

# LADDER

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS DRIVERS FOR DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ALLIANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION



**ALDA**

European Association  
for Local Democracy



With the financial  
support of the EU

## ABBREVIATIONS

ARLEM	Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly
CLRA	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
CoE	Council of Europe
CONCORD	European NGO Confederation for relief and development
Conference of INGO	Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations of the Council of Europe
CoR	Committee of the Regions
CORLEAP	Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DEAR	Development Education & Awareness Raising
DG DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (EuropeAid)
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations
DG Regio	Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
EaP	Eastern Partnership area
EC	European Commission
EEAS	European External Action Service
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
GENE	Global Education Network Europe
LAs	Local Authorities
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MED	Mediterranean area
PLATFORMA	European platform of Local Regional Authorities for development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEE	South East Europe area
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments

## FOREWORDS

### Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida

Secretary General of ALDA



A successful year for our LADDER Community! 2016 has been the 2nd year of activities for LADDER. After 2015 being mostly dedicated to capacity building of the main partners, they have been intensively disseminating their knowledge in their own countries. This has been the year where LADDER became visible and present in all the Member States included in the project. We saw it everywhere – and all time. LADDER reached the local communities and – following the spirit and the methodology of the project – it approached many of those who had never been involved in European activities or development cooperation.

Local governments are at the centre of our approach, working together to promote global responsibility and citizenship. Certainly, 2016 has been a milestone in this field since it represents the first year after the definition of the Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation at the local level. The LADDER community has been a key actor at the European level in the definition and strong emphasis given to the localization of the SDGs. We have been working hand-in-hand with all main stakeholders at the EU and global level.

On the other hand, the past year confronted all of us Europeans with a set of tough challenges. The sense of economic and political insecurity influences everyone's life and choices, often making people focus on their personal, hyper-local issues. On the other hand, it is only through a global vision and cooperation that our main problems could be addressed. LADDER offers a platform of meeting and debates where Europeans and representatives of the Neighbourhood South and East meet and identify together common solutions, using the great potential of the cooperation between local authorities and civil society.

LADDER is the European platform working on a strong and impact-oriented education towards global citizenship development and responsibility. Thanks to its methodology and cascade effect, it reaches the local communities – where change takes place.

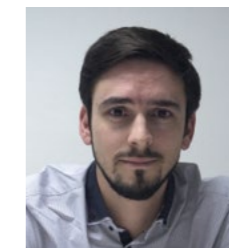
2017 is ahead of us, and it will be a year of intense production and results dissemination. The LADDER community has lived together for many months now and it is ready to share what it has learned in terms of good practices and potential for change. ALDA, as leader of this process, wants to give them

a voice, thus empowering them to shape their own communities and European policies. We want to share with everybody the take-home message that working together, besides all prejudices, threats and fears, is the solution and not the problem. Globalization means also global responsibility, and it affects all the aspects of our living together on this planet, including social and economic issues, environment, migration and demography and more.

Let's capitalize on what we have done so far, and move ahead for even stronger actions and results.

### Mr. Nikos Gamouras

LADDER Project Manager



In the aftermath of Year 2 of LADDER, numerous actions were successfully implemented by the project's consortium members to raise the awareness on global development issues: trainings & capacity building activities, advocacy actions, international confer-

ences combined with grassroots actions and a comprehensive research on policies related to Development Education and many more! All of them aimed at reaching out citizens, creating links between LAs, CSOs & communities and supporting them in becoming actors for change at the local level.

Counting on the consortium members' continuous engagement, the project pursued its work in reaching its objectives, being increasingly visible and highly promoted in the different countries it is active in. In parallel, the actions were implemented in line with the LADDER roadmap, the overall strategy paper approved by the consortium in 2015 providing the global vision & linking the numerous activities of the project with ongoing policy processes, thus creating valuable synergies and reducing the risk of duplication of efforts. One of them is obviously the Sustainable Development Goals (commonly called SDGs) and the Agenda 2030 (adopted in September 2015 by the UN), a set of goals and targets common to all countries and applicable to all stakeholders and citizens, in which LADDER has been strongly involved and will continue to do so in 2017.

Stay tuned & join the wave!

“  
IT  
ALWAYS  
SEEMS  
IMPOSSIBLE  
UNTIL  
IT IS  
DONE  
”

Nelson Mandela

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# INTRODUCTION

## ABOUT DEAR

Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) aims to inform EU citizens about development issues, mobilise greater public support for actions against poverty, give citizens tools to engage critically with global development issues, foster new ideas and change attitudes. DEAR activities play a key role in EU development assistance. They are deployed in order to raise public awareness about development issues and promote development education in the EU and acceding countries. The EU has set up a dedicated programme for this purpose.

The DEAR programme is taken forward primarily through actions implemented by non-state actors and local authorities in the EU and acceding countries.

Its objectives are to:

- inform EU citizens about development issues and foster awareness and understanding of global development and recognition of interdependence;
- mobilise greater public support for actions against poverty and fairer relations between developed and developing countries;
- change attitudes, providing the European public with tools to engage critically with global developments and supporting the emergence of new ideas on development issues.

## ABOUT LADDER: THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

The LADDER project stands for Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education & Raising awareness.

It is funded by the DEAR Programme of the EU, under the Lot 5 “Global learning and advocacy projects led by a Local Authority or Association of local authorities”. Its total budget is 3.88 million Euros (€).

LADDER aims at creating a multi-stakeholder network of Associations of LAs (both national and European) and alliances of CSOs that can act as multipliers at local level. Launched in 2015 simultaneously with the European Year for Development, it addresses the major issues identified by the EC Communication “A Decent Life for all: ending poverty and giving the world a better future”, thus developing a synergic programme aiming at reaching the planned objectives.

It is a 3-year project that started in January 2015 and will conclude in December 2017. The final beneficiaries of LADDER are ordinary citizens across the EU & non-EU countries of the project: it’s meant to raise their awareness on global issues (short-term), to promote their engagement in global challenges & poverty eradication (mid-term) & to lead to a change of attitudes towards global and development challenges (long-term).

For more information, visit [www.ladder-project.eu](http://www.ladder-project.eu)

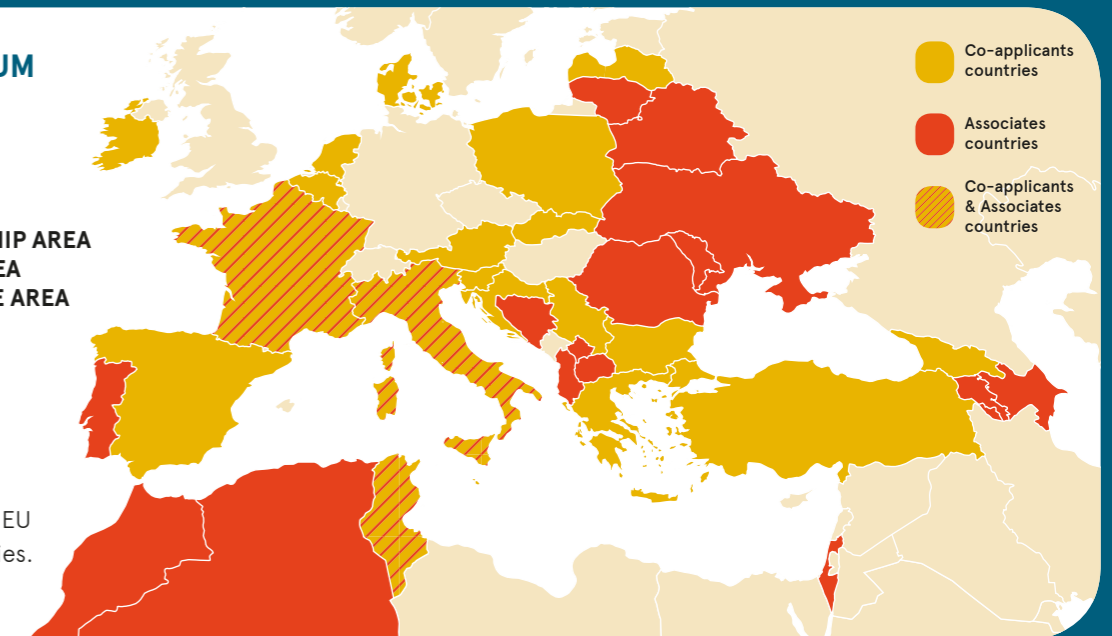
## Why is DEAR important?

In an era of globalized and interconnected societies, it is of utmost importance to promote Citizens’ participation and awareness while stimulating their involvement in development issues. DEAR is addressing the roots of inequality and calls for action and awareness raising on development, promoting actions in line with the principle of justice, solidarity, understanding and mutual respect.

## THE CONSORTIUM

EUROPEAN UNION  
EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AREA  
MEDITERRANEAN AREA  
SOUTH-EAST EUROPE AREA

27 co-applicants and  
19 associates, from 19 EU  
and 17 non-EU countries.



### CO-APPLICANTS:

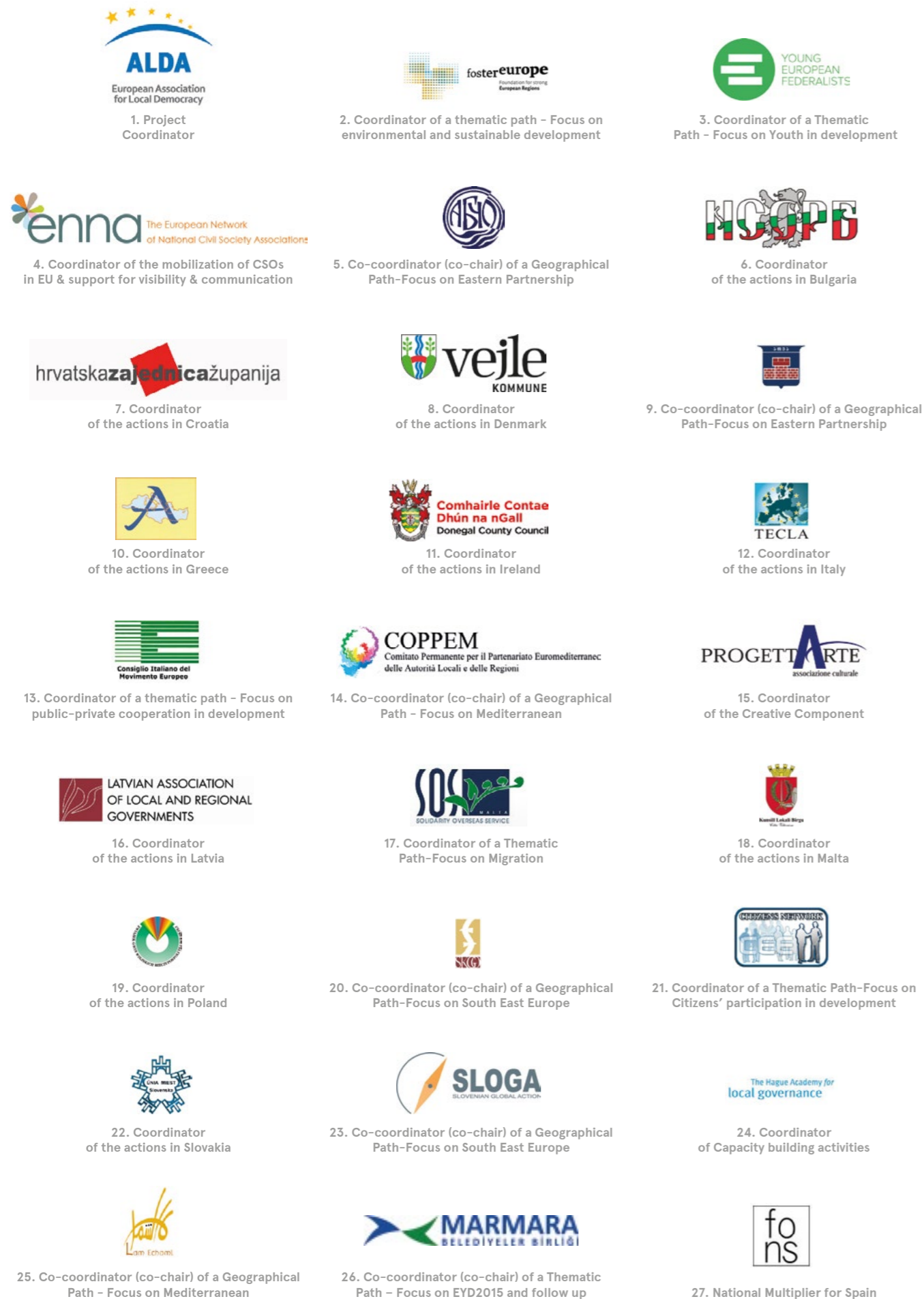
1. **ALDA** (leader) European Association for Local Democracy (France)
2. **Foster Europe** Foundation for Strong European Regions (Austria)
3. **JEF** Young European Federalist (Belgium)
4. **ENNA** European Network of National Civil Society Associations (Belgium)
5. **UBBSLA** Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (Bulgaria)
6. **NAMRB** National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (Bulgaria)
7. **CAC** Croatian Association of Counties (Croatia)
8. **Vejle Municipality** (Denmark)
9. **NALAG** National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (Georgia)
10. **EGTC Amphictyony** (Greece)
11. **Donegal County Council** (Ireland)
12. **TECLA** Association for the local and European transregional cooperation (Italy)
13. **CIME** Italian Council of the European Movement (Italy)
14. **COPPEM** Standing Committee for the Euro Mediterranean Partnership for Local and Regional Authorities (Italy)
15. **Progettarte** Cultural Association (Italy)
16. **LALRG** Latvian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (Latvia)
17. **SOS Malta** Solidarity Overseas Service Malta (Malta)
18. **Birgu Local Council** (Malta)
19. **URC Poland** Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland (Poland)
20. **SKGO** Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (Serbia)
21. **CEEEN** Central and Eastern European Citizens Network (Slovakia)
22. **UTCS** Union of Towns and Cities (Slovakia)
23. **SLOGA** Slovenian Global Action (Slovenia)
24. **The Hague Academy** for Local Governance (the Netherlands)
25. **Lam Echaml Association** (Tunisia)
26. **MMU** Marmara Municipalities Union (Turkey)
27. **Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació** (Spain)

### ASSOCIATES:

1. **ADD-Medenine** Association for sustainable development (Tunisia)
2. **AAM** Albanian Association of Municipalities (Albania)
3. **FACM** Algerian Forum for Citizenship and Modernity (Algeria)
4. **ALI** Agency for Legislative Initiatives (Ukraine)
5. **AMR** Romanian Municipalities Association (Romania)
6. **AKM** Association of Kosovo Municipalities (Kosovo)
7. **ALAL** Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (Lithuania)
8. **BINA NGO** Alliance for Municipality Development (Azerbaijan)
9. **CALM** Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (Moldova)
10. **North-South Centre** North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (Portugal)
11. **CFOA** Communities Finance Officers Association (Armenia)
12. **CIRa** Center for Institutional Development (FYROM)
13. **CISP** International Committee for the Development of Peoples (Italy)
14. **Civicus** World Alliance for Citizen Participation (South Africa)
15. **CLRA-CoE** Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe (France)
16. **Lev Sapieha** Foundation NGO (Belarus)
17. **REMESS** Moroccan Network of Social and Solidarity Economy (Morocco)
18. **SEEYN** South East European Youth Network (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
19. **SHATIL** New Israel Fund (Israel)



## Description of the role of the co-applicants:



## ABOUT ALDA

ALDA - the European Association for Local Democracy - is a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. It focuses particularly on activities that facilitate the cooperation between local authorities (LAs) and civil society organisations (CSOs).

At the initiative of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, ALDA was established in 1999 to coordinate and support a network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) created in the early 1990s, acting as their umbrella organisation. The LDAs, acting as self-sustainable, locally registered NGOs for the promotion of good governance and local self-governance, remain one of ALDA's supporting programs.

ALDA is a membership based organization gathering more than 240 members (including LAs, Associations of LAs and CSOs) coming from more than 40 countries. It is funded through membership fees and project funding from the EU, the Council of Europe and other public and private donors.

Most of its work is based on the method of multilateral decentralized cooperation. This method involves a multi-stakeholder approach that focuses on partnerships between LAs and CSOs which lead to synergies in reaching common goals successfully.

When promoting good governance and citizen participation at the local level, ALDA focuses on various themes, such as European integration, decentralisation, civic initiatives and volunteering, human rights, sustainable development and many more. The Association conducts its activities through different forms of action:

- Coordinating and supporting the 11 Local Democracy Agencies and 3 Operational Partners in their activities.
- Conducting its own projects in the field of good governance and citizen participation at the local level.
- Supporting other local stakeholders' initiatives – such as LAs – by providing expertise deriving from its knowledge and experience in the areas of intervention.

ALDA works in most of the EU and European Neighbourhood countries. EU activities focus on promoting Active European Citizenship. Activities in the Western Balkans and the European Neighbourhood focus on good governance, citizen participation, European integration and decentralisation.

Most of the LDAs are in the Western Balkans. But ALDA is increasing its activities and projects in the European neighbourhood. In 2006, a LDA was established in Kutaisi (Georgia), in 2011 in Gyumri (Armenia) and in 2015 an LDA was inaugurated in Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine). ALDA is also leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European Neighbourhood countries, such as Belarus, Moldova, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Turkey.

For more information, visit [www.alda-europe.eu](http://www.alda-europe.eu)

# 1. THE LADDER PROJECT

The project includes a variety of activities, all of them contributing in reaching the overall objective - **to enhance the actions of LAs in development education and awareness raising**. The project's activities are divided into five dimensions, as described below:

- Research;
- Capacity building & peer-to-peer learning;
- Advocacy;
- Grass-root actions;
- Cultural component.

## 1.1 RESEARCH

**Practical guide:** This dimension consists in the development of a multi-dimensional database and a guide with practical ideas and tools for DEAR practitioners, LAs, CSOs and ordinary citizens.

**Survey:** The research dimension foresees an in-depth overview of the state-of-play of development education in the countries of the consortium. To do so, a detailed survey on this thematic will be filled in by representatives of LAs, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders at European, national and local level. This action is meant to provide statistics about DEAR in the countries covered by the project, but also to reflect on the knowledge and understanding of DEAR across countries. The survey has two different formats and lengths and it is translated in the national languages of the partners, adapted to the corresponding target group and the level of implementation (European, national or local). The results of the Pan-European surveys will be shared and disseminated online and during the project's events.

**DEAR Monitoring:** In parallel, the research dimension includes an on-going monitoring of the activities of other stakeholders working on DEAR: it covers, among others, all the EU-projects funded by the DEAR programme, as well as other platforms and stakeholders with relevant activities. This monitoring allows the project partners to stay up-to-date with the activities and priorities tackled by other actors, and provides the opportunity for potential synergies among practitioners in the spirit of collaboration for achieving the same goal!

## 1.2 CAPACITY BUILDING AND PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

**Trainings:** During the project, several trainings on DEAR targeting LAs and CSOs are organized at the European, national and local level. The purpose is to raise awareness of LAs & CSOs themselves, stimulating their potential in becoming actors for change at the local level, raising awareness on sustainable development and poverty eradication. By holding dedicated DEAR trainings, the project intends to empower LAs and CSOs by turning them into multipliers for awareness raising at the local level. All trainings take place in the EU.

**Focus Groups:** The consortium will organize focus groups addressed to educators (coming from LAs, CSOs, and other international organizations) active in the field of non-formal education. The focus groups are meant to reflect upon development education at national and European level, especially debating on methodologies and tools to:

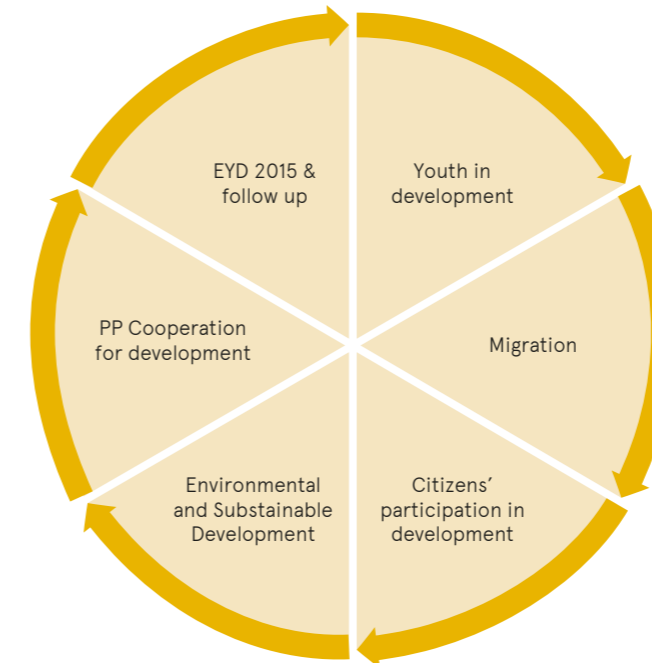
- Make the participants gain understanding of the addressed issue;
- Provide an accurate picture of the subject;
- Carry out an evaluation and analysis, formulating interventions;
- Test new ideas/programmes, obtaining a wide range of information on the given topic.

**Job Shadowing:** This initiative will allow employees of the co-applicants' organizations to spend a few days in another consortium's member organization. During this activity, the representatives of the different co-applicants' organizations having a role in development education (civil servants, as well as educators, trainers, aid workers etc.) will be working with another "colleague" learning new aspects and existing practices related to development education and awareness raising.

**Tool Fair:** This Fair is planned to exchange methodologies, practices, experiences and tools in the field of development education. Gathering stakeholders working on similar actions, the fair will offer to participants the opportunity to share experiences, network, learn from each other and potentially lead to new synergies.

## 1.3 ADVOCACY

### THEMATIC PRIORITIES



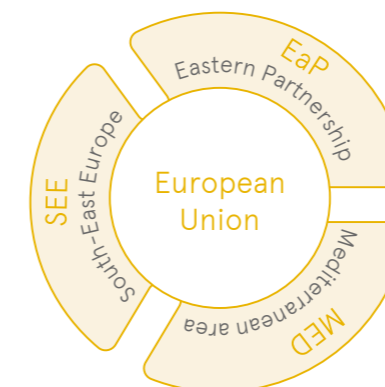
In parallel with the other dimensions, the project pays particular attention on 6 specific themes:

- Youth in development;
- Migration;
- Citizens' participation in development;
- Environmental and sustainable development;
- Public-Private Cooperation in development: economic growth and job creation;
- European Year for Development 2015 & follow up.

**Every theme is composed by a network of organizations,** which work together to raise awareness on the corresponding theme, advocating and supporting the role of LAs and CSOs for development & DEAR. Each Thematic path has an advocacy dimension, targeting **different levels and stakeholders at EU, national and/or local level.**

### AREAS OF ACTION

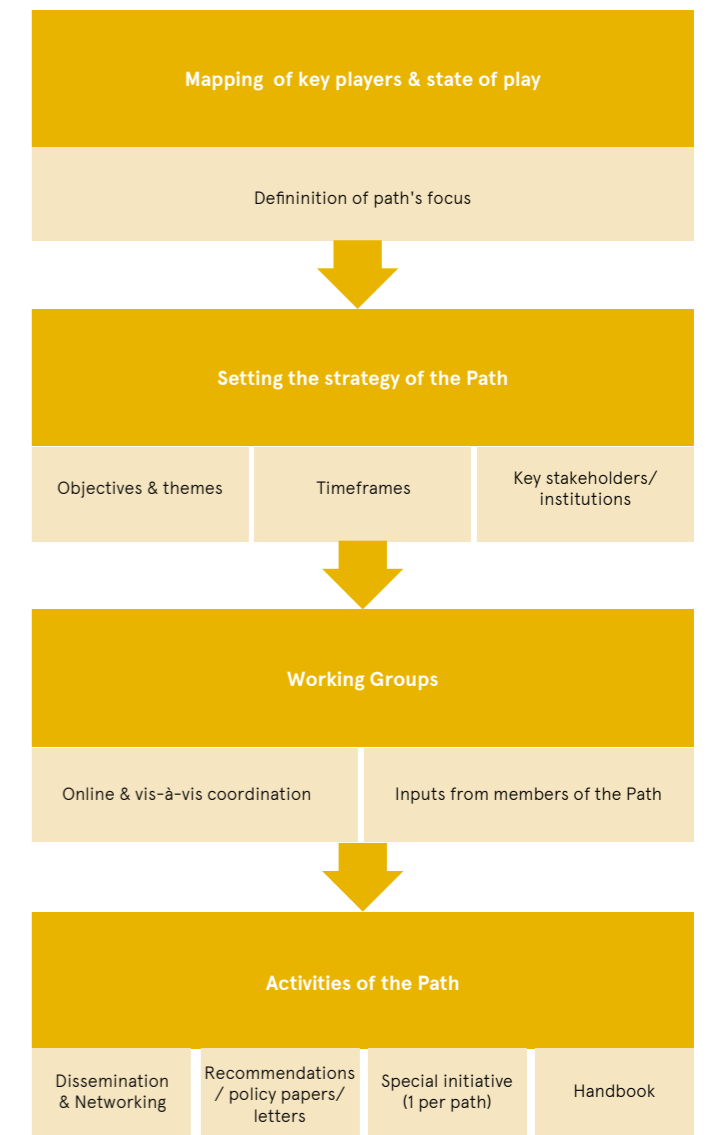
The project activities focus mainly on the EU, with the majority of the actions and activities being oriented towards EU citizens and stakeholders in the EU (public & private). The project also foresees 3 geographical paths, **extending the outreach of DEAR towards the enlarged Europe.**



The objective is to create interdependencies between EU and its Neighbourhood by enhancing the role of LAs and CSOs in development issues, and especially their role as change makers at local level.

Through the creation of a network of stakeholders within working groups for each geographical area, the project aims at raising awareness of different stakeholders (EU, national governments, other institutional and non-institutional actors) on the role of LAs and CSOs in reaching the objectives of DEAR, inside and outside the EU. This has become even more relevant following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals by the UN in September 2015 and the principle of universality of these objectives.

The diagram below summarizes the actions of each Thematic and Geographical Path:



## 1.4 GRASSROOTS ACTIONS

**Citizens' Initiatives:** The project involves two major initiatives addressing citizens. First of all, a Pan-European **Slogan Competition** is included, covering all countries of the consortium, aiming at involving pupils aged 10-18 years old and providing them with an opportunity to raise their voice and have their say with regards to global development and related challenges.

In addition, the project includes the **Citizens' Journalists** initiative, intended to select young and talented non-professional journalists coming from different EU and non-EU countries, who wish to write and report on topics such as poverty eradication, development, education, tolerance, climate issues, consumption, solidarity and many more. These citizen journalists will shape an informal network of active citizens, supported and promoted by the corresponding national co-applicant. While the project and the informal network will provide them with a space of expression, as well as representing a support and recognition of their work, a selection of them will also benefit from a dedicated training on journalism and communication to enhance their skills and to further encourage them to write and report on global development challenges.

Both initiatives will contribute in fostering the raising awareness of citizens on global development challenges.

**Re-Granting Scheme:** The mechanism will provide sub-grants to local and grassroots organisations and actors to develop projects addressing the issues related to development education. By supporting small actions that can produce a spill-over effect, these results will stand as examples and inspiration for citizens, CSOs and LAs on how to generate constructive and result-oriented activities within their often limited resources.

The scope of the re-granting scheme is:

- to raise public awareness on development issues;
- to promote development education at the grass-root level in the EU;
- to anchor development policy in the local communities;
- to support citizens' active engagement in global issues.

The re-granting scheme is intended to support 68 selected projects relevant for DEAR policies by covering all the 28 EU Member states.

## 1.5 CULTURAL COMPONENT

LADDER consists of a creative component as well, meant to reach the public and the citizens through art, music and theatre. The purpose is, indeed, to raise awareness and to inform the public on the topics addressed by the project through the universal language of art, especially theatre and music, with the development and performance of a professional theatre play during the implementation period of the project.

# 2. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2016

This section covers the second year of implementation of the project, namely from Month 13 (January 2016) to Month 24 (December 2016). The activities are described in the corresponding dimension (see Section I – the LADDER project), following a chronological order.

## 2.0 MANAGEMENT & COORDINATION OF THE PROJECT

On top of the actions described below, 3 coordination meetings were held to assess the progress of the project.

The meetings were respectively held on 14 January 2016, 13 May 2016, and 20 September 2016, bringing together partners and associates of the project.



Coordination Meeting – 13 May 2016 – Paris, France

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coordination Meeting took place in Paris back-to-back with a high-level conference organized in the framework of the Thematic path dedicated to the EYD2015, while the other two were held online. These moments represented precious opportunities for the whole consortium to be updated regarding the project's implementation and to ensure collective awareness of the activities implemented in 2016.

## 2.1 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The research dimension has been deeply developed in 2016 and several outcomes came to light.

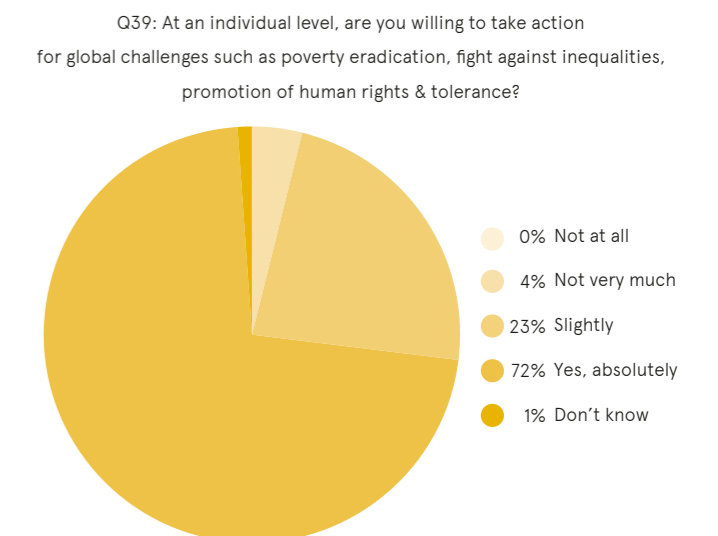
### SURVEY

In 2016, a survey was carried out specifically targeting the participants of the training activities of the project (see "Capacity building and Peer-to-peer education" section). The survey aimed at collecting and analysing the perception of local actors about development education and their respective engagement in development, as well as the way individuals are involved in global issues at the local level. It was structured following 5 specific parts:

- The Development Agenda & the European Year for Development 2015;
- Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) in your country;
- Your opinion on the implementation of DEAR strategies;
- The EU and Development Aid;
- Engagement for development.

The results of the survey implemented at the EU level (2015) were released at the beginning of the year.

For instance, 3 out of 4 participants expressed their willingness to take action for global challenges in their daily life.



When asked which was the cause for their willingness to take action, the participants stated:

“As a women, I am fully aware of the violence that exists through inequality, so how can I not see?”

“Because I would expect someone to do the same for me”

“Because of globalization, we are no more just citizens of a single country”

“Because I don’t limit myself to just complaining about unfair issues but also act for changing them”

“Because solidarity is more powerful”

“Because change starts from ourselves”.

The results from the surveys at national and local level are expected during the first part of 2017.

### DEAR DATABASE

In addition to the surveys, the research dimension of the LADDER Project also included the development of a wide database for actors and other guides for individuals related to DEAR.



In particular, 5 main outputs were produced, intending to collect the most relevant information on DEAR (relevant initiatives, stakeholders, key terms and other ideas related to DEAR) that may be useful for any stakeholder or citizen interested in the field. In details, the 5 documents released are:

**1. A mapping of institutional actors engaged/working on DEAR policies and actions.** It primarily includes all DEAR-related stakeholders, but also other institutions that may be important to keep in mind when working on DEAR policies (such as actors involved in environmental and sustainable policies at the local, national, EU and/or international level and many more).

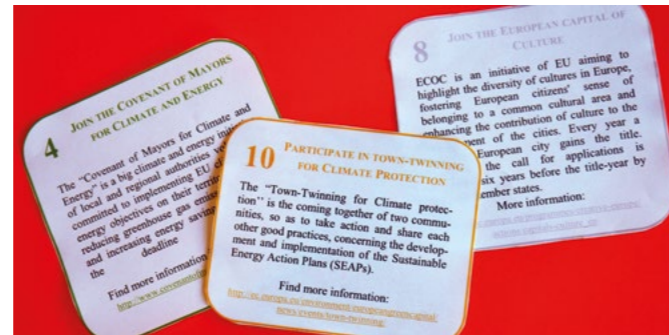
**2. A mapping of non-institutional actors dealing with DEAR:** It collects a high number of non-institutional actors engaged in the field (such as in the implementation of sustainable development practices, the non-formal education of adults and youth, raising awareness and inclusion of citizens in the decision-making processes, etc.). It includes NGOs (CSOs), na-

tional and international networks, academic institutions and online magazines as well as some private actors.

**3. A glossary,** defining the key terms related to DEAR providing other links to websites, articles & videos to deepen the knowledge of the concepts.



**4. A toolkit addressed to Local Authorities,** with 26 ideas to inspire and encourage their positive impact as actors for change for a more sustainable world. For instance, the existence of networks and initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and the European Capital of Culture, the promotion of street retail market, the implementation of a truly inclusive development, and many more.



**5. A toolkit addressed to citizens,** with suggestions of individual and collective actions in the spirit of sustainable lifestyle. The guide presents 32 concrete ideas that citizens could adopt to be more sustainable and make a positive impact with their actions and inspire others. Tips to become an aware and sustainable consumer, initiatives to join such as “100 in 1 day” & the “Zero Waste Europe” are only a few of them!



The outputs of the research have been shared on the website of the project (<http://www.ladder-project.eu/?p=16181>) and are accessible by everybody.

## 2.2 CAPACITY BUILDING AND PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION

### TRAININGS ON DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING (DEAR)

In 2016, trainings on development education topics were held at national and local levels in different countries, following the principle of the cascade mechanism triggered by the EU level trainings in 2015. As the trainings previously developed at the EU-level, the national and local ones pursued the capacity building & awareness raising action of the project by targeting national and local multipliers.



3<sup>rd</sup> Local Training LALRG – 15-16 March 2016 – Gulbene, Latvia

The participants represented primarily LAs and CSOs from the target country: these actors are considered to have a major capacity to become change makers by adopting and implementing actions in line with sustainable development and awareness raising within their constituencies and their areas of intervention.

The trainings focused on best practices with regards to raise citizens’ awareness on development issues, giving the participants tools to develop such activities after the trainings and promoting local actions for sustainable development, poverty eradication, solidarity, justice, and much more.



2<sup>nd</sup> Local Training CAC – 15-16 March 2016 – Slavonski Brod, Croatia

The trainings organized in 2016 were implemented in 10 countries by the national partners of the project, namely:

- EGTC Amphictyony – European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, (Greece);
- LALRG – the Association of Local and Regional Authorities (Latvia);
- Donegal County Council (Ireland);
- TECLA – Association for the local and European trans-regional cooperation (Italy);
- URC Poland – Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland (Poland);
- UTC Slovakia – Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (Slovakia);
- Birgu Local Council (Malta);
- NAMRB – National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (Bulgaria);
- Municipality of Vejle (Denmark);
- CAC – Croatian Association of Counties (Croatia).

Each of the afore-mentioned partners oversaw the implementation of 2 national and 4 local trainings in their respective countries.

The cascade mechanism put in place within the project empowered both the national partner as well as the local stakeholders, that implement some trainings directly.



2<sup>nd</sup> National Training TECLA – 23-24 February 2016 – Ancona, Italy

While the national trainings were organised by the corresponding national partner, the local ones were led by local stakeholders (who had participated at the upper-level training), with the support of the corresponding national partner. The considerable number of trainings implemented reached more than 1,300 representatives of national and local actors. Not only did the trainings represent an opportunity to pursue the objectives of the project at grassroots level, but also a relevant moment to build a network of social links that contribute at implementing the SDGs at local and national level.



4<sup>th</sup> Local Training Vejle Municipality - 5-6 October 2016 - Vejle, Denmark

The trainings included a number of activities and sessions foreseeing the use of ice-breakers, presentations, open discussions, and different non-formal education methods. In addition, they represented also the occasion to develop innovative training materials, such as the educational board game elaborated by URC Poland, created to ensure that the content of local trainings was both attractive and informative.

1<sup>st</sup> Local Training URC Poland - 6-7 September 2016 - Serock-Jachranka, Poland

Having started in 2015 with 3 EU-level trainings, the training scheme was pursued in 2015 and 2016 (see report 2015). In 2016, 11 national and 37 local trainings were implemented as follows:

- **Trainings in Bulgaria:**  
**National Trainings:** 6-7 October 2016 (Albena)  
**Local Trainings:** 12-13 April 2016 (Veliko Tarnovo) / 14-15 April 2016 (Veliko Tarnovo) / 21-22 July 2016 (Tsarevo) / 26-27 July 2016 (Svilengrad)
- **Trainings in Croatia:**  
**Local Trainings:** 16-17 February 2016 (Virovitica) / 15-16 March 2016 (Šibenik) / 30-31 March 2016 (Slavonski Brod) / 12-13 April 2016 (Rijeka)
- **Trainings in Denmark:**  
**National Trainings:** 23 February 2016 (Aarhus) / 1 March 2016 (Copenhagen)  
**Local Trainings:** 2 & 19 May 2016 (Gellerup - Aarhus) / 18 May 2016 & 9 June 2016 (Vollsmose - Odense) / 21 & 28 September 2016 (Nykøbing Falster) / 5 & 26 October 2016 (Vejle)

#### Trainings in Greece:

**National Trainings:** 24-26 January 2016 (Thessaloniki)  
**Local Trainings:** 22-23 May 2016 (Orestiada) / 22-23 June 2016 / 22-23 September 2016 (Kamena Vurla) / 3-4 October 2016 (Creta)

#### – Trainings in Ireland:

**National Trainings:** 13-14 June 2016 (Galway) / 20 June 2016 & 7 December 2016 (Letterkenny)  
**Local Trainings:** 10 March 2016 & 8 April 2016 (Carndonagh) / 1 March 2016 & 5 April 2016 (Gweedore) / 15 March 2016 & 7 April 2016 (Donegal Town)

1<sup>st</sup> National Training Donegal County Council  
13-14 June 2016 - Galway, Ireland

#### – Trainings in Italy:

**National Trainings:** 25-26 January 2016 (Novara) / 23-24 February 2016 (Ancona)  
**Local Trainings:** 20-21 April 2016 (Palermo) / 23-24 September 2016 (Pavia) / 10-11 November 2016 (Massa) / 20-21 December 2016 (Torino)

#### – Trainings in Latvia:

**Local Trainings:** 7-8 March 2016 (Koknese) / 15-16 March 2016 (Gulbene) / 8-9 August 2016 (Tukums)

#### – Trainings in Malta:

**National Trainings:** 9-10 December 2016 / 17-18 December 2016 (La Valetta)  
**Local Trainings:** 16-17 February 2016 (Birgu) / 8-9 July 2016 (Birgu) / 24-25 July 2016 (Birgu) / 19-20 September 2016

#### – Trainings in Poland:

**Local Trainings:** 6-7 September 2016 (Serock-Jachranka) / 3-4 October 2016 (Długosiodło) / 10-11 October 2016 (Lubicz)

#### – Trainings in Slovakia:

4<sup>th</sup> Local Training UTCS - 20 September 2016 - Zvolen, Slovakia

**National Trainings:** 18-19 October 2016 (Bratislava)  
**Local Trainings:** 18 April 2016 (Prešov) / 21 April 2016 (Bratislava) / 20-21 September 2016 (Zvolen)

## THE JOB SHADOWING ACTIVITY

The Job Shadowing activity was launched with the aim to increase the interactions within the network of the partners and build capacities.

The first exchange was organized in October 2016, with a representative of CAC (Croatian Association of Counties), who has a 4-day experience visiting the office of ALDA in Strasbourg. These exchanges aim at sharing best practices, facilitating peer-to-peer learning, gaining new skills and promoting the increase of intercultural exchanges on DEAR.



CAC hosted by ALDA Strasbourg: The first Job Shadowing

It provides experts, civil servants, trainers, LAs' staff and CSOs' representatives of the different consortium's organisation with the opportunity to spend a learning period abroad hosted by another partner. By engaging in this action, each participant has the opportunity to work with another "colleague", learning and sharing experiences and practices concerning the field of global citizenship and sustainable development.

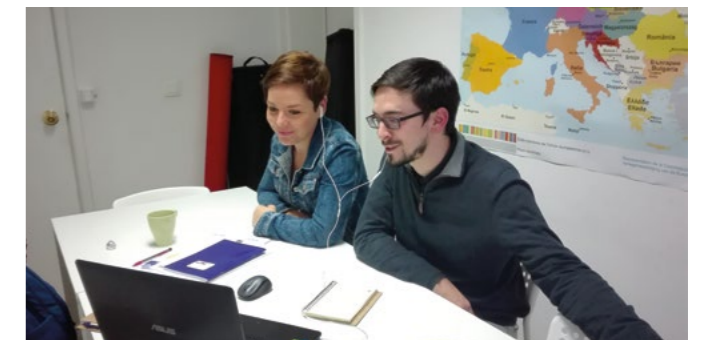
Each Job shadowing activity lasts 4 days and it is based on an agenda developed jointly by the host and the visiting partner. The program has the objective to encourage exchanges and create opportunities and synergies between the organizations. Overall, the job shadowing activities include, among others, time for discussion and exchange, presentation of respective activities and best practices, participation to meetings or relevant events with actors and other DEAR projects.

Within the job shadowing initiative in 2016, the following activities were highlighted:



Representative of UBBSLA collaborating with Birgu Municipality for the Birgu Candle Fest 2016

- the co-organisation of the Birgu Candle Fest 2016, an annual event organised by the Birgu Municipality, including activities on environment protection and promotion of cultural heritage;
- the participation in a conference on global education organised by CONCORD, followed by an internal meeting gathering DEAR actors from Europe, which allowed the participants to get a first-hand experience of Pan-European coordination and future actions related to DEAR at the European level;
- the participation in the training "Strengthening the Education for Democracy" held in the framework of the Pestalozzi Programme (Council of Europe's programme for the professional development of teachers and education actors) which allowed the attendees to gain valuable tools and techniques that could be used for education for development;
- the implementation of several online and face-to-face meetings with other DEAR Projects, which allowed the participants to get to know other actors and projects related to the LADDER Project;



EGTC Amphictyony hosted by ALDA Brussels - Online meeting with other DEAR Projects

- the participation in activities and services offered by the municipalities of the consortium of the project (such as the Danish Centre of Integration VIFIN and the Økolariet eco-laboratory) which invited the host to re-think about her/his own cities and the way these could integrate development issues within the society.

In 2016, 8 Job Shadowing activities took place (see below details) and another 32 will follow in 2017.



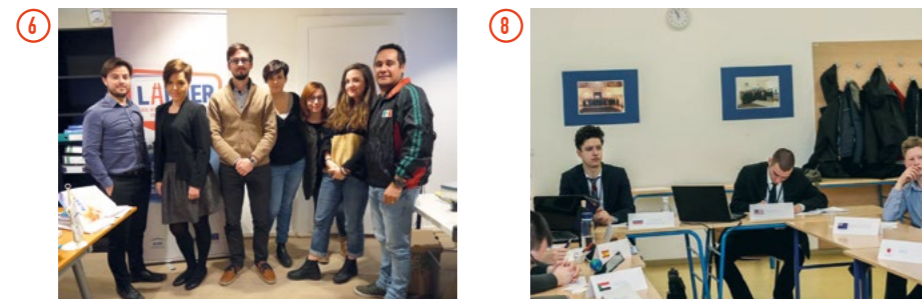
HOST	GUEST	DATES	QUOTE FROM THE PARTNER
① ALDA Strasbourg	CAC	4-7 October 2016	"I am ready to incorporate those approaches and tips, I received, on the operational level in my organisation"
② Birgu Municipality	UBBSLA	7-10 October 2016	"My hosts in Birgu organized this annual event for the 13th year already, so there is not much to add, [...] there is just a lot to learn and to transfer abroad."
③ NALAG	SKGO	24-28 October 2016	"I am very glad because I see what are the similarities and what are the differences between your and our system"
④ Vejle Municipality	NAMRB	14-18 November 2016	"I had the opportunity to meet different organisations working within the municipality. The common feeling I had during all these meetings was that everybody is doing something relevant for the future: to be more sustainable and more developed"
⑤ SLOGA	SOS Malta	14-18 November 2016	"Job shadowing was a great experience for us, as a hosting organisation. It was a good opportunity to reflect on our work, to be able to explain the tools we use to achieve our objectives - especially as it was done in our Welcoming Week; set of events on strengthening local communities on integration issues. The visit of the representative from SOS Malta was of great added value for us."
⑥ ALDA Brussels	EGTC Amphictyony	15-19 November 2016	"It has been a very useful experience [...] it was an opportunity to develop way of communicating for further establishing new ideas and developing them for the benefit of the project and the partner in the last year of the project"
⑦ CIME	NALAG	21-24 November 2016	"I was involved in the preparation of CIME's Special Initiative - as NALAG already had this kind of action - it was an opportunity to share with them my experience: what problems I had, how I solved them, the lessons learnt... I think this will be really useful in the preparation of the event"
⑧ CAC	Donegal County Council	28 November - 1 December 2016	"First of all, I met a lot of people and I learnt that we all share the same values and ideals as regards sustainable development and the first thing that I will reproduce back home is the participatory budgeting application which is a really good idea and allow citizens to engage with local governments"



① CAC hosted by ALDA Strasbourg

③ SKGO hosted by NALAG

④ NAMRB hosted by Vejle Municipality



⑥ EGTC Amphictyony hosted by ALDA Brussels

⑧ Donegal County Council hosted by CAC

**Focus Groups**

The last activity foreseen by this dimension is the organisation of Focus Groups. Each of the national partners that organised trainings on development education was also in charge to implement one focus group addressed to educators (representing different stakeholders: local authorities, civil society organizations, etc.), active in the field of non-formal education.

The Focus Groups were developed in 9 different countries and they gathered approximately 20-30 people each (total of approximately 200 representatives of LAs & CSOs). The last Focus Group will be developed in 2017.



Focus Group CAC – 9 September 2016 – Karlovac, Croatia



Focus Group UTCS – 17/18 May 2016 – Bratislava, Slovakia



Focus Group Donegal County Council – 5 December 2016 – Letterkenny, Ireland



Focus Group URC Poland – 13 December 2016 – Lesznowola, Poland

The focus groups consisted of informal groups of discussion on development education topics. These sessions especially aimed at debating on approaches, methodologies, and tools that are used or can be developed at national and local levels. These events provided the participants with the opportunity to draw an accurate picture of the perception of development education at national level in the countries involved (see below), and draw conclusions on the level of the outreach of DEAR actions. This process allows the LADDER project to come up with recommendations on DEAR strategies concerning the country in which the focus group is implemented. These recommendations will be shared at a later stage of the project.



Focus Group Vejle Municipality – 15 December 2016 – Vejle, Denmark



Focus Group UTCS – 17/18 May 2016 – Bratislava, Slovakia



Focus Group LALRG – 25 November 2016 – Jurmala, Latvia

When?	Where?	Who?
17-18 May 2016	Bratislava	UTC Slovakia
08 October 2016	Albena	NAMRB
9 September 2016	Karlovac	CAC Croatia
15 December 2016	Vejle	Vejle Municipality
10-11 November 2016	Limni Plastira	EGTC Amphictyony
25 November 2016	Jurmala	LALRG
5 December 2016	Letterkenny	Donegal County Council
13 December 2016	Lesznowola	URC Poland

## 2.3 ADVOCACY

### THE GEOGRAPHICAL PATHS

In parallel with the EU focus of the project, LADDER covers 3 additional geographical areas, namely the Mediterranean area, the Eastern Partnership area, and the South-Eastern Europe area (see description below). For each region, the project runs advocacy activities together with the organization of events and meetings. The aim of these actions is to increase the outreach of DEAR in the corresponding areas, expanding the zone of intervention of the project. In addition, it aims at strengthening and supporting the role of LAs & CSOs and capacity in acting as drivers for change at local level.

#### - The Mediterranean Area (MED)

The MED path aims at promoting the role of LAs and CSOs, supporting a decentralized and ownership-based Neighbourhood Policy in the MED area. The instability that the Mediterranean basin has gone through and the geopolitical circumstances have required actions to be taken by the project in order to support local actors in getting engaged in development education actions in their countries.

#### The Mediterranean in the spotlight: Working group meeting in Tunis

The meeting held on 29 April 2016 was the opportunity for the MED Path members to develop and finalize a key draft document: the "CHARMEDAL – the Mediterranean Charter for Democracy and Local Autonomy". The document aims at defining principles and new perspectives in the field of democracy and local autonomy on both sides of the Mediterranean.

Based on a rich discussion with international and national representatives, as well as young activists of Tunisia, the debate focused on the analysis and dissemination of the Mediterranean Charter, such as:

- the valorisation of a common and shared Mediterranean identity;
- the role of LAs and CSOs in the realisation of the common goals of development in the respect of Human Rights and cultural differences;
- the actions of awareness raising about the processes of democratisation and decentralisation.

#### Special Initiative – Local democracy in the two shores of the Mediterranean

Another significant event organized by the MED Path was the Special Initiative (Tunis, 19-21 October). The 3-day event entitled "Local democracy in the two shores of the Mediterranean" was organised by Lam Echaml with the co-operation of COPPEM (co-coordinator of the MED Path) and ALDA.



MED Special Initiative – 19-21 October 2016 – Tunis, Tunisia

The Special Initiative represented an opportunity to exchange expertise on local democracy in the MED area, addressing some specific challenges such as citizens' participation & engagement for development. The debate was enriched by high-level speakers from various institutions and organisations such as the Delegation of the EU to Tunisia, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Jordanian Ministry of Municipal Affairs and many more. A specific session was dedicated to the theme of circular migration, co-organized with ARLEM (Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly – of the CoR).



MED Special Initiative – 19-21 October 2016 – Tunis, Tunisia

This event was also the occasion to present the "CHARMEDAL – The Mediterranean Charter for Democracy and Local Autonomy" to a broader audience, promoting its principles and encouraging exchanges and collaboration.

#### - The South-East Europe (SEE) Area

The SEE path's scope is to reinforce the interdependencies between the EU and the SEE area: by tackling challenges such as migration and refugees' flows, it seeks to empower LAs and CSOs, enabling them to play an active role in protecting human rights and in promoting the integration of migrants. Following the discussion and the plan established in 2015, the SEE Path decided to focus especially on the **decentralisation process** as well as the empowerment of **youth in development issues**.

#### International seminar on the governance of Migration

In the framework of its action in the SEE area, the Geographical path co-organized a conference on migration & refugees (20-21 June 2016).

The concept of the Seminar was to present different aspects of migration management through the exchange of experience and open debate, with a special focus on the good management of LAs and CSOs involved in actions related to migration management. The main recommendations highlighted the need for action in the following areas: policies on emergency reception, integration policies, and the promotion of intercultural dialogue and public perception.

#### - The Eastern Partnership (EaP) Area

The EaP geographical path seeks to foster a comprehensive and ownership-based Neighbourhood Policy in the EaP area by the EU. The path promotes the role of LAs and CSOs, recognizing and supporting their capacity to act as change makers for development at local level.

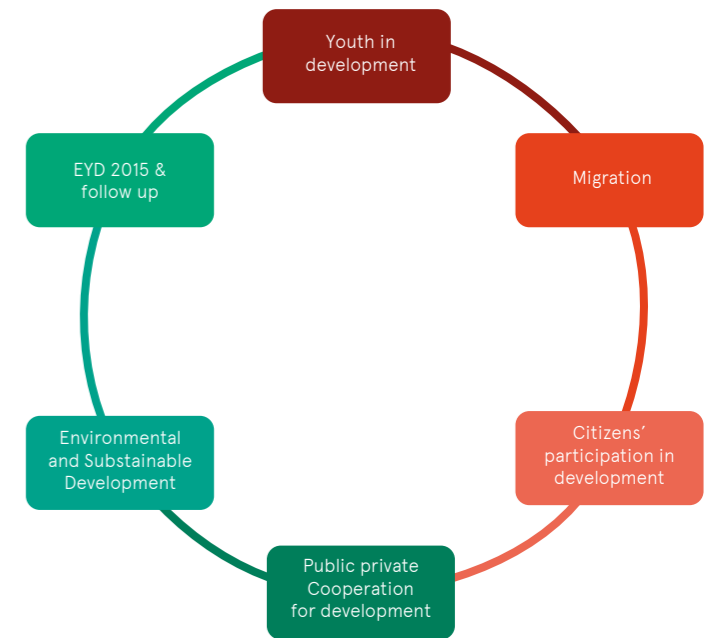
#### Joint Declaration on the ENP by LADDER Consortium and PLATFORMA

In February 2016, a Joint Declaration of the LADDER consortium & PLATFORMA on the ENP was published. The document includes policy recommendations developed after the open consultation process and the publication of the updated framework for the ENP by the EU.

The declaration highlighted, from one side, the way the role of local and regional governments should be reinforced and, from the other side, the way the ENP should pay more attention to a series of policy issues, including the process of decentralisation in the Neighbourhood.

### THE THEMATIC PRIORITIES

The project pays a particular attention to 6 themes, for which it dedicates a specific "line", called Thematic paths. As described in the previous section, the path's aim is to raise awareness on the specific theme from a DEAR perspective. In 2015, all paths' members had the opportunity to discuss, exchange and agree on the approach to adopt for each. During 2016, the paths started to bear fruits moving according to the plans. Throughout the year, each path contributed to develop advocacy activities to draw attention and to foster dialogue around the thematic focus of the path and the related challenges.



#### - Youth in development (Path 1)

In 2015, the Youth in Development path led by JEF agreed that the promotion of youth engagement and awareness on development issues would be the priority of the path, in order to empower young people and support them in becoming drivers for change. Throughout 2016, the path ensured an ongoing monitoring of EU policies, contributing in reaching the objectives with the following outputs:

#### Thunderclap Campaign Youth4MUFPP

Youth awareness-raising was firstly fostered in October 2016, when the path launched a campaign in support of the MUFPP – Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. The MUFPP is an international pact signed by 128 cities from all over the world, which supports the development of food systems based on the principles of sustainability and social justice. JEF decided to involve youth in the implementation of this pact throughout a thunderclap campaign: Youth4MUFPP.



The action of the Youth Path & JEF aimed at engaging youth and raising their awareness on the *SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities*. The launched campaign highlighted the necessity of the countries which are not part of the MUFPP yet to start acting towards sustainability.

### Maintaining High-Quality Education in the Post-Brexit era

A second action developed by the Path during 2016 was related to the *SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*.

JEF and the path's members submitted an open letter in order to raise awareness about the state of Youth and to sustain high quality education for young Brits and Europeans following a potential Brexit. The letter was sent on 21 November to representatives of EU representation offices and EU institutions dealing with education, youth, sport and culture policies and will be monitored in 2017.

In particular, the Path's letter stressed the potential negative impact on British education caused by the Brexit. It also highlighted the possible exclusion of both the British students from EU mobility programmes like Erasmus+ and the British universities from EU research funding.

In line with the previous actions, JEF together with the Youth Path's members are planning further actions in 2017, in order to foster dialogue and improve the policies regarding youth issues. In 2017, a Special Initiative on Youth in development will be implemented.

#### - Migration (Path 2)

The Migration Path led by SOS Malta has the overall objective of raising citizens' and stakeholders' awareness on the role and importance of migration, bearing in mind Human Rights and the European values. Further to the refugee crisis having highly affected European and neighbouring countries, the Path's members decided to pay a particular attention to the phenomenon, promoting and raising awareness on the irregular migration and refugee flows, the root causes hindering this situation, as well as the role of LAs and CSOs.

In order to keep high attention towards this thematic, the Path developed several actions as described below.

#### Migration: root causes & migrants' civic participation in hosting communities

A proposal of investigation regarding migration issues in Europe was launched during the Migration Path's Special Initiative in 2015. The proposal was implemented in 2016 via the development of an online questionnaire addressed to migrants (both recent or living in the hosting community for several years).

The survey was based upon two main pillars:

- understanding the drivers and the causes of migration, living conditions and obstacles;
- measuring the degree of participation of migrants in their respective communities.

The results from the survey were presented during the Special initiative of the EYD2015 Path in Paris in May. A set of recommendations highlighting the need of an effective aid for the integration of migrants in the local communities was presented. These can be summarized as following:

- Addressing root causes, and effective long-term diplomacy efforts;
- Recognition of the role and potential of CSOs & LAs in policy-making and implementation;
- Effective and genuine aid, and understanding migration as a driver for development;
- Increased efforts in integration migrants and refugees in local communities, taking into account the interests and needs of all interested parties.

#### Decentralised solidarity bridge for refugees in Chios

A second action implemented by the Migration Path took place on the Island of Chios (Greece) on 2-5 March 2016. The activity consisted of a field visit of the island, highly affected by the refugee flows.



Life vests from the refugees in the island of Chios

During the visit, the delegation of representatives of ALDA (France), the Council of Mallorca, and the Fons Mallorquí of Solidaritat i cooperació (Spain) had the opportunity to meet representatives of the Municipality, public and international institutions and actors, NGOs, volunteer groups and local population which are active in the management of the refugee crisis. The delegation had the opportunity to see the great engagement of these actors that collaborate in order to provide shelter, medical care, food, guidance and much more to the refugees.



The LADDER Delegation together with the Municipality of Chios representatives

This field visit marked the occasion to start a cooperation between the Municipality of Chios and ALDA, the Conseil de Mallorca and the Fons Mallorquí. The delegation and the LADDER project confirmed their willingness to continue supporting the island's local authority and community, inaugurating a new link of decentralized cooperation.

#### Reactions to the European Council Conclusions on Migration

In June 2016, a letter was drafted by the Migration Path members in response to the European Council Meeting of 27-28 June 2016 during which Member States drew conclusions on risk secure norms in response to the migration crisis.

The LADDER Migration Path highlighted its disappointment to the position taken by the European Council, which undermines European fundamental principles. In particular, the Path stated that:

- the systematic return of irregular migrants is a risk for the respect of their human rights;
- there is a need for safer and more regular routes of migration to Europe in order to undermine the market of smugglers and increase safety of migrants;
- New sources of Instruments of funding should not represent a leverage for regulation of migrants at the cost of Development Aid;
- The migration crisis can only be tackled with long term and increased funding to development aid and humanitarian assistance to tackle the root causes of migration at source.

#### Athens Refugee Policy Lab

In the spirit of enhancing dialogue on migration within a European framework, the Migration path co-organized a Refugee Policy Lab in Athens. The event was organised on 1-2 September by the Civic School of Political Studies in Greece with the support of ALDA & the LADDER Project.



Athens Refugee Policy Lab – 1-2 September 2016 – Athens, Greece

This 2-day event gathered representatives of major municipalities, EU and international actors, as well as NGOs and other networks engaged in the refugee flows management, assessing refugee reception efforts in Greece since 2015, when

the arrivals surged dramatically. The protection of refugees, reception and integration challenges in the frontline cities and the access to education for asylum seekers and refugees were the two main issues discussed. In addition, the event highlighted how the EU and developing countries cannot turn a blind eye to the underlying causes of migration, as well as the importance of coordination and dialogue in such cases.

#### Contribution to the EU Consultation on the Social Rights Pillar

On the same line with the first letter sent in June 2016, the Migration Path drafted a second letter on the reaction to the EU Consultation on the Social Rights Pillar in October 2016. Notwithstanding the path agreed and supported the President Juncker document, the LADDER consortium stressed the lack of focus towards migrants. Specifically, they highlighted the importance of integrating appropriate and specific measures for migrants within the Pillar.

#### Intercultural Dialogue & refugees' educational challenges

In autumn 2016 (7-8 October), the Migration dimension of the project had the opportunity to contribute to a Forum on intercultural dialogue, with a dedicated focus on the reception and integration challenges as well as the access to education for refugees (2<sup>nd</sup> Forum on Intercultural dialogue, organised by the University of Patra - Greece). The Forum was attended by representatives from the educational sector, Academia, Local Authorities, NGOs and other networks working either in refugee camps or in education institutions. The event was organized in the framework of the European Local Democracy Week.



The Intercultural Dialogue & Educational Challenges Forum – 7-8 October 2016 – Patra, Greece

The Forum addressed the educational challenges faced by the refugees (ex: school attendance for refugee children, education of adults, inclusion in society, exchange and mutual understanding with local societies, language and capacities of the education sector), and about refugees in Greece & Europe (including refugee flows). From the LADDER Project perspective, this event allowed to stress the importance of the awareness-raising dimension in the environment of formal and non-formal education, stressing the crucial role of enhancing citizens' engagement in such contexts.



The Intercultural Dialogue & Educational Challenges Forum – 7-8 October 2016 – Patra, Greece

**Participation of the LADDER Migration Path in the event organised by URGENT Project (coordinated by ALDA)**

The event “Migration, urban fragmentation and intercultural dialogue” held in Strasbourg on 28-30 November provided the opportunity to establish a synergy between the LADDER project and the EU project URGENT, coordinated by ALDA and involving LAs & CSOs from 10 different countries. During the event a representative of SOS Malta, the leader of the Migration Path, participated and presented the LADDER project. In addition, SOS Malta contributed with its expertise and examples of good practices to enrich the discussion, which focused on intercultural dialogue and migrants’ integration.

**– Citizens’ Participation in development (Path 3)**

In 2015, the members of the path, led by CEECN, decided to address the role of citizens in development by promoting the individual engagement in development issues, empowering ordinary citizens to take action, to become drivers for change and to inspire others while raising their voices.

**Special Initiative – Citizen Participation University 2016**

One of the main actions developed in 2016 was the implementation of the Path’s Special Initiative. The event was held on 4-8 July in the framework of the “Citizens Participation University 2016”, which took place in the Civil College in Kumbabony (Hungary).



Citizens’ Participation Path Special Initiative – 4-8 July 2016 – Kumbabony, Hungary

Aiming at inspiring the participants to have a concrete impact for a fairer world, this initiative organised several intensive

sessions mixing theory and practice together. In addition, thanks to the over twenty workshops, various panels and groups discussions developed during the 4-day event, the participants had the opportunity to discuss and share opinions regarding the importance of education for change and of the awareness of climate crisis, including the economics of climate change and the individual habits related to this global issue.



Working Group at the Citizen Participation University Initiative – 4-8 July 2016 – Kumbabony, Hungary

Having hosted with great success the Citizens’ Participation for Development Special Initiative, the Path established its upcoming priorities with regards to advocacy, that include, among others, innovative concepts such as participatory budgeting. The path is now working on some advocacy actions, which will be fully developed in the last year of the Project.

**– Public-Private Cooperation in development: economic growth and job creation (Path 4)**



In 2015, the path members coordinated by CIME agreed to address the role of the private sector in relation to development topics, seeking to expand the role of the private sector

in promoting development related issues and enhancing the cooperation between the public sector (including LAs) and the private sector (including CSOs). The stronger cooperation between these actors is meant to raise awareness on development while facilitating and increasing actions at the local level by private stakeholders.

During 2016, the path triggered the process which saw the dissemination of the issues decided to be tackled in the previous year. One of the occasion in which these topics were discussed was the LADDER workshop implemented within the framework of the European Development.

**LADDER Workshop at the EDD 2016**

The workshop named “Localising Sustainable Development Goals: Owning the global development agenda” was held on 15 June 2016 in Brussels within the session “Localizing SDGs – cross-sectoral & multi-stakeholder engagement for sustainable cities” of the European Development Days (EDDs), with a particular attention to the role of different stakeholders in development, and especially the involvement of the private sector along with other stakeholders. The workshop was also the occasion to showcase the winner of the Slogan Competition (LADDER initiative run in 2015) – winner video entitled “Tolerance”, an innovative way to introduce the topic of awareness raising and engagement of all in SDGs.



The panellists of the Public-Private Cooperation workshop watching “Tolerance”, winner video of the Slogan Competition

The workshop was then moderated by Antonella Valmorbidia, Secretary General of ALDA, and saw the participation of relevant panellists.

The workshop focused on different themes such as:

- the role and requirements of the private and public sector in building development and awareness raising;
- the challenging cooperation between CSOs and LAs in joint actions to foster the awareness raising process;
- youth employment as a major challenge and youth participation in development processes;
- the universal, intersectoral and complex scenario of partnerships aiming at finding innovative solutions to control disparities at national level;
- advocacy, exchange of good practices & tools, and territorial coordination as goals of the alliance for localising SDGs.



Public-Private Cooperation Path Workshop – 15 June 2016 – Brussels, Belgium

Early 2017, the Special Initiative of the Public-Private Cooperation for Development Path is foreseen, in cooperation with other important stakeholders working already on the theme.

**– Environmental and sustainable development (Path 5)**

This path aims at fostering resilient sustainable development in the framework of development education.

In 2015, the path coordinator Foster Europe and the members agreed on the priority, namely promoting sustainable and resilient development in order to face the current environmental challenges and the climate change. The path focuses on awareness raising, specifically, by making use of non-formal educational programs to promote a democratic answer, which can encompass all ages and areas of public life and advocate for a comprehensive response from the EU and Member States, including the role of LAs and CSOs in that direction.

2016 saw these premises transforming into concrete actions throughout the implementation of the Path’s Special Initiative and some other actions related to advocacy, which will be pursued and finalized in 2017.

**Special Initiative – Working towards sustainable development: Civil Society, Local Actors and EU Strategies**



The Special Initiative of the Environmental and Sustainable Development was hosted by the city of Bratislava on 2-3 November. The event “Working towards sustainable development: Civil Society, Local Actors and EU Strategies” was

organised by Foster Europe together with the EUSDR Danube Participation Days, the Plenipotentiary for Civil Society Development in Slovakia, the Council of Danube Cities and Regions and the ARGE Donauländer. The event was well-attended by around 200 participants.



Environmental and Sustainable Development Path Special Initiative – 2-3 November 2016 – Bratislava, Hungary

The 2-day event brought together experts and high level representatives of regional organisations, institutions and networks representing civil society, academia, cities and regions. This Special Initiative represented a great opportunity to pursue the discussion on sustainable development and apply it to the concrete context of the Danube Strategy.



Environmental and Sustainable Development Path Special Initiative – 2-3 November 2016 – Bratislava, Hungary

During the first day of the event, 6 parallel workshops were also held, including a specific workshop on development education (*"DEAR-Turning Local Ideas into Global Solutions"*).

Having hosted this relevant Special Initiative, the Path is now working on different advocacy actions, which will be pursued and implemented in 2017.

### - EYD2015 cooperation and follow up (Path 6)

In 2015, the Path's main focus was the promotion and dissemination of the EYD2015 (European Year for Development 2015) objectives, activities, parallel events and online platforms. In December 2015, when the EYD2015 came to an end the Path continued its actions on awareness raising with an 'updated' perspective, namely the SDGs.



The working group joined a newly-established alliance called "SDG Watch Europe", a cross-sectoral alliance of more than 75 networks and large civil society organisations that aims to promote and advocate for the implementation of SDGs. The alliance is based in Brussels, but it includes networks with members from different European and extra European countries.

In light of this, this Path has been actively supporting and engaging in this alliance, contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the EU level. The LADDER Consortium has finally committed in the great challenge of transforming the 17 SDGs into reality.

### Letter to Commissioner Timmermans for the SDGs

The first action in 2016 developed by this Path together with SDG Watch Europe was represented by the participation in a letter sent to the Commissioner Timmermans. The letter was sent on 19 February and it aimed at supporting the implementation of SDGs and asking for an overarching strategy at the EU level for the comprehensive implementation of the goals.

"We call on the EU and each of its Member States to develop an overarching Sustainable Development Strategy with a timeline of 2030 and a concrete implementation plan which coordinates the achievement of the 17 goals, 169 targets and their indicators", stated the letter.

### Special Initiative - Capitalisation of the European Year for Development

In May, the special initiative of the path referred as "Capitalisation of the European Year for Development: The added value of Decentralised Cooperation to promote local governance" took place on 12-13 May in Paris.

The 2-day event was organised by ALDA in cooperation with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Art Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Art) and the French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AFCCRE).



EYD2015 & follow up Path Special Initiative – 12-13 May 2016 – Paris, France

The special initiative represented an opportunity to discuss and consolidate the lessons learnt from the EYD2015 within the new development framework of 2030 Global Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Particularly relevant was the focus given to LAs and CSOs as major stakeholders for development. Indeed, it was stressed that these actors should be recognised and their actions supported since they can have a considerable potential to reach out to citizens and create valuable impact in development policies and practices.



EYD2015 & follow up Path Special Initiative – 12-13 May 2016 – Paris, France

At the same time, the need and relevance of developing innovative approaches enabling international cooperation in the framework of the SDGs' implementation were highlighted.

### Next steps for a sustainable European future: Reforming Europe - Implementing SDGs

As part of the advocacy and networking actions of the project, the Path participated in the event "Next steps for a sustainable European future: Reforming Europe - Implementing SDGs", held on 7 July 2016 at the EESC. The event was enriched by the presence of first Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans & the Senior Adviser for Sustainable Development Karl Falkenberg.

The event was structured along 4 workshops that focused on different SDGs and on the following themes: Planet, People, Global Partnership & Peace, and Prosperity.

Mr. Falkenberg concluded the event introducing his report on the EU's strategy for incorporating the sustainable development dimension into all EC's actions & policies.

### SDG Watch Europe: launch of the new alliance

The final action of 2016 for this path was the participation and the co-organisation of the SDG Watch Europe launch, which took place in Brussels during the autumn of 2016.



SDG Watch Europe launch – 13 October 2016 – Brussels, Belgium

On 13 October 2016, this informal EU-level alliance composed by more than 75 CSOs from development, environment, social, human rights and other sectors was officially launched. The goal of the alliance is to hold governments to account for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs.



SDG Watch Europe launch – 13 October 2016 – Brussels, Belgium

The EC First Vice-President, Mr. Frans Timmermans was present at the event and he underlined three main concepts:

- the importance of addressing each SDG with concrete, comprehensive, specific and consistent measures to foster its implementation within Europe and beyond;
- the relevance of having a cross-sectoral and crosscutting approach to the 17-SDGs; and
- the value of creating synergies, adopting a multi-stakeholders approach, including not only the public sector in the achievement of the Agenda 2030 but also the private one, civil society and academia.

## 2.4 SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS

The 4<sup>th</sup> dimension of the project is the support to **grassroots actions and citizen-driven activities related to Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)**.

### CITIZENS' JOURNALISTS



In 2016, the network of citizens' journalists was launched across all the partner countries of the project. Following the considerable success of the Slogan competition (in 2015, gathering more than 750 proposals), the Citizens' Journalists Initiative aims to provide an opportunity to citizens to have their say about global issues and be supported at a wider level. The network involved non-professional journalists and ordinary citizens who, on a voluntarily basis, wish to write, report, and share their opinions and concerns on global development topics such as poverty & development, climate & energy, tolerance & inclusion, citizens' participation, engagement of public & private sector, and local actions for global impact.



The network was developed in order to stimulate debate on development education and to raise awareness on development issues throughout the whole project duration.

The initiative identified 41 CJs coming from the different countries covered by the project, but also others (Philippines, Ethiopia, etc.) and it aims to grow in the following months. The initiative provided the writers with a platform to share their views and opinions on different matters, related to one of the topics. The contributions received so far contributed to keep the dialogue high regarding several different development issues and they can be summarized as follows:

	Poverty & Development	Climate & Energy	Tolerance & Inclusion	Citizens' Participation	Engagement of public & private sector	Local Actions for Global Impact
	10	10	14	12	4	9
1	Possible solutions to poverty (x 2)	Climate change and people actions (x 2)	Italy, Modena: stories of integration within the city	Poland's tricky political turn – Rule of law and media freedom endangered?	Georgia: the benefits created by the good collaboration between private and public sector	Maastricht, The Netherlands: the story behind the Food Bank
2	Economic transformation in Central and Eastern Europe	"You are part of the world, be part of its future" initiative	Reflections regarding tolerance towards LGBT	Reflection after the Brexit: is direct democracy the best solution?	A general overview regarding the relevance of the cooperation between public and private sector	"Khawater": the Arabic programme which push me to change my daily habits
3	United Arab Emirates, Dubai: From nothing to the place of dream	Spain, Valencia & Madrid: stories about sustainable architecture	Dialogue, the best instrument for tolerance	Citizens Participation: first steps after the Revolution in Tunisia	How Private and Public sectors changed their role throughout history: a picture of nowadays reality.	Interview to the Architect from the Local Action Group (LAG) coordinator in Lazio, and the Chairman of the LAG Lazio of the Abruzzo National Park
4	Colombia, Medellin: From Drug Trafficking to Social Urbanism	Latvia, Riga: raising awareness about plastic bag life	LGBT: a Georgian perspective	The importance of citizens' participation	The milk war: a complex situation about agriculture policy, multinational corporates and farmers.	The Project "EAThink 2015 – Eat Local, think global"
5	Poverty in the world: let's not leave anyone behind	Get rid of cars: the challenge of the largest worldwide cities	Education and awareness raising for a more tolerant world (x 2)	#togetherwehavethepower: changing the world together		Italy, Bologna: the association "Accoglienza Degna" and their local commitment for integration
6	No more porn poverty	The danger coming from the cars	Ethiopia: an ignored state at a brink of a Civil War	Youth Ambassadors explained by their Serbian representative		Ireland, Donegal: examples of local actions within the city
7	Unemployment in Georgia	The upcoming era of "Energy citizens"	Words are powerful: the importance of using them in the right way to make a positive impact in the world	Abu Sayed and the local people from Satkhira (Bangladesh): working together to realise a dream		The story of the city of Abkhazia, Georgia
8	The connection between Maltese rent cost and migrants	People actions for a more sustainable world (x 2)	Refugees: transforming people into numbers	Expectations for a tired Europe: a citizen's point of view		BIOagradables: the story of a volunteer association in Spain
9	The development of medicine over the years		The world in the trace of racism	Democracy in Georgia		Running for the fight against cancer: local action for a global impact.
10			Wahid: the story of a migrant from Asia	The global challenges faced by the world		
11			The Day of Tolerance and considerations around it	The importance of real and concrete actions and their lack		
12			SDG17 & the conference Women2Women	COP22 & the importance of citizens' participation		
13			Raising Awareness about Danish slave trade			



The network is expected to be active in 2017 and to grow further.

### RE-GRANTING SCHEME: GRASSROOTS ACTIONS ON DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

A second action implemented in 2016 which aimed at supporting grassroots actions, is the Re-granting Scheme (also known as sub-grants). The goal of this initiative was to support local and grassroots organizations and institutions by developing local projects addressing the core issues related to development education.

A call for proposal was launched with the objective of supporting micro projects with concrete and specific results, which contribute to raise public awareness on development issues. In addition to this, the proposals anchored development policy in the local communities whilst supporting citizens' active engagement in global attempts to eradicate poverty, and promote justice, human rights, and sustainable ways of living.

The supported projects represent a source of inspiration and examples for citizens, NGOs and LAs, generating constructive and result-oriented activities.

The projects could foresee several different actions such as: exchange events, training events, networking building activities, information campaigns, raising awareness activities, exchange of good practices (e.g. visits, meetings, etc...), thematic seminars, workshops, exhibitions, youth activities, working camps and other voluntary activities, publications of manuals, leaflets, audiovisual productions, creative and cultural activities, etc.

The first round of calls for proposals was launched and several inspiring ideas and proposals were received by the Consortium. The winning projects implemented in 2016 were:

- Peipsi – “Development Education in Estonian Rural Schools” – Estonia
- Stichting Fairtrade Gemeente Nederland – “Open the treasury” – The Netherlands
- ADPRDCT – “Mos Craciun Global” – Romania
- Fons Pitius – “Fighting for survival” – Spain
- KATE and V. – “Climate Breakfast” – Germany
- Dalmatian association of organic producers DALMATIA EKO – “YEAH! – Youth Employment in Agriculture and Health promotion” – Croatia
- Town of Garesnica – “The Recycling September in Natura 2000 area” – Croatia
- Municipality of Auce – “Increasing Public Awareness about global development issues through the prism of waste sorting” – Latvia
- Municipality of Jekabpils – “Development education activities in Jekabpils local county municipality, through communication” – Latvia
- Somali Women’s Organization in Denmark (SWOD) – “Girls have rights too” – Denmark
- Abdinasir Jama – “Thirsty” – Denmark
- MUSOCO – “Citizens Together for a Global Citizenship” – Italy
- COSPE – “Displaced visions” – Italy
- NGO CEPTA – “Zvolen separates waste” – Slovakia
- OW Slatinka – “We work locally, we think globally” – Slovakia

The projects implemented in Poland, Bulgaria, Malta, Greece and Ireland will take place in early 2017, while new calls for proposals will be launched in more than 19 EU Member States. In this way, all 28 EU Member States will be covered by this activity by the end of the project.

## 2.5 CREATIVE COMPONENT



After having participated in different events and meetings of the project in 2015, the partner in charge of the creative component of the project (Progettarte), developed a theatre play that represents a tool to promote the culture of mutual understanding and awareness raising on development education. All these exchanges inspired the development of the play, named “In a better world”. Its first performance took place on 11 May 2016 in Paris.

The theatre performance is a key component of the LADDER project since it represents an opportunity to raise citizens' awareness through the universal language of music, theatre and art. “In a better world” deals with topics such as freedom of press, migration, poverty and inequality, with the performance of four professional artists: a pianist, a singer, and 2 actresses.



First performance of “In a better world” – 11 May 2016 – Paris, France

Music fulfils a central role in the play: the singer and the pianist duet several times together and several songs performed during the play were specifically composed for the project. The key component of the music is alternated by pure theatre and touching acted parts. At one point these two elements – music and acting – merge together creating a special duet between the singer and the actress.

Finally, two videos specifically on the project's objectives and activities opened and closed the performance, giving the audience a sense of inspiration for more actions.

### Un CIAI a Modena

A second release of the theatre play took place in Modena, Italy on 27 November 2016. The play was performed within the framework of the 3-day event “Un CIAI a Modena” (*A chai in Modena*).



The artists of “In a better world” during the “Un CIAI a Modena” event

The event represented an occasion to reflect on the topics of tolerance and equality. Throughout the play, the audience was provided with a message of hope and peace, encouraging dialogue between refugees and local populations.

The event represented also an opportunity to discuss these subjects throughout an informal consultation during which several tips, ideas, opinions were shared.



Mr. Zarzana – President of Progettarte – with the artists during the “Un CIAI a Modena” event

The theatre play is foreseen to be performed in different places and dates during the last year of the project too.



In a better world" performed in Modena within the framework of "Un CIAI a Modena" – 27-29 November 2016



In a better world" performed in Modena within the framework of "Un CIAI a Modena" – 27-29 November 2016

**For more information:**

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