

**LOCAL  
DEMOCRACY  
AGENCY**  
SUBOTICA, SERBIA

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**MISSION**

Mission of the Local Democracy Agency in Subotica is determined by ALDA network programmes aimed at building local capacities in the Western Balkan countries for EU integration process through international decentralised co-operation, civil society development in multiethnic local communities and an enhanced democratic participation at local/regional level. European standards of local / regional democracy, human and minority rights protection, decentralisation of government and subsidiarity principle are the values incorporated in the main objectives of activities since the establishment of LDA in 1993.





## MANDATE

- Capacity building and training programmes for local civil society and local self-government
- Promoting EU integration and European values at local level
- Intercultural dialogue and understanding in multiethnic local communities
- Cross-border and regional co-operation programmes
- Trainings for economic empowerment of marginalized groups
- Promoting increased citizen participation at local level
- Publishing activities
- EU Youth in Action and European Voluntary Service EVS Programme



# ACTIVITIES

## CIVIL SOCIETY



Training programmes and local / regional networking of civil society organizations are the core activities of Local Democracy Agency aimed at capacity building for democratic participation at local level. Support to cross-

sector partnership and co-operation for more effective and responsive performances of local self-government. Intercultural dialogue and understanding through reinforcing of the role of local NGO-s, conflict prevention and resolution skills, creation of the local pool of trainers and resource center. Awareness raising and promotion campaigns for EU integration.

Projects: EU supported: Local Partnerships for Tolerance – EIDHR Country based Programme for Serbia, managed by the EC Delegation in the Republic of Serbia. (2008); Public campaign marking the Day of Europe, (2008), support by the Fund for Open Society.





## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Series of thematic trainings for local elected and appointed councilors have been implemented since 2000. These include residential training seminars on different roles of elected councilors, international conferences on decentralization and regionalisation of government, publishing activities, advocacy campaigns.

Projects: Actions for capacity building of local civil society and local authorities in SEE, supported by the Italian MFA and managed by ANCI/ALDA (2004/06); EU EXCHANGE Programme for the municipalities in



Serbia, Training component and the Handbook on EU integration and local authorities, (2007). Multi year project and the series of collection of written

contributions: Essays on regionalisation, support by the British Embassy, Belgrade.

## EUROPEAN INTERCULTURAL CITIES - ICC

Pilot Programme of the Council of Europe promoting good local governance in multicultural local communities across Europe. In co-operation with LDA, the city of Subotica submitted its candidacy and was selected for the joint programme of the newly established network of



12 cities, including Lyon, Reggio Emilia, Berlin, Oslo, Greenwich, Lublin, Melitopol, Neuchatel. Activities started in 2008, and are supported by the Council of Europe and EU.

## LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Training programme for entrepreneurship skills intended for the groups of unemployed, women and young potential entrepreneurs. Business plan developing, exchange of good practice seminars held in co-operation with the Norwegian partners. Micro-credit support scheme designed as a follow-up activity and intended for small businesses development in co-operation with the Council of Europe Development Bank and Norwegian MFA. (2008)

## YOUTH

Accreditation for EU EVS Programme, co-operation established with other LDA-s in EU Youth in Action



Programme. Training seminars for youth groups are integral part of annual LDA action plan starting from 2007.



## THE ASSOCIATION OF LDA'S – ALDA

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) is a European non-governmental organisation supporting active citizenship and participatory democracy in all areas of local governance. What began in 1999 as a small initiative of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to coordinate a network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) already in existence since 1993, grew into one of the major European stakeholders dealing with citizens' participation and human rights at the local, regional or European level. ALDA's main partners and members include local and regional authorities, civil society organisations, and universities. In addition, ALDA continues to entertain close relationship with its founder, the Council of Europe, while at the same time co-operating with other international organisations such as the UN, the OSCE and most of all with the European Commission of whose working group on active citizenship it is a member. Different pillars of activities



were rapidly added to ALDA's mission which nowadays not only entails the field work in South East Europe and the Caucasus through the network of 12 LDAs, but which also encompasses European pilot projects on active citizenship with its members and partners as well as technical assistance and trainings.

ALDA's headquarters are based in:

#### Strasbourg:

Council of Europe, 67000 Strasbourg France

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#### Vicenza:

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#### Liaison Office in Brussels:

Rue des Confederes 47, 1040 Brussels

Phone: 0032 2 742 0 161

#### Subotica office:

LDA Partnership Support Manager:

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## THE ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATION IS TO:

- Coordinate LDA activities;
- Contribute to the fundraising and development of common projects;
- Provide LDAs and Delegates with technical and administrative support;
- Receive voluntary contributions, from national, local and regional authorities, foundations and other bodies for the purpose of developing general or specific LDA projects;
- Act as a LDAs representative in dealing with institutions and sponsors and helping to ensure proper use of funds under its management;
- Devise and run training courses for Delegates, Agency staff, and other LDA contact groups;
- Provide a forum for discussing the LDA programme and strategy;
- Promote LDA activities and the international role of European local authorities in promoting local democracy, human rights and minority rights.

Together with its members and partners, ALDA has implemented a variety of projects on active citizenship and local democracy including Europe-wide surveys, conferences, best practice exchange seminars, workshops, among them the one-year campaign “Cities for Peace and Democracy in Europe “ as well as the pilot project “EURaction - Citizens acting for Europe “ through which citizens’ panels were set up in five European countries.

Our general network (LDA partners + ALDA members) is composed of:

- Actors involved in the programme: 193
- 27% NGOs
- 59% local authorities
- 3% regional authorities
- 11% others
- From 18 countries ( from Western and Eastern Europe and from the Western and Eastern Balcan)





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- **LDA ALBANIA**

Delegate ad interim

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## HOW LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY WORKS

Local Democracy Agency is operating as a local registered non-governmental organization in Serbia, a member of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies.

The Agency has a manager, known as a delegate, appointed by the network of partners supporting the Agency and ratified by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies.

LDA office is centrally located in Subotica, with a team of six full and part-time staff members: Delegate (and Project Manager), Assistant Project Manager, Office Administrator, three local Project Co-ordinators and the Financial Officer.



Since its establishment, the LDA has developed projects intended for different target groups in local multicultural and multiethnic communities of Subotica and at regional / cross-border level, consistently promoting European values and standards in local good governance, citizen participation in decision-making, intercultural understanding and tolerance.

All the activities carried out in close collaboration with the partners, managed and facilitated by LDA Subotica over the last two years contributed to an enhanced direct co-operation between a wide range of local institutions and target groups, not only in Subotica, but in the region of Vojvodina. Both the LDA and its partners' network have been identified and recognised as actors supporting local development initiatives.



## PARTNERS:

- City of Subotica, host city of LDA
  - Wolverhampton City Council, Lead Partner, UK
  - Buskerud County Council, Norway
  - Fauske municipality, Norway
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- Association PHILIA
  - Vojvodina Center for Human Rights
  - Euroregional Center for Democracy
  - Timisoara, Romania

