

On 24 January 2007, an important networking meeting between the staff of the Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and their Association (ALDA) took place in Trieste, Italy. Through the meeting the relationship between both sides could be strengthened and common challenges and success stories could be exchanged.

Antonella Valmorbidia, Director ALDA, presented the on-going activities including new projects on micro-credits/local economic development, media cooperation in South East Europe (Cards project), waste management, capacity building between the Region Lower Normandy and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, the LDA Georgia and youth issues among others. New pilot activities include a second project in Belarus and a study visit of Russian local authorities to the North of Italy. With its members, ALDA continues to work on active European citizenship topics through a new project “EURaction – Citizens acting for Europe”.

During a second part of the meeting, questions concerning the role of the LDA lead partners were discussed. It was also confirmed that the LDAs should not take any political position, however, ALDA is also planning to organize thematic working groups for its members and the LDAs in the future to further debate such political issues as European integration and human rights.