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## PRESS RELEASE

### Relaunch of Local Democracy Agency in Kosovo

#### *Agreement between the Association of Local Democracy Agencies and the Association of Kosovo Municipalities*

A process leading towards the re-launching of the Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Kosovo was started in November 2008. The previous activities of the LDA Kosovo, based in Gjilane and working under the auspices of the Association Kosovo Ensemble, Alliance Française, will not be considered any longer as LDA Kosovo.

One of the first steps in the process is to designate a local partner that will assist the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) in the process leading towards the re-launching of the LDA. After a careful assessment of the situation, ALDA decided to propose a partnership to the leading actor in the field of local governance, namely the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM).

AKM will assist ALDA in the drafting and implementation of an internal Action Plan, which is to be finalized by the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2009. The new Local Democracy Agency is expected to be established by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2009.

Successful implementation of the Action Plan entails a selection of the town where the LDA will be situated, selection of new partners, including a lead partner and appointment of a new Delegate.

The AKM is to offer the ALDA technical, logistic and political assistance in the whole process of the implementation of the Action Plan.

The objective of LDA Kosovo is to bring together local authorities and civil society organisations, in this way providing the assistance necessary to help ensure a smooth and stable transition towards democracy and European integration, with an emphasis on promoting tolerant and trust-based relationships within local communities. See also the ALDA website on activities of the LDAs in South Eastern Europe, [www.alda-europe.eu](http://www.alda-europe.eu).

Bearing in mind the multi-ethnic nature of Kosovo one of the priorities of the LDA will be to work towards the strengthening of cooperation of its communities and the facilitation of their economic and social integration.

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