International Conference

Decentralised Support for Ukrainian Communities: The Role of Municipalities, Local Communities and the Territorial Approach

23-24 November 2023

Update 20th of November 2023

Vicenza

The ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine is damaging not only the country's critical infrastructure but also the fundamental structures of Ukrainian society and governance. With incomparable human losses, cities, towns, and amalgamated territorial communities face multiple obstacles in mobilising resources for their resilience and future reconstruction. With its flagship initiative in 2023, ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy is currently working on expanding the network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) in Ukraine, fostering community resilience and supporting decentralised multi-stakeholder cooperation.

Following the principles of the Lugano Declaration, ALDA seeks to support the inclusive recovery of Ukraine and its communities, reinforcing multilateral decentralised cooperation between Ukrainian and EU local democracy actors. Local authorities and civil society are vital in ensuring fair and inclusive reconstruction. Therefore, ALDA is committed to actively supporting them. The peace and rebuilding of Ukraine should be based on these instruments and subjects.

In Ukraine, ALDA established two LDAs in 2015 and 2017 in Dnipro and Mariupol (now operating from Kyiv). Since 2014, ALDA has been actively supporting their capacities and engaging them in ALDA's transnational cooperation projects on good governance, civic participation, training, and capacity-building for local authorities. These LDAs have been key in addressing local needs since the beginning of the full-scale invasion on the 24th of February, 2022. Following the decision of its Governing Board in June 2022, ALDA seeks to scale up this methodology and open several new LDAs across Ukraine to support the local authorities in times of war and secure sustainable UA-EU partnerships for the recovery effort. New LDAs are opening in Odesa, Vinnytsia, Bucha, Rivne, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv, and Lviv. ALDA has mobilised additional and new interests of several EU municipalities/regions and NGOs to be supportive partners of new LDAs in Ukraine. An LDA builds upon its experience in war and post-war environments heavily affected by the movement of populations, refugees, and IDPs like the Western Balkans and their accession countries to the EU.

The conference's objective is to bring together engaged stakeholders from both the EU and Ukraine sides to reassure commitment of support to the Ukrainian cities, foster multilateral

decentralised cooperation by establishing new LDAs, and draft common cooperation strategies and sustainability for 2024.

This event is organised by **ALDA** and **ALDA Italia** with the support of the **Central European Initiative**, **U-LEAD with Europe**, and the **municipality of Vicenza.**

As the first event of such a scale organised in Vicenza, the conference also aims to trigger the reflection on the role of Italy and its local and regional authorities in addressing the humanitarian emergency caused by Russian aggression.

23 November 2023 Sala Bernarda, Municipal Council of Vicenza, Corso Palladio, Vicenza	
10.30 - 11.00	Registration of participants Entrance from the Piazza dei Signori Square - Loggia del Capitaniato
11.00 - 11.45	**Official opening** Giacomo Possamai, Mayor of Vicenza Oriano Otocan, President of ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy Davide La Cecilia, Special Envoy of Italy for the Reconstruction of Ukraine Oleksandra Azarkhina, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Ukraine - (video statement) Alessandra Moretti, Member of the European Parliament (online) Marc Cools, President of the Congress of the Council of Europe, TBC (online) Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Italian Republic Yaroslav Melnyk Ugo Poli, Representative of the Central European Initiative Andrej Horvat, Deputy Programme Director, U-LEAD with Europe Programme **Introducing the protocol: Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA, the European Association of Local Democracy**
11.45 - 13.00	**War in Europe: role and steps for Local and Regional Communities to achieve Sustainable Recovery for Ukraine, opportunities and challenges**

	Mykola Lukashuk, President of Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council (online)
	Oleksandr Syenkevych, Mayor, City of Mykolaiv, Ukraine
	Tetiana Yehorova-Lutsenko, President of Kharkiv Regional Council, President of the Ukrainian Association of District and Oblast Councils (online)
	Andriy Karaush, Head of Rivne Regional Council
	Svitlana Yarova, Deputy of Vinnytsia City Council
	Anton Kolomieitsev, Chief architect, City of Lviv
	Elisabetta Bozzarelli, Deputy Mayor of Trento
	Vadym Boichenko, Mayor of Mariupol (online)
	Mykhailyna Skoryk-Shkarivska, Deputy of Irpin City Council (online)
	Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, Mayor of Gdansk, head of the EU/Ukraine working group of the Committee of the Regions (online)
	Moderator: **Antonella Valmorbida – ALDA Secretary General**
13.00-13-15	**Ukraine Facility, a New Marshall Plan for Ukraine** Gabriel Blanc - Team Leader, DG NEAR, Ukraine Facility (online)
13:15 – 14:00	Networking Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	**Local Authorities and Civil Society Working Together for Ukraine's Recovery** Patrick Molinoz, Vice-president of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Chair of the CIVEX Commission Natasa Vuckovic, Director of Democracy Center, Belgrade, Serbia, Vice President of ALDA Sergiy Sukhomlyn - Mayor of Zhytomyr Elia Pizzolato, Councilor of Vicenza, in charge of Twinning activities Agostino Zanotti, Councillor of Roncadelle, partner LDA Zavidovici (BiH) Inna Volkova – Member of the Rayon Council of Odesa and member of the Advisory Board of ALDA Jessica Acquavita, Vice President of the Region Istria (pending partner of the LDA Odesa) Alessandro Perelli, Representative of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, partners of LDA Odesa, LDA Montenegro and LDA Armenia, Vice President of ALDA Anzhelika Pylypenko, LDA Dnipropetrovsk region

	Pier Virgilio Dastoli, President CIME - Consiglio Italiano del Movimento Europeo (online) **Moderator:** Bartek Ostrowski – Ukraine Task Force Coordinator, ALDA
15.30 -15.45	**Presentation of the Vicenza Declaration, Antonella Valmorbida Secretary General, ALDA and Giacomo Possamai, Mayor of Vicenza** **Signature of the Cooperation Agreement between Vicenza and Zhytomyr**
15:45 – 16:15	Closing Remarks and Group Picture

17.00 - 18.00	Guided Tour of Vicenza City Centre, upon registration

19.00-20.30	Dinner upon invitation

23 November 2023 **PUBLIC EVENT** **Istituto Comprensivo 5, Contrà Santa Maria Nova, Vicenza** **in cooperation with the Centro Servizi Volontariato di Vicenza**	
20:30 – 22:00	**Meetings with mayors and civil society groups from Ukraine, the role of solidarity and volunteering**
	- Oleksandr Syenkevych, Mayor, City of Mykolaiv, Ukraine
	- Sergiy Sukhomlyn - Mayor of Zhytomyr
	- Deputy Mayor of Vicenza, Isabella Sala
	- Maria Rita dal Molin, Director of Centro Servizi Volontariato
	- Antonella Valmorbida, ALDA
	- Kateryna Musiienko, National Interest Advocacy Network "ANTS", Ukraine
	- Yuriy Stepanets, Chair of the Board, Association of Ukraine Civic Initiatives (online)
	- Experiences from Vicenza and from Ukraine

	-Representatives from Trento and Lviv, European capitals of Volunteering 2024 Music performance/concert

	24 November 2023 **Hotel de la Ville, Viale San Lazzaro, Vicenza**
09:00 – 09:30	Registration of participants
09:30 – 10:15	**Welcoming words** **Antonella Valmorbida**, Secretary General of ALDA **Giovanni Selmo**, member of the Giunta team of Vicenza in charge of cooperation and peace and education **Local Democracy Agencies: Instrument for Cooperation, Community Cohesion, and Development in Ukraine, follow up of the Flagship initiative and role of LDAs** Bartek Ostrowski and Khrystyna Kvartisana, ALDA Task Force Ukraine Anna Lisa Boni, Deputy Mayor of Bologna (online) Ivan Kuznetsov, Kharkiv municipal Council Tetiana Lomakina, Commissioner of the President of Ukraine for the Barrier-Free Environment, LDA Mariupol Delegate (online) Agostino Zanotti, Councillor Roncadelle, Brescia *Interaction with the room* **Moderator : Marco Boaria, Director of programmes and corporate strategy**
10:15 - 11:00	**Good Practices of Decentralised Cooperation** Maddalena Alberti, LDA Zavidovici Dzenana Dedic, Delegate of the LDA Mostar Serena Tonel, Deputy Mayor of Trieste Oleksandr Syenkevych, Mayor, City of Mykolaiv, Ukraine Manel Villa, President of District 11 - Barcelona/Sarajevo Anzhelika Pylypenko, LDA Dnipropetrovsk region Delegate

	Olha Pikula, Deputy of Mariupol City Council *Interaction with the room* **Moderator : Bartek Ostrowski, Ukraine Task force Coordinator**
11:00 – 11:30	Key speaker: On. Piero Fassino, Vice-President of the Defense Commission of the Italian Chamber of Deputies **The Role of Cities and Community Approach to the Reconstruction of Ukraine**
11.30-12.00	Coffee break
12:00 – 13:00	**Welcoming words from Sara Baldinato, member of the Giunta of city of Vicenza in charge Environment, European policies and heritage** **EU-UA Medium-size cities Cooperation as a driver for Sustainable Recovery** *Presentation of successful EU-UA cities cooperation projects and discussion on priorities and application of LDA approach* Gabriele Bonafede, U-LEAD with Europe expert Dmytro Neveselyi, Mayor of Zelenodolsk (online) Anna Tsytsiura, Deputy Mayor of Zelenodolsk Veniamin Sitov, Mayor of Merefa (online) Fabio Merlotti, Mayor of Buscate TBC Serhii Rieznik, Mayor of Novomoskovsk (online) *Interaction with the room* **Moderator: Khrystyna Kvartsiana, Representative of ALDA in Ukraine**
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 16:30	Networking Round Tables ***With guidelines for the discussion*** All participants are invited to be part of one working group **LDA Dnipropetrovsk region (**Anzhelika Pylypenko, Iryna Molodan, Olha Tsytsiura (Zelenodolsk), Serhiy Rieznik (Novomoskovsk). **LDA Kharkiv** (Ivan Kuznetsov (Kharkiv City Council), Tetiana Diadchenko, Fabio Merlotti, Francesco Leonardo Nelli, Tetiana Yehorova-Lutsenko (online), Christian Dèbeve TBC) **LDA Odesa (**Inna Volkova, Alessandro Perelli, Jessica Acquavita, region Istria)

	LDA Mariupol (Maddalena Alberti, Agostino Zanotti, Olha Pikula, Andrea Rilievo) **LDA Vinnytsia (**Svitlana Yarova, city council of Vinnitsa Representative of Franche Comté, Iryna Leznivska) **LDA Rivne (**Andriy Karaush, Ugo Poli) **LDA Lviv (**Francesco Cereda, Giovanni Agostini TBC, Mariasole Mascia, Vimercate Deputy Mayor, Anton Kolomieitsev, Chief architect of Lviv) **LDA Mykolayiv** (Trieste, Serena Tonel and Beatrice Micovilovich,, Mykolayiv delegation)
16:30 – 17:00	Closing remarks and conclusion Group Photo Antonella Valmorbida, Ukraine Task Force

Working language: English/Italian and Ukrainian (zoom support)