



LADDER

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS DRIVERS FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS



NEWSLETTER - ISSUE #11 - NOVEMBER 2017 If you cannot correctly read this message, [click here](#)

MAKING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THE ONLY POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT LADDER FINAL CONFERENCE



The final conference of the project LADDER was held in Strasbourg on 21-22 November 2017, and constituted a key opportunity to create new bonds and strengthen existing partnerships for the localisation of SDGs in the next years.

The conference marked three years of joint work within an extremely ambitious project, co-funded by the European Union and led by ALDA, gathering 27 partners and 19 associates from 19 EU and 17 non EU-countries. The unanimous commitment to continue the great work done so far in the field of development education is a great satisfaction for all of us, as well as the sign of LADDER's sustainability.

The event, hosted by the Council of Europe and by the Region Grand Est, was opened by the welcome speech of **Antonella Valmorbida**, Secretary General of ALDA, and **Alina Tatarenko**, Head of the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform of the Council of Europe.

The first expert panel focused on best practices in the field of development education and SDGs, with the participation of **Elisabeth Dau** from the Institute for Research and Debate for Governance, **Othmane Khaoua**, City councilor of the municipality of Sceaux (France), and **Inta Rimsane** from the municipality of Rezekne (Latvia). Speakers highlighted that not only can local authorities drive the implementation of effective policies for implementing SDGs, but they can also work to shape a common sense of ownership of SDGs in their citizens.

Following this, a panel on results and lessons learnt in the past 3 years was moderated by the project manager **Sofia Caiolo**, who showed LADDER's achievements through its 5 dimensions: Research, Capacity Building and Peer-to-peer Education, Advocacy, Supporting Grass-Root Actions and Citizens, Creative Component. One of the main features of LADDER has been its consortium, composed by 27 co-applicants and 19 associates of 36 countries; all these stakeholders have worked together for 3 years in order to reach a common goal: raise citizens awareness about global issues throughout the cooperation between CSOs and LAs. **Anette Grunnet** from Vejle Municipality (Denmark), co-applicant of LADDER, followed this first intervention speaking on behalf of the LAs of the consortium; finally, this second session was closed by **Cristina Sossan** from Equo Garantito (Italy) and **Colin Campbell** from Assist Social Capital (United Kingdom), who shared their experience in LADDER as beneficiaries of the Regranting Scheme Action, in which 73 projects at the local level were supported by LADDER.

A roundtable on the localisation of SDGs followed, moderated by **Marjan Huc** from SLOGA, with **Antonella Valmorbida**, Secretary General of ALDA, **Natalia Shovkoplias** from UTC Slovakia, and Board Member of ALDA, **Laia Vinyes Merce** from Platforma, and **Mathieu Chaveneau**, from association KuriOZ. All speakers stressed how local authorities are actually those who hold the power of agenda to push the national level to implement effective policies in line with SDGs.

Read more and take a look at the photo galleries of the event [here!](#)

LATEST NEWS FROM LADDER'S NETWORK



[Citizen Journalists: a magic ingredient for sustainability](#)

When young activists interested in journalism and SDGs meet for the first time after months of articles and research, the magic happens! The training dedicated to LADDER's Citizen Journalists took place in Strasbourg from 19 to 21 November.



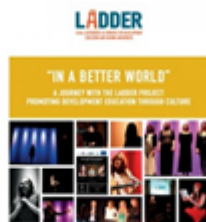
CoE's Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform opens final event of LADDER

The Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform of the Council of Europe opened the final event of LADDER, hosted by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, on 21-23 November. The Head of the Centre, Mrs. Alina Tatarenko, is also statutory member of the Governing Board of ALDA, appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.



The migration challenge – LADDER gathers experts and best practices in Istanbul

Migration experts from Turkey and other countries, as well as LADDER partners working on the migration path projects, met in Istanbul on 16 November, for a high level conference about the challenges of migration management. The event was organized by [Marmara Municipality Union](#), co-applicant of LADDER and member of ALDA.



“In a better world”, a storybook about LADDER’s journey

It has just been published “In a better world”, a storybook about the journey of LADDER project to promote development education through culture. The publication is fully dedicated to the cultural component of the LADDER Project, namely the fifth dimension of the project. The handbook summarises all activities and results achieved by the cultural component of the project and portrays the importance of art for development education .



“Promoting Development Education through a multi-topic approach”: LADDER Thematic Handbook

It has been published a Thematic Handbook named “Promoting Development Education through a multi-topic approach”. This handbook gathers the work of LADDER’s

community on advocacy related to six main themes, the project “thematic paths”.



8 Tips for LAs dealing with Migration

The aim of the Thematic Path Migration, led by [SOS Malta](#), is to build a body of knowledge that enables Local, National and European Authorities to impact on policies and practices related to migration and development. The path has published a guide with recommendations titled “Good practice guide for Local Authorities engaging with migration and development”.



Special Initiative of LADDER in Belgrade: Youth Participation in Focus

ALDA, together with many members of its network and of the consortium of the project LADDER, participated in the 5th edition of the Assises of Decentralized Cooperation for Development, organised by the European Commission and Committee of the Regions in Brussels on 10-11 July.

THE SDGs WORKSHOPS



The SDGs workshops have started!

Within the capacity building component of LADDER, several SDGs workshops are now ongoing. These workshops follow up on topics related to SDGs, awareness raising and empowerment of local stakeholders. The first one was promoted by [Donegal County Council](#), LADDER partner.



SDG workshops in Bulgaria and Poland

After the first SDGs workshop, two more have taken place in Bulgaria and Poland by the [National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria \(NAMRB\)](#) and [Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland \(URC P\)](#). Others workshops are going to be implemented by LADDER partners stay tuned to know more!

CITIZEN JOURNALISTS INITIATIVE

The [LADDER Citizen Journalists' network](#) is growing day by day and it is reaching all Europe and beyond. Check out some of the most recent contributions in each of the six main themes!



The most recent work published by our Citizens Journalists is addressing issues on poverty & development, climate & energy, tolerance & inclusion, citizens' participation, engagement of public & private sector. Have a look to their contributions!

[4th Danube Participation Day: Science meets Participation, Innovation and Sustainability](#)

Margaryta Udovychenko

Margaryta Udovychenko, Citizen Journalist by Foster Europe, writes about an event - in the framework of the 4th Danube Participation Day in Budapest - focusing on the topic of climate change. The participants discussed the environmental changes happening in Danube region and the way citizen participation can make a real change.

[Reproductive health as a form of resilience to climate change](#)

Chiara Soletti

Can reproductive health be a weapon against climate change? Our Citizen Journalist Chiara Soletti explains why is it important to have climate and development policies and projects integrated with a gender perspective, taking into account the role of women and their rights, including sexual and reproductive health.

[Should the Participation participate?](#)

Anna Chepizhko

To make the civil society voice present in political, social and economic discourse: this is the main aim of the Danube Participation Day, that took place on 17-18 October in Budapest. But is this aim indeed so smooth as it seems to be? Is it actually possible for civil society to be really heard? Anna Chepizhko, Citizen Journalist of Foster Europe, wonders about the opportunity of civil society actors participation in events like this and in real policy-making process.

[4th Participation Day & 6th EUSDR Forum 2017 – “A secure, connected and prospering Danube Region”](#)

Dorothea Iordanova

Citizen Journalist Dorothea Iordanova, by Foster Europe, explains the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, presented during the 6th Annual Forum, together with her personal experience in the 4th Participation Day (PD) in Budapest.

According to our CJ, the Forum and the PD are a great networking places, connecting stakeholders and civil society organizations with common interests.

“Where are the Romas?”

Maria-Daniela Maris

When tackling the Roma integration topic, it must not be forgotten that discrimination is one of the main barriers on the way. How is the barrier of “the outsiders” to be crossed?

Daniela-Maria Maris, Citizen Journalist from Foster Europe, analyses the integration of Roma people and the possible answers through empowerment and participation.



For further information, please contact the Project Manager, Sofia Caiolo: sofia.caiolo@aldaintranet.org



This newsletter has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents are the sole responsibility of ALDA and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.