

**DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING WITH  
LAs AND CSOs FOR A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICES WORKING FOR  
“GLOCAL” DEVELOPMENT**

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**LADDER roadmap  
2015-2017**

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## Abbreviations

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**LADDER:** Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education and Raising awareness  
**LAs:** Local Authorities  
**CSOs:** Civil Society Organisations  
**DEAR:** Development Education & Awareness Raising  
**MDGs:** Millenium Development Goals  
**SDGs:** Sustainable Development Goals  
**EU:** European Union  
**EC:** European Commission  
**EP:** European Parliament  
**CoR:** Committee of the Regions  
**CORLEAP:** Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership  
**ARLEM:** Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly  
**EESC:** European Economic and Social Committee  
**EEAS:** European External Action Service  
**DG DEVCO:** Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (EuropeAid)  
**DG NEAR:** Directorate General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations  
**DG Regio:** Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy  
**ENP:** European Neighborhood Policy  
**EaP:** Eastern Partnership area  
**MED:** Mediterranean area  
**SEE:** South East Europe area  
**CONCORD:** European NGO Confederation for relief and development  
**UCLG:** United Cities and Local Governments  
**PLATFORMA:** European platform of Local Regional Authorities for development  
**CoE:** Council of Europe  
**CLRA:** Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe  
**Conference of INGO:** Conference of International Non-governmental Organizations of the Council of Europe

## *Our principles & basic assumptions*

- **Local Authorities (and their Associations) and Civil Society** as important stakeholders that have the potential to create an impact and a change in development policies and practices
- The **local level**, recognized as being a strategic level for effective action for development, can promote coherent implementation of the development policies, especially in terms of **development education**, understood as a 3-level concept for raising awareness and engaging citizens in global issues
- **Local development and engagement** of different stakeholders and citizens are at the centre of the development policies by increasing their capacities to act and their awareness and understanding of the interdependent world, thus enhancing their **engagement in global issues**
- Local Development is not an accessory part of development but represents a fundamental asset from a national and international point of view. Development generated at the local level composes a genuine and sustainable element of the more **global development dynamics**, as part of a global framework
- Local Development cannot be achieved with local potentialities and strengths alone, but requires the **adequate legislative & political framework along with the social and economic conditions** that allow local authorities and civil society to play a fundamental role in participating in the political, social and economic life of the community
- **Decentralisation** (along with subsidiarity) is a model that secures local and democratic development, including residual powers and competences, financial means and strengthened mechanisms that put LAs at the very heart of development
- **Civil Society and citizens** must have a key role to play in achieving sustainable policies and behaviours at the local level, thus provoking positive impact at the global level. Ownership and engagement are prerequisites for responsibility towards the community and a guarantee for sustainability of policies
- The **multi-stakeholder approach** (engagement of LAs, CSOs, private sector, education sector, citizens etc) has proven to be efficient and with a clear added-value in achieving specific objectives, that can be applied at a larger scale (to the whole

community, local, regional, national, international level). Only through a coherent multi-stakeholder approach can the objective of a fair and equal, sustainable and long term development be achieved at different levels (local, national, European and global). Building the capacities of those actors (in particular of LAs and CSOs acting at local level) will create the necessary multiplier effect for promoting awareness raising and engagement of citizens in global issues/challenges. By doing so, the multi-stakeholder approach will also promote the global objectives defined in the Development Agenda (MDGs, Post-2015, SDGs etc)

## ***The framework***

***The European Union promoter of the processes of development within and outside its borders, in the Neighborhood and world-wide, through strengthening internal capacities of LAs and CSOs and raising citizens' awareness***

- The multi-stakeholder approach and territorial approach have, and still are, major components of the EU's development policy. Most of the policies include different kinds of stakeholders and envisage shared ownership of process. The territorial approach is conceived also as a community approach where the public, private and association sector are working together for valorizing and developing virtuous development processes. This approach is reflected also in the DEAR field.
- The EU has a major role to influence and support the development of its neighbours in order to develop peaceful contacts at its borders and promote exchanges, the community and territorial approach being promoted through the development assistance in the EaP, SEE (pre Accession) and MED area.
- Both in the Enlargement and the Neighborhood countries, the community approach (LAs and CSOs working together for development) represents not only a mean for economic development but also a way to promote social and political cohesion and develop tools for raising awareness of citizens.

## ***LADDER actions and aims***

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A sustainable local development approach – in which citizens, local authorities and civil society cooperate for a **fair, just, inclusive community** – highly contributes to address global challenges, supporting and contributing to objectives of the EU DEAR policies and in line with the objectives of the post-2015 agenda (following up and deepening the Millenium Development Goals).

The LADDER community represents a very relevant number of stakeholders (26 co-applicants and 20 associates from 18 EU Member States and 17 non-EU countries) that will be able to create a change in developing real understanding, engagement and practices in the field of development. The LADDER project represents a bridge linking local communities and stakeholders (both LAs & their associations and citizens & their associations with national and EU stakeholders).

The LADDER community process will mainly emphasize on the **capacities and awareness of the components of the community of practices to engage in processes of Development Education**, engaging and working together with local authorities' representatives and civil society, both in the EU and in the Enlargement and Neighborhood countries.

The LADDER community **opens bridges of dialogue between associations/citizens and public authorities** and tests in practical terms the processes for implementing development policies and awareness raising at the local level, contributing thus to the global development.

## ***LADDER: a Road map for change***

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LADDER intends to be a change maker in the development processes within the frame of the implementation of the programme. This ambition is even strengthened by the fact that the LADDER community represents more than a project but a long-standing cooperation platform, which existed before the project (members of ALDA, shared participations to platforms, shared projects and long standing cooperation). All LADDER partners and members of the Community interact on a regular basis and the project here allows them a space to channel experiences and energies in the same direction.

## A road map to reach & influence EU policy making

### **The LADDER community interacting with & influencing the EU policy making at Global level**

- Involvement & monitoring of LADDER community in the negotiations for the post MDGs and localisation, Post-2015, new SDGs
- Monitoring & participation in international events on global issues
- Presence in the Turin Local Development Forum in October 2015
- Interaction & exchange with relevant actors at European level such as CONCORD, PLATFORMA, UCLG and others

### **The LADDER community interacting with & influencing the EU policy making in its Neighborhood policies**

- Develop a regular interaction with EC DGs Services such DG NEAR, EEAS
- Supporting and contributing to the ENP and its implementation and evaluation (including its 2015 review with the submission of recommendations)
- Contribute to the development & assessment of the Association Agreements in the EaP
- Contribute to the assessment of the CSO roadmaps' implementation in the Neighborhood
- Contribute and participate in the assessment of Flagship initiative on Municipal Development of DGDEVCO for EaP, both in its development and implementation
- Interact with relevant platforms and organisations such as Corleap and ARLEM
- Regular contact with the EU Delegations in the partners countries where LADDER is represented
- Participate & contribute to international and European events of particular relevance, such as the Assises of Decentralised Cooperation (CoR), the European Development Days (EDDs) and others
- Follow & contribute to the Council Presidencies agendas & activities

### **The LADDER community delivering incentives for the EU policy making in the Enlargement process**

The Enlargement policies are already very much based on the territorial approach for development. The programme should consolidate and further feed this approach, by interacting with:

- DG NEAR, DG Regio and other DGs involved in the Enlargement process
- European Programmes such as Europe for Citizens, Erasmus+ and others
- European and national stakeholders, both institutional and non-institutional, active in the process and with expertise in LADDER-related fields

## **The LADDER community could influence the EU policy making with a stronger presence and voice for development**

LADDER is also a project to support local development in the EU, as an action foreseeing activities implemented at the local level whilst taking care of global issues. It is proposed to have a constant interaction and contribution – sharing our values and mission – with key actors among the main policies and actions of the EU. Our objective is to confirm the importance of territorial and community approach for development and the central role of the interaction of citizens with local authorities.

Organisations to interact with:

- DG DEVCO/EuropeAid, DG Regio and others
- Other key EU Institutions including the CoR, the EESC & the EP
- Europe for Citizens, Youth programmes etc
- Council of Europe (CoE) and the Congress' (CLRA) priorities & activities, including the Conference INGO of the CoE
- Non-Institutional actors, Civil Society Organisations and networks (CONCORD etc)

With its **6 Thematic priorities** (named 'Paths', see below) and the **3 Geographical dimensions** (EaP, MED, SEE) LADDER address development education from different perspective, thus contributing with different means and approaches to the DEAR objectives and priorities.

Path 1: Youth in development

Path 2: Migration

Path 3: Citizens' participation for development

Path 4: Public-private cooperation in development: economic growth and job creation

Path 5: Environmental and sustainable development

Path 6: European Year for Development cooperation 2015 (& follow-up)

**The mapping of institutional and non-institutional actors** relevant to the corresponding path, developed by each Thematic Path's Working Group, will identify the key stakeholders to liaise and engage with and address when drafting, producing and disseminating recommendations and policy papers, thus getting involved and further leveraging the richness and diversity of the LADDER network.

## **The LADDER community could influence the National policies in the partner countries**

### Possibility of each partner to interact at the national level:

- Promote and support the recognition of the role and importance of Local Authorities at National level, working on development education and awareness raising
- Support to LA and CSOs working together for achieving LADDER objectives
- Ensuring an enabling environment for the smooth and effective cooperation between LA and CSOs working on development education, engaging citizens in global issues
- Development of activities on global challenges, understanding and engagement in global issues, acting local and changing attitudes for addressing global challenges

### *The desired outcome*

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The LADDER roadmap, combined with the implementation of the LADDER activities throughout its 3-year implementation period, shall contribute and promote the **role of Local Authorities in DEAR policies, increasing not only their awareness but also their engagement in global issues starting from the local level, working together with Civil Society and other actors.**

Citizens are the final beneficiaries of LADDER.

The project shall build & support the role of LAs and CSOs to raise the awareness and information of citizens about development issues (both EU and non-EU countries covered by LADDER), foster their understanding and recognition of global development and interdependence, while mobilizing greater public support for action against poverty and lead to changed and critical attitudes towards global development.