

alda *

* European Association
for Local Democracy

2025 ACTIVITY REPORT



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Sharing Knowledge & Driving Action



2022. IN IMAGES





WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL

* Nataša Vučković President

Dear members, dear partners and friends of ALDA,

My second year as President of ALDA has taught me something I suspected but could not yet say with certainty at the start of my mandate: **what features this organisation is not what it does in comfort, but what it chooses to do under pressure.**

The past year has tested that conviction. The world has not grown simpler or safer. Democratic backsliding has accelerated in places where progress once seemed within reach. Civic space has continued to shrink. Armed conflicts have reshaped communities and the daily realities of people and organisations within our own network. And yet, the ALDA Community has remained firmly committed to advancing its vision.



What I have come to understand more clearly is that local democracy is not merely a by-product of stability; **it is a precondition for it.** When national institutions falter, **it is local authorities, civil society organisations, and community networks that absorb the shock, preserve trust, and ensure that civic life continues.**

This period has also deepened my reflection on what it means to be a European organisation in an increasingly unpredictable world, one less deferential to established norms and less patient with institutional processes. ALDA must be, and I believe is becoming, more agile and more confident in its convictions. We do not simply respond to the European agenda; **we contribute to shaping it by ensuring that local voices are present where decisions are made.**

Underlying all of this is a fundamental question of values. Democracy does not sustain itself; it requires continuous investment, in education, in participation, and in the willingness to engage. When I look at the communities with which ALDA works, from post-conflict cities to emerging civil societies beyond Europe's borders, I see individuals making that investment under circumstances that could easily justify disillusionment. This is a form of political courage that deserves our full solidarity and support.

As we look ahead, I carry with me a renewed sense of both the urgency and the potential of our work. The challenges are real, **but so too is the strength of the community we have built to face them.**

* Antonella Valmorbida Secretary General

Dear members, dear partners and friends of ALDA,

There is a version of this past year that could be told simply as a list of achievements, and it would be a long and impressive one. Yet, a more honest account begins with what was at stake, and why **the work carried out mattered far beyond our own organisation.**

Democratic backsliding, ongoing armed conflict, and a European political landscape under pressure



from multiple directions: this is the environment in which the ALDA Community operates. Our credibility depends on our ability to remain present, relevant, and effective precisely when circumstances make this most challenging.

In Ukraine, we achieved concrete and meaningful progress. The inauguration of the Local Democracy Agency in Kharkiv Region in June, together with the official launch of LDA Vinnytsia and Ovruch, represents a tangible expression of decentralised cooperation in practice. These are not symbolic initiatives, but functioning institutions, equipped with offices, staff, and clear mandates to support civic participation, transparency, and recovery from the ground up.

At the Ukraine Recovery Conference Forum in Rome in July, I had the honour of moderating a high-level panel on effective governance for Ukraine's recovery, **placing ALDA's expertise at the heart of a crucial international dialogue**. We also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City Council of Mariupol, reaffirming our commitment to supporting local recovery and democratic governance in areas most affected by the war.

Rome also hosted our General Assembly, a key moment for reflection, accountability, and strategic alignment among ALDA members. A particularly significant highlight was the welcoming of new members through the delivery of membership certificates—an important sign of the continued growth and diversification of our network. Each new member strengthens our collective capacity to act at the local level and to respond to democratic challenges with both creativity and competence.

A year such as this risks being remembered only for its most dramatic developments, yet much more has taken place. We held the second edition of the ALDA International School in Thiene, bringing together practitioners, researchers, and emerging leaders to engage with democratic resilience in a practical and forward-looking manner. Our Governing Board met in Belgrade, reaffirming our commitment to the Western Balkans at a time when the region requires strong and credible European engagement. We implemented numerous projects, strengthened partnerships through our mission to Dakar, and relaunched our Thematic and Regional Hubs. Across all these activities, the ALDA Community remained fully mobilised, making significant progress towards our shared vision: **a world where solidarity, participation, and democratic transformation grow from the ground up**.

What connects all these efforts is a principle I return to often: ALDA's strength lies in its ability to bridge the local, European, and global dimensions without losing sight of any of them. We are a community of institutions and individuals who believe that democratic change is built from the municipal level upwards—and we remain committed to turning this belief into concrete action.

We are particularly proud of the strengthening of the Thematic Hubs, which successfully mobilised members, consolidated expertise, and fostered greater collaboration across the ALDA Community.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to every member of staff, every partner, and every Local Democracy Agency team whose dedication made this year possible. **The path ahead is clearer thanks to the work we have accomplished together.**

Antonella Valmorbida
Secretary General of ALDA





ABOUT ALDA

* Who we are

The European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) acts as a leading force in promoting **local democracy and fostering citizen participation**, not only across Europe but also in neighbouring regions and beyond. Established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe, ALDA has progressively evolved into a **global alliance bringing together associations, civil society organisations, and local authorities**.

At the core of ALDA's mission lies the coordination and support of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs), which operate as grassroots promoters of good governance and local self-government. Functioning as self-sustaining, locally registered non-governmental organisations, LDAs play a fundamental role in **empowering communities and strengthening participatory processes at the local level**.

Over more than twenty-five years of activity, ALDA has implemented over 500 projects, directly engaging nearly 25 million citizens. Building on extensive experience and a strong commitment to participatory approaches, ALDA positions itself as a **strategic actor in advancing local democracy, active citizenship, and multilevel governance**.

With a diverse membership spanning 45 countries and comprising over 300 members, 17 LDAs, and 2 Operational Partners, ALDA is at the forefront of contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030. Through its sustained efforts to enhance cooperation between local authorities and civil society, **ALDA continues to foster inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities worldwide**.

The ALDA Community

Since its establishment in 1999, the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) has experienced **significant growth**, not only in terms of projects, membership, activities, and expertise, but also through the **creation of affiliated entities and complementary structures**. This expansion has enabled ALDA to strengthen its connections with the diverse local and regional communities and stakeholders with whom it collaborates.



ALDA's Governing Board and Coordination Board joint retreat, Diputació de Barcelona

Originally registered in Strasbourg, France, with a limited number of members and activities, ALDA has progressively evolved into a **global alliance** of civil society organisations and regional and local authorities.

Guided by this commitment, ALDA has pursued a gradual process of decentralisation and localisation. Over a decade ago, it established a branch office in Skopje, North Macedonia, serving as a strategic hub for its activities in the Western Balkans. In parallel, ALDA has expanded its network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs), which today comprises 19 locally registered associations, each annually endorsed by ALDA's Governing Board. This approach highlights ALDA's dedication to fostering sustainable partnerships and ensuring meaningful engagement at the grassroots level.

Building on its accumulated expertise and experience, ALDA has further diversified its structure through the establishment of new entities. In 2017, **ALDA+ was created as a benefit corporation fully owned by ALDA**, providing technical assistance and services to local authorities and civil society organisations worldwide. More recently, at the end of 2022, **ALDA formalised its presence in Italy through the registration of ALDA Italia APS** (Associazione di Promozione Sociale), strengthening its local impact and reinforcing ties with the communities in which it operates.



ALDA General Assembly 2025, Rome (Italy)

This ongoing process of development and differentiation has brought ALDA to a new level of organisational maturity. Its offices, ALDA+, and the network of LDAs now function as **autonomous yet interdependent entities, working collectively towards a shared mission within what is increasingly defined as the ALDA Community.**

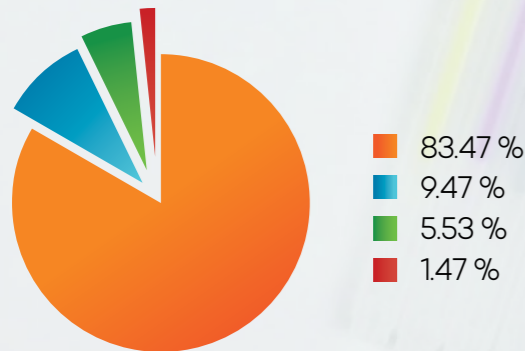
Established as part of a strategic transformation initiated in 2020, this community-based model strengthens resilience, adaptability, and cooperation, while promoting shared values and mutual trust across all entities.

Today, the ALDA Community functions as an integrated ecosystem aligned with ALDA's core mission: **promoting good local governance and active citizen participation.**



ALDA Staff Meeting 2025, Vicenza (Italy)

All the entities mentioned below are formally related to ALDA in different ways, and all of them are subject to ALDA's Governing Board supervision and approval.



ALDA Office Inauguration, Vicenza (Italy)

* What we do

To advance good governance and foster citizen participation at the local level across Europe and beyond, ALDA implements a wide range of initiatives supporting local, national, and international stakeholders in achieving their objectives. These actions span key areas such as European integration, decentralisation, human rights, social inclusion, sustainable development, and civic engagement.

ALDA adopts a multi-stakeholder approach, recognising and mobilising the diverse capacities within local communities. In doing so, it strengthens a broad network of citizens and local authorities committed to **promoting participatory democracy and community empowerment, both within Europe and globally.**



ALDA's Governing Board and Coordination Board joint retreat, Diputació de Barcelona

Since 2020, ALDA has further expanded its geographical scope, extending its expertise in local democracy beyond Europe and its neighbouring regions to support partners worldwide (*ALDA Going Global*).

Over more than two decades, working alongside its members and partners, and with the support of European institutions and other donors, ALDA has reached and positively **impacted over 25 million citizens across an enlarged Europe and beyond.**

ALDA carries out its activities through several key actions:

- **Project implementation** across Europe and beyond, promoting good governance and citizen participation with its members, partners, and Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs).
- **Coordination of LDAs and Operational Partners**, ensuring strong grassroots impact.
- **Management of its membership network**, engaging over 300 stakeholders from local authorities, civil society, and academia.

- **Institutional partnerships**, working with the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, and programmes of the European Commission.
- **Capacity-building support**, providing expertise, partnerships, and access to funding opportunities.
- **Advocacy and lobbying**, amplifying members' voices and contributing to policies on democracy, equality, and human rights.



New office in the heart of Vicenza, Italy

Where we work

ALDA operates across most of the European Union, its Neighbourhood, and an expanding number of regions worldwide, reflecting its **growing role as a global actor in the promotion of local democracy and participatory governance**.

As of 2025, ALDA has significantly reinforced its international outreach, notably by strengthening its engagement across Africa, while continuing to develop partnerships and activities in additional regions globally.

Within the European Union, ALDA's activities remain primarily focused on fostering active citizenship and strengthening European values and identity. In the Western Balkans and the broader European Neighbourhood, ALDA continues to prioritise good governance, citizen participation, decentralisation, and European integration.



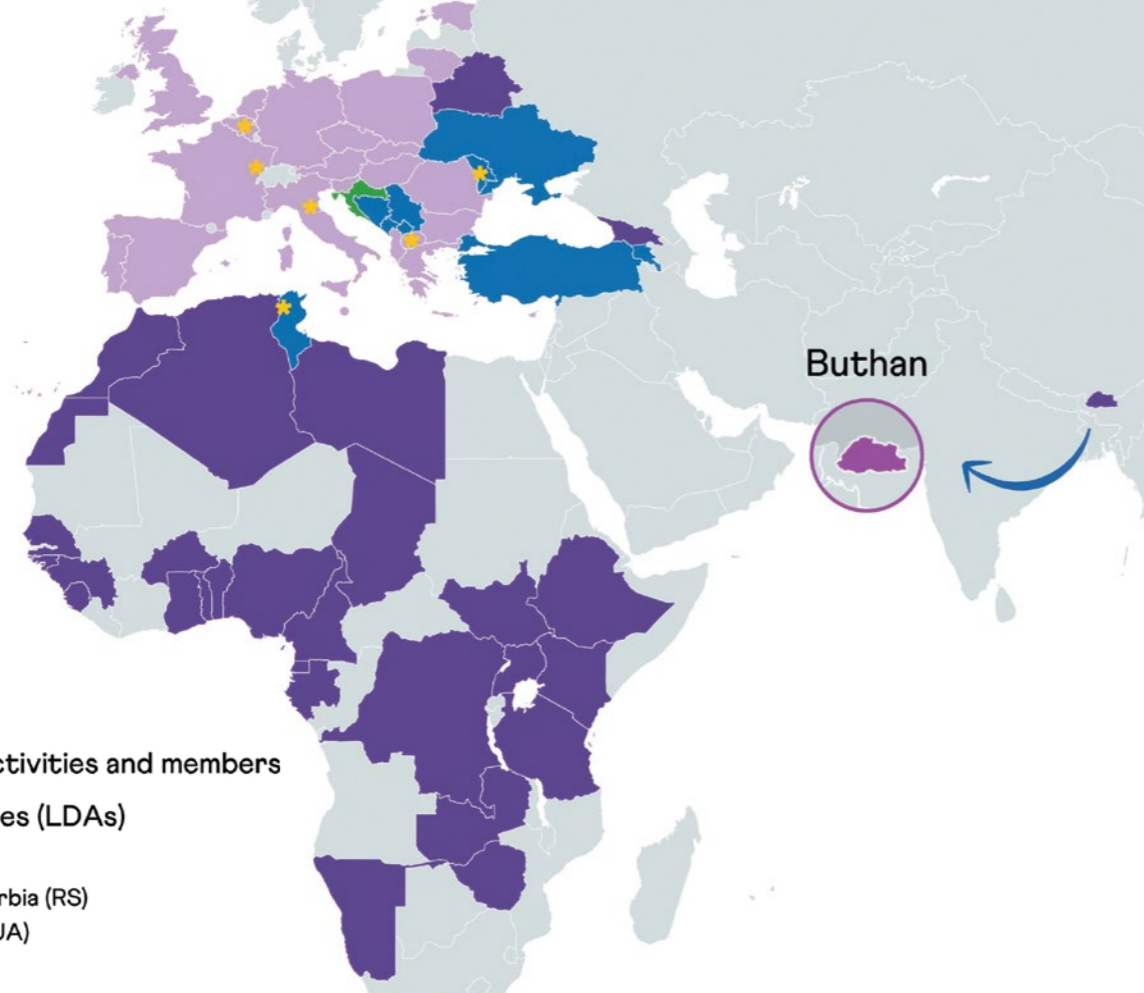
ALDA Staff Meeting 2025, Vicenza (Italy)



New office in the heart of Vicenza, Italy

Looking ahead, ALDA is preparing to further strengthen its local presence through the opening of new offices in Kyiv and Dakar in 2026, marking an important step in consolidating its operational capacity both in Eastern Europe and in the ASWAT area.

In parallel, ALDA remains actively engaged in supporting civil society in complex and evolving contexts. Despite ongoing challenges in Georgia, ALDA continues to work closely with local actors to sustain democratic engagement. It is also strengthening its support to Belarusian civil society through the establishment of a Local Democracy Agency in exile, ensuring continuity of action in restrictive environments. Furthermore, ALDA is mobilising its network and expertise to support communities affected by the situation in Palestine, reaffirming its commitment to solidarity and inclusive local development.



Countries with ALDA Activities and members

Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs)

- LDA Armenia (AM)
- LDA Central and Southern Serbia (RS)
- LDA Dnipropetrovsk Region (UA)
- LDA Edremit (TR)
- LDA Kharkiv Region (UA)
- LDA Kosovo (XK)
- LDA Mariupol (UA)
- LDA Montenegro (ME)
- LDA Moldova in Cimişlia (MD)
- LDA Mostar (BA)
- LDA Odesa (UA)
- LDA Ovruch (UA)
- LDA Prijedor (BA)
- LDA Subotica (RS)
- LDA Tunisia (TN)
- LDA Vinnytsia Region (UA)
- LDA Zavidovići (BA)

Operational partners

- Sisak (HR)
- Verteneglio/ Brtonigla (HR)

ALDA Offices

- ✦ Brussels (BE)
- ✦ Strasbourg (FR)
- ✦ Vicenza (IT)
- ✦ Skopje (MK)
- ✦ Chişinău (MD)
- ✦ Tunis (TN)



ALDA's STRUCTURE

Staff



EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



Antonella Valmorbida
Secretary General



Marco Boaria
Deputy Secretary General of ALDA & CEO of ALDA+



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Finance and Administrative Director

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Human Rights Hub
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Rita Martino
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Silvia Pasetto
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Sara Afendi
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Financial Officer



Ecaterina Popa
Communication
& Administrative
Assistant



Irakli Jgharkava
Southern Caucasus
& Central Asia
Coordinator



Stefan Gorban
Communication
Officer

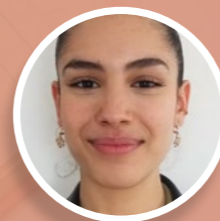
ASWAT - AFRICA SOUTH-WEST ASIA AND TURKIYE



Giulia Sostero
Head of ASWAT



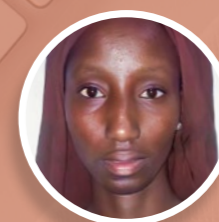
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Milena Dimitrovska
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Ivana Velkova
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Simona Slavkova
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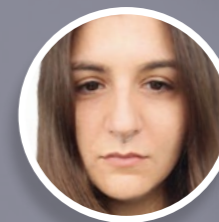
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Project Designer



Ivana Smilevska
Project Designer

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**Nadia Vigolo**

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**Laura Sinigaglia**

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**Eleonora Bertin**

Quality Manager

**Giulia Albertoni**

Cofunding Manager

Governing Board (mandate 2024-2028)

**Nataša Vučković**President & Bureau member
representing Center for
Democracy Foundation (Serbia)**Maurizio Camin**Vice President & Bureau member
representing Associazione
Trentino con i Balcani (Italy)**Roger Lawrence**Vice President & Bureau member,
Individual member (United
Kingdom)**Oriano Otočan**Treasurer & Bureau member
representing the Istria Region
(Croatia)**Andrea Rilievo**Società Cooperativa Sociale
Studio Progetto (Italy)**Francesco Zarzana**

Association 'Progettarte' (Italy)

**Goran Gerasimovski**Municipality of Centar
(North Macedonia)**Maddalena Alberti**Ambasciata della Democrazia
Locale a Zavidovici (Italy)



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Barcelona Provincial Council
(Spain)



Thibaut Guignard

Plœuc-L'Hermitage Municipality
(France)



Dženana Dedić

Delegate of LDA Mostar

ADVISORY BOARD



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development manager
at the city of Helsinki



Marta Sys

Merkury Foundation (Poland)



Vadym Boichenko

Mayor of Mariupol (Ukraine)
(observing member)



Maite Arrondo

Freelance consultant and
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specialised in housing policies, who
cooperates with the Thematic
HUB on Gender, Inclusion and
Human Rights



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One Mainstreaming Coordinator
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Tamara Ehs

Expert on civil society and local
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Participatory processes and
Youth Engagement Advisor at the
Istanbul Development Agency



Senida Mesi

Former Deputy Prime Minister of
Albania, expert on civil society
local governance





OUR PRIORITIES

* Advocacy & Network

In 2025, ALDA strengthened its European Parliament Flagship by reinforcing dialogue with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), enhancing its contribution to EU policymaking, and **fostering closer links between European institutions and local democratic actors.**

A key milestone was ALDA's involvement in the creation of the Interest Group for Civil Society, in collaboration with Civil Society Europe.

ALDA also organised five "Meet Your MEP at Home" (MyMEP@Home) events across France, Belgium, and Italy, in partnership with ALDA Italia, Stand Up for Europe, and the Mouvement Européen - France. Building on the initiative launched in 2024, these events **brought MEPs directly into local contexts, encouraging meaningful exchanges with citizens.**



Presentation of the Adamowicz Award in Villa Fabris, Thiene (Italy)



"Meet Your MEP at Home" event

Engagement with MEPs continued through targeted meetings and contributions to key discussions on democratic resilience and digital transformation.

In parallel, ALDA reinforced its policy work by contributing to major **European Commission consultations**, including the **Democracy Shield, Civil Society Strategy, Affordable Housing Action Plan, and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**, while improving internal coordination through a more structured consultation process and the creation of a dedicated MFF task force.

Finally, an e-study on the alignment of ALDA's strategy with the new European Parliament laid the groundwork for future cooperation.



Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025, Rome (Italy)



Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025, Rome (Italy)



"Capitalisation and the way forward" Forum in Lviv, Ukraine

✦ ALDA Stands with Ukraine

In 2025, ALDA strengthened local democracy and recovery coordination through major international events and partner gatherings in Brussels, Wrocław, Vicenza, Kyiv, and Lviv, contributing to dialogue and strategic partnerships ahead of the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025 in Rome. In this context, ALDA actively contributed to the Conference programme, including the organisation of a dedicated panel session. On 11 July, Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA, moderated the Panel "United Communities and Regions: Effective Governance for Ukraine's Recovery", highlighting the crucial role of decentralisation, local democracy, and good governance in Ukraine's future. In partnership with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ALDA also successfully coordinated the Local

and Regional Dimension of URC 2025, ensuring strong involvement of local authorities and civil society actors.

As of 2025, **ALDA mobilised over €134,000 in humanitarian support**, delivering emergency relief, shelter refurbishment, healthcare equipment, electricity generators, and psychosocial services for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and veterans in Dnipro, Odesa, Vinnytsia, and Poltava.

Institutional cooperation with the **U-LEAD with Europe Programme** was further reinforced through the implementation of key local democracy and municipal partnership initiatives, including **Bridges of Trust**, TIPS4UA internships in Barcelona, and follow-up activities on recovery and governance. These actions significantly strengthened capacity-building, peer exchange, and EU-Ukraine municipal cooperation.



Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025, Rome (Italy)

ALDA also deepened its engagement with EU institutions and national governments, notably through participation in the Committee of the Regions' Alliance for the Reconstruction of Ukraine and continued coordination with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the role of local and regional democracy actors.

In 2025, **ALDA expanded and consolidated the network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) in Ukraine**, advancing initiatives in Kharkiv, Vinnytsia, Odesa, Mariupol, Dnipro, and Ovruch. The network brought together over 30 European partners and a growing number of Ukrainian members, strengthening cooperation between municipalities across Europe and Ukraine. Communication and outreach were enhanced through the regular dissemination of a monthly bilingual newsletter in English and Ukrainian.

ALDA supported municipal partnerships, youth exchanges, and social cohesion initiatives, including hate speech prevention actions, youth mobility programmes in Italy and France, and community-level resilience projects.



Rhineland-Palatinate joins LDA Vinnytsia Region



"Capitalisation and the way forward" Forum in Lviv (Ukraine)

ALDA contributed to participatory governance, green reconstruction, and rural development, notably through the LEADER pilot initiative (G.R.A.I.N.) and citizen participation actions implemented in Ukrainian communities.

A key milestone was the organisation of the Post-URC 2025 Forum in Lviv (November 2025), which highlighted decentralisation and local governance as essential pillars of Ukraine's reconstruction process.

Across all activities, ALDA maintained a strong commitment to ensuring that local democracy, community resilience, and European partnerships remain central to Ukraine's recovery and its path towards European integration. Looking ahead, **ALDA will continue to stand firmly alongside Ukraine**, further strengthening its membership base and expanding the network of Local Democracy Agencies in the country, while reinforcing long-term partnerships and support for democratic resilience and recovery.

To ensure that the activities of ALDA and its network in Ukraine achieve strong visibility and outreach, ALDA launched in 2025 a dedicated website showcasing its initiatives in the country. We invite you to explore the platform and join us in supporting Ukraine and its people.



Maurizio Camin, Lviv



"Road to URC" Event in Verona (Italy)



* Local democracy in the World

ALDA is dedicated to expanding its global reach beyond the borders of the European Union and its neighbouring regions. Recognising the fundamental role of local communities, ALDA leverages its over 25 years of experience to engage with diverse areas and stakeholders.

The primary objective is to advance local democracy worldwide, in cooperation with local authorities and civil society. ALDA firmly believes that local democracy is instrumental in addressing challenges and responding to the needs and aspirations of communities, ensuring equality, rights, and sustainable development.

Over the years, ALDA has significantly broadened its scope of action, growing from 5 initial members to more than 300 across regions ranging from the Balkans to the European Union, Eastern Partnership countries, the Mediterranean area, and beyond.

In 2025, ALDA further strengthened its presence in Africa by scaling up its activities across the continent. This included participation in the FIDEPA African Forum on participatory democracy, as well as steps towards establishing a new regional office in Dakar, Senegal. At the same time, ALDA reinforced its engagement through the implementation of key initiatives, notably the WYDE Civic Engagement project, supporting democratic participation and civil society development in close cooperation with local partners.



Action for Democratic Governance (A4DG), Tanzania



WYDE Civic Engagement Initiative, Dakar (Senegal)

In parallel, ALDA reaffirmed its commitment to fundamental rights and international solidarity by issuing a public statement condemning the ongoing humanitarian situation in Palestine, calling for the respect of human rights and international law. The organisation also continued its engagement in Asia, including collaboration with stakeholders in Bhutan, while maintaining strong cooperation with its members and partners across the Mediterranean region and beyond, working alongside local actors to promote dialogue, peace, and democratic resilience.



Strategic mission to Bhutan under the V4GCP project



Strategic mission to Bhutan under the V4GCP project



WYDE Civic Engagement Initiative, Dakar (Senegal)



ALDA WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

* European Union

Amid the ongoing Russian invasion, the past year has once again highlighted the **urgent need to strengthen initiatives that promote citizen participation, democracy, and sustainability across Europe**. In this context, it has become ever more essential to advance and **reinforce the European project as a key guarantor of peace and stability**.

This commitment has been clearly reflected in ALDA's projects and activities, with a strong and consistent focus on supporting **Ukraine's recovery and enhancing the resilience of its civil society**. These efforts have been carried out in close cooperation with a wide range of ALDA members and partners, as well as through active engagement with national and international institutions.

ALDA's engagement at the European level has remained both dynamic and steadily expanding. Through the implementation of over 81 projects across the continent, combined with active participation in major events such as the **European Week of Regions and Cities**, the **Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025**, and the **Civil Society Weeks 2025**, among others, the organisation has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening its presence and impact across the region.



ALDA celebrating Europe Day with a European Breakfast, Vicenza, Italy



Campaign #MakeEUBlue - Cities in Action!



Panel discussion "Rebuild Ukraine"



Nataša Vučković and Oliver Röpke, Civil Society Week 2025, Brussels

In parallel, the continued development of the Thematic Hubs alongside strengthened collaboration with members of the Advisory Board, has further enhanced the quality and coherence of ALDA's work. These advancements have enabled greater thematic specialisation and contributed to delivering increasingly impactful and sustainable results.

Western Balkans

If the last few years we were getting mixed signals from the Western Balkans, 2025 further confirmed the region's **complex and often contradictory trajectory**. The EU enlargement perspective remained formally alive, yet politically fragile, shaped by slow reforms, persistent bilateral disputes, and growing public frustration with stalled accession processes. While Montenegro continued to be perceived as the frontrunner and Albania maintained momentum on the technical aspects of negotiations, other countries faced renewed political instability, polarisation, and weakened public trust in democratic institutions. Across the region, shrinking civic space, pressure on independent media, and democratic backsliding remained serious concerns, even as citizens and civil society continued to demonstrate resilience and strong pro-European orientation.

In this environment, ALDA's presence and action in the Western Balkans proved more relevant than ever. 2025 marked a consolidation year for **ALDA Balkans**, strengthening its role as a regional hub based in Skopje and as a key bridge between local actors and European stakeholders. The office further reinforced ALDA's long-term commitment to the region by supporting local democracy,



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

participatory governance, and inclusive development, while amplifying local voices at regional and European level. The Western Balkans also continued to hold strong strategic importance within ALDA, reflected in sustained investment, growing partnerships, and high-level engagement.

From a programmatic perspective, 2025 was characterised by the full operationalisation and scaling-up of several flagship initiatives. The **BOOST** programme, financed by l'Agence Française de Développement, entered a decisive implementation phase, with regional and national sub-granting programmes, capacity-building, and networking activities supporting hundreds of civil society organisations across six Western Balkan countries. By fostering youth engagement, entrepreneurship, rural development, environmental action, and cultural heritage preservation, BOOST further positioned ALDA as a major regional stakeholder for long-term democratic and socio-economic development.

At the same time, the **Shared Horizons** project, financed by Expertise France, translated its vision of cultural heritage as a tool for reconciliation into concrete regional action. Through expert exchanges, youth engagement, storytelling, and intercultural dialogue around symbolic heritage sites, the project strengthened cross-border cooperation and promoted shared narratives beyond divisive historical interpretations.



The Shared Horizons Project

On the national level, **Media4EU** in North Macedonia continued to address disinformation, media literacy, and journalistic standards, supporting young journalists, mentorship schemes, and regional thematic forums. In parallel, the **Anna Lindh Macedonian Network**, coordinated by ALDA Balkans, further expanded its membership and activities, reinforcing intercultural dialogue and cooperation among civil society organisations. We can proudly say that we closed the year with 52 members.

Overall, 2025 confirmed both the fragility and the potential of the Western Balkans. While political uncertainty and democratic regression continued to pose challenges, the year also demonstrated the power of regional cooperation, civil society mobilisation, and locally anchored European values. For ALDA Balkans, 2025 was a year of consolidation, credibility-building, and strategic growth – laying solid foundations for deeper impact in 2026.

✦ Eastern Partnership & Central Asia

Despite ongoing operational uncertainties across many countries, **2025 marked a significant year for ALDA's engagement in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Central Asia regions.** ALDA continued its coordination efforts with beneficiaries of the European Commission Framework Partnership Agreement to contribute to a more strategic and unified response to evolving regional developments. In response to increasingly restrictive legislation targeting civil society, ALDA – together with other FPA members – remained actively engaged in mobilising joint actions and organising webinars to address the growing challenges faced by local NGOs and civil society actors operating in a progressively hostile legal environment. ALDA also carried out its **second mission to Central Asia**, which yielded concrete results. By the end of 2025, a **three-year project was approved in Uzbekistan**, and a **Kyrgyz organisation joined ALDA's network**, becoming the first member from the region.

BELARUS - Towards the **Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Belarus in Exile** - with the support of the German Marshall Fund (GMF), ALDA launched preparatory work to establish the **Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Belarus in Exile**. The project aims to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of Belarusians living in exile across Europe including in **Poland** and **Lithuania** and to channel these needs to local authorities. Since **September 2025**, within this project stakeholder meetings have taken place in Wroclaw, Vilnius, and Krakow, engaging around **80 Belarusian, Polish, and Lithuanian stakeholders**, including representatives of local authorities. A concluding **high-level event** will be held in **Warsaw** in **March 2026**, in cooperation with the **Beehive project team**, bringing together Belarusian, Polish, and European Commission representatives to discuss local democracy and other key issues affecting Belarus and Belarusian communities in exile.

GEORGIA - “Strengthening Civic Engagement of Georgian Youth” implemented in cooperation with LDA Georgia and the College of Eastern Europe (KEW) and supported by the Polish-American Freedom Foundation within the Region in Transition (RITA) programme. The project “Strengthening Civic Engagement of Georgian Youth” was implemented from **March to September 2025** with the goal of increasing civic awareness and participation among young people in **Kutaisi** through capacity building and the exchange of Polish experience.

The project was delivered in **three phases**. In the first phase, participants strengthened their knowledge and skills through trainings and workshops on local self-government, citizen participation mechanisms, Polish best practices, and project development. The second phase consisted of a **study visit to Poland**, where participants exchanged experience with Polish youth, learned about successful youth-led initiatives, met with local and regional authorities, and took part in the forum “*Europe with a View to the Future*,” focused on democracy and solidarity. In the final phase, participants designed and implemented a **local youth initiative** to share their knowledge with peers. This included workshops on municipal competencies and citizen participation, as well as the development of **educational videos and a board game** to promote innovative and youth-friendly civic engagement tools.



Project “INSPIRED Moldova”



Project “INSPIRED Moldova”

MOLDOVA - In the Republic of Moldova, ALDA continued to foster citizen engagement, promote transparent governance, support local initiatives, and advocate for democratic values at both national and international levels. Building on over eight years of experience in the country, ALDA consistently supported democratic processes and strengthened civic participation.

Together with its partners, ALDA worked to counter misinformation and raise awareness about the benefits of EU integration. The organisation promoted European values such as improved living standards, freedom of expression, protection of human rights, fair justice, and increased citizen involvement in decision-making processes.

The “**INSPIRED Moldova**” project served as a flagship initiative in 2025, delivering civic education activities for youth on critical thinking, democratic participation, and disinformation, reaching over 800,000 people. The project also provided 18 EU-funded grants to support civic engagement and local consultation mechanisms, and launched calls fostering cooperation with European partners through study visits and joint initiatives.

ALDA Moldova also implemented the “**BRIDGE to the Council of Europe**” project, strengthening dialogue between civil society and institutions through conferences, workshops, webinars, and campaigns promoting Council of Europe standards.

At the end of the year, the “**SG4Y-CLIMATE**” (Smart Governance for Youth Involvement in Climate Action) project was launched, aiming to engage young people in climate policymaking, promote regional cooperation, and establish a Transnational Youth Council for Climate Action.

Overall, ALDA Moldova’s work in 2025 combined capacity building, civic participation, and the promotion of democratic values, contributing to more open, inclusive, and citizen-oriented governance while supporting the country’s European integration.

CENTRAL ASIA – In line with ALDA’s new strategy, a **second mission to Central Asia** was carried out in **May 2025**. Meetings were held with local civil society organisations, representatives of the European Union Delegation, and international stakeholders in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Building on the first mission conducted in **2024**, this follow-up visit confirmed the continued relevance of ALDA’s engagement in the region. Together, the two strategic missions successfully re-established ALDA’s presence in Central Asia. In **December 2025**, the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan funded ALDA’s **three-year project**, “*Inclusive Disinformation Resilience & Open Knowledge*”, which is scheduled to launch in **March 2026**.

✦ ASWAT – Africa, SouthWest Asia and Türkiye

2025 marked the 30-year anniversary of the Barcelona Process, which paved the way for a greater integration between the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries. However, the new strategic orientation of the EU and the many events ongoing in the region pose key questions about the basis of the collaboration and the balance of power.

First and foremost, the genocide of Palestinian people shed a light on the actual positioning of the EU in terms of foreign policy and support of human rights.

On ALDA’s side, despite not being currently active in the country, we felt the responsibility to at least coordinate internally with our members and share the actions undertaken, and produce further statements on the situation.

In Türkiye, the political oppression of the opposition culminated in the arrest of the Mayor of Istanbul Ekrem İmamoğlu, with further shrinking of civil space. Despite the hostile context, we managed to successfully **close the WE ACT project with great participation of women politicians and CSOs in**



Istanbul. Shortly after, we also celebrated the ending of the first cycle of THE:PLACE programme, for which the 18 second-round beneficiaries convened in Kosovo to share results and look forward to new collaborations. Towards the end of the year, we attended our yearly appointment with the Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF) where we could discuss the most trending issues in the region.

Our engagement in Sub-Saharan Africa continued throughout the year on various levels. At the strategic/institutional level, we closely followed the unfolding of the Global Gateway, and in parallel released our own publication on Local Democratic Resilience. By actively participating in the Team Europe Democracy Network (TED), we could work closely with the most relevant actors supporting democracy worldwide, beyond the African continent. However, specific challenges do strike African countries, such as Tanzania that witnessed a spike of violence and repression of the opposition in correspondence to national elections, shattering the dreams for change of many civil society actors. Earlier in 2025, we had the chance to organise two networking events reuniting WYDE subgrantees in Tanzania and Senegal: those opportunities proved extremely beneficial to take stock of the impact of the projects and enhance integration among different countries

of the continent. We could also actively contribute to the African Forum on Participatory Democracy (FIDEPA) through enhanced cooperation with the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy (IOPD) - Africa, as well as the Local Development Agency of Senegal. Last but not least, in December 2025 the first project of the Erasmus+ call for proposals open to sub-Saharan African countries kicked off: ALDA is a partner of the YCAN project that will bring young people from the EU and Africa to travel across Spain, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya.

Coming back to the anniversary marked by 2025, we had the opportunity to reflect on the Barcelona Process with a series of events organised in the same city by the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Institute for the Mediterranean: the Euro-Med Civil Society Forum



A landmark event with the Kofi Annan Foundation

and the Conference of the Mediterranean Cities. The focus was put on the unfolding of the EU Pact of the Mediterranean, which was also at the core of this year's mission of the ARLEM plenary organised by the Committee of the Regions, to whose consultation on the matter we contributed as ALDA. Remaining in the Euro-Mediterranean arena, a key event of 2025 has been the Anna Lindh MedForum in Tirana, where around 800 Mediterranean stakeholders gathered to exchange, debate and inspire each other. Our commitment remains steady as well through the Réseau Euromed France (REF), for which we collaborated to the Mob in Med project on youth mobility and to the edition of the magazine "Fractures françaises, espoirs méditerranéens".

While strengthening our engagement on all levels, from grassroots to institutional, we are increasingly aware of the challenges ahead and of the need to collaborate among diverse stakeholders in order to hold on to our common values acting for the public good.

✦ ALDA Going global

The continued implementation of ALDA's strategic vision for 2024-2028 throughout 2025 has reaffirmed the importance of supporting local and regional authorities in embracing participatory democracy and strengthening cooperation with civil society. **It has also reinforced the need to further extend ALDA's reach beyond European borders.**

The ongoing war in Ukraine, alongside the conflict in the Gaza Strip, has once again highlighted the critical role of resilient local communities. Acting as connectors between stakeholders and as advocates for local democracy and citizen engagement, these communities are essential to safeguarding stability, prosperity, and peace in an increasingly complex global context.

Building on over 25 years of experience, ALDA has continued to expand its outreach to new regions and stakeholders. While the European Union, the Council of Europe, and their institutions remain key partners, the organisation is also increasingly aligned with broader international priorities. In this regard, ALDA's "Going Global" approach is closely connected to the European Commission's agenda for international partnerships and the Council of Europe's efforts to support democracy worldwide. These priorities include partnerships for human development, peace, and governance; alliances for sustainable growth and job creation; cooperation on migration and mobility; as well as initiatives in science, technology, innovation, digitalisation, and environmental sustainability.

2025 AT A
GLANCE

+80
PROJECTS
ongoing

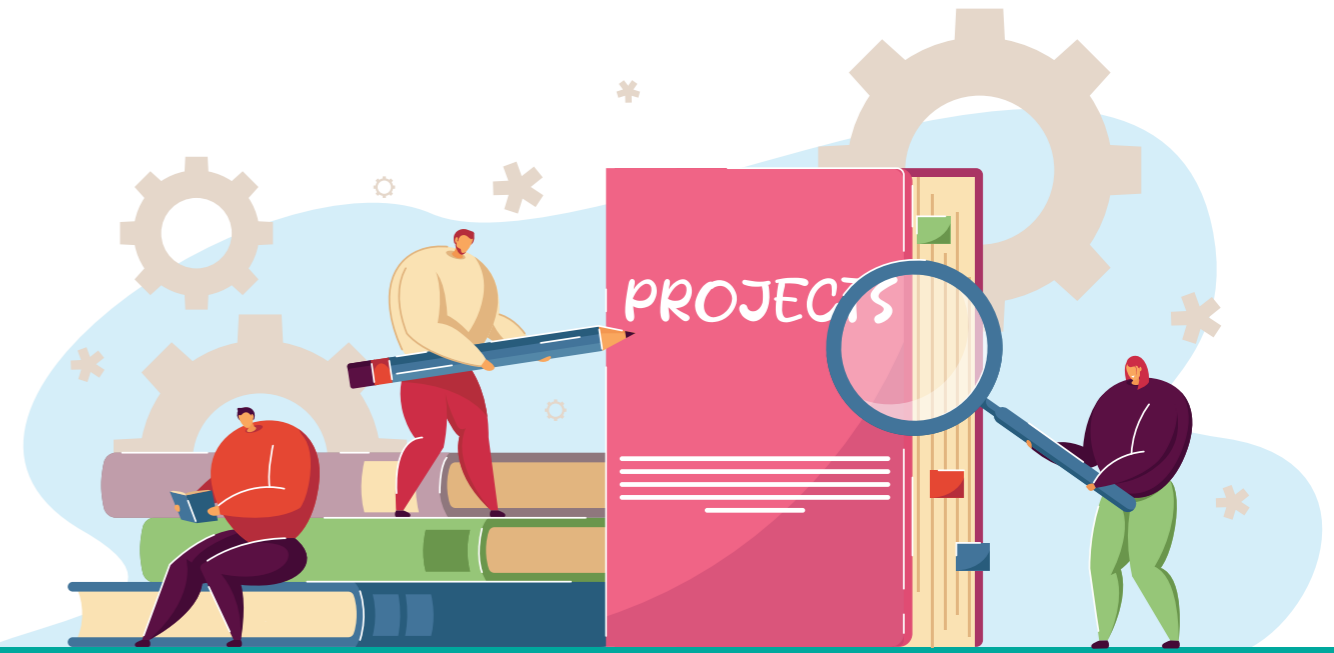
28
NEW
projects

6
THEMATIC
HUBS

33
new
MEMBERS

8,4
MILLION €
BUDGET

+25
million
BENEFICIARIES



PROJECTS

OUR PROJECTS

* ALDA Thematic Hubs

Following its sustained growth in recent years, ALDA has significantly expanded its scope of activities. To enhance coordination with members and partners, and to ensure a more holistic approach to governance and strategic planning, the organisation has consolidated its operational framework around the Thematic Hubs.

Now well-established and increasingly structured, **the Thematic Hubs play a central role in shaping ALDA's activities.** They contribute to a more integrated, coherent, and dynamic approach to the organisation's work, and are progressively gaining in autonomy and operational capacity.

They aim to:

- Strengthen ALDA's impact by structuring knowledge and expertise around key thematic areas, ensuring greater coherence across more than 80 ongoing projects;
- Foster a more systematic involvement of members through active participation in project

activities, including events, training, and content development, in close collaboration with Working Groups;

- Encourage cross-departmental collaboration, particularly between thematic teams, the development unit, and regional teams, whose geographic focus intersects with thematic priorities;
- Support the professional development and specialisation of ALDA staff in key fields of expertise.

Looking ahead, this model is expected to evolve further towards a gradual decentralisation process, enabling greater autonomy of the Thematic Hubs while maintaining strong strategic alignment within the organisation.



The Thematic Hubs encompass the full range of ALDA's actions and projects, organised according to strategic priorities:



Territorial and Local Development



Digital and Innovation



Youth Empowerment and Education



Environment and Climate



Gender, Inclusion and Human Rights



Migration

PROJECTS

TERRITORIAL & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT HUB

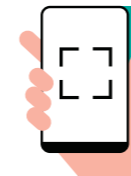


Territorial and local development are the cornerstones of democracy, as they empower citizens to actively engage in decision-making, foster social cohesion, and ensure equitable opportunities. By decentralising power and promoting community involvement, local development strengthens the foundations of a thriving democratic society.

Territorial and local development are crucial for various reasons:

- **Empowerment:** They empower communities and citizens by involving them in decision-making processes.

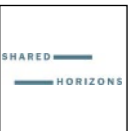
- **Community Engagement:** Through participation and involvement, they build strong, cohesive communities that are actively invested in their well-being.
- **Economic Growth:** Local development stimulates economic growth, creates job opportunities, and enhances living standards, reducing vulnerability to extremism or autocracy.
- **Civic Education:** Civic education programmes instil democratic values, promoting informed and engaged citizens who protect democratic institutions.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Local development often resolves conflicts locally, maintaining stability and trust, crucial for democratic functioning.
- **Inclusivity:** Local development addresses inequalities, ensuring marginalised groups have a voice and equal access to resources, promoting an equitable society.



For these reasons and many more, ALDA created a Thematic HUB on Territorial and Local Development. Scan the QR code for more information.



Shared Horizons



 Donor: Expertise France	 Budget: 460.000,00 €	 Timeframe: October 2024 - June 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: /	 ALDA role: Leader	 Countries impacted: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
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The **Shared Horizons Project** aims to promote peace and reconciliation in the Western Balkans by preserving and showcasing cultural heritage, symbolised by six bridges across six countries in the region. It engages young people from diverse communities in activities combining historical research, photography, and storytelling, encouraging reflection on the past while fostering solidarity and a shared future.

Through workshops and creative projects, participants produce visual narratives that connect past and present, culminating in public exhibitions, digital archives, and innovative tools such as augmented reality experiences.

“ The Shared Horizons Project was much needed in the Western Balkans, as it addresses youth, reconciliation and cultural heritage- the most sensitive and critical aspects in the region ”
 - by one of the experts of the Shared Horizons Project.

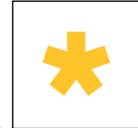


Shared Horizons



Shared Horizons

Capacity Building for CSOs: Empowering Sustainable Regional Development in the Western Balkans



4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	13 CLIMATE ACTION	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Donor: CEI - Central European Initiative	Budget: 32.040,00 €	Timeframe: December 2024 - June 2025	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 1	ALDA role: Leader	Countries impacted: Western Balkans 6 and CEI countries			

The Capacity Building for CSOs activity, organised by ALDA Balkans in March 2025, aimed to strengthen civil society capacities and promote democratic, economic, and social development in the Western Balkans. It focused on key areas such as youth, entrepreneurship, environmental protection, rural development, and cultural heritage, while fostering European values of democracy, inclusion, and peace.

Through a mix of training, mentorship, networking, and cross-border exchange, the initiative enhanced CSO skills and supported long-term regional cooperation and social cohesion. The event brought

together around 60 participants, including BOOST programme grantees, local stakeholders, and ALDA representatives.

The capacity building event organised from 25-28 march 2026 successfully gathered 33 stakeholders from the Western Balkan 6 to enhance their capacities in multiple areas.

“The training was the perfect networking opportunity as it gathered OSC from different countries and thematic backgrounds.”

- Ivana Velkova, Project Manager from ALDA Balkans

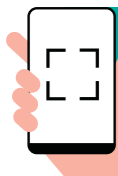
SPUR- Social Postcovid Urban Revitalisation



Donor: CERV programme of the European Union	Budget: 192.930,00 €	Timeframe: January 2024 – December 2025	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 7	ALDA role: Leader	Countries impacted: Belgium, Croatia, Italy, Portugal and Romania

The project aimed to foster transnational cooperation to address the long-term social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in urban peripheries, by engaging vulnerable groups in participatory urban revitalisation processes.

It brought together six local authorities from five EU Member States, supported by ALDA and the Agrigento and Trapani Community Foundation, to promote civic participation and tackle inequalities such as gender discrimination, marginalisation, and social exclusion in suburban areas.



Scan the QR code to visit the webpage and watch the final web documentary.



MICAD - Metropolitan Inclusivity in Climate and Digital Transitions



 Donor: European Commission - HORIZON programme Research and Innovation Actions	 Budget: 2.779.188,75 €	 Timeframe: March 2025 - February 2028	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 13	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Albania, Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Spain, Switzerland
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The MICAD project (Metropolitan Inclusivity in Climate and Digital Transitions) aims to promote inclusive metropolitan planning to address climate and digital challenges. It supports authorities in co-creating sustainable and equitable governance strategies by engaging citizens, policymakers, businesses, and researchers.

Key activities include research, capacity-building, and pilot actions in five European metropolitan areas, alongside the development of toolkits, policy recommendations, and transition roadmaps to ensure long-term impact and replicability. The project involves a diverse network of partners, including metropolitan areas such as Milan, Barcelona, GZM Metropolis, Tirana, and Chişinău.

“ In a changing world where climate and digital transitions are reshaping how we live, move, work, and connect, MICAD ensures these transformations are inclusive and that metropolitan inhabitants have a voice in planning a fairer, greener, and digitally empowered future. ”

THE:PLACE - Türkiye hand-in-hand with Europe: Programme for Local Authorities and civil society's exchange



 Donor: Mercator Foundation	 Budget: 950.000,00 €	 Timeframe: November 2021 - October 2025	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 2	 ALDA role: Leader	 Countries impacted: EU countries (around 9), Türkiye
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IT AIMS AT establishing enduring partnerships among Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) within Türkiye and Europe, as well as between CSOs and Local Authorities. To achieve this goal, CSOs from both the EU and Türkiye are chosen as beneficiaries to participate in a capacity-building program and a re-granting scheme. This allows them to implement projects, including bilateral exchange activities, fostering mutual learning and deepening their understanding of the NGO sector in both regions. Additionally, a series of local activities are conducted to promote sustainable development within their respective communities.

In 2025, the final event of the programme took place in Prizren (Kosovo), marking both a celebration of achievements and a moment for future reflection. Partnerships presented their results through engaging formats, including animated videos, while workshops encouraged dialogue and new collaborations. Interactive activities enhanced mutual understanding and empathy. The event concluded with a strong sense of shared purpose and optimism, with Prizren symbolising a meeting point of cultures, ideas, and continued cooperation.



THEPLACE



THEPLACE

INSPIRED Moldova

INSPIRĂ Moldova
Prin implicarea societății civile
în procesul decizional

1 NO POVERTY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
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 Donor: European Union	 Budget: 3.200.000 €	 Timeframe: September 2024 - February 2027	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 6	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Republic of Moldova
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IT AIMS TO strengthen civil society's capacity to actively influence national policies and contribute to the country's EU integration process. It promotes the meaningful involvement of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in policy-making at national, local, and digital levels, fostering structured dialogue

and collaboration with public authorities. In doing so, the initiative seeks to position civil society as a key driver of democratic development in Moldova.

Expected outcomes include:

- The development of participatory platforms enabling multi-stakeholder and multi-level policy dialogue on democratic governance;
- The establishment and support of cooperation initiatives between CSOs and central and local public authorities;
- The enhancement of CSOs' digital competences, essential for effectively engaging citizens in policy dialogue and participation processes.

In collaboration with eight civic organisations, the project implemented a series of civic education activities targeting young people, with a focus on critical thinking, democratic participation, and countering disinformation. These actions achieved a significant nationwide reach, with an estimated impact of over 800,000 individuals.



Inspired MOLDOVA



Inspired MOLDOVA



Inspired MOLDOVA

Civil Society for European Integration



Donor: Union and co-funder "Friedrich Ebert" Foundation	Budget: 1.100.000 €	Timeframe: January 2023 - June 2025	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 4	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Republic of Moldova



Civil Society for European Integration

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to support and promote the alignment of budgetary priorities with the EU integration agenda at both national and local levels. It also aims to enhance the coordination and cooperation among the three civil society platforms, enabling them to act cohesively and provide effective support for the implementation of the conditionalities linked to Moldova's EU candidate status and the Association Agenda.



Civil Society for European Integration

ALDA's efforts to promote good governance, transparency, and civic engagement were implemented through targeted advocacy activities and materialised in two analytical reports on public budget monitoring at both local and central levels. The monitoring reports prepared by ALDA Moldova within the framework of the project are available at: www.euromonitor.md.

The BRIDGE to the CoE - Building Resilience and Independence for Democratic Governance and Engagement with the Council of Europe



Donor: Council of Europe	Budget: 40.000,00 €	Timeframe: March 2023 - October 2025	Nr. of partners/ Associates: /	ALDA role: Leader	Countries impacted: Italy, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Focusing on Southern and Eastern Europe, the project aims to enhance citizen engagement, foster dialogue, and strengthen capacities to support democratic resilience. Building on ALDA's extensive experience and its partnership with the Council of Europe, the initiative serves as a bridge between civil society and democratic institutions, promoting trust, participation, and effective governance.



The BRIDGE to the CoE



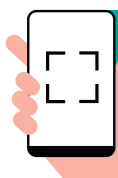
The BRIDGE to the CoE

DIGITAL & INNOVATION HUB



The Digital and Innovation Hub of ALDA serves as a pivotal platform for advancing inclusive, ethical, and human-centered digital transformation across Europe. Established within ALDA's thematic hubs, it empowers local communities, authorities, and civil society by leveraging technologies like artificial intelligence, online participation tools, and civic tech to foster democratic engagement and bridge digital divides, ensuring no one is left behind. The hub aligns with key global and EU priorities, including localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 11 (Sustainable Cities) through digital means; supporting the EU's "A Europe Fit for the Digital Age" initiative; contributing to the Council of Europe's AI & Human Rights Convention; and addressing Commission priorities for 2024-2029 on AI, cybersecurity, and digital democracy.

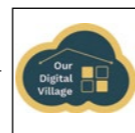
Core activities include promoting media literacy, ethical AI, digital rights, and accessible participation for all, particularly in the context of the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025, which emphasizes safe, responsible navigation of digital technologies. In 2025, the hub highlighted events like the Inclusive Digital Europe Conference in Brussels, organized under the Our Digital Village project, which convened policymakers, educators, and innovators to discuss digital skills, AI literacy, and urban-rural gaps, reinforcing that digital innovation must enhance participation, equity, and trust in local democracy. Earlier, in 2024, it hosted “Local Democracy in the Digital Age” in Barcelona, sharing best practices for using digital tools to boost civic involvement.



*Empowering Communities through Inclusive Digital Transformation.
Scan the QR code for more information*



Our Digital Village



 Donor: Erasmus+	 Budget: 1.100,00 €	 Timeframe: January 2023 – December 2025	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 11	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain
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Our Digital Village addresses the growing digital divide between urban and rural areas, intensified by rapid digital transformation and the COVID-19 pandemic. It promotes the acquisition of digital and transversal skills to prepare individuals for future educational, professional, and societal challenges. Key objectives include initiating self-analysis in rural areas using the Reciprocal Maieutic Approach to identify needs and boost motivation, co-creating adaptable educational materials to strengthen skills for teachers, trainers, and learners, and ensuring long-term digitalisation through awareness-raising

across society. Main activities encompass participatory context analyses, co-design workshops, development of activity kits and evaluation tools, ICT training for experts, and pilot courses in rural communities. Achievements include the Our Digital Village Activity Kit, an Evaluation Toolkit, a 30-hour modular training programme for educators, and establishment of Digital Village Communities fostering ongoing digital education in rural Europe.

**“ Digital innovation must strengthen participation,
equity and trust if it is to truly serve democracy at local level. ”**

– From the Inclusive Digital Europe Conference



Our Digital Village

Media4EU



Donor: European Commission - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights	Budget: 366.212,00 €	Timeframe: March 2023 - February 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 3	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: North Macedonia



Media4EU

This project aims to strengthen media integrity, improve journalism standards, and enhance democratic resilience in the Republic of North Macedonia. It focuses on building the professional capacities of journalists through training in ethical reporting, digital skills, and fact-based journalism practices, while promoting media literacy to help citizens critically assess information and counter disinformation.



Media4EU

Key objectives include reducing self-censorship, fostering knowledge exchange between experienced and early-career journalists, and strengthening evidence-based public dialogue through research and public opinion analysis. These objectives were pursued through regional public events across all eight statistical regions, two mentorship programmes for young journalists, international capacity-building activities with trainers from leading EU journalism schools, networking initiatives, and a study visit in Vicenza. Through these actions, the project supports a transparent media environment and promotes a more informed and democratically engaged society.

**“ My advice to the young journalists everywhere?
Be patient, follow your heart and follow the rules. ”**
- Young journalist during the study visit in Vicenza

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & EDUCATION HUB



In 2025, ALDA's Youth Empowerment and Education Hub strengthened its structure, visibility, and strategic direction, consolidating its role as a key platform for youth empowerment and civic participation within Europe and beyond.

In 2025, the Hub formally established its Steering Committee, appointing the Merkury Foundation (Poland) and the Municipality of Valongo (Portugal) as co-chairs. Two milestone meetings with members shaped the Hub's strategic outlook: an online session in July to kick-start strategic reflection, and an in-person meeting in Brussels during the Youth Impact Forum in September, where members discussed priorities for 2026 and beyond. **Over 70 people attended this one-day flagship event**, including representatives from 20 partner organisations and local authorities from all over Europe.

Thanks to the introduction of a monthly newsletter, the Youth Hub started an ongoing conversation with ALDA members interested in youth and education issues. We are proud to count over 170 ALDA members, making the Youth Empowerment and Education Hub one of the most dynamic of the organisation.

Across its network, the Youth Hub and related ALDA projects implemented over 30 activities and events engaging over 400 people and organisations, local authorities, and civil society actors across Europe (Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Italy, Romania, each of the six countries of the Western Balkans), Africa (especially Senegal and Tanzania through in-person events) and online. Work continued on projects Youth Vision, ADD Something Meaningful, WYDE, BOOST, Speak Up, and STAR 2.0. The hub started three new projects in 2025: Youth Social Act, RISE, and New Re-Generation.



Youth Impact Forum

ADD – Something Meaningful - Strengthening Youth Engagement through Local Involvement



 Donor: Erasmus+	 Budget: 400.000,00 €	 Timeframe: March 2023 - November 2025	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 8	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Slovenia, Italy, France, Finland
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ADD - Something Meaningful

IT AIMS AT boosting youth participation in local decision-making by adapting the IDEATHON method—a structured ideation process—for youth organisations and local authorities. Key objectives include empowering stakeholders to implement participatory processes, raising awareness on youth involvement, addressing social challenges collaboratively, and securing sustainable funding for such initiatives. Main activities encompass situation analyses, manual development (e.g., IDEATHON guide and handbook for local authorities), training for 76 youth workers, organising 16 IDEATHON events across partner countries, and creating advocacy documents. Achievements include engaging over 480 young people, implementing 5 policy recommendations in local acts, securing 4 commitments for systemic funding, and producing resources like expert materials on youth participation. The project fosters active citizenship, strengthens community ties, and promotes democratic engagement among underrepresented youth.



ADD - Something Meaningful



The CLIMentines - Empowered youth for climate action



Donor: Erasmus+	Budget: 400.000,00 €	Timeframe: November 2023 - October 2025	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 7	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Austria, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Poland

IT AIMS AT empowering a new generation of environmentally conscious young Europeans to actively engage in climate action and influence policy-making at local, national, and EU levels. Key objectives include building a transnational network for youth organisations to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration, strengthening capacities of youth workers through tools and training, supporting participation of young people with fewer opportunities, and boosting their confidence in democratic processes. Main activities involve co-creation workshops, international training sessions, youth-led

initiatives, establishing local climate task forces, conducting transnational youth exchanges, and developing resources like a multilingual toolbox and guide. Achievements encompass the release of the CLIMentines Youth Worker's Guide to Climate Action, a comprehensive toolbox for participatory methods, and the formation of a network exceeding 100 youth organisations, promoting sustained climate literacy and activism.



BOOST - Balkans for optimising opportunities, sustainability and transformation of civil society

Donor: Agence Française de Développement (AFD)	Budget: 3.700.000,00 €	Timeframe: April 2025 - March 2027	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 12	ALDA role: Leader	Countries impacted: WB - Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia			



The BOOST project aims to foster democratic, economic, and social development in the Western Balkans by strengthening civil society organisations and promoting regional cooperation. Structured around three key pillars—youth and entrepreneurship, rural development and environment, and cultural heritage—it delivers capacity-building activities, networking opportunities, and a sub-granting scheme to support innovative local initiatives.

Through participatory workshops, cross-border exchanges, and collaboration with local authorities, BOOST enhances civic engagement, knowledge sharing, and alignment with EU values, contributing to sustainable community development and long-term socio-economic growth.

“ Through BOOST, ideas turned into action and partnerships into lasting impact, empowering civil society to inspire change, strengthen communities, and shape a more sustainable and inclusive future across the Western Balkans ”
 - Maja Varoshlija Project Manager of BOOST



BOOST



BOOST

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



 Donor: Erasmus+	 Budget: 400.000,00 €	 Timeframe: September 2023 - August 2025	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 7	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Cyprus, France, Italy, North Macedonia, Spain, Turkey
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The project aims at developing new training paths for University students focusing on Sustainable Development Goals localisation through community organising and community-led initiatives, promoting the creation of new managerial figures who can act as agents of change. The objective is to promote quadruple helix model improvement & uptake as means to promote sustainable and

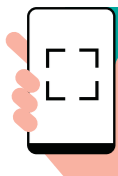
inclusive development of local communities through participatory, multidisciplinary approaches. In order to reach this objective, within the project ALDA was responsible for creating 5 Living Communities Labs, as networks of High-Education students and professors, Civil Society Organisation professionals and territorial stakeholders. Each of these Labs has been realised through a co-design process in Cyprus, Spain, North Macedonia, Turkey, Italy.



UP2YOU



UP2YOU



Final Toolkit on How to Set Up and Run Living Communities Labs.
Scan the QR code for more information.



WYDE Civic Engagement



 Donor: European commission (DG INTPA)	 Budget: 15.000.000 €	 Timeframe: November 2022 - September 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 7	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Global south
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WYDE

The Youth Participation in Public Affairs programme, part of the EU-funded Women and Youth in Democracy Initiative (WYDE), aims to strengthen youth inclusion and empowerment in democratic processes at national, regional, and global levels.

Through a three-pronged approach, the initiative supports youth engagement beyond national contexts and includes five thematic “Clusters” led by members of the European Partnership for Democracy to empower young people active in public life.

Cluster 1, “Generate Democracy,” led by ALDA in partnership with Elbarlament and People in Need, provides funding opportunities for youth CSOs to implement concrete actions promoting civic engagement and democracy through a rolling call mechanism over four years.



WYDE



WYDE

Over 50 organisations from 21 countries were strengthened through capacity-building programmes, improving their ability to design and implement impactful projects. Financial support enabled them to translate skills into concrete actions, while peer learning and networking fostered collaboration across the region. The project also reinforced an international youth network and cooperation with public authorities, contributing to the development of youth councils and parliaments and strengthening structured youth participation in governance processes.

YCAN - Youth Climate Action Network



4 QUALITY EDUCATION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Donor: Erasmus+	Budget: 561.000,00 €	Timeframe: October 2025 - November 2028	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 11	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Spain, Belgium, France, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya

The project addresses climate change by empowering young people—particularly in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa—to overcome barriers such as limited access to resources, knowledge, and networks. It fosters youth engagement through training, mobility programmes, and collaborative activities.

strengthening the capacity of youth organisations to develop local, community-driven solutions. By promoting international exchange and cooperation, the project builds a global network of young changemakers working together towards climate resilience.



YCAN

The Kick-Off Meeting of the YCAN project established a strong foundation for implementation by aligning partners on objectives, results, timeline, and structure. Roles and responsibilities were clearly defined, and the Steering Committee was set up to ensure effective governance and coordination. Overall, the meeting strengthened collaboration, clarified next steps, and reinforced a shared commitment to the project's success.



New Regeneration 2.0



 Donor: Erasmus+	 Budget: 500.000,00 €	 Timeframe: February 2025 - January 2028	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 10	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Belgium, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Tunisia
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New Re-Ge aims to promote a resilient, low-carbon society in the SWANA region by empowering young people to adopt climate-friendly lifestyles and act as agents of change. The project enhances skills and awareness through education, while establishing a Virtual Youth Academy to support youth organisations and foster active engagement in building a sustainable future.

Between 50 and 100 participants took part in the Virtual Academy, following a structured learning pathway to become mentors within the Virtual Youth Academy. In addition, more than 100 individuals attended the Virtual Youth Festival, which introduced the Academy and showcased its learning opportunities in the fields of activism, entrepreneurship, and community development.



RISE



 Donor: Erasmus+	 Budget: 400.000,00 €	 Timeframe: June 2025 - May 2027	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 6	 ALDA role: Leader	 Countries impacted: France, Spain, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ireland
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RISE aims to empower young people, particularly those in vulnerable situations, by strengthening their skills in climate advocacy and environmental literacy.

Through training, mentorship, expert discussions, and local actions, the project equips 30 youth participants to address climate-related challenges and implement advocacy initiatives within their communities.

STAR 2.0 - Street Art for the Future



 Donor: Erasmus+	 Budget: 400.000,00 €	 Timeframe: April 2024 – May 2027	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 5	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Czech Republic, Italy, Portugal, Netherlands, France, and Ukraine
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STAR 2.0

STAR 2.0 uses street art to engage and empower disadvantaged youth, fostering self-expression, confidence, and active citizenship.

The project supports youth workers in involving young people in creative activities, while raising awareness among communities and local authorities about the potential of street art for social inclusion and innovative use of public spaces.



STAR 2.0

In 2025, the STAR 2.0 project advanced from research to the development and testing of its educational tools, focusing on training youth workers to use street art for social inclusion and civic engagement. The partnership created 10 multilingual training modules, validated through focus groups, and organised an international training activity in Reggio Emilia. By the end of the year, the online training was launched on the HERO Academy platform, engaging over 40 youth workers who will lead local pilot activities.



STAR 20

Youth Social Act



 Donor: Erasmus+	 Budget: 250.000,00 €	 Timeframe: September 2024 - August 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 6	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, and France
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The YouthSocialAct project empowers young people with fewer opportunities to engage in local democratic life through civic initiatives and youth-led projects. It focuses on capacity-building for youth workers, sharing good practices, and supporting actions in areas such as inclusion, sustainability, and participation.

In 2025, key achievements included the development of a 12-module training curriculum, a transnational training in Cyprus, and the launch of the “YouthSocialWork” Network, laying the groundwork for local Youth Ambassador Programmes.



Youth Social Act



Youth Social Act

USE IPM



 Donor: European Research Executive Agency - Horizon 2020	 Budget: 2.310.612,50 €	 Timeframe: July 2023 - April 2027	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 11	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Italy, North Macedonia, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, United Kingdom.
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IT AIMS AT promoting entrepreneurship with a focus on sustainability and innovations that adhere to a three-norm framework: doing good, avoiding harm, and protecting people and the planet. The project prioritises enhancing the relationship between the academic and non-academic sectors in countries with widening access, by implementing practices that offer sustainability justifications and benefits. This initiative is deemed valuable for enhancing their competitive position and fostering their integration as welcoming EU members.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE HUB



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.

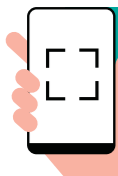
At the European level, the **European Green Deal** is the response of the Commission to climate and environmental-related challenges. On an international level, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to 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.



Circular Cities and Regions Initiative



Empowering communities, building resilience: ALDA's commitment to a sustainable, inclusive future. Scan the QR code for more information.



CIRAN



 Donor: Horizon Europe	 Budget: 2.291.975,00 €	 Timeframe: January 2023 - December 2025	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 12	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: 5
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CIRAN

CIRAN is a European project promoting sustainable development by improving the sourcing of critical raw materials in protected areas. It aims to develop policies that enable responsible resource extraction while preserving ecosystems.

The project focuses on creating integrated permitting procedures, fostering balanced policy frameworks, and building a lasting community of practice. ALDA contributes by leading citizen engagement activities across five European countries to raise awareness and gather stakeholder input.

*“ It is necessary to educate society to change consumer behaviour ”
- participant*

SG4Y-CLIMATE (Smart Governance for Youth Involvement in Climate Action)



Donor: NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme, Co-funded by European Union	Budget: 500.000,00 €	Timeframe: November 2025 - March 2027	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 4	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Türkiye, Romania, and Moldova

The project **SG4Y-CLIMATE (Smart Governance for Youth Involvement in Climate Action)** aims to empower young people to take an active role in climate action while strengthening the capacities of local authorities across the Black Sea Basin to promote inclusive and participatory governance.

A key component of the project is the establishment of a Transnational Youth Council for Climate Action (TYCCA), conceived as a regional platform enabling young leaders to collaborate with local authorities and contribute to the development of climate policies. TYCCA will bring together youth representatives from Türkiye, Romania, and Moldova, engaging them in targeted training activities, joint initiatives, and advocacy efforts to advance climate resilience and participatory decision-making.

FOSTER – Future Oriented Solutions Toward Environmental Resilience



Donor: European Education and Culture Executive Agency, CERV	Budget: 372.235,00 €	Timeframe: September 2024 - August 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 14	ALDA role: Leader	Countries impacted: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, European Union, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, Spain

FOSTER supports the development of inclusive local governance frameworks to address future environmental challenges through foresight strategies and proactive climate action.

The project builds capacity to anticipate climate-related socio-economic impacts, fosters partnerships between civil society and local authorities, and promotes co-designed solutions. It also creates online networks to share best practices, strengthen dialogue, and empower communities to actively contribute to climate policymaking.





FOSTER

FIC-FIGHTERS



<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>
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<p>Donor: Horizon Europe</p>	<p>Budget: 11.813.624,50 €</p>	<p>Timeframe: June 2024 – May 2028</p>	<p>Nr. of partners/ Associates: 27</p>	<p>ALDA role: Partner</p>	<p>Countries impacted: 11</p>
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FIC-FIGHTERS aims to valorise phosphogypsum waste to produce sustainable raw materials in line with circular economy principles. The project brings together industry, research, and policy partners to develop replicable solutions across Europe.

Key actions include creating a PG forum, launching an Exploitation Portal, and building a Community of Practice for knowledge sharing. ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy leads citizen engagement workshops in six countries to gather local perspectives and assess risks related to phosphogypsum sites.

“ We’re committed to creating fair, sustainable cities. ”



FIC-FIGHTERS



FIC-FIGHTERS

BUILDSPACE



4 QUALITY EDUCATION	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Donor: HORIZON	Budget: 2.632.367,50 €	Timeframe: February 2023 - January 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 14	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).

During 2025, the project achieved several key results:

- The co-creation of a policy brief with sister projects;
- Digital Educational Toolkit that gathers project outcomes and know-how;
- The production of five episodes of the EcoEnergy Hub podcast



BUILDSPACE



BUILDSPACE

POWERYOUTH - Empowering youth for energy community actions



Donor: The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) - LIFE	Budget: 1.499.997,21 €	Timeframe: January 2024 - December 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 10	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Greece, Portugal, Latvia, Austria, Poland, France, Switzerland

POWERYOUTH aims to empower young people to actively participate in energy communities and contribute to the energy transition. The project focuses on building skills, fostering youth leadership, and promoting sustainable energy practices. Key actions include developing a toolkit, delivering capacity-building programmes, supporting youth-led collective initiatives, and engaging stakeholders. It also promotes replication across the EU and produces policy recommendations to strengthen youth involvement in energy communities.



POWERYOUTH

ERICA - Environmental monitoring through Civic engagement



Donor: Erasmus+	Budget: 400.000,00 €	Timeframe: November 2023 - October 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 7	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: France, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain

The ERICA project promotes environmental awareness and civic engagement by using citizen science to address local environmental and climate challenges linked to fossil fuels. It aims to equip citizens with the skills to monitor environmental issues, analyse data, and turn it into actionable knowledge for communities and policymakers. Key outputs include a best practices e-booklet, a training methodology on environmental monitoring and data advocacy, an e-learning platform, and pilot actions to test and evaluate citizen-led environmental monitoring initiatives.



POWERYOUTH

AQUATIK-EU

AQUATIK-EU



 Donor: CERV Programme	 Budget: 298.360,00 €	 Timeframe: January 2025 – December 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 11	 ALDA role: Leader	 Countries impacted: France, Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina
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It aims to raise awareness of water heritage and improve water management in inland and remote areas, which are often overlooked despite their environmental and cultural importance.

Through capacity-building, participatory governance, and cultural initiatives the project strengthens local expertise, fosters dialogue among stakeholders, and enhances citizens' awareness and sense of responsibility towards water resources, promoting their preservation and sustainable use.



AQUATIK-EU



AQUATIK-EU

NEVERMORE



 Donor: Horizon Europe	 Budget: 6.687.423,00 €	 Timeframe: June 2022 - May 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 16	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, Sweden, Spain
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IT AIMS AT supporting excellence in research on climate science and climate policy. The focus is on the modeling theory to take a significant step forward to overcome the current silo approach in favor of an integrated assessment one for evaluating impacts, risks and interactions of climate change across sectors and adaptation and mitigation strategies towards a climate neutral and resilience society, relying on the multiple feedbacks that occur between the variables involved in climate change.



ESSPIN - Economic, social and spatial inequalities in Europe in the era of global mega-trends



 Donor: Horizon Europe	 Budget: 2.674.000,00 €	 Timeframe: October 2022 - September 2025	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 13	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, United Kingdom
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IT AIMS AT re-examining the nexus of social, economic, and spatial inequalities in the EU as well as the various typologies, arrangements and mixes of policies to address them in the light of emerging and highly interacting mega-trends and challenges that threaten to increase pressures and make policy choices even more difficult. As new and older drivers of change are projected to create a rather unfavourable environment for balanced growth and socio-spatial resilience, this research will focus on the analysis of policy responses, aiming to make them more proactive, inclusive, and effective.

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



Donor: Erasmus+ (21-27)	Budget: 1.499.520,00 €	Timeframe: September 2023 - August 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 12	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Spain, United Kingdom
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CiD

IT AIMS AT promoting climate-neutral cities in Europe through a green and resilient transition. The project concentrates on integrating circular economy principles across key design sectors, fostering cultural change and social inclusion. CiD adopts a multidisciplinary approach to bridge skill and knowledge gaps in architecture, urban design, and product/service design. It aims to sustain its outcomes by involving organisations across Europe in architectural practice, society, and culture. Additionally, CiD contributes to Circular Design education by promoting entrepreneurship within academia and facilitating the growth of green start-ups through accelerators and continuing education programs. Ultimately, it propels the transition towards a circular construction and design economy.

During 2025, the project organised three conferences on circularity in Barcelona, Genova, and Tallinn. In addition, three academic programmes were successfully completed in Hannover, Barcelona, and Genova, and an accelerator programme was delivered in Tallinn, supporting capacity building and innovation in circular economy practices.

CCRI Knowledge Hub



Donor: Horizon 2020	Budget: 2.612.932,04 €	Timeframe: January 2024 - December 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 11	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Italy, Belgium, France, Finland, Poland, Spain
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IT AIMS AT enhancing the impact of the existing Circular Cities and Regions Initiative by expanding the network of cities and regions 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.

“ Together, we can create the cities of tomorrow! ”



CCRI



CCRI

SCEPA - Scaling up the Energy Poverty Approach



 Donor: European Commission - Interreg North-West Europe	 Budget: 6.229.126,11 €	 Timeframe: April 2023 - June 2027	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 8	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, United Kingdom
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SCEPA



IT AIMS AT Impacting energy poverty in the North-West Regions of Europe by strengthening transnational cooperation and delivering practical solutions for vulnerable households. It integrates best practices and knowledge through a Joint Action Strategy (JAS) and Local Action Plans (LAPs). SCEPA will enhance energy-saving tools, focusing especially on hard-to-reach and vulnerable households. Through strong monitoring, evaluation, and communication, results will be shared widely and transferred to stakeholders and a growing Community of Interest. By fostering Energy Communities, SCEPA aims at piloting existing tools to strengthen local strategies that tackle energy poverty. It creates communities across North-West Europe, with the objective to increase energy efficiency and, consequently, reduce greenhouse gasses emissions.

“ *Scaling solutions. Empowering communities. Fighting energy poverty.* ”



EnviRights - Empowering eNVIronmental RIGHTS defenders through monitoring, capacity building and advocacy in Europe



Donor: European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)	Budget: 644.298,36 €	Timeframe: June 2025 - May 2027	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 7	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: France, Greece, Hungary, Italy

IT AIMS AT strengthening the protection and promotion of freedom of expression, assembly, and association for environmental and climate activists across the European Union. Activists increasingly face restrictions, selective enforcement, and social hostility. EnviRights responds through various strategies: enhancing monitoring of environmental activists' rights by mapping formal and informal

movements, identifying best practices, and developing a unified European monitoring system; building activists' capacity through tailored training on legal protection, communication, psychological resilience, and coping skills, with special attention to disadvantaged groups; and fostering institutional and societal understanding by training public officers, supporting responsible media narratives, and engaging policymakers through structured dialogue and recommendations.



EnvRights

**MED-Hubs - Mediterranean Blue Economy Hubs:
Maritime Innovation for Smart Specialisation**



 Donor: European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency - EMFAF	 Budget: 2.135.720,00 €	 Timeframe: October 2025 - September 2027	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 10	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Italy, Spain, Germany, Malta, France, Netherlands
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IT AIMS AT strengthening the Western Mediterranean blue economy by transforming innovative ideas into market-ready solutions. It establishes two Blue Economy hubs: one in Spain focused on marine renewable energy, and one in Italy dedicated to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Together, they create an interregional ecosystem that fosters collaboration, innovation, and real-life technology validation. Through open calls and pilot projects tested in operational environments, MED-Hubs supports SMEs, startups, researchers, investors, ports, policymakers, and coastal communities in bringing solutions to market. By promoting cooperation, knowledge exchange, and replication through an Expansion Program, the project aims to boost sustainable growth, job creation, regional competitiveness, and resilient coastal development across Europe.

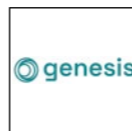


MED-Hubs



MED-Hubs

GENESIS



 Donor: Horizon Europe	 Budget: 10.512.440,00 €	 Timeframe: September 2024 - August 2028	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 20	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Spain, Belgium, France, Portugal, Greece, Cape Verde
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GENESIS aims to enhance climate resilience in water infrastructure through innovative nature-based solutions that improve water use, reuse, and groundwater protection.

By implementing these approaches in Macaronesia, the project seeks to strengthen local resilience by reducing runoff and soil erosion while increasing water infiltration and underground storage, supporting sustainable socio-economic development.



GENESIS

Blue LightS



 Donor: Horizon Europe	 Budget: 3.001.053,75 €	 Timeframe: January 2024 - June 2027	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 25	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Croatia, France, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden
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The BlueLightS project aims to provide schools and teachers with free, accessible, and high-quality resources to support blue education. Through three dedicated calls, the project offers funding to schools to implement educational activities, while also supporting applicants in the proposal development process. Activities are carried out across nine demonstration countries either directly by project partners or through engaged stakeholders. In addition, BlueLightS seeks to inform and engage policymakers by raising awareness of the importance of blue education and providing recommendations for its further integration into policy frameworks.

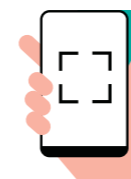
GENDER, INCLUSION & HUMAN RIGHTS HUB



Adopting an intersectional approach, the Thematic Hub recognises individuals in their full complexity, acknowledging that overlapping social identities can lead to compounded forms of discrimination. With a particular focus on young people, especially those facing structural barriers, the initiative contributes to building a more inclusive and equitable society, in line with international and EU policy priorities and ALDA's mission to promote good governance and active citizenship.

At the European level, anti-discrimination principles are central to key policy frameworks, including the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and the Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025. In this context, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play a crucial role in advancing equality by tackling discrimination, fostering inclusive participation, and supporting individuals' rights to self-expression and development. Ensuring the effective implementation and monitoring of these policies remains essential and requires structured and consistent engagement from CSOs.

Active participation in programmes and initiatives addressing gender inequalities and discrimination is key to driving progress. Integrating a gender equality and anti-discrimination perspective across all activities, including campaigns and advocacy work, further strengthens impact and coherence. In this framework, ALDA developed and published its "Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination" policy, which sets out the organisation's commitments across recruitment, career development, partnerships, membership, suppliers, and beneficiaries.



*Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Policy.
Scan the QR code for more information.*



WE ACT – Women Empowerment and ACTION in Politics and Media



Donor: EU Delegation to Türkiye - Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy	Budget: 723,190.85 €	Timeframe: January 2023 - June 2025	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 1	ALDA role: Leader	Countries impacted: Türkiye
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IT AIMS to strengthen the participation of women and LGBTIQ+ communities in local governance, while empowering women aspiring to run in the 2024 local elections across Türkiye. Aligned with the priority areas of women's rights and LGBTIQ+ rights, the initiative targets 150 women candidates as well as local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), supporting their capacity to actively engage in political and decision-making processes.



WE ACT

The final event of the WE ACT project, held in Istanbul in May 2025, gathered around 90 participants, including partners, beneficiaries, civil society representatives, and stakeholders. It showcased project results, reflected on implementation, and presented final evaluation findings.

Politik-Her



Donor: Erasmus +	Budget: 250.000,00 €	Timeframe: October 2023 - October 2025	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 6	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Cyprus, France, Italy, Romania, Sweden
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IT AIMS AT empowering young women to play an active role in building inclusive, sustainable, and cohesive communities. It does it by providing a supportive intercultural learning environment through multi-stakeholder roundtables, mentorship programmes, and the development of action plans, enabling participants to strengthen their leadership skills, confidence, and community engagement.



Politik-Her

The project promoted awareness-raising activities, including online and offline campaigns, aimed to challenge gender stereotypes and encourage broader societal change.

It culminated in a final outreach event and the publication of a policy brief with recommendations to support young women's empowerment and leadership.

YOU-DARE
(YOUth Debunking the gendered Arguments of far-Right Extremism)



Donor: Horizon	Budget: 2.999.642,50 €	Timeframe: February 2025 - October 2028	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 8	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom



YOU-DARE

IT AIMS AT examining and challenging far-right gender narratives among young people, highlighting their contradictions and assessing their impact on identity formation, politicisation, and democratic processes. By adopting an intersectional approach, YOU-DARE focuses on youth as a key yet under-researched group and analyses both local leadership and online influencers.

Highlight: The project's key achievements include :

- The conduction of qualitative research, mapping online gender controversies and fostering a transnational network of stakeholders and experts.
- The establishment of Policy Labs, which develop and implement locally-based solutions to counter harmful gender narratives and strengthen democratic values.

TRANSCENDING BARRIERS



Donor: Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme	Budget: /	Timeframe: February 2025 - January 2027	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 9	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Italy, Lithuania, Spain, France, Bulgaria

IT AIMS AT improving workplace inclusion and career opportunities for trans individuals. The project seeks to reduce discrimination, strengthen the capacity of HR professionals, and promote inclusive organisational cultures across Europe.

Its activities begin with research and needs assessment, including surveys and interviews with over 400 participants, to identify barriers faced by trans and non-binary people and inform tailored training materials. The project also implements the *TransMentor Programme* to provide mentoring, career guidance, and peer support to trans individuals. In parallel, awareness-raising activities, including info-days, stakeholder events, and a final conference in Brussels aim to promote dialogue and policy change.

SUPPORT



Donor: ESF+	Budget: /	Timeframe: June 2025 - May 2028	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 15	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Norway, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom
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IT AIMS AT addressing the persistent employment barriers faced by persons with disabilities, whose unemployment periods are significantly longer than those of non-disabled individuals. By scaling up and transferring socially innovative Supported Employment practices across EU regions, the initiative promotes inclusive labour market participation through tailored support such as job coaching, employer training, and ongoing assistance.



SUPPORT

FOCUS - Promoting Fundamentals of Charter Use in Society



Donor: Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme	Budget: 1,119,056.27 €	Timeframe: March 2024 - February 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 6	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: France, Germany, Netherlands, Malta, Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, Belgium
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FOCUS

IT AIMS AT building public awareness of the Charter and its value, and the capacity of key stakeholders for its broader application. The consortium, consisting of five European organisations 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.

ALDA led the creation of the Community of interest that worked on the awareness raising of the Charter at a local level.

SINCRONY



Donor: European Commission - European Research Executive Agency	Budget: 2,450,313.75 €	Timeframe: January 2024 - June 2027	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 8	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

IT AIMS AT empowering young people, particularly those from minoritized or at-risk groups, by promoting more equitable power-sharing and inclusive participation. The project seeks to better understand participatory and deliberative processes by placing youth at the centre of its activities, gathering their perspectives, experiences, and needs.

One of its key objectives is to develop new models of youth participation and engagement, designed to strengthen their role in democratic and decision-making processes. These models will be implemented by policymakers, youth workers, and educational institutions, contributing to more inclusive, representative, and participatory societies for younger generations.



HATEDEMICS



Donor: Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme	Budget: 1,084,948.55 €	Timeframe: April 2024 - March 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 13	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Estonia, France, Italy, Malta, Poland, Spain

The project aims at strengthening the preventive and reactive measures against hate speech and disinformation online. The goal is empowering NGOs/CSOs, factcheckers, 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.



The project created a platform to tackle hate speech and disinformation and drafted an educational toolkit.

Route+



 Donor: Erasmus +	 Budget: /	 Timeframe: December 2024 to May 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 4	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Finland, France, Ireland, Italy
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IT AIMS AT building a better understanding of Restorative Justice in Europe in order to facilitate the collaboration between the private and public sector and all the relevant stakeholders actively involved in the process. Restorative justice provides a different viewpoint from the common sense and legal conceptualisation of crime and societal responses to it.

The specific objectives of the project are: 1) to identify the strengths and weaknesses of current practices in the field of restorative justice in Europe, 2) to enhance the skills of essential personnel in this field, 3) to facilitate communication between public and private sector stakeholders.



Route +

MIGRATION HUB





In 2025, one year and a half after the launch of ALDA's Migration Flagship, the Migration Hub consolidated its framework activities under the 2024-2028 ALDA's Strategy and Advocacy priorities. The year marked a transition from structuring the Flagship to implementing concrete actions aligned with its two core objectives: coordinated action for migration rights and strengthened community integration advocacy.

A central achievement was the mobilization and mapping of ALDA members active in migration. Through consultations and regular exchanges, the Hub identified expertise, needs, and priorities, laying the foundation for a consolidated ALDA position on migration to be finalized in early 2026. The launch of a monthly Migration Hub newsletter further reinforced internal coordination and access to funding and policy updates.

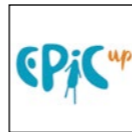
Project development and implementation significantly advanced. In 2025, over 20 migration-related proposals were submitted, securing leadership roles in cross-cutting initiatives connected to other thematic hubs. Ongoing projects such as EPIC-UP, AMIL, and OUT4INGOV delivered research activities, needs assessments, peer-learning exchanges, field visits, and policy labs across several EU countries. Three dedicated capacity-building components supported local authorities and civil society organizations in strengthening migrant inclusion practices.

Advocacy efforts were reinforced through active participation in European networks and high-level events, as well as engagement with EU institutions. Particular attention was given to promoting participatory democracy, countering harmful migration narratives, and fostering the direct involvement of people with migrant backgrounds in consultation and co-design processes.

Overall, 2025 consolidated the Migration Hub as a coordinated, advocacy-driven, and action-oriented platform within ALDA, stepping in 2026 with 2 new EU-funded projects.

 Promoting citizens engagement as a tool to strengthen local democracy, participatory processes and decentralised cooperation in Europe and Worldwide. Scan the QR code for more information. 

EPIC-UP



 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
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 Donor: European Commission - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2021-2027)	 Budget: 2.024.467,82 €	 Timeframe: May 2024 - April 2027	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 25	 ALDA role: Leader	 Countries impacted: France, Belgium, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Spain, Germany, Poland
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IT AIMS to strengthen migrant integration at the local level through structured collaboration among multiple stakeholders, including migrants and refugees. The project establishes Communities of Practice across six EU countries to share knowledge and good practices, while promoting participatory approaches, capacity-building, and peer learning. Through pilot actions and local adaptation plans, EPIC-UP seeks to deliver tested integration services, empower migrant communities, and develop policy recommendations for more resilient and inclusive integration strategies.

“ During the EPIC-UP Steering Committee in Brescia, we learned from field visits and exchanges with migrant-background councillors that their journeys into public office are not only personal achievements, but powerful bridges that deepen community trust and strengthen local integration efforts. ”
- CoP leader partner



AMIL



 Donor: European Commission - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2021-2027)	 Budget: 1.225.991,02 €	 Timeframe: May 2024 - October 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 9	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, France
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IT AIMS to support the sustainable labour market integration of third-country nationals (TCNs) by strengthening the MEIC Migrants Economic Integration Cluster, a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach based on local public-private partnerships.

Implemented in Italy, Greece, and Cyprus, the project provides 150 beneficiaries with training, language learning, skills assessment, personalised support, and job placement opportunities.

Its objectives include improving local integration initiatives, enhancing employability and economic inclusion of TCNs, and strengthening the involvement of key stakeholders in labour market integration.

“ The workshop offered practical insights, but above all, it reminded us of the human side of labour market integration and our shared responsibility to make it work. ”

-Col participant of the in-person workshop delivered by ALDA

OUT4INGOV



 Donor: European Commission, European Regional Development Fund	 Budget: 633.920,02 €	 Timeframe: January 2025 - August 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 6	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia
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OUT4INGOV addresses youth out-migration in Alpine regions by tackling brain drain, depopulation, and social cohesion challenges. The project promotes territorial cohesion and sustainable development through co-created policies and governance models involving local stakeholders.

Key actions include establishing youth councils, fostering transnational cooperation, and providing capacity-building for public authorities and local actors, with active involvement of young people, including migrants.

The project aims to strengthen institutional capacity, improve governance mechanisms, enhance regional cooperation, and create mutually beneficial outcomes for regions and young migrants.

OTHER PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES



I-CIVIC - Innovating Civic Engagement Pedagogies for a Resilient Generation



Donor: Horizon Europe (MSCA Staff Exchanges)	Budget: /	Timeframe: November 2025 - October 2029	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 10	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Spain, Finland, France, Italy, Germany, Estonia, Ireland
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The primary goal of the I-CIVIC program is to establish a comprehensive and **multidisciplinary network of international experts**, fostering cross-sector collaboration to address the complexities and ramifications of **democratic engagement, civic participation, and digital literacy**.

A key strength of the project is its **international exchanges**, which allow researchers and practitioners to work together directly in different countries, compare contexts, test ideas, and co-develop new models of democratic learning.

Anna Lindh Macedonian network



Donor: Anna Lindh Foundation	Budget: /	Timeframe: March 2024	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 52	ALDA role: Leader	Countries impacted: North Macedonia
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The Anna Lindh Foundation is an international organisation working from the Mediterranean to promote 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 intercultural relations, cultural heritage, religion, research, human rights, democracy and community development, arts, youth and education, gender issues, environment and sustainable development and media. At present, national networks exist in more than 40 countries. This network aims to unite and inspire other civil societies and to strengthen its impact in this way. The network firmly believes in the power of dialogue, because it increases tolerance, broadens our perspectives, accelerates our progress and gives hope and courage to people around the world.

“ Our network is more than connections, it’s a space where members grow, collaborate, and make a difference. ”

- Simona Slavkova, Coordinator of the Anna Lindh Macedonian Network



Anna Lindh Macedonian network



Anna Lindh Macedonian network



THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES



In 2025, the network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) **continued to grow and consolidate its role as a key instrument for promoting local democracy, civic participation, and resilient communities across Europe and its neighbourhood.** Building on over three decades of experience since the establishment of the first LDA in Subotica, the network has further strengthened its operational capacity and strategic outreach.

Over the past year, the LDAs have reinforced their presence on the ground, enhancing cooperation with local authorities and civil society organisations, and expanding their impact through new initiatives and partnerships. Particular progress has been achieved in the Eastern Partnership region, where new LDAs have been established, contributing to the extension of the network and to stronger support for democratic governance and community engagement.

At the same time, the network has had to adapt to complex geopolitical developments. Activities in Georgia were unfortunately suspended due to the evolving political context, highlighting the challenges faced in maintaining democratic spaces in certain regions. In response, ALDA and its partners have continued to demonstrate resilience and commitment, notably by working towards the establishment

of a Local Democracy Agency for Belarus in exile, ensuring continued support for civil society actors operating under restrictive conditions.

Throughout 2025, LDAs have further strengthened their role as facilitators of dialogue, inclusive governance, and participatory processes. Their work has continued to empower local communities, foster cooperation between institutions and citizens, and promote democratic values in diverse and often challenging environments.

The LDAs remain a cornerstone of ALDA's mission: bridging local and international actors, supporting civil society, and contributing to sustainable, inclusive, and democratic development across regions.

LDA ARMENIA



Delegate: Lusine Aleksandryan

Location: Gyumri

Lead partner: Region Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France

Email: ldaarmenia@alda-europe.eu



The Local Democracy Agency Armenia was established in 2011 in the Armenian city of Gyumri. 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 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, CSF of Eastern Partnership, Black Sea NGO Forum, Romanian FOND, UN and other European stakeholders supported the implementation of many initiatives in the field of local democracy and participative decision-making.

Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- Participatory Democracy: Tools and Mechanisms
- The Public Administration System in Armenia: Current State and the Way
- Democratic development, decentralisation and good governance in Armenia – Phase II
- Gender Justice Academy



LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA



Delegate: Ana Jovanović
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 2025:

- fEUture Resonance: Amplifying Youth Engagement and Advocacy in Serbia's EU Accession Process
- BOOST
- Support for youth participation in the municipality of Knjaževac

LDA DNIPROPETROVSK REGION



Delegate: Anzhelika Pylypenko
Location: Dnipro
Lead partner: Lower Silesian Voivodeship, Poland
Email: ldadnipropetrovsk@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.

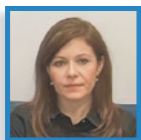
Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- Workshop on Participatory Democracy
- 10th Anniversary of the LDA of Dnipropetrovsk Region
- Supporting and maintaining mental health during wartime
- Contribution to the Draft Law on Self-Organisation of the Population





LDA EDREMIT



Delegate: Elisa Falcini
Location: Edremit
Lead partner: Edremit Municipality, Türkiye
Email: ldaedremit@alda-europe.eu



LDA Edremit was formally established in January 2024, following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in October 2021. This Agency emerged as a result of ALDA's Strategic Plan 2019-2022, which identified Türkiye as an area of interest for the development and support of local democracy and participatory democracy. It serves as a permanent and inclusive structure facilitating active collaborative dialogues and the exchange of good practices between civil society and local government. These collaborations and exchanges encompass cultural, economic, and social development initiatives benefiting the city and its citizens.

LDA Edremit is dedicated to playing a supportive and constructive role in fostering dialogue and cooperation between local government entities, citizens, and local NGOs, both within Europe and beyond. Additionally, ALDA and LDA Edremit collaborate to promote international cooperation and

dialogue between local governments and civil society, fostering connections at both the Mediterranean dimension and at the European - Turkish level.

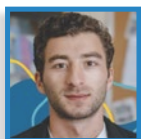
Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- Strengthening Women Participation in Local Administration





LDA GEORGIA



Delegate: Shota Kvaratskhelia
Location: Kutaisi
Lead partner: City of Strasbourg, France
Email: ldageorgia@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.

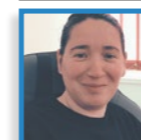
The mission of LDA Georgia is to enhance local democracy and civil society, support democratic reforms in Georgia, and develop innovative approaches to local and national challenges through collaboration with local and international stakeholders. LDA Georgia was suspended at the end of 2025 due to geopolitical developments, pending further evolution of the situation.



Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- Strengthening Civic Engagement of Georgian Youth

LDA KOSOVO



Delegate: Shpresa Sefaj Berisha
Location: Peja/Peć
Lead partner: Association Trentino con i Balcani, Italy
Email: ldakosovo@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 2025:

- Grant Winners Training & Regional Networking - BOOST Balkans
- Shared Horizons - Regional Youth Capacity Building
- International Youth Day - SDG March in Peja
- Memorandum of Cooperation with Kultus



LDA MARIUPOL



Delegate: Tetiana Lomakina

Location: Mariupol

Lead partner: Gdansk Municipality, Poland

Email: ldamariupol@alda-europe.eu



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 2025:

- Psychological support for IDPs from among the residents of Mariupol and other territorial communities
- Creative and excursion camp “Garden of Dreams”
- Dream.Write.Act.
- Workshop for kids on making an LED lamp at the opening of the creative space “ART.TECH. HUB”
- International youth project YE-Match



LDA MOLDOVA IN CIMISLIA



Delegate: Nicolae Hristov

Location: Cimișlia

Lead partner: Solidarité Eau Europe, France

Email: ldamoldova@alda-europe.eu



The LDA Moldova in Cimișlia was established on March 3, 2017, with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by the partnership, marking the beginning of operational activities for the agency. As the first Local Democracy Agency in Moldova, located in the city of Cimișlia, it aims to create a platform for cooperation, dialogue, and mutual exchange of experiences in all aspects—cultural, social, and economic—between local communities and European partners. It serves as a discussion platform between citizens, local associations, and authorities in the field to address the needs of local communities.



Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- „Better sanitation and hygiene facilities for students in rural schools”

LDA MONTENEGRO



Delegate: Kerim Medjedović

Location: Nikšić

Lead partner: Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy

Email: ldamontenegro@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 socio-economic 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.

Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- Pathway to EASTern EUrope RURAL living labs as a mean To empower youth at local level
- YouSEED - Youth Social Economy Exploring for Rural Development
- LEAD2Growth - Community-Led Rural Development and Growth Initiative
- Civil society of the Western Balkan empowerment for the local and regional development BOOST
- Cultural heritage - Shared Horizons



LDA MOSTAR



Delegate: Dženana Dedić
Location: Mostar
Lead partner: Apulia Region, Italy
Email: ldamostar@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.

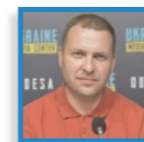


Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- Pirouette 2 - Performative aRts fOr yoUth EngagemenT and communiTy rEgeneration - Phase 2 - Global to Local
- Veby - Virtual Exchanges for Balkan Youth
- YAMNFL 2 - Youth Ambassadors of Non Formal Learning Phase 2
- Let's Debate Change in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Not Neat to be NEET



LDA ODESA



Delegate: Oleksandr Sheka
Location: Odesa



LDA Odesa Region is a non-governmental organisation established in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine. It operates as a platform for cooperation, dialogue, and exchange of experience among local self-government bodies, civil society organisations, educational, cultural, and social institutions in Ukraine and the European Union.

The activities of LDA Odesa are tailored to the local needs and development potential of communities in Odesa Oblast and are aligned with the values and mission of ALDA, the Luhansk Declaration and its 2022 Principles, as well as the Council of Europe's Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level (2008). The mission is to implement initiatives aimed at supporting and strengthening local participatory democracy, fostering social partnerships, and enhancing the capacity of communities during wartime, recovery, and Ukraine's preparation for EU membership.

The priorities include promoting EU values, rule of law, and good governance; supporting green and inclusive recovery; strengthening participatory democracy and civic engagement; empowering youth and vulnerable groups; assisting displaced persons and military families; fostering cooperation, innovation, and community readiness for recovery.

Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- LDA Odesa Relaunch



LDA OVRUCH



Delegate: Serhiy Yatsyk

Location: Ovruch

Lead partner: Saint-Brieuc Armor Agglomeration, France

Email: ldaovruch@aldaintranet.org



The LDA Ovruch was established to strengthen democratic governance, citizen participation, and local resilience in northern Ukraine – a region deeply affected by the war. The Agency is a partnership between the Ovruch City Council (Ukraine) and the Saint-Brieuc Armor Agglomeration (France), under the coordination of ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy. Through community engagement, youth empowerment, and local development initiatives, LDA Ovruch aims to foster transparent governance, European cooperation, and sustainable recovery at the local level.

Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- Supporting the Energy Transition in Ovruch and Saint-Brieuc

LDA PRIJEDOR



Delegate: Dragan Došen

Location: Prijedor

Lead partner: Association Project Prijedor, Italy

Email: ldaprijedor@alda-europe.eu



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 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.

Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- Prijedor, City of Murals
- LDA Prijedor supported vulnerable groups through the public kitchen in Ljubija
- Continued to support the integrated centre “Potkozarska kuća”, **promoting local products and providing training and professional orientation for small entrepreneurs**

LDA SUBOTICA



Delegate: Silvija Patarčić

Location: Subotica

Lead partner: Wolverhampton City Council, United Kingdom

Email: lidasubotica@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 2025:

- Let's Debate Change - Vojvodina
- Between the lines: Little school of media literacy
- Fostering the culture of participation in regional reconciliation dialogue - District of Reconciliation
- In the Council Seat: Youth on the Agenda

LDA TUNISIA



Delegate: Afaf Zaddem

Location: Kairouan, Tunisia

Lead partner: Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació, Spain

Email: ldatunisia@alda-europe.eu



The Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Tunisia, the first of its kind in the Mediterranean, is situated in the historic and symbolic city of Kairouan. Serving as a platform for dialogue among citizens, local associations, and authorities, it aims to address the needs of local communities effectively.

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.

Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- VISA
- Éveil de Connaissances Traditionnelles Écologiques et Résilience Rurale et Environnementale "ECOTERRE"
- Velopark
- Pas à Pas (Defis)
- "The Energy Transition in a Context of Climate Change: A Path Towards Sustainable Climate Equity."



LDA VINNYTSIA



Delegate: Olha Oliinyk
Location: Vinnytsia city
Lead partner: Région Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (BFC)
Email: ldavinnytsia@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.



Projects and activities implemented in 2025:

- “Empowering local self-governments in Vinnytsia region to combat hate speech and promote digital participation”
- Ambassadors of Democracy

LDA ZADOVICI



Delegate: Sladjan Ilic

Location: Zavidovići

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

Email: ldazavidovici@alda-europe.eu



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 2025:

- Family Gardens
- Co-working Zavidovići Youth HUB - CoZY HUB
- Ludobus - Activities for children in rural areas
- My City - Youth City
- For a more beautiful city
- ...and more!

* Operational Partners

OP SISAK



Delegate: Paula Raužan

Location: Sisak

Lead partner: ALDA, European Association for Local Democracy

Email: ldasisak@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.

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.



BEHIND THE SCENES

* Communication activities



In 2025, ALDA further consolidated its communication strategy, strengthening the visibility of its projects and broadening its outreach through the development of innovative and targeted initiatives. Building on previous efforts, communication activities increasingly focused on engaging both the ALDA network and wider audiences across Europe and beyond, translating the organisation's diverse portfolio into clear, accessible, and impactful narratives.

A key pillar of this approach remained the **ALDA Podcast series "Shades of Democracy"**, launched in 2021. Throughout 2025, the series continued to expand in both scope and reach, addressing a broader spectrum of topics and featuring a diverse range of stakeholders. Its core objective persisted: to connect with audiences in a more informal and relatable manner, bridging the gap between complex democratic concepts and everyday life.

During the year, ALDA also implemented several thematic communication campaigns, notably on **gender equality** and on the importance of **digital citizenship in the age of artificial intelligence** (#DCE2025). These campaigns contributed to reinforcing ALDA's narrative and positioning, while fostering greater awareness and engagement around pressing societal challenges. In parallel, ALDA enhanced its digital presence by launching a dedicated social media channel focused specifically on projects, allowing for a clearer distinction from advocacy-related communication.



Collaboration remained central to ALDA's communication efforts. The organisation actively engaged its members in co-creating content and initiatives, such as the *CSV Positive Radio* project developed in partnership with the Centro di Servizio per il Volontariato della Provincia di Vicenza. These joint actions not only amplified outreach but also strengthened the sense of community within the network.

At the same time, ALDA intensified its communication efforts to highlight its advocacy role on key issues. This included continued support for Ukrainian civil society affected by the ongoing conflict, as well as raising awareness on the situation in Palestine, emphasising the humanitarian impact and the importance of upholding human rights and international law. In parallel, ALDA actively engaged in campaigns aimed at encouraging citizens' participation in democratic processes, including voting. Through these initiatives, ALDA sought to raise awareness, promote civic engagement, and reaffirm its commitment to fostering inclusive, participatory, and resilient democratic societies.

* Fundraising and Project Design (P&D) Department

The **Fundraising and Project Design (P&D) Department** plays a fundamental role in advancing the mission of the ALDA Community by securing financial resources and developing high-quality, impactful project proposals. At the heart of ALDA's sustainability and growth, the department ensures that ideas are effectively transformed into concrete initiatives aligned with the organisation's strategic vision. Structured into two complementary sub-units, the department combines an **international unit**, dedicated to European and global cooperation, with a **national unit** focused on initiatives within Italy. The latter also actively contributes to the development and consolidation of **ALDA Italia APS**, the newest member of the ALDA network.

Composed of approximately 15 project designers, the department continuously monitors a wide ecosystem of over 80 donors, including EU funding programmes (CERV, ERASMUS+, HORIZON, NDICI, and more), international organisations, national ministries, development agencies, foundations, regional authorities, and embassies. Each year, the P&D team prepares around **250 project proposals**, in response to calls for proposals and, to a lesser extent, calls for tenders, ensuring strong alignment with ALDA's strategic priorities, thematic hubs, and geographic focus areas. At the same time, these proposals are designed to respond to the needs of ALDA members and partners, reinforcing cooperation both within the network and beyond.

Key Activities of the Department

- **Monitoring Funding Opportunities**
Systematic tracking of EU and non-EU funding sources to identify calls for proposals that match ALDA's mission and expertise.
- **Network Needs Mapping**
Close internal coordination among project designers (organised by thematic and geographic focus), thematic hub coordinators, the Membership Officer, the General Secretariat, and external stakeholders—such as advisory board members and partners—to gather insights and define priorities.
- **Partner Search and Consortium Building**
Identification and engagement of relevant and complementary partners to build strong, balanced, and competitive project consortia.
- **Proposal Preparation**
Development of robust project concepts grounded in thorough needs assessments; preparation of detailed budgets; collection of administrative documentation; and submission of applications through donor platforms.
- **Contracting and Handover**
For successful proposals, preparation of the full contracting dossier and smooth transfer of responsibilities to ALDA's Project Management team. This implies also administrative support to the partners that need to prepare for the contract.
- **Follow-up and Capitalisation**
Continued involvement after submission to support follow-up actions, including scaling up successful initiatives, addressing implementation challenges, and maintaining strategic partnerships for future opportunities.
- **Evaluation and Capacity Building**
Contribution to the evaluation of re-granting schemes and delivery of training sessions on EU and non-EU funding, Project Cycle Management, budget design, and other essential competencies.
- Through this comprehensive and strategic approach, the Fundraising and Project Design Department ensures that ALDA remains at the forefront of **innovation, partnership-building, and sustainable impact**, strengthening its role as a key actor in promoting local democracy across Europe and beyond.



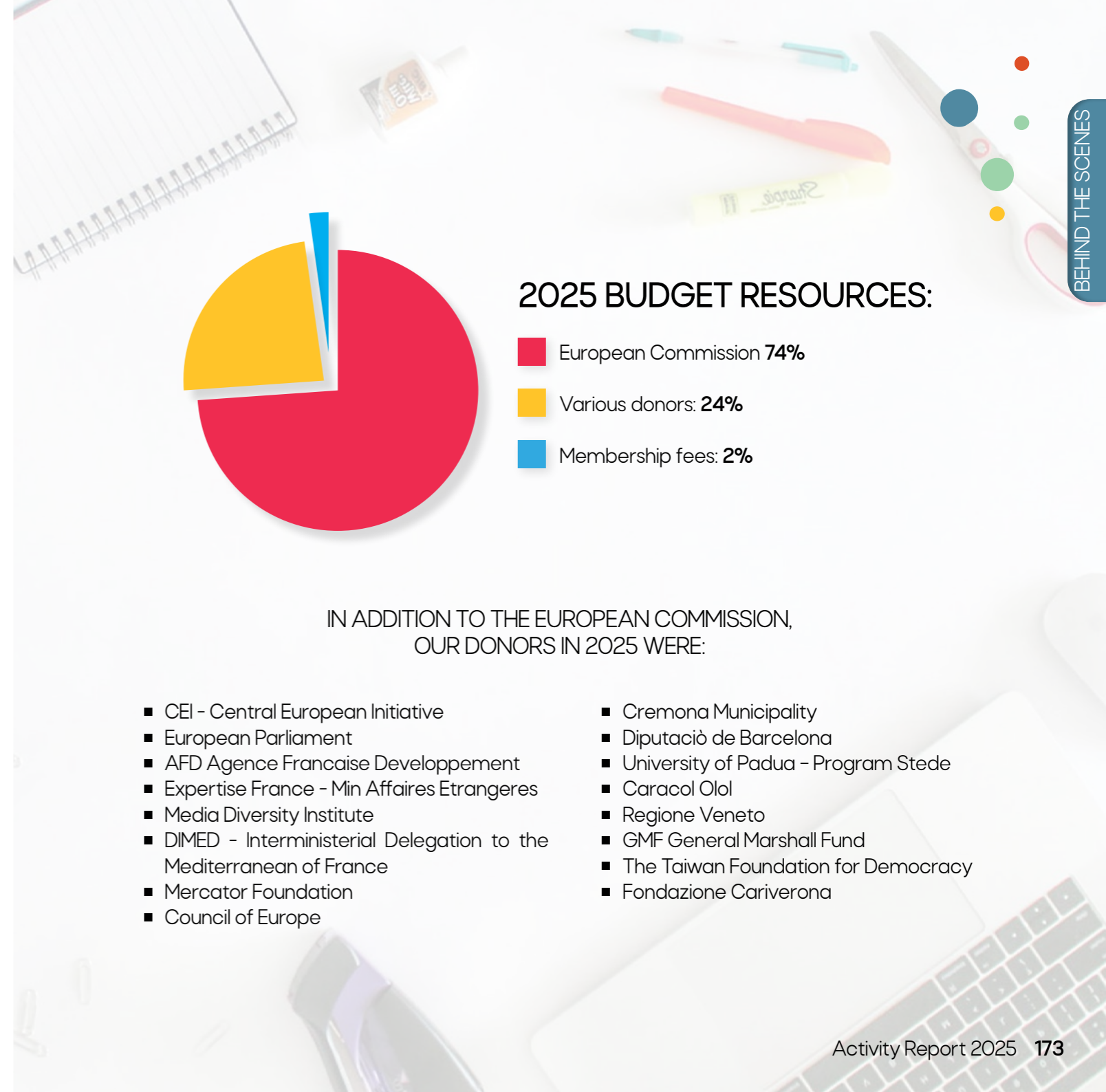
* Administration & budget

During the 2025 financial year, **ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy** recorded a profit of €4.034,12. Personnel costs, including social security contributions, amounted to €2.226.278 in 2025.

ALDA Community consists of the activities of the French Association including the activities of the branches in Skopje and in Chisinau as well as the activities implemented by ALDA+ SRL consulting firm and ALDA ITALIA APS services association that support ALDA's work. These two are in extra-accounting form.

With 19 Local Democracy Agencies, the network reached about 6 million recipients, with more than 250 entities (cities and NGOs) supporting the LDAs and the over 300 members of ALDA.

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 2025 WERE:

- CEI - Central European Initiative
- European Parliament
- AFD Agence Francaise Developpement
- Expertise France - Min Affaires Etrangeres
- Media Diversity Institute
- DIMED - Interministerial Delegation to the Mediterranean of France
- Mercator Foundation
- Council of Europe
- Cremona Municipality
- Diputació de Barcelona
- University of Padua - Program Stede
- Caracol Olol
- Regione Veneto
- GMF General Marshall Fund
- The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
- Fondazione Cariverona



ALDA MEMBERS

MORE BENEFITS, MORE INVOLVEMENT, MORE CHANGE



ALDA brings together a vibrant and diverse network of 304 members spanning Europe and its neighbouring regions, an ecosystem where local authorities, civil society, and grassroots actors collaborate to strengthen democracy from the ground up.

The network reflects a rich multi-actor composition: 104 local authorities (including municipalities, provinces, and regions), 32 associations of local authorities, 144 civil society organisations, 4 individual members, and 19 Local Democracy Agencies. This diversity is at the core of ALDA's approach, enabling dialogue and cooperation across sectors and governance levels.

In 2025, **33 new members joined our journey**, strengthening our shared commitment to local democracy and collective impact.

Geographically, the European Union forms the backbone of the network, accounting for roughly two-thirds of total membership. Beyond the EU, the Western Balkans represent a dynamic and highly engaged region, with 45 members actively contributing to ALDA's mission. Countries such as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, and North Macedonia demonstrate a strong

balance between civil society and institutional actors, an expression of a truly participatory, multi-level approach to local governance.

Eastern Europe and the Eastern Partnership region also play a strategic role, with Ukraine emerging as a key pillar of the network. With 35 members, Ukraine exemplifies the critical importance of local governance in contexts of resilience, recovery, and transformation. Georgia and Moldova further enrich this cluster, contributing to a growing and evolving regional presence.

Finally, ALDA's reach extends to Türkiye and the Southern Mediterranean, with members from Türkiye and Tunisia adding valuable perspectives and strengthening cross-regional cooperation.

Altogether, ALDA's membership is more than a network, it is a living, evolving community. Rooted in local realities yet connected across borders, it embodies a shared commitment to participatory democracy, inclusive governance, and sustainable development.



✦ Members' activities

In 2025, ALDA further strengthened its engagement with members through a comprehensive set of activities focused on training, consultation, and participation, reaffirming the central role of active involvement within the network.

As part of the benefits offered to members, two thematic training sessions were organised. The first, dedicated to Digital Participation in Local Democracy, provided an opportunity to engage with leading experts on the digitalisation of participatory processes. The second, focused on Local Advocacy and Good Local Governance, emphasised peer exchange, enabling members to share experiences, best practices, and successful advocacy initiatives. The session was further enriched by expert insights aligned with the principles of good governance promoted by the Council of Europe. Together, these trainings strengthened members' capacities while reinforcing ALDA's role as a platform for knowledge exchange and peer learning.

In parallel, ALDA conducted a series of internal consultations throughout the year to ensure that members' perspectives could meaningfully inform key European and international initiatives. A major consultation addressed the European Commission's **upcoming Democracy Shield**, engaging the network on issues such as disinformation, election integrity, societal resilience, and citizen participation. Another consultation focused on the **Global Gateway initiative**, exploring opportunities for members to contribute to its implementation. Following the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC 2025) in Rome, an additional consultation brought together Ukrainian members, partners, and European stakeholders to reflect on outcomes, identify collaboration opportunities, and align with donor priorities.

These efforts were complemented by the Membership Days, held online in early December. Structured over three days, the event provided space for reflection on annual achievements, interactive exchanges, and the presentation of successful ALDA Operational Grant subprojects. It also included a follow-up session on the Global Gateway, organised in collaboration with CONCORD, PLATFORMA, and the European Committee of the Regions, offering practical guidance on accessing and engaging with major European funding opportunities.

Through this integrated approach ALDA continued to foster knowledge sharing, strengthen capacities, and actively engage its network, reinforcing its identity as a dynamic and collaborative community.



*"Many reasons to join us,
one shared mission"*

✳ Members of ALDA ✳

■ Municipalities

- Altavilla Vicentina Municipality, Italy
- Bar Municipality, Montenegro
- Bari Municipality, Italy
- Belfiore Municipality, Italy
- Birgu 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
- Chernihiv Municipality, Ukraine
- Cimişlia Municipality, Moldova
- Dijon Metropolitan Municipality, France
- Dnipro Municipality, Ukraine
- Durrës Municipality, Albania
- Edremet Municipality, Türkiye
- Etterbeek Municipality, Belgium
- Gallio Municipality, Italy
- Gazzo Municipality, Italy
- Gdansk Municipality, Poland
- Gjilan Municipality, Kosovo
- Grosuplje Municipality, Slovenia
- Grignano di Zocco Municipality, Italy
- Hani i Elezit Municipality, Kosovo
- Herceg Novi Municipality, Montenegro
- Ieper Municipality, Belgium
- Isola Vicentina Municipality, Italy
- Ivančna Gorica Municipality, Slovenia
- İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, Türkiye
- Kairouan Municipality, Tunisia
- Karpos Municipality, North Macedonia
- Karsiyaka Municipality, Türkiye
- Khoni Municipality, Georgia
- Knjaževac 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 Herzegovina
- Niksic Municipality, Montenegro
- Novaci Municipality, North Macedonia
- Novo Mesto Municipality, Slovenia
- Novomoskovsk Municipality, Ukraine
- Oberhausen Municipality, Germany
- Odesa Municipality, Ukraine
- Osijek Municipality, Croatia
- Ozurgeti Municipality, Georgia
- Ploeuc-l'Hermitage Municipality, France
- Poitiers Municipality, France
- Poltava Municipality, Ukraine
- Roskovec Municipality, Albania
- Samtredia Municipality, Georgia
- Santorso Municipality, Italy
- Sceaux Municipality, France
- Shtime Municipality, Kosovo

- Sireti Municipality, Moldova
- Sisak Municipality, Croatia
- Slavutych Municipality, Ukraine
- Stryi Municipality, Ukraine
- Subotica Municipality, Serbia
- Thiene Municipality, Italy
- Torri di Quartesolo Municipality, Italy
- Trebnje 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
- Zhytomyr Municipality, Ukraine
- Zoersel Municipality, Belgium
- Zugdidi Municipality, Georgia
- Zugliano Municipality, Italy

■ Regions

- Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Region, France
- 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
- Rhineland Palatinate Region, Germany
- Rivne Region, Ukraine
- Volyn Region, Ukraine

■ Provinces and Counties

- Calvados Province, France
- Cherkasy Province, Ukraine
- DIBA - Diputació de Barcelona, Spain
- Harghita County, Romania

■ 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, Türkiye
- NALAG - National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia, Georgia
- National Association of Virtuous Municipalities, Italy
- Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Serbia
- 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
- Albanian Cultural Association Lirija Velenje, Slovenia
- 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'Acqua, Italy
- Associazione per l'Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale a Zavidovici, Italy
- Aster Tre, Italy
- AVMAD - Associazione Veneto Malattia di Alzheimer e Demenze

- Degenerative, Italy
- Biosphaera, Italy
- Brain Associazione Traumi Cranici, Italy
- Brindisi Produce S.C.A.R.L., 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 Herzegovina
- Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia
- Center for Legal Civic Initiatives, Albania
- CIA - Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori - Benevento, Italy
- CiAC - Centro Immigrazione, Asilo, Cooperazione Internazionale di Parma e Provincia, Italy
- CitizensACT - Centre of Active Citizens for Sustainable Development, Cyprus
- CIVLSCAPE, Germany
- Climate Coalition, Belgium
- Clube Intercultural Europeu, Portugal
- Communia - Rete permanente per i beni comuni, Italy
- Connexus International, Germany
- Coro Pueri Cantores del Veneto, Italy
- COSM - Consorzio Operativo Salute Mentale Società Coop. Sociale, Italy
- Counterintuitive Institute, Bulgaria
- 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
- Divergent Woman, Ukraine
- 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, Belgium
- 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, Belgium
- Europimpulse Network, Spain
- FACIAS - Foundation for the Defense of Citizens Against State Abuse, Romania
- Federazione Trentina della Cooperazione, Italy
- FGPEP - Fédération Générale des Pupilles de l'Enseignement Public, France

- FIBGAR - Baltasar Garzon International Foundation, Spain
- Film Festival della Lessinia, Italy
- Fondazione Comunitaria di Agrigento e Trapani, Italy
- Foster Europe, Austria
- GEA Cooperativa Sociale, Italy
- Globus et Locus, Italy
- GSI Italia, Italy
- HERA - Health Education and Research Association, North Macedonia
- Hub Nicosia, Cyprus
- Human Rights Cities Network, Belgium
- Humanitas, Italy
- I am Buchanets, Ukraine
- ICEI - Institute for International Economic Cooperation, Italy
- InnovED, Greece
- Institute for Albanian Municipalities, Albania
- Institute for Research in Visual and Performing Arts Maribor, Slovenia
- Institute Ypsilon, Slovenia
- IPAK Institute for Symbolic Analysis and Development of Information Technologies, Slovenia
- IPAMED - Mediterranean Economic Foresight Institute, Croatia
- IPRES Foundation, Italy
- IRS - Institute for Social Research, Italy
- ISBEM - Euro Mediterranean Biomedical Scientific Institute, Italy
- Kallipolis, Italy
- KASAJPT - 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, France
- Ljubljana Pride, Slovenia
- Local Development Association, Türkiye
- Margherita Società Cooperativa Sociale Onlus, Italy
- Merkury Foundation, Poland
- MFE Verona - European Federalist Movement in Verona, Italy
- MitOst e.V. F, Germany
- Mouvement Européen Vaucluse et environs, France
- Multikultura - Youth Organization, North Macedonia
- Mundus, Spain
- Netural Società Cooperativa, Italy
- New Life Association, Türkiye
- Notus, Spain
- Peace Volunteering Network, Albania
- Pedemontana Veneta e Colli, Italy
- Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, Estonia
- Platoniq Foundation, Spain
- Polis Vestina, Italy
- Prizma Foundation, Hungary
- Progettarte, Italy
- Progetto Zattera Blu, Italy
- Pulse Groupe SOS, France
- Replay Network, Italy
- SAMA - Street Art Museum Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Samarcanda Cooperativa Sociale

- Onlus, Italy
- School of Public Life Foundation, Hungary
- SEGA - Coalition of youth organizations, North Macedonia
- Selfm.aid, Greece
- SLOGA - Slovenian Global Action, Slovenia
- SOS Malta - Solidarity Overseas Service, Malta
- Stand Up for Europe, Belgium
- Studio Progetto Società Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS, Italy
- Teatro Comunale Città di Vicenza Foundation, Italy
- TOC - Association for the Development of Sustainable Communities, Serbia
- Together for Life, Albania
- Trentino con i Balcani, Italy
- Udhëtim i Lirë - Liberi di Viaggiare, Albania
- Urban Research Institute, Albania
- Vedogiovane, Italy
- Vicenza Women's Football Amateur Sports Association, Italy
- WeYouth Organization, Tunisia
- WTOF Europe - European Branch of the World Fair Trade Organisation, Belgium
- Wondering Project, Italy
- Zagorje-Sutla Local Action Group, Croatia

Education entities

- Accademia d'Archi Arrigoni, Italy
- IUAV University of Venice, Italy
- KEW - The Jan Nowak Jeziorański College of Eastern Europe, Poland
- Mariupol University, Ukraine

- Paulon International School, Italy
- University of Customs and Finance, Ukraine

Local Democracy Agencies & Operational Partners

- LDA Armenia, Armenia
- LDA Center South Serbia (LDA CSS), Serbia
- LDA Edremit, Türkiye
- 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
- LDA Tunisia, Tunisia
- LDA Vinnytsia, Ukraine
- LDA Zavidovici, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- OP Brtonigla-Verteneglio, Croatia
- OP Sisak, Croatia

Individuals

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



GET INVOLVED

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP STARTS WITH YOU

* Friends of ALDA

If you believe that local democracy is the cornerstone of more inclusive and sustainable communities, **ALDA warmly invites you to become part of its mission.** By making a small annual contribution starting from €20, you can join the network as a **Friend of ALDA** and actively support initiatives that promote citizen participation and good governance across Europe and beyond.

As a Friend of ALDA, you will:

- Stay regularly informed about our initiatives through monthly and thematic newsletters
- Receive invitations to meetings and events
- Be part of a dynamic and engaged community
- Obtain the “Friends of ALDA” e-card, a symbol of your connection with the Association, which also grants discounts on training opportunities and selected activities organised by ALDA and ALDA+

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

* Volunteers for Democracy

Would you like to actively support local democracy, citizen participation, and human rights? You can contribute your time and skills through a flexible, ad-hoc volunteering agreement with ALDA.

Volunteering with ALDA is a unique opportunity to **engage directly in the promotion of local democracy across Europe, its Neighbourhood, and beyond**, while gaining valuable personal and professional experience. As a volunteer, you will have the chance to develop new competencies, strengthen your language skills, and collaborate within a dynamic and international environment. Particularly committed volunteers may also be given the opportunity to participate in international events and represent the association.

To join the programme, please send an email to alda@alda-europe.eu, including:

- Your CV
- A motivation letter
- A brief description of how you would like to contribute to ALDA's activities

Become part of a vibrant and committed community working to strengthen democracy!

* Citizens Journalists

Make your voice heard and share your perspective on the issues you believe deserve public attention. Whether local, European or global, **your views can help spark dialogue and inspire change.**

Our objective is to promote and support active citizen participation across the wider Europe, empowering individuals to play a meaningful role in improving their communities and contributing to the future of the continent. Contributions from citizen journalists will be featured and disseminated through ALDA's communication channels, reaching a broad and engaged audience.

Do not hesitate—Europe needs your voice.

For further information or to submit your article, please contact alda@alda-europe.eu.

✦ Traineeship opportunities

ALDA has established several partnerships with universities and institutions to host trainees across all its offices. Our approach to traineeships is rooted in the belief that young people should be given meaningful opportunities to **develop professionally in the fields they aspire to build their careers in.**

We are fully aware of how challenging it can be to enter the job market, and we value the importance of those first professional experiences and the role of good mentorship. For this reason, traineeships at ALDA are designed as a **core element of personal and professional development**, offering hands-on experience, responsibility, and continuous learning.

At ALDA, trainees are not assigned trivial tasks—rather, we seek **motivated individuals with fresh ideas, creativity, and enthusiasm**, who are eager to actively contribute to the organisation's work. Throughout the traineeship, dedicated tutors and staff ensure a supportive environment that fosters both professional growth and personal development. In addition, a range of follow-up and support initiatives are in place to accompany former interns in their future paths.

If you are interested in establishing a traineeship agreement with a university, school, or other institution, please contact hr@aldaintranet.org



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ALDA - European
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Democracy & ALDA
Projects



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WHERE WAS ALDA



WHERE WAS ALDA



alda*
* European Association
for Local Democracy

alda+
+ SRL Benefit
Corporation

alda *Italia*
* Associazione Europea
per la Democrazia Locale

alda+
+ SRL Benefit
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2025 ACTIVITY REPORT



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ALDA ITALIA APS

Who we are
Projects



alda+
SRL Benefit Corporation

ALDA+ Benefit Corporation

* Foreword Marco Boaria

Also in 2025, ALDA+ proved its ability to adapt rapidly to the new challenges—both internal and external—that our communities are facing in these times of profound transformation. In a constantly evolving environment, our commitment has been not only to respond, but to anticipate needs, refine our approach, and strengthen our role as a reliable partner for local actors and institutions.

From an internal perspective, the year has been marked by a clear strategic orientation towards the further specialisation of our services. This has translated into a more structured and targeted offer, capable of responding more effectively to increasingly complex demands. At the same time, we have invested in improving how we communicate our work and impact, notably through the launch of a renewed website, designed to be more accessible, transparent, and aligned with our evolving identity.



Quality and organisational development have remained central pillars of our action. In 2025, ALDA+ successfully maintained its ISO 9001 certification, confirming the robustness of its Quality Management System, while also achieving, for the first time, the UNI/PdR 125:2022 certification on gender equality. This milestone represents not only a recognition of the work carried out, but also a concrete commitment to fostering a more inclusive and equitable organisational culture.

On the external front, ALDA+ has continued to stand alongside territories and partners in addressing the complex challenges of today. We have worked to broaden and diversify our range of services, ensuring that our expertise can reach new areas and sectors where it can generate tangible value. Our efforts have focused on accompanying local actors through tailored training, consultancy, and technical assistance, always with the objective of strengthening capacities and enabling sustainable, long-term impact.

Capacity-building remains at the heart of our mission. The second edition of the ALDA International School further consolidated its role as a key platform for learning and exchange, bringing together practitioners, researchers, and emerging professionals. In parallel, specialised trainings—particularly in Project Cycle Management—have continued to equip participants with practical tools that can be directly applied in their professional contexts.

At the same time, we have continued to invest in innovation, developing and refining services that respond to emerging needs and contribute to shaping forward-looking solutions. Through our “services to communities” approach, ALDA+ aims to remain close to the realities on the ground, offering flexible and relevant support in a rapidly changing landscape.

As this Activity Report will further illustrate, 2025 has been a year of consolidation, growth, and renewed ambition. Looking ahead, ALDA+ remains committed to building on these achievements—strengthening its expertise, expanding its outreach, and continuing to deliver high-quality, innovative services that effectively support our partners and communities.



Marco Boaria
CEO, ALDA+



International School 2025

Who we are

Established in 2017, ALDA+ operates as a benefit corporation fully owned by ALDA. It provides training, tailored consultancy, technical assistance, and specialised services, building on ALDA's more than twenty-five years of experience in local democracy, good governance, participatory processes, and project cycle management. Its services are primarily addressed to public authorities, civil society organisations, educational institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises, and individuals seeking support in accessing European and international funding, as well as in developing and managing projects.

In recent years, ALDA+ has continued to strengthen both its services and outreach. **The launch of the new ALDA+ website** in 2024 marked a significant step forward, offering an increasingly comprehensive and accessible platform for information, resources, and training opportunities, which continues to grow in both content and visibility.



International School 2025

Capacity-building remains at the core of ALDA+'s mission. In 2025, the second edition of the ALDA **International School** was successfully held, further consolidating its role as a key space for learning and exchange among practitioners, researchers, and emerging professionals. In parallel, ALDA+ delivered several specialised trainings on Project Cycle Management, equipping participants with practical skills in project design, implementation, and reporting.

From an organisational perspective, ALDA+ has continued to enhance its internal processes through the Quality Management System initiated in 2022. The proprietary software "PROMPT+", now fully operational and increasingly integrated into daily workflows, plays a central role in streamlining project management and improving efficiency across activities.

Following the achievement of ISO 9001 certification in December 2023, ALDA+ has further strengthened its commitment to quality. In addition, at the end of 2024, ALDA+ obtained the UNI/PdR 125:2022 certification, a significant recognition of the measures implemented to ensure gender equality within the workplace. These milestones reinforce ALDA+'s positioning as a reliable, forward-looking, and values-driven partner at European and international level.



+15 Countries where ALDA+ is active



+20 Technical assistances provided



+10 Training opportunities offered



+30 Projects developed & implemented for different clients



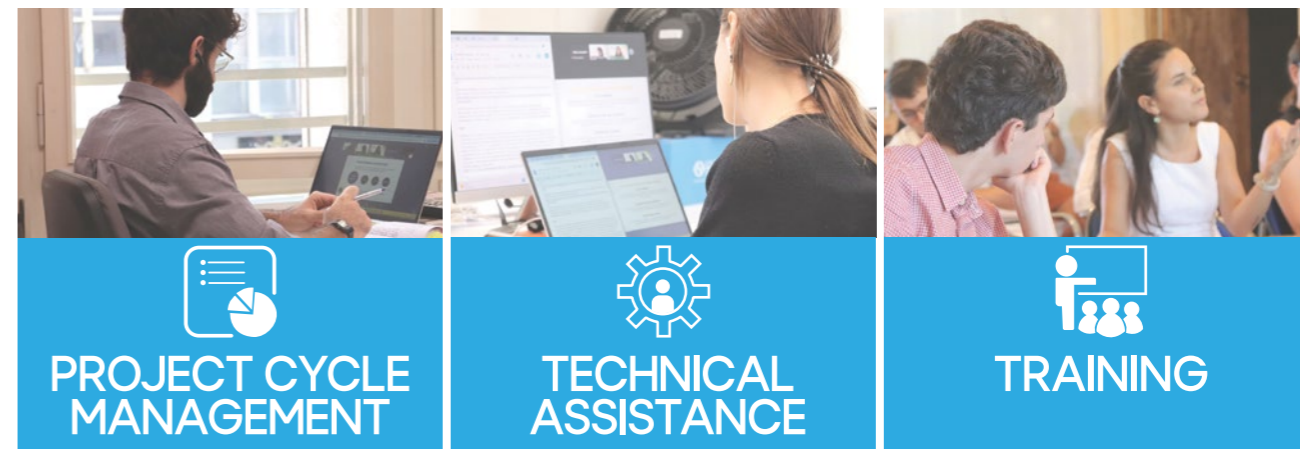
International School 2025

✦ What We do

ALDA+ delivers a dynamic and comprehensive portfolio of services—ranging from technical assistance and Project Cycle Management to training, consultancy, and the management of services on behalf of public institutions—all with a strong commitment to efficiency and professionalism.

Working across sectors and borders, ALDA+ supports a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including local and regional authorities, civil society organisations, international institutions, and private companies. With particular expertise in EU project reporting and consultancy, the organisation builds on a solid foundation of knowledge in key areas such as local governance, civic participation, public administration reform, social inclusion, culture, education, migration, and human rights.

By harnessing the combined strength of its in-house experts and ALDA's extensive network, ALDA+ is uniquely positioned to deliver innovative, tailored, and high-quality solutions that respond effectively to complex and evolving challenges.



Project Cycle Management

ALDA+ provides end-to-end support in Project Cycle Management, accompanying clients from the initial idea to final reporting. It assists with project design by identifying funding opportunities, developing high-quality proposals, building strong partnerships, and handling submission processes.

During implementation, ALDA+ offers comprehensive project management, including technical support, communication strategies, monitoring and evaluation, and activity development. It also ensures accurate financial management, supporting budget planning, reporting, and audits—guaranteeing efficiency, compliance, and overall project success.

Technical Assistance

ALDA+ provides comprehensive Technical Assistance services, including:

- Communication & Dissemination Services
Development of EU-compliant communication strategies, social media management, institutional communication, and storytelling to maximise visibility and engagement.
- Direct Management of Public Services
Support in establishing and managing services such as Europe Direct Centres, innovation hubs, tourism initiatives, youth services, and European programming offices.
- Customised Funding Research & Monitoring



International School 2025

Continuous identification of relevant funding opportunities at regional, national, and European levels, helping organisations act strategically and on time.

- **Participatory Methods**
Design and facilitation of inclusive and interactive processes using non-formal education approaches and multilingual expertise.
- **Consulting Services**
Specialised support in local governance, participation, internationalisation, and project development.
- **Event Organisation & Technical Support**
Full management of online and in-person events, including logistics, coordination, and interpretation services.
- **Networking & Stakeholder Engagement**
Facilitation of partnerships and connections with key institutional and non-institutional actors

through an extensive international network.

- Through its Technical Assistance, ALDA+ empowers organisations with tailored, practical, and high-quality support, enabling them to operate more effectively and achieve sustainable impact.

Training

ALDA+ training programmes cover the following key areas:

- **Project Cycle Management**
Developing high-quality project proposals, identifying funding sources, selecting partners, and navigating application procedures.
- **European Union Funding Programmes**
Overview of EU funding opportunities (2021-2027) and tools to independently identify suitable calls.
- **Financial Management & Auditing**
Managing project finances, understanding EU regulations, reporting processes, and preparing for audits.
- **European Commission Portals**
Practical guidance on using digital platforms for project development, management, and reporting.
- **Communication & Dissemination**
Designing effective communication strategies and ensuring compliance with EU visibility requirements.
- **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**
Understanding EU budget structures, priorities, and future funding trends (including post-2027 developments).

These trainings provide participants with practical, hands-on skills to successfully access, manage, and communicate EU-funded projects.

ALDA+ goes beyond standard training provision by designing a wide range of programmes tailored to specific needs. Our customised courses are developed in close collaboration with clients, ensuring that content, methodologies, and duration are carefully aligned with their objectives. Delivered both online and in person, these programmes provide flexible and targeted learning solutions. Explore some of the customised courses we have developed and discover how they can inspire your next initiative.



International School 2025

Between 24 and 26 September 2025, a training on Project Cycle Management (PCM) and EU funding opportunities was delivered to the staff of the Province of Caserta, within the framework of the technical assistance provided to the Province.

In addition, throughout 2025, ALDA organised a comprehensive online training cycle on Project Cycle Management, covering all stages of project development—from the identification of funding opportunities and proposal drafting to communication, implementation, and reporting. Subsequently, from 25 to 27 November 2025, a mission was carried out in Sant'Agata de' Goti (S. Croce del Sannio) as part of the technical assistance to the municipality. The mission aimed to engage with local stakeholders, in addition to the municipal administration, and to provide training and information on potential collaborations within the framework of Italian and European funding opportunities.

ALDA International School 2025 *Resilient Communities: Strengthening Local Democracy in times of change*



International School 2025

The **ALDA International School 2025**, held from 3 to 5 September 2025 at Villa Fabris, marked the second edition of an international training programme dedicated to strengthening local democracy and institutional resilience in a context shaped by profound social, technological, and geopolitical transformations.

Promoted by ALDA Italia A.P.S. - in connection with ALDA+ and ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy - and supported by the Regione Veneto within the framework of the project “*Villa Fabris Bene Comune*”, the initiative further consolidated the Veneto region’s role as a European hub for civic education, intercultural dialogue, and participatory innovation.

The School brought together over thirty participants from across Europe, alongside more than fifteen international speakers and facilitators. Over three intensive days—structured through theoretical sessions, workshops, simulations, and cultural exploration activities—participants engaged with key challenges facing contemporary democracies, including populism, disinformation, trust in institutions, and the impact of digital technologies on civic participation.

Thanks to the collaboration with organisations such as Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, German Marshall Fund, CRISP Berlin, City of Helsinki, Avventura Urbana, and Marmara Municipalities Union, the programme adopted a multidisciplinary approach, effectively balancing academic knowledge with participatory practice.

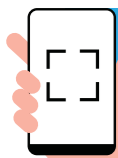
The interactive methodology placed participants at the centre of the learning experience, fostering the acquisition of practical skills and the development of lasting professional networks.

The initiative also generated a strong impact at the local level: Villa Fabris further established itself as a European hub for local democracy—a space for dialogue across generations and cultures, and a tangible example of how cultural heritage can serve as a platform for civic education and social innovation.

Through its unique combination of international engagement, participatory learning, and territorial valorisation, the ALDA International School 2025 strengthened the connection between the Veneto Region and the European dimension, confirming its role as a promoter of active citizenship, inclusion, and transnational cooperation.



International School 2025



Scan the QR code to view the video



National Projects

AVGG - Alta Via della Grande Guerra



 Donor: Consorzio Imbrifero Montano BIM Bacchiglione and Province of Vicenza	 Budget: N/A	 Timeframe: October 2022 - December 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: N/A	 Countries impacted: Italy
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Alta Via della Grande Guerra is a hiking trail stretching through the Vicenza's Prealps, connecting the Province's four memorial shrines: Pasubio, Cimone, Asiago, and Grappa.

The project, initiated by the Province of Vicenza, commits to preserve local historical memory and enhance the natural beauty of the area. Its management has been entrusted to ALDA+.

In 2025 Alta Via della Grande Guerra was included in the Rete dei Cammini Veneti: a regional system encompassing all walking trails across Veneto, aiming to make the rich local heritage easily accessible to tourists.

Throughout 2025 ALDA+ started bringing together different businesses across the territory of AVGG in order to develop a "Club di Prodotto": a network of different tourism-related commercial realities, with the aim of transforming AVGG into a comprehensive tourism product.

Moreover, in 2025 ALDA+ started working with Umana Forma on AVGG through the regional tender "Competenze per un turismo più accessibile, sostenibile e digitale", funded by the European Social Fund. The project consists of training programs dedicated to businesses part of the "Club di Prodotto", seeking to strengthen the network of the Club and give its members useful tools to improve their commercial activities.

“ Getting to know each other thoroughly and working together as part of the Club di Prodotto along AVGG means building trust, enhancing each other’s abilities and collectively creating a stronger and long-lasting impact on the territory. We hope that the Club di Prodotto we have built together is the first step in this direction ”

Alta Via della Grande Guerra’s main achievement of 2025 was becoming part of the **Rete dei Cammini Veneti**. This important regional recognition will significantly benefit the trail, increasing its reach and making it part of a bigger network of services and destinations across the Veneto region. Being part of this network will also allow the project to access further regional funding, opening access to a wider range of regional funding lines.

Another key milestone for AVGG was reached on 11th April 2025, when all the business entities brought together by ALDA+ signed the notarial deed that officially established the “**Club di Prodotto**”.








AVGG



AVGG

EXCOVER - Explore and Discover Aeolian Islands



 Donor: Ministero del Turismo's D.I. MiTur MEF 2445/21 of 30/12/2021	 Budget: 49.500 € (contract with the Municipality)	 Timeframe: October 2025 - July 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 10	 Countries impacted: Italy
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The initiative aimed to enhance the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Aeolian Islands through a series of interactive and engaging activities. It was included in the programme of the IT.A.CÀ - Festival del Turismo Responsabile, held on 11-12 October 2025 in Lipari (ME).

ALDA+ organised a range of activities to raise awareness of the Aeolian Islands’ artistic and cultural heritage, in collaboration with local organisations. Participants visited the Rocca of Lipari Castle, exploring the island’s historical and cultural stratification, and attended a seminar on the Mediterranean diet, followed by a discussion of the book “*Donne di Mare*” by anthropologist Maffei.

The programme also featured a hands-on pasta-making workshop at Le Macine, showcasing traditional techniques, alongside a guided tour of Lipari's political exile sites and a visit to the Diocesan Museum, highlighting the richness of Aeolian heritage. The events concluded with a reception and live music, celebrating culture, sustainability, and community engagement.

The project led to the creation of an app, "The Aeolian Journey", by Dr. Matteo Salin.



EXCOVER



EXCOVER



EXCOVER

Eolie: La Pesca del gusto sostenibile



<p>Donor: Regione Siciliana Dipartimento della Pesca Mediterranea</p>	<p>Budget: 22.399 € (contract with the Municipality)</p>	<p>Timeframe: November 2025</p>	<p>Nr. of partners/ Associates: 6</p>	<p>Countries impacted: Italy</p>
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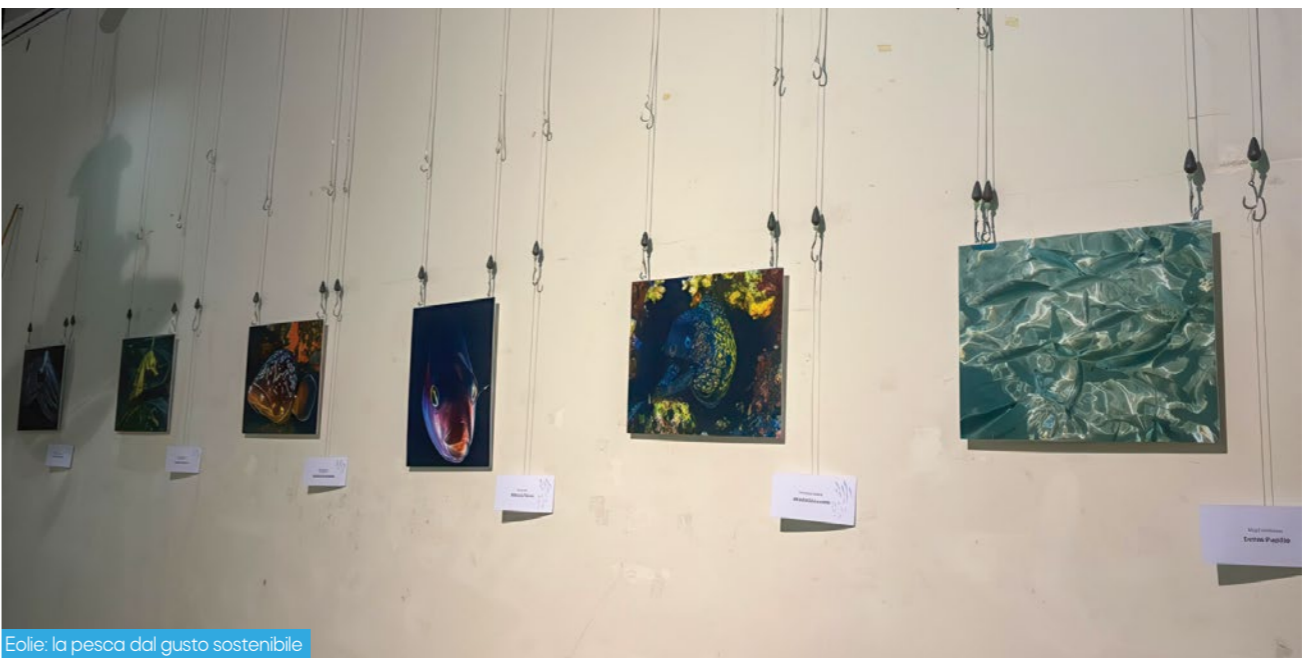


Eolie: la pesca dal gusto sostenibile

The project, funded by the Regione Siciliana Dipartimento della Pesca Mediterranea, focused on the socio-cultural significance of fishing within the Municipality of Lipari, with particular emphasis on environmental sustainability. A central objective was to support the sustainable management of local fishery resources by promoting policies aimed at protecting the marine ecosystem and ensuring responsible fishing practices.

Over the course of two days, ALDA+ organised a series of activities to promote sustainable fishing and raise public awareness. These included educational workshops for schools on marine biodiversity, a conference dedicated to marine conservation, sustainable seafood tastings, and a photography contest highlighting marine ecosystems. In addition, a mobile application was developed to present local fish species, complemented by an interactive recipe guide.

The initiative was aligned with International Day of Fishing (21 November), reinforcing its awareness-raising dimension. The conference, held at the Gattopardo Park Hotel, brought together public authorities, experts, and local fishermen, fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange. The programme concluded with the presentation of the newly developed application by Matteo Salin, marking a key outcome of the project.



Eolie: la pesca dal gusto sostenibile



Eolie: la pesca dal gusto sostenibile

“TRACCE”- PROGETTO LOCALE DI RIGENERAZIONE CULTURALE E SOCIALE DI SANTA CROCE DEL SANNIO



 Donor: Ministero della Cultura	 Budget: 85.766 € (contract with the Municipality)	 Timeframe: March 2025 - June 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 1	 Countries impacted: Italy
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ALDA+ has designed and implemented a series of actions to support the Municipality of Santa Croce del Sannio.

To ensure effective local engagement, ALDA+ has appointed a local representative tasked with connecting project stakeholders, fostering community participation, and coordinating activities on the ground. This role includes organising meetings with citizens and local actors, facilitating focus groups and co-design sessions, and ensuring coherence and synergy across ongoing initiatives.

The expected outcomes include strengthening the international positioning of Santa Croce del Sannio within European networks, while promoting locally relevant themes such as transhumance, participatory governance, and the cultural and environmental significance of water. In parallel, ALDA+ is actively identifying funding opportunities, developing project proposals, and supporting local businesses in the implementation of sustainable and innovative initiatives that bridge tradition and modern sectors.

The overarching objective is to establish a recurring annual participatory initiative capable of enhancing the town's visibility at the international level, attracting tourism and investment, and positioning Santa Croce del Sannio as a model of local innovation and sustainable development.

✦ International Projects

GINEVRA



 Donor: Interreg Central Europe Programme	 Budget: 2.540.000,00 €	 Timeframe: March 2023 - July 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 12	 Countries impacted: Italy, Slovenia, Hungary, Austria, Croatia, Poland, Germany
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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.

6 different cities are involved in the project (small/medium cities): Cesena (IT), Ptuj (SI), Varaždin (HR), Słupsk (PL), Bad Schönborn (DE), Nyíregyháza (HU).

The GINEVRA project helps cities to effectively govern transformative innovations, such as autonomous

vehicles. The partners jointly develop governance guidelines and new citizen engagement tools and test them in specific pilot actions. They also design a transnational strategy for responsibly governing the introduction of transformative innovations.

Demo Days Varazdin Success Story - Varaždin Takes the Wheel: Pioneering Responsible Innovation in Urban Mobility.

On 22-23 October 2025, the Croatian city of Varaždin hosted the first Demonstration Days of the GINEVRA project, marking a major milestone in Central Europe's efforts to shape the future of autonomous mobility. Over two days, the city transformed its airfield into a real-life test environment, where citizens, students, public institutions, and professionals experienced firsthand how responsible innovation can be governed on the ground. As Mayor Neven Bosilj noted, "Varaždin has shown that even smaller cities can play a big role in shaping the future of mobility. We are proud to be part of a European initiative that not only tests technology but also builds trust, inclusion, and awareness among citizens."

“ The opportunities with Automated Vehicles are endless, from solving driver shortages to better connecting rural areas. Through the GINEVRA project, we're ensuring these innovations are responsibly governed to truly benefit communities. ”
 – Nikoletta Lupo from HAFRA (Project Partner)

3P4SSE



Donor: Interreg Central Europe Programme	Budget: 2.116.156,00 €	Timeframe: April 2023 - March 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 12	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovenia
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It aims at addressing regional socioeconomic gaps within the Central Europe (CE) cooperation area by strengthening and clusterise 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.

The main outputs are:

1. to adopt a joint strategy to reinforce SSEs;
2. to co-design 5 Local Action Plans at regional scales;
3. capacity building;
4. to adopt 1 MoU to formalise the cooperation.

Through the pilot actions, 3P4SSE is carrying out Local Action Plans for promoting better regional governance models for SSEs in CE. By the end of the project, it will be formalised a collaboration within the CE cooperation area on SSEs, endowed by a common platform for empowering, sharing knowledge, competences, services and participation of public and private actors.

“ The key challenges that we face in governance of DES are related to internal and external coordination among DES itself and any other relevant stakeholders. This stems from the need to identify human and financial resources and find a convenient coordinator of the DES. Similarly, it stems also from the need to increase the feasibility of the DES and show the added value of being part of it, which is another key challenge that we are facing currently. ”
 - Guilia Bottura from Trentino Federation of Cooperation (Project Partner)



GreenScape CE



Donor: Interreg Central Europe Programme	Budget: 2,498,300.00 €	Timeframe: March 2023 - February 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 12	ALDA role: Partner	Countries impacted: Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Poland, Austria, Hungary
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GreenScape CE paves a way for 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.

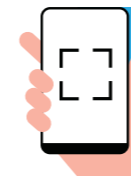
GreenScape CE has developed 5 NbS/GI action plans, followed by 3 pilot actions using 3 jointly developed solutions, and 2 CE-wide strategies.

The main beneficiaries of the project results are local governments and citizens. Both groups will benefit from know-how exchange, strengthened multi-level governance, tailored capacity building events, as well as the initiated NbS pilot actions that contribute to the well-being and social inclusion. These results will be accomplished through the transnational cooperation of 12 PPs (AT, HR, HU, IT, PL, SI). Together they will promote structural cooperation between public authorities and stakeholders and work on strengthening capacities for holistic and efficient planning of GI. The GreenScape CE results will support the development of NbS projects beyond the pilot areas through active engagement of potential replicator cities during the project and disseminating findings to improve policy learning. Transnational collaboration is essential for the exchange of knowledge and ideas that will lead to mainstreaming climate resilience solutions in urban areas.

Visual Mapping Tool: An interactive map-based platform which provides an overview of the existing green and blue infrastructure and NbS.



GreenScape CE



Scan the QR code for more details











GreenScape CE

EnCLOD - Enhancing governance Capacities of Local authorities using Open Data



 Donor: Interreg Central Europe Programme	 Budget: 1.912.810,48 €	 Timeframe: May 2024 - October 2026	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 10	 ALDA role: Partner	 Countries impacted: Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia
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IT AIMS AT strengthening the governance capacity of 5 local public authorities in Central Europe by promoting the use of Open Data (OD) and the Internet of Things (IoT) sensor networks. This initiative strengthens multi-level governance, promotes civil society involvement, and fosters public-private collaboration. Within the five pilot areas - Vicenza (Italy), Olomouc (Czech Republic), Debrecen (Hungary), Zilina (Slovakia), and Nova Gorica (Slovenia) - a specific challenge related to mobility/transport, environment, or climate change policy area will be addressed through the development of 5 local Action Plans for the effective usage of Open Data and IoT opportunities for territorial governance

and city-region planning. Furthermore, project activities will significantly increase awareness and knowledge of public authorities on OD and IoT potentialities for territorial governance, through case study collection and capacity building activities. Also, citizens' engagement will be enhanced through the organisation of events like "hackathons" and raising awareness activities.



EnCLOD

As of 2026, the EnCLOD project has achieved several significant achievements, including inter alia:

- Collection of best practices on OD and IoT usage
- Assessment of Open Data maturity level and gaps analysis on the pilot areas
- Drafting 5 Local Action Plans for the effective usage of Open Data and IoT opportunities for territorial governance and city-region planning
- Organised nine capacity-building activities covering the five pilot action areas and training +110 stakeholders



EnCLOD



EnCLOD



ALDA Italia APS



* Who we are

ALDA Italia APS - Association of Social Promotion was established in late 2022, as the Italian branch of ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy. It operates to support local, national, and international stakeholders in achieving their objectives in areas such as European integration, decentralisation, human rights, social inclusion, sustainable development, and civic engagement across the Italian territory.

Adopting a multi-stakeholder approach, ALDA Italia A.P.S. mobilises a wide range of resources and actors to strengthen local communities and foster participatory processes.

ALDA Italia APS contributes to project development, the generation of innovative ideas, the expansion of ALDA's membership base, and the strengthening of awareness and engagement within the ALDA community at both local and national levels.

In 2025, the entity experienced significant growth, progressively establishing itself as a geographical hub. Its activities expanded beyond environmental topics to engage more actively in ALDA's thematic hubs, particularly in the social, cultural, and youth sectors. At the same time, its presence at Villa Fabris has been further strengthened, reinforcing its role as a key operational and strategic centre.

* Projects

ASPIRA! Aspirazioni, Sinergie, Partecipazione, Rete e Alleanze con i NEET



Donor: Cariverona Foundation - Bando Sinergie	Budget: 43.000,00 €	Timeframe: October 2025 - October 2027	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 16	Countries impacted: Italy

It aims at engaging with young people between 18 and 30 years old living in the northern part of the Province of Vicenza, specifically people who are not employed, in education or training (NEET).

The project's goal is to be a concrete tool to help build a better future for today's vulnerable youth. It intends to do so through various activities and workshops aimed at developing these young people's skills and knowledge, giving them concrete tools which will be helpful in their job search.

The project involves the participation of numerous partners operating in the local area, belonging to different sectors. This variety is meant to help build a solid and concrete network of collaboration, co-creating the future of all young people taking part in the project and living in the area.

“ ALDA has always been committed to working with young people. ALDA Italia APS, through the Aspira project, puts this commitment into practice by providing real and concrete support to young people in the area. ”

- Marco Boaria, CEO ALDA+ & Deputy Secretary General of ALDA

People taking part in the project will also have the opportunity to start an individual coaching and counselling journey, which will help them discover their capabilities and put them to use in building their career and future.

These activities will all be instrumental to the final output of the project: a toolkit co-designed by all partners. The toolkit aims at creating an effective and long-lasting support network and to provide participants with concrete tools and methods to build a better future for themselves.





ASPIRA!

Cura e Solidarietà - Prospettive dal basso



 Donor: 8xMille della Chiesa Valdese	 Budget: 15.000,00 €	 Timeframe: November 2024 - October 2025	 Nr. of partners/ Associates: 2	 Countries impacted: Italy
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Cura e Solidarietà is a project led by Caracol Olo! Jackson ONLUS, while ALDA Italia APS takes part in this project as a partner.

Among its numerous activities, Caracol manages a social clinic in Vicenza. The clinic was created in order to help vulnerable citizens of Vicenza who are not able to access healthcare or can't afford it. The clinic offers free medical treatments such as dental and gynecological care. The project's aim

was to upgrade the clinic's equipment and to expand the services offered, improving the clinic's overall performance.

ALDA Italia APS was specifically involved in the process of promoting the clinic and its activities across the city of Vicenza, and it did so through three informative meetings devoted to presenting all the services offered by Caracol's clinic and finding new volunteers. The meetings were addressed to the citizenry and were held in specific neighbourhoods of the city, which were identified as key areas for people who could benefit from the clinic's services.

The project's main achievement was its recruitment campaign, carried out by the project's partners through brochures, informative events and social media. Thanks to this campaign, Cura e Solidarietà managed to recruit 5 new volunteer workers who now work in the clinic either as medical professionals or organizational and logistic support.








CURA



CURA

H.I.L.L. - Habitat in Living Landscape



				
Donor: Cariverona Foundation - <i>Bando HABITAT</i>	Budget: 400.000,00 €	Timeframe: October 2022 - December 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 7	Countries impacted: Italy

The reference area for the implementation of the HILL project encompasses the territories of Monte di Malo, Cornedo Vicentino and Castelgomberto, in the surroundings of the city of Vicenza (Italy).

This territory hosts two Special Conservation Areas (ZSC): “Le Poscole” and “Buso della Rana”, these areas are very important sources of biodiversity and are recognised at European level. To protect and preserve these areas effectively and concretely, the Municipality of Monte di Malo, leader of the project, implemented targeted actions which will implement the site’s management.

The project also foresees interventions for the enhancement of the Priaboniano Museum, an important cultural institution in the area.

In 2025 an informative volume regarding these areas was published and curated by the Malo Speleologists Group: “*Soprattutto Sotto, Ricerca e studio sul carsismo nell’altopiano Faedo - Casaron*”. The book’s aim is to become a reference point for cataloging explorations and data measurements of caves in the area.

Moreover, in December 2025 the exhibition “*Soprattutto dentro - Evoluzioni artistiche della grotta interiore*” was presented. The exhibition consists of paintings and photos depicting the caves and the speleologists.

HILL’s main achievement in 2025 was the publication of the informative volume “*Soprattutto Sotto, Ricerca e studio sul carsismo nell’altopiano Faedo-Casaron*.”

Moreover, in 2025 renovation works at the Priaboniano Museum began, with the aim of improving both the building and its exhibition spaces.

Finally, in 2025 data and opinions on the ZCSs and their management were collected from citizens and participants involved in the project’s participatory process, which took place at the end of 2023. The results were later presented to the local community, which was able to further discuss the survey topics.

RESPIRO Reti di Empowerment e Salute per la Promozione dell’Inclusione e Responsabilità Operativa



				
Donor: Cariverona Foundation - <i>Bando Welfare Generativo</i>	Budget: 122.000,00 €	Timeframe: February 2025 - December 2026	Nr. of partners/ Associates: 3	Countries impacted: Italy

RESPIRO is a project led by Caracol Olol Jackson ONLUS, which sees ALDA Italia APS as a partner, together with Cooperativa Equality. Among its activities, Caracol manages a social clinic in Vicenza, created in order to help people who are not able to access healthcare or can’t afford it.

The project's objective is threefold:

- To promote and improve medical services offered by the clinic and the overall society's well-being
- To ensure a higher level of information and awareness about the importance of access to healthcare
- To strengthen the active involvement of the local community in issues related to care, health, and generative welfare

RESPIRO specifically recognises the need for a coordinated effort in improving Vicenza's welfare, therefore it aims at bringing together and engaging with relevant local stakeholders by organising discussions focusing on relevant topics, in order to improve the effectiveness of actions taken in this regard. Everyone has the possibility to contribute: doctors, doctors' associations, social cooperatives, social clinics, CSOs.



ALDA Italia APS is specifically involved in the organisation of workshops discussing two main themes: gender equality and job hunting for people with migrant backgrounds. In addition, ALDA Italia carried out an analysis of the needs of the clinic's patients, so as to enhance the activity of the clinic by better matching the services with the patients' necessities.

The project's biggest achievement in 2025 was a Manifesto showing good practices proposed by local stakeholders on the promotion of the right to health, together with proposals to foster social inclusion and health for all. The development of the Manifesto is still ongoing and will be finalised by the end of the project, in December 2026.



Villa Fabris Bene Comune



<p>Donor: Cariverona Foundation - Bando RigenerAzioni</p>	<p>Budget: 6.850 € for ALDA Italia</p>	<p>Timeframe: January 2024 - December 2025</p>	<p>Nr. of partners/ Associates: 4</p>	<p>Countries impacted: Italy</p>
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Villa Fabris Bene Comune is a project entirely devoted to the revival of the historical 17th-century building of Villa Fabris in Thiene, Vicenza. The consortium managing the project is made up of four different partners: ALDA Italia APS, Samarcanda ONLUS, ENGIM and the Thiene Municipality. The project seeks to restore the historical building of the Villa, turning it into a social and cultural hub for the citizens of Thiene and the neighbouring area. As a first step in this direction structural renovations were carried out to restore the Villa's premises.

Once the renovations were completed, the Villa concretely came to life and numerous events open to the community were organized, allowing Villa Fabris to be enjoyed by all citizens of the northern area of the Province of Vicenza.



Among the project's achievements are the renovation and revitalization of the Villa's premises. Moreover, numerous events open to the community were organised: an annual open day dedicated to the community and an annual Europe Day celebration in collaboration with the local schools.



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