

## International Conference

### Decentralised Support for Ukrainian Communities: the Role of Medium Size Municipalities and the Territorial Approach

23-24 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 decentralized multi-stakeholder cooperation. Following the principles of the [Lugano Declaration](#), ALDA seeks to support the inclusive recovery of Ukraine and its communities, reinforcing multilateral decentralized 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

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

ALDA organizes the event 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 organized 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.

***DRAFT AGENDA - SPEAKERS TO BE CONFIRMED***

<b>23 November 2023</b>	
<b>Sala Bernarda, Municipal Council of Vicenza, Corso Palladio, Vicenza</b>	
<b>10.30 - 11.00</b>	Registration of participants
<b>11.00 - 11.45</b>	<p><b>Official opening</b></p> <p>Giacomo Possamai, Mayor of Vicenza</p> <p>Antonio Tajani, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, The Minister - TBC</p> <p>Roberto Antonione - Secretary General of Central European Initiative /Ugo Poli - TBC</p> <p>Oriano Otocan– President of ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy</p> <p>Andrej Horvat, Deputy Programme Director of U-LEAD with Europe - TBC</p> <p>Luca Zaia, President of the Veneto Region - TBC</p>
<b>11.45 - 13.00</b>	<p><b>The Largest War in Europe Since WWII: Effects on Local and Regional Communities and Achieving Sustainable Recovery for Ukraine, opportunities and challenges</b></p> <p>Oleksandra Azarkina, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Ukraine - TBC</p> <p>On. Piero Fassino, Commissione Esteri della Camera e/o On. Lia Quartapelle</p> <p>Dario Nardella, Mayor of Florence, Rapporteur of the Committee of the Regions on the European Commission Ukraine Facility - TBC</p> <p>Andriy Sadovyi, Mayor, City of Lviv, Ukraine - TBC</p> <p>Gabriel Blanc - Team Leader, DG NEAR, Ukraine Facility (online)</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Antonella Valmorbida – ALDA Secretary General</p>

<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	Networking Lunch
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<p><b>Role of Local Governance in Ukraine’s Reconstruction</b></p> <p>Inna Volkova – Member of the Council of the City of Odessa and member of the Advisory Board of ALDA</p> <p>Svitlana Yarova – Vinnytsia City Council Ukraine</p> <p>Svitlana Olshanska - First deputy mayor of Zhytomyr</p> <p>UA municipality from the U Lead network</p> <p>Aleksandra Dulkiewicz - Mayor of Gdansk, partner lead of the LDA Mariupol and head of the EU/Ukraine working group of the Committee of the Regions</p> <p>Oleksandr Syenkevych, Mayor, City of Mykolaiv, Ukraine - TBC</p> <p>Franco Iasinelli, Mayor of Trento, European Capital of Volunteering 2024 - TBC</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Bartek Ostrowski – Ukraine Task Force Coordinator, ALDA</p>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	Closing remarks and conclusion

<p><b>23 November 2023</b></p> <p><b>in collaboration with HOPE Ukraine (Venue TBC)</b></p>	
<b>16:30 – 18:00</b>	<p><b>Business support in reconstruction : Ukrainian cities and CSOs in coping with the humanitarian crisis and recovery.</b></p> <p>Side event, close doors, Round table with entrepreneurial representatives of industry and professional associations of Veneto region &amp; Vicenza</p>

<p><b>23 November 2023</b></p> <p><b>PUBLIC EVENT</b></p>	
<b>20:30 – 22:00</b>	<p><b>Citizens and local associations for solidarity and co-operation between territories, in cooperation with CSV (TBC) and other local actors</b></p> <p><u>Opening</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mayor of Vicenza, Possamai</li> <li>- ALDA, Antonella Valmorbida</li> <li>- ANTS, Hanna Hopko</li> </ul>



	- CSV, Rita dal Molin <u>Music performance/concert</u>
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<b>24 November 2023</b> <b>Hotel de la Ville, Viale San Lazzaro, Vicenza</b>	
<b>09:00 – 09:30</b>	Registration of participants
<b>09:30 – 10:00</b>	<b>Local Democracy Agencies: Instrument for Cooperation, Community Cohesion, and Development in Ukraine, follow up of the Flagship initiative and role of LDAs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy</li> <li>- Tetiana Lomakina, Commissioner of the President of Ukraine for the Barrier-Free Environment, LDA Mariupol Delegate TBC</li> </ul>
<b>10:00 - 11:00</b>	<b>Working groups : Good Practices of Multilateral Decentralised Cooperation</b> Maddalena Alberti, LDA Zavidovici Anzhelika Pylypenko, LDA Dnipropetrovsk oblast Dzenana Dedic – Delegate of the LDA Mostar Krzysztof Hodun, Head of International Relations Office, Lower Silesia Region Annalisa Boni, Deputy Mayor of Bologna TBC Anatoliy Fedoruk, Mayor of Bucha TBC Manel Villa, President of the District 11 - Barcelona ‘Experience of co-operation between entrepreneurs and NGOs’, HOPE Ukraine, Marco Toson
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	Coffee break
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	Networking Round Tables <b>LDA Dnipropetrovsk</b> <b>LDA Kharkiv</b> <b>LDA Odesa</b> <b>LDA Mariupol</b>



	<b>LDA Vinnytsia</b> <b>LDA Rivne</b>
<b>13:00 – 13:30</b>	Signature of the Declaration of Italian Cities and Regions on Support of Ukraine
<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	Lunch
<b>15:00 - 16:30</b>	Networking Round Tables (Session 2 to prepare draft action Plans for the LDAs)
<b>16:30 – 17:00</b>	Closing remarks and conclusion

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

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