

CSO Governance Community of Practice Regional Meeting

EU and regional experiences
in CSO governance – ALDA's
best practices, challenges and
transforming approaches

Belgrade, 11 May 2023

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What is ALDA?

ALDA is a French-registered membership based organisation, focusing on activities facilitating the cooperation between **Local Authorities, Civil Society Organisations & Citizens.**



The World of **ALDA**

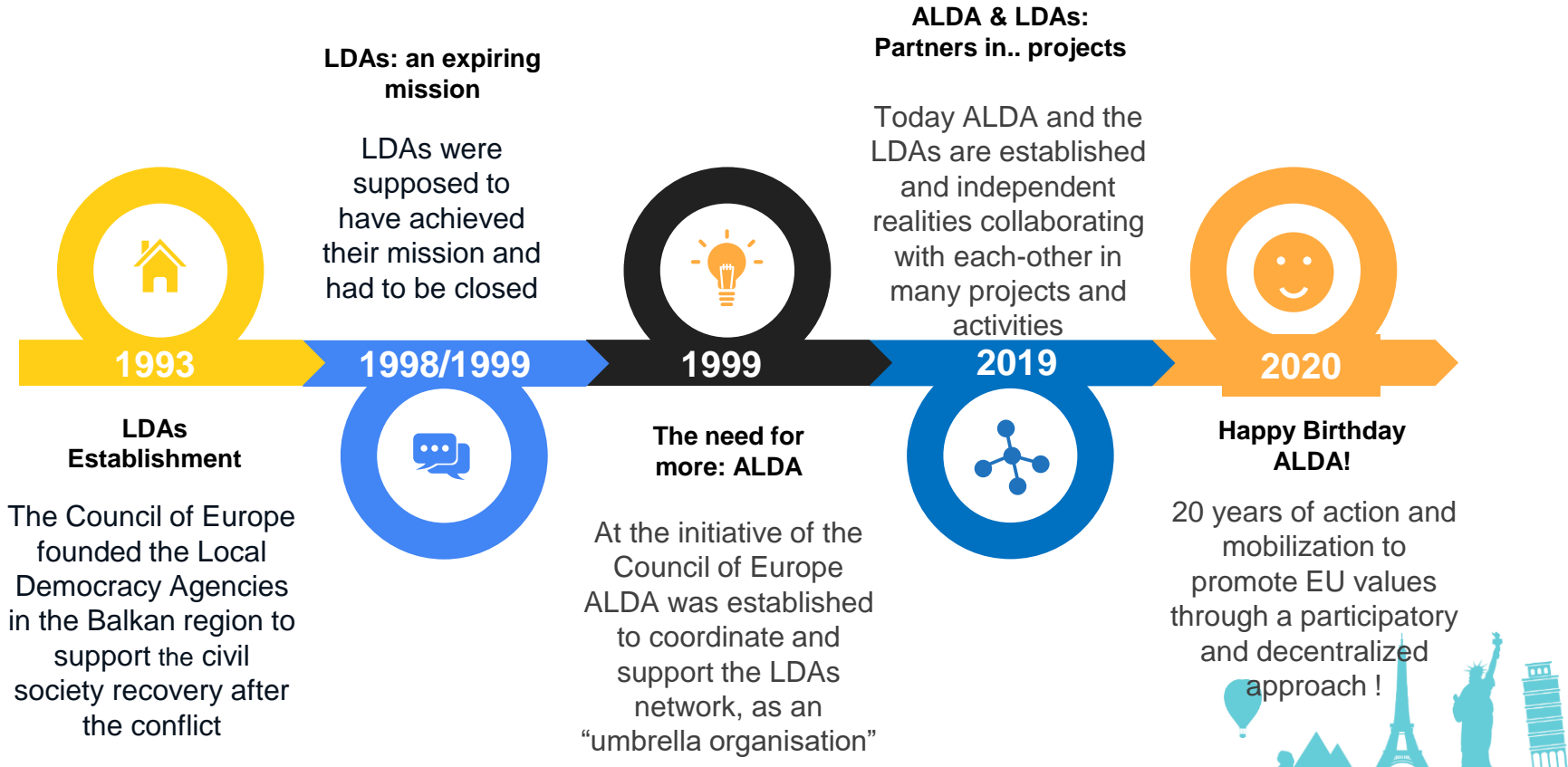
LDAs, Network, Projects, Mission

alda *



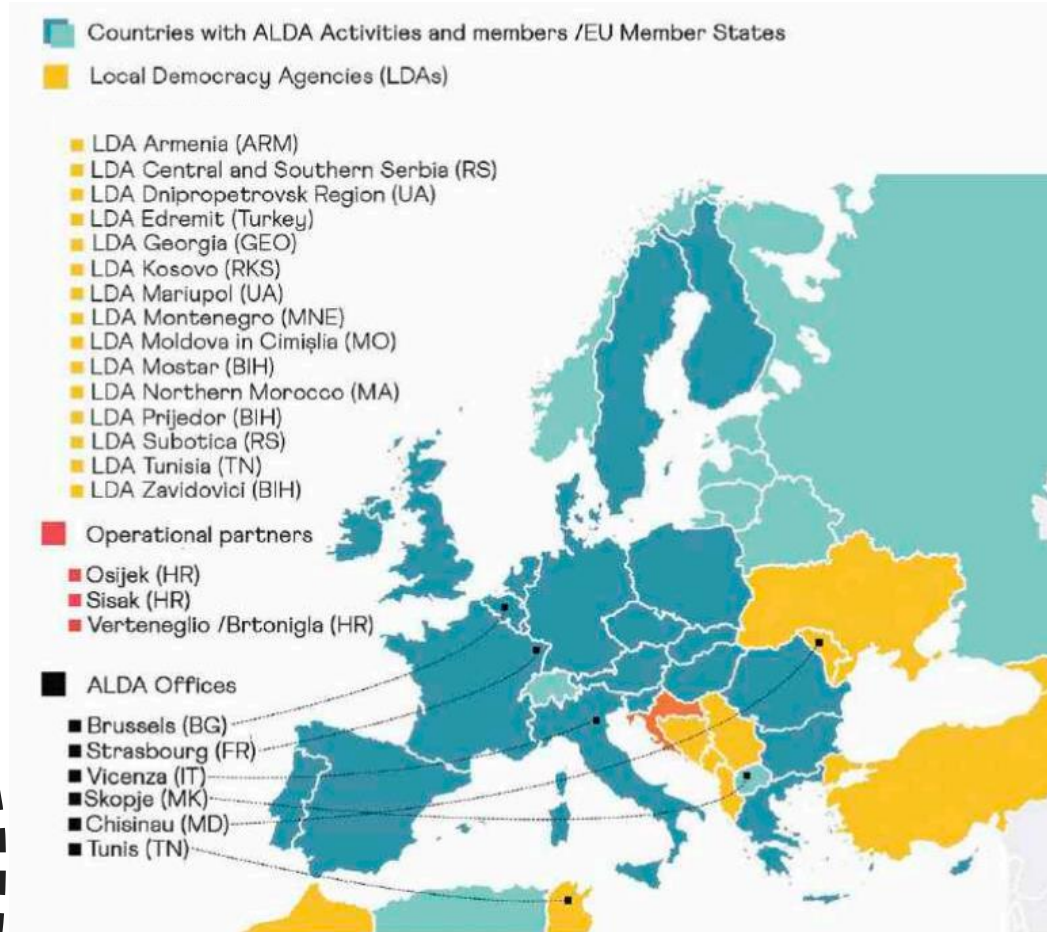
European Association
for Local Democracy

Back to the origins



We started as a **newborn Association in 1999**, promoted by the Council of Europe, which remains our institutional point of reference, with 8 members and 5 Local Democracy Agencies, with a limited coordination role!

TODAY we have a spectrum of **presence, members** and **LDAs** all over the Neighborhood South and East and a company, **ALDA+**, working in the technical assistance for the same mandate of ALDA!



ALDA, today



Our Mission & Values



**« From local, to
global »**





Through **participative methods & decentralised cooperation**

How?



Promote **good local governance** and **citizens participation**

at the **local level** in Europe and its neighborhood

Our Action

- ✓ Environment & Sustainability
- ✓ Youth and Work placement
- ✓ Minorities and Vulnerable Groups
- ✓ Employment & Entrepreneurship
- ✓ Gender equality & Inclusion
- ✓ Research & Education
- ✓ External cooperation & Decentralisation
- ✓ UN Agenda 2030



A wide Network

- ➔ Municipalities
- ➔ Provinces / Counties
- ➔ Regions
- ➔ Associations of Local Authorities
- ➔ Civil Society Organisations
- ➔ Universities
- ➔ Single Members
- ➔ Local Democracy Agencies
- ➔ Operational Partners



Sharing a **Vision**

- ➔ High degree of collaboration
- ➔ Engagement
- ➔ Mutual Support
- ➔ Good-practices exchange
- ➔ Combination of different points of view



Our Added Value



Upon the needs of our **members**, we
build ad hoc **partnerships**,

finding the perfect
stakeholders

in order to generate **synergies**
and create promising
collaborations

to **find solutions** and
reach the desired
results



ALDA'S NETWORK

Over the past 20 years, ALDA has built a wide and extensive **network of different stakeholders**.

Since the beginning with the establishment of LDAs and the best practices achieved, ALDA has represented a catalyst for actors such as Civil Society Organisations, Municipalities, Regional Authorities and other stakeholders, with the common global objective of **cooperating on Citizen participation for local democracy**.

One of the main successful approaches used in the first steps of ALDA, was the constant **commitment in keeping a balanced engagement of representatives from both Civil Society and Local Authorities**. Over the years, this winning and meaningful method has always been respected in the growing process of ALDA as a composite association of members and in the composition of partnerships for Projects either in Europe or in the neighbourhood countries.

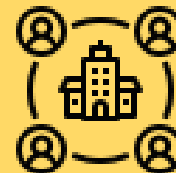


ALDA'S NETWORK

Municipalities



Provinces/Countries



Regions

Associations of Local Authorities

Civil Society Organizations

Universities

Single members



Local Democracy Agencies



Operational partners



A MEMBERSHIP-BASED ORGANISATION

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

Today ALDA is a **membership-based organisation** gathering more than **350 members** coming from more than 45 countries of the enlarged Europe area.

The members are mostly composed in a balanced way by Local Authorities (Municipalities, Regional Authorities and Associations of Local Authorities) and Civil Society Organisations, and they represent the real added value in the implementation of ALDA's programme of activities. Through its members ALDA has a vast coverage of countries' representativeness and they have the opportunity to refer to a group of actors sharing the same values, commitment and best practices.

ALDA offers substantial resources that all members can benefit from, always informed and ready to discuss latest developments in the support of good local governance and active citizenship and any other issue that concerns its members and partners in Europe and beyond

How does ALDA function:

Internal Structure



GOVERNING BOARD

Responsible for the management and administration of ALDA in between General Assemblies



AMBASSADORS ALDA

Representatives
People who have known and supported ALDA for a long time



ADVISORY BOARD

They elaborate suggestions, recommendations and statements on ALDAs activities and specific issues

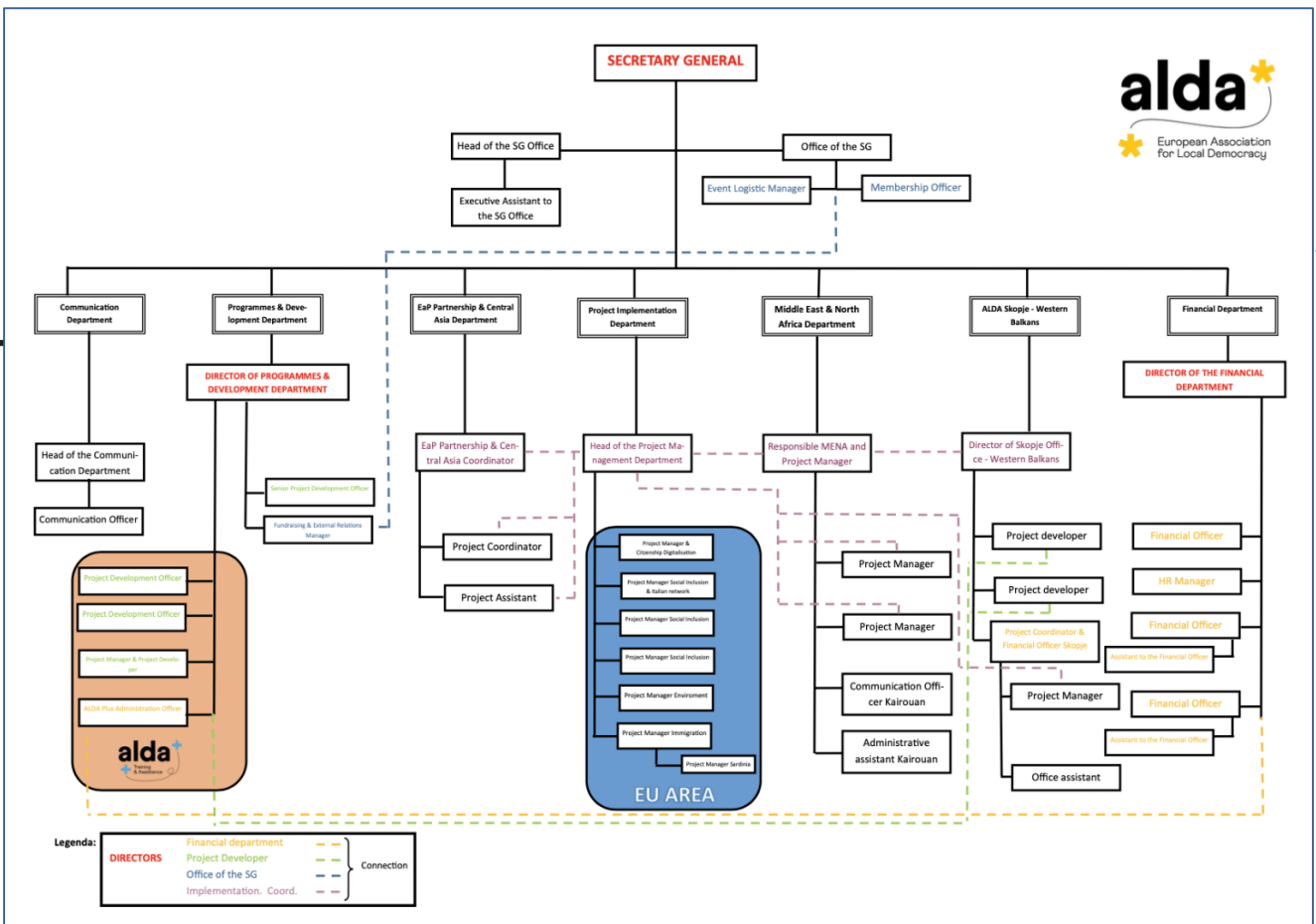


STAFF

The everyday operational body of ALDA

ALDA'S progress in people

STAFF



THEMATIC HUBS

ALDA's 5 thematic hubs establish **transversal teams** on **thematic priorities** within the implementation phase.

Environment
and Climate



Community
Engagement



Gender Inclusion
and Human Rights



Youth



Migration



TODAY, here is what we are running on a daily basis:

11 lines of **action**

54 **countries** where we are present & operating

6 **offices**

thousands
millions of activities
of beneficiaries

15 **LDAs**, in 3 areas

350+ **members**

500+ **projects** implemented

...since the
establishment of
ALDA



A well-recognised **worldwide organisation**,
rooted in European experience of local
democracy. *It did not happen overnight!*

ALDA's progress in figures

	1999	2009	2022
LDAs & OPs	5	11	18
Countries involved	5	30	54
Members	5	100	350+
Projects	0	102	500+
Budget	0	10M	43M
Direct beneficiaries	0	61,000+	2M+

ALDA's progress in people: the MEMBERS

	1999	2009	2022
Nr of ALDA members	5	176	350+
Countries where members are based	3	30	47

Empowerment of the **Ambassador programme**, where today we have **20 committed people**, with a dedicated staff member as well as dedicated programmes and support to members, focusing on regional and country approach. And then there are the **friends of ALDA** !

Having worked and collaborated successfully with ALDA over the past years we feel honoured to be able to continue to engage with ALDA on the various levels of operations”
- **Claudia Taylor East, SOS Malta (Malta)**

ALDA's METHODOLOGY



ALDA's **METHODOLOGY**

Localized action
and participatory
democracy

Supporting
local authorities
and civil society

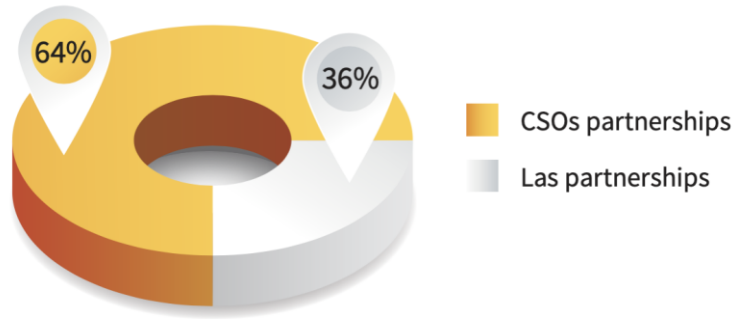
**Practical and
long-term**
assistance and
approach

Local Democracy
Agencies
LDAs

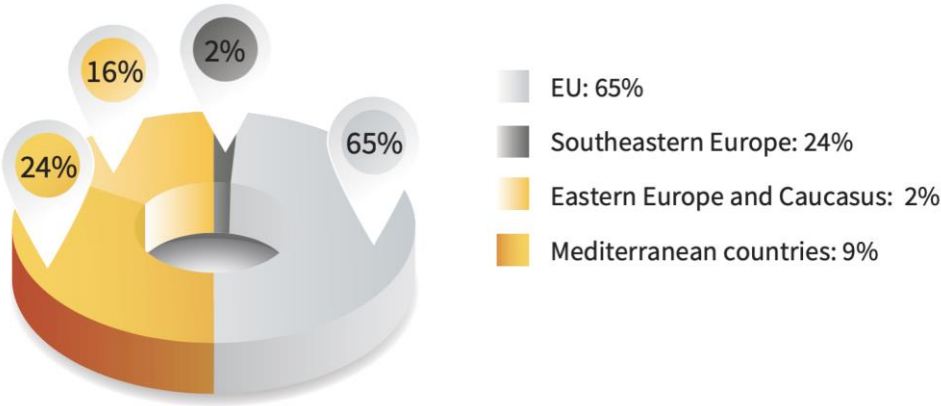
Research and
policy-making

Local authorities	Civil Society
Methods of engaging with citizens and participatory democracy	Methods of engaging with local authorities
Develop plan of local development	Empowerment and sustainability plans
Participative urban regeneration	Advocacy
Environmental plans	Fundraising
Civil society engagement and animation	Engaging vulnerable groups
Functioning of local authorities and plans of support for staff and for local elected leaders	Being part of the local development processes and urban regeneration
Human rights approach and gender balance policies	Awareness and action for sustainability social, economic and environmental

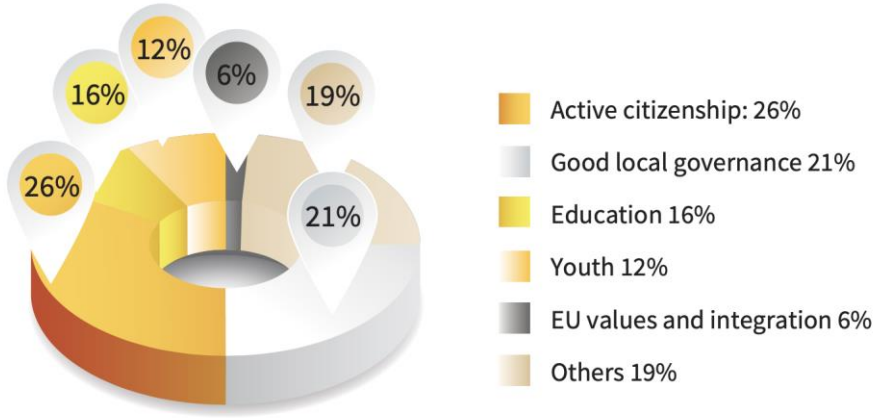
PROJECT PARTNERS' COMPOSITION



AREAS OF ACTIVITY

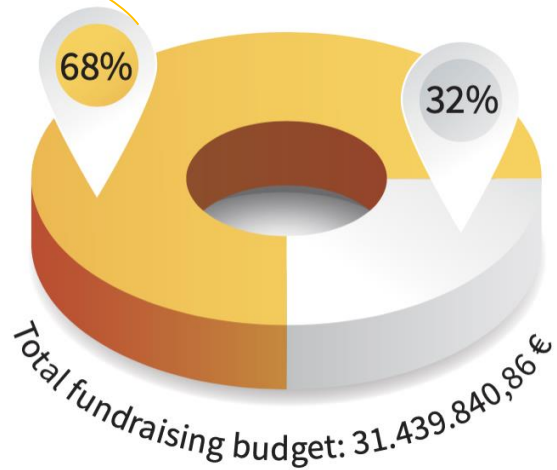


MAIN THEMATIC LINES



FUNDRAISING CAPACITY: A HUMAN APPROACH

Apart from European organs and emanations, ALDA has been working for several years with a **pool of donors**, among which:



- EC and EU Delegations
- Other donors

- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)
- Normandy Region
- Mercator Stiftung
- French Development Agency (AFD)
- Fons Menorqui
- United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- German Marshall Fund (GMF)
- Gescod
- Fonjep
- Swiss International Cooperation

ALDA's Impact

Throughout its project and activities, ALDA gathers ideas from its **members, partners and beneficiaries** to address challenges in several areas

To turn ideas and plans into reality, ALDA advocates for them to influence **policy-makers** and **public opinion** in adopting like-minded policy or views

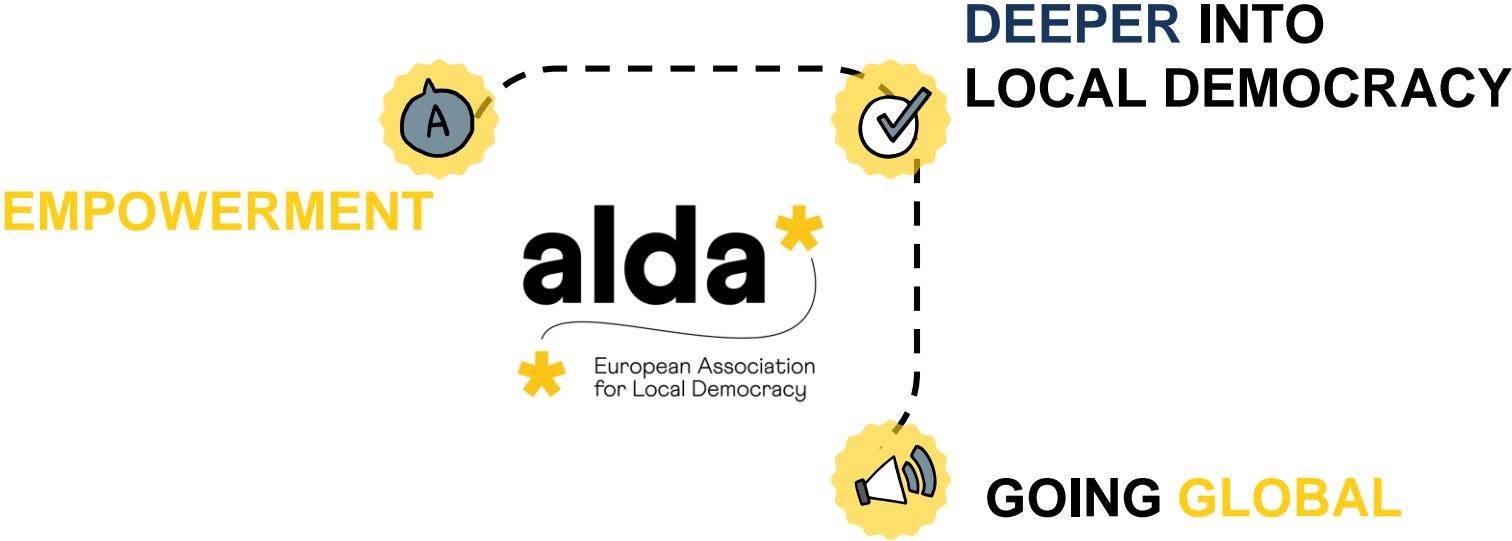


ALDA is part of EU & World Networks

- ✓ Congress of Local & Regional Authorities of the CoE
- ✓ Europe for Citizens Programme
- ✓ Committee of the Regions
- ✓ European Movement International
- ✓ European Movement - France
- ✓ CIVICUS



WHERE WE ARE HEADING TO?



Back to the Balkans



Where it all started

ALDA story started with the opening of the first LDA in Subotica, Serbia in 1993. 30 years later ALDA remains faithful to its beginnings and continues straightening its strategic position in the Western Balkans through the work of the Regional hub in Skopje, North Macedonia and 7 Local democracy agencies carrying out ALDA's mission in the region.

On the long Run: ALDA Perspectives for the Western Balkans



Capacity building and promotion of citizen participation in order for more CSOs to become engaged on this action in the Western Balkans

Promoting democratic governance through citizen participation in policy and decision making processes

Enhance effective citizen participation in the EU integration and accession negotiation processes in the Western Balkans



Timeline of ALDA's continuous efforts in the Western Balkans

Opening of LDA
Zavidovici



1997

Opening of
LDA Prijedor



2000

Opening of LDA
Mostar



2004

Opening of LDA
Kosovo*



2011

Opening of
ALDA Skopje



2012

1993



Opening of the first
LDA in Subotica

1999



Establishment of ALDA to
ensure the regional
coordination of the LDAs

2001



Opening of LDA Central
and Southern Serbia and
LDA Nisic

2008



Opening of LDA Albania
and establishment of the
ALDA regional office

2012



Western Balkans LDAs
sign Memorandum on
regional cooperation

2019



Registration of
BNLD in Skopje

A closer look on BNLD

BNLD is a **regional network** that promotes **active citizen participation, democratic governance principles, multilateral decentralised collaboration and cooperation** between civil society organisations and local public authorities in the **Western Balkan** region.

THE MEMBERS:

LDA Central and Southern Serbia (Serbia)

LDA Subotica (Serbia)

LDA Peja (Kosovo*)

LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

LDA Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

LDA Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

LDA Niksic (Montenegro)

ALDA Skopje (North Macedonia)

ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy



A closer look on BNLD

The creation of BNLD responded to the need of ALDA and LDAs in the Western Balkan for a more structured regional cooperation multiannual project. After 20 years of collaboration, the registration of BNLD marked the expression of maturity of the LDAs and ALDA, who have demonstrated a substantial local expertise in the region and a firm commitment to elevating their capacity at a higher level of functioning.

BNLD'S TRANSVERSAL OBJECTIVES

1

Empowerment of
civil society

2

Promoting
decentralisation

3

Diffusion of
European values

4

Monitoring of
Democratic processes

NET WORKING BUILDING BRIDGES DYNAMIC PARTICIPATION
ACTION NETWORKING
multiculturalism CONNECTION respect
OUTREACH europe CHALLENGE DEMOCRACY
aldas*
* European Association for Local Democracy
REGIONAL VALUE empowering COMMUNITY MULTICULTURALISM
TEAM solutions
COMMUNITY
respect SUSTAINABILITY DEMOCRACY RESPECT
OPPORTUNITY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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