well as the wider community;	(1-5 points)
The project proposal includes an appropriate way to evaluate the project outcomes;	(1-5 points)
The project proposal includes concrete and effective steps to make the results of the project known within the participating organisations, to share the results with other organisations and the public and to publicly acknowledge the European Union funding (e.g. the communication & dissemination strategy is clear, the communication tools and channels are clearly identified)	(1-5 points)

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES



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4.1 Long term vision and impact of the proposed activity *

Please mention to what extent the project proposal can provide clear steps to integrate the results into the regular work of the organisation and demonstrate a positive impact on participants, organisations, and the wider community

Long answer text

4.2 Evaluation of the results *

Please describe if and how you will evaluate and monitor the project results.

Long answer text

4.3 Briefly describe the communication strategy of your project and its potential impact (2500 * characters max.)

Long answer text

Pay attention to explain properly
the methods and techniques for
evaluation

Evaluation



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Additional Points

The project clearly commits to cooperation with ALDA's thematic hubs (e.g. Co-creation of HUB event or outreach of HUB activities)	+ 3 points
The project clearly commits to participation to ALDA's GA in 2026	+ 3 points
The project demonstrates exceptional strategic merit - considering elements such as innovation, coherence with ALDA's strategy and outreach and invitation of ALDA to one or more of their events.	+ 3 points

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES



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5.1 Please mention if you commit to cooperate with ALDA's thematic hubs (e.g. Co-creation of HUB event or outreach of HUB activities) *

Long answer text

5.2 The project clearly commits to participation to ALDA's GA in 2026 *

Yes

No

5.3 Synergies with other stakeholders *

Please describe the potential synergies with other stakeholders and how you will reach the wider community

Long answer text

Please mention when and how you will collaborate with the HUB in your project and if you commit to participate to ALDA's General Assembly (12-14 May @ Malta)

(e.g. co-creation of hub events, participation of the hub in your activities, participation in the GA etc)

Be inspired

Check last years' subgrantees



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Be informed



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Q&A Session

Can we do a follow up of a project?

Can we organise the activity in the context of a bigger event?



Can I participate even if I was already a beneficiary of ALDA's regrating in the past years?

THANK YOU!

CHECK THE CALL



 SEEDS OF DEMOCRACY NEWS ON ALDA'S
WEBSITE

 regranting@alda-europe.eu